

JL
xm 56 N2
N22.95
69237

14596



The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCV.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1922.

No. 4,114.

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)
BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

Capital and Reserve Fund - Kr. 112,000,000.00

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.
BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.
MESSRS. COX & CO.
LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON. Established 1884.

Capital (paid up):
Esc. 24,000,000

Reserve Funds:
Esc. 27,200,000



Branches as Under.

82 offices in Portugal.
23 " " East and West Africa.
7 " " Brazil.
5 " " India and China.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.

New York Office—93, Liberty street.
Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—27B, Throgmorton street.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up ... " 348,788,000
Reserve ... " 180,000,000
Deposits ... " 4,988,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

Agenies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucarest.

London Office - 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. CONSOLO.

Deputy Managers: G. COSTA, R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	1	Letters to the Editor—	
		Forestalling Unemployment ..	21
		A New Trade Barometer ..	21
Leading Articles—			
Creditors and Debtors	3	Stock Exchange News—	
The Monetary Half-Year ..	4	The Stock Markets	23
Railway Commodity	5	New Issues	23
Statistics	6	Active Securities	25
"Shell" Transport and	6	Company Meetings	26
Trading Company	7	Government Returns—	
The Shipping Outlook	7	Public Income & Expendi-	
The Half-Year's New	8	ture	34
Capital	8	Currency Notes Account ..	35
The Position in Persia	9	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
		by Public Tender	35
Notes of the Week—			
Mr Collins Sees It Through ..	10	Bankers' Gazette—	
The Finance Bill & Super-		Bank of England	35
Tax Evasion	10	Clearing Returns	36
The Traffic in Honours....	10	Overseas Bank Returns....	36
U.S. Trade Balance and	11	Loan and Discount Rates...	38
Foreign Loans.....	11	Overseas Bank Rates.....	38
Disposal and Liquidation ..	11	Rates of Exchange.....	38
Commission	11	Indian Treasury Bills	39
Argentine Railway Rates ..	11	Bullion	39
Hopes for Rubber	11	Imports and Exports of	
South-Eastern & Chatham ..	12	Gold	39
and Dover Railways	12	Gold and Silver Prices	40
The English Wool Clip....	12	Company News—	
Mexican Eagle Oil.....	13	Dividend Announcements...	25
St John del Rey	13	Oil Outputs	25
Spies and Pond	13	Reports and Notices	40
THE REVENUE	14	Railway Traffic & Tramway	
		Mining Outputs	42
Overseas Correspondence—		Analysis of Balance-Sheets..	42
United States	15	Rhodesian Gold	42
France	16	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	43
Germany	17	Commercial Reports—	
Poland	20	Corn Trade	42
Spain	20	Iron and Coal Trade	43
Australia	20	Wool Trade	44
		Cotton Trade	45
Books and Publications—		Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	
Fiscal Policies in the	22	Hide and Leather Trades ..	46
Empire	22	Overseas Produce Markets..	46
The Progress of Denmark..	22	Price Current	47
Books Received	23		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s. 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95, Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5, Birchin lane; Barker and Howard, 6, Fenchurch buildings, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15, Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50, Cophthall avenue, and 53, Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224, Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37, Avenue de l'Opera. New York: *Economist* Office, 20, Broad street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

As was expected, the market's large holding of end-June Treasury bills enabled it to make the Treasury do much of the borrowing from the Bank of England necessitated by the requirements of the end of the half-year. The other securities in the Bank return—which, of course, only recorded operations up to June 28th—actually showed a decrease of over a million, although, both on Monday and on Wednesday, small amounts were said to have been

borrowed by the market; but the Government securities had expanded by more than four millions. There was thus very little pressure in the early part of the week, and discount rates were weak, September Treasury bills being placed occasionally at 2 per cent., while three months' commercial bills were in fair demand at 2½ per cent.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	June 9, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3½	3½	3½	4	(June 15, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1½	1½	1½	2	(June 15, '22)
Discount (Call)	1½	1½	1½	2	(June 15, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	2½	(June 15, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	2½	2½	2½	2½	..

The Bank return showed increases of £64,000 in the stock of gold and £1,675,000 in the note circulation, causing a net decrease of £1,611,000 in the reserve. Government securities rose by £4,192,000, while Other declined by £1,076,000. Public deposits were drawn on to the extent of £454,000, and the private deposits were thus nearly two millions higher. The currency notes outstanding on June 29, 1922, at £295,374,100, including £1,600,200 for notes called in but not yet cancelled, compare with £295,611,500 in the preceding week. The fiduciary issue is £245,623,900, or £64,364,500 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Business in the Stock Exchange remains quiet, but the tendency of gilt-edged securities is firm, and War Loan is once more above 100. Home Railway debentures and preferences are showing an upward tendency, and a "shake out" in the ordinary stocks was followed by a recovery. The announcement of the South-Eastern and Chatham's amalgamation proposals produced a sharp drop in Chatham ordinary and South-Eastern deferred. There was considerable activity in Argentine Rails on the signing of the decree allowing higher freight charges. The decision of the International Conference in Holland to ask the Dutch Government to assist the scheme for restricting the output of rubber was taken as a strong bull point in the rubber share market, and most quotations are better on the week. There have been no important changes in the miscellaneous group, but Kaffirs have been fairly lively, and the payment of a 10 per cent. dividend on Ropp Tin, after a long gap, came as a pleasant surprise to holders of tin shares.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

Although signs of trade recovery are not very noticeable, there is little which would suggest any backward movement, except, perhaps, the state of the coal trade. Conditions in the cotton industry have been irregular during the week, spasmodic movements in raw cotton rates having had a disturbing influence upon business in yarn and cloth. Our Manchester correspondent, however, describes "the undercurrent of demand" as "healthy." Results of recent London wool sales appear to have had a stabilising effect upon wool prices, and the general tone of the market is satisfactory. The Home demand for pig iron continues to be much restricted, but the export business is rather better. A better tone is noticeable in the steel trade, owing to the many inquiries made, but orders are comparatively few. Our Sheffield trade correspondent states that while people are hopeful of a substantial revival, it will not come before the last quarter of the year, or the beginning of next year. In the Welsh coal trade, quotations appear to be nominal, and the position is slightly worse. Although business in wheat markets is inclined to be quiet, prices remain steady. The demand for raw linseed oil continues to be well maintained. The hide market is still firm, with prices showing a tendency to advance. Our correspondent reports that the boot trade is "fairly brisk, with prices falling."

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Political events on the Continent and particularly in Germany have further added to the highly unsettled condition of the foreign exchange market, which once more finds itself in a state of disorganisation greater than has been experienced for a considerable time. As was natural, Germany was most affected during the last week, and the rate which seemed to have remained comparatively steady in view of the failure of the Bankers' Conference, broke on Monday to 1,530, from which figure it further advanced, closing on Thursday at the new high level of 1,625. At the time of writing, the quotation is round 1,615, with forward marks one over spot per month. "Allied" currencies have been similarly affected. The tendency of Paris and Brussels has been consistently weak, and though temporary reactions have, of course, been witnessed, the rates have risen to 52.85 and 55.65 respectively, the forward quotation for French francs being now 2 centimes per month above spot. Italian currency has also depreciated, the rate having risen to well over 94 at one time, and being now quoted round that figure. Other Europeans, although not so directly affected, have been irregular, and have shown greater fluctuations than for some time, although changes on the week are not so greatly marked. Dutch florins, after being 11.50½, are now 11.48. Switzerland is quoted 23.27, while Spain has receded to 28.34. Sweden and Denmark have both moved against this country at 17.17 and 20.60 respectively, but the Norwegian rate has further risen to 27.10. There was further demand for Finnish currency, and the rate has now fallen to 192. Austria has not maintained the recent gain, the rate having again fallen to 84,000, and Polish marks, at 20,500, are weak. Movements in the dollar have been uncertain, and at times inclined to be nervous and erratic. New York, which closed last week about 4.40½, fell at one time on Monday to 4.38½, but again recovered on that day, and the quotation, after varying from 4.39 to 4.41½, is now 4.40½. The forward quotation remains unchanged at 1½ per month over spot. Movements in South Americans have been slight; Buenos Aires is now 44½, and Rio 7½, but Valparaiso has not maintained the recent appreciation, and is now quoted at 35. The tone of the silver market has been quiet, and Eastern exchanges show little change on the week. Shanghai and Hong Kong are round previous quotations, and rupees are quotably better at 15 3 21-32d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the first quarter of the financial year 1922-23 shows that revenue during that period amounted to £195,154,200, which represents a decline of £9,014,200 in comparison with the corresponding three months of last year. The principal declines are shown in Excise (-£8,158,000), Income and Super Tax (-£6,467,000), and Excess Profits Duties (-£16,160,000), while Customs have produced £2,964,000 more. Expenditure during the quarter amounted to £199,218,900, a reduction of £72,201,400 on the corresponding period of last year. The reduction in the debt charge for the period was £15 millions, while supply services took £58 millions less. The Floating Debt has declined during the quarter by £64 millions, the total of Treasury Bills outstanding having dropped from £882½ millions to £760½ millions.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to June 30, 1922).

Total spent	£ 199,218,923	Raised by revenue ..	£ 195,154,153
Dec. in balances	7,562,323	Net repayments	3,497,553
Total	191,656,600	Total	191,656,600
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 820,775,000
Special Expenditure ..	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	518	518	515	515	515	515	515	515
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	18	17	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	16	16	16	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,974	1,974
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,099	1,099
4% Funding Loan	...	...	409	409	405	405	405	405	405
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	360	367	348	346	346	346	346
5-15 year Treas. Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24
5½% Treasury Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	273	380	310	310
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	40
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	8
Do by tender 4½%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	760
Exchange Bonds	80	392	384	319	289	218	194	159	159
Natal Savings Certs.	...	135	227	267	274	285	294	324	344
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Debt	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,082	1,082
American Loan	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	205
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,715
	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	50	51
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,766

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out. June 30, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	June 30, '22.	June 30, '22.
Temporary Advances	£ 39,250,000	£ 40,000,000	£ 40,000,000	£ 40,000,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	113,074,000	147,301,500	164,837,500	2,691,000
Advances by Public Departments ..	1,221,617,000	882,219,000	760,525,000	50,785,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,373,971,000	1,029,520,500	965,362,500	5,094,000
Total Floating Debt	1,373,971,000	1,029,520,500	965,362,500	5,094,000

CREDITORS AND DEBTORS.

In spite of the failure of the bankers to find an immediate solution of the Reparation problem, the international horizon seems a little less overcast than in the stormy days at Genoa. There is, indeed, little tangible basis for the improvement; but the more friendly personal relations between the British and French Premiers following the latter's visit to London, coupled with the general recognition implied in the bankers' report that Allied debts and Reparation are different aspects of one and the same problem, have produced a mollifying effect in Paris. The urgent need of a foreign loan for Germany is still the theme of discussion; but the conditions for its realisation are now more clearly seen. This change of atmosphere is reflected in the speech of M. Poincaré in the Senate on Thursday, when he expounded the fundamental difficulties in a way which shows that a common interpretation and point of view is gradually emerging.

We have considered a certain number of measures of coercion, military and economic, such as the extension of occupation, levies on the holdings of banks, or on the products of taxation, and expropriation of factories and forests—but these sanctions would not solve the question. They might influence the attitude of Germany, but they would not bring to the coffers of the Allies sums equivalent to those in the schedule of payments. We should procure only lent to those in limited quantities—only a few hundred million gold marks. But we need money immediately. If Germany delays too long we shall succumb under the burden, and be reduced to the worst extremities.

When the Prime Minister quoted Germany's exports as evidence of capacity to pay, without allowing for essential imports, he was still giving his audience too favourable a picture. But in the main he showed a sense of realities which we warmly welcome. As an early default by Germany is not anticipated, there will now be an interval which must be profitably employed in endeavouring to see what progress can be made on the subject, which, after the internal situation in Germany, is the main obstacle to a settlement. We refer to the question of the Allied debts.

On this question the solution which we believe commands the greatest support in Great Britain to-day is one that is consonant with both equity and economic possibility. Briefly, it is that Germany's payment should be reduced to a figure which should at least cover the cost of reconstruction; that the creditors of France, Belgium, and Italy should cancel their claims, which those countries would regard as written off against their own contingent claims for reparation; and that America should be content to receive only the debt due to her

from Great Britain. There is nothing very novel in this suggestion, for, except as regards the first clause, it is in fact what is happening to-day. We do not know whether France is yet prepared to agree with the rest of the world as to Germany's capacity to pay, but much water has flowed under the bridges since the treaty was signed, and we believe that in spite of the vagaries of the mark it should be possible in 1922 to do what was impossible in 1919, and fix the final reparation payments on a reasonably firm basis of statistical information.

We will not attempt to say what the final figure should be; but we agree with the bankers' committee that the German payments may be very substantial. A nation's ability to pay depends mainly on three sets of considerations:—(1) The surplus of production over the nation's consumption, including in the latter the cost of services performed by its Government. An increase in this margin may be caused by new inducements to save or by heavy taxation, causing a reduced standard of living. (2) The condition of foreign markets and international competition, on the one hand, and the possibility of expanding export industries, &c., on the other. (3) The internal political situation on which depends the possibility of the Government raising the required amount by taxation. In respect of the first two points, pre-war conditions are the only safe basis from which the discussion can proceed. Before the war Germany's export of capital was much less than that of Great Britain, her total foreign holdings being estimated by Helfferich at about £1,000 millions, while her annual foreign investments were probably not much more than £50 millions a year—or less than one-third of Britain's annual investments overseas. But the reason for this small figure was that Germany was employing her savings on internal development on a much greater scale than Great Britain. Her actual surplus of production over consumption was very large. According to the authority already quoted, out of a national income of £2,000 millions (40 milliard marks), over £400 millions (8 to 8½ milliard marks) were being added to the national wealth annually, apart from appreciation in the valuation of property. Under post-war conditions, provided the currency is stabilised, a similar surplus, which would normally take the form of new houses, railways, plant, &c., will emerge, and there is no reason why a substantial portion of it should not be diverted to the reconstruction of France on the one side, and of Russia on the other. The 10 per cent. loss of national income due to alienated territory is a permanent deduction from Germany's pre-war income; but if we may assume that gold prices remain at not less than 50 per cent. above pre-war figures, it is by no means out of the way to assume that after a few years Germany could build up a production surplus larger than before the war, and that out of this an added export surplus of £100 millions (gold)—or £66 millions at pre-war prices—is possible. Whether this additional export would create undue depression in competing countries depends on the form it took. It is only a reasonable solution if methods of export can be found which do not involve a cut-throat competition by means of depreciated exchange. The internal budget problem has been temporarily complicated by handing over to the central Government the task of collecting the revenue hitherto collected by the separate States, and the financial administration is making heavy weather over it. But these administrative difficulties need only be temporary.

On the other hand, the position of France even before the war was very different. Though exporting a larger amount of capital than Germany, she was adding to her wealth at a much slower rate. Between 1892 and 1908 the average increase in wealth was only at the rate of £100 millions a year. In the war her man power was proportionately reduced more than any other belligerent, and though this is to some extent compensated in Alsace and Lorraine, France cannot anticipate the same growth of surplus wealth as is likely to result from the activities of the much larger industrial population and material resources of Germany. France, like Germany, has lost a great part of her overseas investments, and will be quite unable to replace them if her whole savings are to be spent on reconstruction. We do not believe that in

practice it will be possible for Germany to do more than restore to France and Belgium the devastation she has wrought, and it is unthinkable that France's wealthier Allies would call upon her for payment of a penny piece until this is made good.

There remains the debt of Great Britain to the United States of America, which we think can and should be paid. Two conditions would greatly facilitate payment, viz., that prices should remain at about their present level above pre-war—since our Budget problem, with its enormous items for debts and pensions, would become difficult in the extreme if we were to return to pre-war prices; and, secondly, that American prices should also settle at a similar figure—for this would enable the dollar exchange to reach and be held at par, and if this is not done we shall have to collect more pounds sterling to pay our dollar debt. Granted these conditions, and if we may also assume that the period of payment will be prolonged, we could discharge our liability of £860 millions (at par) in 20 years by a payment of £68 millions a year, or in 30 years by £56 millions a year. If events prove that Britain's industrial standing in the world has not been permanently injured, this is not impossible for a country which was investing abroad before the war at the rate of £170 millions a year—which would equal £300 millions at to-day's prices—provided always that the countries of the world do not cramp our activities by restrictions on our shipping, on our trade and on our commercial enterprises.

But is it fair that Great Britain should forgive both her Allied and ex-enemy debtors without asking that her debts be forgiven? On this question we must start from the standpoint of those American publicists who say that the war was not America's business in the same sense that it was Europe's concern. The number of Americans who have a cosmopolitan outlook by reason of political, economical, or personal interests is very small, and no amount of theorising can reduce the distance between San Francisco and Berlin. In a hundred years' time, when space has been further obliterated and the world has found the true balance between nationalism and internationalism, it may be that a world-wide policing operation, such as the Great War, will be paid for by the nations on the basis of their respective wealth, which means that America would be the greatest contributor. But if we regard the war, as we must, as primarily Europe's affair, America may reasonably ask for some repayment of advances, which covered not merely munition supplies and war stores, but food for our civil population. For the taxpayer this policy, so quixotic on the surface, would really be the best possible course, for nothing will repay him so well as a settlement of the prevailing uncertainty in Europe followed by trade recovery at home.

When we examine the prospects of America falling in with these views about the debts of the Continental countries, we have to confess that those who have a right to speak on the state of American opinion are far from hopeful, and though there is a greater appreciation of Europe's difficulties, we are warned that it will take a long time before Congress is ready to accept the modifications which American financiers recognise to be necessary. Much will perhaps depend upon the progress of American trade. If the internal revival which is going on continues without a hitch, it is hardly to be expected that European affairs will figure much in the public mind; but if the recovery fails to come up to present expectation owing to the lack of elasticity in foreign trade, and if the producer of raw produce and other exports is forced to ask himself the reasons for continued world depression, it is possible that opinion may change at a very rapid rate. The American politician to-day is uncertain what line to take on this question, and his attitude will be determined by the reaction of economics on public opinion. There are, perhaps, times when nations, like individuals, may follow the biblical injunction to lend without hoping for any return, but in the present case the policy we have suggested fortunately does not depend wholly or even mainly upon moral considerations. Its ultimate adoption, in our opinion, is assured in both countries merely as a matter of business.

THE MONETARY HALF-YEAR.

DURING the half-year that ended yesterday, the value of money, in the Money market sense of the phrase, has made steady progress downwards, its course being marked by three reductions in Bank rate. The official rate began the half-year at 5 per cent., was lowered to 4½ per cent. on February 16th, to 4 per cent. on April 13th, and to 3½ per cent. on June 15th. The movement to 4 per cent. on April 13th, the Thursday before Easter, was doubly interesting, because it took the market by surprise, and also because it broke away from the principle which was believed to have been cherished by the Bank of England Court that Bank rate in London must not be below the New York Federal Reserve Board's re-discount rate. The reason for this policy was said to be that since London is now, as compared with America, a debtor country, it was not in accordance with the fitness of things that money should be cheaper here than on the other side of the Atlantic. This principle had, however, for some time been set at naught by the movement of market discount rates, which had gone considerably below those current in America, and our readers need hardly be reminded that market rates of discount are much more effective than Bank rate in influencing movements of exchange. The declines in Bank rate were followed *pari passu* by the deposit rates published by the banks, which have kept step throughout the half-year 2 per cent. below the official level. When Bank rate was at 5 per cent., this wide difference was perhaps easily defensible. With Bank rate at 3½ per cent., depositors are naturally inclined to remind themselves that before the war the deposit rates of the banks were normally only 1½ per cent. below Bank rate. The discount houses' deposit rates also kept pace evenly with Bank rate. The downward movement in the official and unofficial value of short loans has been general all over the world in places where such things as Bank rates are known. During the half-year the Indian Bank rate was advanced by 1 per cent. on February 16th to 8 per cent., but it was subsequently reduced on April 27th to 7 per cent., and on June 1st to 6 per cent. Otherwise movements have all been downward, and the following table shows how general they have been, and that London now shares with Switzerland the distinction of being officially the cheapest Money market.

CHANGES IN FOREIGN BANK RATES DURING the FIRST HALF-YEAR 1922.

1922.			%		%
January 25.....	Norwegian Bank Rate reduced	½	to	6	
February 16.....	Indian " advanced	1	"	8	
March 2.....	Swiss " reduced	½	"	3½	
March 10.....	Swedish " "	½	"	5	
March 11.....	French " "	½	"	5	
April 25.....	Danish " "	½	"	5	
April 27.....	Indian " "	1	"	7	
April 27.....	Prague " "	½	"	5	
May 11.....	Spanish " "	½	"	5½	
May 16.....	Norwegian " "	½	"	5½	
June 1.....	Indian " "	1	"	6	
June 8.....	Belgian " "	½	"	4½	
June 21.....	United States " "	½	"	4	

It need hardly be said that this downward movement in the price of short money has been almost entirely due to acute trade depression, accompanied, and to a certain extent caused, by continued political uncertainty and the failure of the ruling powers to arrive at any business-like settlement with regard to German reparations and inter-allied indebtedness. Slack trade and lower prices of commodities meant the release of a considerable amount of money which had been used for financing trade commitments, and so affected both the price of short loan and consequently the market discount in Lombard Street and also prices of securities, especially of the gilt-edged class, dealt in on the Stock Exchange. Since, by the reform carried out in the first half-year of 1921, the Treasury had put the responsibility of fixing the price of

Treasury bills in the hands of the market by putting them up for tender, the influence of cheap money told rapidly on the rates at which Treasuries were placed, and so, as was inevitable, affected market rates of discount, which have fluctuated throughout the period within about ½ per cent. of the rates current for Treasury bills. During the past half-year an interesting new departure was made by Treasury bonds being also put up for tender at the same time as Treasury bills, though their sale was stopped for a time so as not to interfere with a conversion operation which the Government had in hand during the last week of April and the first three weeks of May. The following table shows the average rate at which Treasury bills were allotted during the half-year and the price secured by the Government for its offerings of Treasury bonds, bearing a rate first of 5 per cent. and afterwards of 4½ per cent.

Date of Opening.	Rate of Interest on Bonds.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied for.	Average Price of Bonds.	Average Rate of Bills.	Rate for Additional Bills.
1922.	%	£	£	£ s d	£ s d	%
January 6.....	..	60,000,000	84,175,000	..	3 4 11.73	2½
January 13.....	..	60,000,000	78,545,000	..	3 13 10.73	3½
January 20.....	..	50,000,000	79,470,000	..	3 13 7.69	3½
January 27.....	..	35,000,000	47,925,000	..	3 9 0.43	3½
February 3.....	..	35,000,000	55,480,000	..	3 6 11.26	3
February 10.....	..	25,000,000	41,440,000	..	3 1 0.77	2½
February 17.....	..	30,000,000	48,565,000	..	3 1 3.89	2½
February 24.....	..	25,000,000	39,345,000	..	3 0 8.26	2½
March 3.....	..	35,000,000	45,805,000	..	3 3 1.81	2½
March 10.....	..	35,000,000	58,270,000	..	3 3 1.14	2½
March 17.....	5	45,000,000	70,825,700	99 13 7.17	3 7 2.78	3
March 24.....	5	60,000,000	95,512,200	99 14 6.68	3 2 6.3	2½
March 31.....	5	60,000,000	105,935,000	99 16 7.94	2 17 11.31	2½
April 7.....	5	60,000,000	118,596,800	100 15 0.44	2 13 1.68	2½
April 13.....	5	65,000,000	114,371,000	101 11 0.69	2 7 6.33	2½
April 21.....	5	55,000,000	75,555,000	101 17 8.56	2 9 1.9	2½
April 28.....	..	50,000,000	80,650,000	..	2 7 5.81	2½
May 5.....	..	45,000,000	87,140,000	..	2 3 0.52	2
May 12.....	..	45,000,000	86,445,000	..	2 6 8.63	2½
May 19.....	..	45,000,000	88,445,000	..	2 7 2.41	2½
May 26.....	4½	50,000,000	79,255,400	98 13 7.82	2 5 2.06	2½
June 2.....	4½	50,000,000	67,630,000	98 13 8.4	2 7 8.49	2½
June 9.....	4½	50,000,000	76,795,000	98 1 5.45	2 6 9.94	2½
June 16.....	4½	50,000,000	69,225,000	98 4 2.55	2 8 0.44	2½
June 23.....	4½	55,000,000	82,215,000	98 3 0.9	2 1 7.4	1½
June 30.....	4½	50,000,000	84,230,000	98 4 4.2	2 2 11.55	..

(*) Including 4½ % Treasury Bonds.

(†) Including 5 % Treasury Bonds.

By means of these sales of Treasury bonds, the Government has been able to effect a considerable reduction in the amount of the floating debt. There is, on theoretical grounds, something to be said for this change in the condition of the debt, but it is a somewhat costly process, since 5 per cent. and 4½ per cent. has been paid for Treasury bonds, the proceeds of which have been used to eliminate Treasury bills which have been current at much lower rates. One of the features of the half-year was the skill with which the Treasury and the Bank of England handled the financing of the big interest payment on War Loan due on June 1st. The Market had anticipated that most of the sum necessary would have to be produced by the creation of Ways and Means advances from the Bank of England, but, in fact, the greater part of it was raised by sales of Treasury bills, so that the Government was able to borrow the interest, not from the Bank of England, but from other lenders, and consequently avoided the inflation and disturbance caused by large additions to the Government securities held by the Bank of England. The following table shows the position of the floating debt at the end of the half-year:—

	December 31, 1921.	March 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.
Bank of England Advances..	£ 20,000,000	None	£ 40,000,000
Public Department Advances	180,034,000	147,301,500	164,837,500
Treasury Bills	1,059,806,000	882,219,000	760,525,000
	1,259,840,000	1,029,520,500	965,362,500

In the discount market, the half-year has been uninteresting and not over profitable. In fact, it has contained several periods in which bill brokers have complained that the force of circumstances was compelling them to discount bills at rates which were below the average cost of the money which they had to borrow to finance them. At the same time the market has been largely free from acute disturbance and stringency such as often marks

the turn of the March quarter, the Easter demand for holiday currency, and the turn of the half-year at the end of June. The following table shows the daily averages for discount rates and money rates during the first half of this year and the previous four years.

DAILY AVERAGE for FIRST HALF-YEAR.

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
Bank rate	5 0 0	5 0 0	6 8 7	6 16 0	4 7 1
Market rate (3 months)	3 13 0	3 10 0	6 2 2	6 2 7	2 19 6
Margin	1 7 0	1 10 0	0 6 5	0 13 5	1 8 1
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
Short loans	3 6 2	3 4 7	4 16 0	5 7 2	2 18 0
Deposit rate (banks) ..	3 2 6	3 0 0	4 8 7	4 16 0	2 7 1
Margin	0 3 8	0 4 7	0 7 5	0 11 2	0 10 11

During the period under review, the outstanding volume of currency notes has declined from £325,584,000 on December 28, 1921, to £295,374,000 on June 29, 1922, and the Bank of England's note circulation from £126,520,000 to £123,048,000. This deflation in the matter of legal tender currency has been due, of course, to trade depression which has continued throughout the half-year, although there are hopeful signs of improvement in some quarters. As a matter of interest, it may be noted that the Treasury has resumed the practice of placing Bank of England notes in the currency note reserve, additions of £100,000 having been made in the weeks ended June 14th and June 21st. No change has been made in the gold backing, but an increase of a million in the silver held in the currency reserve was shown in the return for the week ended June 8th. The meaning of this latter movement is merely that silver has been, like currency notes, returning from circulation, and the currency reserve is a convenient place for its lodgment until trade revival causes the circulation of subsidiary coinage to expand again.

The following table gives the principal movements in exchange:—

Centre.	Method of Quoting.	Par Level.	Rate, Dec. 31, 1920.	Rate, Dec. 31, 1921.	Rate, June 30, 1922.
Paris.....	Francs to £1	25.22½	59.72.77	51.70.75	52.77.82
Berlin.....	Marks to £1	20.45	257.259	765.770	1654.1658
Vienna.....	Kr. to £1	24.02	1.500	11.000	82000.86000
Amsterdam.....	Florins to £1	12.107	11.26.28	11.381.393	11.47.48
Copenhagen.....	Kroner to £1	23.15.20	20.95.21.00	20.95.21.00	20.57.60
Rome.....	Lire to £1	25.22½	1014.102	964.964	94.944
Switzerland.....	Francs to £1	25.22½	23.15.20	21.60.62	23.96
Madrid.....	Pesetas to £1	25.22½	26.44.49	28.12.16	28.31.34
Lisbon.....	Escudos to £1	25.22½	63.7	42.4	32.4
New York.....	Dollars to £1	4.864	3.54.54½	4.21.21½	4.41½
Buenos Aires.....	Pence to dollars	47.58	51.51.51½	44½	44½
Rio de Janeiro.....	Pence to dollars	18	94½	73	73
Montevideo.....	Pence to dollars	51	49½.50½	41½	43½
Valparaiso.....	Dollars to £1	13.33	10 to 10 gold	40.10	35.00
Calcutta.....	Ster. to rupee	15.84	1/4	1/4	1/3½.14
Hong Kong.....	Ster. to dollar	2/2.2½	2/7½	2/7½	2/7½
Shanghai.....	Ster. to tael	4/1.24	3/64	3/7.7½	3/7.7½
Yokohama.....	Ster. to yen	2/8.8½	2/3½	2/3½	2/2½.8

It will be seen from the above table that the value of sterling has shown a fairly general improvement, the most important advance being that in the rate quoted for it in New York. This quotation passed the \$4.50 line early in June, and the significance of this movement was discussed in the *Economist* of June 10th. Since then there has been some relapse, firstly, owing to the decision of the Bankers' Committee, discussed in the *Economist* of June 17th, to the effect that it was not possible to consider the question of an international loan to Germany as long as the French representative on the Reparations Commission refused to agree to the discussion of any variations of the reparations terms as stated in the Allied ultimatum of May, 1921, and afterwards, owing to the news of the murder of Dr Rathenau on June 24th. These influences also caused very severe depression in the value of the German mark, and it will also be noted that the Austrian crown has fallen headlong in the course of the half-year from 11,000 to 73,500 to the £, having at one time touched 105,000. On balance there has been little alteration in the value of the franc as measured in sterling, while Italian currency shows some improvement. The price of gold fluctuated as usual with the variations in the New York exchange, and has declined from 98s 4d per ounce on January 5th to 93s 7d on June 30th.

RAILWAY COMMODITY STATISTICS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Ministry of Transport has just published a folio of 360 pages of closely printed statistics, giving a mass of detail as to 50 or 60 selected commodities conveyed on the railways of Great Britain during given monthly periods, their volume, the average distances they were carried, and the average rate which was charged. The price of the book is 30s. Probably, therefore, outside the railway companies' offices, the purchasers will be but few. And yet there are few business men who might not spend the price with advantage, for it throws a flood of new light, not only directly on railways, but indirectly on general business in various directions.

We are often told, for instance, that railway rates, and especially the rates now current, are unreasonably high. Now for the first time we can get a good idea of the ratio of the railway charge for carriage to the value of the article carried. Let us take a few instances:—

Iron and steel plates, now quoted at about £10 a ton, were hauled an average distance rather less than 65½ miles at an average rate of 2.40d, say 13s per ton.

Wheat, worth, say, £12 a ton, was hauled an average distance of 55 miles at an average charge of 14s per ton.

In other words, on these typical low-class commodities the railway rate seems to be something like 6 per cent. of their value. When we come to more valuable commodities, not only is the rate per mile higher, but the average haul is longer; and yet the percentage of rate to value is far lower. Groceries in the No. II. list, for instance, which include articles like bacon, coffee, cocoa, can hardly have a less average value than 11d per pound, say £100 per ton. The average rate is 5d per ton mile, which, for the average haul of 113 miles, is, say, 47s per ton. Or, again, take meat. The public pays, let us say, £100 per ton, which would correspond to an average price of about 11d per lb. The railways carry it an average distance of 153 miles at an average rate of 5d per ton mile, say, £3 3s 9d per ton.

These rate statistics have, however, when examined in detail, a much more than general interest. They will be constantly referred to in future before the Railway Rates Tribunal, both by the applicants who desire to show by comparison that their own rates are unreasonably high, and by the Tribunal itself, which in fixing its new standard rates will undoubtedly endeavour to redress as far as possible the startling inequalities that can be found on every page. One would have supposed, for instance, that the rate per mile on any commodity would decrease more or less regularly as the distances increase. And this proves fairly true when we look at the rates for Great Britain as a whole. But on individual companies the variations are remarkable. Take, for example, the case of sand. For distances in groups of 10 miles from 50 to 100 the average rates per ton mile are, for Great Britain as a whole, as follows:—1.87d, 1.72d, 1.54d, 1.45d, 1.22d. On the South-Western the rate for 50 to 60 mile distances is 1.93d; between 60 and 70 miles it rises to 2.13d, and between 80 and 90 miles it rises again to 2.93d. Similarly, on the South-Eastern, for distances from 50 to 80 miles it gradually drops from 2.03d to 1.56d; but between 90 and 100 miles it jumps up sharply to 2.64d. Similar instances could be picked out by the dozen on any page. There is probably no general explanation. The lower rates for the higher distances may in some cases be due to exceptional rates. But this explanation cannot cover cases where the quantities carried at the disproportionately low rates are, as they often are, quite trifling. In other cases the higher rate may be due to the fact that the traffic passed over the line of more than one company, which normally involves a higher rate per mile, for it should be noted that the traffic entered under the head of a particular railway is traffic originating on that railway and not traffic confined to it.

It does not seem easy to obtain from these figures any general impression as to whether the rates of one company are substantially lower or higher than that of any other. The rates on a given commodity vary very greatly from one company to another; but while one company

may be at the top of a list in one case, it may be at the bottom in another. But a casual perusal does show very remarkable discrepancies. Take, for example, building stone carried an average distance of 140 to 150 miles. Over the country as a whole the rate is 1.30d per ton mile; but while on the South-Western it falls as low as 1.17d, on the North-Eastern and the Great Northern it rises as high as 2.49d. Between 150 and 200 miles the average rate for all England jumps to 1.84d; the individual companies' charges range from 1.57d on the Lancashire and Yorkshire to 4.29d on the North Staffordshire, and 9.39d on the London and Brighton. The scales of this last company are so remarkable that one wonders whether the figures are correct. To charge 1.71d per ton mile for a distance of 42 miles, 2.44d for 43 miles, 2.85d for 47 miles, and 2.50d for 48 miles seems, to say the least of it, peculiar. In the highly organised and localised trades, on the other hand, the rates are evidently accurately adjusted to distance. For cotton yarn, for instance, the bulk of which is carried on the Lancashire and Yorkshire, the rates move steadily and symmetrically downwards as the mileage increases. But in these days when one hears so much of the railways losing their traffic to the roads, one would like to know why one consignor sends six tons of yarn on the railway for one mile at a charge of 16s 8d per mile, while other consignors send 24 tons two miles at a charge of 8s 9d per mile, and other consignors 24 more tons three miles at a cost of 5s 6d per mile.

But it is not profitable to take further thimblefuls out of this vast reservoir. We welcome the publication as a valuable instance of the efforts that the Ministry of Transport is making to enlighten not only the public but the railwaymen themselves as to how the companies earn their money, what services they render to the public in return, and what they spend in the course of rendering it. We cannot believe that any railwayman will peruse the volume with complacency. These sporadic rates may be valuable as evidence of the zeal with which the worshippers of the great goddess, Rule of Thumb, make offerings at her shrine. But from no other point of view can they be regarded as admirable. The task of the Rates Tribunal in endeavouring to introduce some rudiments of order into this welter of confusion is not one for which they are to be envied. It is evident that they must construct their new standard rates on some logical principle, and yet it is equally evident that levelling cannot be all downwards; that the traders whose rates are lowered in consequence of the revision will lie low and say nothing, while every trader whose rate is raised will be loud in his protestations.

"SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY.

ORIGINALLY formed in 1897 to carry on the business of transporters of illuminating oils in India and the Far East, the Shell Transport and Trading Company has now become a holding company, controlling by its shareholdings an enormous number of subsidiary oil undertakings. In 1907 the company entered into an arrangement with the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company, two new companies being formed—the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, registered in England with a capital of £25 millions, and the Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij, registered in Holland with a capital of 300 million florins. The Royal Dutch Company holds 60 per cent. of the capital of both companies, and the Shell Company 40 per cent. At the same time the Royal Dutch Company acquired 500,000 ordinary shares at 30s each from shareholders in the Shell Company. By majority holdings or by a management agreement the Royal Dutch and Shell companies control, jointly or severally, a large number of oil undertakings, the principal being the Mexican Eagle Oil Company. The list given in the Oil and Petroleum Manual includes seven companies in Russia, six in the United States, five in Mexico, four in Venezuela, and two in Roumania. Numerous other interests are held, including an extensive fleet operated by the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company and two Dutch companies.

The very rapid growth of the Shell Company may perhaps be shown most clearly by the following table, which summarises the last twelve balance-sheets:—

	Ordinary Capital.	Pre-ference Capital.	Reserves and Un-divided Profits.	Shares in Sundry Com-panies.	Invest-ments.	Cash.	Total Assets.
1910.....	£ 2,500,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,857,322	4,017,822	76,616	400,809	5,380,076
1911.....	2,750,000	1,500,000	1,846,236	4,267,822	404,685	215,389	6,115,032
1912.....	3,500,000	1,500,000	4,158,944	6,867,973	933,227	1,163,317	9,894,209
1913.....	4,047,610	2,000,000	5,465,847	7,156,206	820,003	1,183,467	11,553,515
1914.....	4,082,902	2,000,000	5,586,666	8,380,487	1,052,296	533,069	11,672,953
1915.....	4,082,902	2,000,000	5,874,318	10,453,017	1,645,505	738,788	13,903,147
1916.....	4,082,902	2,000,000	5,904,400	10,666,026	1,892,112	481,068	14,038,249
1917.....	4,997,561	2,000,000	7,013,443	9,510,859	3,037,526	105,493	15,090,750
1918.....	8,039,791	2,000,000	4,975,804	11,019,820	2,764,923	137,441	15,535,863
1919.....	12,857,641	2,000,000	10,775,247	12,036,905	8,112,506	760,923	25,958,435
1920.....	19,321,296	2,000,000	13,795,042	16,588,461	13,812,051	122,713	35,311,702
1921.....	19,365,144	2,000,000	12,420,010	20,256,603	6,820,359	2,338,771	34,338,771

Shares in sundry companies are taken at cost or under, and the steady growth in this item has approximately kept pace with the increase in the paid-up ordinary capital. In 1912 ordinary shares were issued to holders at the rate of two shares for every 11 held at 65s a share, the lowest market quotation for that year being 79s 6d. In 1913 two shares for every 19 were issued to shareholders at 66s, the lowest market price being 95s. In 1917 one share for every four held was issued at £1, the lowest market price of the year being 96s. In 1918 a free bonus share issue was made at the rate of three shares for every five held, while in each of the years 1919 and 1920 shares were issued to ordinary shareholders at £1 each at the rate of one share for every two held, the lowest price touched in the market during the period being 5s 4d. The bonus issue in 1918 was made by capitalising £3,042,230 of the reserve fund, which was thereby reduced to £1,000,000; but in the following year it was again raised to £4,000,000 by the addition of a part premium on an issue in the United States of ordinary shares. The sharp reduction in investments in 1921 results from the sale of National War Bonds, Exchequer Bonds, and Treasury Bills to the extent of nearly £7 millions. In spite of the enormous expansion in the paid-up ordinary capital, the ordinary dividend was maintained at the high level of 35 per cent., free of income-tax, from 1913 to 1920, inclusive, profits having risen from £706,000 for 1910 to £7,668,600 for 1920, with only a slight set-back in 1916. The report for the year 1921 shows the first definite relapse in profits for many years, dividends from the subsidiary companies being over £2 millions lower at £5,143,600. A summary of profits and appropriations for a number of years past is given below:—

	1913.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Balance forward	£ 265,194	£ 420,302	£ 459,384	£ 1,239,032	£ 1,136,877	£ 1,242,622	£ 2,007,588
Profits.....	1,581,183	1,705,844	2,774,631	2,893,603	4,762,724	7,668,642	5,626,673
Expenses, &c...	1,849,383	2,126,146	3,225,015	4,132,635	5,899,601	8,911,264	7,534,261
Interest on loans	46,124	47,948	40,770	40,659	48,354	41,222	139,251
Balance	1,800,259	1,979,400	3,088,443	4,091,976	5,850,247	8,870,042	7,495,010
Prof. dividend	81,250	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Ord. dividend	1,389,283	1,429,016	1,749,411	2,813,927	4,507,625	6,762,454	5,325,414
(35%)	(35%)	(35%)	(35%)	(35%)	(35%)	(35%)	(27½%)
Reserve, &c.....	3,162	450,334	1,239,032	1,136,877	1,242,622	2,007,588	2,069,596
Balance forward	326,564	450,334	1,239,032	1,136,877	1,242,622	2,007,588	2,069,596

The lower dividend of 27½ per cent., which is paid free of income-tax, absorbs £1,400,000 less, and the balance forward is increased by £62,000, but no addition is made to the reserve fund. The latter, however, stands at £5 millions, and the directors state that they "are satisfied that ample provision for depreciation has been made over the numerous companies in which they are interested, and the reports received from them enable the directors to assure the shareholders of the continued prosperity of the business. They consider that the reduction of the dividend is the soundest course in the interests of that prosperity. The company's financial position is as strong as ever, and the present dividend is paid without in any way trenching on the company's reserves, and represents the result of the working of the year under review." But apart from these comforting and optimistic remarks, the directors vouchsafe no information as to the activities and prospects of the subsidiary undertakings.

The recently issued report of the Royal Dutch Company goes further into the matter. Its dividend income dropped from 133 million florins to 92 millions, a drop for which the world-wide trade depression was

responsible, falling prices and freights being unaccompanied by a commensurate reduction in working costs. It states that the majority of the subsidiary companies showed an increase in production, and that so far as the current year is concerned, valuable concessions have been acquired in South America, while results of new borings in California have given very much better results than had been anticipated.

In February last the Shell Company made an issue of £5,000,000 7 per cent. second preference shares at par, the money being "required for the future development of the company's business, the company's present ash resources being amply sufficient to meet all its outstanding obligations." At next week's meeting the chairman will no doubt enlighten shareholders as to the direction in which new developments have been made.

THE SHIPPING OUTLOOK.

OF all the agencies which before 1914 were welding the world into a unity whose essential character the war shattered but could not destroy, steam transport was, and remains, the mightiest. Shipping is the lifeline of British industry, also of internationalism. The slump of the last two years in shipping and in shipbuilding is, in the main, a symptom of the paralysis of Europe—of its incapacity to buy.

If shipping and shipbuilding—two of our greatest pre-war industries—are only now beginning to share in the revival which is slowly reanimating in other trades, the reasons are, mainly, the European trade paralysis, and the actual excess of shipping tonnage in existence in the world. In general, shipping is peculiarly affected by those wide cyclical fluctuations of trade to which our monetary and credit system expose us, and whose evil effects have been aggravated by after-war policy. Great, perhaps excessive, stress is laid on this aspect by Mr D. H. Robertson in his excellent survey of the world's shipping position in the second *Manchester Guardian* Reconstruction Number. There is, he urges, "altogether irrespective of lapses in seaborne trade, a deep-seated tendency to fluctuations in the level of freights and discontinuity in the process of ship construction"—a tendency exemplified six times in the course of the last half-century, exaggerated in the great post-Armistice boom.

But the principal cause is the excess of tonnage, as the result partly of unprecedented efforts in the direction of replacement of tonnage lost in the war, partly of the extreme economic nationalism that followed it. As Dr Isserlis, statistician to the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, points out in an article later in the number, at the end of 1921 the total world shipping tonnage was 12½ million tons above the 1914 figure, and in March of the present year 13 million tons above.

NUMBER AND GROSS TONNAGE OF SEAGOING MERCHANT VESSELS, STEAM, MOTOR, AND SAIL (OF 100 GROSS AND UPWARDS), BELONGING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WORLD, AS RECORDED IN LLOYD'S REGISTER BOOK FOR JUNE 30, 1914, AND 1921.

	June 30, 1914.					
	Steam and Motor.		Sail.		Total.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
United Kingdom..	8,587	18,892,089	653	397,499†	9,240	19,289,588
U. States (Coast)..	1,178	2,069,637	1,386	1,030,918†	2,564	3,100,555
World*	23,865	43,143,436	6,361	3,916,754†	30,226	47,060,190

	June 30, 1921.					
	Steam and Motor.		Sail.		Total.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
United Kingdom..	8,579	19,320,053	455	251,501	9,034	19,571,544
U. States (Coast)..	3,875	13,583,240	1,182	1,187,832	5,057	14,771,072
World*	27,893	56,519,425	4,747	3,036,542	32,640	59,555,967

* Excluding Great Lakes tonnage. † Converted to gross tons from net figures given in Lloyd's Register Book.

The outstanding features in this table are, of course, first, the huge increase in world tonnage; second, the fact that the United Kingdom's total is practically what it was in 1914; third, the stupendous increase in the tonnage of the United States.

The main cause of the shipping slump is, plainly, this actual plethora in tonnage. Mr Robertson points out

that while in 1913 the world's shipbuilding capacity was 7.1 per cent. of the tonnage in existence, in 1919 it was 14 per cent., and on this comments: "It is obvious that a shipbuilding capacity which is adequate for replacing exceptional losses must become grossly excessive as a permanent source of progressive addition to the world's supply of ships, and that there can never have been any ground for supposing that the rate of shipbuilding activity which prevailed in 1919 could be maintained."

The major factors in the huge increase in the world's shipping tonnage, to a figure more than adequate to handle world trade on a pre-war scale, and grossly excessive for its present shrunken proportions, were mainly three. First was the enormous shipbuilding programme of the United States; on the whole of this the reader should be referred to the brilliant survey, in this same number, by Mr H. Parker Willis. Second, the national replacement programmes such as that of the French Government. "The tonnage under the French flag has, in the last four years, recovered its pre-war standard, and quickly exceeded it, having at the present time reached 3,200,000 tons on round figures." In the reconstruction of the French fleet British yards have played an important part. Under the Clémentel-MacLay Agreement, 90 vessels, with a gross aggregate tonnage of 377,000, on February 20, 1922, 16 units of these, representing 91,800 tons, still remained to be delivered. Moreover, French shipowners ordered in Great Britain 12 vessels of about 81,400 tons displacement, of which only two, representing 13,000 tons, have been delivered up to the present. This brings the total number of vessels ordered from British shipyards since the war up to 102 vessels, representing 458,500 tons. Third, must be reckoned such measures as the embargo on the sale of the ships, compulsorily transferred by the German Government to the Allies under the Peace Treaty, to German or other foreign owners. This embargo continued up to June last. Most of the million and a-half tons of this shipping was transferred to the British register; none was permitted to be resold to German or other foreign owners until the middle of last year. The effect of this restriction and of the general one on the sale of British tonnage abroad up to August last has been to stimulate foreign shipbuilding, and so to increase the world output irrespective of world need. The taking over of the German fleet, in any event, is compelling Germany, despite shrunken resources, to start a rebuilding programme. According to Dr Cuno, Germany's gross tonnage, before the war, of 5,459,000, has now, under war losses and the Treaty, dwindled to 400,000—"a miserable remainder which consists entirely of small and very small coastal vessels, and does not contain one ship built expressly for overseas traffic."

On the other hand, although even if wooden and sailing shipping be excluded, there is in sea-going steel and iron steam and motor tonnage an increase between 1914 and 1921 of 27.5 per cent., and although most of the ships completed in the last few years are designed for the carriage of cargoes; there is to be set against this the fact that 4.5 million tons, or 8.2 per cent. of the world's effective fleet, was in 1921 specialised for the transport of oil in bulk, and is thus removed from the general market. Again, during the war and the Armistice, an abnormally large proportion of old ships was retained in service; in the case of the United States the proportion that will have to be scrapped under this and other heads is so large that it is estimated that America will not actually have more than 5 or 6 million tons equipped for competition on the world market, as against a nominal 12 millions.

Now, at last, there are signs of recovery—at all events so far as British shipping is concerned—due, in the first instance, to the gradual improvement in coal exports, which in the closing months of last year took a leap upward and have not since seriously relapsed. Reductions in manufacturing costs at home, and the rise of German prices (e.g., for repairs) to the world level are also helping. Mr Robertson thinks that "signs of a genuine improvement in demand for sea transport can be described." As it is, the paralysis of certain European centres of production has, temporarily at any rate, been advantageous to the British shipper, who has carried wheat from Australia to Europe that might have been supplied

via the Black Sea; sugar from Cuba that might have come from Germany, and so on. In the same way for various reasons British coal and steel is now being exported to Germany. Any such special and temporary advantages as may accrue to British shipping from the general distress are, however, overridden by the broad fact that large imports of raw materials are the condition precedent to a British export and manufacturing boom. "One of the first signs of trade revival should be such a recovery in the demand for sea transport as seems to be now in progress, if only so far on a moderate scale."

THE HALF-YEAR'S NEW CAPITAL.

THE June quarter, although not quite so prolific as the first quarter of the year, has produced a formidable total of new capital issues in the London market. For the half-year, the total of £448½ millions defeats all records, if the years 1917 and 1918, with their great war loan operations, be excepted. It must, however, be remembered that this year also a predominant part has been played by British Government borrowings—a fact that is made plain in a subsequent table. Totals raised in each quarter since the beginning of 1910 are shown in our first table:—

New Capital Applications.

Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total for Whole Year.
	£	£	£	£	£
1910.....	99,355,600	88,721,400	28,111,600	51,250,500	267,439,100
1911.....	61,245,000	56,238,800	14,914,500	59,361,100	191,759,400
1912.....	47,966,100	62,377,500	40,687,100	59,819,300	210,850,000
1913.....	50,344,700	70,014,900	29,961,800	46,216,000	196,537,000
1914.....	97,610,200	54,739,100	20,265,200	339,908,100	512,522,600
1915.....	46,313,500	25,693,200	586,772,500	26,462,500	685,241,700
1916.....	156,251,200	131,022,500	111,578,000	186,584,700	585,436,400
1917.....	825,925,200	221,254,300	57,054,400	214,362,100	1,318,596,000
1918.....	475,258,700	220,921,500	329,674,000	367,527,200	1,393,381,400
1919.....	291,901,400	93,879,000	536,502,200	113,776,800	1,036,059,400
1920.....	135,094,500	98,011,700	61,195,600	73,247,800	367,549,600
1921.....	63,382,100	65,281,900	57,890,600	202,423,600	388,978,200
1922.....	286,207,100	165,567,100	..	..	..

Our calculations do not include Treasury bills or Ways and Means advances. This is an important fact to remember; for while, as the next table shows, the British Government has borrowed £304 millions in the past half-year, the amount of Treasury bills outstanding has, in the same period, been reduced by £250 millions, from £1,060 millions to £810 millions. The Treasury has taken full advantage of the strong investment demand which developed last autumn and continued through most of the past half-year to replace a large slice of the floating debt by securities of larger currency, while conversion offers to holders of Government securities have been so successful that the urgency of a large funding operation has passed for the time being. It may be explained, in passing, that conversion operations and loans issued to replace maturing obligations find no place in our totals, which include only new money. British Government borrowings for the two quarters were made up as follows:—

March Quarter.	£	June Quarter.	£
National Savings Certificates (net sales)	27,120,000	23,498,000	
Local Loans	17,100,000	5 % Treasury Bonds	57,478,500
5 % Treasury Bonds	115,106,865	4½ % Treasury Bonds	11,213,800
5 % Treasury Bonds	52,566,223	5½ % Treasury Bonds	175,475
	211,893,098		92,365,775

Towards the end of the March quarter sales of savings certificates were stimulated by the announcement of a raising of the price from 15s 6d to 16s, as from April 1st; and as the proceeds of sales take a fortnight or three weeks to appear in the official returns, the rush to make use of the last opportunity for obtaining the more favourable terms affects the figures for the June quarter also. In fact, the returns for the first week in April showed net sales of no less than £18½ millions; under the higher terms sales have fallen off sharply.

If British Government borrowings are deducted from the totals of new issues, it will be found that other borrowers absorbed about £74 millions in the March

quarter, and about £70 millions in the June quarter. These borrowers and the extent of their activities are classified below:—

Description.	Total, First Half-year, 1921.	First Quarter, 1922.	Second Quarter, 1922.	Total, First Half-year, 1922.
	£	£	£	£
British Government loans	20,067,000	211,893,100	92,365,800	304,258,900
Colonial Government loans	27,609,600	16,490,000	25,092,300	41,582,300
Foreign Government loans	5,450,000	3,574,600	9,492,000	13,066,600
British Municipal & County loans	16,586,200	5,555,300	nil	5,555,300
Colonial Corporations	1,490,000	960,000	1,929,100	2,889,100
Foreign Corporations	nil	2,850,000	3,257,500	6,107,500
British railways	nil	nil	2,872,000	2,872,000
Foreign railways	nil	14,687,500	nil	14,687,500
Australian mines	nil	16,500	nil	16,500
South African mines	333,700	nil	409,200	409,200
Other mines	90,900	62,500	1,068,500	1,131,000
Explorat'n, financial, & investment trust	1,787,500	nil	3,902,300	3,902,300
Breweries	520,000	nil	784,000	784,000
Merchants, importers, &c.	300,000	100,000	nil	100,000
Manufacturing	19,242,000	1,700,000	3,990,000	5,690,000
Stores and trading	3,500,000	170,500	nil	170,500
Estate and land	798,900	100,000	25,000	125,000
Rubber	649,900	30,000	90,700	120,700
Oil	14,601,900	9,050,000	7,440,000	16,490,000
Iron, coal, steel, and engineering	3,340,000	3,500,000	1,885,000	5,385,000
Electric lighting and power	2,041,000	1,161,700	553,600	1,715,300
Tramways, omnibus, &c.	647,500	232,500	257,500	490,000
Motor traction and manufacturing	605,000	nil	nil	nil
Gas and water	1,465,600	806,600	441,000	1,247,600
Hotels, theatres, and entertainments	1,915,300	978,900	125,000	1,103,900
Patents and proprietary articles	66,200	nil	nil	nil
Docks, harbours, and shipping	2,243,200	9,797,200	2,312,500	12,109,700
Banks and insurance	2,052,000	920,700	1,950,000	2,870,700
Miscellaneous	1,171,100	1,569,500	2,324,100	3,893,600
	128,574,500	286,207,100	162,567,100	448,774,200

Colonial Governments have again been very active, taking £25 millions in the past quarter and £41½ millions in the half-year. Of the June quarter's total, the Government of India accounted for nearly one-half, with a 5½ per cent. loan of £12,500,000 at 9½, other Colonial borrowers being Western Australia, New Zealand, Straits Settlements, British Guiana, and New South Wales. Foreign Governments were represented in the market during the June quarter by Czechoslovakia, with an issue of £2,800,000 at 8 per cent. sterling bonds at 96½, and Brazil, with £7,000,000 7½ per cent. stock at 97. No British municipalities appeared in the market in the past quarter, but Foreign Municipalities were represented by the Associated Municipalities of Denmark and the City of Greater Prague, the former issuing £2,000,000 5 per cent. bonds at 93½, and the latter £1,500,000 7½ per cent. stock at 92½. Of Colonial Municipalities, the City of Wellington and the Port of Calcutta floated loans. British railway issues of the past quarter include one by the Metropolitan, and the two underground issues this week with Government guarantee under the Trade Facilities Act.

Among industrial companies, there have been few very large issues in the past quarter. In March, however, Lever Brothers issued £4,000,000 5 per cent. debenture stock at 92½, while the Consett Iron Company in the same month put out £1,500,000 6 per cent. debentures at 99. The shipping group has been notable for two French flotations by the Chargeurs Réunis and the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, the former offering £1,000,000 and the latter £1,500,000 6½ per cent. sterling bonds at 92½. The only banks entering the market during the past quarter were the National Bank of New Zealand, the Bank of New South Wales, and the British Trade Corporation.

A comparison of the geographical distribution of the capital raised in the past half-year with the records of the last two years and the last three pre-war years is given below:—

DESTINATION OF NEW CAPITAL.

	First Half of Years.					
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom.....	16,677,000	24,159,400	20,324,400	207,742,400	70,241,000	348,703,300
British Possessions	35,576,800	27,932,200	43,002,600	21,541,100	37,568,600	49,499,300
Foreign countries	65,230,000	58,262,000	57,032,600	3,822,700	20,764,900	50,571,600
Total	117,483,800	110,353,600	120,359,600	233,106,200	128,574,500	448,774,200

If British Government borrowings are deducted from the total, it will be seen that foreign countries and British Possessions each took round about £50 millions, as compared with about £44 millions for the Home destination. Indeed, the half-year has seen a marked increase in the activity of Dominion, Colonial, and foreign borrowers in the London market.

Two other features of the half-year in the new capital market call for special notice. One was the acute development of the process of "stagging," which caused the lists of many of the more attractive issues to be closed within a few hours. For a considerable portion of the period public absorption of new scrip was on a large enough scale to make the process generally profitable. But as the half-year drew towards a close the experience of "stags" became less fortunate. The other feature was the decline in the rates of interest offered. Bank rate, it will be remembered, opened the year at 5 per cent., and by three stages fell to 3½ per cent. The New South Wales Government, who in January had borrowed on terms of 6 per cent. at 97, floated their new loan in May on the basis of 4½ per cent. at 95. Soon afterwards the Straits Settlements Government offered the same terms, but both borrowers seem to have followed the trend of money rates rather faster than the market cared about, for in each case a very high percentage of the loan was left on the underwriters' hands. The early part of June saw a comparative lull in new borrowing, but in the closing days of the half-year a resumption of activity took place, and a considerable rush is anticipated of borrowers eager to find accommodation before the holiday season sets in.

THE POSITION IN PERSIA.

In 1920 the Persian Government and the Mejliss failed to ratify the Agreement made with Great Britain in 1919 under which Persia was to receive the assistance of British expert financial and military advisers, and a loan of £2,000,000. In 1921 they definitely completed the rejection by entering into an agreement with Soviet Russia. This reversal of Persian policy was primarily due to the same sort of exaggerated nationalism as that which caused the rising of 1920 in Mesopotamia. The people feared, without reason, that the country would become a British Protectorate; but the action of the Government was stimulated by Russian bribery of high political personages and by lavish expenditure on the part of the Russian Mission. Possibly this rejection is the chief reason why the Report of the British Commercial Attaché in Teheran, just issued by the Overseas Trade Department, deals only with trade and transport, and omits politics and public finance.

The Report nevertheless indicates the financial straits of the Persian Government, and brings out very clearly the dependence of the country on British transport and British trade. Persia, like other non-European countries, is suffering severely from the high prices of necessary imports and the fall in the prices of its own products, and its sufferings are intensified by its dependence on foreign countries for almost all necessities, and even for part of its food. The import and export statistics are admittedly incomplete, because the frontiers are so extensive that much of the merchandise passing them must escape registration; but as far as they go they exhibit a permanently and increasingly adverse balance of foreign trade. In 1920-21 imports fell in value nearly 25 per cent., as compared with the figures of 1913-14, and in quantity even more, while exports, apart from petroleum and its products—which are worth more than all the rest together—went down 70 per cent. in value; and the exports in 1920-21 were only 22 per cent. of the value of the whole

foreign trade. Attempts made to redress the adverse balance by exporting silver currency and bullion have been stopped by legislation and by the Customs officials, and by the end of January, 1922, the import trade was almost at a standstill. The Mejliss has sought to mend matters by prohibiting the importation of luxuries, but these form only a small proportion of the imports, and the chief result of the prohibition has been the creation of small native industries in leather, boots and shoes, and buttons, of the cottage rather than the factory type. Exports to Russia are checked by obvious causes, and the cost of land transit southwards prevents their reaching other markets. Over 55 per cent. of the total trade, or, if that with Egypt and Mesopotamia is included, 83 per cent., is carried on with the British Empire and its dependencies. Of the existing trade routes, which the Report describes minutely, the five most important (Basra-Baghdad, Kermanshah, Bushire-Shiraz-Ispahan, the Karun River, Quetta-Sistan-Meshed, and Bandar Abbas-Kerman) have been developed by British enterprise. Of the Persian Gulf shipping, six regular lines are British, the seventh Swedish; and of the 902 steamers entering the Gulf ports in 1920-21, 863 were British. We may add that a British syndicate has in hand a scheme for railway construction, and that during the war British forces suppressed brigandage, improved the trade routes, and spent largely on supplies and transport—benefits appreciated by the people, if not by their rulers.

As to finance, the revenue in 1913-14 was approximately £1,488,000, and the deficit is known to be chronic, huge, and increasing. The taxpayer is bled, but much of the revenue fails to reach the Treasury; official salaries are irregular, and there are no pensions. Persian Ministries at present are very unstable; and the Bolshevik Mission may pervert Persian opinion, but it can give no adequate aid, and is not likely to promote native Bolshevism. We may therefore hope that Persian sympathies, aided, perhaps, by the pro-British reaction which seems to have begun in Mesopotamia, will eventually again turn towards Great Britain as the only possible source of financial assistance and of help in the reorganisation of the administrative machine.

Notes of the Week.

Mr Collins Sees It Through.—The fighting in Dublin and in other parts of Southern Ireland this week is deplorable from the point of view of loss of life, destruction of property, and the bitterness which it must leave behind it. But the public would, we believe, be better advised to bend their thoughts even more intently on the more distant implications of these events than upon the hourly news of battle progress. For many months Mr Collins has been accused of ineffective action, and his apparent inertia in the face of treachery and outrage produced an atmosphere of suspicion which thickened to grave distrust when the strange pact with De Valera was announced. The real meaning of the present disturbance is, we hope and believe, threefold. In the first place, Mr Collins has now had time to organise physical forces behind him; secondly, he sees himself fortified by the moral support of the electorate; thirdly, his recent actions display his determination to use these twin elements of strength to crush the minority of lawless rebels, to restore law and order in South Ireland, and to prove his strength to govern the country in accordance with the clear decision of the people. His difficulties, it is true, appear on the surface to be partly of his own making. Had he shown the courage of his oft-expressed opinion that the great majority of the people of Southern Ireland were behind him and the Treaty, and abjured Mr De Valera and all his works, his position might have been stronger to-day. For a colleague who regards Rory O'Connor, the rebel leader, as the salt of the earth is surely a formidable embarrassment. But it is, on the other hand, probable that the position as regards physical force made it impossible for Mr Collins to take a strong line until now. In any case, we read in this week's Dublin turmoil a proof that Mr Collins and Mr Griffiths are manfully

striving to redeem the pledge conveyed by their signature to the Treaty. The recent elections have shown that the majority of the citizens of the Free State are behind them. This being so, we believe that they will eventually triumph over the tremendous difficulties that confront them, and they are entitled to receive throughout the present crisis the patient confidence of Great Britain at this crucial moment of their struggle to bring the Free State through the maelstrom of civil strife into the calm waters of peaceful self-government.

The Finance Bill and Super-Tax Evasion.—Although the debate on the beer duty and the Chancellor's refusal of remission may have attracted more attention from the man in the street, the real importance of this week's Finance Bill discussions lay in the long and detailed consideration of the Chancellor's proposals for preventing evasion of super-tax. Clause 14 in the Finance Bill, as originally drafted—framed to stop up the loopholes by bringing private companies under the super-tax—was regarded by many members as carrying a serious threat of injustice to thousands of *bona-fide* trading companies, and Sir Robert Horne agreed to substitute a new clause designed to meet this criticism. This new clause occupied the attention of the House of Commons in Committee for many hours on Tuesday night. Both the Chancellor and Sir Harwood Banner, who was a member of the Income-tax Commission, were emphatic on the point that super-tax dodging had been largely practised by the method of forming small private companies and placing large sums to reserve, particularly since super-tax rates became heavy. The object of the new clause was to stop this practice while safeguarding the *bona-fide* business. It passed the Committee stage on three understandings:—(1) That companies thus brought under the super-tax should be exempted from Corporation Profits Tax—a concession readily made by the Treasury; (2) that the clause should operate in respect of accounts made up to April 5, 1922, or subsequently, instead of to those made up to April 5, 1921, and subsequently. This concession, it was stated, would cost the Exchequer about £400,000; (3) that in the report stage words should be inserted making it clear that the sole intention of the clause was to reach those who were attempting to evade super-tax. The question is one that bristles with technical difficulties and calls for a very astute draughtsmanship, and we sympathise with the uneasiness of members who dislike leaving it to the Special Commissioners to decide what is a "reasonable proportion" of income for a private company to distribute under any given circumstances. The wording of the Government's addition to be added at the Report stage will call for very careful scrutiny. But the Treasury are certainly bound to make an attempt to checkmate widely practised methods of tax evasion, and the task of achieving this object, while fully safeguarding the *bona-fide* company, should not prove beyond the powers of the draughtsman.

The Traffic in Honours.—The debate in the House of Lords on the alleged sale of peerages and other honours has a flavour which will commend it to a scandal-loving public. Whether the "Prices current," mentioned by the Duke of Northumberland, for a place in Burdett are correct or not we do not pretend to know—this being one of the few markets which has never been quoted in the *Economist*. Indeed, we doubt whether it ever happens, except in the rarest of cases, that transactions of this kind are ever reduced to such simple terms as the debate suggested. It is, however, certain that generous subscribers to the funds of a Government in power will find a very ready appreciation of any other little claims they may possess to recognition of their services to their country. There is only one satisfactory, but very simple, way of preventing these recurrent debates on a theme which is steadily bringing into world-wide discredit the sound British principle of rewarding national service by the awarding of social distinctions—and that is legislation, as proposed by Lord Buckmaster, compelling the publication of party funds. This reform is urgent, not for this reason alone, but also as a means of weakening the hold of the party caucus in the constituencies. A change in this direction has been begun with the great

extension of the franchise. The next step is that the natural influence of wealth should come out of its hiding places and exercise what power it may in the open.

U.S. Trade Balance and Foreign Loans.—The latest monthly circular of the National City Bank of New York contains an interesting table comparing the aggregate new foreign loans, omitting refunding operations, placed on the New York market from January 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922, with the net foreign trade balances, including gold and silver for the same period, which we reproduce below:—

	Foreign Securities Purchased in U.S.	Credit Balance Merchandise Including Gold and Silver.
1921.		
January.....	50,500,000	416,422,000
February.....	40,525,000	230,809,000
March.....	24,310,000	47,195,000
April.....	1,500,000	4,627,000
May.....	76,200,000	63,085,000
June.....	13,250,000	106,203,000
July.....	43,309,000	87,108,000
August.....	49,000,000	83,780,000
September.....	97,500,000	82,392,000
October.....	47,438,000	113,066,000
November.....	67,079,000	31,345,000
December.....	58,850,000	30,840,000
Total for year 1921..	578,460,000	1,296,872,000
1922.		
January.....	92,346,000	34,771,000
February.....	57,768,000	9,351,000
March.....	155,513,000	39,851,000
Total for 3 months..	305,627,000	83,973,000
Total 15 months....	884,087,000	1,390,845,000

In the last twelve months currencies generally have shown a marked improvement in relation to the United States dollar, which has in the main been due to the falling off in America's favourable trade balances, and the large volume of foreign loans made in the New York market. It will be seen from the table that since and including March, 1921, the aggregate of loans has more than covered the trade balance, plus the net movement of gold and silver, while for the first three months of 1922 the excess was still more pronounced. The circular points out that the most notable change has been in the case of the pound sterling, which has gained in relation to nearly all currencies, notwithstanding the slack state of British foreign trade, and proceeds: "With a revival of trade it should be easily practicable to raise the pound to par and resume gold payments. Interest payments upon the debt to the United States, however, if begun this year, will be a serious drawback, as the sum accruing is about \$200,000,000 per year." Canadian exchange has become much more favourable to Canada, to some extent because of the improvement in sterling, as Canada settles in part by that means, and perhaps even more through the influence of her borrowings in the New York market. The trade returns for April show a larger export balance, but foreign issues have continued to be abundant.

Disposal and Liquidation Commission.—In a report on the work of the Disposal and Liquidation Commission for the year 1921-22 (Cmd. 1640), Sir Howard Frank, the chairman, mentions that approximately 87 per cent. of the total quantities of stores reported as available for disposal to March 31st last have been sold. The sales of the Disposal Board since the Armistice have been as follows:—

From Armistice to March 31, 1921	£ 292,660,442
From April 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922	31,998,091
Total	324,658,533
SALES OF RAW MATERIAL ON TRADING ACCOUNTS:—	
From Armistice to March 31, 1921	278,460,303
From April 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922	671,403
SALES OF WOOL THROUGH B.A.W.R.A.:—	
From January 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922	20,890,067
	300,021,773
Grand total	624,680,306

Since April 1, 1919, the revenue statement has divided miscellaneous revenue into ordinary and special receipts,

and from that date to March 31st last the special receipts have totalled nearly £724 millions. The bulk of this total presumably consists of receipts from the Disposal Board, but it also includes a large number of small items, and also large amounts from the Ministry of Shipping, and such items as £8½ millions repaid from the Mines Department, and £20 millions from the Treasury on account of Exchange Account. There were also small amounts for contributions towards the expenses of the war, including the balance of India's £100 millions. The main function of the Disposal Board continues to be the disposal of property and stores after they have been declared by public departments as surplus to their requirements, and it is hoped that the declarations of war surpluses will be completed during the current financial year. As a result of the report of the Geddes Committee, it is anticipated that considerable additional surpluses, which are not war surpluses, will be declared during 1922-23. The Board has continued its policy of "block sales," and during the year 1921-22 applied this method to the sale of all surplus textiles, ferrous material and brass scrap, and of all the balance of surplus stores in Egypt. It is stated that the Disposal Board has taken advantage of "every opportunity to sell property and stores when reasonable offers, approximating to the market price of the day, could be obtained, thus avoiding the holding up of sales indefinitely to the detriment of trade generally for the chance of an improvement in the markets, and at the same time refusing to sacrifice public property." This is the only sound policy, but so long as large stocks of any particular commodity exist recovery and activity in the industry concerned are impossible. The accumulation of a large surplus of material after a great war may be inevitable, but it would be interesting to know what ratio the £624 millions so far received bears to the actual cost to the British taxpayer of the goods sold. The estimate for 1921-22 provided for a net expenditure of £7,600,000, but it is anticipated that when the books are closed there will be a saving of about £1,020,000 for surrender to Exchequer. The staff, which on April 1, 1920, numbered 49,956, was reduced to 7,625 on April 1, 1921, and further to 5,917 on April 1st last. Of the latter figure 4,237 are industrial staff. Wages and salaries last year took approximately £1,400,000, as against £2,634,710 for 1920-21.

Argentine Railway Rates.—At long last the President of the Argentine Republic has signed the decree authorising an increase in the rates on the Argentine Railways, important exceptions being wood, potatoes, flour, hay, livestock, building material, and urban season tickets. In his letter published last week, our Buenos Aires correspondent referred to the joint memorial addressed to the Minister of Public Works by the North-East Argentine and Entre Rios companies advising him that they would be obliged to reduce both services and personnel unless additional tariff charges were granted, and this seems to have brought matters to a head. Among the trading interests serious objection to the raising of the rates comes only from the cattle raisers, who are pressing for the maintenance of the old tariff. The announcement of the signing of the decree had a beneficial effect on stock market prices, but any benefits that will accrue will, of course, not make themselves felt in the accounts for the year 1921-22, which closed yesterday. Moreover, reports from Argentine speak of a marked falling off in the volume of cereal traffic, which will offset at least temporarily any advantages the companies may gain from the increased charges. Increases in rates have been twice sanctioned since the beginning of the war, namely, in December, 1917 and in September, 1919.

Hopes for Rubber.—Lively hopes, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, are raised in the rubber market by the voting at the Conference of the International Association for Rubber Cultivation in the Netherlands East Indies, which was recorded last Tuesday. The Conference, which is composed of representatives from British, French, Belgian, Dutch, and other rubber-producing interests, sat to consider restriction of output with a view to restoring the industry to an economic level. A resolution to seek

the Dutch Government's assistance was carried by 383 votes to 125 votes, and a committee was promptly appointed to open negotiations with the Dutch Government in order to study the best means for applying such help as might be granted. This is read in London as implying that the question of restriction of production upon the Dutch-owned estates, in addition to those controlled by British and other interests, will be carefully and sympathetically examined by the Dutch Government. The result of the voting came, by singular coincidence, less than a fortnight after it had been pointed out here (*Economist*, June 17th, page 1241) that the Stock Exchange was discussing a scheme for restriction said to have been placed in front of the Dutch Government. "The existing state of affairs is one, therefore," our correspondent continued, "of remarkable interest to all concerned with rubber. If the Dutch Government consents to come into line with the proposals outlined by the British, there might, and probably would, be a complete change in the outlook for the rubber industry. For an agreed restriction of output, by whatever means secured, should change the whole aspect." This is what has actually occurred. From being plunged into a slough of despond and stagnation, the rubber market of the Stock Exchange has suddenly awakened to comparative activity and liveliness. Prices during the past few days have risen with a rush. A good deal of the marking-up process was purely automatic. Buyers who came in expecting to pick up the shares at the levels of the previous night were, perhaps, more disappointed than astonished to find themselves unable to deal at anything like such figures. The mere casting of a gleam of light upon the rubber situation served to bring about numbers of cancellations of selling orders, and, with speculative buyers anxious to get hold of shares, prices rose with a run. It is necessary to point out that, although the outlook is certainly much brighter, it will not do to count the chickens before they are hatched. In other words, everything depends at the moment upon the manner in which the Dutch Government will receive the resolution of the Association, to which reference has just been made. The votes in favour, to the number of 383, may have been cast mainly by British, French, and Belgians interested in Dutch properties belonging to companies connected with their own people. It is not yet announced, at the time of writing, what proportion of Dutchmen was to be found on the side of the resolution in favour of restriction. Until this is made clear, the cautious will hesitate to attach too much importance to what may turn out to be, after all, little more than a pious expression of opinion, and one which has been breathed many times before by British and other interests outside those of the Dutch. In any case, however, it is a great point gained for the Dutch Government to have before it so substantial a majority body of opinion in favour of the policy advocated by British producers whose past efforts in the direction of curtailing production have been handicapped, if not actually thwarted, by the fact that Dutch owners of rubber estates declined to afford any support worth mentioning to the proposal for imposing a restriction upon output. The price of rubber promptly responded to the possibilities of a change in the situation, and, if the Dutch Government lends its countenance to a definite policy of restriction, there should be a further rise. The Stock Exchange market is treating the matter cautiously, though with every hope that tangible advantage will result from the present state of affairs. For, if the Dutch Government is aroused, equally with the British Government, to the necessity for taking drastic steps in order to save the rubber industry, it will be only a matter of time before the various interests are brought into something like harmonious line on the question of what may be the best steps to take for the protection and fostering of an industry which, under the policy of drift, has simply gone from bad to worse.

South-Eastern and Chatham and Dover Railways.—As a necessary preliminary to the opening of negotiations with the boards of the London, Brighton, and South Coast and London and South-Western Railway Companies regarding terms and conditions of amalgamation under the

grouping scheme laid down in the Railways Act, 1921, the respective boards of the London, Chatham, and Dover and South-Eastern Railways and the Managing Committee have entered into a provisional agreement for amalgamation, as from January 1st next. Under the terms of this agreement existing stocks will be exchanged for stocks in the new company, but, in all cases, the actual income will be unchanged. The whole of the debenture capital of the South-Eastern will be converted into one 4 per cent. debenture stock, certain of the preference stocks will be converted into one 4 per cent. consolidated preference issue, and the ordinary, preferred ordinary, and deferred ordinary will be exchanged for a similar amount in the new company, a principle which also applies in the case of the existing annuity and the remaining stocks. As regards the Chatham company, the abnormal proportion of debenture capital has made it necessary to reduce the debenture capital issued in exchange for the various debenture stocks by substituting varying proportions of 4 per cent. debenture, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. guaranteed preference, and 4 per cent. consolidated preference stocks in the new company. For the Arbitration preference £27 of 5 per cent. preference, 1914, and £72 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference, 1922, will be given, while for each £100 of the Arbitration ordinary stock £52 10s contingent ordinary stock in the new company. The following table shows the loan and share capital of the proposed new company and the proportion to be allocated the London, Chatham, and South-Eastern Railway Companies respectively:—

Description of Stocks.	Total Stocks of New Company.	South-Eastern Company's Proportion.	London Chatham & Dover Company's Proportion
	Amount of Stocks.	Amount of Stocks.	Amount of Stock.
Terminable debentures.....	£ 571,032	£ ..	£ 571,032
Annuities.....	800,000	800,000	..
Debenture stock—4 per cent.	14,662,613	9,133,113	5,529,500
Total.....	16,033,645	9,933,113	6,100,532
Preference Stocks:—			
(a) $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. vested	719,175	719,175	..
$4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cons. guaranteed ..	1,967,322	984,300	983,022
4 per cent. cons. preference....	15,396,623	10,728,048	4,668,575
(b) 4 per cent. convert. pref. (1903) ..	997,190	997,190	..
5 per cent. preference (1914) ..	2,316,388	500,000	1,816,388
5 per cent. redeem. preference ..	175,302	175,302	..
Total.....	21,572,000	14,104,015	7,467,985
(a) Cumulative.			
(b) Non-cumulative.			
NOTE.—Under the Railways Act, 1921, all the above stocks would be trustee stocks in Great Britain.			
Preference stock (1922)—			
A new stock to rank for dividend <i>pari passu</i> with ordinary stock up to a maximum of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year	5,715,170	..	5,715,170
Ordinary stocks—			
Undivided ordinary, preferred ordinary, and deferred ordinary (amount of each description as existing on December 31, 1922) ..	10,049,220	10,049,220	..
Contingent ordinary—			
A new stock to rank for dividend <i>pari passu</i> with ordinary stock after $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum has been paid on the ordinary stock	5,911,123	..	5,911,123
Total.....	21,675,513	10,049,220	11,626,293
Total stocks.....	59,281,158	34,086,348	25,194,810

As the scheme will not come into operation for six months, the stocks of the existing companies will remain unaltered until the beginning of next year.

The English Wool Clip.—The English wool fairs opened on June 14th, and since then sales have been held in several of the most important districts. It is, perhaps, too early to say with certainty that a sound buying basis has been established, writes our Bradford correspondent, but one feature is very pronounced, namely, that the best and finest Down wools are making prices which users

consider to be exceptionally high. The Down wools, of course, are in a category by themselves. Just as the finest merino combing wool is in keen demand at prices nearly double those ruling before the war, so the various Downs are wanted for special purposes, and are making prices which must tend to cause disappointment to farmers who have only the lower qualities of wool to sell. It is the old story of the great disparity between fine and coarse wool. The Southdown sheep produce the finest wool grown in this country, the raw material being equal to 56-58's Bradford quality. This wool, and that grown on the other Down breeds, is of the greatest value in the hosiery trade, where soft full-handling yarns are essential. Indeed, the high prices which are being paid in the country are entirely due to the spirited competition of hosiery spinners, the majority of whom can easily outbid the ordinary merchant. Up to 21d per lb has been paid for the best Southdowns, and as the supply is limited, it seems probable that values will be well maintained. On the other hand, it is just possible that the present level of prices may induce users to give more attention to wool imported from Punta Arenas and the Falkland Islands. This raw material is becoming more and more popular in the hosiery trade, and there is no doubt that it is a serious competitor of the English Down wool. The imported South American wool ranges from 46's to 56's quality; it is usually sound in staple, gives a good clean yield, and is of a lofty character so much desired in the production of hosiery yarns. It is to be feared that growers of the strong deep classes of wool—such as Lincoln and Leicester—will experience considerable difficulty in moving their clips at what they will regard as satisfactory prices. The bulk of the wool grown in the United Kingdom ranges in quality from 40's to 48's, ignoring for the moment blackface wool, to which reference will be made later. It is in these qualities that stocks of Colonial crossbreds are so heavy. For example, at the end of last month the British Australian Wool Realisation Association held 118,038 bales of New Zealand crossbreds of 46's-50's, and 154,862 bales of 44's and below. These low crossbreds are still selling at prices well below the pre-war level, and with these huge surplus stocks in addition to those held privately, and the product of the forthcoming clip, it is obvious that demand will have to improve very considerably before values can be brought up to what may be termed an economic level. The opening up of trade with Europe is essential in order that an adequate outlet may be found for this class of raw material, and although consumption has certainly increased during the past few months, there is still a tremendous amount of leeway to make up before the position can be regarded as even approaching normal. An encouraging feature of the trade in home-grown wool is the good export demand for certain qualities. Considered merely in bulk weight, the export figures for this year are very encouraging. For the five months ended May, no less than 25,444,300 lb of British wool was shipped abroad, against 11,813,000 lb in the corresponding period of 1913. It is necessary to point out, however, that the heavy exports this year are entirely due to the keen American demand for blackface. Before the war it was generally estimated that the United States took about 75 per cent. of the blackface clip produced in this country, the raw material being used in the carpet trade. This wool is admitted free of duty under the Emergency Tariff, and in the Permanent Tariff now under consideration provision is made for what practically amounts to the free importation of carpet wools. Already this year America has taken 12,004,800 lb of British wool, against 4,190,100 lb in the first five months of 1913. The last season's blackface clip has been practically cleared, and the new clip is likely to make good prices.

Mexican Eagle Oil.—The accounts now submitted for the half-year ended December 31, 1921, by the directors of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company, Limited, show the results of the company's trading for a period of six months only, instead of one year as formerly, owing to the fact that the financial year of the company now ends at December 31st instead of June 30th as heretofore. This has been done mainly to coincide with the Mexican

Government's fiscal year. Profits on trading, as in the case of other oil companies, are considerably reduced when compared with the previous year's results. The following table shows results during the past 3½ years:—

	1919.	1920.	1921.	Half-Year Ended Dec. 31, 1921.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trading profit, after providing for administration expenses, interest, and interest on debentures	37,194,427	59,453,574	85,320,429	26,818,322
Forward from previous year	2,219,054	3,543,282	3,814,190	1,373,181
Transfer to field redemption and reserves accounts.....	39,413,481	2,996,856	89,134,619	28,191,501
	10,051,707	7,452,518	49,615,671	6,610,231
Provident fund	29,351,774	55,544,538	39,518,948	21,581,272
	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	500,000
Distributed in dividends	28,351,774	54,044,538	38,018,948	21,081,272
	24,808,482	50,230,349	36,645,767	19,399,142
Carried forward	3,543,282	3,814,189	1,373,181	1,682,130

The old preference share capital receives a 15 per cent. distribution, and the ordinary share capital a similar dividend for the half-year. Total reserves now stand at just over \$158½ millions. The reasons given for the falling off in profits are (a) depressed trade conditions, (b) increased working costs, and (c) decreased profits from Eagle Oil Transport Tank Steamers. The report, however, adds that "working costs in Mexico should show a considerable reduction in the current fiscal year, and with an improvement in world trade conditions, the demand for and the prices of oil products should show a steady improvement." It will be recalled that the company recently issued 7,000,000 7 per cent. first preference redeemable shares of 10 pesos each, and, of course, the annual amount required for the service of the issue will have to be taken into consideration in connection with next year's accounts.

St John del Rey.—The favourable view of the outlook taken in these columns last year on the report for 1920-21 has been fully justified by results. In 1921-22 this wonderful old gold mine—the present report is the 91st annual—not only treated an increased quantity of ore for an improved average yield, but also benefited substantially from the exceptionally favourable tendency of the exchange, the company's drafts averaging 7.87d per milreis, as against 13.7d in 1920. The gold premium, of course, continued to be a factor, although bringing in less than before. The net profit of £257,200 shows an expansion of £89,400 upon the 1920-21 result; hence the final dividend of 6½ per cent. on the ordinary (making the usual total of 10 per cent.) has been supplemented by a bonus of 1s per share. At £70,000, the sum transferred to capital works account is less than before, but reserve now gets an allocation of £30,000, raising that entry to £130,000. The directors frankly point out that the results of the current year will be adversely affected by the decline in the gold premium, and that a rise in the exchange may be anticipated; although there is the prospect of a continuance of favourable returns from the mine. Notwithstanding some delay in development, the manager is able to report the ore reserves at the enhanced total of 1,023,600 tons, equivalent to five years' supply. Twelve months ago the lode at horizon 22 had just been struck. It has proved to be 936 feet in length, and in all respects compares well with the deposit on the horizon above. The new power plant, in conjunction with the water-cooling installation, will permit the operation of the mine down to the 26th horizon, or 1,200 feet below the present deepest level. One horizon provides eighteen months' supply of ore. At current price of about 20s, cum 2s 3d dividend, the shares yield over 11 per cent. on the basis of the usual 10 per cent. dividend, and constitute a reasonable speculative holding.

Spiers and Pond.—The report of Spiers and Pond, Limited, for the year ended March 31st last, the fourth since the company was reconstructed, shows that profits have been well maintained in spite of the trade depression, and this enables the directors to repeat the dividend of

THE REVENUE.

I.—An ACCOUNT of the TOTAL REVENUE of the UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned period of the Year ending March 31, 1923, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

	Quarter from April 1 to June 30, 1922, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.			
	Quarter ending June 30, 1922.	Quarter ending June 30, 1921.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs	£ 31,309,000	£ 28,345,000	2,964,000	
Excise	36,738,000	44,896,000		8,158,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	1,703,000	1,421,000	282,000	
Estate, &c., Duties	16,591,000	10,924,000	5,667,000	
Stamps	3,442,000	2,697,000	745,000	
Land Tax, House Duty, and Mineral Rights Duty	470,000	390,000	80,000	
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	57,433,000	63,900,000		6,467,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	954,000	17,114,000		16,160,000
Corporation Profits Tax	3,817,000	2,020,000	1,797,000	
Postal Service	7,650,000	7,350,000	300,000	
Telegraph Service	1,250,000	1,250,000		
Telephone Service	3,400,000	900,000	2,500,000	
Crown Lands	292,000	130,000	162,000	
Interest on Sundry Loans	1,933,461	1,954,837		21,376
Miscellaneous—				
Ordinary Receipts	13,545,736	6,868,664	6,677,072	
Special Receipts	14,637,956	14,007,884	630,072	
	195,154,153	204,168,385	21,792,144	30,806,376
			Net Decrease, £9,014,232.	

II.—An ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Quarter ending June 30, 1922, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Quarter ending June 30, 1922.		ISSUES.	Quarter ending June 30, 1922.	
	£	£		£	£
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			Expenditure—		
Bank of England	9,953,424	2,591,051	Permanent Charge of Debt	4,087,129	3,891,788
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	Interest, &c., on War Debt	96,775,948	112,034,863
	11,173,530	3,074,506	Road Fund	986,000	986,000
Revenue, as shown in Account I.	195,154,153	204,168,385	Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	850,000	1,071,854
Temporary Advances Repaid—			Payments to Northern Irish Exchequer	510,000	
Bullion	550,000	1,550,000	Land Settlement	294,625	714,383
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	800,000		Other Consolidated Fund Services	790,221	451,852
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—			Supply Services—		
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—			Army, Navy and Air Force	25,750,000	50,500,000
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000	Civil Services	57,045,000	86,603,550
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	13,000	27,500	Revenue Departments and Post Office	12,130,000	15,186,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue	199,218,923	271,420,290
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,450,000		Temporary Advances—		
(b) For other Issues—			Bullion		1,900,000
By Treasury Bills for Supply	752,676,000	1,145,109,000	Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	84,909
By National Savings Certificates	27,648,000	8,530,000	Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,600,000	
By National War Bonds		5	Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—		
By Treasury Bonds—			Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 & 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000
5-15 Year, 1925-35		1,002,675	Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		
5 per Cent., 1927	121,708		Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	27,500
4 per Cent., 1932	61,422,074		Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921		25,000
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,869	3,713,840	Repayment of Amounts borrowed	650,000	
(d) Ways and Means Advances	283,440,500	329,374,000	Redemption of Unfunded Debt—		
Anglo-Persian Oil Company	243,012		Treasury Bills for Supply	874,214,000	1,043,454,000
Dividends on Shares Acquired			Securities surrendered under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919	3,902,014	11,570,510
Repayments—			Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	2,000,000	
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	13,768	7,719	Principal of National Savings Certificates—		
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	265,460	1,650,250	(a) Repaid by issues under Sec. 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,450,000	3,600,000
Interest—			(b) Repaid otherwise		2,850,000
Received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	87,358	85,532	Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—		
			5 per Cent., 1922, £2,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,188	
			Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	8,325,205	17,380,209
			Ways and Means Advances Repaid	225,904,500	331,539,000
			Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	7,320,045
			Anglo-Persian Oil Company—		
			Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	
			Proceeds of National Savings Certificates—		
			Issued under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920		4,255,000
			Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—		
			Issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200
				1,344,322,928	1,697,497,663
			Balances in Exchequer—		
			Bank of England	2,055,362	2,055,550
			Bank of Ireland	1,555,842	765,199
				3,611,204	2,820,749
	1,347,934,132	1,700,318,412		1,347,934,132	1,700,318,412

Mem.—Floating Debt outstanding March 31, 1922

	June 30, 1922.	June 30, 1921.
Ways and Means Advances outstanding—		
Advances by Bank of England	40,000,000	39,250,000
Advances by Public Departments	164,837,500	113,074,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	*760,525,000	1,221,647,000
Total Floating Debt outstanding	965,362,500	1,373,971,000

Net Decrease

* Includes £1,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

Treasury, June 30, 1922.

12½ per cent. paid in the two previous years. Results since the company was reorganised are given below:—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Profit	£ 128,520	£ 151,365	£ 136,072	£ 145,748
Deb. interest, &c.	26,714	26,419	31,209	41,590
Net profit	101,806	124,946	104,863	104,158
Brought forward ..		15,355	15,652	22,531
Reserve, &c.	101,806	140,301	120,515	126,689
Directors	35,000	43,000	22,000	22,000
Dividend	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	49,451	76,649	70,984	86,575
	(10 %)	(12½ %)	(12½ %)	(12½ %)
Carried forward	15,355	15,652	22,531	13,114

The paid-up ordinary capital has not been changed since the previous year, and it is to be gathered that the increase in the amount charged to the appropriation account for the ordinary dividend is a matter of adjustment of income-tax. Profits for 1921-22 include £16,822 for net rent of premises in government occupation during the war, no credit having been included in previous accounts for this item. The company has acquired a hotel at Lynton, and also the freehold of the Southampton Hotel, Surbiton, of which only the leasehold interest was previously held; since the close of the financial year a mortgage of £40,000 on the Hotel Metropole, Blackpool, has been discharged.

On Wednesday, July 5th, at 5 p.m., there will be held in the Hall of Gresham College, Basinghall street, the annual meeting of the National Movement towards a Christian Order of Industry and Commerce, a movement inaugurated a year ago "to rally men and women engaged in the administration of industry and commerce for the application of Christian principles to industrial life." The chair will be taken by Sir James Martin (chairman of Council, London Chamber of Commerce, &c.). After addresses by Mr John Murray, M.P., on "Obstacles to Industrial Peace," and by Mr Angus Watson (chairman of Angus Watson and Co., Limited, Newcastle) on "Ideals in Business," Mr Sydney Pascall, chairman of the movement, will lay before the meeting a programme, revised in the light of experience, for the furtherance of its objects.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—MEXICAN DEBT AGREEMENT—JUGO-SLAVIAN LOAN—MORE RAILWAY WAGES REDUCED—MONEY EASIER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, June 19.

THE conferences between the International Committee of Bankers on Mexico and Finance Minister de la Huerta ended last Friday, when a comprehensive agreement covering the matter of the Mexican Government's external debt was formally signed. The agreement will be submitted to President Obregon and to the bondholders for approval, and deposits of the various classes of securities involved will be invited in due course by the banking houses and institutions heretofore identified with Mexican Government financing. In a statement explaining the terms of settlement, Thomas W. Lamont says that the preliminary articles of the agreement recite the determination of the Mexican Government to fulfil its obligations to the full extent of its capacity, and state that the International Committee, recognising the difficulties of the situation caused by the revolution, and desiring to co-operate with the Government in promoting the full economic restoration of Mexico as rapidly as possible, "will recommend that the bondholders make substantial adjustments of their rights."

The plan of adjustment embraces the entire external Mexican Government debt, direct or guaranteed, the National Railways debt, and certain so-called internal Government debt, which is largely held outside of Mexico. The total face value of the securities involved exceeds

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000

Surplus \$25,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of business throughout the world bringing it in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE.
Gresham House, Old Broad Street.
London, E.C. 2



\$500,000,000 gold, on which the interest in arrears approximates \$200,000,000.

Under the terms of the agreement relating to current interest, cash payments in varying proportions among the different bond issues are to be begun after January 2, 1923, out of a special fund as provided for in the agreement. The schedule of disbursements in general will be based on the relative values and priorities of the different issues of bonds. Scrip is to be issued and redeemed in due course for such part of the current interest that may not be paid in cash, certain funds being made available for such redemption. The special fund for current interest will be increased annually until January 1, 1928, when full service of the debt is to be resumed; the oil export taxes and a surcharge on railway gross receipts will be paid into that special fund. With respect to back interest, it is stated that all cash payments are to be waived. The matter will be arranged by the deposit, with a trustee, of "overdue coupons," against which receipts will be issued, to be amortized without interest over a certain period. That arrangement, it is pointed out, is virtually equivalent to cancellation of a part of the back interest.

The agreement provides that the railways are to be operated by private management as before the revolution, the Government to assume, by endorsement, all of the railway debt not previously guaranteed; the rights of foreclosure hitherto held by the bonds are to be suspended while the plan is being carried out, in order to protect the stock ownership of the Mexican Government and other shareholders, as well as the ultimate rights of the bondholders. To give time for full resumption of all cash obligations, all classes of bondholders are to agree to a temporary suspension of sinking fund rights during a five-year period, after which all contract clauses will again become effective.

The announcement has been received here with general satisfaction. Just what "substantial adjustments" bondholders will be asked to make the chairman's statement does not indicate; but it is believed that the agree-

ment will prove advantageous to all concerned. Mexican bonds dealt in here have lately advanced sharply. In financial circles the outcome is considered the most important step yet taken by the Republic toward setting its financial house in order, a development which, no doubt, has been deemed essential by the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Switzerland before extending recognition to the Obregon administration. The opinion is expressed that if the terms of the agreement are faithfully carried out, it will not be long before recognition is extended by those countries. Among the foreign bankers who attended the conferences were Sir William Wiseman, E. R. Peacock, of the Bank of England, and J. Chevalier, of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

New bond issues floated in this market last week totalled about \$81,300,000, consisting of approximately \$22,000,000 industrial, \$12,000,000 railroad, and a like amount of public utility bonds, the remainder including State, municipal, and foreign issues. The largest single offering, and the one that received most attention, was the issue of \$25,000,000 40-year 8 per cent. secured external gold bonds of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Jugo-Slavia), representing the first external loan by the new kingdom. The bonds were offered at 95½ and interest to yield about 8.40 per cent. to investors. The bonds are non-callable for 15 years, but callable thereafter at 110 and interest, with the premium decreasing ½ per cent. annually to 101 in 1955. An annual sinking fund, beginning May 1, 1922, is provided, sufficient to retire the entire issue by maturity. The proceeds, it is understood, will be used principally to rehabilitate the country's railroad system, including the construction of a new line from Belgrade to the Adriatic. Additional foreign financing here is understood to be pending, including a loan to Cuba, the amount mentioned being \$50,000,000. The flotation of such a loan has been under consideration for several months, but has been delayed by the unsatisfactory financial and political situation in the island. The Cuban budget for the coming year has been reduced to \$54,000,000, as against \$127,000,000 last year, and the loan negotiations may be successfully concluded within the next few weeks.

Complete returns of railroad operations during April reflect to a considerable extent the effects of the coal strike. Gross earnings of all the first-class carriers amounted to \$416,868,620, compared with the March total of \$474,669,629, and were \$16,529,453, or 3.8 per cent., less than in April of 1921. Increased coal shipments in March, in anticipation of the strike, were largely responsible for the big gain in gross revenues in that month. Operating expenses in April were \$336,178,422, as against \$375,696,712 in the corresponding month of last year, representing a decrease of \$39,518,290, or about 10½ per cent., with the result that, despite the rather sharp falling off in gross earnings, net operating income totalled \$50,271,865, as against only \$29,856,640 in April, 1921. The net operating income in April was equivalent to an annual return of about 4 per cent. on the tentative property valuation of the carriers.

Another decision just rendered by the Railroad Labour Board reduces the wages of some 325,000 additional railway employees. The latest ruling, it is estimated, will mean a further cut in the annual pay-roll of the carriers of about \$27,000,000, making a total wage reduction under the three decisions lately handed down by the board, to become effective July 1, \$135,000,000 approximately. The reductions affect more than 1,000,000 employees. According to leaders of the railway unions, reports on the strike balloting thus far show an overwhelming majority in favour of a walk-out. The chief executives of the railroad brotherhoods, now taking a strike ballot, have officially notified the Railroad Labour Board that a nation-wide strike is certain if the workers vote to reject the wage cuts that are to become effective July 1st. Present indications, therefore, are that after July 1st more than 1,500,000 men (exclusive of New England textile employees) will be on strike. Nevertheless, the prospect of such a development seems to be causing remarkably little concern in railroad or business circles.

Money rates have become decidedly easier at this centre. Fixed date funds are now available at 4 per cent. for practically all periods, while 30-day loans are negotiated at 3½ per cent., as compared with 4½ to 4¾ per cent. which prevailed until recently. Call money rates on the Stock Exchange have fallen to 2¾ per cent., the lowest level reached since April, 1918, and rates for bankers' acceptances have declined to the lowest points witnessed in four years; thirty, sixty, and ninety-day bills for eligible member banks are now quoted at 3½ per cent. bid and 3 per cent. asked, as against 3¼ bid and 3½ asked a few days ago. A lowering of discount rates by at least some of the Federal Reserve Banks is confidently expected shortly, especially in view of the recent reduction in the Bank of England rate.

FRANCE.—PAYMENT IN KIND—PUBLIC WORKS AND GERMAN LABOUR—SUGGESTED BUDGET CHANGES—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 27.

The coming into operation of the agreements arrived at between the French and German Governments for the payment of part of the reparation debt in kind—in the form of materials required for use in the devastated area—has been advanced another stage by the notification to-night that the Reparations Commission has now formally approved of the Gillet agreements. These agreements (so named after the permanent official who negotiated them on behalf of the French Government) are really an extension of and supplement to the Wiesbaden agreements negotiated between M. Loucheur and the late Dr Rathenau. The defect of the latter, for the sufferers from war losses for whose benefit they were intended, was that claimants who desired to receive payment in the form of materials were required to pass their orders through the machinery of the two Governments. By the provisions of the Gillet agreements, claimants to reparation payments in the form of materials will be able to place their orders direct with whatever German firm they prefer, and to receive delivery direct, as in an ordinary commercial transaction. The only practical difference will be that, instead of paying for the goods in cash, they will pay in reparation claim certificates, which will be handed by the German supply firm to his own Government for payment, and then credited by the French Government against an equivalent amount of reparation debt due from Germany. The question has been raised that the privilege of handling transactions of this kind shall be limited to firms carrying on business in the occupied territory, but on this point nothing has yet been settled. Apart from this, apparently, all that remains to be done to permit these agreements to come into operation is for them to be ratified by the French Parliament. This ratification is expected to be given in the near future.

It is now becoming slowly realised here that, whatever may be the outcome of the effort that is being made by the Allied Committee of Guarantees, which is now sitting in Berlin, to bring something like order out of the chaos into which German national finances have been allowed to fall, it is hopeless to expect that France will be able to obtain any appreciable sum in cash from her defeated enemy in the near future. France has already raised some 80,000,000,000 by loans of various kinds towards the cost of restoration work in the devastated area, every penny of which should have been paid by Germany, and it is estimated that this country will have to raise several additional millions annually during the next seven or eight years before her ravished departments are definitely reconstituted and again brought back to producing level. The Budget estimates for 1923 involve a deficit of something like 3,900,000,000, which must necessarily be still further swollen to the extent of the annual interest charges if further loans for reconstitution purposes have to be issued. The limit of taxation is estimated as having already been reached. It would seem, therefore, that if Germany continues to fail to make reparation payments that will leave a substantial cash surplus for France, and if the latter is unable to raise further money from her own resources, the work of recon-

stitution must be brought to a standstill for an indefinite period.

M. le Trocquer, the French Minister of Public Works, announces that the Government proposes to avail itself of its rights under Paragraph 19 of Appendix 2 to Part VIII. of the Versailles Treaty, which provides for the possibility of German labour and materials being utilised, not merely for the devastated area of France, but for all such works as are designed to enable any of the Allied or Associated Powers to develop its industrial or economic life. To this end plans have been under consideration since M. Poincaré's advent to office last January, with a view to utilising German labour and materials for the carrying out in various parts of France of a huge programme of great public works for the benefit of the country as a whole.

In determining the nature of the public works to be carried out under this scheme, the Government laid down as a basic principle that the undertakings must be of a kind that would be more or less immediately productive of revenue. The undertakings most closely corresponding to this condition were obviously the important schemes that have been under consideration for some time past with a view to the development of water power and the distribution of electricity for power and illuminating purposes. Parliamentary powers (as I stated some months ago) have already been obtained for the carrying out by the State and the various local authorities and others of an enormous scheme for the development of the Rhône, the plans involving the transformation of the river into a great inland waterway, the construction of a large number of stations for the development of electric power, and an important irrigation undertaking. With this is involved the construction of a series of great electrical transport lines, the electrification of certain portions of the French railways, and other important propositions. M. le Trocquer's programme also includes the utilisation of German labour and materials for the construction of several new lines of railways, estimated to cost 800,000,000; the Channel Tunnel (provided the British Government can be persuaded to give its assent), which it is estimated would cost 840,000,000; harbour works, involving improvements in nearly all the French ports, 3,200,000,000; internal waterways about 5,650,000,000 (of which about 40 per cent. would be labour cost, 650,000,000 cost of land, and 1,000,000,000 cost of materials, &c.). The estimated cost of the whole programme is 18,419,000,000, of which it is estimated at least 13,000,000,000 might be furnished by Germany (labour about 6,000,000,000, and materials, &c., about 7,000,000,000), on account of her reparations debt to France. M. le Trocquer states, as evidence of the seriousness of the proposal, that it has already been formally placed by M. Poincaré in the hands of the French delegation on the Reparations Commission, and that it has so far advanced that it is being considered by an interministerial commission composed of representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Labour, Liberated Regions, and Colonies.

Although, as already stated, we have had it on official financial authority that it is estimated that the limit of taxation has been reached, no less a personage than M. Bokanowski, the rapporteur générale of the Budget, has this week come forward before the Finance Commission of the Chamber with proposals to wipe out the estimated deficit on the 1923 Budget by increasing certain of the existing taxes to the extent of two milliards, and to get rid of the balance by further reducing expenditure to the extent of 1,900,000,000. M. Bokanowski's proposals in the circumstances, have come upon public opinion almost as a surprise, and it is generally regarded as extremely doubtful whether they will be found practicable. The rapporteur générale proposes first to suppress the paying-off of 500,000,000 of the public debt that was to have been provided for out of that portion of the excess profits tax that will be paid by the surrender of an equivalent amount of Rentes. He suggests that the military and naval estimates shall be reduced by a further 525,000,000 (including 175,000,000 in respect of the credits for Syria, 125,000,000 for Morocco, and 25,000,000 in connection with the forces occupying Constantinople). Another 120,000,000, he urges, might be saved by further cutting down by the various other Government depart-

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve Funds - - £1,350,000

Head Office: EDINBURGH.

R. G. THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.
Over 150 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.
JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAWE, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

ments, and 200,000,000 by the suppression of another 25,000 of the State employés. A further reduction of the interest payable on Bons de la Défense Nationale would save another 375,000,000 during 1923, 80,000,000 could be got by reducing the repayments to the Bank of France, and 100,000,000 would be saved from the fact that, in the circumstances, it would be unnecessary to provide for interest charges to that amount of loans that would no longer be required. The total of these economies in expenditure would amount to 1,900,000,000. On the revenue side M. Bokanowski proposes the re-imposition of "circulation" duties on non-alcoholic beverages, which he estimates would produce 200,000,000, an increase in the income-tax due from agriculturists, 200,000,000, an increased yield from income-tax, by better methods of surveillance, 450,000,000, increase of succession duties, &c., 600,000,000, manipulation of the "special" accounts, 300,000,000, and—what is perhaps the most interesting of all—the demonopolisation of the trade in tobacco and matches, which he estimates would enable the State to secure an additional 250,000,000 from these two sources.

The Bourse has again this week been depressed and hesitating, but despite this general tendency there has been no demoralisation. Among the factors of weakness, the more prominent are the opening of the holiday season and the selling occasioned in view of the approaching issue by the Crédit National. The improved financial position in the United States, on the other hand, has had a hardening result. French Three per Cents. moved back from 58.45 to 57.45, and the redeemable Five per Cents. from 91.55 to 90.30, but the 1917 Four per Cents. were, like most of the other French Rentes, more in demand, improving from 61.75 to 62.15. Banks declined, the Banque de l'Algérie moving from 3,915 to 3,855, the Banque de France from 5,750 to 5,700, the Banque Nationale de Crédit from 627 to 620, and the Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 608 to 602. Railways, for the most part, were stronger, Est advancing from 722 to 725, Midi from 765 to 768, Nord from 1,146 to 1,170, Orléans from 627 to 635, and P.L.M. from 852 to 869. Orléans, however, declined from 876 to 870. Shipping was weaker, Messageries Maritimes losing 12 points at 163, and Chargeurs Réunis 8 points at 325.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, June 27.

THE assassination of Dr Rathenau, who was much the ablest member of the Wirth Cabinet, is not likely to bring any direct change in Germany's international or home affairs. Ever since the Armistice small groups of men, mostly young and belonging to classes which have not adapted themselves to the new political conditions, have been conspiring for the murder of radical politicians; and as the Government has shown very little energy in counter measures, it is not surprising that they have had success. At present the extent, resources, and desperation of these organisations is being exaggerated by alarmists, and it is desirable that this fact should be understood abroad. The policy of the Government and its supporters is to proclaim that the Republic is in danger, and to give colour to wild stories of extensive political conspiracies,

impending counter-revolutions, and so on. On the days following Dr Rathenau's death, Ministers and great part of the Press and public lost their heads. There is no reason to believe that the Republic is in any danger. The Kapp revolt of March, 1920, indicated the way that a counter-revolution must take; but there is no sign of a repetition of that; and were an organised Monarchist force available, it could effect nothing, as Kapp's experience showed, against the great majority, which is certainly devoted to the Republican State form, if not always pleased with present Republican methods. The cry that the Republic is in danger produced a temporary panic on the Berlin exchange bourse. The Rathenau murder, like that of Herr Erzberger, must ultimately be traced to Germany's unfortunate foreign relations. Each new humiliation imposed and accepted from abroad gives native extremists, who believe that they are the only good patriots, an excuse to impugn Ministers for treasonable weakness, and this form of criticism easily blends with extreme sentiments, and ends with explosions.

The provisional figures for the fulfilment of the Budget of 1921-22 have been published. Summarised, these are:—Ordinary Budget: Revenue, 62,226,381,000 marks; expenditure, 167,847,458,000 marks, whereof 12,914,120,000 marks is non-recurring—deficit, 105,621,077,000 marks. The Extraordinary Budget balances at 182,552,427,000 marks. Both Budgets together show revenue, 244,778,808,000 marks; expenditure, 350,399,885,000 marks. State undertakings show: Posts and Telegraphs, receipts, 8,690,601,000 marks; expenditure, 13,973,833,000 marks—deficit, 5,283,232,000 marks; Railways, ordinary, receipts, 37,504,000,000 marks; expenditure, 48,339,014,000 marks—deficit, 10,835,014,000 marks; Railways extraordinary: Receipts, 4,000,000 marks; expenditure, 24,800,000,000 marks—deficit, 24,796,000,000 marks; Federal Printing Office: Receipts, 398,660,000 marks; expenditure, 395,321,000 marks—surplus, 3,339,000 marks. Total revenue, 291,376,069,000 marks; expenditure, 437,908,053,000 marks. From the last sum should be deducted 105,621,077,000 marks transferred from the Extraordinary Budget to cover the deficit in the Ordinary Budget, so that the net total expenditure is 332,286,977,000 marks, and the total deficit 41 milliards. The balance in the Extraordinary Budget is, however, achieved only by booking the yield of Treasury bill discounts; but though the amount of Treasury bills discounted during the year can be had, the actual sum yielded is not stated.

The Floating Debt between June 11th and June 20th increased by 3,133,960,000 marks, and reached a total of 290,708,725,000 marks. Of the increase, 2,095,648,000 marks was spent on buying high-currency bills for Peace Treaty liabilities. As a result of the last exchange fall, the gold supplement on Customs duties has been raised to 6,400 per cent., or 65 times the nominal. The supplement was raised from 900 to 1,900 per cent. in October last, to 3,900 per cent. in November, to 4,400 per cent. in March, and to 5,900 per cent. in April. The Cabinet has been obliged to grant an all-round 40 per cent. increase in official salaries and wages. This is the first time officials of all classes have had the same proportional salary increase. The Forced Loan Bill is not yet through. In Reichstag Committee a proposal was accepted to limit the amount to 60 milliards of paper marks. This is a weakening of the Bill, which was originally for a gold loan of one milliard, to be subscribed in paper marks at current exchange. The Reichstag Committee has also raised the initial interest rate (November, 1925—October, 1930) from 2½ to 4 per cent., and the definitive rate (after October, 1930) from 4 to 5 per cent. The increase in interest rate is not important, as the important question for the enforced subscribers is in what kind of mark they will get their interest and capital. Berlin Municipality reports a deficit of 845 millions, of which 707 millions are a result of the increase of salaries and wages since May. The deficit will be covered mainly by increasing the industry-and-trade tax and the real estate tax. The Federal Commissary for Import and Export has decided that Memel shall be treated as a "low-exchange foreign country." Hitherto, for export, Memel has been treated as German in that

German exporters were allowed to sell to it at native prices. As a low-exchange foreign country, Memel will in future pay for German goods somewhat more than Germans pay, but less than high exchange countries pay. This is part of the system under which the Foreign Trade Boards grant export licenses only on condition that fixed minimum prices are charged to the foreign buyer.

The Reichsbank has increased its gold purchase rate to 1,400 paper marks for the 20 mark gold piece. This is the highest price so far paid, and is nearly double the rate (720 marks) of last January. For silver coins is being paid 30 times the nominal value. The policy of the Cabinet and Reichsbank towards a new possible mark exchange fall has been much in debate. According to a Berlin news agency, the President of the Reichsbank, Dr Havenstein, told the Chancellor that Reichsbank intervention sales from its stock of high-currency bills would have no effect in checking any strong rise in the foreign exchanges, and that the most the bank could do would be to moderate minor fluctuations. The bank never holds sufficient foreign currency to support the mark by intervening when the other mark interests all over the world are selling. The mark has for the moment recovered from the shock administered by Dr Rathenau's death. On news of the occurrence, the dollar rose from 331 to 356, but was yesterday back at 349. The Bourse last week moved independently of the exchanges, the general tendency for dividend payers being slightly downward, while the exchanges tended upwards. Exceptional inactivity prevailed, and towards the close of the week dealings were so small that initial quotations were made with difficulty. The brief Saturday panic among business men had ceased before the Bourse reopened yesterday, and again business was dull. Bond prices yesterday were:—War Loan, 77.50; Federal Four per Cents., 107.50; Three and a-half per Cents., 80.25; Three per Cents., 146; Colonial Four per Cents., 120; Savings and Premium, 85.30; Prussian Four per Cent. Consols, 82.10; Three per Cent. Consols, 72.25; Bavarian Four per Cents., 85; Hamburg Staats-Rente, 79.

Business conditions continue good. The finishing industries, in particular the machinery, building, wood and textile branches, have plenty to do. The number of publicly supported unemployed in 367 towns of over 10,000 inhabitants on June 10th was only 19,232. Between January 7th and June 10th the unemployed in Berlin fell from 58,471 to 6,742; in Breslau from 4,047 to 2,229; in Hamburg from 6,074 to 1,990; in Leipzig from 4,396 to 396; in Munich from 2,353 to 561; while in Essen are only 40 unemployed. In general, employment is better than in the best pre-war years. Prices continue upwards. The Steel Syndicate has raised quotations as follows:—

	June 20, 1922.	April 1, 1922.	July, 1914.
	Marks.	Marks.	Marks.
Ingot.....	7.960 ..	7.170 ..	82.50
Blooms	8.670 ..	7.775 ..	87.50
Billets	8.965 ..	8.010 ..	95.00
Slabs	9.190 ..	8.200 ..	97.50
Construction forms.....	10.460 ..	9.325 ..	110.00
Bars	10.640 ..	9.500 ..	97.99
Wire rods	11.470 ..	10.265 ..	117.50
Thick plates	11.930 ..	10.650 ..	105.00
Medium.....	13.570 ..	12.140 ..	110.00
Thin (1-3 mill.)	14.450 ..	12.770 ..	125.00

These rates are good until the end of July, but supplements will be added in case of a further increase in coal prices. The price of Portland cement has been raised to 15,061 marks per 10 metric tons, the pre-war price being 350 marks. Prices of breadstuffs have of late tended to rise more rapidly than the dollar exchange. On the 22nd, home-grown wheat sold at 78 times the price of December, 1913, the dollar having appreciated 77 times, and barley sold at 84 times the peace price. This does not mean that world-market gold prices have been fully reached, but merely pre-war gold prices. Cotton, which was moving slightly downward towards the end of May, has again moved up with the dollar, and was yesterday (American fully middling, Bremen) 188.90 marks, against around 140 marks at the beginning of the month. Hides and leather have of late moved sharply upward, in part owing to great activity in the boot industry. Retail prices of food and necessities are mostly double those of

January, and sometimes more. Specimen quotations at Frankfurt-on-Main are:—

	Jan. 7th.	June 24th.
Butter.....	42	78-82
Lard	26	52
Santos la coffee.....	44	110
Sugar	5.60	14
Bread, 1,500 gr.....	6.25	13
Rice	6.00	12
Oatmeal.....	4.50	11.50
Potatoes.....	1.25	2.60
Petroleum (litre).....	9.50	13.50

POLAND.—CABINET CRISIS—MONETARY STRINGENCY—MARKET RATE 60 PER CENT.—POLISH NATIONAL BANK—FINANCIAL SITUATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, June 14.

POLAND is again passing through a very severe Cabinet crisis. This is the sixth change of Government since the formation of the new Polish Republic. The present Cabinet has been forced to tender its resignation, not by an unfavourable vote of the Diet, but by the attitude of Marshal Pilsudski, who has informed Mr Ponikowski that the present Government does not enjoy his confidence.

The alleged reason for the Marshal's action is the weakness of the present Government, which is not backed by a great majority of the Diet. Mr Ponikowski's Cabinet was formed at a moment when it was impossible to find such a majority. In consequence the position of the Government was a very difficult one, and very important Bills were often passed by a majority of three, four, and even one vote. Marshal Pilsudski is of the opinion that at the present moment, when preparations for new elections must be made, a strong Government must take the affairs of the country into its hands. This is the explanation given by the Marshal himself. It is certain, however, that the real reasons must be sought elsewhere. Though the weakness of Mr Ponikowski's Cabinet is deplorable, it is certain that a strong Parliamentary Government is at this juncture impossible. In the Diet the Left and the Right nearly balance each other, and for three years all attempts to form a stable majority failed. Under very difficult conditions Mr Ponikowski succeeded in strengthening the position of his Cabinet considerably. In the first instance, the financial policy of Mr Michalski and the foreign policy of Mr Skirmunt had the decided support of the Diet.

It is generally known that the breach between the Marshal and Mr Ponikowski is due to a difference of opinion as far as the foreign policy of the country is concerned. Marshal Pilsudski considers the present position as a very dangerous one. He thinks that the concentration of Bolshevik troops along the Dnieper is directed against Poland, and that an invasion of Polish territory in the summer is not impossible. To prevent it he has asked for an important increase of military credits. This has been refused by the Finance Minister and by Mr Skirmunt, who view the international situation in a more optimistic spirit. Hitherto no progress in the direction of a solution of the crisis has been made. Mr Ponikowski has been asked by the "Convent of Seniors" of the Diet to retain his office, but he did not accept the offer. The discussions which are actually pursued between the Marshal and the representatives of the political parties have a purely academic character. They are devoted to the question to whom the initiative of nominating the Cabinet belongs, to the President of the Republic or to the Diet. According to the Constitution of February 20, 1919 (called "Small Constitution" as distinguished from the Great Constitution of March 17, 1921), the Cabinet is nominated by the President after consultation with the Diet. This clause is interpreted in a different sense by the political parties, and this renders the solution of the crisis very difficult. The political deadlock, which is the result of such a situation, has a very detrimental influence on the state of the country. The majority of the Diet and of public opinion is severely criticising the Marshal for having provoked, without any justifiable reason, such a serious political crisis.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The stringency on the money market is becoming every day more severe. The rate of interest has reached a mediaval level. Even undertakings which are financially solid are obliged to pay 50 to 60 per cent. for bank credits, and in Lodz private discount houses are charging a rate of 3 to 5 per mille per diem. Mr Michalski, the Finance Minister, has met the representatives of the banks at a conference, and has declared that a rate of more than 20 per cent. is unjustified. Where they do not observe this limit the banks will be refused any credit by the Polish National Bank.

This stringency on the money market is due to two reasons: (1) Scarcity of capital, (2) the policy of the Polish National Bank. The country, exhausted by the long war, does not possess sufficient capital for reconstruction. The stringency has been accentuated by the anti-inflationist policy of the Polish National Bank, which is putting great difficulties in the way of discounting commercial bills. The credit accorded to the 12 most important banks of the former Congress Poland for the rediscount of their bills has been fixed at 3.7 milliards, an amount which is out of proportion with the needs of these institutions. As the banks cannot count in the case of emergency on the assistance of the Polish National Bank, they must have always at their disposal a comparatively high reserve. The relation of cash to deposits of the principal banks of Congress Poland was, during the first three months of this year, as follows:—

	Cash. Milliard Marks.	Deposits. Milliard Marks.	Per Cent. of Cash to Deposits.
December 31, 1921.....	7.8	26.8	29.2
February 28, 1922.....	9.0	36.4	24.7
March 31, 1922.....	7.4	41.0	18.2

From the end of 1921 to March 31st of this year the cash of the banks had decreased by 400 millions, while the deposits had increased by 14.2 milliards. This has entailed a reduction of the percentage of cash to deposits from 29.2 to 18.2 per cent. This proportion is, under present conditions, not sufficient, and the banks have been forced to charge exorbitant rates of interest so as to re-establish the equilibrium.

The stringency has induced the Polish National Bank to modify its policy. A Bill has been introduced in the Diet authorising the Bank to issue paper marks for the purpose of discounting and rediscounting commercial bills payable after a lapse of time not exceeding six months. It is not expected that an increase of paper circulation for productive purposes will have the disastrous consequences which were due to the working of the printing press to meet public expenditure.

The last accounts of the Polish National Bank reveal a marked improvement, as shown by the figures below:—

	Increase of Paper Circulation. Milliard Marks.	Increase (+) and Decrease (—) of Advances to the Government. Milliard Marks.
October, 1921.....	+ 24.9	+ 25.0
November, 1921.....	+ 11.1	+ 15.5
December, 1921.....	+ 15.9	+ 6.0
January, 1922.....	+ 6.2	+ 6.4
February, 1922.....	+ 51.0	+ 3.2
March, 1922.....	+ 3.5	+ 1.5
April, 1922.....	+ 9.9	— 12.1
May, 1922.....	+ 15.4	— 3.0

While in October the advances to the Government increased by 25 milliards, we observe in April and May a reduction of 12.1 and of 3 milliards. This is due to the collection of the capital levy, which has enabled the financial administration to cover its expenditure. Issues of new paper marks have been exclusively for the purpose of commercial credits.

It seems that the amount obtained from the capital levy is already exhausted. The increase of salaries of the civil servants makes the imposition of new taxes necessary. Mr Michalski has prepared a Bill dealing with this problem, but the Cabinet crisis has prevented him from presenting it to the Diet. If the present political deadlock is of long duration, it will inevitably force the Government to resort again to the printing press as a means of covering its budgetary deficits.

SPAIN.—KING'S SPEECH—PUBLIC FINANCE—NEW CAPITAL—STOCK MARKETS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, June 20.

IN the past month there has been little to record in the political world apart from the King's speech in Barcelona, which caused somewhat of a sensation in the Congress. The purport of Don Alfonso's words, indicating the necessity of dissolving the "Juntas de Defensa," or Army Officers' Defence League, was generally approved, but some of the members of Parliament declared the speech to be unconstitutional. These "Juntas de Defensa" have caused considerable trouble in the past, and are likely to give rise to serious complications unless they are either suppressed with a firm hand or so modified as to eliminate the possibility of their becoming a national danger.

The Inland Revenue figures for the month of March show that receipts from all sources amounted to 276,205,823 pesetas, whilst disbursements reached 285,152,069 pesetas. The following is a comparison of these two items in the last five years:—

	Receipts. Pesetas.	Disbursements. Pesetas.
April to March.		
1917-18	2,452,379,143	2,309,406,830
1918-19	2,016,120,224	2,209,164,797
1919-20	3,017,554,823	3,071,629,275
1920-21	2,798,888,101	2,676,088,887
1921-22	4,362,164,961	3,633,334,924

At first sight it would appear that there was a large excess in 1921-22 of receipts over disbursements, but the official figures do not include certain items which account for a reduction of 2,128,180,000 pesetas in the receipts and 419,160,000 pesetas in the disbursements. After making these adjustments the latter exceed the former by 980,190,000 pesetas.

The total figure of public issues made in Spain during 1921 indicates that there has been a reduction in the amount of capital invested in industrial concerns, while investments in State and Corporation securities have increased considerably. The last two quarters of 1921 show the most important increase over previous years, as demonstrated by the following table:—

Quarters.	1919. Pesetas.	1920. Pesetas.	1921. Pesetas.
First	405,264,100	125,479,000	386,456,000
Second	675,609,500	153,417,000	343,400,500
Third	108,745,000	417,642,500	683,460,000
Fourth	123,570,000	100,855,000	1,386,777,000
	1,313,188,600	797,393,500	2,800,093,500

Of the total for 1921 some 92 per cent. is absorbed by Government and other official issues, and this result compares with previous years as below:—

Year.	Total Public Issues.	Government and Official Issues.	Industries.
	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	%
1917	634,643,213	352,746,963	55.5
1918	637,443,500	373,381,500	58.5
1919	1,313,188,600	872,883,000	66.4
1920	797,393,500	388,935,000	49.0
1921	2,800,093,500	2,589,297,500	91.9

Only in one year did the amount of capital invested in industrial concerns exceed that of the official issues, and in 1921 the small amount of the former is striking evidence of the critical situation of Spanish industries after war prosperity had subsided.

Analysing the capital invested in industries we find that in 1917 the largest individual sum was absorbed by railways, in 1918 by mining concerns, in 1919 by electrical industries, in 1920 by mining concerns again, and in 1921

by electrical enterprises once more, as will be seen by the following table:—

Year.	Industrial Issues.	Railways.	Electrical Industries.	Mining.	Other Industries.
1917	281,899,250	49,952,000	39,399,000	3,100,000	189,448,250
1918	264,062,000	37,951,500	52,750,000	54,500,000	118,861,500
1919	440,205,600	69,688,500	71,450,000	48,500,000	250,567,100
1920	408,458,500	47,834,500	69,110,000	105,250,000	186,264,500
1921	210,196,000	55,840,000	65,050,000	30,400,000	58,906,000

In the five years mentioned electrical concerns have issued capital to the extent of 297,759,000 pesetas, railways 261,266,500 pesetas, and mining industries 241,750,000 pesetas.

This month has been a little more animated, both in the stock and exchange markets, with occasional relapses to dead quiet. In the exchange ring the protests against false closing quotations are taking a more energetic form, and it is not unlikely that within a short time these abuses may be, if not entirely suppressed, at least reduced within reasonable limits.

AUSTRALIA.—BANK RETURNS—TAXATION METHODS—WHEAT EXPORTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, May 22.

THE quarterly average returns to March 31st of bank liabilities and assets within Australia and New Zealand (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) show that deposits have increased by £9,452,477 since the previous quarter, the movement being usual at the time of the year when the country receives proceeds of wool and wheat sales, and that advances (inclusive of Government securities) have diminished by £348,861. The following is a comparison of the principal totals with those for the previous quarter and a year ago:—

	March Quarter, 1921.	December Quarter, 1921.	March Quarter, 1922.
Deposits—	£	£	£
Australia	219,036,309	209,753,941	217,672,828
New Zealand	53,455,135	43,333,249	44,866,839
Total deposits	272,491,444	253,087,190	262,539,667
Advances—			
Australia	200,031,752	182,932,700	183,675,755
New Zealand	60,021,408	53,507,275	52,415,359
Total advances	260,053,160	236,439,975	236,091,114
Cash Items—			
Coin and bullion (Australia and New Zealand)	27,523,277	27,521,008	27,557,996
Australian notes	30,897,400	25,978,540	29,604,826
Legal tender, notes of other banks (New Zealand only)	749,384	912,619	1,312,967
Total cash	59,170,661	54,412,167	58,475,789

Deposits show a reduction of £9,951,777, as compared with a year ago, of which £1,363,481 is in Australia and £8,588,296 is in New Zealand. Advances show an apparent decrease of £23,962,046 on the year, the actual decrease being somewhat less after allowing for some British Government securities included in the earlier figures by one of the banks. This decrease is mainly the effect of repayments by traders whose overdrafts early last year were swollen in consequence of the large stocks imported, which have since been reduced. Owing to the exchange difficulty early in 1921 deposits were increased for a time by moneys awaiting the opportunity of remittance, which has since been effected.

The effect of the various movements, accompanied by smaller imports and larger payments receivable from abroad for exports, and by substantial London borrowings by various Governments, has been to replenish Australian balances in London and to make the exchange position an easy one. The public are inclined to look for easier rates for money, but against this are the facts, firstly, that Commonwealth Government securities, even after the improvement in the market, can still be bought to yield rather high rates of interest; secondly, that some of the State Governments are competing for fresh money by

selling securities over the Treasury counters; and in the third place that there is an active demand for accommodation, especially for factories and housing purposes, in town. On the other hand, many of the farmers are well off for money, and are able to lend.

The principal figures (within Australia) of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, not included in the table above, compare as follows:—

	March Quarter, 1921.	December Quarter, 1921.	March Quarter, 1922.
	£	£	£
Deposits	24,939,722	25,251,886	22,628,567
Saving Bank deposits	33,982,966	35,983,860	36,144,999
Discounts, loans, &c.	15,998,321	14,652,186	15,141,497
Government & Municipal securities	33,676,380	34,537,456	34,693,510
Coin and bullion	1,779,141	1,955,451	2,207,552
Australian notes	3,069,168	5,836,209	2,299,336

The decrease in Commonwealth Bank deposits is partly due to smaller Commonwealth Government balances.

Stocks of coin and bullion in Australia and New Zealand, including the ordinary banks, £27,557,996, Commonwealth Bank, £2,207,552, and reserve against Australian note issue, £23,400,000 (approximate average), amount to £53,165,548, against £53,002,418 for the March quarter, 1921, and £45,826,337 for the June quarter, 1914.

The Commonwealth Commission on Taxation has presented a second report, the principal recommendation of which is that the States should discontinue their income-taxes, and that the Commonwealth should discontinue land tax, succession duties, and entertainments taxes. The three latter forms of taxation would then belong to the States only, and income-tax would be charged by the Commonwealth only. It is also recommended that the allocation to the States, at the rate of 25s per head of population, out of the Customs and Excise revenue collected by the Commonwealth Government, should be discontinued. The recommendations would simplify the taxation system, and taxpayers would be relieved from the trouble of rendering income-tax returns both to State and Commonwealth Governments under divergent laws, while the Commonwealth Government would be relieved of the task of taxing land on its capital "unimproved value" on a basis that would be equitable all over Australia. But the effect would also be to leave the States with less revenue than under the present system, and they would have to depend upon a fresh allocation of the proceeds of taxes collected by the Commonwealth Government, which would thus be in a position to exercise control over the States' financial arrangements, control which might assume a political character in case of an extreme party being in power in the Commonwealth. From the point of view of the States the recommendations are critically regarded, and it is not expected that they will be adopted early, or without much further consideration than has so far been possible.

After a little anxiety occasioned by a dry period in autumn, the season has taken a favourable turn, with more rainfall early in May, and it is now expected that the area to be sown with wheat in Australia will be fully as large as last season's total of nearly 10,000,000 acres. Exports on account of the surplus from the last harvest have been proceeding somewhat rapidly, and shipments will fall off after the end of May.

Letters to the Editor.

FORESTALLING UNEMPLOYMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—It is, I am afraid, sufficiently clear that even with some improvement in trade we shall still next autumn and winter have a very large volume of unemployment, and the trouble of necessitous areas, emphasised by the deputations to the Prime Minister which I attended last week, will become more pronounced than ever.

In view of these two facts, I wish most strongly to urge that this will be the time to take in hand on a large

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD,
LIMITED

1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, E.C.3.

The Company invites communications from British Manufacturers desirous of developing business in the East.

scale the whole question of scientific and up-to-date road reconstruction to carry the enormous amount of modern traffic where this may be necessary. Last week I questioned the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport as to the policy of his Department in this respect, and urged that he should evolve a policy, recommend schemes to the various Councils, and offer general advice as to desirable action. Mr Arthur Neald replied sympathetically that it is the policy of his Department, which exercises the functions of the late Road Board, to encourage Local Authorities by substantial grants from the Road Fund to adopt the most scientific methods of road engineering. The Ministry is in the closest touch with the officers of the Local Authorities, and places at their disposal all the advice and assistance in its power. Since then I gather that the Ministry of Transport and the Unemployment Grants Committee have both recently issued circulars to the Local Authorities, asking them to place road and other work for next winter, which, if possible, should be done by contract, a recommendation which cancels last year's advice that it should be done by direct labour.

It is a wise decision, because now we shall get ahead. Direct labour, whatever its advantages, is at all events slow. There are plenty of contractors ready and able to carry out large scale operations, and no others are really much good for jobs of this nature.

If we adopt tinkering methods we shall only perpetuate the present hopeless condition of many of the chief roads of the country, and assuredly we shall never have more favourable economic conditions or operations which will be more timely in their beneficial effect. Let us hope, therefore, that there will be some driving force behind the scheme of work.—Yours very faithfully,

WALTER DE FRECE.

House of Commons, June 27th, 1922.

A NEW TRADE BAROMETER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—As everybody knows, iron for a great number of years has been considered as the main indicator of the state of general trade. And very naturally so, seeing that iron is connected with the every-day life of every human being who comes within the pale of civilisation. It is a question, however, whether there has not, within the last generation or so come into existence another and still more sensitive, and therefore more reliable and serviceable, trade barometer than iron. I mean paper.

Having for a long time been connected with that line of trade, I have almost been forced to see how the state of the paper trade has moved up and down with the state of trade generally. I am, of course, aware that most branches of trade flourish and languish simultaneously; but I think that no single branch so faithfully, so minutely, and so quickly records the actual state of trade. A moment's consideration will convince everybody that it is natural that this should be so. Take, for instance, every branch of literature—from the daily papers, magazines, periodicals, &c., to the daintiest publications: in times of depression the circulation is reduced; in good times it is increased. So with all kinds of manufactures that need wrappers—cutlery, textiles, &c., &c., in innumerable cases. Also shop papers. When trade is brisk much paper is needed for parcels—and *vice versa*. All these changes, which are so many unerring signs of how trade in general is moving, are very quickly felt by the manufacturers no less than by wholesale paper merchants and retail stationers. This condition of things is bound to increase in proportion to the ever-increasing spread of the use of paper to practically every individual on the globe.

I think this fact worthy of notice, but as far as I have

observed it has been overlooked. Except in the special trade papers you seldom see the state of the paper trade mentioned in the same way as iron, cotton, corn, &c., and in no case have I seen it used as an indicator of the general state of the trade. I would, therefore, suggest that statisticians and political economists take up this question, and see whether paper might not serve them excellently as an auxiliary in their work of enlightenment and guidance of traders.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

ABR. GRIMSTVEDT.

Fald, Norway.

Books and Publications.

FISCAL POLICIES IN THE EMPIRE.*

IN this volume Mr Porritt maintains the standard which we are learning to expect in the publications of the Carnegie Trustees. It is a monument of industry and patient research; indeed, the chief fault which we find is that it is somewhat overloaded with names, details, and documents. Although it deals chiefly with the vexed question of fiscal policies, it is remarkably free from bias of any kind.

For something like a hundred years after the loss of the American colonies, it was taken for granted that the other colonies would break away peacefully in due time; little importance was attached to the political tie as a means of holding or extending trade with them. This was largely the result of the highly satisfactory trade relations between Great Britain and the U.S.A. in the sixty years that followed the American Revolution. Mr Porritt draws a distinction between the later eighteenth-century concessions to Ireland and the West Indies, which were forced upon England with the inroads on the old commercial system which were made in the first half of the nineteenth century, "because it was to the interest of the United Kingdom, and of the Empire at large, that there should be a larger freedom of trade." Although the colonies were forced to buy English manufactures, they were allowed certain preferences in return, although Mr Porritt doubts if these were of much advantage. The North American provinces had a preference on lumber, which was of little real benefit to them; certainly the seamen engaged in the trade gained nothing; the preamble of an Act of 1839, prohibiting deck-loads, admitted "great loss of life and severe sufferings amongst the crews" of the timber-ships. There was also fraud; timber from the U.S.A. was shipped from the St. Lawrence ports as Canadian, and even shiploads from the Baltic crossed the Atlantic to return to England as Canadian, and so secure the preference. Our landed interest, moreover, was still too strong for the preferences on wheat and flour to be of much use to Canada.

From 1836 to 1840 we find Upper Canada protesting against tariffs enacted for the North American provinces at Westminster. When Russell and Grey passed the Enabling Act of 1846, which gave fiscal freedom to the North American colonies, they did not intend to grant tariff powers against England; consequently there was "shock and dismay among manufacturers in the United Kingdom" when, in 1858-59, protectionist tariffs were enacted by the legislature of the United Provinces. The extension of responsible government to Canada coincided with the triumph of Cobdenism in England, and Free-trade was expected to be the policy of the Empire. Mr. Porritt explains the early adoption of a protective policy in Canada by the influence of the U.S.A.

The Australian Act of 1850 contained a section which prevented any of the Australian legislatures from enacting differential duties; two years later a similar Act for New Zealand had no such restriction, having been passed by the Derby Government, which still hankered after protection; but, until the amending Australian Act of 1873, New Zealand could not enter into reciprocal arrangements with its only neighbour.

* "The Fiscal and Diplomatic Freedom of the British Oversea Dominions." By Edward Porritt. Edited by David Kinley, president of the University of Illinois. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 12s 6d net.)

Mr Porritt gives full recognition to the tireless and self-sacrificing work (he lost all his advertisements in one day) of David Syme and his Melbourne paper, *The Age*, in promoting protection in Australia. Like Horace Greely in the *New York Tribune*, he laid much stress on the low wages, long hours, and child-labour in textile and other factories in England. It is a curious fact that the champions of protection against Britain, both in Canada and Australasia, were all born in the old country—Cayley, Galt, Rose, Buchanan, Weir, Syme, Fox, and Vogel.

For a long time it did not occur to the colonies that if they put a tax on goods from the Mother Country, they might, at least, put a heavier tax on wholly foreign goods. It was not until 1897 that the Laurier Government introduced this into the Canadian tariff, but Sir Wilfrid and his party then abandoned the Free-trade doctrine which they had so strenuously preached whilst in opposition. Conservative governments had argued that no preferences could be given to the United Kingdom without similar concessions to the twenty countries with which we had favoured-nation treaties; this was true, but the Salisbury Government promptly denounced the treaties.

Fiscal freedom was secured in principle by the self-governing colonies when Lord Palmerston refused to veto the Galt tariff in 1859, for this was a crucial decision from which no future British Cabinet could recede. In 1873 Gladstone and Kimberley were reluctant to grant the same powers to Australia, but they felt that "the principle of self-government was more important than the principle of Free-trade."

There is much in this book of the indifference to Colonial questions shown by both Houses of Parliament in the period—roughly—from 1783 to 1887. At times, indeed, there were complaints of Colonial duties on British manufactures, but Colonial Secretaries invariably protested that they were helpless to interfere. What the Dominions, and the Crown Colonies also, did for us in the dark years 1914-1918, is still too fresh in our memory to need recording.

THE PROGRESS OF DENMARK.*

IN this modest volume Professor Westergaard gives a concise and masterly sketch of Danish economic history and recent social reforms. The peasantry, he tells us, suffered less than in other European countries through the transition from mediæval to modern conditions, and their recovery began earlier than in Germany or France. Compulsory education was instituted in 1739; continuation schools and the agricultural instruction which have so aided the prosperity of the nation preceded by a few years the free constitution of 1849, which was the precursor of a series of political and social reforms. The loss of Schleswig-Holstein in 1864 set up a great industrial development, but the industrial revolution was slighter than in other countries, and free of most of its usual evils, though it intensified the drain to the towns. Out of it grew a Labour movement, and a Labour Party which is now the largest section of the Lower House; and social reform was greatly aided by a Government Report on the condition of the working classes in 1875. Workmen's insurance, started by the German measures of the 'eighties, has been conducted mainly through the Friendly Societies; old-age pensions, with municipal participation, followed in 1891; unemployment insurance (through neutral societies), labour exchanges, and (only last year) invalidity insurance, have made the provision complete; while labour conditions have been adequately regulated by law. (The great political struggle from 1877 to 1894, which Prof. Westergaard does not notice, seems to have had no adverse effect on social reform.) But English readers will be specially interested in the successful substitution by the Danish agriculturists of the production of butter, bacon, and eggs for that of wheat when it became unprofitable, and in the great developments of the co-operative principle which facilitated the change; and also in the more familiar application of co-operation to retail trade, in the rural

* "Economic Development in Denmark Before and During the World War." By Harald Westergaard. (Carnegie Endowment.) (London) Humphrey Milford. 1922.

districts rather than the towns, and the organisation of all its developments under a central committee of control. Danish economic development, Prof. Westergaard points out, has been conducted mainly by private enterprise, even where the initiative has come from the State. The war intensified Government intervention, but the trades worked with the Government. Revenue, especially from direct taxation, has increased immensely; so have wealth, the national debt, and State aid to trade. But a reaction may be expected against State Socialism. Though the Danish Social Democrats are a Reformist party, there is, no doubt, an extremist section; but few countries, in Professor Westergaard's opinion, are better protected against catastrophe, and Denmark's solution of social problems may well set examples for imitation.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Slavonic Review.* June, 1922. Volume I. No. 1. (London) School of Slavonic Studies, University of London.
- Excessive Expenditure and Oppressive Taxation.* A Popular Version of the Geddes Reports. With an introduction by Francis W. Hirst. (London) League to Enforce Public Economy, 31 Essex street, W.C. 2. 6d.
- Reconstruction.* *International Economic Weekly.* No. 4. June 8th. Edited by Parvus. (Berlin, S.W. 68) Lindenstrasse 114.
- Statistics of the Dominion of New Zealand, for the Year 1920.* Volume III. Production, Finance, Postal, and Telegraph. (Wellington) Marcus F. Marks, Government Printer.
- The Port of Hull Annual, 1922.* (Hull) H. E. C. Newham, Bishop lane. 3s 9d post free.
- The Free Trader.* July, 1922. (London) Free Trade Union, 69 Victoria street, S.W. 1. 3d.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

TICKET.	SETTLING DAYS.	ACCOUNT.
July 12.		July 13.

The difficulty this week in presenting the usual record of Stock Exchange news is to know upon which particular feature to start, so many items of interest having occurred that it is not easy to determine which is the most important. Business is still quiet, and, in spite of the pleasurable anticipation aroused amongst investment markets by the prospects of cheap money influences, there is still noticeable a little disinclination on the part of investors to take any bold hand. It may be that with the turn of the half-year the window-dressers will release money for employment in Stock Exchange channels. The retention of the Bank Rate at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is considered a natural course for this week of the year.

Meanwhile, however, demand is sufficiently pressing to sweep the Consol market of any cheap-looking issues that may be on offer. Rises in the 4 per cent. Funding Loan, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion stock, and a number of other similar securities stand out prominently. The India $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. scrip, which at this time last week stood about 15s discount, is now quoted at 13½ premium. Home Railway debentures and preferences are beginning to move upwards again. The War Loan is once more above 100, enabling the execution of the numberless limits to sell the stock at the round three figures. With the rise in Conversions, National War Bonds have sympathised. Bank of England stock to-day stands a full 50 points higher than the price which ruled at the beginning of this year, and the War Loan over the same period shows a gain of 7½ points. The Irish chaos has had no effect upon Stock Exchange prices. Dealings in the new Government guaranteed stocks of the electric railways are taking place on the basis of the issue-price, 94 in each case.

French and German bonds suffered further disturbances from the movements in the exchanges, though the fluctuations in prices were not material. Brazilians have been recovering, and there is noticeable strength in the corporation stocks of the Danish and Scandinavian countries. The only change of consequence in Chinese bonds is a further fall in the 8 per cent. Treasuries. Argentines and Chileans are better on balance.

Home Railway stocks suffered a fairly sharp shake-out, partly as a result of the evidence produced at the carry-over of a continued bull account, partly owing to the shifting of interest from this market into other parts of the Stock Exchange that seem, for the moment, to offer greater scope for speculation. Publication of the South-Eastern and Chatham's amalgamation proposals was followed by a sharp drop in Chatham

ordinary and South-Eastern deferred. North-Westerns receded under 100, before a general rally occurred on Thursday afternoon. Undergrounds went back with the rest. State bulls have been disappointedly getting out of stock, for they think immediate public demand is over. Grand Trunk Pacifics are a little better, on the prospect of steps being taken to form a committee for safeguarding the holders' interests. Mexican Rails are dormant. Something like a boomlet occurred in Argentine Rails, and spread to Brazilians. Substantial rises are to be seen in all the Argentines, in consequence of the hope that with new freight charges the companies will be able to resume more profitable conditions of working. Leopoldinas improved for somewhat similar reasons. United of Havana and Antofagasta deferred both gained several points, on attention being turned to foreign railways as a whole.

The rubber market, after many months of weary stagnation, rallied smartly, and most of its prices are better on the week. The improvement occurred on the strength of the hope that the Dutch Government may enforce some measure of restriction of output, in response to the resolution just passed by a large majority at the Hague Conference that is considering the outlook for the rubber industry. In the oil market the maintenance of the Mexican Eagle's 15 per cent. half-yearly dividend, and of the Burmah Company's 4s per share net dividend, fairly exercised little effect, both declarations having been fairly generally expected. The Shell group is quiet, but next Tuesday's meeting of the Shell Company is awaited with lively interest. Most of the London banking shares are better, by reason of the cheaper money outlook. The feature amongst insurance shares is a substantial drop in General Accidents, upon the secretary's denial of there being any negotiations afoot. The shipping market is steady, with Furness Withys better on the week. Active movements in Courtaulds left the price higher; other textiles are inclined to be dull. Flatness overtook the wireless market by reason of continual liquidation in a market disinclined to take shares in the absence of any public demand. The cable group is unchanged. Lyons' meeting failed to produce any alteration in the prices of the company's shares, other catering descriptions being equally steady. The iron, steel, armament, and engineering group marks time owing to the disclosure of the fact that many contracts were lost during the recent lock-out of the engineers, with its necessary sequel that work can only be resumed partially in many cases. Vickers, however, are better, and so are Dunlops. There is no particular anxiety shown by the public to buy the new scrip recently issued by industrial concerns, though the premiums on the earlier stocks are well maintained. While no changes worth mentioning have occurred in the list for trust companies stocks, the demand in that particular section is so keen that it may be said that there is scarcely any floating supply of the good stocks available. Brewery debentures are also wanted, and are scarce. Easy money conditions are the natural reason for the strength shown by sound stocks and shares all round the markets.

South Africans are quite a lively market, with many good rises to their credit. The idea is that the gold-producers can make useful profits now that working costs are so materially lower. Other mining departments have gone quietly. A 10 per cent. dividend on Ropp Tin came as a pleasant surprise to those who feared that no tin company could pay dividends in the present state of the market for the metal. A remarkable revival of interest in option-dealing is evidence of the public's willingness to indulge in mild speculation.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Future Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	£	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	..	442,942,194	..	..
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender June 23, 1922), £2,000,000, at 298 3s 1d	..	..	1,963,083	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHANGERS WEEK ENDED JUNE 23, 1922.				
April 1 to June 23, 1922, £20,598,000	400,000	..	400,000	..

To the Public—				
James Burton and Sons, Limited, £250,000 7 % First Mtge. Deb. Stock (red. by ann. dwgs. at 102 % up to 1955) issued at 96 % (June 27)	250,000	..	240,000	.. 12,500
London Electric Railway, £1,000,000 4½ % Red. Second Deb. Stock (rep. at par 1942-72), issued at 94 % (June 26)	1,000,000	..	940,000	.. 50,000
City and South London Railway Co., £1,500,000, ditto	1,500,000	..	1,410,000	.. 75,000
Thomas, Gater, Bradfield, and Co., 75,000 7 % Cum. Pref. Shares, £1, at par	75,000	..	75,000	.. 9,375
Do 75,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at par (June 26)	75,000	..	75,000	.. 9,375
Bovril, Limited, 190,000 7½ % Cum. Ord., £1, at £1 2s (June 26)	190,000	..	209,000	.. 9,500
Total offered to the Public	2,949,000	..	165,750	.. 2,783,250

To Shareholders only—				
British Trade Corporation 500,000	£	500,000	£	475,000
"A" £1 Shares, at par	500,000	500,000	25,000	475,000
Ceylon Consolidated Estates, £20,000 10% First Mgt. Reg. Debts, at par	20,000	20,000	20,000	..
Total offered to Shareholders only				
Total offered for subscription to date	520,000	45,000	475,000	..
Total offered for subscription for whole year—				
1922	£448,774,277	1921	£383,978,203	..
1921	128,574,476	1920	367,549,636	..
1920	233,106,282	1919	1,036,059,951	..
1919	391,970,294	1918	1,353,381,441	..
1918	715,566,805	1917	1,318,596,010	..
1917	1,050,646,467	1916	585,436,850	..
1916	296,147,820	1915	685,236,326	..
1915	70,001,376	1914	612,522,633	..

London Electric Railway Company (Issue of £1,000,000) and **City and South London Railway Company** (Issue of £1,500,000).—This is a total issue of £2,500,000 4½ per cent. second debenture stock by the Underground Electric Railways group. The loan, £1,000,000 of which is on behalf of the London Electric Railway and £1,500,000 for the City and South London Railway, is issued at £94, and is guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Government under the provisions of the Trade Facilities Act. The stock is repayable at par in 1927, with the option of redemption after July 1, 1922. The proceeds of the issue will be applied towards the development of the Edgware and Hampstead Railway, to link up the City and South London Railway and the London Electric Railway, and to improve the City and South London Railway. Interest on this second debenture stock is a revenue liability secured by the balance of earnings remaining after payment of interest upon first debenture stock, and the "common fund" established under the London Electric Railway Companies Facilities Act of 1915. The present issue forms part of a total of £6,000,000 stock carrying the Government guarantee. Net traffic receipts of the Underground group are given, also the amount of "common fund" each year from 1915. But the Government guarantee is sufficient incentive to attract any investor to this trustee security.

Bovril, Limited.—Share capital £2,500,000, divided into 750,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, 1,000,000 7½ per cent. cumulative ordinary shares of £1 each, and 750,000 deferred shares of £1 each, and £500,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock, and £300,000 6 per cent. five-year notes (redeemable May 1, 1924). This is an offer for sale at 22s. per share of 190,000 7½ per cent. cumulative ordinary shares. The shares are entitled to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum and rank immediately after the 6 per cent. preference shares and in priority to the deferred shares. Instalments are spread over a period with a final payment on December 1st, but the shares now offered will rank for dividend as if they were fully paid, at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum as from July 1st. Net profits were £249,106 for 1921, as against £219,728 for the previous year. Regular dividends have been paid on all shares. There appears to be a reasonable margin available for security after the demands of the loan capital and pre-preferential issues have been met. From the information given in this document it is difficult to gauge the value of the shares offered. It is perhaps considered that the prestige of a well-known concern like Bovril is sufficient inducement alone to attract investors, but it is a pity that a company of this high standing does not issue shares by means of a prospectus, and thus set a better example to less reputable people, who so often use the offer for sale to hold back necessary information.

James Barton and Sons, Limited.—Authorized capital £600,000, divided into shares of £1 each, upon which 10s per share has been paid. This is an issue of £250,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 96 per cent. It forms part of an authorised issue of debenture stock to the nominal amount of £300,000, and will be secured by trust deed, constituting a specific first mortgage on the property and plant, and a general floating charge on other assets. The company is precluded from creating other charges upon the assets included in the floating charge ranking in priority to or *pari passu* "except to secure overdrafts or advances from its bankers in the ordinary course of business." The advertised prospectus also states that the company may create further debenture stock "for a nominal amount not exceeding in the aggregate a sum equivalent to one-half of the value of any further fixed assets acquired by the company and vested in the trustees by way of further security." The stock will be repayable by means of a sinking fund beginning in 1925, sufficient to provide for the repayment of the whole issue by 1955, by annual drawings at 102, or by purchase at or under that price. According to the published statement of assets and liabilities there are surplus assets to the value of £680,818 as security

for debentures. This, however, includes the estimated proceeds of the debenture issue £225,000, and £300,000 uncalled capital on issued shares, the latter a somewhat unusual estimated security for first mortgage debenture holders. Looked at from another aspect the proposition is—Assets, £580,037, less liabilities £424,219, leaving a surplus of £155,818 as against a paid-up share capital of £300,000. Moreover, "the proceeds of the present issue will be utilised...solely to repay bank advances," which reminds one that the borrowing powers when used for obtaining overdrafts on this scale practically reduce the position of first mortgage holders to second mortgage holders.

Thomas, Gater, Bradfield, and Co., Limited.—Authorized capital £500,000, divided into 250,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 250,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. This is an offer for public subscription of 75,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 75,000 ordinary shares at par. The company was formed in June, 1920, to erect and equip a flour mill at Southampton, and to acquire several businesses of a similar or allied nature. Under a valuation, dated, it should be noted, June 30, 1920, assets are valued at £225,064, and the immediate purchase consideration is £185,344, payable in shares. There is also a contingent consideration in connection with goodwill, which is a novel feature in a prospectus. A further amount of £20,000, payable in shares, is due to vendors at the end of a period of years if the undertaking is running on a profitable basis. Past profits are given from 1918, and a balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended June 30, 1921, is submitted. Although the prospectus is a clear statement of affairs in recent years, subscribers would like to know what were the pre-war profits of the individual companies.

New Guinea Copper Mines, Limited.—Authorized capital £500,000, of which £275,875 has been issued. The following information is taken from an announcement made in the Press in connection with an application made to the London Stock Exchange for permission to deal in the ordinary shares of the company. The company was incorporated in Victoria, Australia, in March, 1920, under the Companies Act of Victoria, 1915, mainly to acquire mining leases in New Guinea. Assets acquired at the formation of the company in 1920 comprised the Laloki mine, an option on the Dubuna mine, plant, equipment, &c., on properties in New Guinea and sundry debts. The price paid was £162,295 7s 3d, of which £22,295 7s 3d was satisfied by the New Guinea Copper Mines, Limited, taking over the bank overdraft and sundry creditors of the vendors; the sum of £400 was paid in cash, £24,400 in series A and £15,200 in series B non-interest bearing income bonds repayable only out of profits; and the balance of £100,000 by the issue of 100,000 fully paid shares to the shareholders of the Laloki (Papua) Copper Mines (no liability). The total shares issued comprise 125,000 10 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares, upon which 5s per share has been paid and balance called up, and 244,625 fully paid ordinary shares. The borrowing powers of the directors have been exercised to an extent of £41,358. The progress of the company is not clearly indicated in these details, and therefore the shares will mainly be of interest to those who have more information as to the company's trading history placed at their disposal.

Moss Empires, Limited.—Authorized share capital £1,060,000, of which £1,038,785 has been issued, and is fully paid. The company has recently created £300,000 6 per cent. mortgage debentures, which have been sold to the Law Debenture Corporation at £92½ per cent. This is a Press announcement made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations to secure a quotation. The published statement shows that these debentures will be specifically secured by a trust deed upon properties recently valued at £499,819, also by a mortgage subject to £400,000 first debenture stock upon property to the value of £1,445,035. Profits are given from 1907, and debenture charges can apparently easily be met. A well-secured debenture.

London and Midland Oil Company, Limited.—Authorized capital £250,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 82,007 have been issued. The company was incorporated in April, 1920, to consolidate interests in certain oil properties in Roumania. The advertised statement of the company made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations informs us that "20,007 shares of £1 each were issued privately in June, 1920, at par for cash; 8,000 shares were issued privately in October, 1920, at par for cash; these 28,007 shares are fully paid; and the issue of 7,500 shares privately at par for cash has been arranged, and is about to be made." 54,000 shares were issued, credited as fully paid, in October, 1920, 20,000 shares are under option until May 13, 1925, at par in respect

of the underwriting and subscription of 20,000 of the 20,007 shares specified above." A speculative undertaking, with fair prospects in front of it.

Consolidated Coffee Estates, Limited.—Authorized capital £600,000, divided into shares of £1 each. The issued capital consists of 40,000 shares fully paid and 20,000 2s 6d paid. The company was formed in March, 1922, and its business is denoted by its title. It has purchased certain estates for £35,000. Details given in a public announcement are brief, and are too vague to enable one to form an opinion of the value of the shares, but nevertheless it is made, it is stated, in accordance with the requirements of the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.									
	Price	Week	Latest	Price	Week	Latest	Price	Week	Latest
War	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Loans	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Funding Loan 4%	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Victory Bonds 4%	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Consols 2½%	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Irish Land Stock 3½%	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Local Loans 3%	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25	104.25
Colonial and Foreign Railways.									
Antofagasta Cons.	65	68½	68½	65	68½	68½	65	68½	68½
B. & A. Pacific	46	51	51	46	51	51	46	51	51
B. & A. Gt. Southern	71	77	77	71	77	77	71	77	77
Buenos Ayres West.	66½	75	75	66½	75	75	66½	75	75
Canadian Pacific	156	157	157	156	157	157	156	157	157
Central Argentine	63	68	68	63	68	68	63	68	68
Grand Trunk Ord.	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Banks.									
Barclays B. (A. f.p.d.)	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244
Chartered Bk of India	181	181	181	181	181	181	181	181	181
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.)	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £24 paid)	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
London County West. Minister and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid)	171	171	171	171	171	171	171	171	171
Foreign Government Securities.									
Argentine 5%, 1886-7	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgian 3%	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Brazil 5%, Fund, 1914	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
Chilian 4%, 1895	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
Do 7½%	104	106	106	104	106	106	104	106	106
Chinese 5%, 1912	73	75	75	73	75	75	73	75	75
Egyptian 4%	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
French 5%	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½
Do 4%	33½	33½	33½	33½	33½	33½	33½	33½	33½
Telegraphs.									
Anglo-American "A"	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232
Marconi Wireless	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
British Railways.									
Great Central Pref.	201	193	193	201	193	193	201	193	193
Great Eastern	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Great Northern Def.	41	40	40	41	40	40	41	40	40
Great Western	102½	104	104	102½	104	104	102½	104	104
London, Brighton, "A"	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
London, Chatham	92	81	81	92	81	81	92	81	81
L. & N.W. (New)	100	102	102	100	102	102	100	102	102
L. & S.W. Western, Def.	28	30	30	28	30	30	28	30	30
Metropolitan	46	45	45	46	45	45	46	45	45
American Railroads.									
Chesapeake & Ohio	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Erie	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Do 4% 1st Pref.	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Miscellaneous.									
Aerated Bread (£1)	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	41½	5	5	41½	5	5	41½	5	5
Armstrong (Str. W. G.) and Co. (£1)	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Ass. Portland Cement (£1)	173	163	163	173	163	163	173	163	163
B'ham Small Arms (£100)	52½	51½	51½	52½	51½	51½	52½	51½	51½
Brazilian American Tobacco (£1)	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½
Burmah Oil (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Castle (J. and P.) (£1)	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½
Courtauld (£1)	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½
Cunard (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dorman, Long (£1)	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
Forestal Land (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Furness, Withy (£1)	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
Highland and Lowlands Rubber (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Johnson's Bay (£1)	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½
Mines.									
Brakpan (£1)	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Broken Hill Prop. (B)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chartered (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Consolidated (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crown Mines (100)	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
De Beers Def. (£24)	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
East Rand Prop. (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gold (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gov. Gold Areas (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked * or stated in Cash.			Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Interim div.		Final div.	Lat. Pre-vious.
Banks.						
Berlin Disconto	..	..	..	..	20	..
Darmstadt Bank for Commerce, &c., and National Bank for Germany	..	..	..	..	14	..
London Merchant	5/ p.s.*	..	..	Less tax	4	54
Netherlands of South Africa	..	..	..	..	54	(a) 32
P. and O. Banking	..	July 14	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.						
Union Society of Canton	24/ p.s.*	(x bonus 20%)	..	..	..	..
Mining.						
Ropp Tin	..	..	..	Less tax	10	nil
Tea and Rubber.						
Aibhed Tea	5%+	..	..	Less tax	8	..
British Dealing Tea	7 1/2	..	..	Less tax	10	..
Eastern Assam	20%+	..	..	Less tax	25	..
Heawood Tin and Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax	54	nil
Jhazie Tea	11%+	& bonus	3 %	Less tx 6/ in £	18	6
Single Tea	15 %	& bonus	10 %	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Abdulla and Co.	..	..	..	..	7 1/2	24
Aeolian Co., Cum. Pref.	7 1/2	July 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Asbestos Corporation of Canada	\$1 1/2 p.s.	July 15	..	..	..	..
Australian Agricultural	3/ p.s.	..	..	Tax free	5/6 p.s.	5/6 p.s.
Bee-spinning	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Bradbury, Greaves, and Co.	..	..	..	..	..	..
"A" Pref.	5	July 14	..	..	..	..
British South African Explosives	..	June 24	..	Subject to tax	10	10
Broughton Copper	10 %	..	..	Less tax	12 1/2	15
Burmah Oil	4/ p.s.	July 21	..	..	30	30
Butterley Co.	8 p.s.	June 30	..	Tax free	1/8 p.s.	2/ p.s.
Calcutta Tramways	..	..	..	..	3	7
C. Arthur Pearson	..	..	..	..	15	..
Chas. Semon and Co.	..	..	..	..	nil	7 1/2
Consolidated London Properties	3 1/2 %	..	..	..	8	..
Crane and Sons (Pref.)	6	July 1	..	Less tax	5	10
Croton and Co.	..	..	..	..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Davy Bros.	..	..	..	Less tax	10	10
Distillers' Co.	12/ p.s.	Aug. 1	..	Tax free	7 1/2	7 1/2
Edgar Allen and Co.	6 p.s.	..	..	Tax free	5	2/ p.s.
General Electric (N.Z.)	2 %	July 15	..	..	..	..
Goodwin, Foster, Brown, Pref.	5 1/2	June 30	..	..	..	..
Gordon and Blair	..	..	..	Less tax	15	..
Grand Junction Canal	4	..	..	Less tax	34	..
Hall and Co., Croydon	..	..	..	Less tax 6/ in £	3/ p.s.	3/ p.s.
Hoare and Co.	2 1/2 %	..	..	..	5	5
Home and Colonial Stores	12 1/2	July 1	..	..	..	..
Hovis	8 and	one ord.	..	share for each ten	held	..
Imperial Trading Co.	..	..	..	Less tax	4	4
International Harvester	1 1/2	July 15	..	In cash	..	..
Do	2 1/2	July 25	..	In scrip	..	..
J. T. Roberts	7 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Leicester Brewing	..	..	..	..	12 1/2	10
Lennards	10	..	..	Less tax	4	5
Mellin's Food	15	..	..	..	..	..
Mexican Eagle Oil	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mint, Birmingham	1/ p.s.	..	..	(and bonus 2 1/2 p.s.)	Tax free	..
Mowbray and Co.	8 %	..	..	Tax free	15	..
Oxley Flour Mills	3 %	July 3	..	..	..	..
Openish Brewery	7 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Palmer Iron and Steel	..	..	..	..	5	..
Philadelphia Co.	1 1/2	July 31	..	..	..	..
Phelps (R.) and Co.	9 p.s.	July 1	..	Tax free	22 1/2	20
Platt Brothers	20 %	..	..	..	15	15
Prince of Wales Dry Dock	7 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	6	6
Real Estate of South Africa	4 %	..	..	..	..	..
Richard Johnson, Clapham, and Morris	2 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Rogers (R. H. and S.)	5	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Santas, Pref.	4 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
San Patricio Nitrate	..	..	..	Tax free	6 p.s.	1/ p.s.
Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust	..	..	..	Less tax	6	..
Sena Sarsa	4 %	July 3	..	Less tax	..	..
South African Lighting	4 1/2 %	..	..	Subject to tax	7 1/2	..
South Australian Company	30/ p.s.	& bonus 20 p.s.)	..	Tax free	98 1/2	87 1/2
Spanish Telephone	..	..	..	Less tax	5	..
Spiers and Pond	7 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	12 1/2	12 1/2
Stroud Brewery	10	July 15	..	Tax free	..	..
Textile Corporation	..	..	..	..	nil	10
Theatre Royal, Birmingham	..	..	..	Less tax	15	20
Thornton-Smith, Limited, Ord.	..	July 28	..	..	10	10
Do Def.	..	July 28	..	..	2 p.s.	5 p.s.
Thos. Stevens, Confectioner	£10 %	(and bonus 1/ p.s.)	..	Tax free	..	..
Toronto Mortgage	2 1/2 %	..	..	..	7	7
Trustees Corporation	5 1/2	July 8	..	Less tax	5	..
United Petroleum Oil and Cake	21	..	..	Less tax 6/ in £	5	nil
Vickers, Limited	5	..	..	..	2	..
Victoria Dwellings	..	June 30	..	Less tax	10	6
Wm. West and Sons	..	..	..	Less tax	2	..

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

MEXICAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED. IMPROVED OUTLOOK—INCREASES IN RATES.

The 114th ordinary general meeting of the Mexican Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 28th ult., at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, Mr Vincent W. Yorke (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr C. Tennant) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: The provisional agreement between the International Committee for the Protection of Foreign Investors in Mexico and Señor de la Huerta on behalf of the Mexican Government, signed in New York ten days ago, is a matter of the very highest importance for all interested in Mexico, and will, I hope, prove to be the first step in the rehabilitation of that country, and lead up to the definite renewal of commercial and diplomatic relations with the rest of the world. As a member of the British section of the International Committee, I have been able to follow closely all the negotiations, which have been protracted, difficult and anxious. On the one hand, there were the representatives of investors, naturally impatient of receiving no interest on their debts from a country whose revenue was larger than at any time in her history, whose resources were immense, and whose exchange was at a parity with the American dollar; on the other hand, there were the representatives of a Government who had in an incredibly short time produced order out of chaos, satisfied the varying aspirations of 15 millions of people, and were naturally smarting under a sense of injustice that the success of their efforts had not met with the reward they expected, namely, recognition by the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, and France. Our most sincere congratulations are due to those who have brought matters to the first stage of a definite settlement, and I trust that recognition by the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, and France may speedily follow.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES.

I think that, on the whole, we may look back on the half-year under review with feelings of great satisfaction. The outstanding feature is the high level reached by our gross receipts, which have exceeded 8½ million pesos for the period—a record in the history of the company. If you bear in mind that the increase in rates which was granted to us only came into effect on September 1st, and therefore only operated for four months out of the six, the result is very remarkable. The chief reason for the large takings is that during the half-year we were able, after receipt of the new locomotives which we purchased, to clear up the large arrears of traffic which had accumulated at Vera Cruz. We also carried 103,000 tons of fuel oil.

Unfortunately, when we turn to the expenses we are faced with an increase nearly commensurate with the increase in receipts. While receipts have increased by 22 per cent. as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1920, expenses have increased by 19 per cent., and thus a large proportion of the gross gain has been eaten up. For this increase two causes are mainly responsible. In the first place, the labour situation has, and is still, most difficult. While in most countries labour has recently abated its demands, it is not so in Mexico. During the half-year the demands of the labour unions, which are powerful and well organised, were most insistent, and it was impossible to put up an effective resistance to them. In the second place, when the railway was taken over in June, 1920, from the Government administration, stores of all sorts had fallen very low, and a large stock of all the ordinary requisites of a railway had to be ordered at the very high prices then prevailing. Much of this material has been charged out in the expenses of the half-year, and has thus added inordinately to the cost of running the railway. I hope, however, that it may be possible to make a sensible reduction in expenses in the near future. Nevertheless, the total net earnings of 1,956,000 pesos is by far the best showing made by the three half-years since the property was handed back to us, and with the assistance of profit on exchange and interest on investments we have been able to reduce the large debit balance to net revenue account by £113,000.

CURRENT HALF-YEAR.

As regards the working of the railway for the current half-year, the gross receipts show a considerable falling off, owing to the reservoir of freight at Vera Cruz having been exhausted, and expenses have been about 78 per cent., as compared with 77 per cent. On the other hand, the expenses for the month of April

were far more satisfactory, being as low as 73 per cent., and if this rate can be maintained for the remaining two months, May and June, the result of the half-year, though worse than that of its predecessor, will not be unsatisfactory. In addition to this we have collected from the public and credited to the Government during the half-year £42,000, being one-half of the increase in rates granted to us, and which came into effect on September 1st of last half-year only.

The total amount received on account of indemnity is £141,000 to the end of December last. Of course, this is vastly below the figure which the Government should have paid us by now under the agreement which they signed when the property was handed back to us, but still it is satisfactory to think that payments on account are being steadily collected. The total amount of indemnity payable has not yet been agreed, but we estimate that it will considerably exceed £2,000,000 sterling.

INCREASE IN RATES.

Since the issue of the report we have been notified of a further increase in our rates, which is being put into force by the Mexican Government in order to make them correspond more nearly to the rates in force on the national railways. This increase will amount to an all-round increase of all freight rates to 40 per cent., as compared with the present increase of 25 per cent. on all articles not of prime necessity. The rates on passenger traffic have not been further increased, and remain at 25 per cent. above ordinary rates. Half the new increase is to be treated as an addition to revenue, and half as payment by the Government on account of indemnity. So far as we can estimate, this addition to our ordinary income, based on the continuance of the present volume of traffic, ought to bring us in an all-round increase of 15 per cent. on the total takings, as compared with a 7½ per cent. increase since September 1st last, or, say, in round figures, 1,000,000 pesos per half-year, instead of 500,000, and should increase the daily payment on account of indemnity from 3,000 to 6,000 pesos.

There is a further burden which I understand is to be added to the rates in order to provide a fund for the service of the Public Debt under the provisional agreement recently signed in New York. This is a 10 per cent. tax on all earnings of the railways, which is to be collected by the railways and handed over to the Treasury. This, when added to the increase in rates now in view, will undoubtedly constitute a heavy load for our customers to bear.

PROSPECTS.

Turning now to the future, the prospects of local business are quite good, as the area under crops in the vicinity of our line is increasing under more settled conditions, and the crops promise well, and it is quite possible that foreign business, in view of the more favourable international outlook, may go ahead again. The increase in rates which will come into force now almost immediately must increase our profit on all traffic offering, and I am very hopeful that expenses, in view of the much improved state of the property, falling prices of materials and better organisation, will from now onwards show a decreasing tendency. So that, except for labour troubles, with regard to which it is most difficult to prophesy, the outlook is not otherwise than promising.

The scheme of arrangement with our debenture holders is now in force. We have found ourselves able to redeem a further 10 per cent. of the "A" debenture stock by July 1st next, making 30 per cent. in all, and if net earnings do not fall off there ought to be no difficulty in redeeming the whole of the two issues within the times called for by the scheme.

At the last meeting I spoke to you of a project that we were considering for the electrification of the mountain section of the railway, and we have now received a full report from the experts who have been studying the matter. They recommend very strongly that the section from Orizaba to Esperanza (some 30 miles) should be operated electrically, and in view of the many advantages which they claim for such operation there is no doubt in the minds of your board that their recommendation should be adopted, and the sooner the better. The capital expenditure involved would be in the neighbourhood of £500,000 sterling, but the savings held out to us should make the investment of the money a highly remunerative one.

I must now tell you something about the concession for a line from Pachuca to Tampico. We have long been seeking some outlet looked into the matter of this concession with unusual interest on my last visit to Mexico. Since then we had the projected line investigated by competent engineers, who report that it can be built at a reasonable cost, and will run through a country much of which has excellent agricultural possibilities. The joining up open up great possibilities for traffic. The price we are paying for the railway and concession I believe to be a moderate one, and we have obtained terms of payment in equal instalments over six years.

NECESSITY FOR RECOGNISING MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

In the opinion of your board, both the electrification of a portion of the system and the construction of the short line to Tampico ought to be put in hand at once, and would rapidly fructify. But to carry out the work the company will need from £2,000,000 to £2,500,000 sterling of new money. The question before us is whether it is possible, in the first place, and justifiable, in the second place, to raise this large sum before full recognition has been accorded by our Government to the Mexican Government. In the present irregular state of diplomatic relations I doubt very much whether we should succeed in raising the money, and even if we did so, I doubt even more whether we should be justified in taking it.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS—INCREASED PROFIT.

A general court of the Hudson's Bay Company was held, on 30th ult., at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Sir R. M. Kindersley G.B.E. (the governor), presiding.

The Governor, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the fur trade profit for the period under review amounted to £237,082, as compared with a loss of £84,086 in the previous year. Sale shops and other trading showed a profit of £77,871, against £204,960, while the profit on the Winnipeg head office was £61,471, against £44,450. The item of interest on instalments and rents, less taxes and expenses of collection, amounts to £119,570, against £128,399. Interest on loans and investments showed a considerable decline, being £12,120, against £60,341. On the land account municipal and other taxes, less taxes chargeable to profit and loss account, had fallen from £250,000 to £209,566. The total of all taxes on land had fallen from £328,389 to £278,292, but it had to be borne in mind that the previous year's figures included £32,097 of special or previous taxation, so that the net reduction this year was about £18,000. This was the first time for many years that the directors had been able to report a decrease in the amount paid for taxation. The general expenses of administration of the land had fallen from £63,838 to £31,500, due to the smaller sales. Capital reserve fund had been increased during the year by £28,392, and now stood at £339,284. The cash received from and loss account, had fallen from £250,000 to £209,566. The total result was that there was a surplus on land account for the year of £69,986, and by reducing the carry forward from £33,459 to £3,445 the directors were able to distribute £100,000, or 10 per cent., free of tax, on account of land sales, against 15 per cent. for the previous year.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

Turning to the balance-sheet, owing largely to the gradual liquidation of the company's business with foreign Governments, creditors and credit balances showed a decrease of some £821,244. The profit as per profit and loss account was £450,000, as against £300,000 in the previous year, while £100,000 was transferred from land account, as against £150,000. They had £607,053 cash at bank in London, against £152,756; investments were down from £391,915 to £254,905; debtors and debit balances were £924,000, against £725,428; while the amount invested in the fur trade had risen from £1,508,947 to £1,769,949. The amount invested in the sale shops and other trading was reduced from £4,184,855 to £3,259,465. The net result was that the directors were enabled to recommend a dividend of 35 per cent. out of trading and of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, from land—a result which he hoped the shareholders would consider satisfactory.

With regard to the fur trade, it was gratifying to report such a satisfactory profit as £237,082 from this department. The prices of fresh furs had been very well maintained during the year, compared with many commodities, and as the company's goods were invariably fresh goods they had been able to benefit to the full from the demand. A new development of this department during the last year or two was that of selling goods on consignment. Over two years ago the company was approached by Mr Stefansson, the well-known explorer, with a view to introducing reindeer into Baffin Land. It must be recognised that this project, which had the active support of the Government of Canada, was entirely in the nature of an experiment, the success of which was largely dependent upon climatic conditions.

With reference to the land department, no doubt the shareholders were disappointed with the results, but it was useless to try and sales of farm lands for the year had amounted to only 33,595 acres for \$545,611. This was the smallest acreage sold by the company in any one year since 1910, with the exception of 1915. Unfortunately, the conditions of harvesting turned out to be simply deplorable, and it was not surprising that the farmer should feel disinclined to extend his operations by the purchase of further

lands, nor that he should be behindhand with his interest and instalments. The promise of the present crop was decidedly encouraging.

TOWNSITE SALES.

As to townsites, there had been a distinct increase in sales. During the year townsite land had been sold to the value of \$163,483, which represented the largest sales since 1913. If only a reasonable and steady demand set in—and signs were not wanting that it was coming—they might see this deficit disappear in a year or so. The amount due to the company on lands sold, for principal and interest in arrear, was \$22,051,667. The number of acres remaining unsold was 2,810,591, in addition to the townsites.

With regard to the stores and general trading, he wished to make it quite clear that, had they been depending on the results of their stores alone for the period under review, they would have disclosed a loss on trading. Happily, the trading carried on from this side resulted in a very satisfactory profit, which, added to sums received in connection with adjustments of taxation, enabled them on balance to show a profit of £77,871.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BANK OF ADELAIDE.

The fifty-sixth annual meeting of shareholders in the Bank of Adelaide was held at the head office, Adelaide, on May 3, 1922. The chairman of directors, Mr Arthur Waterhouse, presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said: After making adequate provision for bad and doubtful debts, and allowing for the interim dividend paid in November, the net profit for this year is £92,633 as compared with £88,107 last year. Bills in circulation show a decrease of £489,316, mainly accounted for by our customers having reverted to the practice of remitting to London by cable, instead of by currency bills, as was done to a considerable extent during the exchange difficulty of last year. Deposits show an increase of £560,000. On the assets side our liquid resources are greater in Imperial Treasury bills by £755,000, in Australian notes by £280,000, and in Government securities, money at short call, &c., by £74,000, making together £1,100,000. But there is a shortage of bank bills purchased, remittances *in transitu*, and balance due to other banks, total £326,000, giving a net increase of £783,000. The liquid assets, which amount to £4,087,129, represent 11s 10½d in the pound, or 59.2 per cent. of the bank's total liabilities to the public; a very strong position, which, in these times of uncertainty, it has been deemed wise to maintain.

During the eight months of the financial year 1920-21 the imports to Australia were £117,000,000, while the exports were £86,000,000, so that there was a considerable sum (£31,000,000 roughly) unprovided for by exports. During the same period of 1921-22 the imports were reduced to £62,000,000, while the exports were about £81,000,000. Between the two seasons there was a reduction of imports of £54,500,000, whereas the reduction of exports was £4,800,000, or a difference of about £50,000,000. That is the reason why things have come right again.

The good general rains which have fallen during the last week have much improved the agricultural and pastoral outlook. Seeding operations can now be proceeded with, winter feed will be given a good start, water supplies will be replenished, and generally a good opening of the season secured. I have pleasure in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

The one hundred and sixty-first half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Western Australian Bank was held on Wednesday, May 3rd, at the Banking House, St George's terrace, Sir E. H. Wittenoom (chairman of directors) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that it must be as gratifying to the shareholders as it was to the directors that they were able to maintain and pay the usual dividend in spite of the troublesome financial times. In addition to paying the dividend, the directors had decided to increase the reserve fund by £25,000, bringing it to no less a sum than £750,000. Besides this, it was satisfactory to be able to carry forward £15,822 for the next half-year. The deposits were higher than they had been for the last two half-years, being no less than £3,326,672. These figures were £17,800 better than March, 1921, and £217,000 better than September last. No better evidence was required of the popularity of the institution and the confidence the public had in it. Advances had not varied much, being only about £22,000 less than in September last. The directors received numerous applications for the employment of the bank's funds. The item "Specie, bullion, &c.," had improved in position, being no less than £817,650. This was £75,000 better than March, 1921,

GUEST, KEEN, AND NETTLEFOLDS, LIMITED. EXCELLENT RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Limited, was held, on the 29th ultimo, at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, Mr Edward Steer, the chairman and managing director of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: I would like, first of all, to congratulate you upon the result of the trading for the nine months. This result has been achieved in spite of the very depressed condition of trade which has prevailed, and still exists. The fact that we are able to show this profit for such a period is largely attributable to the variety of businesses we carry on, and to the very substantial help which each one of our undertakings is able to render to and also receive from the others. In all our subsidiary and allied companies number sixteen. The largest and most important of these companies is that of John Lysaght, Limited. Incidentally, I might remark that this company has been of invaluable assistance in furnishing work for our Dowlais mills when that department has been short of orders, and the amalgamation has proved a wise step in every direction.

I propose to occupy your attention for a short time with a review of the conditions under which we have been carrying on our business since we last met in September. At that time several of our largest departments were idle owing to the disastrous condition brought about by the coal strike, which extended from April 1st to July 4th of last year. The question of unemployment had then become so acute that, immediately after our September meeting, a special meeting of your directors was held to consider what we could do to diminish the great distress prevailing amongst the company's workpeople at Dowlais. After anxious consideration it was decided that steps should be taken for a partial resumption of work there at the earliest possible moment. We realised that this course was not warranted by the state of the iron and steel trade, and would result in loss to the company, but the board felt that under the very exceptional conditions then prevailing they, as large employers of labour, were justified in making an attempt to tide their workpeople over the crisis. Arrangements were accordingly made to restart work at Dowlais, and I am quite sure that the action of the board was very highly appreciated by the workpeople and inhabitants of Dowlais generally. I am equally sure of the approval of our shareholders.

I now turn to the report. You will see that we have during the nine months under review obtained a controlling interest in the Gwaun-cae-Gurwen Colliery Company. This is an undertaking in the Amman Valley, near Swansea, with an output of nearly 300,000 tons per annum of the best anthracite coal, the mineral area being about 5,000 acres.

So far as the steam coal trade of South Wales is concerned, we have pits capable of an output of something like 2,000,000 tons per annum, but the exploitation of anthracite coal, for which there is an ever-increasing demand, will, I think, be an important part of the coal trade of the future. The only true anthracite coalfield in Europe lies in the western portion of the South Wales coalfield, its total output being about 4,000,000 tons a year. When it is remembered that America produces and consumes over 80,000,000 tons a year of this description of coal, the dearth of anthracite in Europe is very apparent. Feeling that this branch of the trade was a natural adjunct of our steam coal business, your directors decided, after much careful consideration, to make an offer to the Gwaun-cae-Gurwen shareholders of one £1 5 per cent. second preference share (free of tax) for every £1 7 per cent. preference share (subject to tax) and one ordinary share for every £1 ordinary share in the Gwaun-cae-Gurwen Company. The number of Gwaun-cae-Gurwen shares so exchanged amounted to 209,863 ordinary shares and 13,942 second preference shares, and the issued capital of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Limited, is increased accordingly.

Since March 31st a further number of Gwaun-cae-Gurwen shares have been exchanged. In the opinion of our colliery experts the property has great possibilities, and I am quite sure that you will approve the steps we have taken to acquire an interest in the anthracite business, a policy which, I am glad to say, has already justified itself.

The balance of profit and loss for the nine months, after charging debenture interest, is £567,219, to which has to be added the amount brought in from last year, £264,098, making a total of £831,317. Deducting from this the interim dividends paid on preference and ordinary shares, £414,958, there is left a disposable balance of £416,359. The report shows how we recommend this should be appropriated.

I have already referred to the condition of trade during the period covered by our accounts, and to the fact that our works have been more or less on short time, but every effort has been made to secure trade alike in the interests of the company and our workpeople.

At our last annual meeting I ventured the opinion that trade was reviving, although we had still a long way to go before

arriving at normal conditions. This anticipation has been realised to some extent. I believe that the signs of a possible revival are more evident than they were then, but they require to be nursed and encouraged in every way.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

JOHN BROWN AND CO., LIMITED. LABOUR CO-OPERATION NEEDED TO MEET COMPETITION.

The annual general meeting of John Brown and Co., Limited, was held at Sheffield, on the 27th ultimo, Lord Aberconway, P.C. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said he was afraid he had not any very pleasant remarks to offer on the general situation. His words would be rather of a negative character, because there was little of a positive character to go upon, except the fact that they had just closed the worst year in the history of the company that he could remember, although he was not sure that the year they were now in would not be equally as bad. The general situation had been affected by various adverse conditions. Last year there was the miners' strike of three months, which practically paralysed trade for a quarter of the year; this year there had been the engineers' strike, which, he was glad to say, had come to an end, but which, of course, had had the usual adverse effect upon national trade. The expected revival of trade last year was not realised; the consumer refused to buy at high prices, and the biggest strike they had ever had had to be faced—the strike of the consumer, the man who had not the money to pay for the goods which remained at those high prices, but said, "I will make my old things do for the present, because I can't afford to buy new ones." We used old ships instead of new, old rails, old machinery, and even old clothes.

EFFECTS OF HIGH INCOME-TAX.

That had the effect of forcing prices down, and at the same time no relief came to Sheffield. There were practically no fresh orders, and with the high rate of income-tax people were not able to put money into fresh business developments. Not only had they not got the money, but they felt that if they had half to three-quarters of their income it would be taken by the Government in the shape of income-tax and super-tax. The high rate of income-tax had a great deal to do with a lot of the inactivity we had to face. There had been a considerable decrease in prices compared with materials of Continental manufacture. Last year English basic pig-iron was £9 per ton, compared with Belgian at £8 15s, but we had brought prices down this year to £8 10s. There was no profit, but we had got to quote these prices to retain what trade there was. Last year steam coal was 35s; this year it had fallen to 20s. People might say: What is the advantage of quoting prices that do not show a profit? There was an indirect advantage if they looked at the exports and imports of pig-iron during the last five months and compared them with last year. They would see a very great change. Our imports from Belgium and Germany were 66,000 tons less than last year, while the exports were 23,000 more; that made a difference of 96,000 on balance. With France imports were 40,000 tons less, while exports to France were 23,000 tons more. If you take the general trade of the world in which we are interested, you will find that imports are 117,000 tons less and exports 153,000 more, making 270,000 in our favour. These figures show that as soon as we get prices down to an economic level an improvement set in. By next January we might see something better, but before then he did not expect any better financial results.

COAL SITUATION.

Matters would have improved generally but for the engineers' strike. In all branches of industry the repercussion of that must have been felt. Coal was at the bottom of all industry, and blast-furnaces came next. Blast-furnaces could only work on cheap coke, which had fallen from 61s per ton to 17s. That helped a lot, but at 17s per ton coke was not profitable. In Yorkshire miners' wages were 64 per cent. above the basis, and coalowners had to compete with other districts where the wages were only 20 per cent. above the basis, and when they recollected that the reduction in the selling price of coal was more than double, the reduction in wages they would see what a very tight corner the coal trade was in.

Labour costs could be reduced by the assistance and cordial co-operation of the men, if they did not restrict output. More economical conditions of work, new machinery, and new processes would do a great deal to prevent the individual suffering in the process of reducing labour costs. We are having to struggle for existence in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, continued it is in the interests of our men to fall into line. There is one safe and sound policy, and that is one of give and take. We had to face the most fierce foreign competition, and the employer must have a free hand in dealing with his workshops, his men, and the

conditions of the industry. There was no intention in the recent negotiations to make the conditions of labour any worse.

Lord Aberconway, in dealing with the coal situation, said he did not think owners should force prices down; they should have an understanding as to what prices to offer coal to railways and for foreign shipment. He deplored that high railway charges precluded Yorkshire owners from taking full advantage of the foreign demand for coal. At Clydebank a great deal of work had been suspended; high prices made it difficult to get orders. They had completed and delivered two very fine vessels, one the "Windsor Castle," which the Prince of Wales launched. Lord Aberconway concluded with a very high tribute to the work of the staff. The financial position of the company was thoroughly sound, and when trade recovered they would be able to satisfy their customers as well as any firm in the United Kingdom.

Sir Charles Ellis seconded the report, which was unanimously adopted.

CROWN MINES, LIMITED. (INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.) WORKING COSTS AND ORE RESERVES. HIGH WAGES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

CURRENCY QUESTION AND THE GOLD EMBARGO.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of Crown Mines, Limited, was held in Johannesburg on June 1st.

The Chairman (Mr Samuel Evans) said:—

You will note from the report and accounts that the operations of the company in 1921 resulted in a net balance of revenue over disbursements of £662,800, which, with the amount of £457,352, the balance unappropriated at the end of 1920, £157 discount on debentures purchased, and £335 forfeited dividends, brings the total credit in the appropriation account to £1,120,644. Capital, annuity in respect of undermining rights and redemption of debentures, require £213,816, Government and provincial taxes £98,734, and dividends £305,534, leaving £502,560, which is made up of: Stores and materials, sundry debtors, &c., £299,609; net cash, £202,951. The net cash on hand at the beginning of 1921 was £138,748.

The Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited, recently acquired from the Custodian of Enemy Property all the enemy shares of the companies of the group held by him. They included 28,000 Crown Mines shares, which were acquired for 31s per share. The Corporation has offered these shares to the company at cost price, plus a commission of 5 per cent., and your board has accepted this offer.

The outstanding features of the year under review were the high working costs and the low efficiency of our labour force, as will be gathered from the following comparison of the results with those of 1914:—Average Europeans, 1,753 (1914, 1,576); natives, 13,109 (11,826); footage, 44,856 (32,698); tons milled, 2,177,000 (2,287,000); per white employee, 1,242.6 (1,451.1); per native employee, 166.1 (193.4); gold recovered (ounce), 643,005 (707,957); working revenue, £3,388,748 (£2,975,688); working costs, £2,716,718 (£1,784,959); working profit, £672,030 (£1,191,629); dividends paid, 395,534 (£799,999).

There have been very wide variations in the currency price of gold on the London market during the year. The additional revenue obtained by the company on account of the premium has been £691,002 in 1921, against £926,062 in 1920 and £286,309 in 1919; per ton milled, 6s 4.2d, against 8s 5.0d and 2s 11.3d; per fine ounce produced, 21s 5.9d, against 27s 6.9d and 8s 11.5d. Had our gold output last year been disposed of at the standard value of 85s per fine ounce, the result would have been a loss on the working of the mine of 2.1d per ton milled, or £19,000 altogether, and this is exclusive of the redemption of and interest on debentures, capital expenditure, and Government taxes.

This year, owing to the strike, we had up to the end of March incurred a working loss of £89,663. During April we made a profit of £35,661, and last month it is estimated that the profit will amount to close on £45,000. We are still suffering from the effects of the strike, as the average number of natives in the service of the company on May 30th was 11,982, as compared with 15,495 at the beginning of January. Our working costs for April were 22s 0.6d, as compared with an average of 25s per ton milled last year, but it must be remembered that the quantity of ore milled in April this year was only 146,400 tons compared with 192,000 tons in April, 1921. From now onwards there should be a steady improvement in the profits, as the working costs should show a further appreciable reduction in the course of the next few months, provided, of course, that our native force continues to increase, as we have every reason to expect that it will.

Reverting to last year's results, it will be observed that, although we treated 110,000 tons less, the costs were £932,659 higher than in 1914. It is true that we developed last year 12,000 feet more than in 1914, but the additional cost of that work would amount to only about £60,000. Taking gold at its normal price, the

revenue per ton last year was 1s 2.6d less than in 1914, while the costs per ton were 9s 4.3d higher. Had the costs in 1921 been the same as in 1914, and had there been no premium on gold, the working profit would have exceeded £1,000,000.

SATISFACTORY VALUES.

These facts clearly indicate that our main difficulties are not connected with the value of the ore reserves. In fact, taken as a whole, our ore reserve position is satisfactory, and justifies us in taking a hopeful view of the future prospects of the company. When the Crown Mines was formed Mr Webber never anticipated a higher average grade than five and a-half to six dwts from most of the areas from which we are now drawing ore. Of the ore developed last year 79.1 per cent. was payable, and totalled 2,250,000 tons, of an estimated average value of 6.3 dwts. We have now exposed on the 19th level a stretch of good main reef leader 2,500 feet long. Owing to the strike the amount of development done this year has been small, but I may mention that the values exposed in the lowest levels of the mine continue satisfactory. As you will see from the report of the consulting engineer, our available ore reserves totalled on December 31st last 8,511,200 tons, estimated to carry 6.1 dwts over a stoping width of 61 inches, as compared with 8,131,700 tons, averaging 6.4 dwts over a stoping width of 62 inches at the end of 1920.

There are also fully developed in the mine close on 6,000,000 tons of ore of an average value of rather more than 3 dwts, which is to-day classed as unpayable. Were it possible to bring costs down to something approaching the level which prevailed when the Crown Mines came into existence, the bulk of this ore could be worked, thereby adding to our profits, increasing the life of the mine, and affording greater scope for employment.

The Crown Mines and the Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company have recently purchased from the estate of the late Henri Jacques Lebaudy the Langlaagte Proprietary claims, bewaarsplaatsen, water-rights, machine stands, and freehold ground for a total sum of £55,100. The mining ground has been divided between the two companies on a basis agreed upon by their technical advisers. This transaction gives us approximately 35 reef-bearing claims, which can be opened up and mined from our existing drives without much delay and with comparatively little additional expenditure on capital account.

From our present reserves we can expect an average yield of close on 25s per ton, which, with costs reduced to something approaching the pre-war level, a fair supply of native labour, and after providing the amounts required to cover debenture interest and redemption, the undermining rights annuities, and the estimated capital expenditure necessary for the development and equipment of our southern ground, should enable us to distribute to shareholders a yearly dividend considerably better than on the average has been the case since the outbreak of the war. It should be clearly understood, however, that satisfactory results cannot be achieved by the Crown Mines or any other company on the Rand except on condition that the management is not harassed by hasty changes of the miners' phthisis and other laws, Government regulations, labour union restrictions and interference, that the native labour supply is adequate, and that we are not burdened with increased taxation either by the Union or Provincial Governments.

WORKING COSTS.

It is obvious from the comparison of results of last year with those of 1914 that working costs constitute the crux of the situation as far as our mine is concerned. As compared with the 1913 figures, working costs last year show an increase of £930,696, or 8s 6.6d per ton milled. A careful analysis of our expenses shows that the main reason for the difference between the 1913 figures and those of last year is the enormously enhanced cost of European labour employed by the company or employed in the manufacture, transportation, and handling of the stores which we have to purchase. The total average cost per man per shift of underground day's pay men and contractors went up from 20s 5d in 1913 to 39s 6d last year, an increase of 93.4 per cent. In the case of reduction workers there was an increase of 85.4 per cent. in the cost per man per shift worked of day's pay men. The cost of white labour per native employed rose from £43 18s in 1913 to £76 4s in 1921, an increase of 73.6 per cent. I am including in the costs not only the wages, but other disbursements, such as holiday and sick leave pay, &c., to which I have already referred. The changes that have taken place in recent years in the miners' phthisis laws have involved a very heavy additional burden on the mining industry. The reckless prodigality of the Union Legislature in this matter is unprecedented in the history of compensation for industrial disease. The present cost per shift worked of the miners' phthisis contribution is equal to over 20 per cent. of the average cost per shift of European underground day's pay men and contractors in 1913.

As regards stores, the prices of primary products, such as mealies and meat for feeding native labourers, have fallen, but stores the prices of which depend on white wages are still high.

averaging at the end of March about 60 per cent. above the 1913 quotations. The substantial increase made in railway rates in recent years has added largely to the cost to the mining industry of stores and power. For instance, in the case of mining poles grown in the country the railways now get more than the grower.

WAGES AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

After reviewing the strike troubles, the Chairman continued: I have on previous occasions urged that the slow development of the rural parts of South Africa is attributable in no small measure to the unduly high rates of pay and generous working conditions which prevail on the Witwatersrand. A standard is set which necessitates excessive railway rates and fares and an extravagant scale of expenses generally for the farmers and the other inhabitants of the Union. The Economic Commission, which reported at the beginning of 1914, showed that wages on the Witwatersrand were 40 per cent. higher than in America (where money wages were materially greater than in any other country examined), 49 per cent. higher than in Canada, 69 per cent. higher than in Australia, and nearly 225 per cent. higher than in any European country. Although Labour is more powerful in Australia than in any other part of the British Empire, the increases in wages made on the mines in Western Australia during the war and afterwards were considerably less than on the Rand.

The high cost of living is usually the excuse given for the exceptionally high wages paid in Johannesburg, but it is seldom realised that under existing circumstances the high cost of living is itself due to high wages. It is important that this should be clearly understood. If you compile a list of the necessities of life that are really dear to-day, you will find on investigation that their dearness is caused in practically every instance by the high cost of production, transportation, and handling occasioned by high wages.

CURRENCY QUESTION.

At our meeting last year I pointed out that the unsound currency policy pursued by Governments in recent years was the root cause of our present troubles. The events of the past 12 months confirm the correctness of the conclusions I submitted to you a year ago—namely, that there can be no prosperity and contentment in this or any other country until we have restored the normal relations between primary products on the one hand and manufactured goods, transportation, and selling charges on the other hand. The farmer and other primary producers must be enabled to exchange their products with the products of other industries on a fair basis, a basis which will provide a reasonably equal reward for capital and labour in each industry. That means that the wages of industrial workers everywhere must be reduced; they must be adjusted to the economic situation in which the farmer and other primary producers find themselves. Without such an adjustment full employment and permanent prosperity is out of the question. Organised workers gain nothing by the attitude of their leaders. It is true some workers are getting too much, but others are getting nothing, and when due allowance is made for the loss of wages by the unemployed it is probable that the aggregate earnings of organised workers are considerably less than they were in pre-war days. Organised labour in the manufacturing, building, transportation, and shipping industries here, in England, America, and certain other countries are still clinging desperately to the high money wages, short hours, and the inefficient conditions of the period of inflation which followed the war, whilst Governments (including our own), by means of embargoes on the movement of the precious metals, dumping provisions, and high Customs tariffs, render it impossible for us and for the farmers to derive any material advantage from the low prices measured in gold and agricultural products of machinery, implements, and stores in countries with highly depreciated currencies. It seems to be forgotten that international trade is an exchange of goods for goods, and for the time being the policy of cutting your nose off to spite your face is in the ascendant with many Governments, who have apparently allowed themselves to be mystified and hoodwinked by the fallacies of the Mercantilist school dressed in the jargon of the exchange market.

There are, however, signs of a break in the clouds. Politicians and bankers are being gradually forced to abandon currency views and policies based on the balance of trade and other fallacies, and to admit—very reluctantly, it is true—the soundness of the conclusions of Ricardo, Lord Overstone, and the other economists and statesmen-financiers who were responsible for the principles which Sir Robert Peel embodied in the Bank Charter Act of 1844.

STABILISATION OF EXCHANGES.

Perhaps the most insidious and gravest danger confronting the gold-mining industry at the moment is the aspiration of our Government and of other Governments for co-operation amongst the leading nations of the world through central banks or otherwise for the establishment of some uniform plan for the stabilisation of currencies and exchanges. With this object in view international monetary conferences have been held, and others are

contemplated. Let us clearly understand that we have everything to lose and nothing to gain by these international currency conferences. No good can come out of them as far as we are concerned. Their whole history shows that the real object is to economise gold or to do without gold. Indeed, it is most fortunate for us that the United States has hitherto held aloof; and that the ter Meulen proposal, the British Government credit scheme, and other plans to continue and extend the substitution of paper for gold, have so far failed. I have no doubt whatever that had there been no attempt at joint international action in this matter in the last three years, already several Governments, besides those of the United States, Japan, and Switzerland, would have restored the gold standard in some form, that the embargo on the free movement of the precious metals would have disappeared in a great many countries in addition to those mentioned and India, and that as a consequence the trade of the world would have been in a far healthier and more prosperous condition than it is in now. I can see no possible valid objection to the removal of the gold embargo by all countries. No country stands to lose by it. If generally adopted, it will enable producers in various countries to exchange their products on a reasonably stable basis immediately, and, what is of cardinal importance, it will tend to free international business transactions from the paralysing interference of Governments. The report was carried unanimously.

CITY DEEP, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.)

YEAR'S RESULTS "EXCEEDINGLY SATISFACTORY."

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in Johannesburg on May 26th.

The Chairman (Mr F. R. Phillips) said: I think we can only regard the results achieved as exceedingly satisfactory. The profit earned constitutes a record in the history of the company, the balance of working expenditure and revenue account amounting to £718,584 18s 7d, as against £644,184 5s 5d for the preceding year. This result is all the more gratifying when it is realised that the additional revenue obtained owing to the increased price of gold over its standard value decreased by £34,238 as compared with 1920. Nevertheless, it is significant that the higher price obtained for gold accounted for 62 per cent. of the profit earned, the working profit with gold at 84s per fine ounce being £270,140, and the additional revenue represented by the difference between 84s per ounce and the actual price realised amounting to £441,376.

The factor chiefly responsible for the increased profit was the amount of tonnage crushed, which was greatly in excess of anything previously accomplished. The tonnage milled was 995,100 tons, as against 862,500 tons in 1920, and 617,800 tons in 1919. This increase was due to the additional native labour supply, acquired from the City and Suburban mine and to better machine efficiency.

It is especially noteworthy that the sum charged directly to working expenses in respect of development costs exceeded that for the previous year by more than £40,000, and was almost double that for the years 1915-1916, when approximately the same amount of development footage was accomplished.

WORKING COSTS.

The working costs for the year compared with 1914 show an increase of 7s 6d per ton. The reasons for this increase, which has been general, have been given on many occasions. They include the high cost of stores, the increased remuneration to white and native employees, and heavy charges for the plithisis compensation fund. Every endeavour is being made to reduce costs, and with the increased efficiency which freedom from trades' union restrictions should bring, together with lower costs of material, a considerable improvement may be expected. The development position of this mine, however, is such that a vigorous policy must be pursued, and in consequence heavy expenditure in this direction must be expected.

The net profit for the year, namely, £718,584 18s 7d, together with the unappropriated balance of £313,201 0s 1d brought forward from 1920, and a small amount in respect of forfeited dividends, gave a total credit of £1,022,558 16s 11d in the appropriation account, and was allocated as follows:—Amount expended on £96,202 18s 4d; Government and provincial taxes, £114,438 14s 3d; dividends Nos. 18 and 19 of 20 per cent. and 17½ per cent. respectively, £485,625—£696,266 12s 7d. This leaves a balance unappropriated of £326,292 4s 4d. Of this balance £144,574 17s 6d was represented by net cash after allowing for liabilities.

Turning now to the operations for the past year, the outstanding features were the large increases in the development footage accomplished and in the ore mined. But notwithstanding the great amount of development footage accomplished, the ore mined from the reserves was considerably in excess of that replaced with the

result that upon a recalculation the reserve estimated at December 31st showed a decrease of 670,900 tons at a slightly lower grade.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

The fact that an increased development programme is necessary is fully realised, and every endeavour is being made to improve the position. This is indicated by the increase in the monthly development footage, which averaged 2,596 feet for the last six months, as compared with an average of 1,959 feet for the first half of the year. It must be understood, however, that it will not be possible to effect any appreciable improvement by the end of the current year. During the year the south shaft was sunk a further 1,554 feet. The first stage in the sinking of this shaft was completed in December at a depth of 4,470 feet below the collar, and the connection between it and No. 2 incline shaft, *vid* the 17th level cross-cut, was made on April 21st in the current year. The permanent equipment of this portion of the shaft will be dealt with without delay. In this respect I should remind shareholders that a large amount of capital expenditure will be required.

It has been the practice in the past for your chairman to give some indication of the most recent values exposed by development prior to the annual meeting. This year, unfortunately, the position remains much the same as at the end of the year, owing to the events to which I shall refer later. I would mention, however, that highly payable ore is indicated in the ground extending from the western boundary for a distance of about 1,000 feet. Intervening between this area and No. 2 shaft poor values have been encountered, whilst the district between Nos. 2 and 1 shafts still shows uniformly payable ground over a distance of 4,000 feet. The broken area, referred to at previous meetings, east of No. 1 shaft has been passed through, and good values have been obtained east of the break.

It is hardly necessary for me to dwell at great length upon the devastating strike which took place on the gold mines, and which lasted from January 10th until March 17th. As regards mining operations for the first quarter of the current year, unfortunately it is necessary to record a heavy loss, amounting to £36,352. For the month of April, however, it is gratifying to be able to report a considerable improvement. The tonnage milled amounted to 69,200 tons, and the estimated profit earned will go far to wipe out the deficit of the preceding three months.

It must not be forgotten, however, that, apart from actual losses incurred as a result of the strike, there is a loss of the profits which would have been made, and which must now be deferred approximately to the end of the life of the mine.

EX-ENEMY SHARES.

I must make a brief reference to the shares of enemy shareholders vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property of the Union of South Africa. The Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited, has recently concluded a deal with the Custodian, whereby the corporation purchased the whole of the shares of all the companies under its administration. Included in this purchase were approximately 70,000 shares of your company. These were acquired at the price of 32s 6d per share. The Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited, offered these shares to the company at the same price, plus 5 per cent. commission, and such share of legal and other expenses incurred in their acquisition. At a meeting of the board it was decided to acquire the shares from the Central Mining, and that the interests of shareholders would best be served by cancelling them, and thereby reducing the capital of the company by a corresponding amount. A general meeting of the company will be held in due course to effect this arrangement. While we consider that the price at which the shares were obtained was fair and reasonable to both purchaser and seller, it must be remembered that it was only possible to complete this business so satisfactorily because it formed but a small part of a very much larger transaction.

The report was unanimously adopted.

GEDULD PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

(REGISTERED UNDER THE LIMITED LIABILITY LAWS OF THE TRANSVAAL.)
SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.
LOWER "PREMIUM" ON GOLD.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited, was held in Johannesburg on Friday, May 26th.

Mr P. M. Anderson (chairman of the company) presided, and in the course of his remarks stated:—

The actual operations at the mine have been quite satisfactory, the tonnage treated in the mill being some 11,000 tons in excess of the previous highest, the yield per ton practically the same as in the previous year, and the working costs at 23s 7d, about 6½d per ton lower. The effect of this increased output and lower costs has, however, been insufficient to offset the reduction in revenue due to the lower selling price of gold, with the net result that the working profit of £369,566 is less by about £19,000 than that for 1920.

ALLOCATIONS.

Sundry receipts from interest, rents, sales of water, owners' share of licences, &c., added £16,562 to the working profit, bringing the total for the year to £386,128. Of this amount, £32,552 was expended on excess development; taxation accounted for £47,285; charitable donations absorbed £2,715; additional remuneration to the directors under the provisions of the articles of association amounted to £1,800; £6,939 was written off as depreciation, chiefly to reduce to present-day values some of the stores and materials purchased during the war which are still on hand; and £220,916 was distributed in dividends. The remaining £73,921 was added to the unappropriated balance brought forward from the previous year, increasing this item to £129,467 18s 8d.

On capital account a total of £181,000 was expended during the year, of which £152,468 was in connection with the new No. 7 shaft, the sinking of which was completed during the year. At this shaft connection has been made with the reef on the 6th and 7th levels, while at the 8th level, where the main ore bin will be located, the crosscut to the reef is well on the way. Work in connection with the underground lay-out at this shaft will not be completed until well into next year, but will be sufficiently advanced in three or four months' time to permit of this section of your mine supplying its due quota of ore to the mill *vid* the new surface transport system. In the meantime, only 4 per cent. of the ore stoped is coming from this section, which contains 20 per cent. of the ore reserves.

You will have gathered from the reports of the consulting engineer and general manager that the increased development footage accomplished during last year continued to disclose very satisfactory values, particularly in the southern area of the mine. The result is that the ore reserves at the end of the year amounted to 3,545,000 tons, valued at 8.1 dwts over a stoping width of 62 inches, which figures disclose increases over those of a year ago of 325,000 tons, 0.1 dwt in value and 1 inch in width.

REDUCTION IN WORKING COSTS.

I do not propose to review the operations for the first four months of this year, as the conditions have been quite abnormal, owing to the strike and the attempted revolution on the Rand. What is of vital importance to shareholders is that the mill was idle from January 10th to February 20th, and from March 12th to 15th. An encouraging feature, to which I would draw your attention, is the reduction in working costs under the altered industrial conditions since the resumption of operations. The cost of production for last month was 20s 9d, including the usual charge of 2s 9d per ton for development redemption.

The development done this year in the southern area, though small in extent, is maintaining the high promise of previous work. On the 6th level, 420 feet of driving has been done, of which 63 per cent. is payable, having an assay value of 19.6 dwts over a reef channel width of 41 inches. On the 7th level, 100 feet of driving has been done, all of which is payable, having an assay value of 20 dwts over a reef width of 42 inches. In order to bring your information up to date with regard to development in this section of the mine, the position is that out of 7,325 feet of driving, wining, and raising in reef to date, 63 per cent. disclosed payable assay values, averaging 15.4 dwts over an estimated stoping width of 66 inches.

ORE RESERVE POSITION.

The present ore reserve position, which is better than it was four years ago by 1,345,000 tons at an improved value of 0.6 dwt, together with the favourable prospect of developing further high

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - - Fmk. 246,700,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(31/12/21) - - Fmk. 1,234,000,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

grade ore, has induced the consulting engineer to recommend, and your board to sanction, an immediate increase in the capacity of the reduction plant to 65,000 tons per month. If further justification were needed for increasing the capacity of the plant, it will be found in the existence of a large quantity of low grade ore developed during recent years in the northern portion of the mine. This ore could not be included in the ore reserves when working costs were in the neighbourhood of 2s, but can be treated at a profit when the anticipated reduction in working costs resulting from the improved industrial position, and the further reduction due to operating on an enlarged scale become an accomplished fact. Your consulting engineer estimates that the saving in working costs due to these factors should be between 5s and 6s per ton compared with the average costs for 1921, and estimates the quantity of this low grade ore at 2½ million tons. If this ore be added to the previously published reserve of high grade ore, it would bring the total payable ore now available to 6,000,000 tons, having an assay value of 6.6 dwts over 61 inches stope width. It is not intended that ore of this average stope value should be sent to the enlarged plant, but rather to rely on being able to maintain a supply of the higher grade ore. It is, however, comforting to know that in this low grade ore the company has a valuable asset. The enlarged plant is expected to be in commission in the early part of next year.

FUNDS SUFFICIENT FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

The funds available at the beginning of this year, as disclosed in the balance-sheet, are sufficient to cover the capital expenditure programme sanctioned by the board in connection with completing the equipment and underground lay-out at No. 7 shaft, the surface transport arrangements, the extension of the reduction plant, compound accommodation, &c.

It is probable that the board will find it necessary to sanction further capital expenditure from time to time, but you may rest assured that any future appropriations out of profits to meet such calls will be of a very minor nature, and that the bulk of the profits earned, after making due allowance for the tax collector, will go into the pockets of shareholders.

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE MODDERFONTEIN DEEP LEVELS, LIMITED.

(REGISTERED UNDER THE LIMITED LIABILITY LAWS OF THE TRANSVAAL.)

YEAR'S RESULTS—RECORD YIELD AND PROFITS.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Modderfontein Deep Levels, Limited, was held in Johannesburg on Friday, May 26th.

Mr P. M. Anderson (chairman of the company) presided, and in the course of his remarks stated that the features of the past year's operations have been the records established in the tonnages mined and milled, in the yield per ton and in the profit earned.

The very gratifying increase in the yield to over 11 dwts enabled the previous highest production to be passed by nearly 12,500 ounces, which, with gold at its standard value, would have given an additional revenue of about £53,000. As, however, the average premium of about 25 per cent. obtained for the year was 3½ per cent. lower than that for the previous year, the net increase in the revenue from gold was only £11,000. The profit of £916,824 derived from the year's production of 280,355 ounces was £25,516 ahead of the previous record, this being, of course, partly due to the higher yield I have just mentioned, but mainly to a reduction in working expenditure of £14,500, equal to nearly 7½d per ton.

On reference to the table of results since the commencement of milling operations, contained in the report, it will be seen that there remains a considerable margin for further reduction in working costs, as last year's figure of 22s per ton is, approximately, 35 per cent. higher than the figures for the years 1916 and 1917. Though a return to the levels of these years cannot be expected in the immediate future, it is hoped that a level materially nearer to normal may be reached in the current year. In this connection you will, no doubt, have noted with satisfaction that the figure for last month was nearly 2s per ton below the average of last year.

It would serve no useful purpose to review in other respects the current year's operations to date, as these have, of course, been quite abnormal owing to the strike and attempted revolution. It is very gratifying, however, to be able to record that a working profit of £52,874 was earned in respect of the first quarter, although the mill was idle for nearly two months and heavy strike expenditure had to be met. The profit for April was £53,959.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Turning now to the accounts, the profit on working was increased by interest, rents, and other sundry revenue to a total of £932,394, which, with the unappropriated balance of £163,464 brought forward from the previous year's accounts, gave a total of £1,095,858 to be

dealt with. Of this, £161,299 went in taxation, £3,012 in charitable donations, &c., £1,000 to the directors in accordance with the articles of association; £1,091 was written off as depreciation, and £750,000, or 150 per cent. on the capital of the company, was distributed to the shareholders by way of dividends, leaving a carry forward of £179,456, or some £16,000 more than at the close of the previous year. As your company has no further expenditure to incur on capital account, its financial position may, I think, be regarded as distinctly sound.

The technical reports in your hands have given you details of the development work done during the year, and I am sure you will have been gratified to read that the footage accomplished was 278 feet in excess of the preceding year and continued to disclose very satisfactory values, almost identical with those of the preceding year. As the result of this work, the ore reserves when re-measured at the end of last year showed a further increase of 275,000 tons, the assay value being, approximately, the same at 9.3 dwts and the width unchanged at 77 inches. This increase brought the reserves to a total of 4,375,000 tons, or over eight years' supply for the present mill.

With regard to future development, there remains several years' work to be done in undeveloped areas which are confidently expected to contain ore of as good value as that exposed in the past. It is proposed, however, to make certain ventilation connections and to do some prospecting in areas which are expected to contain low-grade ore. It is, therefore, possible that the development results to be published with future quarterly reports may, at times, be below the average value of the mine. I mention the point in order that you may be prepared, should this occur, and need not have any misgivings as to the value of your mine.

The Chairman put the motion for the adoption of the directors' report and statements of accounts to the meeting, and declared it to be carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts.	Week Ended	Week Ended
	Apl. 1, 1922, to June 24, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to June 25, 1921.	June 24, 1922.	June 25, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—				
Bank of England....	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs.....	28,884,000	26,967,000	4,038,000	4,154,000
Excise.....	35,738,000	44,051,000	4,201,300	1,205,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	1,587,000	1,267,000	..	..
Estate, &c., Duties.....	15,701,000	10,585,000	2,780,000	1,152,000
Stamps.....	3,122,000	2,457,000	240,000	201,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	460,000	390,000	10,000	10,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax) ..	53,553,000	59,981,000	2,090,000	1,328,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	954,000	16,904,000	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	3,637,000	1,780,000	190,000	150,000
Post Office.....	11,500,000	9,500,000	750,000	750,000
Crown Lands.....	160,000	130,000	..	30,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	1,430,667	1,237,519	..	51,655
Miscellaneous—	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts ..	8,836,159	6,493,633	230,888	111,337
Special Receipts.....	12,056,491	13,519,443	405,000	125,675
Revenue.....	177,679,317	195,262,595	14,994,888	9,268,068
Total, less Balance on 1st April—	188,852,847	198,337,101	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances Repaid—	..	..	..	..
Bullion.....	550,000	1,550,000	..	50,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	800,000	..	200,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—	..	..	..	..
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921 ..	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	1,450,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	713,375,000	1,084,211,000	55,131,000	46,423,000
By National Savings Certificates	27,048,000	8,280,000	600,000	550,000
By National War Bonds ..	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year, 1925-35 ..	..	1,002,675	..	..
5%, 1927 ..	121,708	..	..	..
4½%, 1932 ..	61,422,074	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	9,250,525	..	3,928,425	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	151,470,000	302,324,000	..	90,333,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	..	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..
Repayments ..	..	..	..	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	13,768	7,719	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	265,460	56,500	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	87,358	71,624	..	..
Total.....	1,154,961,721	1,599,554,464	74,866,182	146,630,073

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	Issues.	Week Ended	Week Ended
	Apl. 1, 1922, to June 24, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to June 25, 1921.	June 24, 1922.	June 25, 1921.
EXPENDITURE.				
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	3,444,449	3,891,788	..	574,492
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	94,224,300	109,020,155	863,248	1,845,983
Road Fund.....	986,000	966,000	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	800,000	521,854	500,000	68,400
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	510,000	714,383	7,438	44,571
Land Settlement.....	294,625	..	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	375,647	405,068	53,809	58,879
Supply Services.....	79,943,000	139,367,400	9,590,000	6,704,000
Expenditure ..	180,578,021	251,886,648	11,014,495	9,236,125
OTHER ISSUES.	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances—	..	1,750,000	..	150,000
Bullion.....	..	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924 ..	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	1,450,000	..	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921 ..	900,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	..	25,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	13,000	25,000	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills for Supply ..	784,839,000	990,374,000	55,820,000	38,475,000
War Loans, Exchequer Bonds, &c., under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917 ..	1,164,961	11,419,568	35,880	532,828
Issues under the War Loan Act, 1919, Sections 2 and 3, and the Finance Act, 1921, Section 45 ..	4,709,000	..	906,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—	..	..	..	..
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	6,450,000	3,600,000	200,000	600,000
(b) Repaid otherwise ..	..	2,850,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off ..	19,612,188	..	..	..
5%, 1922 £20,612,188; less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.	..	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	8,325,195	15,461,189	745,206	2,560,200
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	142,131,000	302,689,000	5,506,000	94,510,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917 ..	399,521	6,920,045	..	100,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919 ..	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 45 (4) ..	..	4,015,000	..	1,000,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911 ..	55,656	61,200	..	60,000
Balances in Exchequer—	..	..	..	..
Bank of England.....	2,535,072	2,104,360	439,660	4,680
Bank of Ireland.....	1,471,185	1,283,545	198,941	549,400
Total ..	4,006,258	3,387,905	638,601	594,080

Treasury, June 26, 1922.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Secur- ties.	Balance at	
										Bank of
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	11.42	
Aug. 26	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	18,500	..	481	9,924	9,286	
Dec. 30	38,478	..	169	600	..	..	..	..	..	
1915.										
Dec. 29	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	276	54,621	20,536	
Dec. 31..										
Dec. 27	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	190	118,102	6,866	
1917.										
Dec. 26	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	134	186,637	5,486	
1918.										
Dec. 31	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	89	305,133	4,566	
1919.										
Dec. 31	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	91	337,537	2,802	
1920.										
Dec. 29	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	130	336,504	134	
1921.										
Mar. 30	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.		28,500	19,450	139	311,334	141	
June 29	323,884	14,965	3,000		28,500	19,450	142	287,750	150	
Sept. 28	314,382	14,830	3,000		28,500	19,450	152	278,119	143	
Dec. 28	325,584	14,658	3,000		28,500	19,450	147	289,131	161	
1922.										
Mar. 30	300,351	14,255	5,000		28,500	19,450	159	261,479	177	
June 15	299,222	13,187	6,000		28,500	19,550	160	258,193	166	
June 22	295,612	12,961	6,000		28,500	19,650	163	254,274	148	
June 29	295,374	13,338	6,000		28,500	19,650	163	254,312	148	
Outstanding include notes called in										

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £50,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, July 3-7, 1922, were opened on June 30, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £84,230,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £98 4s od will receive about 88 per cent., above

in full. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 9s od will receive about 57 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 9s 2d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 2s 11.55d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £3,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £47,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
1922.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
June 2	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 67,630,000	2 7 8-9	98 13 8-4
June 9	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 76,795,000	2 6 9-94	98 1 5-45
June 16	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 69,225,000	2 8 0-44	98 4 2-55
June 23	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 82,215,000	2 1 7-4	98 3 0-9
June 30	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11-55	98 4 4-8

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, July 7, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £50,000,000.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - £27,657,433
CLAIMS PAID - £27,800,000

Accidents and illness.
Employers' Liability.
Fire and Burglary. Motor Cars. Public Liability.
Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines,
Electrical Plant and Lifts.
Executors and Trusteeships.

Head Office: 36-44 MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, June 28, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Notes issued	145,581,380	Government debt 11,015,10
		Other securities..... 7,434,90
		Gold coin and bullion 127,131,38
	145,581,380	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Capital	14,553,000	Government securities	49,221.04
Res.	3,289,194	Other securities.....	75,725.27
Public deposits*	16,347,702	Notes	22,533.37
Other deposits	115,057,524	Gold and silver coin..	1,815.31
Seven-day & other bills	17,582		
	149,295,002		149,295.00

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	June 26, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	June 30, 1920.	June 29, 1921.	June 28, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	29,208,775	28,933,380	120,057,840	129,006,290	125,048,010
Public deposits	23,718,663	19,014,809	15,748,199	15,296,889	16,347,702
Other deposits	43,017,728	41,248,964	175,966,968	131,739,942	115,087,524
Government securities	13,983,707	11,046,570	90,078,431	61,202,857	42,221,045
Other securities	40,275,876	41,461,280	103,188,431	85,827,910	75,725,274
Reserve of notes and coin	30,324,373	25,463,980	16,374,201	17,810,437	24,348,683
Coin and bullion	41,083,754	35,947,360	117,882,041	128,366,727	128,946,693
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	45.3%	42.1%	8.1%	12.1%	18.1%
Bank rate of discount	3%	3%	7%	6%	3%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	2 1/2 - 4	2 1/2	6 1/2 - 1 1/2	5 1/2	3 1/2
Price of Consols	76 1/2	74 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	57 1/2
Price of silver per oz.	28 1/2	26 1/4	52 1/2	52 1/2	52 1/2
Average price of wheat	37s 5d	33s 0d	78s 9d	89s 1d	53s 2d
Exchanges (Paris)	25.224.25	25.171.20	47.90.48.20	46.55.80	52.50.70
on New York	84.85	84.79	83.95.96	83.74.77	84.39.41
on Amsterdam	12.12.2	12.05.10	11.09.14	11.35.38	11.49.52
on London	20.46 1/2	20.49	15.15.52	27.23.23 1/2	15.20.15 1/2
Clearing house return	252,677,000	199,913,000	780,489,700	597,629,000	650,772,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.	£	£	£
January 1—June 21	17,180,702,000	1,352,663,000	18,533,365,000
June 28	602,142,000	49,630,000	650,772,000
Total to date 1922	17,782,844,000	1,401,293,000	19,184,137,000
Do 1921	15,725,345,000	1,580,304,000	17,305,649,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,057,499,000	- 179,011,000	+ 1,878,488,000
	13.5%	- 11.3%	10.8%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8.6%	- 26.2%	- 10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to June 24.	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	67,482,400	54,856,400	- 12,626,000
BRISTOL	36,721,000	37,345,000	+ 624,000
DUBLIN	178,472,900	163,647,200	- 14,825,700
LIVERPOOL	27,689,200	27,689,200	0
LEEDS	29,065,600	27,079,100	- 1,986,500
LIVERPOOL	19,644,900	20,124,800	+ 479,900
LIVERPOOL	22,930,900	21,040,100	- 1,890,800
MANCHESTER	365,794,600	365,392,600	- 402,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	49,351,900	47,778,000	- 1,573,900
NOTTINGHAM	18,135,000	16,592,100	- 1,542,900
SHEFFIELD	31,709,600	23,045,800	- 8,663,800

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

Resources.	June 23, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	June 9, 1922.	June 2, 1922.
Total gold reserve	3,019,950	3,007,790	3,010,070	2,914,490
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	127,720	128,680	123,990	169,520
Gold discounted for member banks	421,571	413,620	420,250	1,753,960
Bills bought in open market	121,470	123,980	136,180	39,490
Government obligations owned	555,530	629,580	618,880	288,950
All other resources	61,610	69,540	69,200	49,320
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	10,380	73,270	39,570	17,990
Other deposits	1,844,020	1,855,760	1,857,420	1,674,390
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,126,300	2,122,610	2,141,530	2,639,320
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	67,690	68,000	71,810	135,000
All other liabilities	20,660	20,410	20,170	31,720
Capital and surplus	320,480	320,280	320,260	304,210
Ratio of total resources to total liabilities	79.1%	77.4%	77.6%	60.4%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

ASSETS.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	April 30, 1921.
Cash and bank balances	460,869	447,024	461,876	503,923
Bank balances abroad	72,358	64,314	68,942	73,667
Call and short loans	272,175	267,419	272,910	264,363
Securities	342,989	353,663	352,377	362,497
Loans in Canada	1,259,799	1,239,496	1,232,974	1,382,295
Loans abroad	150,715	151,970	155,707	159,717
Other assets	98,919	98,870	101,328	112,612
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation	164,724	162,651	164,490	203,274
Government	145,753	124,699	131,716	130,624
Public in Canada	1,720,566	1,714,862	1,719,429	1,865,954
Foreign	275,525	265,748	267,436	267,600
Bank balances	9,714	8,828	10,545	11,751
Foreign	45,612	45,775	44,283	49,850
Bills payable, &c.	22,648	21,561	29,125	49,850
Other liabilities	3,012	2,546	3,519	3,234
Capital and rest	254,248	254,242	255,742	264,033

BANK OF FRANCE.

ASSETS.	June 29, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 8, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold coin and bullion	5,528,858	5,528,549	5,528,270	5,520,318	5,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367
Silver coin and bullion	284,862	284,784	284,272	284,272	284,272
Discount and advances	4,513,161	4,245,120	4,245,236	5,191,259	5,191,259
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	36,039,356	35,852,312	36,028,263	37,422,087	5,811,875
Government deposits	57,681	13,297	35,437	89,917	183,700
Private deposits	2,390,693	2,275,813	2,264,712	2,770,557	845,950

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

LIABILITIES.	June 5, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	May 6, 1922.
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	951	791	690	550	550
Bankers' deposits	7,258	6,337	6,341	6,252	6,239
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	92	92	92	92	92
Gold certificates	5,924	5,824	5,724	5,524	5,524
Subsidiary coin	...	...	...	...	...
Loans and advances to the Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other loans and advances	12	20	25	...	...
Investments	1,000	...	...	...	...
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	73.2%	83%	82.7%	82.5%	82.7%

BANK OF SPAIN.

ASSETS.	June 24, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	June 25, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
Gold	2,522,900	2,522,781	2,522,725	2,524,439	2,487,735	521,775
Silver	648,396	61,652	640,690	612,884	622,554	728,600
Loans and discounts	2,228,911	2,263,612	2,294,602	2,273,644	1,763,731	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,474	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,126,678	4,165,690	4,185,917	4,171,728	4,171,025	1,901,550
Deposits	1,177,813	1,163,522	1,170,613	1,163,119	1,259,163	477,500

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ASSETS.	May 13, 1922.	April 28, 1922.	April 13, 1922.	Mar. 28, 1922.	May 13, 1921.
Gold and balances abroad	1,373,759	1,381,018	1,383,160	1,368,187	1,393,383
Government loans and securities	2,871,858	2,889,052	2,929,091	2,559,711	1,483,050
Discounts and loans	806,336	785,581	800,662	782,257	741,858
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,407,324	1,315,934	1,197,570	2,255,180	1,688,077
Government deposits	1,456,303	1,489,503	1,628,640	1,215,514	1,14,889
Private sight deposits	781,473	891,288	929,993	1,013,476	774,027
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,010,057	1,008,124	1,006,495	990,719	789,149

BANK OF JAPAN.

ASSETS.	May 20, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	May 6, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	April 22, 1922.	Position June 30, 1921.
Cash and bullion	1,275,755	1,271,827	1,272,156	1,272,708	1,274,656	221,320
Discounts	79,068	94,340	156,867	264,489	161,610	33,573
Advances	105,263	111,507	122,811	138,604	122,372	41,740
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	1,046,379	1,057,598	1,117,666	1,226,957	1,116,664	99,763
Govt deposits	774,979	785,332	805,978	814,634	836,912	1,360,160
Other deposits	57,887	56,766	40,459	34,126	48,236	16,754

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

ASSETS.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	June 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold	1,003,860	1,003,861	1,002,862	1,091,564	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	19,513	321,920
Silver	19,340	18,754	19,513	10,599	943,460
Treasury notes	11,150,639	9,163,162	5,931,436	10,477,046	60,780
Bills discounted	171,745,995	176,658,442	167,351,132	66,096,785	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	157,935,228	155,345,277	154,914,883	71,986,713	2,013,860
Deposits	29,490,168	36,431,636	28,011,143	11,124,483	843,340

BANK OF ITALY.

ASSETS.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 10, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	May 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Total cash	1,435,102	1,425,295	1,421,017	1,464,574	1,448,194	1,221,876
Inland bills	4,326,594	4,320,979	4,406,930	4,559,803	3,218,274	418,400
Foreign bills	9,771	9,785	9,770	9,658	20,733	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,107,491	6,196,233	6,318,451	6,349,966	6,773,471	nill
Other advances	3,051,287	3,078,822	3,312,328	3,540,344	2,128,405	79,175
Securities	534,164	534,525	535,622	535,471	215,586	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,326,466	13,169,027	13,489,321	13,608,391	13,763,428	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,853,296	1,819,235	1,806,315	1,739,532	1,631,789	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

ASSETS.	June 26, 1922.	June 19, 1922.	June 12, 1922.	June 5, 1922.	June 27, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold	605,890	605,890	605,890	605,890	605,890	163,092
Silver	7,540	7,163	6,982	6,567	12,331	8,438
Notes & advances	370,616	383,301	384,242	396,501	424,205	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	960,477	971,378	990,636	1,003,617	991,029	316,632
Deposits	46,345	65,521	62,776	35,065	50,638	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(000's omitted.)					
ASSETS.	May 27, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	May 6, 1922.	May 28, 1921.
	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.
Gold	4,744,617	4,744,617	4,704,617	4,684,617	3,859,722
Silver, &c.	348	376	454	305	305
Government loan ..	12,512,247	12,511,101	12,519,010	12,517,511	9,942,824
Other advances	2,752,581	2,836,937	2,786,680	2,780,360	3,146,367
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	14,124,119	15,153,655	14,036,141	13,981,249	11,077,758
Deposits	5,935,503	5,991,219	6,024,411	6,052,228	5,921,878

BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

(000's omitted.)

	June 15, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 23, 1922.	June 15, 1921.
ASSETS.	Cz. K.	Cz. K.	Cz. K.	Cz. K.	Cz. K.
Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,096,710	10,096,710	10,096,710	10,096,710	9,528,469
Discounts and advances	2,155,592	2,181,580	2,149,525	2,246,613	2,893,334
Gold and silver holdings	643,561	647,301	649,382	644,412	..
Foreign bills & balances abroad	51,079	475,836	474,605	506,645	..
Other assets	580,848	593,734	570,083	572,938	2,135,907
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circulation	9,389,540	9,591,940	9,717,750	9,297,042	10,622,748
Deposits	2,236,113	2,038,209	1,866,632	2,393,586	1,684,160
Other liabilities	2,364,237	2,367,012	2,355,863	2,376,693	2,255,822

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERES, CROATES, AND SLOVENES.

(000's omitted.)

	June 15, 1922.	June 8, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 22, 1922.	June 15, 1921.
ASSETS.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.
Gold	63,681	63,701	63,683	63,614	67,502
Other coin and notes	16,895	16,753	16,929	16,992	23,039
Foreign credits	282,221	279,563	288,551	289,145	336,398
Bills	849,540	861,654	850,228	856,135	173,491
Govt. advances	4,498,273	4,498,257	4,498,257	4,498,257	3,934,696
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	4,748,051	4,806,252	4,752,367	4,750,496	3,721,973
State credits	333,932	333,982	333,982	333,982	373,247
Deposits	637,725	586,275	574,836	672,025	381,440

LONDON RATES.

	June 23, 1922.	June 24, 1922.	June 25, 1922.	June 26, 1922.	June 27, 1922.	June 28, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	June 30, 1922.
Bank rate (reduced from 4% June 15, 1922)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
3 months' do.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
4 months' do.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
6 months' do.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months'	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Loans—Day to day	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Short	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deposits—allowances: Banks	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½

1 Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.				Trade Bills.			
		3 Months.		4 Months.		3 Months.		4 Months.	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1922.		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
April 12.....	23 3	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	4	3 1/2	4 1/2	5
21.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
28.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
May 5.....	2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
12.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
19.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
26.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
June 2.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
9.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
16.....	2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3	3 1/2	4	3 1/2	4
23.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3	3 1/2	4	3 1/2	4
30.....	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Bank Rate Changed.	Bank Rate		Bank Rate Changed.	Bank Rate
Amsterdam	July 1, 1915 ..	4½	Madrid	May 11, 1922 ..	5½
Athens	May 15, 1920 ..	6½	Paris	Mar. 11, 1922 ..	5
Berlin	May 23, 1914 ..	5	Prague	Apr. 27, 1922 ..	5
Brussels	June 8, 1922 ..	4½	Rome	May 11, 1920 ..	6
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 ..	6	Sofia	June 14, 1919 ..	6½
Calcutta	June 15, 1922 ..	5	Stockholm	Mar. 10, 1922 ..	5
Christiania	May 16, 1922 ..	5½	Swiss Bank	Mar. 2, 1922 ..	3½
Copenhagen	Apr. 25, 1922 ..	5	Tokyo	Nov. 18, 1919 ..	8
Helsingfors	Nov. 8, 1920 ..	9	Vienna	Nov. 23, 1921 ..	7
Lisbon	Sept. 3, 1920 ..	7	Warsaw	Sept. 1921	7
New York Federal Reserve ..	June 21, 1922 ..	4			

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

	Present Rate.	Date Changed.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.
Discount	4½	June 15, 1922 ..	5	April 13, 1922.
Deposit	1½	June 15, 1922 ..	2	Feb. 16, 1922.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	June 30, 1921.	June 1, 1922.	June 8, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 29, 1922.
Call money	6	4½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Time money (90 days' mixed call)	6½	4	4½	4½	4	4
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	5½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Non-members—eligible, 90 days	6½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Ineligible, 90 days	6½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Commercial accept., 90 days ..	6½	4½	4½	4	4½	4½

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	London on	Usance	Par.	July 1, 1921.	June 23, 1922.	June 30, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	46-55-60	51-87-92	52-77-82
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	277-279	1459-1462	1654-1668
Vienna	kroner to £1	T.T.	24-02	2150	72000-75000	82000-86000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	270-280	230-233	229-232
Warsaw	P. marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	8500	19003-21000	19500-21500
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22½	247-250	285 nom	4300-4500
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	..	4200-4400	700-720
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	525-545	700-720	720-730
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	335-345	640-670	650-700
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22½	130-135	335-345	335-345
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-35-38	11-48-49	11-47-49
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	46-55-60	51-87-92	52-77-82
Christiania	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	26-18-23	26-75-80	26-85-90
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	16-98-17-01	17-22-25	17-13-15
Helsingfors	kr. to £1	T.T.	25-22½	220-224	197-199	195-197
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	62½-63½	140 nom	150-155
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22½	72½-76	93½-95½	91-94½
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	22-14-18	23-29-31	23-23-26
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	28-83-88	28-37-40	28-31-34
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	53½d	8½-83	3½-4½	3½-4½
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97½-97½	97½	97½
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-866	3-72½-73½	4-41½-43½	4-41½-41½
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-866	3-72½-73½	4-45½-46½	4-49-50
Buenos Ayres	pence to peso	T.T.	47-62½	43½-44½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	7½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Montevideo	pence to peso	90 days	51	41-41½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Valparaiso	pence to £1	90 days	13-33	35-60	34-40	35-60
Calcutta	Eng. to Per. £1	6% prem.	10 to 1s	3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Bombay	ster. to rupee	Gold	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Madras	ster. to rupee	Sovn.	2s 7d-7½d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7d-7½d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	2s 7d-7½d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7d-7½d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	2s 7d-7½d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7d-7½d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d	1s 3½d-4d
Mexico	pence to dola.	T.T.	24-066	12s 2½d	12s 2½d	12s 2½d

† Rate for previous day.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	New York on—	Par Level.	June 30, 1921.	June 15, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 29, 1922.
London—						
Cable	Dollars for £1	4-866	3-6662	4-443	4-3950	4-3850
Cheques			3-7212	4-471	4-4225	4-4125
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-99	8-81	8-88	8-8625
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-99	8-81	8-88	8-8625
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	16-82	19-06	18-97	18-95
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	19-30	4-89	5-04	4-81	4-71
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	23-83	1-3225	0-32	0-3060	0-2725
Vienna	Cents for 1 kronen	20-26	0-1725	0-0000	0-0058	0-0052
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19-30	12-90	15-78	15-55	15-54
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40-195	32-80	38-95	38-55	38-40
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner	19-30	16-80	21-75	21-40	21-43
Christiania	Cents for 1 kronen	19-30	14-27	17-10	16-62	16-38
Stockholm	Cents for 1 kronen	19-30	22-10	25-69	25-65	25-65
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	19-30	5-92	4-10	3-80	3-15
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	100	87-875	99-12	98-90	98-12
Hong Kong	Cents for 1 Hong Kong dollar	49-85	47-80	47-85	47-80	47-80
Shanghai	Cents for 1 Shanghai tael	..	49-40	58-55	57-55	58-00
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee	..	66-25	80-45	78-45	79-00
Buenos Aires	Gold pesos for \$100	103-65	23-90	29-00	28-65	28-65
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis	32-42	10-85	12-2	12-40	12-3
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	20-60	10-90	12-125	12-625	12-625

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

		Par Level.	June 30, 1921.	June 15, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 29 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	4-30	0-835	0-785	0-725
Switzerland	France to 100 marks	123-45	7-80	1-6325	1-59	1-46
Copenhagen			7-81	1-471	1-411	1-299
Stockholm	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	6-00	1-240	1-178	1-091
Christiania			9-19	1-830	1-825	1-725

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

	Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Bucres to £1	10-00	Sight London	June 24	18-00
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	25-25	"	June 28	23-60
Colombia (Bogota)	Dollars to £20	100	"	June 27	97-50
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £1	4-3665	"	June 3	4-60
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	9-75	"	May 31	9-15
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	50-23	"	June 24	24-20
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	10-45	"	June 10	20-45
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	19-20	"	May 27	14-½

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on		April 20, 1922.	April 25, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	May 9, 1922.	May 30, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	Selling. 1,485	Selling. 1,436	Selling. 1,436	Selling. 1,465	Selling. 1,465
New York	£1	336	338	338	330	323
Berlin	100 Rmk	120	148	121	114	112
Helsingfors	100 Fmk	627	655	695	698	687
Stockholm	100 Kr	8,730	8,800	8,850	8,550	8,525
Copenhagen	100 Kr	7,135	7,225	7,225	7,040	7,180
Paris	100 Fr	3,140	3,175	3,100	3,030	3,010
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	12,750	12,875	12,975	12,750	12,850
Riga	100 Lrbl	132	132	131	131	130
Prague	..	670	670	660	630	635

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.		Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.
		Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.		
June 24	..	93 4	35 1/2	35 1/2	29 1/2	July 7, 1916	29 1/2
26	..	94 0	35 1/2	35 1/2	30 1/2	6, 1917	30 1/2
27	..	93 4	35 1/2	35 1/2	31 1/2	5, 1918	31 1/2
28	..	93 8	36 1/2	36 1/2	32 1/2	4, 1919	32 1/2
29	..	94 2	36 1/2	36 1/2	33 1/2	2, 1920	33 1/2
30	..	93 7	36 1/2	36 1/2	34 1/2	3, 1921	34 1/2

NOTICES.

The Union Bank of Australia, Limited, notify that a branch has been opened at South Grafton (New South Wales).

Branches of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited, have been opened at Quandialla and Tabulam, New South Wales.

The City office of Messrs Cox and Co., bankers, give notice that on Monday, July 3rd, their business will be transferred from 38 Lombard street, E.C. 3, to 80 Gracechurch street, E.C. 3.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that on and after Saturday, July 1st, their office at Rochford, Essex, will be converted into a full branch under the management of Mr Charles Foster (also manager of 24 High street, Southend, branch). They also announce that they will open on Monday next, July 3rd, a new branch at 345 Archway road (opposite G.N. Railway station), Highgate, N.6, under the management of Mr C. Aitken.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of new branches at 1 and 3, Allerton road, Woolton, near Liverpool, and 5 Brockley terrace, Brockley road, Brockenhurst, Hants.

Reports and Notices.

Sir Arthur Worley, O.B.E., F.C.I.I., general manager of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, Limited, has been re-elected president of the Insurance Institute of London. Mr R. Y. Sketch, F.C.I.I., general manager of the Phoenix Assurance Company, Limited, and general manager of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, was elected deputy president; Mr Henry Mann, F.C.I.I., of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Limited, being re-elected hon. treasurer, and Mr J. A. Pollard, F.C.I.I., of the Alliance Assurance Company, Limited, being re-elected hon. secretary.

The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, announce that Sir William Van Hulsteyn has been appointed a director of the company.

Mr W. G. Duncan, of Adelaide, has been appointed a director of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, in place of the late Hon. D. E. McBryde.

The Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, Limited, have appointed Mr H. Richardson, manager of the Electricity Undertaking of the Dundee Corporation, as general manager of the company in succession to Mr W. R. Rendell, who has resigned on account of ill-health. Mr Richardson will take up his duties on October 1st next.

The directors of G. Beer, Limited, announce that they have appointed Messrs W. Elles-Hill and Co., chartered accountants, to be secretaries and accountants to the company as from July 1, 1922, on and after which date the registered offices of the company will be at 17 Throgmorton avenue, London, E.C. 2.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

4 PER CENT. EXTERNAL DEBT OF GUATEMALA.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received telegraphic advices from the agents of the bondholders in Guatemala that the Government of Guatemala has paid them the sum of £35,000. This, together with the balances standing to the credit of the Government in London, is sufficient to provide for the service of the debt for the year ending June 30, 1923.

GUAYAQUIL AND QUITO RAILWAY PRIOR LIEN BONDS.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received the following telegram from the president of the Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company:—“Prior lien service arranged.”

3 PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED EXTERNAL DEBT OF COLOMBIA.—Tenders of bonds of the above debt for amortisation were opened on June 29th at the offices of the Council of Foreign Bondholders. Tenders ranged from £53 to £59 per cent. Those under £54 12s 6d were accepted in full, and those at that price to the extent of about 7 per cent.

3 PER CENT. DIPLOMATIC DEBT OF VENEZUELA, 1905.—Tenders of bonds of the above debt for amortisation were opened to-day at the offices of the Council of Foreign Bondholders. Tenders ranged from £59 to £75 per cent., and those at and under £63 10s per cent. were accepted.

RAILWAYS.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.—The directors are prepared to renew the £250,000 6½ per cent. debenture bonds which fall due on July 3rd, for a further period of two years from that date, at the rate of 4½ per cent. interest at the price of £99 per £100 bond, with commission of 5 per cent. Holders of these bonds are requested to advise the company in writing by three o'clock on Friday, June 30th, whether they desire to avail themselves of this offer or not.

ASSURANCE.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE OF CANADA.—The annual report and balance-sheet for 1921 shows that new assurances were issued and paid for to the amount of £18,499,322, bringing the total assurances now in force well above the hundred million mark. The total income from premiums, interest, and other sources was £6,526,347, an enormous sum of money for a purely life company to collect in twelve months, and far exceeding the income of any previous year. £2,458,987 was paid to policyholders, which brings the sum similarly paid since the company's foundation up to £23,456,508. The assets now amount to £26,766,455, an increase of over £3,000,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HOVIS, LIMITED.—At the annual meeting of the company, held on July 6, 1921, the cause of the delay in the presentation of the accounts was explained. The directors are now able to submit the balance-sheet and profit and loss account of the company in respect to the year ended March 31, 1920. The balance of the profit and loss account available after the payment of interest on debentures and dividends on 6 per cent. accumulative preference shares and interim dividend on the ordinary shares amounts to £33,918 13s 2d, out of which the sum of £7,500 was allocated to pay the final dividend on the sum of £26,418 13s 2d, which the directors propose to appropriate as follows:—To place to reserve £10,000; to carry forward £16,418. The directors confidently hoped that the accounts for the years ended March 31, 1921, and March 31, 1922, would have been placed before the shareholders by this time, but settlements with the Government have not yet been completed. The directors, therefore, propose, subject to the approval of the shareholders, to pay a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum in respect to the half-year ended March 31, 1922, and to convene a general meeting of the company later on for formally adopting the accounts as at March 31, 1921.

BANKS.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.—The report for the year ended March 31, 1922, just issued, shows a balance of £193,424 at credit of profit and loss account. This figure is arrived at after taking into account (a) the balance of £34,881 brought forward from the previous financial year, (b) a transfer of £300,000 from reserve fund, (c) the application of £25,000 in reduction of bank premises investments stand at or below the present market prices. The bank's assets with their policy as foreshadowed in the statement of May 16th, year ended March 31st last, and also recommend that the profit and half-year ended September 30, 1921, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, which absorbed £118,600; to pension fund, £50,000; to following branches have been closed during the year, those indicated by italics having been replaced by agencies:—Transvaal: Bandolierkop, Leeuwpoort, Tzaneen, Val, Warmbaths. Cape of Good Hope: Orange Free State: Bushmanskop, Cornelia, Edenville, Orange-Territory: Lindi, Mwanza, Tabora. During the year the Hon. H. Keynolds, who held the position of general manager and managing director, resigned their seats on the board. Stockholders will be asked to confirm the appointments by the board of Mr Walter S. Webber, M.L.A., and Mr Charles Maggs as directors of the bank.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.—The report for the year ended March 31, 1922, shows that, after setting aside £79,770 for taxation, market rates, for bad and doubtful debts, and valuing investments at brought forward, the net profits amount to £159,300, which, with £6,846 have placed £52,228 to reserve, together with £37,500 recovered in respect of stamp duties and £272 being the balance at credit of share premium account, making total reserve £90,000. The dividend is 5½ per cent., less income-tax, absorbing £99,875, while £14,043 is carried forward.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended June 25, 1922.				Aggregate 25 Weeks 1922.			
		Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.		
Brecon and Merthyr...	60	1,044	3,558	4,602	25,020	91,266	116,286		
Great Central (c) ...	676½	50,800	121,100	171,900	1,160,500	3,255,800	4,416,300		
Do Joint Lines ...	161½	161½	161½	323	2,611,100	2,364,800	4,975,900		
Great Eastern (c) ...	1,207½	126,800	85,000	211,800	2,281,600	3,553,900	5,835,500		
Great Northern (c) ...	1,050	96,000	113,400	209,400	2,281,600	3,553,900	5,835,500		
Great Western (c) ...	5,535	303,000	416,000	719,000	6,579,000	9,397,000	15,976,000		
London & N. Western (d)	2,633	373,000	423,000	796,000	8,439,000	10,661,000	19,100,000		
Lon. & South-Western	968	143,400	56,600	200,000	1,071,500	1,474,700	2,546,200		
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c)	487	97,102	31,028	128,130	1,327,822	712,105	2,040,000		
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	423	1,138	1,850	2,988	28,569	45,919	74,488		
Metropolitan (c) ...	79½	35,649	3,169	38,818	413,400	8,066,000	12,200,000		
Midland (c) ...	1,583½	193,000	297,000	490,000	3,216	34,931	67,747		
Midland & S.W. Jnc.	1,850	138,500	223,200	361,700	2,981,200	6,087,500	9,070,700		
North-Eastern (c) ...	16	4,757	9,441	14,198	121,515	250,609	372,124		
North London ...	654	140,800	42,300	183,100	2,950,600	1,042,500	3,993,100		
South-E. & Chatham (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,597,658		
Underground E.R. (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,223,525		
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,073,400		
Caledonian ...	1,097	69,000	95,300	164,300	1,597,500	2,475,900	4,073,400		
Glasgow & S.W. (c)	476	32,600	35,900	68,500	685,500	908,700	1,594,200		
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ...	3,564	9,890	7,410	17,300	203,170	244,020	447,190		
Highland (c) ...	492	13,289	11,496	24,785	246,121	260,304	506,425		
North British (c) ...	1,377½	66,300	108,600	174,900	1,457,600	2,964,400	4,422,000		
Belfast and County Down (b)	80	5,740	1,166	6,906	116,305	35,375	151,578		
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	5,381	3,557	8,940	133,049	92,402	225,451		
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	10,372	16,814	27,186	...	...	67,697		

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended June 23, 1922. (c) Week ended June 24, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	7 weeks	May 20	1,041	2,74,693	+ 1,45,414	16,26,544	+ 3,87,051
Barelly Lt. Ry.	8 weeks	27	118	31,100	+ 18,100	3,03,200	+ 1,30,600
Bengal & N. Western	7 weeks	20	2,067	7,05,467	+ 58,474	44,32,570	+ 1,46,739
Bengal Nagpur	7 weeks	20	2,697	14,38,000	+ 1,75,000	99,93,000	+ 8,16,730
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	12 weeks	June 24	2,871	23,72,000	+ 3,60,000	2,98,18,000	+ 34,11,000
Burma	7 weeks	May 20	1,342	7,77,741	+ 2,51,274	58,85,570	+ 15,73,376
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	12 weeks	June 24	239	1,05,000	+ 5,400	1,66,000	+ 2,76,820
East Indian	12 weeks	June 24	2,772	31,20,000	+ 1,94,000	3,20,40,000	+ 14,32,000
G. Indian Peninsula	11 weeks	17	3,721	26,10,000	+ 133,000	3,28,65,500	+ 21,85,507
Madras & S. Mahr.	7 weeks	May 27	2,028	14,75,032	+ 58,901	1,20,00,000	+ 11,93,915
Rohilkh. & Kumaon	7 weeks	20	259	66,674	+ 11,142	5,52,213	+ 34,11,000
Do Lucknow-Breilly	7 weeks	20	302	83,997	+ 2,944	6,61,884	+ 24,562
South Indian	8 weeks	27	1,852	9,46,105	+ 1,22,242	75,27,645	+ 9,95,684
Sikh. Punjab (month)	4 mths	Feb. 28	717	7,06,403	+ 22,653	38,12,238	+ 2,09,067
Argentine (b).							
Argentine N.E.	51 weeks	June 24	752	12,900	+ 1,700	5,18,400	+ 57,700
Argentine Trans.	51 weeks	24	111	1,360	+ 824	115,685	+ 7,700
B. A. and Pacific	51 weeks	24	3,428	110,000	+ 34,000	7,356,000	+ 63,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	51 weeks	24	3,947	144,000	+ 24,000	8,290,000	+ 35,000
B. A. Western	51 weeks	24	1,882	63,000	+ 16,000	4,015,000	+ 30,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	10 mths	Apr. 30	300	177,000	+ 12,000	9,301,000	+ 81,223
Central Argentine	5 weeks	June 24	3,305	60,100	+ 10,200	2,572,000	+ 212,000
Cordoba Central	5 weeks	24	1,205	60,100	+ 10,200	955,400	+ 224,300
Entre Rios	5 weeks	24	811	15,100	+ 6,500	955,400	+ 224,300
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	5 mths	May 31	1,025	Ms 47,250	+ 16,500	206,730	+ 11,650
Gt. West. of Brazil.	25 weeks	June 24	1,005	10,860	+ 800	339,700	+ 26,700
Leopoldina	25 weeks	24	1,831	26,156	+ 3,432	619,747	+ 163,331
San Paulo	25 weeks	25	1,554	21,313	+ 8,558	721,175	+ 32,743
State of Bahia, S.W.	1 mth	May 31	52	Ms 68,000	+ 27,000	68,000	+ 27,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	25 weeks	June 25	838	20,655	+ 4,635	468,080	+ 180,600
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	+ 500	1,055,242	+ 1,055,242
Nitrato (2 weeks)	22 weeks	June 15	566	16,070	+ 4,999	14,136,830	+ 1,066,700
Peruvian Corp.	11 mths	May 31	1,059	\$134,500	+ 105,750	102,100	+ 168,113
Taitai	11 mths	31	172	10,478	+ 5,135	102,100	+ 168,113
Cuba.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,082,221
Havana Central	51 weeks	June 24	Net	\$474,95	+ 18,378	1,412,682	+ 211,958
United of Havana	51 weeks	24	9,415	3,178		555,124	+ 211,958
Uruguayan.	51 weeks	24	1,210	51,697	+ 25,260	3,830,439	+ 2,536,343
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	51 weeks	24	273	20,518	+ 5,399	1,297,588	+ 29,790
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	51 weeks	24	311	5,022	+ 1,243	144,322	+ 14,772
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	51 weeks	24	185	2,600	+ 261	128,212	+ 7,122
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	51 weeks	24	211	1,959	+ 1,810	155,916	+ 36,535
Midland Uruguay	11 mths	May 31	319	12,553	+ 142	69,844	+ 2,511
North-West Uruguay	11 mths	31	113	5,319	+ 142	24,893	+ 772
Uruguay North	11 mths	31	73	2,418	+ 662	24,893	+ 772
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	25 weeks	June 24	33	Ps 24,000	+ 12,000	494,800	+ 100,900
Bilbao	5 mths	May 31	15	1,116	+ 778	7,053	+ 3,862
Bombay	5 mths	31	136	7,800	+ 3,984	49,134	+ 1,124
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	+ 1,060	208,246	+ 42,475
Costa Rica	10 mths	Apr. 30	39	8,750	+ 1,500	17,500	+ 2,500
Dorado Extension	4 mths	30	45	4,000	+ 250	48,134	+ 9,013
Dorado Ropewy. Ekt.	4 mths	May 31	5594	7,815	+ 32,656	1,948,924	+ 635,322
Egyptian Delta	9 weeks	June 17	104	62,377	+ 1,444	402,836	+ 3,567
Gt. Southern of Spain	24 weeks	June 17	Gross	82,443	+ 1,444	402,836	+ 3,567
International of Central America.	6 mths	May 31	Net	34,592	+ 5,910	170,919	+ 9,480
La Guaira & Caracas	5 mths	May 31	232	8,300	+ 103,500	4,304,700	+ 528,400
Mexican Railway	24 weeks	June 21	\$214,730	+ 2,800		692,200	+ 59,200
Do	4 mths	Apr. 30	\$159,930	+ 274,300		1,071,800	+ 201,000
Nasajo Oconshatam.	4 mths	30	Net	11,669	+ 2,105	41,39	+ 11,240
Ottoman Railway	1 weeks	June 17	193	5,126	+ 850	165,470	+ 43,778
Paraguay Central	47 weeks	Feb. 28	274	3,510	+ 414,814	16,500/65	+ 6,259,660
Piraeus-Athens, ex.	9 mths	May 27	D 32,311,374	+ 414,814		18,500	+ 250
Puerto Cabello, ex.	9 mths	Apr. 30	35	4,500	+ 1,211	170,919	+ 12,020
Salvador	51 weeks	June 24	100	2,499	+ 6,400	37,320	+ 6,895
Santa Fe Province	1 mth	May 31	130	1,400	+ 2,360	53,058	+ 14,957
Samaña & Santiago	5 mths	31	112	11,730	+ 2,361		
Satra and Hueva	5 mths	31	112	11,730	+ 2,361		
The above are the current rates of exchange.							

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR MAY, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyande Works.	Mill.	Cyande Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Frontino and Bolivia	2,090	..	..	..	7,338	..
Jumbo-Tip-Top	1,600	..	..	..	468	674
London and Rhodesian	4,018	..	..	..	5,072	..
Oriental Cons. (April)	16,716	..	..	..	891,492	8,141
Waihi	14,485	..	3,946 (gold)	..	36,585 (silver)	..
Coal.	Tons.	Output.	Other Notes in Return.			
Chinese Engineering	33,259	..	Week ended June 17th.			
Chislet	4,060	..	Week ended June 24th.			
East Kent	4,392	..	Week ended June 24th.			

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January	£ 211,917	£ 211,851	£ 293,794	£ 240,056
February	220,885	250,020	288,225	304,488
March	225,008	199,881	134,932	257,356
April	213,159	208,934	282,336	265,591
May	218,057	403,255	225,841	273,562
June	214,215	194,194	238,200	..
July	214,918	313,126	279,269	..
August	207,339	241,270	266,151	..
September	223,719	231,226	271,452	..
October	204,184	248,085	363,374	..
November	186,462	282,237	306,636	..
December	158,835	272,470	267,005	..
Total Gold	2,499,492	3,056,549	3,217,275	..

NOTE.—The value of the gold output fluctuates each month in accordance with the amount of premium which may be declared to the Mines Department of Southern Rhodesia in that month.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

"SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY.
December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
£	Inc. or Dec.	£	Inc. or Dec.
Prof. shares ..	2,000,000 ..	Prop. account ..	20,256,603 .. + 3,668,142
Ord. shares ..	19,365,144 .. + 43,848	Debtors	99,672 .. - 253,474
Reserve	5,000,000 ..	Bal'nce of divs. ..	..
Uncl. creditors ..	526,163 .. + 350,561	in sundry cos. ..	4,722,739 .. + 287,408
Divs. uncl' med ..	26,826 .. + 7,064	Investments	6,820,359 .. - 6,991,692
Divs. accrued ..	25,000 ..	Deposits with ..	..
on pref. shrs. ..	..	bankers	100,000 ..
Profit and loss ..	7,395,010 .. - 1,375,032	Cash at bankers ..	2,338,770 .. + 2,316,057
Total	34,338,143 .. - 973,559	Total	34,338,143 .. - 973,559

SPIERS AND POND.

March 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Inc. or Dec.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.
Ord. shares	692,829 ..	Properties	1,013,594 .. + 29,860
Deb. stock	488,299 .. + 27,422	Plant	265,783 .. - 4,330
Deb. redemption ..	..	Wines, &c.	80,258 .. - 47,029
account	21,750 .. + 7,916	Sundry debtors ..	51,777 .. + 11,940
Mort. on Black- ..	..	Investments	160,953 .. + 44,573
pool property	40,958 ..	Cash	65,530 .. + 4,483
Sundry creditors ..	117,654 .. - 11,523	..	..
Suspense account ..	92,997 .. - 10,706	..	..
General reserve ..	80,000 .. + 20,000	..	..
Taxation reserve ..	10,000 ..	..	..
Uncl. interest, &c. ..	1,332 .. + 217	..	..
Profit and loss	92,076 .. + 6,171	..	..
Total	1,637,895 .. + 39,497	Total	1,637,895 .. + 39,497

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Growing crops and pastures have derived considerable benefit by further rainfalls during the week, which has brought relief to the parched ground in most parts of the country. Spring cereals were suffering from lack of moisture, and the general position was becoming rather critical. Winter wheat, however, continues to make favourable progress, being less affected than other crops. Trading was on a more liberal scale than for some weeks past, and general trend of values firm. Native wheat continues to be sparingly offered both here and at the principal distributing centres, and values were slightly dearer at 54s to 55s for suitable milling samples, with inferior ranging to 51s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported

varieties met with better support, and prices responded to higher forward offers. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 61s 6d landed per 406 lbs, No. 3 ditto 55s 6d, Australian 56s 6d, Rosafe 64 lbs 56s 6d, all ex-ship, to arrive per 480 lbs. In the cargo section more activity was noticeable, the demand from Continental countries showing improvement, and prices ruled firmer in sympathy with stimulating advices from North America. The following cargoes changed hands:—Hard Pacific and Red Pacific loading at 50s 6d and 49s 6d respectively, Rosafe 63½ lbs afloat 51s 9d to 52s 6d, loading 52s, July 51s 9d, and Australian afloat 52s 9d. Parcels in fair request and prices firm, though somewhat irregular at times. Crop reports generally continue favourable from the chief exporting countries. Flour steady at the recent decline, with a fair demand for home milled. London standard straight run quoted 45s 6d, patents 47s 6d to 48s 6d, town households 43s 6d, all English straight run 43s 6d per sack delivered London area. All English country straight run 39s to 40s free on rail at London stations. Imported quiet. Manitoba export patents quoted 44s, straights 40s, Pacific 40s, Australian 41s, all per 280 lbs ex-store. On c.i.f. terms the demand proved quiet, but rates steady, Canadian Patents July 15th 42s, straights ditto 39s, Kansas patents July 42s, Australian ditto 36s per 280 lbs. Millers' offers dull and values weak. Bread bran quoted £7 to £7 5s, ordinary ditto £6 5s to £6 10s, middlings £8 10s, bags included, ex-mill, Fancy Plate middlings £9 10s, Plate pollard £7 10s per ton landed. Maize firmer and in better demand. Yellow Plate old crop quoted 37s, ditto new 40s, yellow round African 35s 9d, landed, American mixed 33s 3d, ex-ship, to arrive. Cargoes engaged better support at firmer rates. Plate steamers afloat sold 36s to 36s 6d as to position, loading 36s 3d, June-July 35s 9d, while a good trade occurred in parcels at full to firmer rates. Barley, firm for feeding qualities, but the demand generally quiet. English malting nominal, grinding sorts quoted 44s to 48s per 448 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Californian ruled at 39s to 46s, Australian chevalier 49s to 52s, Chilean ditto 49s to 55, landed per 448 lbs, No. 4 Canadian Western landed 34s 6d per 400 lbs. On c.i.f. terms cargoes of Persian July shipment sold 28s, and Dan/bess/Kustendji August-September at 31s per 400 lbs. Oats, firm to dearer, while sparingly offered. English in small supply, and ranges from 35s to 38s per 336 lbs as to quality, free on rail. Imported, Plate f.a.q. advanced to 27s, clipped 28s 3d, No. 2 Canadian Western 31s 3d, No. 2 white clipped American 38 lbs 26s 9d, and New Zealand 37s 6d to 40s, all landed, per 320 lbs. Oatmeal remains steady, but quiet. London made, coarse pinhead £18 10s, medium £17, whole groats £17 10s, rolled oats £18, flaked £20 10s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £20 10s to £22, American all-cuts £18 to £18 10s per ton. Beans steady. English springs quoted 56s to 72s, and winters 50s to 54s per 532 lbs, free on rail. Imported, Rangoon hand-picked spot sold 6s 10½d to 7s, Madagascar haricots old crop quoted 10s to 12s, and new 16s to 17s per cwt. Chinese horse beans £10 15s to £11 15s per ton, ex-store. Peas quiet. English maples 85s to 95s, Duns 62s to 66s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported dull. Japanese spot quoted 52s, Dutch hand-picked 29s to 29s 6d, screened 25s to 26s, Tasmanian 23s to 24s, New Zealand blue 22s to 24s per cwt. English rye quoted 49s to 45s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Lentils steady. No. 1 split quoted 29s to 30s, No. 2 ditto, also Egyptian, 21s to 23s per 100 lbs. Homeward grain chartering was on a moderate scale, business being chiefly from North-American ports to the Continent and Mediterranean at generally steady rates. Montreal closed several steamers on the basis of 15 cents Rotterdam, and 15½ cents Antwerp/Hamburg, July, with similar cargoes

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
And over 1,600 Branches in England and Wales.

BARCLAYS BANK (Overseas) LIMITED.
PARIS: 33, Rue du IV Septembre.

BRANCHES:—
Algiers, Bordeaux, Boulogne, Cannes, Cologne,
Havre, Lyons, Marseilles, Mentone, Monte-Carlo,
Nice, Oran, Rouen.
Le Touquet, Paris Plage (open for season and ng 30th Sept. 1922)

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN
BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.	£	£	%
Banks.										
National Bank of South Africa ..	Mar. 31	£ 34,882	Dr 116,457	Dr 81,573	..	118,600	4	Dr 225,000	24,825	338,881
Netherlands Bank of South Africa ..	Dec. 31	..	24,888	24,888	..	9,600	4	12,500	2,788	30,253
P. and O. Banking Corporation ..	Mar. 31	6,846	159,300	166,146	..	99,875	5½	52,228	14,043	..
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.										
Lockharts	Mar. 31	12,165	Dr 3,085	9,080	..	86,575	12½	22,000	9,080	2,270
Spicers and Pond	Mar. 31	22,531	99,158	121,689	..	..	..	..	13,114	99,863
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Davy Brothers	Mar. 31	20,552	36,933	57,485	4,500	25,500	22½	400,000	69,876	465,550
Platt Brothers and Co.	Mar. 31	181,981	821,620	1,003,521	38,957	206,120	6½	..	72,555	5,335
Nitrate.										
Lautaro	Dec. 31	71,922	Dr 209,569	Dr 137,647	..	2,500	2½	..	9,430	9,075
San Patricio	Dec. 31	9,362	2,568	11,930	..	..	..	2,069,596	7,627,420	35½
Oil.										
"Shell" Transport and Trading ..	Dec. 31	2,007,589	5,487,421	7,495,010	100,000	5,325,414	27½	..	10,308	Dr 9,537
Rubber, &c.										
Dalkeith (Ceylon)	Dec. 31	9,984	11,324	21,308	..	7,000	5	4,000	8,576	5,488
Heawood Tin and Rubber	Dec. 31	2,503	13,281	15,784	..	5,208	5½	2,000	727	102
Khota Tampan	Jan. 31	2,836	Dr 2,199	727	..	..	..	..	6,201	Dr 5,638
Rubber Estates of Krian	Dec. 31	12,096	Dr 5,895	6,201	..	..	..	..	1,365	..
Tea.										
British Darjeeling	Dec. 31	154	8,411	8,565	..	7,200	10	10,800	29,491	Dr 11,358
Jhazio	Dec. 31	29,992	30,999	60,991	..	20,700	18	..	..	6
Textiles.										
Charles Semon and Co.	Dec. 31	Dr 127,471	Dr 320,949	Dr 448,423	..	..	..	Dr 448,423	Dr 97,145	7½
Textile Corporation	Dec. 31	7,202	Dr 3,815	3,387	..	..	..	..	3,387	..
Tramways.										
Calcutta	Dec. 31	42,591	49,445	92,036	12,500	20,642	3½	46,799	12,095	169,697
Trust.										
British and Foreign	Jan. 15	29,741	27,298	57,039	955	..	..	35,595	20,489	..
Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust ..	May 31	2,717	6,694	9,411	..	6,367	6	..	3,044	4,411
Tyre Investment	Feb. 28	88,294	43,509	131,803	35,000	27,500	10½	..	69,303	288,076
Other Companies.										
C. Arthur Pearson	Mar. 31	36,137	64,747	100,884	13,750	26,250	15	22,857	38,027	39,793
Crompton and Co.	Mar. 31	18,370	35,828	54,198	9,776	16,338	5	10,000	18,084	66,292
Hall and Co.	Mar. 31	35,617	29,588	65,205	2,887	11,504	15	6,000	44,768	32,847
Mint, Birmingham	Mar. 31	18,892	12,009	30,901	3,360	18,000	22½	..	9,541	44,636
New Darvel Bay (Borneo) Tobacco	Dec. 31	12,553	Dr 15,466	Dr 2,935	..	..	..	Dr 2,935	9,007	..
Richard Johnson, Clapham, and	Mar. 31	31,848	186	32,034	3,464	5,050	2½	..	23,520	37,959
Morris	Dec. 31	46,507	3,419	49,926	49,000	..	..	..	926	188,583
Wiggins, Teape, and Co.	Dec. 31	2,141	2,531	4,672	1,063	1,417	..	..	2,192	1,483
Wm. Mowat and Sons	May 31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

† Free of tax.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

from American Northern Range to Continent at 14 cents, with to option of barley at 16 cents, and oats 18 cents per 100 lbs. To Mediterranean 20 cents is quoted, and Greece 24 cents, while Gulf of Mexico to Continent, August, would come at 18 cents per 100 lbs. North Pacific ruled quiet at 37s 6d per ton for wheat to U.K./lbs. Cont. September-October shipment. The River Plate ruled dull and easier, down to 23s being accepted for handy size vessels from upper ports July-August to U.K./Cont., while 5½ dollars was paid for full cargoes of linseed to New York. Eastern markets remain for all cargoes of linseed to 16s 6d to 17s to U.K./Cont. Australian wheat is reported to be chartered at 37s 6d home. South African maize indicates 22s 6d, while similar cargoes from the Danube were placed at advancing rates, and up to 19s was established for August-September shipment to U.K./Continent.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21, 1919-20, and 1918-19

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to June 24	Cwts. 68,871	Cwts. 46,774	Cwts. 21,734	Cwts. 130,470
42 weeks to June 24	15,563,204	12,061,618	10,706,108	12,684,609
Average price of English wheat per quarter	s d 53 2	s d 89 1	s d 78 9	s d 73 3
per cwt	12 4½	20 9	18 4½	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.						
June 17	15,219 6	1,675 6	4,007 1	s d 53 6	s d 44 0	s d 32 10
24	16,069 0	3,097 0	5,026 5	53 2	41 9	32 5
1921.						
June 17	17,57 0	2,538 6	1,071 2	74 4	57 10	46 4
24	30,448 :	1,731 1	3,853 0	73 3	53 4	49 1
1920.						
June 17	54,71 3	1,634 4	1,560 0	8 9	87 2	64 7
24	10,913 7	3,642 7	3,999 6	69 1	41 0	38 11

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd.,
24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1332 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement in the Cardiff coal market this week. If anything, the position is worse, and in several parts of the coalfield pits, where the loss on working was heaviest, have either been closed down or placed under a 14 days' notice. The depression is felt most severely in those districts producing the inferior grades of steam coals. In April there was a pithead loss on all the steam coals produced in the Swansea district of between 3s 6d and 4s per ton, and in the Port Talbot district of about 1s 6d per ton. The losses this month in these particular districts have been much heavier, and in the absence of a scheme for the joint control of output and the subsidising of the poorer collieries by levies, the owners have had no alternative but to stop working. June has been the least satisfactory of all the months since February. The output has declined by approximately 100,000 to 150,000 tons per week, and the latest export returns show a decrease of 130,000 tons from the Welsh ports compared with the best week's shipment in May. The dearth of business at the end of this week is very pronounced. It is difficult to explain this slump, for there has been no unfavourable development in the principal foreign markets for South Wales coals, and the theory that foreign buyers were holding off in an effort to reduce prices seems to be discredited by the fact that there is no business even at the present low values. The threat of a strike in the coalfield next month on the non-unionist question has certainly led to the temporary withdrawal of one or two orders which were on the point of completion, but in the coalfield it is not for a moment thought that the miners will carry out their threat, and if there were any real danger of a stoppage, the probabilities are that prices would be harder for prompt shipment than weaker. The question of the control of the sale of coal has this week again been considered by the Employers' Association, but only with the result of the indefinite postponement of any action involving artificial regulation of prices or production. The differences of opinion between the colliery companies are too great to be bridged. The only market showing any real strength is that for anthracite coal, which for the best large qualities are now ruling up to 50s. for machine-

The fourth series of London auctions finished last Wednesday, two days earlier than expected, due to B.A.W.R.A. withdrawing 20,000 bales. This was done on account of prices for crossbreds not being satisfactory, and in view of the distinctly lower level of values no surprise need be felt with the action of the association. Some seem to think that B.A.W.R.A. stocks should be allowed to go regardless of prices, but those responsible for marketing these wools need be in no hurry to force them on to an unwilling market. It can easily take two to three years before the last is seen off. B.A.W.R.A.'s old stocks of crossbreds, and in the meantime there is certain to be considerable fluctuation in the price of this class of raw material. Without doubt, the political situation in Europe has affected the sale of crossbreds, not only the raw material in London.

and this is bound to continue. Merinos finished mostly 5 per cent. below the close of last series, and the slight ease need alarm no one. It is just a reaction from the high level seen in May, and will have done more good than harm. One observes in consuming centres a very keen desire to get 64's tops back to a 4s basis for the opening of the next Australian season, and that level could be reached without any great upheaval. As a matter of fact, good standard 64's tops have been sold for September delivery by more importers than one at 4s 4d, and to-day there is at least 3d per lb variation among topmakers' quotations for merino tops of the same quality. We have contended all along that the piece trade of the world cannot get on to a permanently satisfactory basis with 64's tops at 4s 8d, and merinos must decline or crossbreds advance. The shearers' strike in Australia is certainly giving rise to some concern, and if continued long enough will upset the market. It is apparently a question of who are to be masters, pastoralists or shearers. However, it is too early for anyone to take fright, and in the meantime it is to be hoped that wise counsels will prevail. Manufacturing conditions continue to be healthy, and we think that, given a continuance of reasonable prices, a further improvement in the consumption of the raw material and partly and fully made goods will take place. Emphasis is still being laid upon the high cost of combing and other processes, and undoubtedly this is a serious consideration. Nevertheless, consumption is improving, and wool at a reasonable price, particularly merinos, would intensify the present measure of confidence.

Description.	Same Period 1921.						Same Period 1920.		
	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. FINE.	FINE.	Extra FINE.	Med.	Good Med.	FINE.
See Island.	..	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	..	nml	nml
Florida do.	..	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	..	nml	nml
Georgia do.	..	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	..	nml	nml
American	Ord	G	O	L	M	G M F	G	O	L M
Brazilian:	1179	1229	1314	1359	1404	1509	7	G	O L M
Pernam	..	1089	1314	1464	..	..	4	95	600 805
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	..	1089	1314	1464	..	..	4	95	600 805
Maceio, &c.	..	1089	1314	1464	..	..	4	95	600 805
Mossoro, &c.	..	1089	1314	1464	..	..	4	95	600 805
Ceara	..	1089	1314	1464	..	..	4	95	600 805
Maranhão, &c.	..	1089	1314	1464	..	..	4	95	600 805
Bão Paulo	..	1189	1289	1359	1404	1509	7	G	O L M
Egyptian:	..	1450	1550	1600	1650	1750	..	8	50 1150
Upper	..	1700	1900	2000	2225	2500	..	8	50 1150
Sakellaridis	..	1500	1625	1750	1825	2000	..	8	50 1150
Brown.	..	MF	Fr.	G.	F	Gd. Fne	..	1100	..
Peruvian	..	MF	Fr.	G.	F	Gd. Fne	..	1100	..
Rough.	..	1250	1350	1500	1600	1750	..	6	500 1000
Moderately Rough.	..	1309	1484	1684	1884	1984	5	45	845 970
Smooth	..	1334	1484	1609	1684	1884	..	..	..
Tanguis	..	1200	1400	1550	1650	1750	..	..	..
Mitahit	..	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	..	..	..
West Indian, &c.	..	2300	2600	2900	3000	3100	5	25	200 3100
Do Sea Island	..	2300	2600	2900	3000	3100	5	25	200 3100
African, East, &c.	1000	1100	1275	1375	1475	1575	5	25	200 3100
Do	..	Mid	G M	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do West	..	1209	1259	1284	1314	1359	7	G	O L M
Machine Ginned Surtee	..	G F	rer	G	F	rne	8	rer	Gd. Fne
Machine Ginned Broach	..	1090	1130	1170	1210	1250	6	40	765 785
Machine Ginned Brownugar	..	930	980	1030	1070	1120	5	40	765 785
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 1	940	990	1040	1080	1120	1160	5	40	765 785
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2	..	1015	1055	1095	1135	1175	5	40	765 785
Machine Ginned Khandaish	..	940	990	1030	1070	1110	5	40	765 785
Machine Ginned Komphat	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220	1260	5	40	765 785
Machine Ginned Benghal	790	830	870	910	950	990	3	38	388 463
Machine Ginned Scinde	780	820	860	900	940	980	3	38	388 463
Tinnivelly	1020	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220	5	40	765 785
Madras, Western	995	1035	1075	1115	1155	1195	5	40	765 785
Madras, Northern	..	1100	1140	1180	1220	1260	5	40	765 785
M.G. Cocanada, Red.	Fr.	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220	5	40	765 785
China, Siamon, &c.	..	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220	5	40	765 785

Trading in the market during the past week has been rather irregular. The ups and downs in raw cotton rates have had a disturbing influence upon business in yarn and cloth. The undercurrent of demand, however, may be described as healthy. In view of the feature of interest has been the activity in piece goods for India the and a substantial turnover has taken place for Calcutta. Sales have also been arranged in shirt-

	Price, June 29, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
		d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13/34	7/85	26/62	19/64	22/92	29/10
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair						
— Egyptian per lb	19/15	15/50	62/00	37/99	28/82	29/10
Yarns—32's twist per lb	20/25	17/4	54/0	29/4	49/2	24/4
— 40's twist per lb	20/25	19/4	50/0	38/4	49/2	24/4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	30	31	100	54/4	61	41/4
	d	d	d	d	d	d
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	33	6	32	0	92	0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	31	0	32	0	85	0
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	18	18	6	49	0	33
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs	17	6	16	6	42	6

Rather more inquiry is reported from Hull for linseed cakes but cottons are in poor demand, while oil meals are unchanged in value and in normal request for the time of year.

BRANCHES: Amoy, Batavia, Bangkok, Bombay, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Kiukiang, Keeiung, Kobe, Moji, New York, Osaka, Semarang, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c., &c., and Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

The Bank is incorporated by Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue note in Formosa, conducts general Banking Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business, and acts as Business Agents for other Banks. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In spite of tanners' protests that tanning does not pay at present prices of hides, the market is still firm to an advance, as at the Berrymondsey sales held on Thursday last best heavy ox sold at 93d and lights from 7d to 93d, showing an advance of 3d to 4d on last prices. Best cows at 63d to 71d remained steady. Calf were also a shade dearer, and lights at 113d to 12d were 3d up. Lambs remained steady from 2s to 4s 2d each, and pelts made from 1s 10d to 2s 3d each. The opinion is held in many quarters that hides are comparatively scarce all over the world, and that prices may go still higher. There has been a fair amount of business done in imported hides, and as America is still buying actively in the River Plate, values are very firm for all grades. The Chicago packer market is cabled as strong, with best heavies now selling at 17½ cents, Chicago calfskins making 18 cents.

The demand for sole leather seems erratic, but, on the whole, the trade has fallen off since the Whitsun rush. Tanners are very firm on prices, and as stocks of bends are low, users are perforce obliged to pay asking rates. The tendency is for a better class of sole leather, as the wear—or lack of it—of some of the rubbish made from dry hides has been deplorable. The instability of the Continental exchange has again affected business in split hides, and French business has fallen to nothing again.

Upper leathers are fairly brisk, but suede seems falling off, and manufacturers are now sampling glacé kid and calf leathers for the winter trade. Complaints are made of "dumping" of foreign upper stock, but official statistics do not seem to support the suggestion. A meeting of chrome leather tanners and consumers is, however, to be held to discuss the position, when probably some attempt will be made to protect this section under the Safeguarding of Industries Act.

The boot trade is still fairly brisk, with prices falling; but leather goods makers are all complaining of lack of orders.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, June 30.

There was a moderate amount of business doing in most commodities, and with one or two exceptions prices ruled steady.

SUGAR.—A fair off-take resulted in spot parcels of refined this week, and general steadiness ensued. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, sold, 55s 6d to 56s 6d; crushed, 54s; granulated, 50s 3d to 50s 9d; A caster, 54s; B, 53s 3d; yellow crystals, 44s 9d; pieces, 35s to 37s; fine white, 45s 6d; granulated, August delivery, 50s 3d; September, 50s. West Indian crystallised, sold, 42s to 45s 6d, as to quality. American granulated on spot changed hands at 49s to 49s 3d; June, steamer, 22s 1½d to 22s 3d; July, 22s 4½d to 22s 6d; August, 22s 4½d to 22s 7½d, c.f. and i., London. White Java, July, sold, 20s 3d to 20s 4½d; August, 20s 1½d to 20s 3d, c.f. and i. terms, London. White Mauritius, spot, 47s to 48s; white Brazilian, afloat, 21s, c.f. and i., London, for dry. Cuban basis 95 per cent., June-July, quoted, 16s 9d; and Brazilian basis 80 per cent., ditto, 9s 3d, c.f. and i., U.K. Terminal market presented generally quiet features. White, August, sold, 22s 6d to 21s 9d and 22s 4½d; December, 21s 6d to 21s 1½d and 21s 6d. Cuban stocks total 937,200 tons, against 1,424,700 same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 27s 6d.

COFFEE.—This market disclosed a quiet tone, and general trend of values proved favourable to the buyer. The assortment at public sales was by no means attractive, and only a very moderate proportion found buyers. Futures steady, but trading was carried on quietly. December, sold, 62s.

COCOA.—Market quiet, unaltered. Butter slow, at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—Indian auctions this week amounted to 39,145 packages. There was a good demand for all descriptions, and previous level of values was maintained without difficulty. Ceylon sales embraced 32,900 packages, and where quality showed some improvement, active support was accorded at full to dearer prices. Common kinds generally steady, and sold with fair freedom.

RICE.—Inquiries on Continental account were rather more frequent, though, speaking generally, business moved quietly without particular change in prices. Two stars Rangoon, spot, new crop, quoted 14s 9d; afloat, 14s 4½d, c.f. and i. Demand for both beans and peas remained slow. Rangoon hand-picked beans, on spot, sold, 6s 9d to 7s.

FRUIT.—Market keeps quiet for currants, and where sales resulted buyers were favoured respecting any alteration in values. Pyrgos quoted 52s; Amalia, 53s to 54s; Vostizza, 58s to 65s. Only small transactions were effected in both sultanas and Valencia raisins. Dates quietly steady.

SPICE.—Pepper market again quiet, but steady in absence of any undue pressure to sell. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 44d; June-August steamer, 34½d; Aleppy, spot, quoted 44d; Tellicherry, 44d; white Singapore, 7d; ditto, June-August, 6½d; white Singapore, spot, 7½d; ditto, June-August, sold, 7½d to 7½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 2d; September-November, steamer, 9d. Pimento, spot, 2½d. Flake tapioca, fair quality on the spot, sold, 2½d per lb; ditto, June-August, London, quoted 22s; fair Penang seed tapioca on spot, 21s 6d; ditto, June-August, London, 21s; sago flour, May-July, sold, 15s; July-September, 14s 9d. Desiccated coconut, spot parcels done 38s 6d to 38s; June-August, 37s 6d to 37s 3d; August-September, 38s to 37s 6d.

JUTE.—With no improvement in demand from spinners the market remained dull, but closed better. First grade, May-June, Continent, sold, £34 to £35; ditto, June-July, £34 10s to £35 10s; July-August, £34 15s to £35 15s; lightning grade, June-July, £31 10s to £32 10s; July-August, £31 15s to £32 15s. Hessians slow. 10 oz, spot, 39s; 8 oz, 28s. A twills, spot, 80s; B, 70s.

HEMP.—With a decided falling off in demand for Manila sorts, prices eased slightly, though there was no undue pressure to sell. F grade, July-September, quoted £37 10s; G, £34; J, £30; K, £29;

L, £28; M, £27; streaky threes, £34. New Zealand largely nominal. H.P.F., spot, sellers, £31; and fair £30. African sisal quiet. No 1 G.E.A., July-September, sellers, £35 10s.

SHELLAC.—Market showed quiet features. T.N., spot, 375s; August, sold, 367s 6d to 360s; October, 362s 6d to 352s 6d.

COPRA.—This market opened the week firmly, but assumed a quieter tone later, then re-acted. F.M.S. Straits, July-September, Rotterdam, sold, £25 7s 6d to £25 12s 6d; August-October, £25 10s to £25 8s 9d to £25 15s and £25 13s 9d; Java, July-September, £25 8s 9d to £25 15s; South Sea Islands, £24 15s; Zanzibar, June-July, £25; Ceylon, July-September, quoted £26 15s. Palm kernels steady, quiet. July-September, Liverpool, sold, £17 17s 6d to £18.

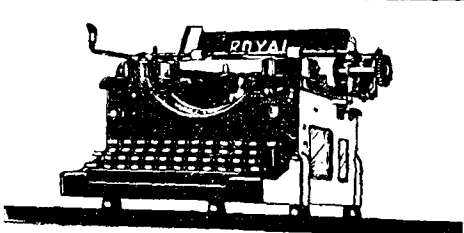
RUBBER.—Market very unsettled, but higher on the week, and on Wednesday last some excitement ensued owing to Dutch interests recommending the falling into line with British growers upon the point of restricting output. Standard crepe and sheet, spot, July delivery, sold up to 9½d, then 8½d; July-September, 9½d to 8½d and 8½d; October-December, 10d to 8½d and 8½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 10½d; soft fine, 10d; ball, 7½d.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 24s; Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 5s 1½d; aniseed, spot, 2s 6d; slab camphor, 3s 6d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 90s per cwt.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot, 130s per cwt. Albumen, spot, 3s 5d per lb.

OILS.—Linsed market irregular but firmer. Spot, net, naked, 43s 6d; June, 42s; July-August, 41s 9d; September-December, 38s. Rape quiet. Crude, spot, 44s; refined, 48s. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, 42s; Bombay nominal; common edible, 48s. China-wood: Hankow, spot (barrels), 67s; shipment, 65s to 64s, as to position. Coconut steady. Ceylon, spot, 40s; June-July, 39s; Cochiti, ditto, 43s. Soya quiet. Oriental, barrels, ditto, 40s. Japan fish steady. May-June, cases, 22s. Cod steady. English, spot, 31s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, nominal, forward, 48s; deodorised, barrels, 56s. Turpentine very irregular. American, spot, 112s 6d; July-December, 96s 6d; September-December, 94s. Rosin firm for common and medium grades. American, grade B, 13s 9d; F, 14s 9d; G, 14s 9d; WW, 20s 6d. French, F/G, 14s 6d; WW, 17s 6d; extra pale, nominal. Petroleum quiet. American standard white, 1s 4½d; and water-white, 1s 5d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linsed market firmer, with a good inquiry for near positions, with a better demand. Bold Bombay, afloat, £22 15s. Small Bombay, ditto, sold, £21 10s. Calcutta, afloat, £21 15s; May-June, sold, £21 10s; June-July, £21 5s. Plate, afloat, sold, £19 15s to £20; June, sold, £19 15s to £20; June-July, £19 15s to £19 17s 6d. Rapeseed firmer. Toria, June-July, sold, £18 17s 6d; real bold Ferozepore, July-August, quoted £18 10s. Cotton seed irregular. Egyptian black, June, £12; and white, £11 2s 6d, paid and buyers. Bombay, July-August, sellers, £9 3s 9d. Ginglyly dull. Chinese, June-July, Continent, nominally £27 5s; large Bombay, ditto, £26. Castor, Bombay, May-June, quoted £18 17s 6d, to Hull. Ground nuts weak. Coromandel, machine-dried, May-June, Hull, £22 10s;



When you
Rent a Typewriter
have the best possible—
"The ROYAL"

Makes work easy because the touch is so light that the keys would almost appear to anticipate your thought; it makes the work look so well because the sharp, clean-cut letters please the eye and, in fact, the machine seems to do anything you wish, so adaptable is it. The duplicating is particularly good.

Machines can be hired at reasonable rates, by the week, month or any period.

Skilled operators provided at any time for special or temporary work.

Portable Typewriters Supplied.

Send your enquiries to:—
ROYAL STANDARD TYPEWRITERS

Dept. E, Royal House, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4
Phone: City 7891.

ROYAL

Continent, £22 10s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., May-June, Continent, nominally £23 per ton.

METALS.—Tin opened the week with a quiet tone, and rates occasionally the turn in buyers' favour. Small dealings occurred, including cash at £152 10s, three months' £153 10s to £153 15s. Further slight concessions were made by holders on Tuesday, but without stimulating demand. Cash moved down to £152 7s 6d, and three months' £153 10s. Values remained steady at the decline by the middle of the week, with rather more inquiry. Cash, sold, at £152 7s 6d, and three months' £153 10s to £153 15s. On Thursday rates ruled easier, with a good inquiry. Cash, sold, £152, three months' £153 10s to £153. At Friday's session the market ruled firmer with good dealings in cash at £152 15s; July dates, £152 5s to £152 10s; and three months', £153 2s 6d to £153 15s. English ingots, £152 5s. Copper: In good demand on Monday, and rates ruled fully steady, cash selling at £61 12s 6d to £61 13s 9d, and three months' £62 2s 6d. On the following day values gave way slightly on some selling pressure, but others were fairly well met, and sales resulted in cash at £61 10s, three months' £62 2s 6d to £62. A quieter tone prevailed during the mid-weekly session, and prices barely steady, cash ruling at £61 10s, three months' £62 to £61 17s 6d. On Thursday a steadier tendency ensued, and a fair business transpired. Cash, sold, £61 10s to £61 15s, three months' £62 to £62 5s. At Friday's session market active and again dearer. Cash, sold, £61 16s 3d to £62; August dates, £62 to £62 5s; and three months', £62 5s; electros, £69 10s to £71; best selected, £66 to £68; strong sheets, £94; wire bars, £71 per ton. Lead steadier, £25 to £23 15s, as to position. Spelter dearer, £28 to £27 15s, according to positions. Aluminium, home trade, £100; export, £105. Antimony, English regulus, £27 to £29 10s.

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS.		INDIA RUBBER.		PROVISIONS.		SPICES—Pepper, per lb.	
24-4d. foreign 28s. cwt.	8 1 4	Alum. fine E.L., p. cwt.	150 8	Para, fine, hard, spot	1 1 4	Butter—per cwt.	8 10 0	Singapore, fair White	9 7 8
Trinidad, per cwt.	65 7 5	Cape, good to fine.	20 0 27 6	Plantation crepe	8 1 4	Irish creamery	224 0 228 0	Black Singapore	9 4 0
Granada	62 6 1 6	Balsam Peru	8 0 8	INDIGO—per lb.	2 10 0	Argentine	212 0 218 0	White Siam	9 7 8
Guaymas, plantation	58 0 55 0	Campir	1 6 0 0	Beugal, good red vld.	9 0 10 0	Dutch	222 0 228 0	Pimento	9 7 8
Guaymas, 500	58 0 55 0	Japan, refined	3 6 3 7	Mid. ord. vld. to good	9 0 10 0	New Zealand	222 0 228 0	Cinnamon—lat. sort.	9 7 8
Bahia, finest	55 60 0	Cardamoms, Ceylon	1 6 5 6	Low to good ord.	5 6 7 6	Danish	222 0 228 0	Do 3rd	9 7 8
COFFEE—British grown		Cardamoms, China	1 6 5 6	Madras, dry leaf, good	5 6 7 6	Bacon, smgd.—Irish	150 0 167 8	Do 4th	9 7 8
2½d. foreign 28s. cwt.	8 1 4	Castor oil, cwt.	85 0 95 0	Do low to ord.	1 6 4 8	Danish	150 0 167 8	Do 5th	9 7 8
Do good to fine	120 135 0	Gum Benjun, Sum. cwt.	5 0 6 12 0 0	Kurpah, gd. mid. to gd.	6 0 7 0	Catatan	150 0 167 8	Chilips	45 0 0 0
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	70 0 125 0	Olibanum, drops	80 0 110 0	Low to mid.	3 6 5 6	American	100 0 115 0	Cloves—Zanzibar	1 24 8 0
Good to fine	110 0 126 0	Ipecacuanha	7 0 0 0	HEMP—per ton	8 0 0	Hans—Irian	nom	Pennang	3 0 0 0
Ord. to mid	75 0 90 0	Japan	2 9 0 0	St. Petersburg, layer	10 0 0	Canadian	155 0 165 0	Cinger—per cwt.	100 0 120 8
Mid. to fine	95 0 110 0	Musk, prod. China	0 8 95 0	Manila, "G" Grade	34 0	Lard—Irish bladders	72 0 81 0	Do small rough	57 6 0 8
Columbian, ordinary	63 0 68 0	Aniseed	2 5 2 6	N. Z. spot, high fair	31 0	American boxes, 50lb	68 0 73 0	Do small washed	57 6 0 8
Do gd. ord. to low mid	72 0 108 0	Peppermint, H.G.H.	22 6 25 0	JUTE.	8 0 0	Porter 8 lbs	8 4 8 8	Jamaica, small	170 0 230 0
Do mid. to fine	85 0 113 0	Rubbr. China, fr. to fr	5 6 5 8	Native first marks	35 13 0 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	1 11 4 10	Mace	1 2 8 0
CHEMICALS.		DYE STUFFS.		June/July last price	35 13 0 0	Oblique, per cwt.	160 0 0 0	Nutmegs, good to fine	1 1 1 0
Acid, citric	2 6 2 7	Galla, China, per cwt	75 0 0 0	LEATHER—per lb.	8 0 0	Do 12 lb	8 4 10 8	Small to medium	0 9 10 0
Do good to fine	2 6 2 7	Turmeric, Bengal	31 0 0 0	Do 10/12	1 10 2 2	Do 14 lb	8 4 10 8	Good mutton	38 6 8 8
Oralic, net	0 8 0 0	Madras, finger	31 6 32 0	Do 12/14	1 10 2 2	Do 16 lb	8 4 10 8	Beef	38 6 8 8
Tartaric, English	1 4 1 6	Cutch, ord. to fair	35 0 45 0	Do 14/16	2 0 2 0	Do 18 lb	8 4 10 8	TAPIOCA—per lb.	0 2 8 0
Foreign	1 5 1 6	DYEWOODS.		Do 16/18	2 0 2 0	Do 20 lb	8 4 10 8	E. L. Flake, fair, spot	0 2 8 0
Alum lump	0 0 16 0 0	Brazil	14 0 0 0	Do 18/20	2 0 2 0	Do 22 lb	8 4 10 8	Pearl	0 21 6 28 0
Do ground	0 0 16 0 0	Do 20/22	14 0 0 0	Do 20/22	2 0 2 0	Do 24 lb	8 4 10 8	Indian and Ceylon	0 2 8 0
Ammonia, carb. p. lb	0 4 0 4	Do 22/24	14 0 0 0	Do 22/24	2 0 2 0	Do 26 lb	8 4 10 8	Pekoe	0 11 1 34
Muriate, White, ton	60 0 65 0	Do 24/26	14 0 0 0	Do 24/26	2 0 2 0	Do 28 lb	8 4 10 8	Broken Pekoe	0 11 1 34
Sulphate	0 20 0 20	Do 26/28	14 0 0 0	Do 26/28	2 0 2 0	Do 30 lb	8 4 10 8	Orange Pekoe	0 11 1 34
Arsenic, lump, per ton	62 45 0	Do 28/30	14 0 0 0	Do 28/30	2 0 2 0	Do 32 lb	8 4 10 8	Broken Orange	0 11 1 34
Powder	42 45 0	Do 30/32	14 0 0 0	Do 30/32	2 0 2 0	Do 34 lb	8 4 10 8	Pekoe Souchong	0 104 0 112
Ashe, pot.	70 0 80 0	Do 32/34	14 0 0 0	Do 32/34	2 0 2 0	Do 36 lb	8 4 10 8	TIMBER—Timber & Hewn Wood	
Pearl	70 0 80 0	Do 34/36	14 0 0 0	Do 34/36	2 0 2 0	Do 38 lb	8 4 10 8	R. L. Teak (load)	15 0 0 40 0 0
Beaching powder, p. lb	14 0 0 14 0 0	Do 36/38	14 0 0 0	Do 36/38	2 0 2 0	Do 40 lb	8 4 10 8	Kauri Pine cubic ft.	8 0 14 0
Braz. crystals	0 0 0 0	Do 38/40	14 0 0 0	Do 38/40	2 0 2 0	Do 42 lb	8 4 10 8	Satinwood super	1 6 6 0
Do powder	33 0 0 0	Do 40/42	14 0 0 0	Do 40/42	2 0 2 0	Do 44 lb	8 4 10 8	Cedar cubic	0 4 1 0
Cream Tartar	114 0 115 0	Do 42/44	14 0 0 0	Do 42/44	2 0 2 0	Do 46 lb	8 4 10 8	Japanese Oak super	0 8 10 0
Calomel	0 0 115 0	Do 44/46	14 0 0 0	Do 44/46	2 0 2 0	Do 48 lb	8 4 10 8	American Ash	0 22 0 0
Nitrate of Soda, p. lb	10 10 10 10 0 0	Do 46/48	14 0 0 0	Do 46/48	2 0 2 0	Do 50 lb	8 4 10 8	TOBACCO.	
Potash		Do 48/50	14 0 0 0	Do 48/50	2 0 2 0	Do 52 lb	8 4 10 8	Duty 32—10/44 per lb.	
Chlorate, net	0 44 0 44	Do 50/52	14 0 0 0	Do 50/52	2 0 2 0	Do 54 lb	8 4 10 8	Virginia leaf	1 3 2 4
Prussiate	1 22 1 5	Do 52/54	14 0 0 0	Do 52/54	2 0 2 0	Do 56 lb	8 4 10 8	Common to fine	1 3 2 4
Do Foreign	1 1 1 2	Do 54/56	14 0 0 0	Do 54/56	2 0 2 0	Do 58 lb	8 4 10 8	Strips	2 6 2 6
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 56/58	14 0 0 0	Do 56/58	2 0 2 0	Do 60 lb	8 4 10 8	Kentucky leaf	
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 58/60	14 0 0 0	Do 58/60	2 0 2 0	Do 62 lb	8 4 10 8	Common to fine	1 8 1 6
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 60/62	14 0 0 0	Do 60/62	2 0 2 0	Do 64 lb	8 4 10 8	Strips	0 8 10 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 62/64	14 0 0 0	Do 62/64	2 0 2 0	Do 66 lb	8 4 10 8	China	0 8 10 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 64/66	14 0 0 0	Do 64/66	2 0 2 0	Do 68 lb	8 4 10 8	Borneo and Sumatra	1 0 7 8
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 66/68	14 0 0 0	Do 66/68	2 0 2 0	Do 70 lb	8 4 10 8	Seedleaf	1 6 4 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 68/70	14 0 0 0	Do 68/70	2 0 2 0	Do 72 lb	8 4 10 8	Havana	0 10 1 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 70/72	14 0 0 0	Do 70/72	2 0 2 0	Do 74 lb	8 4 10 8	Greek	0 10 1 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 72/74	14 0 0 0	Do 72/74	2 0 2 0	Do 76 lb	8 4 10 8	East Indian	0 6 2 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 74/76	14 0 0 0	Do 74/76	2 0 2 0	Do 78 lb	8 4 10 8	Cigars, duty 15/7 per lb	2 8 0 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 76/78	14 0 0 0	Do 76/78	2 0 2 0	Do 80 lb	8 4 10 8	TURPENTINE, p. cwt 12 0 0	0 8
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 78/80	14 0 0 0	Do 78/80	2 0 2 0	Do 82 lb	8 4 10 8	WOOL—per lb.	
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 80/82	14 0 0 0	Do 80/82	2 0 2 0	Do 84 lb	8 4 10 8	English, Shropshire, wald.	14 0 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 82/84	14 0 0 0	Do 82/84	2 0 2 0	Do 86 lb	8 4 10 8	Lincoln hog	10 0 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 84/86	14 0 0 0	Do 84/86	2 0 2 0	Do 88 lb	8 4 10 8	Queensland, sed. sup. embg.	43 0 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 86/88	14 0 0 0	Do 86/88	2 0 2 0	Do 90 lb	8 4 10 8	N. W. greasy, sup. embg.	26 0 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 88/90	14 0 0 0	Do 88/90	2 0 2 0	Do 92 lb	8 4 10 8	N. Z., grey, 100 (50-55)	45 0 0
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 90/92	14 0 0 0	Do 90/92	2 0 2 0	Do 94 lb	8 4 10 8	Drossid.	40-44 4 6
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 92/94	14 0 0 0	Do 92/94	2 0 2 0	Do 96 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 94/96	14 0 0 0	Do 94/96	2 0 2 0	Do 98 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 96/98	14 0 0 0	Do 96/98	2 0 2 0	Do 100 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 98/100	14 0 0 0	Do 98/100	2 0 2 0	Do 102 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 100/102	14 0 0 0	Do 100/102	2 0 2 0	Do 104 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 102/104	14 0 0 0	Do 102/104	2 0 2 0	Do 106 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 104/106	14 0 0 0	Do 104/106	2 0 2 0	Do 108 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 106/108	14 0 0 0	Do 106/108	2 0 2 0	Do 110 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 108/110	14 0 0 0	Do 108/110	2 0 2 0	Do 112 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 110/112	14 0 0 0	Do 110/112	2 0 2 0	Do 114 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 112/114	14 0 0 0	Do 112/114	2 0 2 0	Do 116 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 114/116	14 0 0 0	Do 114/116	2 0 2 0	Do 118 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 116/118	14 0 0 0	Do 116/118	2 0 2 0	Do 120 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 118/120	14 0 0 0	Do 118/120	2 0 2 0	Do 122 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 120/122	14 0 0 0	Do 120/122	2 0 2 0	Do 124 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 122/124	14 0 0 0	Do 122/124	2 0 2 0	Do 126 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 124/126	14 0 0 0	Do 124/126	2 0 2 0	Do 128 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 126/128	14 0 0 0	Do 126/128	2 0 2 0	Do 130 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 128/130	14 0 0 0	Do 128/130	2 0 2 0	Do 132 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 130/132	14 0 0 0	Do 130/132	2 0 2 0	Do 134 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 132/134	14 0 0 0	Do 132/134	2 0 2 0	Do 136 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 134/136	14 0 0 0	Do 134/136	2 0 2 0	Do 138 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 136/138	14 0 0 0	Do 136/138	2 0 2 0	Do 140 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 138/140	14 0 0 0	Do 138/140	2 0 2 0	Do 142 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 140/142	14 0 0 0	Do 140/142	2 0 2 0	Do 144 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 142/144	14 0 0 0	Do 142/144	2 0 2 0	Do 146 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 144/146	14 0 0 0	Do 144/146	2 0 2 0	Do 148 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 146/148	14 0 0 0	Do 146/148	2 0 2 0	Do 150 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 148/150	14 0 0 0	Do 148/150	2 0 2 0	Do 152 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 150/152	14 0 0 0	Do 150/152	2 0 2 0	Do 154 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 152/154	14 0 0 0	Do 152/154	2 0 2 0	Do 156 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 154/156	14 0 0 0	Do 154/156	2 0 2 0	Do 158 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 156/158	14 0 0 0	Do 156/158	2 0 2 0	Do 160 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 158/160	14 0 0 0	Do 158/160	2 0 2 0	Do 162 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 160/162	14 0 0 0	Do 160/162	2 0 2 0	Do 164 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 162/164	14 0 0 0	Do 162/164	2 0 2 0	Do 166 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 164/166	14 0 0 0	Do 164/166	2 0 2 0	Do 168 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 166/168	14 0 0 0	Do 166/168	2 0 2 0	Do 170 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 168/170	14 0 0 0	Do 168/170	2 0 2 0	Do 172 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 170/172	14 0 0 0	Do 170/172	2 0 2 0	Do 174 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 172/174	14 0 0 0	Do 172/174	2 0 2 0	Do 176 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 174/176	14 0 0 0	Do 174/176	2 0 2 0	Do 178 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 176/178	14 0 0 0	Do 176/178	2 0 2 0	Do 180 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 178/180	14 0 0 0	Do 178/180	2 0 2 0	Do 182 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 180/182	14 0 0 0	Do 180/182	2 0 2 0	Do 184 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 182/184	14 0 0 0	Do 182/184	2 0 2 0	Do 186 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 184/186	14 0 0 0	Do 184/186	2 0 2 0	Do 188 lb	8 4 10 8		
Sulphate	0 23 0 25 0	Do 186/							

Easy money kept discount rates weak, but buyers and sellers were both rather shy, and when no change in Bank rate was announced there was a slight hardening in the tone of the market. Yesterday the market was inclined to talk higher rates, owing to the movement of gold referred to below, which is believed to be going to America, and to be possibly the beginning of a considerable movement. But the low rate at which the Treasury Bills were placed put an end to the hardening of rates, and commercial bills were quoted at $2\frac{1}{16}$ per cent.

	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 25, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4 (June 15, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2 (June 15, '22)
Discount Call	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2 (June 15, '22)
Houses Notice	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2 (June 15, '22)
Market rate (3 mths' bills)	$2\frac{1}{16}$	$2\frac{1}{16}$	$2\frac{1}{16}$	$2\frac{1}{16}$	..

The Bank return showed a decrease of £488,000 in the stock of gold, in spite of a reduction of £500,000 in the gold held in the currency reserve, which is balanced by an addition of £500,000 to the Bank of England notes there shown. It would thus appear that a million in gold has gone abroad. The note circulation has expanded by £1,475,000, and the total decrease in the Reserve is thus £1,963,000. Government securities were swollen by 18½ millions, and this sum was roughly put to the credit of the Other depositors, the decrease in the Reserve being balanced by a decline in Public deposits. In the currency notes return, dated July 6, 1922, the gold in the currency note redemption account has been reduced from £28,500,000, at which it had stood since May 12, 1915, to £28,000,000. The sum of £500,000 has been added to Bank of England notes in the redemption account, making them £20,150,000. Currency notes outstanding increased by £2,530,000 to £297,904,100, which includes £1,594,900 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £248,150,500, or £61,828,900 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The demoralisation of the Continental exchanges and events in Ireland, coupled with the realisation that a further reduction in Bank rate was unlikely this week, checked activity in the gilt-edged market, although the tendency remained firm. Foreign bonds were affected by the weakness in the exchanges, and Home Rails have suffered from lack of support. Argentine Rails have supplied the brightest spot, but prices gave way from the best towards the end of the week. Rubber shares have relapsed again into stagnation, and the oil market is quiet. Kalirs fell on realisations, and other mining descriptions have attracted little attention.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

Reports from leading trade centres this week do not suggest any general improvement, and with regard to cotton, iron and steel, and coal the position appears to be developing in an unfavourable direction. Business in cotton piece goods was restricted owing to a rise in values. The raw material jumped ½d on the American cotton crop report, but the rise was not fully maintained. Yarn quotations have been firmer and business slow. In pig-iron business is very quiet, and our Sheffield and Glasgow correspondents report increasing quietude in all branches of the iron and steel trades. Continued gloom is reported from the South Wales coal trade. In the Bradford wool markets there is little change to be noticed. At the Liverpool wool sale on Thursday crossbreds sold at firm rates under demand from French, Swiss, and Belgian buyers. In the wheat market balancing influences have been heavy offers by Argentine shippers and a growing fear of a late harvest at home. The market for hides is again firmer; in sole leather the week's turnover showed some improvement, but shoe manufacturers report a slight falling off in new orders.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The unsettled conditions in the foreign exchange market continue to increase. During the week under review violent movements have occurred in the principal exchanges, and the present position is one bordering on

demoralisation. The outstanding feature has once more been the rapid depreciation of the mark, which at the time of writing (Friday) has reached the new high record of 2,270-2,300, a rise in the rate of almost 250 since the closing price on Thursday night, and 500 marks on the week. Any indication that this movement has reached its limits is still lacking, but the increasing recognition of the danger, especially from political quarters, may tend to bring about conditions which will eventually be to the benefit of Germany. Allied currencies have naturally been sympathetically affected, and Paris quotations, at present 56.85, show a depreciation on the week of well over 4½ to the pound. Brussels at 60.80 shows practically the same depreciation. The forward quotations of Paris francs are now quoted about five points per month over spot. Dollars, which opened the week at 4.42½, have been subject to irregular and somewhat violent movements, having at one time touched 4.41, and gradually recovering during the week to 4.46½, which figure was touched on Thursday, are now round 4.44½. Italy has once more gone over 100, and is now round 103; arrangements being made in connection with Italian Treasury bills in London may be partly accountable for this movement. Most of the neutrals have moved in favour of this country during the week. Holland, which reached over 11.50 on Thursday, has now gone back to 11.49, while Swiss francs, after gradually showing a rising tendency, are now quoted at 23.29. Scandinavians have moved irregularly, Christiania and Stockholm rates showing a slight increase at 26.62 and 17.16 respectively, while Copenhagen kronen have fractionally appreciated at 20.56. The Vienna exchange rose rapidly early in the week, but recovered to 90,000 on Thursday, only to fall back to 96,000 at the time of writing. Polish marks continue a weak market at 23-24,000 to the pound. In the South American market, Valparaiso at 34.30, has regained part of the recent depreciation, but Buenos Ayres at 44 and Rio at 77½ are fractionally lower on the week. Rupees at 15 3¼d and Hongkong at 28 7¼d remain practically unchanged. Shanghai, however, is weaker at 38 6¼d on the lower price of silver.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to June 30, 1922).

Total spent	£ 199,218,923	Raised by revenue ..	£ 195,154,153
Dec. in balances	7,562,323	Net repayments	3,497,553

Total	£ 191,656,600	Total	£ 191,656,600
-------------	---------------	-------------	---------------

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1922-23.

Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 820,775,000
Special Expenditure...	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		

Total	£ 910,069,000	Total	£ 910,775,000
-------------	---------------	-------------	---------------

Surplus

NATIONAL DEBT, (Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock ..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,974	1,974
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,050
4% Funding Loan ..	..	..	409	409	405	405	405	405	405
4% Victory Bonds ..	..	..	360	357	348	346	346	346	346
3½% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	266	266	266	266
5½% Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	273	380	310	310
Do by tender 5% ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40	40
Do by tender 4½% ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	69	69
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	760
Exchequer Bonds	80	332	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Nat'l Savings Certs. ..	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	344
War Expend. Certs. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,341	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,082
American Loan	..	..	51	51	51	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances ..	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	205
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,715
Total Liabilities	57	49	46	46	47	49	50	50	51
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,766

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Temporary Advances Out- standing—	June 30, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	June 30, '22.	June 30, '22.	June 30, '22.	June 30, '22.	June 30, '22.	June 30, '22.
Advances by Bank of England	39,250,000..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Advances by Public Debt Office	113,974,000..	147,301,500..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,221,647,000..	882,219,000..	760,525,000..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Floating Debt	1,373,971,000..	1,029,520,500..	965,362,500..	..	..	..	..	..	..

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND DISARMAMENT.

A SHORT time ago we observed that Germany's reply to the Reparations Commission afforded a breathing space, which might enable statesmen to achieve progress with the problems of international finance before any new disaster developed. Much was then hoped from the Bankers' Committee. But since this hope was dispelled symptoms have quickly developed which show only too clearly that the sands are running out, and that though Germany's default may be postponed for a few weeks, there is little time to lose in making fresh attempts to solve the problems of international indebtedness and to achieve international co-operation. The most serious of these symptoms is another spectacular depreciation in the mark. The latest slump, it is true, has not been quite so catastrophic as some of its predecessors. In four weeks the mark has lost about 40 per cent. of its value measured in sterling, whereas in the four weeks which followed October 10th it lost 50 per cent. of its value. Nevertheless, the fall has been serious enough. Its gravest aspects, perhaps, are that it indefinitely postpones the date when Germany can be expected to produce a Budget equilibrium; that it lays up an additional store of trouble, both social and economic, for the German Government against such time as it may make a real attempt at financial reform—with its inevitable consequence of falling prices and depressed trade—and that by doing so it makes it less likely that a Government determined to face the problem can derive sufficient strength from popular opinion to enable it to live and carry out its task. The new mark crisis, therefore, carries us definitely nearer to the possibilities of internal developments in Germany, which would have grave repercussions throughout the world.

The fall in the mark has also been fast enough to produce a disturbing effect on the trade of competing countries. Since Great Britain is one of the most important of the latter, it is of special interest to consider what effect this new movement will have on British trade, which has recently been showing definite, but very modest, signs of trade revival. On the previous occasions in the last year and a half when the mark has shown a violent movement, it has meant for the time being that German goods have drastically undercut British goods in international markets, owing to the facts that internal prices and wages in Germany have been slow to respond to the downward movement of the exchanges, and that German manufacturers have found themselves stocked with imported raw materials bought when the exchanges were more favourable. Each slump has, therefore, been a blow at the restoration of trade generally; it has transferred a certain limited number of orders to Germany, and has caused buyers everywhere to suspend the placing of orders because it has shaken faith in the current level of prices. The world is threatened with another setback by the present fall in the mark. There is, however, reason to think that the effect will be less serious on this occasion than it has previously been. It is true that the margin between internal and external prices, which has steadily been closing up for the last six months, will now be widened again, and such trade as the sale of British coke and coal in Germany and Europe may for the moment be stopped once more. But for three reasons it is improbable that the disturbance of last October will, in fact, be reproduced. In the first place, the phenomenon of a depreciating currency is better understood both inside and outside Germany, and with each successive movement of the exchange the response of internal prices becomes more automatic. At hotels, for example, which are frequented in the main by Germans, there are public notices that in the event of the exchange moving the prices for accommodation will also be changed on the following day. The greater disparity between internal and external prices will, probably, be short lived. Secondly, it appears that Germany has no substantial stocks bought at low prices, and she will, therefore, not get much help in this respect on the present occasion. In the third place, the instability in the standard of value is gradually killing long-period credit in Germany.

British buyers know from bitter experience that though it was easy last winter to get quotations for goods, it was extremely difficult to get delivery, and on this occasion it is certain that both foreign buyers and German sellers will be less ready than they were eight months ago to deal on the assumption that the disparity in prices will continue. The commercial world also now understands that Germany in any case cannot possibly supply all its needs, and that the world level of prices of manufactured goods is not fundamentally affected by a momentary break in the gold value of German goods. Business men are not seriously perturbed at the prospect of a "deluge" of German exports with which the Prime Minister endeavoured to scare the delegation of Lancashire Free-traders on Wednesday. Further, it is realised that whereas the first few breaks in exchange enabled many to get rich quickly, an industrial nation which inevitably depends on its credit machinery cannot rear a stable structure of prosperity on the quicksands of a variable standard of value. We are becoming familiar with the fever which accompanies these exchange crises, and our knowledge of how to deal with the symptoms means that each attack in its actual effects upon competing countries is less serious and is over more quickly than the last. Such external effects are, in fact, far less serious than the dangers which the fever threatens inside Germany.

When viewed from this aspect the position is one that should spur on statesmen to expedite a sane solution of the urgent problems of international finance. For the moment we may recognise in the visit of two French representatives to Washington to discuss debt problems a means of continuing the discussion. But we are not under any illusion as to any prompt action being possible in the United States. Mr Lloyd George declares that he is "alarmed at the prospects in Germany." His course is clear. There is only one way by which the present drift can be stayed and opinion turned once more in the direction of hope, and that is for Great Britain to declare that she is prepared to discuss at once, and without reference to any action the United States may take, the terms on which it is prepared to cancel the debts owed to her by the European Allies.

It is, however, necessary to remember that before the international debt question can be finally disposed of there are certain preliminary conditions that must be fulfilled. Of these the most important is an agreement on the subject of land armies and armaments. We are not quite certain whether our friends on the Continent yet realise that in Great Britain, and still more in the United States, financial opinion will not welcome an arrangement with any nation which is overtaxing its strength to maintain large military forces. For at the moment military commitments are more important in producing unbalanced Budgets than debt interest which is not being paid. For this reason great importance attaches to the meeting in Paris this week of the League of Nations Commission for the Reduction of Armaments. It has not the spectacular features of the Naval Disarmament Conference at Washington last winter, and, obviously, it will be unable to achieve comparable results. But it is a matter of urgency that the Paris Commission should make as much progress as possible in getting over the preliminary discussion which all such questions involve. Following the method of the Washington Conference, Lord Esher, the British

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	10,880,852
Reserve Fund ..	10,880,852
Deposits (Dec. 31st, 1921) ..	375,117,092

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2
OVER 1,000 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATED BANKS
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 160 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND

representative, has put forward in nine resolutions concrete proposals, which lay down for the first time a working hypothesis of the ideal relative strength of armies in Europe. The plan adopts man power as the criterion and not expenditure, since the rate of pay in various armies differs so enormously. Moreover, the plan only applies to home troops and not to armies overseas. It makes no suggestion as to the military system of any country, and only fixes a ratio for the men actually under the colours, leaving reserves, territorial armies, &c., out of account. With these limitations he proposes a ratio scale of six for France, Poland, and Italy, four for England, Greece, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Spain, and Czechoslovakia, three for Belgium, two for Switzerland, and so on. His proposition is that the number of men in the Austrian army, viz., 30,000, should be taken as a unit. These figures obviously only form a basis of discussion, but any disarmament plan for Europe must, of course, proceed upon some such lines. There will be more criticism in principle of his proposal that an international staff should be established with the object of keeping its eye on the danger points of Europe, and for this purpose should have military attachés with real power of inquiry. This suggestion will, no doubt, raise widespread objection, but it will serve to show what real force of opinion there is in Europe which is determined to get rid of the burden of military preparation. Lord Robert Cecil, who is also a member of the Commission, has contributed a further suggestion for a more definite military agreement between the European nations than is contained in Art. 10 of the Covenant of the League. Under his scheme the signatories of this special pact would commit themselves to military assistance in the event of aggression against one of their number. If sufficient of the nations of Europe are ready to accept this "defensive alliance" it would, we think, smooth the way to reduction of armaments, and give France the much-needed military security which she cannot hope to obtain by a pact with Great Britain alone in the present state of English opinion.

THE PALESTINE MANDATE.

DURING the last few days the problem of the Palestine Mandate has taken a prominent place in public affairs. A letter on the subject addressed by Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of State to the Holy See, to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, has been published in the Press (e.g., in the *Manchester Guardian* of June 30th). A communication, regarding this letter, from the British Government to the Secretary-General of the League has been issued as a White Paper (Cmd. 1708, 1922). In another White Paper (Cmd. 1700), the Government have printed various notes that have passed between the Palestine Arab Delegation, the Zionist organisation, and themselves. And finally, the "Rutenberg Concession" was on Tuesday last the subject of a debate in the House of Commons. In this debate, which the Government treated as a question of confidence, the Opposition were defeated by a very large majority, but the Palestinian problem was not thereby brought any nearer to a solution. The debate, and the preceding publications, have raised issues rather than settled them. Their chief value for the British public (on whom now rests the ultimate responsibility for the welfare of Palestine in the post-war period), is that they may enable us to take the measure of the task with which we are confronted.

Palestine is a small and not a particularly rich country, but it is of vital importance to four main groups of interests:—(i.) its non-Jewish Arabic-speaking population (about 85 per cent. of the whole), and the Arabic-speaking population of neighbouring countries with whom they may have a common national consciousness; (ii.) its Jewish population (possibly amounting to 15 per cent.), and Jews elsewhere who may take an interest in the Palestinian Jewish community; (iii.) three international religions (Christianity, Islam, and Judaism), with adherents all over the world; (iv.) the British Empire, as a Power with a special interest in Egypt, and a still more special interest in the Suez Canal. Egypt herself must be included, side by side, with the British Empire, in this

fourth group, in such measure as she may establish her independence.

Of these groups of interests, the third and fourth are obviously not irreconcilable either with one another, or with the first and second. To take, as a concrete illustration, the apprehensions of the Holy See in regard to the proposed British Mandate, we may fairly confidently anticipate that the British Empire, with its immense experience in India, will successfully carry out in Palestine the delicate task of adjusting the relations of the various religious denominations as regards access to and guardianship over the holy places. And if our stewardship in this respect is a success, no one will grudge us the strategic safeguards for our sea-communications which the Mandate will automatically carry with it. This position, however, involves us in the much more difficult task of mediating between the Arab and the Jewish elements in the local population (with their respective kinsmen and supporters in other countries).

We do not approach this task with free hands. Our Government have already given pledges to both parties. The Arabs maintain that these pledges are incompatible, and after examining their arguments we are forced to accept the very serious conclusion that the Arabs are in the right. The British Government's pledge to the Zionists (the "Balfour Declaration") is impugned by the Arabs on two grounds: (a) that it conflicts with a previous pledge given to King Hussein in 1915, in regard to the Arabs at that time subject to the Ottoman Empire; (b) that in the Covenant of the League (Art. 22), the people of Palestine (among whom the Arab element is in an immense majority) were recognised as an independent nation, subject to the rendering of assistance by a mandatory until such time as they might be able to stand alone; and further, that, in the same instrument (Art. 20), the signatories undertook to obtain release from previous obligations inconsistent with its terms (a category in which the Arabs argue that the "Balfour Declaration" must be included).

On this point (b), the case has gone to the Arabs by default, for the Colonial Office, in their reply of April 11th, passed over Article 20 of the Covenant in silence, though the validity of the "Balfour Declaration," as against the Covenant, had been the principal argument of their previous letter of March 1st. It is hard to see how, in the face of Article 20 of the Covenant, the Balfour Declaration can still stand. But the commitment in Article 20 was, after all, entered into retrospectively, and it is more serious if the "Balfour Declaration" is also incompatible with a pledge to King Hussein which preceded it in date. Here, too, however, it must be confessed that the Government's position is wholly unsatisfactory.

The point is somewhat technical. In the first draft of a memorandum communicated on May 30th by the Colonial Office to the Arab Delegation and the Zionist Organisation the Colonial Office put it on record that the promise given to King Hussein "to recognise and support the independence of the Arabs was given subject to a reservation made in the same letter, which excluded from its scope the country lying to the west of the vilayet of Damascus." Now, "vilayet" is a technical term of Ottoman government, signifying a certain class of administrative area, and there was a "Vilayet of Shams," of which Damascus was the capital, and which also included all those trans-Jordanian districts to the west of which Palestine lies. Therefore, if this "Vilayet of Shams" was the area specifically referred to in the original letter to King Hussein, then Palestine was undoubtedly part of the territory that was simultaneously excluded from the scope of the pledge. The Arab Delegation objected, however, that, in the text of that original letter, the word "district," not "vilayet," had really been used, and that the "districts" of Homs, Hama, and Aleppo were mentioned in it in addition to the "district" of Damascus. Since Homs and Hama both belonged, like Damascus, to the Ottoman "Vilayet of Shams," the Arab Delegation maintained that the words "district of Damascus" could not possibly mean "Vilayet of Shams" in this connection, but must refer to a smaller territory immediately surrounding the town, and not extending either to the districts of Homs and Hama (separately mentioned) in the one direction or to the district of Transjordan in the other.

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

This may seem a quibble to readers unacquainted with the history of the famous "Secret Agreements," but to the initiated it will be obvious that the Arab Delegation's argument is both sound and important, and the officials of the Colonial Office (being numbered among the initiated) have taken a step which gives their own case away. In their letter of June 23rd, the Colonial Office wrote that the Secretary of State had "decided, after consulting the authorities concerned with the early correspondence between Sir Henry McMahon and the King of the Hejaz, to make a modification in the draft [i.e., the draft of the "Memorandum on British Policy in Palestine," in which the original letter to King Hussein was quoted] on a point of fact." What was this modification? When we compare the draft as first submitted to the Arab Delegation and quoted by them (Cmd. 1700, p. 25, l. 46), with the text subsequently submitted by the Colonial Office to the Zionist Organisation, and now published (Cmd. 1700, p. 20, l. 26), we find that the words "Vilayet of Damascus" in the first draft have been altered to "District of Damascus" in the second. By thus admitting that "district," and not "vilayet," was the word used in their original letter to King Hussein, the Government have admitted by implication that Palestine was, after all, one of the territories in which we pledged ourselves, in virtue of that letter, to recognise and uphold the independence of the Arabs. The "Balfour Declaration" thus turns out to be irreconcilable, not only with the retrospective obligation involved in Article 20 of the Covenant of the League of Nations when read together with Article 22, but with a pledge previously given to King Hussein, the acknowledged representative of the Arabs themselves.

Mr Churchill has got his majority in the House of Commons, but the fact remains that the British nation, through technical blunders in diplomatic negotiation, has been involved in obligations that are incompatible, and an exceedingly unfortunate dilemma has therefore arisen. A way out has got to be found, and found quickly. The first essential point, in our view, is that it is now out of the question for the British Government to go back upon the Balfour Declaration; the second is that in carrying that declaration into practice the Arabs must be assured of the privileges and safeguards which a reasonable interpretation of British pledges might lead them to expect. In spite of the verbal contradictions produced by diplomatic blundering, we do not believe that the task of combining these two achievements is actually impossible. Whether the British Government is, in fact, framing its policy so as to combine them cannot be said until the full text of the terms of the Mandate is published. We suggest that before the Mandate comes up for sanction at the adjourned meeting of the League of Nations Council this month the full text should be laid on the table of the House of Commons, together with the original correspondence with King Hussein. In a matter where the good faith of Great Britain is in question Parliament should not be presented with a *fait accompli*, but should be given an opportunity of prior discussion.

INDIAN EXCHANGE AND TRADE.—I. EXCHANGE.

It is not often that economic affairs furnish a story so dramatic and so ironical as that afforded by the course of the rupee exchange in the last few years. Before the war the currency and exchange system of India had acquired a peculiar fame. It had become the standard illustration of the possibility of maintaining an effective gold standard, not by the ordinary mechanism of a gold standard, but by means of what it is customary to call the "artificial" methods of Government control. Without a gold mint, with a currency consisting in overwhelming proportion of silver coins, without the express convertibility of these silver coins into gold, the Indian Government had for many years maintained the rupee at a parity with the sovereign of 1s 4d. They had done this by means of a series of well-considered devices, of which the central feature was the readiness to sell Council and Reverse Council drafts at specified rates in unlimited quantities. At its inception this policy had been received by the wise-aces among practical bankers with general headshakings and prophecies of disaster. Its striking success was thus not merely a tribute to the intellectual and practical abilities of the Indian Civil Servant; it was a triumph for reason over mysticism in the domain of currency. Even in that domain, where dangerous nonsense is so plausible that the practical man has learnt to hold fast to tradition and ancient saws, it was demonstrated that theoretical principles, when intelligently applied, could actually be made to work.

The upheaval of the war proved too strong for the gold exchange standard system of India; as, indeed, it proved too strong for the orthodox gold standard of Great Britain. The large favourable balance of trade which soon accrued to India and the rise in the price of silver made it impossible to maintain the unlimited sale of Council drafts or the old rate of exchange. When silver rose above the critical point of 43d per ounce, the rupee reverted, in effect, from a gold to a silver basis, and followed the price of silver upwards. During the war the appreciation was not serious; the price of silver was kept steady at a dollar per ounce by means of an effective system of inter-Allied control; and at the Armistice the official rate for the rupee was 1s 6d. It was in May, 1919, that the fun began; the price of silver was freed from control, at once took a sharp leap upwards, and continued to soar, until in February, 1920, it touched the phenomenal figure of 80½d. After it, willy-nilly, went the rupee; every other month saw an additional 2d added to the official rate, until 2s 4d had been reached. It was this moment that the ironic fates prompted the Indian Government to choose for action.

So far the appreciation of the rupee had followed a course somewhat similar to the depreciation of sterling. During the war, a slight departure from parity, held in check by measures of control; in the spring of 1919, a violent movement following the withdrawal of control. There was a further parallel. The Indian Government had appointed a Committee on Exchange and Currency, which reported

about the same time (December, 1919) as the Cunliffe Committee reported here. The Report bore all the marks of a sensible and well-considered document. Stability of exchange was the great desideratum; the particular parity adopted a comparatively minor matter. Stability might now be re-established on the basis of a new parity, approximating to the present rate of exchange; for, as the Committee rightly argued, the price of silver was unlikely to rise much higher. On the other hand, to aim at restoring the old parity would involve an indefinite postponement of stability, with the disadvantage, if the goal were ultimately attained, of a further rise in Indian prices, already a source of grave discontent. The Committee recommended, accordingly, the immediate re-establishment of the gold exchange standard system on the basis of one rupee equals 2s gold, equivalent at the time, or shortly afterwards, to well over 2s 6d sterling.

It is at this point that the parallel with British conditions breaks down. A recommendation involving, as did this, legislative enactment and a formal alteration of the currency basis would not have been adopted in our democratic Britain without long, acrimonious, and doubtless muddle-headed controversy. But the bureaucrats of India could steer the course advised by the currency experts, unembarrassed by the exigencies of politics or the irrationalities of public sentiment. The Committee's Report was adopted with the utmost promptitude. The Coinage Act and the Paper Currency Act were duly amended; and 10 rupees were solemnly declared to be henceforth equivalent to one gold sovereign.

The sequel was no less prompt. The balance of payments, which for many years had been strongly in India's favour, swung violently round the other way. The Indian Government exhausted its sterling reserves in London, incurring a loss of £30 millions, in a gallant attempt to meet the formidable demand for bills of England. It was in vain. Before the year was out the rupee had sunk well below the old parity of 1s 4d; and, apart from occasional short-lived recoveries, it has remained below it ever since. As for the price of silver, it had fallen by 50 per cent. within five months, and had ceased once more to have any connection with the rupee. It is not surprising that it should have become the vogue to express the hope that the Government will in future leave the exchange alone. The laugh is with the old-fashioned sceptic now.

But the significance of the unhappy story must not be misconceived. The moral of it is not the unsoundness of "artificial" arrangements like the Indian gold exchange standard, based on Governmental selling of exchange, as contrasted with the solid virtues of an orthodox gold standard. The policy of the 2s rupee would have failed no less speedily and certainly if India had had its own gold mint for years, and had kept the whole of its currency reserve in the form of gold sovereigns in Calcutta. The only difference would have been that the exhaustion of these gold reserves would have been substituted for that of the sterling resources in London. No conceivable system, indeed, could have maintained a stable rupee exchange in the years following the Armistice in face of the unprecedented fluctuations in the balance of foreign trade. Before the war India had built up a trade equilibrium on the basis of a large excess of exports of merchandise over imports, which varied from year to year within narrow limits. Both the volume of imports and the volume of exports fluctuated considerably, but they moved at any time in the same direction. In the last five pre-war years the annual export surplus, which averaged about 72 crores, never fell below 58 crores or rose above 84 crores. In 1919-20 the export surplus was 111 crores; in 1920-21 it gave way to the unprecedented phenomenon of an import surplus, which amounted to 81 crores. The most imposing gold reserves could hardly have stood the strain of so sudden and so violent a displacement.

The true moral of the story is the unwisdom of attempting to stabilise exchange by any methods until some degree of stability has been secured in trade conditions. The stability of our pre-war gold standards was dependent on an established equilibrium in the balance of trade. It is true that the working of a gold standard gives rise to tendencies which serve to check departures from this equilibrium when once it has been attained. The outflow of gold which follows upon an undue increase in imports

or decline in exports leads, in its turn, to a contraction of bank reserves, a curtailment of credit, a reduction of prices; and thus tends to check imports and stimulate exports, and to restore equilibrium. But these corrective forces, which are given equally full scope under the arrangements of the Indian system, are somewhat weak and very slow. They are strong enough to deal with the small displacements from trade equilibrium which occurred before the war, but for bringing order into chaotic conditions they are as futile as are the "sanctions" of an ordinary police force for the maintenance of peace in Ireland. Genoa has focussed attention upon attractive schemes for a general return to gold standards by the road of devaluation. In the light of Indian experience, the prudence of such projects may be questioned so long as such problems as Russia, Reparations, and inter-Allied debts remain unsettled. How unfortunate may be the consequences if stabilisation is attempted and breaks down, the case of India again exemplifies, as will be shown in a succeeding article.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

The month of June saw a further slight increase in wholesale prices of commodities, our Index Number having risen by 17 points to 4389. This is 130 points above the lowest point this year, which was at the end of February, and at present it looks as if the first half of 1922 has witnessed the end of the long and severe price fall which began about two years ago. It is too soon yet to say that any degree of stabilisation has been reached, but it is certainly true that the movements of the last six months have been very much less violent than those of the three previous years, and the half-year closes with a slight increase on balance, as compared with the end of the year 1921. The appended table shows how the five groups and the total have fluctuated since the beginning of the year:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tin, Lead, Oils, &c.).	Total.	Percentage Change.
Basis (avg. 1901-5)...	500	500	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914....	579	352	616	464	553	2568	116.6
" Dec., 1915....	897	446	731	711	848	3634	165.1
" Dec., 1917....	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5845	263.2
" Nov., 1918....	1289	782	1848	903	1389	6212	282.6
" Dec., 1919....	1303	782	1805	866	1337	6094	277.0
" Dec., 1919....	1441	881	2442	1145	1453	7364	334.7
" Mar., 1920....	1508	914	2974	1246	1709	8352	379.6
" Dec., 1920....	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
" Dec., 1921....	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
" Jan., 1922....	907	654	1066	730	925	4284	194.7
" Feb., 1922....	948	640	1037	696	936	4259	193.6
" Mar., 1922....	980	687	1038	700	892	4297	195.3
" April, 1922....	1008	667	1010	709	890	4285	194.8
" May, 1922....	1040	657	1079	710	885	4372	198.7
" June, 1922....	1000	676	1135	690	887	4389	199.5

So far as June is concerned, movements in the individual groups have been wider than the change in the total would convey. In primary foodstuffs nearly all changes were downwards, the exceptions being a sharp recovery in pork, and a slight rise in barley. Wheat and flour were lower, and there was a considerable seasonal decline in potatoes. Among subsidiary foodstuffs a decline in tea and coffee was offset by a rise in sugar, and there was a large increase in butter. Apart from Australian wool and hemp, which were unchanged, all commodities in the textile group moved upwards. American cotton rose throughout the greater part of the month on poor accounts of prospects for the new crop, but dropped back on more favourable weather reports. Both American and Egyptian cotton, however, closed considerably higher on balance. Yarn and cloth have also risen. In their monthly report, Messrs Robt. Barbour and Brother, Limited, write:—

So far as cloth transactions are concerned, progress has been very difficult, the rise in prices being too rapid to follow and considerably curtailing the month's turnover. It seems probable from the amount of inquiry on hand that had values retained their May level a large business might have been put through, but the sum total of actual bookings, much of it only arranged by virtue of anticipatory purchases of cotton or yarn on the part of spinner

or manufacturer, cannot have reached a very big figure..... Monsoon news is fairly satisfactory, and the financial position is improved to the extent that further progress has been made in regard to settlements with overseas debtors, but the concessions granted have been iniquitous, and capital resources have been severely crippled in consequence. The month closes with no lack of prospective business, but with cotton still such an uncertain quantity that a period of stability, void of alarms and excursions, firm enough to keep alive a healthy tone, but not too strong by reason of prohibitive rates to deter would-be customers from replenishing supplies, can hardly as yet be looked upon as assured.

English wool, silk, flax, and jute show moderate increases.

In the minerals section, iron and steel are unchanged, but coal shows an appreciable decline. The minor metals are practically unchanged. Movements in the miscellaneous group were of no importance, the principal change being a small increase in tallow. In the table below we show the movement of each commodity's index as compared with the end of May, the figure 50 representing the average price during the base period, 1901-5, in each case:—

Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For... 102	—	5 Cotton A... 120	+ 10	Copper... 51	— 3
English... 94	—	6 Cotton B... 124	+ 7	Minerals... 690	— 204
Flour... 89	—	7 Yarn... 135	+ 4		
Barley... 92	—	8 Cloth... 135	+ 4		
Oats... 93	—	9 Wool, Eng... 100	+ 5	Baldie timber... 101	—
Potatoes... 100	—	10 Aus. Wool... 97	—	Amer. timber... 89	—
Rice... 104	—	11 Silk... 135	+ 7	Leather... 137	+ 1
Beef... 106	—	12 Flax... 120	—	Petroleum... 77	— 2
Mutton... 107	—	13 Hemp... 48	—	Oils... 84	—
Pork... 113	—	14 Jute... 118	+ 5	Oilseed... 127	+ 3
				Tallow... 614	—
Cereals & Meat 1,000	— 40	Textiles... 135	+ 56	Indigo... 127	—
				Crystals... 103	—
Tea... 88	—	2 Pig-iron... 97	—	Rubber... 103	—
Coffee... 94	—	3 Steel rails... 79	—		
Sugar cane... 157	—	4 Iron bars... 92	—	Miscellaneous... 887	+ 2
Sugar beet... 105	—	5 Coal, steam... 103	— 11		
Butter... 105	—	6 House coal... 97	— 10	Total... 4,389	+ 17
Tobacco... 116	—	7 Lead... 105	—		
		8 Tin... 59	—		
Other foods... 676	+ 19				

As a result of these changes, the increase in the total, as compared with the figure recorded at the outbreak of war, is now 71 per cent., as against 70 per cent. a month ago. Taking the indices of each of the groups and the total as 100, we get the following changes:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dec., 1918....	226	222	293	186	241	236
Dec., 1919....	249	250	396	247	263	287
March, 1920....	261	260	484	269	309	325
June, 1920....	261	263	415	278	281	305
Dec., 1920....	233	229	209	261	230	231
June, 1921....	203	188	158	210	185	188
Dec., 1921....	159	180	180	164	168	170
Jan., 1922....	157	186	173	158	167	167
Feb., 1922....	164	182	168	150	169	166
March, 1922....	169	195	168	151	161	167
April, 1922....	174	189	164	152	160	167
May, 1922....	180	186	175	153	159	170
June, 1922....	174	192	184	149	160	171

As compared with this time last year, the most pronounced change has occurred in the minerals group, which, at that time, showed the largest percentage increase over the pre-war figure, and is now the nearest to the normal. Textiles, on the other hand, which a year ago were the lowest, are now the highest but one. Primary foodstuffs and miscellaneous commodities have dropped heavily, but other foods are a little higher.

In many foreign countries prices show further signs of an approach towards stability. In the table below we show the percentage changes on the pre-war level for a number of important countries:—

	United States.	France.	Italy.	Germany.	Switzerland.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Japan.
Nov., 1918....	205	358	438	...	325	367	292	214
Highest, 1920....	227	591	673	6,809	325	366	403	322
(Jan.) (April)					(Jan.) (June)		(Oct.) (Mar.)	
End 1921....	123	326	594	3,585	176	172	178	209
End Jan., 1922....	131	314	577	3,955	171	170	177	206
" Feb., 1922....	133	307	562	4,888	170	166	182	205
" Mar., 1922....	132	308	554	5,899	163	164	178	200
" Apr., 1922....	134	315	527	6,572	161	165	177	197
" May, 1922....	137	318	...	6,809	160	164	179	194

• May, 1922.

Bradstreets' Index Number for the United States for the end of May is at the highest point recorded since March, 1921, and is 12 per cent. higher than it was at the end of May, 1921, but it is still 43 per cent. below the high record reached at the end of January, 1920. Foodstuffs again declined in May, and textiles were almost entirely responsible for the rise in the total. In France foodstuffs were practically unchanged, but textiles and minerals rose considerably. In the case of Germany, the rise in prices shows signs of slackening. Taking the level at the beginning of January, 1920, as 100, the figure for the end of May is 606, as against 584 at the end of April, and 317 at the end of 1921.

VICKERS, LIMITED.

THE statement that the armament business of Vickers, Limited, in the year 1921, except for an order for armour-plate received from the Japanese Government, was virtually stagnant will be read by the world at large without regret, whatever may be the feelings of shareholders. From the latter's point of view, however, it is unfortunate that so far as concerns the other manufactures in which the company is interested, the trade depression hindered any expansion. As the directors put it: "There was no improvement in the purchasing power of foreign countries, while in the United Kingdom the heavy weight of taxation and the condition of the money market maintained the general inability of purchasers to incur expenditure on extensions, new enterprises, or requirements which in ordinary times would be counted necessities." The three months' coal stoppage, of course, impeded production, and the writing down of stock to market value must have required a large amount in view of the heavy decline in prices; but the accounts, nevertheless, show an increase in profits in comparison with 1920. The latter period, however, included the prolonged moulders' strike, which threw all engineering and shipbuilding production out of balance. But the directors do not think fit to publish a profit-and-loss account, and while the report mentions that considerable reductions have been effected during the year in the settlement of accounts with Government departments, on which negotiations have now been in progress for several years, it is impossible to tell how much profits have been affected by these settlements, either in 1920 or 1921. The profit figure, in fact, is of little value to the outside investigator, for it is given "after allowing for adjustments of reserves for taxation." This may mean little or much, but it certainly hides very effectively the results of the year's operations. For 1920 the accounts were presented in the same way, and the two figures of profits may, or may not, be closely comparable. For 1921 the amount disclosed is £708,103, and for 1920 £541,261. This is after payment of debenture interest. At last year's annual meeting the chairman threw no light on the question, and shareholders will be fully justified in inquiring at the meeting on Wednesday week the extent to which profits have been affected by the liquidation of accounts with the Government. No reports were issued for the three years 1916, 1917, and 1918, and at the end of 1920 combined accounts for the four years ended December, 1919, were published showing "net profits for four years," without any qualifying remark, amounting to £4,493,726. The dividends paid during the period were 12½ per cent., tax free, for 1916, 1917, and 1918, and 11½ per cent., tax free, for 1919. No distribution was made on the ordinary shares in respect of 1920, but for 1921 it is proposed to make a payment of 5 per cent. less income tax, absorbing £431,042, and leaving £872,993 to be carried forward, as against £991,639 brought in, preference dividends for the year having required £395,706.

In the table below we give a summary of the principal items of the balance-sheets published since 1912. The most striking feature, it will be seen, is the growth that

has taken place in interests in subsidiary and connected companies since the war :—

	Ordinary Capital.	Prof. Capital.	Reserves.	Property, Plant, &c.	Subsid'y Cos.	Stock in Trade.	Cash and Bills.
1912.....	£ 3,700,000	£ 1,500,000	Nil	£ 3,757,020	£ 4,095,602	£ 1,120,739	£ 261,396
1913.....	4,440,000	1,500,000	1,070,000	4,096,481	4,025,473	1,656,701	269,689
1914.....	5,549,262	1,500,000	1,764,000	4,243,326	4,736,097	914,899	792,828
1915.....	5,549,784	1,500,000	2,064,261	5,721,487	5,448,734	785,003	875,426
1916.....	12,315,548	8,361,640	6,663,159	7,514,095	17,236,517	3,911,685	3,361,958
1917.....	12,315,483	8,362,241	6,495,871	7,576,660	18,076,591	3,481,572	700,388
1921.....	12,315,483	8,363,807	6,495,871	7,650,474	18,144,967	2,669,529	1,620,345

The acquisition of controlling interests in kindred concerns is by no means a post-war innovation with the company, for it will be seen that at the end of 1912 holdings of this kind were valued at a higher figure than the company's own property. The company was formed in 1867 as Vickers, Sons and Co., to take over the business of steel manufacturers of Naylor, Vickers and Co. In 1897 certain armament firms were absorbed, including the Maxim-Nordenfolt Guns and Ammunition Company, and the company's name changed to Vickers, Sons, and Maxim. In 1902 half the capital of Wm. Beardmore and Co. was acquired. Since the war the principal deal has been the acquisition of practically the whole of the share capital of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Company, Limited, in connection with which the share capital was largely increased, six million ordinary and seven million preference shares having been created. The chairman of the company claimed that there had been "a combination of various allied interlocking manufacturing businesses using each other's products and forming a complete organisation capable of producing all the elements necessary for the largest electrical generating and transportation problems." The company's present holdings include all the ordinary share capital of Wolseley Motors, Limited, and of the Electric and Ordnance Accessories Company, Limited, and controlling interests in W. T. Glover and Co., Limited, and in Vickers-Petters, Limited. It is also interested in the Swiss firm of Brown, Boveri and Co., Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company, M. L. Experimental, Limited, and Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Export Company. The company owns works or interests in Canada, Italy, Japan, Spain, and Russia.

The debenture capital has been steadily reduced during the past ten years, namely, from £2,752,000 at the end of 1911 to £1,250,000 at the end of last year, but in the middle of 1920 an issue of £1,500,000 7 per cent. seven-year notes at 95 was made. The balance-sheet shows also a contingent liability of £898,200 for a guarantee of 6 per cent. debentures, issued by Canadian-Vickers, Limited, and of £824,200 for guarantee of bankers' loan, overdrafts, &c., for subsidiary companies. A detailed comparison of the latest balance-sheet with that for 1920 will be found in another column. From this it will be seen that creditors have been reduced by £1,301,300 to £6,084,400, this movement being balanced by reductions of £1,898,800 in debtors and of £812,200 in stocks, and by increases of £664,400 in marketable securities, and of £920,000 in cash and bills. The ordinary shares are quoted now at just under 14s. The highest point reached since the war was 2½ in 1918, and the lowest 7s. 6d. in the early part of this year. At the present time the yield works out at about 7½ per cent. At the conclusion of the forthcoming annual meeting an extraordinary meeting is to be held to define more closely the wide and undefined powers taken by the company before the end of the war to carry on any business or industry calculated to turn to account the various premises, plant, and works of the company.

RAND MIDSUMMER DIVIDENDS AND COSTS.

(BY OUR MINING CORRESPONDENT.)

THE ominous clouds which appeared upon the horizon of the Transvaal mining industry about the time of the dividend declarations in December last proved to be the precursor of a storm of unprecedented violence. The strike which followed the endeavour of the leaders of the industry to get costs down to something approaching an economic basis developed into a revolution, whose tardy suppression entailed resort to military measures.

Work was in abeyance for more than one-third of the first quarter of 1922, and while production ceased, expenses continued, save under the heading of white mining labour. To make matters worse, the gold premium declined sharply. As a result, the great majority of the companies reported losses of greater or lesser extent for the quarter ended March 31st.

In these circumstances it was a foregone conclusion that the dividend declarations in respect of the first half of the current year would, as a whole, be lower than for some considerable time past. The only matter for surprise consists in the relatively substantial extent of some of the declarations. The Meyer and Charlton—which on recent preceding occasions had followed a conservative policy in the distribution of profits—maintains its interim dividend at the same rate as for 1921. All the other announcements, however, are at greatly reduced rates, while about one-third of the companies do not figure in the list on the present occasion. In some cases the purchase of ex-enemy shares with a view to cancellation is a factor. The variations will be seen from a glance at the appended table, which covers the past two years and a half :—

Company.	Total, 1920.	Total, 1921.	June, 1921.	Dec., 1921.	June, 1922.
Brakpan.....	45	30	15	15	..
City Deep.....	32½	37½	20	17½	7½
Consolidated Langlaagte	12½	12½	5	7½	..
Consolidated Main Reef	15	8½	3½	5	..
Crown Mines.....	77½	32½	10	22½	5
Geduld Proprietary....	17½	17½	7½	10	6½
Geldenhuis Deep.....	15	..	..	..	..
Government G.M. Areas	50	55	25	30	20
Knight Central.....	7½	..	..	..	..
Langlaagte Estate....	10	12½	5	7½	..
Meyer and Charlton..	120	100	50	50	50
Modderfontein "B" ..	82½	95	40	55	30
Modderfontein Deep..	145	150	65	85	50
New Kleinfontein....	5	5	..	5	..
New Modderfontein....	102½	92½	42½	50	20
New Primrose.....	5	12½	5	7½	..
New United.....	15	10	5	5	..
Nourse Mines.....	12½	6½	2½	3½	2½
Robinson Deep "A" ..	2½	..	..	..	..
Robinson Gold.....	3	2	1	1	..
Rose Deep.....	27½	15	7½	7½	5
Simmer and Jack....	2½	2½	..	2½	..
Spring Mines.....	20	15	7½	7½	..
Sub Nigel.....	12½	3½	3½	..	3½
Van Ryn Gold.....	15½	12½	7½	5	5
Van Ryn Deep.....	65	60	30	30	10
Village Deep.....	10	10	3½	6½	..
Witwatersrand Gold..	20	25	10	15	5
Anglo-American Corpn.	10	5	5	..	..
Central Mining.....	8½	7½	3½	3½	3½
Johannesburg Consol.	124	10	10	..	7½
New Era Consolidated.	20	10	..	10	..
Rand Mines.....	145	70	35	35	20
Rand Selection Corpn..	27½	27½	15	12½	..

* Tax free.

This table does not include declarations made at dates other than June and December.

As regards the finance undertakings, the Anglo-American has been adversely affected by the disorganisation of the diamond industry. This factor also exerted considerable influence upon the fortunes of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, whose distribution, nevertheless, shows only a moderate decline. The Rand Selection Corporation is in the same boat with the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, which has been under the necessity of passing its dividend for 1921 owing to the conditions already commented upon in our columns.

That the disappointing results for the first half of 1922 should be accompanied and followed by a considerable degree of activity in the share market appears, at first sight, something of an anomaly. But optimistic views are current as to the beneficial effect which the new labour conditions, in conjunction with reduced charges for stores and materials, will have upon the working expense ratio. Certainly, appreciable progress is being made by some companies. If only the cost ratio could be brought down to a general average of say 20s, millions of tons of ore which have been excluded from estimates as unpayable under existing conditions could be made to yield wages to the worker and dividends to the shareholder.

BOTTOMLEY AND HIS METHODS.

THE failure of Horatio Bottomley's appeal leaves us with dry eyes. That his conviction on the ground of fraudulent misappropriation was just is beyond a peradventure, and the severity of his sentence is appropriate. Our tears are rather for his hundreds of thousands of victims, not only on the score of the losses which most of them could ill afford, but also for their unlimited gullibility. The perpetual gullibility of large sections of the public is in every generation exploited by financial sharks. The present generation has produced many prominent examples of the type, some of them happily now under lock and key. For a time they flourish like a green bay tree; but success is always their undoing, for it leads to a rashness which eventually oversteps the mark up to which financial roguery can be practised with impunity. Of this type Horatio Bottomley is in some respects the most interesting example that has yet appeared. He loomed larger in the public eye than any other of his kind, past or present. He had his ups-and-downs, but the war brought him his supreme opportunity. Upon public gullibility he could trade with fluctuating success; but upon gullibility coupled with patriotic emotion he could flourish exceedingly. And we frankly acknowledge our belief that he might have continued to flourish at the expense of a victimised public until the end of his days had it not been for the conspicuous ability and undaunted persistence with which our contemporary *Truth* and its financial editor carried through the conspicuous public service of exposing his rogueries.

The methods by which financial crooks batten upon the savings of their fellow-citizens are usually an interesting, if revolting, study. Hooley will be remembered as the prince of shady company promoters and manipulators of financial figures. Bottomley, had the war not occurred, might never have risen above rivalling Hooley's position. His fame would have rested merely on the records of the affairs of the Hansard Union, the Joint Stock Institute, and of a score or two mining and other speculative companies to which the public subscribed their money freely and never saw it back. But Bottomley possessed talents which would have lifted an honest citizen to high position and honour; and the arrival of the war gave these talents their grim opportunity. The power of eloquence, which in old days had often turned away the wrath of meetings of disillusioned shareholders, was employed upon the platform and in the Press to fan every popular prejudice and to voice every excess of unbridled patriotic fervour. Here was a man who by tongue and pen could sway the multitude. Under the stress of war needs, Governments and statesmen were glad to use him; and the public grew accustomed to seeing his name coupled with those of the leaders of the country's life in every sphere. At the same time, his vigorous verbal espousal of the cause of the soldier and sailor during the war and of the ex-service man thereafter, his prodigious philanthropy with other people's money, his vote-catching political stunts, his pose as a great British "sportsman," assisted in building up a popularity with the masses which gave Bottomley an unprecedented opportunity of making money out of public trustfulness.

In his later exploits, then—and it is only the adventures that brought him to his fall that are of abiding interest—Bottomley's most formidable weapon was popularity and the glamour cast by eloquent patriotic professions and association with the great. That is the keynote of his methods. But his actual financial dealings in the Bond Club affairs reveal very clearly a second method, purely financial, which, for the sake of brevity, we may call the "snowball" method. He starts one concern. When that begins to go wrong, he merges it with another. Shares in the first, together with a fresh cash payment, may be exchanged for shares in the second, and so on. And all the time the new money coming in suffices to pay off such of the sub-

scribers to the earlier concern or concerns who demand repayment with inconvenient insistence. From the wealth of evidence which *Truth* has unearthed, this method may be briefly illustrated. In 1918 Bottomley started the War Stock Combination. The avowed idea was to raise a fund of £77,500 in 15s 6d subscriptions, and purchase £100,000 in War Savings Certificates. He got the money and more, and it is a marvellous tribute to the prestige that he had achieved that the public forgot that the largest holding of Savings Certificates that any one holder could purchase was £500. The original proposal was to pledge the certificates for £10,000 with a banker, and draw for that amount in prizes, instead of waiting five years for repayment. Owing to the restriction mentioned, National War Bonds were purchased, and an announcement (readily swallowed) was made that a proper prize drawing had taken place. The flotation of the Victory Loan gave Bottomley a wonderful opportunity. He appealed on patriotic grounds for subscriptions to a Victory Bond Club. (Incidentally, subscribers to the War Stock Combination were offered exchange into the Club on payment of a cash consideration.) Shares were of £1 each, and unlimited in number; the proceeds were to be invested in Victory Bonds; interest was to be pooled as a fund for prize drawings. In spite of glaring errors in the prospectus, the public subscribed nearly £500,000. Shortly afterwards Bottomley, operating from Paris, formed the Thrift Prize Bond Club—a scheme similar to the Victory Bond Club, except that subscriptions were to be invested in French Credit National 5 per cent. bonds. In 1920 Bottomley announced that the Victory Bond Club had been "merged" into the Thrift Prize Bond Club, in spite of the fact, which should have been obvious, that the French lottery laws made the latter club illegal. Faced with this illegality, Bottomley found yet another opportunity for raising money. In exchange for their shares in the Thrift Club he offered subscribers Credit National Bonds at £15. In spite of the fact that these bonds could be bought for £9, much money came in this way. There is no need to go into further detail. In spite of the growing discontent over the earlier schemes, in spite of glaring mistakes in his "prospectuses," the impetus of Bottomley's war-born prestige carried on his "snowball" plans, so that some people could always be induced to throw good money after bad. Even up to the eve of the recent trial fresh money was, we believe, being extracted on some pretext from subscribers to one Bottomley concern or another. So long as prestige lasted there was no end to it, and the affairs of all these concerns were in such a hopeless tangle that Bottomley must have always hoped to hoodwink a jury in case of need with his unrivalled forensic persuasiveness.

Bottomley will not prey on the public again for some years, at any rate. But, unfortunately, others will, if in smaller and less notorious ways. We would therefore implore investors to learn the moral of the Bottomley affair. Those who wish to take the most ordinary safeguards to preserve their savings must essentially observe a few simple rules:—(1) Never trust merely to the glamour of a popular name. This is of no value as a substitute for proper financial organisation and safeguards. (2) Always approach an appeal for subscription in a critical spirit. The more apparently attractive the offer, the greater should be the suspicion. (3) If possible, never deal except through a recognised member of a Stock Exchange or a bank, and, if financially uninitiated, always seek advice in such quarters. (4) For those whose means are very small, and who have no ready access to bank or Stock Exchange advice, it is a good rule to stick to the securities of the State, which in these days are offered in the smallest denominations. (5) Remember that attempts to get rich quickly usually mean a quick increase in poverty. If rules like these were commonly observed, then hosts of financial sharks would be driven either to Carey street or into more reputable lines of business. Fortunately for the public, a financial crook of Bottomley's cleverness and ability does not appear in every generation, and when he does appear he is seldom faced with the amazing opportunities that the circumstances of the war presented to Horatio Bottomley.

Notes of the Week.

Fabric Glove Decision.—Though economic arguments may fail, electoral considerations still have power to sway the Prime Minister. It is the pressure of public opinion of Lancashire, voiced by the deputation of employers and employed, under the leadership of the Earl of Derby, which has caused the suspension of the order taxing the import of German fabric gloves. In form the decision of the Prime Minister to postpone the action until he has received the Lancashire case in writing is only a suspension of sentence; but, in fact, since opinion will undoubtedly harden behind the Lancashire Free-traders, the judgment against Lancashire will probably be postponed indefinitely, whatever may be the fate of the other proposed orders. The incident has been one of the most perfect examples that could have been designed to illustrate the unexpected repercussions of Protection, and it is just possible that the reflection which it may stimulate will induce the Government to suspend action on Part II. of the Safeguarding of Industries Act altogether. To put it into effect to-day is most untimely. The Supreme Council having lectured the Succession States of Central Europe on the folly of imagining that trade can recover if they shut out one another's goods, the Brussels and Genoa Conferences took up the tale, and did their best to check the growing spirit of restrictive nationalism in fiscal affairs. Great Britain alone was in a position to preach this doctrine effectively, and was a country to which everyone in Europe who was fighting for a more liberal tariff policy in his own country looked for support. It is at this critical moment of European affairs that the Government chooses to surrender its strong position, in return for an Act which gives a doubtful protection to one or two insignificant industries, barely pays the costs of its administration, and is too feeble to be an effective weapon for beating down other countries' tariffs. It is unscientific, and we venture to think that it could not possibly pass the House to-day in its present form, for since it was put upon the Statute Book German exchanges have given the world an object-lesson in the true meaning of exchange fluctuations. Six or eight months ago the internal value of the mark was three or four times as great as the external value, and the imposition of a 33½ per cent. duty was absurdly inadequate to influence the importation of German goods, which entirely depended upon whether the German producers could give delivery or not to British merchants. Two months ago, as we showed in a recent article, the internal and external values were rapidly overhauling one another, and in certain important enterprises British manufacturers were undercutting German goods, both in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Yet the Government's attempt at scientific protection ignores these variations by maintaining a steady 33½ per cent. duty until the Act expires. Finally, the Act is opposed to the whole of our financial policy, for according to the letter of the statute there is hardly any import to which, at certain conditions of the exchange, the Act could not be applied, and if this were done it would quite clearly obstruct the recovery of the commerce of Germany or any other European country. If the Safeguarding of Industries Act were administered in such a way as to have any effect at all on the European situation, it would be in the direction of preventing a stabilisation of the exchanges, and there is no serious politician who would argue to-day that any small stimulus which the Act might have on employment in a particular industry could weigh in the balance against the encouraging effect on the whole economic situation which would be caused by greater exchange stability.

Palm Kernels and Protection.—The affair of the Rutenberg contract seems so greatly to have intrigued both the House of Commons and the public that the most important feature of the debate last Tuesday on the Colonial Office

vote has received comparatively slight attention. This was the announcement by the Under-Secretary of the abolition of the duty on palm kernels, exported from the West African Colonies to destinations outside the British Empire. The imposition of this duty in 1916 under Mr Bonar Law's régime at the Colonial Office was the first breach made during the war in the Free-trade policy of the British Empire. It was, moreover, an especially serious departure, inasmuch as it meant using our political sovereignty to promote the interests of British industrialists at the expense of the native producers. The duty is now to disappear, unwept, unhonoured, and unsung. Mr Wood, indeed, had the hardihood to say that "it had produced extremely valuable results both during the war and since," coupled with the discretion to avoid giving reasons for this opinion. But he added that, "in order that it should be really effective two things were necessary—namely, that the country in which the duty was imposed should have a practical monopoly, and that the article on which the tax was imposed should be non-substitutable. These two conditions did not exist, and the Colonial Secretary, on a review of all the circumstances, had decided to abolish the duty." The plain English of this appears to be that the duty succeeded in injuring the native producer without benefiting the British seed-crusher. But the main thing is that the duty is now to go. If so short an experience has sufficed for this first essay in the new Protectionism, the term of the Safeguarding of Industries Act should be shorter still.

Teachers' Pensions.—On May 16th the second reading of the School Teachers (Superannuation) Bill was interrupted by a Government defeat on a motion for the adjournment. The debate was resumed last Monday, and the second reading carried by 210 votes to 54. It will be remembered that the Government defeat on May 16th was due to the uneasiness of M.P.s as to whether the Government, in making teachers' pensions contributory, was breaking faith with this important body of public servants. A Select Committee was appointed to look into the question, and by a narrow majority reported in the Government's favour. Hence the easy passage of the second reading on Monday. In deference, however, to the dissatisfaction that remained, particularly on the Labour Benches, Mr Fisher agreed to limit the application of the Bill to two years, and also intimated the willingness of the Government to make concessions in the case of teachers not in receipt of the full Burnham scale. With such concessions the passage of the Bill is apparently assured; so that the narrow majority of the Select Committee will probably prove to have had the triple result of helping the Government out of an awkward impasse, of soothing the consciences of members of the House of Commons, and of saving the taxpayer £2,000,000 or so per annum.

American Cotton Crop.—At the beginning of this week the Agricultural Bureau of the Department of Commerce of the United States Government published important statistics relating to the cotton crop for 1922-23. The condition of the growth on June 25th was stated to be 71.2 per cent., against 69.6 per cent. on May 25th, 69.2 per cent. at the end of June last year, and 70.7 per cent. in 1920, and a 10-year average of 76.9 per cent. The Bureau estimates the acreage at 34,852,000 acres, against the revised figures of this season of 31,763,000 acres, an increase of about 10 per cent. On the basis of the statistics issued a crop of 11,065,000 bales is indicated, as compared with an expected yield of about 8,500,000 bales for this season. "The condition report," writes our Manchester correspondent, "was much worse than anticipated, and a smart advance on prices of 3d a lb occurred, but since then the rise has not been maintained. Many Lancashire traders discredit the statistics issued by the American Government. There is a probability, however, of consumption in 1922-23 being 13,000,000 bales, and if the crop turns out to be less than that amount, lower prices can scarcely be expected."

The Scuttled Steamers.—Within the past few weeks it has been found by three separate judges that three foreign-owned steamers which went to the bottom last year were deliberately scuttled by the masters, with the connivance of the owners, for the value of the insurance money. Of the three steamers one (the "Leonita") was Spanish-owned, and the other two, the "Gregorios" and the "Johanna," were Greek. The "Leonita," which was purchased from the American Government, to whom heavy instalments had still to fall due, was sunk in the Atlantic in a very convenient position, and all the members of the crew were brought safely to land. The owners' case was that the sinking followed a bad mechanical breakdown of the engines, which broke an induction pipe, and allowed the water to flow into the steamer in such quantities that it was hopeless to attempt to save her, and she sank within a few hours. This story, to be credible, postulated so many remarkable coincidences that Mr Justice Rowlatt regretfully came to the conclusion that the boat was intentionally sunk with the privy of the owner, which (given the scuttling) was beyond a doubt, and found for the defendant underwriters. In this case once the facts were established the law presented no difficulty, for the person on whose behalf the insurance was effected was the guilty party, who by his guilt had robbed himself of any claim on his underwriters. The two Greek steamers presented a different set of circumstances, and involved the most difficult questions of law. The assured here were not the guilty owners, but innocent mortgagees who had advanced money on the steamer, and to protect the loans had themselves taken out policies of insurance. The actions were brought by them against (1) the underwriters covering war risks, and (2) the underwriters covering marine risks. The attack was first directed against the war underwriters, because the captain and crew said the vessels had been sunk by mines, but as the cases developed in court it became apparent that the damage had not been done by mines, and in spite of a desperate attempt by counsel and witnesses to prove that floating wreckage was responsible, both Mr Justice Greer and Mr Justice Bailhache decided that the vessels were sunk by the captains with the privy of the owners. This put the owners out of court, but the difficult question remained as to whether the mortgagees, who were admittedly innocent, could still recover from underwriters, despite the guilt of the owners and the captains. In a nutshell, the question is "Was the proximate cause of the loss the criminal action of the captain and the owner, who opened the seacocks, or was it the inrush of sea water which followed the opening of the seacocks?" Should the judge attribute the loss to the crime which led to the sinking, or to the sea water, which actually filled the vessels, and so caused them to go to the bottom? If the loss is in law attributable to the crime, the mortgagees have no claim; if it is attributable to sea water, they have. The judges, following a 25-year-old judgment of the Court of Appeal, decided that the proximate cause was sea water, and gave judgment for the mortgagees, though Mr Justice Bailhache obviously did so with reluctance and much doubt. To the layman the question seems ridiculously silly, and that hundreds of thousands of pounds should depend on the answer to it, ludicrous. But law is law, and where commonsense and law come to blows, it is commonsense that takes the count.

The Distillers' Company.—The industrial depression has left the Distillers' Company almost unscathed. Profits for the year 1920-21 dropped, it is true, by £70,000 from the high record of the previous year, but in the year ended May 15th last they rose again by £45,000 to £642,300, which, with the exception of the boom year referred to, is the highest figure touched in the history of the company. Results for the past four years, and for 1913-14, are compared below:—

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

YEAR ENDED MAY 15th.

	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross profits ..	310,993	394,199	502,379	669,464	597,582	642,337
Brought forward	19,223	61,872	65,358	70,435	100,526	108,994
Income-tax, &c.	330,216	456,071	567,737	739,899	698,108	751,331
Debiture int.	28,733	96,217	140,167	140,862	155,099	157,071
Reserve & dep.	36,409	28,813	27,090	27,090	27,090	27,302
	100,550	60,000	125,000	255,000	105,000	165,000
Balance	164,524	271,041	275,480	316,947	410,919	401,958
Preference div.	13,499	10,684	10,045	11,432	11,432	11,521
Ordinary div.	130,000	195,300	195,000	204,989	290,493	291,667
	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)
Carried forward	21,025	65,357	70,435	100,526	108,994	98,770

The reserve fund is credited with £150,000, as against £100,000 a year ago, and £10,000 now goes to superannuation and staff fund. The ordinary dividend, which is paid free of income-tax, is maintained at 10 per cent., but the carry forward is reduced by £10,000. The ordinary capital has been increased by £200,000, 20,000 £10 shares being allotted in part payment of purchase of distilleries from James Calder and Co., Limited. These shares, however, have not yet ranked for dividend. Property and plant together show an increase of £184,000, but debtors have been reduced by £314,900. Loans to subsidiary companies have been increased by £263,900 to £685,000, and loans from subsidiary companies reduced by £152,000 to £297,900. Stocks of spirits, grain, &c., which "are put down as usual at safe prices," stand at £2,186,700, or £17,100 more than a year ago. An analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in another column.

Burmah Oil.—The report for 1921 of the Burmah Oil Company shows a sharp drop in profits, which brings them down to the level earned in 1917. This decline is attributed by the directors to the fall in the value of the rupee, together with the reduction in the market value for all petroleum products, the latter mainly affecting the company in its production of paraffin wax, and petrol "sold outwith India." The drop in profits amounted to £1,650,000, as may be seen from the following comparison of results:—

	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit ..	971,278	2,849,103	4,344,469	3,965,950	2,353,894
Interest, &c.	58,335	215,692	287,149	322,177	284,510
	1,029,613	3,064,795	4,631,618	4,288,127	2,638,404
Income-tax	50,509	268,927	318,121	294,835	470,733
Administration ..	27,596	52,550	126,761	103,713	106,053
Depreciation	124,242	..	..	..	..
War expenses ..	30,028	..	..	..	..
Insurance	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
To reserve	200,000	186,695	1,361,447	346,848	358,827
Pref. dividend ..	55,375	36,750	42,000	44,531	126,000
Ord. dividend ..	523,875	857,250	1,428,750	1,543,050	1,545,289
	(27½ %)	(30 %)	(50 %)	(30 %)	(30 %)
Carried forward ..	72,601	1,776,229	1,536,994	2,142,184	359,584

† Tax free. ‡ Including donation of £50,000 to Cambridge University.

The increase in income-tax is more apparent than real, for a year ago there were various deductions for amounts recovered. The amount carried forward from the 1920 accounts was subject to taxation estimated at £1,935,000. The latter proves to have been £1,794,100, as the amount brought into the 1921 accounts is £348,082. The reserve appropriations include £200,000 to general reserve, £20,000 to insurance reserve, and £108,800 to employees' provident fund. The amounts written off for depreciation and field expenditure before profits were struck totalled £1,247,700, as compared with £1,153,700 in the previous year. After payment of the 30 per cent. dividend, free of tax, the same as in the previous year, there remains £359,600, or £11,100 more than was brought in, to be carried forward, subject to corporation profits tax. During the year an issue of £3,000,000 8 per cent. preference shares was made, and these ranked for six months' dividend, which absorbed £84,000. A detailed analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in the usual column. The directors mention that there has been within recent weeks a rather stronger tendency in petroleum values, and they anticipate that if this is maintained the current year's results will be as good as those of the previous year.

The Anglo-Dutch Report.—The net profits of the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java for 1921 make a more favourable showing than might have been expected, being £116,556, against £147,186 in the previous year. A year ago 10 per cent. was paid on the 1,286,780 old shares and 2½ per cent. on the 643,390 new bonus shares. This year 6 per cent. is to be distributed on the full 1,930,170 £1 shares, leaving a small sum to be added to the amount brought into the accounts to be carried forward to the current year. Recent years' results compare as follows:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Share capital.....	£1,163,216	£1,286,780	£1,286,780	£1,930,170	£1,930,170
Net profit	81,615	89,317	215,350	147,186	116,556
Brought forward	48,483	71,937	58,311	48,475	50,898
Available for distribution	130,098	161,254	273,661	195,661	167,454
Paid in dividends.....	58,167	102,943	225,187	144,763	115,810
Rate per cent.	5	8	17½	10 on old shares 2½ on new shs.	6
Carried forward	71,937	58,311	48,475	50,898	51,644

The results would have been better but for tea crop disappointments. The 1921 tea crop was 1,620,778 lbs, against 2,083,831 lbs in 1920, and the net selling price was only 5.91d per lb, against 7.44d. The rubber crop was 2,369,602 lbs, against 2,559,004 lbs, the net selling price falling from 1s 6½d to 1s 3d, but costs were also brought down from over a shilling to 10½d per lb. As regards the current year, the directors have decided to reduce rubber tapping still further, and, of course, a selling price of 1s 3d can hardly be looked for. But two references in the report to expenditure are hopeful. The first statement is: "The representative has effected important reductions in the general expenditure of the company, which it is expected will have a marked effect on the cost prices of products and general working during the year." The second passage is as follows:—"The year opened with a continuation of the adverse labour conditions of the previous year..... More normal conditions have supervened, and the year closed with labour, as regards volume and rates, again on normal levels....." The outlook for important cost reductions in the current year is therefore favourable. Happy in these critical days is the plantation company with large liquid resources, and this happiness the Anglo-Dutch enjoys. The balance-sheet shows gilt-edged investments which, at the middle-market price of December 31st last, were worth £1,139,500. Even if the acute rubber crisis lasts for some years, the company, thanks to its interests outside rubber and its strong liquid resources, should have no difficulty in weathering the storm.

Agricultural and General Engineers.—The report for the year ended March 31st last of Agricultural and General Engineers, Limited, founded in 1919 to obtain controlling interests in a number of agricultural and other engineering concerns, shows that the combined results of all these companies is a loss of £217,000, after writing down stocks and work in progress to market value and providing for taxation. The parent company is able to show a profit of £51,200, of which no less than £31,300 is interest on loans to associated companies. Results for the past two years compare as follows:—

	1920-21.	1921-22.
Profit.....	£68,730	£51,235
Brought forward.....	21,470	456
Written off	90,201	51,691
Preference dividend	89,745	37,663
Carried forward	456	14,028

Out of the amount available £31,400, the balance of preliminary expenses, is written off, and provision for two years' income-tax and corporation profits tax requires £6,300. No preference dividend is paid, the arrears at the date of the balance-sheet being £43,200, and the report adds that interest to the net amount of £17,600 is, under contract, payable on the balance of the purchase price of shares in associated companies, pending an issue of 6 per cent. preference shares to the amount of £168,300. For this purpose it is proposed to convert 168,300 of the unissued ordinary shares into preference shares ranking *pari passu* with the existing preference shares. The unissued ordinary capital at the date of the balance-sheet was £4,414,400, but the company is under agreement to issue further ordinary shares in respect of foreign debts recovered by associated companies. Shares in associated companies stand in the balance-sheet at cost—namely, £2,081,200—and debentures at £458,000, while the balance of the combined net assets of these companies is given as £3,331,300. There is no reserve fund, and the directors, "whilst drawing attention to the loss on balance made by the associated companies, do not propose making any reserve in this year's accounts, as the basis on which the concerns were acquired.....provides ample margin." There are contingent liabilities in respect of partly-paid acquired shares amounting to £13,800, and in respect of guarantees of overdrafts of associated companies amounting to £260,200. Apart from investments in and loans to associated companies, the only asset of any size in the balance-sheet is leasehold property in Aldwych, £187,000, cash standing at £8,300.

Anglo-Polish Bank.—Highly successful results are disclosed in the report for 1921 of the Anglo-Polish Bank, formed in the spring of 1920 under the auspices of the British Overseas Bank. Credit is given in the report to the latter for the support of their "powerful organisation." Moreover, "it was mainly owing to this valuable assistance and connection that it was found possible to effect transactions which far surpassed the resources of the Anglo-Polish Bank, Limited, itself." The development of the bank, indeed, is said to have been "so rapid" that the directors had to make "special effort" to keep level with the work required for the internal organisation of the bank. Profits for the year amounted to 166½ million Polish marks, of which 9,375,000 was devoted to a dividend of 30 per cent., 35½ millions was placed to reserve, and 50 millions capitalised, raising the paid-up capital to 100 millions. At the end of the year the capital was raised from 25 to 50 millions, the bulk of the new issue being taken up by a Polish bank. The balance-sheet shows current accounts at 318½ million marks, while cash stands at 40 millions, balance at the State bank at 148 millions, bills discounted at 154½ millions, and public securities at 118 millions.

Financial Conditions in Japan.—Cable advices from Japan state that since last month general economic conditions have somewhat improved. Thanks to a plentiful supply of credit the large demand on the banks for money for purchasing new cocoons by raw silk manufacturers has been easily satisfied, and the market passed through

the end of the half-year under easier conditions than had been anticipated in March or April. While the rate of day-to-day money was quoted at 11 per cent. at the end of the month, that of money running over the next month was only 8½ per cent., showing the general tendency of the market, which fully expects cheaper money for some time to come. The raw silk market in Yokohama is steady owing to small stocks, while new raw silk is gradually arriving; the stock held by the Imperial Silk Company has now been reduced to 450,000 kin. The rice market, which was very strong in consequence of little rain in the wet season, has become slightly weaker now that fair quantities of rain in various districts are reported.

Shamva Mines.—The past year, writes our mining correspondent, may be regarded as marking the beginning of a new phase in the history of this Rhodesian enterprise—unique in the possession of a mountain of low-grade ore. In his 1920 report the consulting engineer laid considerable stress upon the importance of the removal and treatment of the large tonnage of overburden which overlies the better ground. For the year in question the quantity of low-grade or "excess" material extracted was slightly in excess of that taken from the estimated reserves. For the purpose of enabling the company to operate on a larger scale eight Nissen stamps with one tube mill were installed, and came into operation at the beginning of 1921. A natural corollary to the foregoing is the inclusion in the reserve estimates of a large tonnage of material, low-grade but payable, hitherto not taken into account. Hence the jump in quantity and decline in average shown by the 1921 figures in contrast with those for preceding periods. The salient features of the past three annual reports are set out below:—

	1919.	1920.	1921.
Ore crushed	599,500 ..	609,500 ..	595,500
Gold yield	95,520 ..	96,720 ..	87,120
Cost per ton	114.60 ..	125.18 ..	122.50
Net profit	£178,500 ..	£223,500 ..	£155,100
Dividends.....	135,000 ..	180,000 ..	180,000
Taxes, &c.	..	25,800 ..	10,200
Brought forward	49,700 ..	93,150 ..	110,870
Carried forward	93,150 ..	110,870 ..	75,790
Ore reserves.....	1,982,000 ..	1,981,250 ..	2,801,000
Value.....	4.3 ..	4.1 ..	3.5

That, despite the increase in the treatment capacity, the tonnage crushed last year should fall somewhat below the 1920 total is due partly to the need for reconditioning the old plant, and partly to a stoppage of 32 days through labour trouble. With lower-grade ore sent to the mill, the yield of gold inevitably declined, and the revenue was further cut down by the fall in the gold premium. These two factors in combination reduced last year's income by £72,400 to £463,300. The cost ratio remaining practically unaltered, maintenance of the dividend at 30 per cent. entailed drawing upon the carry forward to the tune of £35,000. Two interim distributions of 7½ per cent. each have been announced in respect of the current year. Upon this basis the yield on the shares at 30s cum. dividend is over 20 per cent.—a rate which makes a fair allowance for contingencies. Future distributions will depend partly upon the extent to which reduced wages and lower charges for stores will offset the decline in the gold premium. The May average was 9s, as against somewhat over 10s for the whole of 1921.

The Russian Situation.—The fourth of the *Manchester Guardian* Commercial Reconstruction Numbers, which is mainly devoted to Russia, is probably unique in international journalism, for in it the editor, Mr J. M. Keynes, has persuaded the heads of the Soviet Government to state their own case to the world. The illness of Lenin has prevented his sending his promised contribution, but foreign affairs, industry, agriculture, Labour, and finance are dealt with by the various experts. External views of the Russian situation are supplied by Lord Robert Cecil, M. Painlevé, and Signor Orlando, and by a number of American contributors, some of whom supply some of the most uncompromising criticism of the Bolshevik régime. No one who wishes to understand the Russian situation should

fail to study this remarkable production, whose only shortcoming is the absence of any statement from the British trader's standpoint.

Claims Against Bulgaria.—The Administrator of Bulgarian property has, under the powers conferred upon him by Section 1 (iv.) of the Treaty of Peace (Bulgaria) Orders, 1920-1922, and with the approval of the President of the Board of Trade, prescribed September 30, 1922, as the final date by which proofs of debts by British nationals against Bulgarian nationals, and other claims by British nationals against the Bulgarian Government, must be made in order to rank for payment of the first dividend to be declared by him out of the Bulgarian assets within his Majesty's Dominions or Protectorates which are subject to the charge created by Section 1 (i.) of those Orders. British nationals who have claims against Bulgarian nationals or the Bulgarian Government under Part IX. (Economic Clauses) of the Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine, with the payment of which the Bulgarian assets above referred to are charged, and who have not yet lodged their claims upon the prescribed forms with the Department for the Administration of Bulgarian Property, Cornwall House, Stamford street, London, S.E. 1, should do so immediately, as any such claims lodged after September 30, 1922, will only be permitted to rank against any surplus of the above-mentioned Bulgarian assets which may remain over after payment of the said first dividend.

The third annual Norwegian Industries Fair will this year be held from September 3rd till 10th at Christiania.

Oversea Correspondence.

THE IRISH FREE STATE. — SUPPRESSION OF REBELLION—STRENGTH OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT—LABOUR'S ATTITUDE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, July 6.

THE definite ascertainment of the national will of Ireland a fortnight ago has proved a veritable quickening of the longed-for offspring with whom she has been pregnant so long. Scarcely were the election returns completed when the Provisional Government struck its first blow at the armed forces of disorder. To-day the backbone of open resistance is broken, though undoubtedly the vanquished will continue to practise, at the expense of the community which they profess to love, those insurrectionary tactics which are so carefully worked out in the propagandist handbooks of militant anarchy. Their atrocious anti-patriotic and anti-social activities, however, have one salutary effect: they have stimulated, and will continue to stimulate, the concentration of the national will and its determination to realise itself in a firmly maintained system of peace and order. Amidst the storm of shot and shell, with the attendant flames and bloodshed following close in their train, the good ship Ireland has found herself, has braced herself to take the strain, and has triumphantly forged ahead in her appointed course. The people are proud of their Army, of its gallantry, its efficiency, and that zealous unity of spirit which serves it well so far in lieu of the mechanical discipline of the older-established armies. They have confidence in the chiefs of the Provisional Government, whose general policy, which was open to misconstruction, has been vindicated by its later development, and whose temper and sense of perspective have been really admirable. They will respond generously to the national call to arms, issued to-day, by the aid of which the Provisional Government proposes systematically to stamp out the embers of the revolt as they flicker into activity sporadically throughout the community. Thus, if they remain true to themselves, after a brief space will they enter into their promised land, which, in truth, will prove for them, economically speaking, a land flowing with milk and honey. In the meantime, the salutary process of purging the body politic of noxious disorders must have cost the country some three or four

millions sterling. But if the forces of hysterics, high-falutin', and pseudo-intellectualism have been suppressed, no sane Irishman will grudge the cost. Too long have they been allowed to mislead honest men by disingenuous appeals to patriotic ideals.

One minor development of the situation is significant. Labour is showing a disposition to fish in troubled waters. It has protested against the postponement from July 1st to the 15th of the first meeting of the newly elected Dail. Its leader, Mr Thomas Johnston, admitted, by the courtesy of the Provisional Government, to Mountjoy Gaol to interview the imprisoned rebels for a specific purpose, used the opportunity for giving publicity and currency to the prisoners' views in a matter of controversial propaganda. Some of its extremists have obviously been in unofficial alliance with the rebels, and it is already pretty clear that it will, at least, not facilitate the Provisional Government. Apparently, it dislikes any form of government which provides an Executive prompt and strong to suppress every form of sectional disorder. Short-sighted as this is, the fact remains. Labour, in Ireland as elsewhere, has not yet realised that by constitutional action in a democratic country it can achieve all that it really wants. It still bankers after illegitimate power—after the strike which the State is not strong enough to control. Large numbers of farmers and commercialists who voted Labour at the recent election in protest against militarism are beginning to realise that they would be better off with a policy and a party of their own.

Now that Ireland has started to curb her extremists, the question is whether North-East Ulster will follow her lead. Sir James Craig has told us that the disorder in Southern Ireland is the cause of the troubles in Belfast. Mr Collins has replied that the converse is the case, and the chronology of the last two years would appear to confirm his view. But, be that as it may, he has started most drastically to put his house in order. Will Sir James Craig fellow suit? What has happened in Belfast would go far to ruin the moral credit of any city, and the developments bid fair to bring economic disaster close on their heels. The Ulster Association has issued from its London office a statement upon the position as to the trade and financial position, with the object, apparently, of restoring confidence in British business circles, to the loss of which it expressly refers; and it deprecates economic isolation from the rest of Ireland, while viewing the prospect of it "with a good deal of equanimity." It may yet achieve both its objects if the North-East Ulster Government will grapple with its own extremists as the Provisional Government of Ireland has done.

UNITED STATES.—REDUCTION IN FEDERAL RESERVE RATES—OIL PRODUCERS' MEXICAN NEGOTIATIONS—BANK MERGER—NEW BOND OFFERINGS—TELEPHONE STOCK OFFERED TO CUSTOMERS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, June 29.

LAST week's reduction by the New York Federal Reserve Bank of its rate on rediscounts and advances of all kinds from $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which had prevailed since November 3, 1921, to 4 per cent. had long been predicted, and was considered inevitable when the Bank of England recently reduced its rate. For several weeks, as a matter of fact, the New York institution had been in a position to lower its rate, but the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. level was maintained, largely, it is said, because its officials feared that a reduction might possibly lead to another period of inflation and speculation. There was some ground for such apprehension. Tangible evidence was not lacking that the Treasury Department's reduction a while ago in the interest rate on new certificates of indebtedness had been chiefly responsible for tendencies in that direction. Evidently it is considered, however, that all danger of such a development has now passed. The latest reduction in the New York rediscount rate is the sixth made during the process of liquidation and readjustment under way since February of 1921, when the rate was raised to 7 per cent., the highest ever named by the local bank. The Federal Reserve institution at Boston immediately followed New York's lead by cutting its rate from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent., and it is expected that banks

in the 10 other central reserve cities throughout the country will lower their rediscount rates, although such action probably will not be taken at once by all of them; they will be governed by conditions in their respective districts. The Bank rate reduction was followed by freer offerings of time money at 4 per cent. for the 60 and 90-day periods, and at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for 30-day loans, while the business paper market has shown a downward trend to a 4 per cent. basis, as against $4\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount rates heretofore prevailing.

Following the successful conclusion of negotiations for the settlement of Mexico's foreign debt, Finance Minister de la Huerta is conferring here with representatives of leading American oil companies which operate in Mexico. The latter, it is understood, are seeking to obtain the Mexican Government's approval of a plan which will afford proper security to the companies, and also will assure the Government of its share of the benefits accruing from development. The companies, it seems, propose to act concertedly in exploration work, if guarantees are obtained, although it is said that they are not endeavouring to secure any special favours or concessions. They wish to learn what burdens, if any, they may have to bear in the shape of regulatory laws, taxation, and so on, before they start expenditures in search for new oilfields in Mexico. The plan now under consideration is to pool all undeveloped Mexican acreage of American companies for development by a corporation to be owned and controlled jointly by them. Many oil men believe that such joint operation in exploration work would save much useless expenditure of time and money. American oil interests attending the conferences are those who visited Mexico City last April to negotiate with Mexican Government officials on export taxes and other matters.

A bank merger of more than ordinary interest is the proposed consolidation of the Bank of New York and the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company. The trustees of the latter and the directors of the bank have already approved of the union under the name of the Bank of New York and Trust Company, and arrangements are being made for special meetings of the stockholders to ratify the plan. Edwin G. Merrill, president of the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company, will be president of the consolidated company, while Herbert L. Griggs, president of the Bank of New York, will become chairman of the board of trustees. The new institution will have a capital stock of \$4,000,000, surplus and undivided profits of about \$12,000,000, and net deposits exceeding \$50,000,000. For the immediate future, both institutions will continue to maintain their present headquarters in Wall Street. The Bank of New York is the oldest bank in New York City, having been organised in 1784. It was founded as a State bank, but after the close of the Civil War, in 1865, it was converted into a national bank. The New York Life Insurance and Trust Company was the first financial institution in the United States to begin business with "trust company" as a part of its title. It was organised under a special charter granted by the New York State Legislature in 1830, and has always made a specialty of personal trusts.

Ordinarily, a reduction in the Federal Reserve rediscount rate and relaxation in money would stimulate activity at rising prices in the bond market. The latter, however, has ruled extremely dull for several days, and price fluctuations in most instances have been so narrow as to excite comment. One of the few features was the advance in Liberty Loan 4½'s to new high records, but their gain over previous levels was only slight, and movements in other issues were very irregular, with foreign Government bonds generally displaying a reactionary tendency, which was attributed more to present, and perhaps temporary, market conditions than to any new developments affecting them. Even British securities, which have been the mainstay of the market here for foreign bonds, eased off, the heaviest decline occurring in the 5½'s of 1929: they dropped more than a point to 107½. Mexican Governments lost practically all of their recent rise, while some weakness developed in South Americans and various Europeans, such as Denmark 6's and 8's, Bordeaux, Lyons, and Marseilles issues. The week's offerings of new securities, exceeding \$93,000,000, consisted largely of railway equipment trust certificates, the total of which reached about

\$42,000,000, including \$27,645,000 New York Central 5's. State and Municipal bonds accounted for \$25,000,000. Several foreign bond offerings are still under negotiation, but subscription books were opened to investors last week for 12,500,000 kroner deposit certificates issued by the Guaranty Trust Company of New York for the Kingdom of Norway 6 per cent. internal loan of 1921-1931, the price being \$198 flat per 1,000 kroner. The bonds, which are payable, principal and interest, in Norwegian kroner, are redeemable by October 1, 1931, in 16 semi-annual instalments, beginning April 1, 1924, by drawings at par or purchases in the open market if below par.

It is not uncommon for American corporations, especially industrial concerns, to extend to their employees the privilege of becoming shareholders through the purchase of stock, either in cash or in monthly instalments. The United States Steel Corporation is a notable example. The New York Telephone Company, however, has gone a step farther. Believing that "satisfactory telephone service depends largely upon the co-operation" of its customers, employees, and management, and that such co-operation "will be increased through the direct personal interest in the company" which its customers will have as shareholders, it is now offering to customers (telephone subscribers) 6½ per cent. cumulative preferred stock, par value \$100, at \$100 per share, plus interest accrued at the dividend rate, payable in cash, or in monthly instalments, or by partial payments as small as \$5 a month per share. Six per cent. interest will be allowed on the monthly payments until the stock is fully paid for. Not more than \$25,000,000 will be issued at this time, and the number of shares to any one person is limited to a maximum of 20. Heretofore, the company's only stock has been common stock, held by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; the new stock is preferred over the common stock, both as to assets and dividends.

FRANCE.—FRANCE AND THE DEBTS PROBLEM—GERMAN LABOUR AND PUBLIC WORKS—BOURSE (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 5.

UNDER pressure of the American determination to secure payment of the debts owing to it by the Allies, French opinion is slowly awakening to the fact that, even if Germany eventually escapes bankruptcy and carries out her undertaking to pay her reparation debt, there will be little likelihood of any of the money being available for the reconstitution of the devastated regions. The cold facts of the situation are now becoming painfully clear. The United States Congress, whether for election purposes or otherwise, has voted a Bill, under the provisions of which France is to be called on to pay off her debt to America within 25 years, with interest at the minimum rate of 4.5 per cent. The British Government, as everybody knows, is also a heavy debtor to America, and is in the same predicament as France under the provisions of the same Act of Congress. It has accordingly warned the French Government that it reserves the right, as from October next, also to call on this country to pay off its debt to Great Britain. The British Government, with characteristic sense of realism, has more than once put forward tentative suggestions, as is well known, for some plan to be arrived at whereby a mutual cancellation of debts might be brought about, and has shown itself prepared to write off at least part of the debt owing to it by France if the latter, on the one hand, would agree to forego an equivalent amount of the debt owing to her by Germany, and the United States, on the other hand, would consent to waive part of its claims against Great Britain. The French, in view of their vital need of payment from Germany, have shown themselves by no means eager to accept this suggestion, while the Americans have flatly refused to consider it. The Washington Government has also refused to consider another British proposal, to the effect that the question of the inter-Allied debts as a whole and the reparations problem should be taken into consideration at one and the same time, with a view to general liquidation, and has insisted that it will deal only with each debtor country separately.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital ... 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application. On **Current Accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

For the time being, therefore, it is evident that matters are at a deadlock, and it is difficult to see what possible solution can be arrived at, unless the United States Government is prepared to write off, for once and for ever, a substantial proportion of the debt owing to it by the Allies. So far as France is concerned, the present situation, as set forth by the American demand for payment, is an absolutely impossible one.

M. Henry de Jouvenel, one of the leading members of the Senate, sets out the situation in a striking manner. Using the gold mark as the basis of calculation, and assuming that the same method of repayment would be demanded by both Great Britain and the United States, he sets out the French annual balance-sheet as follows, in respect of the amounts this country ought to receive from Germany and would have to pay to her Allies:—

French debt to United States:—	Gold Marks.
13,000,000,000 gold marks, repayable in 25 years, at 4.5 % by annuities of	876,000,000
French debt to Great Britain:—	
11,600,000,000 gold marks, repayable in 25 years, at 4.5 % by annuities of	781,000,000

Total annual payments to America and Great Britain... 1,657,000,000
Reparation payments owing by Germany to France, namely, 52 % on 3,000,000,000 gold marks per annum (assuming that no new moratorium be accorded to Germany and that she pays the whole amount in cash) 1,560,000,000

leaving an annual deficit to be met by France of 97,000,000 gold marks, or about 300,000,000 at the present value of the franc. "In other words," said M. de Jouvenel, a day or two ago, "after all the priorities have been exhausted (cost of armies of occupation, Belgium priority, and priority for private debts, &c.), the Allies of France will first, if Germany fulfils her engagements scrupulously, take for themselves 48 per cent. of the money paid (under the agreements of December, 1919); then place their hands on the remaining 52 per cent. (in virtue of the debts owing to them by France), and finally will demand a further 300,000,000 a year, leaving us to find the money to pay for the reconstitution of the devastated area, pensions, and the whole cost of carrying on war (other than the amount we borrowed from our own Allies) from our own pockets."

The foregoing represents, in general, the situation of France as it will be laid before the Washington Government by M. Parmentier, who has just left for America on a special mission from the French Government to the United States, with a view to sounding the American Treasury Department as to what, if any, arrangements may be possible in the interest of this country. I understand M. Parmentier's instructions are not to busy himself in any way with questions of a definite settlement, but merely to investigate and inquire. Indirect efforts have already repeatedly been made, as is known, to induce the French Government to take the initiative in raising the question of a general liquidation of war debts. In view of the fact that this must inevitably involve the question of a possible further reduction of the French claim against Germany, the Poincaré Government has so far remained adamant to these overtures. It is now regarded here as probable that the American Government, once the pending elections are out of the way, will be compelled, in spite of its previous refusals, to raise the matter on its own account, possibly in the form of a new Washington Conference of the Powers, the work of which would be limited to financial and economic questions.

In the circumstances it is not surprising that the plans referred to in this column last week for the utilisation of

German labour and materials (in default of reparation payments in cash) in the carrying out of public works in this country, are being energetically pushed forward. At this morning's meeting of the Ministerial Council a report was presented from the Inter-Ministerial Commission appointed to consider these plans, in which it was recommended that the programme of the first section of the public works which it is proposed shall be carried out by Germany in application of Article 19b of Appendix 2 to Part VIII. of the Treaty of Versailles, should be immediately laid before the Reparations Commission, with a view to its execution. I understand that this "first section" includes the following proposed works:—

Development of the River Rhone: total estimated cost, 3,250,000,000f; German part, 2,658,000,000f; French part, 592,000,000f; the labour required will occupy 12,000 workmen permanently for 10 years.

Development of the River Truyère: estimated total cost, 210,000,000f; German part, 129,000,000f; French part, 81,000,000f; labour required will be 1,800 men, all Germans, for four years.

Development of the middle section of the Dordogne River: estimated total cost, 290,000,000f; German part, 185,000,000f; French part, 105,000,000f; 2,500 German workers for four years.

Tunnel from St Maurice to Wesserling (through the Vosges Mountains, Mulhouse-Epinal line) 8,264 metres long (with 10-millimetre gradient): estimated cost, 64,000,000f (of which 63,500,000f comprises German part); 600 German workmen for five years.

Canals to link up the Saar, Moselle and Meuse, and the Meuse and Escaut (or Scheldt): estimated cost, 1,010 million francs, of which the German part would be 862,000,000f and the French 147,000,000f; labour time required, 19,800,000 days.

These works, which total 4,824,000,000f, it is proposed shall be carried out like ordinary public works, under the orders of French engineers. The German contractors would use their own plant. The German labour would be paid by the Berlin Government, and would be lodged and boarded in labour camps, receiving only small sums in francs as pocket money. As a general principle, one-third of the materials used would be furnished by French manufacturers.

Various factors making for an improved position on the Bourse came into effect this week, and markets have been firmer. The fall in value of the franc has naturally given strength to international securities and to a certain extent to French industrials, while the firmness of both London and New York, despite the Irish situation on the one hand and the threatened strikes on the other, have contributed to the maintenance of the strength of the French market. French 3 per cents. have advanced from 57.45 to 57.90, but other Government stocks have fallen back, the 1918 4 per cents., for instance, declining from 62.70 to 62.20 and the 1917 4 per cents. from 62.15 to 61.95. Banks generally are higher. The Banque de Paris et Pays Bas has moved from 1,096 to 1,118, the Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 602 to 609, and the Banque des Pays du Nord from 415 to 445. Foreign banks have been irregular, but with slight fluctuations. In railways Est has lost five points at 720, Metropolitan is unchanged at 370, Nord has gained ten points at 1,180, Orleans two points at 872, while P.L.M. is four points weaker at 865.

GERMANY.—INTERNAL POLITICS—REICHSBANK—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—IRON PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 1.

THE internal situation during the past week has not materially changed. Police investigations show that there is a considerable extremist organisation, the more desperate members of which, mostly very young men whom the Revolution displaced from their normal vocations, hold that killing Ministers is no murder. No conspiracy against the Republic by any persons who pretend to control armed forces has been discovered. The popular excitement, however, continues to be intense, and takes not very edifying forms. A Government and a nation in a panic seldom show political

wisdom, and in the present case there are indications that the Republic is more endangered by lack of political sense in its supporters than by the occasional murder plots of its much less numerous foes. The Left newspapers and prominent Left politicians proclaim, nevertheless, without ceasing that Republican institutions are in mortal peril, and to support this impression the wildest charges are, without any proof, launched against named individuals who are or are even alleged to be in some way connected with German-National politics. The Cabinet apparently holds that the cry "the Republic is in danger!" will rally citizens not only to support the Republic, but also to support of itself. This panic policy is at once irresponsible and unintelligent, and it is plainly the cause of the new heavy drop in mark exchange, a serious matter, as Ministers have often rightly declared, both for home conditions and international relations. That the result has not been worse must be credited to the cooler heads of international finance.

The measures adopted by the Cabinet are open to criticism. They have been condemned by the Cabinet of Bavaria, but apparently will be supported by most of the other States. Under the 48th Article of the Constitution, the Federal Government has power to suspend the Constitutional guarantees—right of assembly, freedom of the Press, and so on—and it has a right to take further not defined "necessary measures" for restoration of order. Were the Republic really in any danger, these exceptional powers would properly be used against individuals or organisations plotting a counter-revolution, and equipped with sufficient resources at least to make success conceivable. As there is no such danger, the Cabinet has not so used its powers. Instead, there have been published in great haste decrees which almost exclusively give personal protection to certain privileged citizens. Extravagantly long terms of imprisonment are proclaimed for persons who slander or libel Federal Ministers in office, and the same unusual protection is extended to all Ministers now in office, or who have ever been in office since the Revolution in any of the States. Without waiting for the Reichstag's sanction the Cabinet has proclaimed the death penalty as punishment for membership of, or financial support of, any organisation which has among its aims the removal by force of any person who has ever held office since the Revolution. It is doubtful whether the German, any more than any other modern Constitution, intended to empower officials to extend the sphere of capital punishment by decree, when the Legislature, if it wishes, can pass the necessary law in a few hours. The Cabinet's policy is doubly open to criticism in the light of the particular conditions of German criminal law. For Germans who do not and have never held office there is practically no defence against slander or libel; civil damages are not given; and the Courts usually inflict only petty fines. Against the assassination, with the worst motives, of citizens who have never been Ministers, there is also little protection, owing to the leniency of the Courts and the liberal application of new theories of moral and mental irresponsibility. The Cabinet's extreme Left supporters are quite as vehement in their attacks and incitements as are its Right enemies. All members of all present or of all past Federal and State Cabinets have not honestly earned immunity from attack; the late Herr Erzberger, before his assassination, was declared by a Court's verdict to have been thoroughly corrupt, and his corruption was exposed by the very parties who are now threatened with five years' imprisonment; in Dr Wirth's present Cabinet a prominent Minister is at present under official enquiry on corruption charges brought first by Republicans, and pressed home with extraordinary violence solely because this Minister was suspected of reaction in his Finance policy; and a considerable number of the former State Ministers gave only too good ground for attack. The Wirth Cabinet has committed a serious blunder in giving a privileged position to all these miscellaneous politicians, and there is good reason to believe that its members are repeating a mistake of the displaced autocrats by identifying their personal safety and immunity, and not the safety and protection of all citizens equally, with the cause of good government.

The foreign exchanges were yesterday 100 per cent. over

the figure of the beginning of the year, the dollar quoting at 374, against 187 on January 2nd. Extreme shortness of money prevails. The price of day money this week was between 4½ and 6 per cent. The Reichsbank has decided not to raise its discount rate for the present. Whether a discount rate increase would check the demand for credit is doubtful—currency depreciation makes borrowing even upon unfavourable terms profitable. An increase in the rate would cost the State considerable sums, as the Reichsbank's discounts almost wholly consist of Treasury bills. There is a great demand for money by farmers. The Reichsbank statement for June 23rd shows a decline of Treasury bill discounts by 4,278,000,000 marks to 167,624,671,000 marks and an increase of note circulation by 2,589,951,000 marks to 157,935,228,000 marks. The decline in discounts means merely the normal reaction against the large demand for credit shown by the statement for June 15th. More characteristic of money conditions is the increase of 1,987,527,000 marks to 11,150,680,000 marks in Kassenscheine booked among the bank's assets. Before the money shortness began the "Kassenscheine," which represent loans on bonds, stocks, &c., on easier terms than those granted by the Reichsbank proper, threatened to disappear altogether, owing to the rapid repayment of the loans on which they are secured. The total loans outstanding sank from 33 milliards at the end of 1920 to 20 milliards at the end of 1921. It has since, owing to the money shortage, risen to 21 milliards. The impending collection of the forced loan is expected to bring further demands both on the loan bureaux and on the Reichsbank for rediscounts.

In spite of rising exchanges, the Bourse continued dull and undecided, with occasional rises in average quotations towards the end of the week, which were followed by reactions. Owing to various unfavourable factors, stocks have not of late risen in accord with the exchanges, as they invariably did in 1920 and 1921. Whereas the foreign exchanges stand twice as high as at beginning of the year, the stock index (*Frankfurter Zeitung's*) for 25 dividend-payers has only risen since January from 33,442 to 35,068. Potash stocks were yesterday active and rising, but attempts by speculators to galvanise the general market failed. Home Loans have not been affected by the Rathenau crisis; in fact, the foreign favourite Federal Threes stand one point higher than on the last Bourse day of last week. Prices yesterday were:—War Loan, 77.50; Federal Fours, 105.20; Three and a-Half, 79.25; Threes, 150; Colonial Fours, 120; Prussian Consols, 4 per cent. 83, 3 per cent. 72.60; Hamburg Staats-Rente, 77.80; Berlin 4 per cent. 1904, series 2, 94.75.

Railway freight rates were increased 25 per cent. to-day. Before this increase they were officially estimated as on the average 72½-fold above those of 1914. The first in the average 7 per cent., took place in August, 1917; and as late as April, 1919, rates were only 97 per cent. up; in April, 1921, 1,023 per cent. up; in December, 1921, 2,089 per cent.; and now 7,147 per cent. Governments made the mistake of raising rates too slowly at first, and they were later compelled to raise them rapidly, with the result that business is hampered, while the losses suffered in earlier years have not been recovered. The increases in rates for different classes of goods vary very much, and in no comparison can be made with pre-war rates, as the no classification has been changed. Since 1914 passenger rates have been increased as follows:—First class, 1,801 per cent.; second, 1,543 per cent.; third and fourth, 1,379 per cent. Prices of pig-iron have again been increased by per cent. The new and former prices in the Iron Industry Union. The new and former prices per metric ton were:—Hematite, 7,670, 6,724; foundry pig-iron No. 1, 7,261, 6,206; ditto No. 3, 7,191, 6,136; Siegerland steel iron, 7,250, 6,300; Spiegeleisen, 8,239, 7,137; ferro-manganese 80 per cent., 16,570, 15,415; ditto 50 per cent., 15,270, 14,400; ferro-silicium, 9,050, 8,100. The Reichsrat has sanctioned a Government decree restoring State control of scrap iron, on the ground that the rapid rise from 600 marks a ton in May, 1921, to 5,600 marks to-day is considered greater than can be justified by the currency depreciation. The authorities are given power to requisition and ration scrap at fair prices. The crop reports for mid-June are unfavourable. Thirty-seven per cent. of reports on winter wheat are classed as "bad," as against 3 per cent. at the same time last year.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

PARIS OFFICE

3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME

CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

CANADA.—THE FEDERAL BUDGET—THE FISCAL QUESTION — WHEAT BOARD LEGISLATION — CROP PROSPECTS—BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, June 19.

THE King Government, after announcing very considerable modifications in the original proposals, managed to secure the passage of their Budget on June 14th by a majority of 18, the vote being 119 to 101. The Opposition groups opposed the Budget from divergent angles: the Conservatives attacked the tariff reductions, and especially the repeal of the Marking Act's compulsory provisions, and of the regulations about the Customs valuation of goods coming from countries with depreciated currencies. They contended that the repeal of the latter would expose Canadian manufacturers to the ruinous competition of a flood of cheap German goods, and as opinion in the industrial centres strongly backed this plea, Mr Fielding agreed that henceforth the value of articles imported from countries with depreciated currencies shall be fixed (if a parallel is available) by the standard of British value. If a British parallel is not available, then the value of similar articles made in Holland or some other adjacent country shall be the standard. The Conservatives moved an amendment asking for a condemnation of the Ministry, on the ground that its tariff proposals were a violation, tending to lower public standards, of the pledges of the 1919 Liberal platform. All the Progressive party save four assisted the Government to defeat this amendment, but the main body could not support the Budget, regarding it as essentially a Protectionist measure. However, the Government made no secret that a defeat on the Budget would entail their resignation and another General Election, and this threat played a large part in inducing nine Progressives and two Independents to vote for them and provide a reasonable majority. But without this reinforcement the Ministry would have been in a minority of four, and its position is extremely shaky.

The other changes were chiefly made in deference to strong protests from affected interests. A limit of 2c has been set to the stamp tax on cheques, and a receipt tax of 2c has been introduced. The tax on confectionery has been reduced from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent., but will be applied to the soda fountain trade. The extra levy on ale, beer, porter, and stout will be reduced from 15 to 12½ cents per gallon, and the Excise on cigarettes from \$9 to \$7.50 per 1,000. The tax on stock transfers is brought down from 5 cents to 3, but will be applicable to bond transfers. Motors valued at over \$1,200 were originally to pay 10 per cent. on their full value, but will now pay 10 per cent. on their value in excess of \$1,200. There are also adjustments in the Excise imposts on beet sugar and raw leaf tobacco, the latter being designed for the encouragement of the use of home-grown tobacco in Canadian factories. Other minor changes have also been sanctioned. The Committee stage of the Budget is now proceeding, and the Progressive party are pressing strongly for further reductions in the cotton and woollen duties. Though the King Government survived the test of the division, the debate has revealed a

cleavage in the Liberal party on fiscal matters, which is more likely to grow than be healed.

The Government have now introduced legislation based on the report of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons, which attempts to meet, at least in part, the demand of the Progressive party for the revival of the Canadian Wheat Board and its system of control and pooling. It proposes to establish a national wheat marketing agency for the crop of 1922; it will be endowed with all the powers of the 1919 Board which the Federal Government can confer within its constitutional limits, and it will come into operation by proclamation as soon as two or more provinces have passed legislation conferring upon the Board all the remaining powers enjoyed by the 1919 Board which come within provincial jurisdiction. Mr Crerar, the Progressive leader, accepted this measure, and declared that the proposed agency would be able to regulate the flow of wheat, prevent the usual autumn glut of the market, and help to stabilise prices. Mr Meighen criticised the legislation as quite ineffective, and advocated the establishment of a marketing agency on the voluntary pool system, which would function all over the Dominion. The measure will pass the House of Commons, but may be rejected by the Senate. There are good grounds for doubting its efficacy. Owing to the fact that the Manitoba Legislature has been dissolved, only two provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, are likely to be able to hold the special sessions necessary to pass the required concurrent legislation in time for the handling of the 1922 crop. The other provinces, being only interested in wheat on a limited scale, will stand aloof. The Board is not to be allowed control of flour prices, and if it can only operate in two provinces its success is highly problematical. The Federal Government disclaims all responsibility for financing the scheme, and the task may strain the resources of the provincial treasuries involved. The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, however, dislikes the legislation exceedingly, and contends that if the scheme is successful its doors may as well be closed.

The latest crop reports show a continuance of favourable conditions in all parts of the West. There have been heavy rains in almost every quarter of Canada, which have benefited the young crops, and they have been specially abundant where they were most needed. The hot spell of the early days of June has been succeeded by a period of cool weather, which checks too rapid growth and allows the crop to be better "stooled." In some districts of Alberta there has been a threat of the recrudescence of the grasshopper plague, which caused so much damage in 1920 and 1921, but the farmers have organised very thoroughly to combat it, and are using poison bait and straw fires with some success. On June 6th there was a frost in the Saskatchewan Valley between Battleford and Edmonton, which nipped the grain severely. Seeding operations in the West have now been wound up for the year, the last flax and barley being planted about June 13th. To compensate for the decline in wheat acreage the rye crop of Saskatchewan will be 16 per cent. greater than last year. In Eastern Canada there has been an abundance of moisture during the past week, and the weather has been cool and helpful to plant growth. Pastures are excellent, and the hay crop is especially promising. The prospects of a first-rate fruit crop are also good, and in general the agricultural community, despite the poorness of prices, has no reason to be gloomy. The satisfactory crop reports have contributed to an improvement in business conditions, and accounts from most of the important points state that the improvement is likely to continue. Wholesalers assert that both city and country merchants, though still buying conservatively, are ordering more freely in the principal staples, and showing greater confidence in their plans for the coming autumn and winter. In all seasonable commodities the retail trade is active, and the Labour Department reports that the unemployment figures are steadily receding. A resumption of operations on a large scale in the mining areas, a close approach to normal conditions in the pulp and paper mills, and a sort of building boom in many towns and cities have helped the absorption of the workless and stimulated trade. The stock markets, after a period of briskness, have now become listless, and most stocks have dropped several points during the past week.

The Minister of Railways, who is responsible for the operations of the Canadian Mercantile Marine, has announced that 27 of the smaller ships will be laid up indefinitely, and there is a rumour, which the Government on being questioned would not actually deny, that it is in treaty with British interests for the sale of a portion of the national Fleet. The first prosecution of the general manager of the defunct Merchants' Bank was quashed by the police magistrate who heard it, but the trial of the president, Sir Montagu Allen, is now proceeding. The Finance Department have also taken steps to arraign Mr Macarow, the general manager, by another process before a higher court.

SWITZERLAND.—BANKING PROBLEMS—INDUSTRIAL REPORTS—EXTERNAL LOANS—IMPORT CONTROL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, June 21.

In several centres of Switzerland disputes are in progress between the directors and staffs of the leading big banks, the employees' associations being strongly opposed to reductions of wages. The managers have a very strong argument, and that is that the expenses of the leading banks during the past few years have increased more rapidly than the gross income. Business expenses, which amounted before the war to only 32½ per cent. of gross income, rose to 57.2 per cent. in 1921. The bulk of the increased expense is to be attributed to higher wages and also to luxurious new buildings. The strong resistance of the leaders of the big banks is explained by the very considerable reduction of the amount of business in discount and foreign exchanges. The extraordinary income out of dealings with foreign exchanges during the past few years gave an entirely false idea of the business possibilities of Swiss banking. Many of the freshly-created branches, in particular, paid only because of exchange transactions. Switzerland, with a smaller population than that of Greater London, has not only 24 flourishing State banks, which give a fair interest on deposits, and which are further guaranteed by the Cantonal governments for all liabilities, but she has in addition about 180 local commercial banks also accepting deposits, and about 230 local savings banks. Besides this network of official and local banks, there are eight so-called leading banks which have increased the number of their branches since 1913 from a little over 40 to nearly 100. Consequently the branches of the leading banks are, unlike the minor branches of the leading banks in some other countries, no mere places for accepting deposits, but each branch must be organised for all banking transactions. Each branch of a leading bank has to compete with a local State bank and several local joint stock banks. For the purpose of this competition a considerable staff is indispensable. The centre of the unrest among banking staffs in Zurich, where an abnormally high percentage of the population consists of bank employees. The problem practically only exists for the leading banks. Officials of the Cantonal banks are State officials. Whether it is possible to cut down business expenses without abolishing all unnecessary branches is very doubtful.

The loan of the Federal Railways, which was the first public loan since 1916 offered at an interest of 4½ per cent., received subscriptions to the amount of 290 millions Swiss francs; that is to say, three times the sum originally required. The lists were closed a few hours after opening, which is really exceptional in Switzerland. Some smaller Cantonal government loans, which fall due in the month of July, 1922, have been renewed without public subscriptions, also at the rate of 4½ per cent. The assembly of the leaders of Swiss Cantonal banks, held at Herisau, resulted in the rate of interest for savings booklets all over the country being reduced to 4 per cent.; and all outstanding mortgage bonds of more than 4½ per cent. interest will be called in at the earliest opportunity. Whether this reduction will be sufficient to make banking business pay, so far as Cantonal banks are concerned, depends on the revival of the building trade. The commercial banks, which, during the year of credit crisis, issued bonds yield-

ing 5, 5½, 6, and even more per cent. interest, are endeavouring to pay them back as quickly as possible, for such expensive money really means, under present conditions, a substantial loss.

Industrial reports covering 1921 continue to give a very pessimistic impression; but, nevertheless, the quotations for Swiss industrial securities of standing are rapidly rising. The shares of the Bally concern, the leading Swiss shoe factory, rose in value, although there is not only no dividend, but the year ends with a substantial loss. The shares of the Nestlé company find speculative buyers. As to the three factories of the Basle Aniline Dye-stuff group, all show considerable reduction of net profit, and dividends are considerably cut down. All the quotations are rather high.

After the success of the 6 per cent. loan of the municipality of Amsterdam, the French railway company Paris-Orient is starting negotiations with Swiss banks for the purpose of a 50 million loan at 6 per cent. In spite of the disagreeable circumstance that the Roumanian Government did not supply the wheat for last year's 40 million loan, there is still a question of a 60 million loan to the Yugo-Slavian Government; but there is strong opposition against this combination of loans granted by the Swiss Government to Eastern Governments against import licences for Swiss goods combined with supplies of foreign goods for the Swiss governmental import offices. The feeling is entertained that in this way Government import monopoly will be maintained in spite of serious protests from all Swiss commercial circles that the dealing with import licences from foreign governments by the commercial department of the Swiss Government creates a dangerous favouritism.

NORWAY.—RAILWAYS—MONEY MARKET—BANK CLEARINGS—WEATHER AND CROPS—EXCHANGES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, June 26.

The construction of railways in this country, sparsely peopled, and intersected with deep valleys, fringed with high mountains, is both expensive and difficult. Still, progress has been very satisfactory. The first Norwegian railway, from Christiania to Eidsvoll, was built by the famous Sir Morton Peto, and constructed by Robert (brother of George) Stephenson. This trunk line was opened for traffic on September 1, 1854. To-day the total mileage of railways in Norway is about 3,400 kilometres, having cost about 450 million kroner. Apart from the above-mentioned trunk line, which is yielding regular and satisfactory profits, the railways of Norway do not earn sufficient profits to pay to the State an adequate interest on the capital employed, but, of course, they are not built, in the first place, to yield direct profits, but for the immense indirect benefit they give to trade, industry, agriculture, and on the whole to the population of all classes. A few days ago the Government placed before the National Assembly a plan for the construction of further 500 kilometres of railway, the completion of which will span a period of 20 years, and involve a capital outlay of 500 million kroner. This gigantic plan is based, of course, to some extent on more or less rough estimates both as to the time and the money required, but when complete will have connected all the main parts of the country with the general railway system.

The money market is well supplied, and a reduction of the discount rate, which since May 18th is 5½ per cent., is recommended in some quarters. Last week the circulation of bank-notes was reduced by one million kroner, and had come down to 364 millions, causing a corresponding rise in the reserve to 58,200,000 kroner. The Government has issued a loan of 100 millions, which was entirely subscribed by some of the leading banks; the terms, so far, have not been disclosed.

The *Aftenposten* publishes interesting statistics of the

clearings of the banks in Christiania for a number of years:—

	Kr.		Kr.
1913	488,644,600	1918	8,460,900,000
1914	529,189,600	1919	6,849,670,000
1915	863,086,400	1920	7,828,205,000
1916	2,579,679,900	1921	6,442,352,000
1917	5,892,560,000		

The enormous leap from 1915 to 1916 probably may be ascribed to three causes: (1) The large increase in the turnover; (2) the higher prices of commodities; (3) the increased use of cheques. A marked decrease is noticed for 1920 and 1921; the decrease is likely to continue during 1922, because the same influences—a decreased turnover, and lower prices—are still at work. It is very likely that the decrease would have been still more marked if the use of cheques had not become constantly more extensive.

After a long season of chilly and dry weather, jeopardising all kinds of vegetation, very refreshing rains have fallen over Southern Norway during the last couple of days. Though all crops are extremely late, with warm weather things may still brighten up, as only here and there any real damage has yet been done by the drought. The *hausse* on the exchange bourse is still going on. All kinds of foreign values, save the Reichsmark, are appreciating—it must almost be said by leaps and bounds. From 23 kroner for a pound sterling on April 28th, the rate in less than two months has jumped to 27.30 kroner to-day; and the other exchanges have more or less followed suit.

Letters to the Editor.

INTER-ALLIED DEBT CANCELLATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—You say that you think the debt of Great Britain to the United States of America can and should be paid. As a matter of practical politics, you are probably right. But surely the reason that you give is incorrect. You say, "America may reasonably ask for some repayment of advances which cover not merely munitions, supplies, and war stores, but food for our civil population." Am I not right in believing that we have already paid America in full for all supplies and food furnished to us, and that our outstanding debt to America is wholly due to the fact that we backed the bills of France, Italy, and the other Allies for munitions and food supplied not to us, but to them?

Practically the two things may be the same. If in private life one backs a bill to help a poor friend, one has to face the consequences. But from the ethical, the "good form," point of view, if the endorser is also a poor man, if his endorsement was given to enable the debtor to perform a service largely for the benefit of the creditor, and if the creditor is rich, one is entitled to shrug one's shoulders as one faces the music.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
London, July 1st, 1922. W. M. A.

[It is certainly not the case that we have already paid America in full for supplies and food furnished to us. It is true that in the last years of the war we lent to France and other Allies as much as America lent to us; but our loan to France was in respect, almost entirely, of British goods, such as cloth, steel, and benzol—representative commodities in three main trade groups—which we should have had to supply to France whether America had been in the war or not. On the other hand, our American debt during those years was incurred for food, copper, and munition materials supplied to us, which we could not have replaced from any other source. It is true that we lent approximately as much to France, Italy, &c., in these two years as America lent to us, but it is certainly not true to assume that if we had not done this for France we should not have incurred a debt to America. In the first two or three months of America's participation the British Treasury actually borrowed dollars for buying wheat, &c., in America, which was shipped to France, and thus backed France's bill in the sense implied by our correspondent. But these transactions were soon stopped, and represent only a tiny fraction of the money which Great Britain borrowed from America after April, 1917.—Ed. *Economist*.]

Books and Publications.

RECENT ECONOMIC LITERATURE—A MONTH'S SURVEY.

ONLY a few authors have, as yet, realised or achieved a sufficient control over their publishers to make their realisation effective, the advantage, from the reviewing point of view, that will accrue to any book of moderate distinction appearing in late June, July, or August. Then it may easily appear, at all events to the reviewer, "Fair as a star, when only one, Is shining in the sky." But trade practice seems to be too strong; and even economic books dwindle and fall away in the summer. In June, indeed, periodicals actually claim first mention.

There is the *Economic Journal*, the monthly organ of the Royal Economic Society, with articles by Sir Wm. Acworth (on the independence of communication costs, urging the Government "so to shape its policy as to encourage that means of communication which is, on the whole, the most economical to the community at large"); by J. H. Pearson, on the relations between internal and external values, as exemplified in a study of the fantastic movements of the Polish mark; a survey of American views on Europe, by Professor D. H. Magregor; and an account of the Italian Bank Crisis, by Signor Sraffa. All of these are substantial contributions, and worth reading. In the French monthly, which, with illuminating differences, corresponds more nearly than any other to the *Economic Journal*, the *Journal des Economistes*, for June, the editor, M. Yves Guyot, contributes a characteristic article on the Bankers' Loan project. The *Bankers' Magazine* (published in this country by Effingham Wilson) has an entertaining account of "Women Savers." A much more advanced technical standard is represented by the *Scottish Bankers' Magazine* (Blackwood). *Economica*, issued by the London School of Economics, keeps up its high standard.

When one turns from periodicals to books, one has to note again that the category (b), *Advanced and Technical*, is practically bare. On the other hand, under (a) *Elementary*, there is a little book that, though slight in bulk and modest in pretensions, can be confidently recommended. This is Mr F. W. Pethick Lawrence's "Unemployment," in the excellent series of small manuals, published, at 2s 6d each, by Mr Humphrey Milford, under the general rubric of "The World To-day." Mr Lawrence's book, especially if read concurrently with Mr Lavington's "Trade Cycle" (referred to last month), puts the student in a position to understand how what is called "over-production" can exist in a world ridden by poverty, and something of the lines on which the problem of cyclical movements may be grappled with. His writing is admirable in its candour and clearness. To Professor Charles Gide's "First Principles of Political Economy" (translated by E. E. Row, Harrap, 2s), the same unqualified praise cannot be given. It is charmingly written, but its apparent simplicity is secured by some rather hazardous skating over thin ice.

(c) Descriptive and Works of Reference.

There are, this month, two or three works of a character mainly descriptive, of very great interest. First among them is "Economic Development in Denmark Before and During the World War," by Professor Harold Westergaard (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 4s 6d). From this standpoint of social and economic development, Denmark is one of the most interesting countries in Europe; perhaps the only one that can make the much-tried believer in democracy feel really sanguine. Dr Westergaard's is a sober and scholarly survey. M. Jean Decoudou's "La Bourse de Londres (Sagot et Cie., Paris, 10 francs) is, of course, intended for French readers; for the English operation its lines are too broad and general; at all events, for those for whom the new editions of such standard works of reference as Sir Francis Gore-Browne's "Handbook on the Formation, Management, and Winding-Up of Joint Stock Companies (Jordan and Sons, London, 15s), or Mr H. C. Emery's "Company Management (Effingham Wilson,

12s), are intended. A book of more general readability is the third volume in the useful series of "Staple Trades and Industries," which Messrs Constable are publishing (10s 6d net each). This, by Mr A. S. Moore, is devoted to linen. Interest of a rather different kind will be roused by Mr Clarence Bonnell's "Employers' Associations in the United States (Macmillan and Co., 18s net). This, in the main, an account of such employers' combinations as exist in the States. Especially instructive are the sidelights cast on the "Secret Service System," without which Mr Briggs, the President of the National Founders' Association, said he "would hardly know how to direct the work of this association. It seems to be an indispensable requisite to good results, and on the use of "special contract operatives" (e.g., by the National Metal Trades' Association), who "will report on the loyalty of the workmen, and even of foremen."

(d) Political and Propagandist.

Under this head there are no entries worth making.

THE WOOL POSITION.*

WE turned eagerly to the Review of Wool Statistics compiled by Mr W. H. Dean, of Messrs Dawson and Co., in the hope of finding that the elusive problem of measuring the world's wool production had been solved. But the author has avoided the many pitfalls awaiting anyone who makes such an attempt by treating separately individual statistics of the principal countries which exert influence in the wool and woollen textile trades, and international comparisons have not been attempted owing to the wide differences of definitions, classifications, and so on. The statistics themselves will principally interest those closely connected with the trades concerned, but some of the conclusions drawn are of considerable general interest. The wool textile industry is the fourth most important in the country, and exports from 30 to 50 per cent. of its production, and is consequently particularly susceptible to any falling off in exports. After the boom in 1919-20, heavy cancellation of contracts overwhelmed the trade in acute financial stringency, and quickly caused a collapse of the covering movements. Every section suffered from extreme over-production at high prices, and huge stocks of goods increased the general financial and industrial depression. The year 1921 was one of painful readjustments, and while credit and confidence are not yet fully restored, the situation is more hopeful now that prices are more stable. The raw material position is gradually readjusting itself, the surplus is diminishing, and sheep figures indicate that production also is tending towards equilibrium of supply and demand. Moreover, Yorkshire, in spite of Continental competitive advantages is securing an increasing share of business, more particularly in semi-manufactured goods. The chief markets for finished goods are in a better position to buy, and are now taking slightly larger quantities. The European outlets are very little more depressed than the Colonies, the raw material-producing countries generally are recovering from their own financial difficulties, and are consequently trying to take their proper place in the circle of production and consumption. In fact, the worst phase of depression has been left behind. For those with time to study them, a number of interesting charts are provided.

* "Statistical Review of the Wool and Wool Textile Trades, 1912-1921." (London) H. Dawson and Co. 10s 6d.

A NEW REVIEW.*

"THE SLAVONIC REVIEW," "a survey of the Slavonic peoples, their history, economics, philology, and literature," makes its bow to the public this month. It will appear thrice yearly, and has three editors in Mr Bernard Pares, Mr R. W. Seton-Watson, and Mr Harold Williams. A glance at the first number shows that this new addition to the ranks of serious periodicals will be of interest not merely to scholars and research students, but also to all who are concerned with European politics and economics. Mr Thomas G. Masaryk, President of Czechoslovak Republic, contributes the first article, "The

* "The Slavonic Review." Published by the School of Slavonic Studies in the University of London, King's College. (London) Eyre and Spottiswoode, Limited. 5s net.

Position of the Slavs in the New Europe," in the course of which he incidentally draws attention to the need for a review such as this by reminding us that the Slavs form more than one-third of the population of Europe. "If united," he points out, "they would be the largest nation and State." Interspersed with articles on literature, history, and scholarship are surveys by competent authorities of such questions as "The Russian Co-operative Movement," "The Agrarian Problem in Hungary," and "Land Reform in Czechoslovakia." If the standard of the first number is kept up—as we may assuredly expect in view of its distinguished auspices—students of economics and politics will have to add "The Slavonic Review" to their regular reading list.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- L'Industrie du Fer en France.* By J. Levainville. (Paris) Armand Colin. 5 francs.
Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. May, 1922. (London) 9 Adelphi terrace. 7s 6d.
La Libre Ukraine. Revue Politique et Littéraire. (Constantinople) Babok and Fils. 1 franc.
World's Winding-up Plan. By Wm. A. Gatzen. (Bonn) Rhenanin-Deucherei.
Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. (London) John Murray. 3s 6d net.
The Post-War Investor. By "Palinurus." (London) Financial News, Limited. 1s 6d.
Labour and the War Debt. A Statement of Policy for the Redemption of War Debt by a Levy on Accumulated Wealth. (London) The Labour Party. 2d.
Labour and Social Credit. (London) The Labour Party. 3d.
The Directory of Directors, 1922. (London) Thomas Skinner and Co. 25s net.
The forty-third annual issue of this most useful and indispensable reference book contains upwards of 27,000 names, is right up to date, and should find a place on the office bookshelf of every business man.
L'Argent-Métal La Hausse des Cours de 1914 à 1920. By Dr André Pailhas. (Paris) Librairie Générale de Droit et de Jurisprudence. 15 francs.
Directory of Shipowners, Shipbuilders, and Marine Engineers, 1922. (London) Directory Publishing Company. 21s net.
The general arrangement follows that of previous years, but there have been numerous additions, with more detailed information concerning foreign shipping companies.
The Myth of American Isolation. By Pitman B. Potter. (Boston, U.S.A.) World Peace Foundation. 5 cents.
American Interest in Popular Government Abroad. By Everts B. Greene. (Washington, D.C.) Committee on Public Information.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

TICKET.	SETTLING DAYS.	ACCOUNT.
July 12.		July 13.

THE exuberance shown by Stock Exchange markets during the last week of the first half of the year has subsided to a great extent, in consequence of the fresh demoralisation in the Continental exchanges, and, to a minor degree, by reason of the happenings in Ireland. Early in the week the Stock Exchange abandoned most of its hopes that there would be a fall in the Bank rate on Thursday, and there would be a noticeable shrinkage in the demand for this led to noticeable shrinkage in the demand for gilt-edged securities. The drop in the value of the franc affected foreign bonds, oil shares, Kafirs, and it also influenced, indirectly, a good many other markets round the Stock Exchange. Clients are inclined to hold back from entering upon fresh engagements, and professionals, quick to notice the tendency, started to take what profits remained to them in the departments where speculation had raised a timid head. Bombay new Sixes were rapidly subscribed on Thursday, the subscription lists closing before the announcement that the Bank rate would remain at 3½ per cent.

The War Loan holds its price steadily at a trifle over par,

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business. Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

Foreign Branch: 168, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

and although Funding Loan, Victory Bonds, and others of this class did not maintain their best prices, the disposition of the market is firm, without there being much business to back it. India Government loans are distinctly better. The Government-guaranteed stocks of the London Electric and the City and South London Railways came into favour, the prices rising to 1 premium. Home railway debenture and preference stocks are again better, but in Colonials and other such securities there is little change to record.

The feature in the foreign market is, as already mentioned, the heaviness of French stocks, this extending to the French railway issues, and bringing about a certain weakness in a few other foreign issues. Exceptional strength has been shown by Italian Maremmiana bonds, the price jumping 8 points on the official prohibition of what amounts to the export of bonds from Italy for sale in this market. German Threes, after touching 2 when the mark fell to 2,000, recovered with a temporary rally in the exchange. Peruvians have been heavy, in sympathy with the French malaise. Brazilians gave way after a mild display of strength.

Acute weakness seized the Home Railway list for a brief period, but evidently the market was ringed with buyers on the look-out for bargain stock, for prompt recovery ensued from the worst. There is not, however, a great deal of resiliency in the market, and prices tend to ease off in the absence of general public support. Metropolitan and Districts proved superior to the conditions of the market as a whole, but the Scottish groups moved with the rest. Argentine Rails stand out as the principal feature of strength this week, prices going ahead substantially on expectations of increased dividends in October, added to the pleasant outlook unfolded by permission to rearrange freight rates. Towards the end of the week prices gave way from the top, and the same conditions have applied to several of the other foreign railway stocks, Brazilian, Cuban, &c.

Rubber shares have fallen into a state of stagnation again, and there is not much doing in the oil market. Tuesday's meeting of the Shell Company produced no fresh illumination, although the chairman's speech was certainly interesting. It had no effect upon the price of the shares, and with business quiet, the oil list has been inclined to droop. Textiles are firm, banking shares generally better, the insurance market uninteresting, save for the continued heaviness of General Accidents. The unexpected dividend of 1s on Vickers' shares made the price better, and had a strengthening effect upon some of the other iron and steel descriptions. Trust companies' stocks are extremely difficult to obtain. Gas stocks are scarcely so firm as they were, and the shipping market shows no change of consequence. Marconis fell back on further apprehensions respecting the dividend. Cable stocks continued quiescent. Watney deferred gained 7½ points, and other brewery stocks are hard. The tobacco favourites are lower.

The boomlet in Kaffir shares gave place early in the week to a fairly general shake-out, in the course of which the leading prices came down sharply from the best. As usually happens this had the effect of checking fresh purchases, and quietude prevails throughout the market, Rhodesians and Diamonds also being very passive. A good cable from the Santa Gertrudi helped to revive a little interest in Mexicans. Indian mining shares are easier, tin shares are scarcely mentioned at all, an other mining descriptions attract so little notice that broker scarcely bother to look at the prices at the end of each uneventful day. A Stock Exchange Nomination changed hands this week at £25, and House shares, £25 paid, stand about 96.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital, £	Cash Subscription, £	First Payment, £	Further Liability, £
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded		448,774,277		
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender June 30, 1922), £3,000,000, at £98 4s 4½d			2,946,562	
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHANGERS WEEK ENDED JUNE 30, 1922.				
April 1 to June 30, 1922, £21,193,000		600,030	600,000	
To the Public—				
The Trustees of Port of Bombay, 6 % Loan for £1,600,000 at par (July 6)	1,600,000	1,600,000	80,000	1,520,000
Tata Iron and Steel, £2,000,000 7½ % Red. Deb., at 98, red. at 102½, on July 1, 1922 (July 6)	2,000,000	1,960,000	100,000	1,860,000
Taf Fechan Water Supply Board, £237,000 5½ % Red. Stock, Red. 1937-47, issued at par (July 6)	270,000	270,000	27,000	243,000
Northampton Gaslight, £49,900 6 % Red. Deb. Stock (red. at par, July 1, 1941, or at 102½ from 1931 on six months' notice, issued at 98)	49,900	48,902	4,990	43,912
Charles Baker and Co., £125,000 6½ % First Mtge. Deb. Stock (red. at 102½ 1933-47), issued at 95½ (July 3)	125,000	118,750	6,250	112,500
Sena Sugar Estates, Lim., £500,000 7 % First Mtge. Debts. (red. at 103½ 1935-50), issued at 97½ (July 3)	500,000	487,500	50,000	437,500
Bradleys (Chester) 60,000 7 % Cum. Pref., £1, at par (July 6)	60,000	60,000	6,000	54,000
The Moulshie and Bacon Factories, 110,993 Shrs., £1, at par (July 3)	110,993	110,993	13,875	97,118
Total offered to the Public		4,656,145	288,115	4,368,030
To Shareholders only—				
Bukit Nila Rubber Estate, £5,000 8 % Conv. First Mtge. Debts., £25 each (red. at £26 5s per Deb., 1932), issued at par	5,000	5,000	500	4,500
Total offered to Shareholders only		5,000	500	4,500
Total offered for subscription to date				
Total offered for subscription for whole year—				
1922	£456,981,984	1921	£388,978,203	
1921	129,061,459	1920	367,649,656	
1920	239,204,322	1919	1,036,683,951	
1919	394,608,779	1918	1,333,381,491	
1918	737,518,403	1917	1,318,596,010	
1917	1,066,287,423	1916	585,436,850	
1916	308,522,200	1915	685,236,326	
1915	657,001,376	1914	612,522,633	

Government of India Rupee Loan, 1922.—We are officially informed that subscriptions in India on the opening day, July 3rd, amounted to about Rs. 11 crores. The loan is issued in the form of 6 per cent. five and ten-year bonds at par, free of Indian income-tax, and the subscription lists in India and at the London office of the Imperial Bank of India (5 Whitlington Avenue, E.C.3) are open up to August 14th for cash subscriptions, and up to September 26th for conversion of Indian War Bonds, 1922.

Port of Bombay Six per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1922.—This is an issue by the trustees of the Port of Bombay of £1,600,000 in 6 per cent. sterling debentures at par. The loan will be repayable at par in 30 years by a sinking fund, to be accumulated by yearly contributions from the trustees' revenues and investment in public securities. The capital debt of the Board is £12,226,200, against which there are assets, in the shape of land, buildings, docks, &c., standing in the accounts at £13,045,200, which is the cost price, and does not allow for the "immense increase in the value of land in Bombay" since 1879. The sinking funds accumulated at present amount to £1,494,400, and special reserve funds against contingencies to £400,000 over and above a revenue reserve fund of £363,700, and £774,100 spent by the Board on capital account out of revenue. The financial operations of the Board are subject to Government sanction, and the accounts are audited half-yearly by Government auditors. The yield of 6 per cent. on a relatively long-dated security should appeal to investors who like to include a high-class Indian security in their list. The issue was quickly over-subscribed.

Platt Brothers and Co.—Capital £3,710,160, in 1,236,720 4½ per cent. cumulative preference, 618,360 7 per cent. cumulative preference, and 1,855,080 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. All the 4½ per cent. preference and ordinary shares have been issued, and there is £1,030,600 in 3½ per cent. debentures outstanding. The present is an offer for sale by B.S.T., Limited, of 534,000 7 per cent. preference shares at par, and 1,602,000 ordinary shares at 43s. The chairman in a letter states that a very large proportion of the ordinary shares have hitherto been held by trustees, and the principal objects of the purchase and resale by B.S.T., Limited, are (1) to enable trustees to realise their holdings, and (2) to secure the widest possible distribution of the shares. The company is said to be the largest maker of textile machinery in the world, the business having been founded in 1821, and it is stated that of 18½ million spindles in Oldham

and district, mills which contain exclusively Platt's machinery number 11½ million spindles, while mills filled wholly by other makers number only 2½ million. Approximately, 80 per cent. of the cotton spinning machinery in Japan has been made at the company's works. Net assets are stated at £5,051,800, the property standing at £2,558,900, and goodwill at £1,560,000. An independent valuation on June 12th last places the property, exclusive of goodwill, at £4,097,300, an excess over the book value, which more than covers goodwill. Profits since 1909 are clearly set out. In 1920-22 a dividend of 22½ per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, after setting aside £550,000 to reserve. In June last £618,360 of the reserve fund, leaving £762,000, was capitalised, and a bonus of one 7 per cent. preference share given for every three ordinary shares. The B.S.T., Limited, is paying 45s per share for the ordinary shares now offered, and receives the 534,000 preference shares as bonus. It will, therefore, pay £3,604,500, and from the sale will receive a gross amount of £3,444,300 for the ordinary and £534,000 for the preference shares, or £3,978,300, a profit of £373,800, out of which it will pay underwriting commission of 3 per cent. and overriding commission of ½ per cent., and all other expenses of the issue. In view of the excellent record of the company, both classes of shares may be classed as attractive industrial issues.

Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited.—Authorised share capital, Rs. 105,212,500 (equivalent at Rs. 15 to £1 to £7,014,166), all of which is issued and called up. Messrs Linton Clarke and Co. offer for sale, through Lloyds Bank, £2,000,000 7 per cent. sterling first mortgage debenture stock at 98. The company is described as "the only company manufacturing steel in India." Existing debentures will be converted into this issue or paid off at par. The proceeds of the issue are required to carry out extensions. The stock is part of an authorised issue of £4,000,000, and will be secured by a trust deed, creating a first specific mortgage, "according to the laws of India, upon the present and future lands, buildings, and fixed plant and machinery of the company," and a first floating charge on other assets. The stock is repayable at 102½ in 1957, if not previously redeemed by purchase or drawing. A sinking fund is to be established. Surplus assets at February 28th last are given as £11,042,372, but it should be noticed that the property and plant item of over £10½ millions is entered "at cost, without providing for depreciation." Interest on the £4,000,000 debenture stock, when all issued, will absorb £280,000 per annum. Profits in 1920-21 were £840,146, and in the previous year £838,099, but in 1914-15 were as low as £186,900. In each case profits are given "before providing for debenture interest, depreciation, and taxation." A subsequent table, however, sets out these items, and shows that depreciation allowances have been on a large scale. The attractive yield and the high reputation of the company will evoke response from those who are not too pessimistic about the Indian outlook.

Charles Baker and Co., Limited.—Authorised share capital, £220,000, of which the whole has been issued, and £215,500 has been paid up. There is also outstanding £86,530 of 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, redeemable at £110 per £100 on November 1, 1922. The present issue is of £125,000 6½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock at 95. This will form part of an authorised issue of £150,000, and will be secured by a trust deed, constituting a first mortgage (after the redemption of the £86,530 existing 4 per cent. debenture stock) on freehold and leasehold properties, and a floating charge on other assets. The new stock is redeemable at par on November 1, 1947, but the company reserves the right to redeem whole or part at 102 on any interest date after May 1, 1933, on giving six months' notice. The company was formed in 1889, and carries on business as wholesale and retail outfitters, clothiers, hosiers, &c. The assets subject to the specific mortgage are independently valued at £118,300, while the additional net assets subject to a floating charge figure in the latest balance-sheet at £241,073. The security, therefore, is adequate, and the list of profits in recent years (though we should have preferred to see pre-war profits also given) suggests that the interest on the debentures is very well covered. The yield at the issue price is £6 16s 10d per cent., without allowing for profits on redemption, and the offer is attractive in its class. Holders of the existing 4 per cent. debentures are offered the right of exchange into the new stock at the rate of £100 of the old stock for £110 of the new, and a payment of £5 10s in cash. This offer should prove generous enough to induce holders to convert, except where the repayment of their capital in November is desired for special reasons.

Sena Sugar Estates, Limited.—Share capital, authorised and issued, £1,200,000. Loan capital consists of £500,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debentures (the present offer), £70,400 6½ per cent. first mortgage debentures (to be repaid out of the proceeds of the present offer), and £151,370 7 per cent. second mortgage debentures, redeemable 1920-1950. The Law Debenture Corporation offer for sale £500,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debentures at 97½. The stock will be secured by a trust

BRITISH EMPIRE STEEL CORPORATION, LTD.

Report and Statement 16th April to 31st December, 1921.

To THE SHAREHOLDERS,

The Balance Sheet now presented is the first to be issued to shareholders since the Corporation assumed definite form, and will form a basis for comparison with the Balance Sheets to be issued from time to time in the future.

With respect to Cost of Properties it may be explained that previous to the 16th April, 1921, when your Company's stocks were issued, the amount which formerly was carried in the current account of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, Limited, in respect of payments on account of the purchase of the stock of the Acadia Coal Company, was transferred to Cost of Properties. Some other smaller items were treated in the same way with the effect of reducing current investments and increasing capital assets.

No new expenditures of any kind were undertaken, and those made were confined to the completion and adjustment of items which originated in a previous period. These relate chiefly to the new battery of 60 Coke Ovens for Dominion Iron & Steel Company, Limited, and to such general extensions as are inseparable from the operation of properties of the extent and importance of those in which your Company is interested.

Your Directors after careful consideration decided that it would be advisable to adjust the cost of some important items of property and equipment installed by Constituent Companies during the war period, when cost of construction was abnormal. To effect this the sum of \$3,339,841.65 has been deducted from Cost of Properties, and a corresponding reduction has been made in the amount of the Consolidated Surplus.

Your Directors are glad to report that Bank Loans have been reduced \$2,542,197.00 and other Current Liabilities \$5,119,948, a total reduction of \$7,662,145.

The excess of Current and Working Assets over Current Liabilities at 31st December, 1921, was \$14,364,860.18.

During the year 1921 the Funded and Mortgage Debts of the Companies were reduced \$404,965.34 through the operation of the various Sinking Funds.

The 6 per cent. Mortgage Debentures of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, Limited, were increased by the issue of \$478,000 in connection with the acquisition of the property and stock of the Acadia Coal Company, which, as already noted, was concluded previous to the date of the consolidation.

The amount at credit of accounts for Renewals, Taxes and Contingencies is \$5,274,208.73. Included in this is \$2,500,000.00, part of amount received by Dominion Iron & Steel Company, Limited, as part payment of its claim for damage due to the cancellation of the contract for the supply of Ship Plates to the Government of Canada.

Business conditions during the period covered by the statements submitted herewith have been for the most part unfavourable. During the months of May to October a considerable tonnage of coal was disposed of in the St. Lawrence market, which for some years had been practically closed to coal from Nova Scotia. During the same months the steel works at Sydney and New Glasgow were moderately employed.

In the last quarter of the year there was a marked decline in the operations of all the Companies.

For the Board of Directors, R. M. WOLVIN, President.

Montreal, P. Q., 3rd May, 1922.

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1921.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Cost of Properties:		Capital Stock of the British Empire Steel Corporation Limited:	
Representing the Ore and Coal Properties, Plant, Buildings, Machinery and Equipment, etc., of the Constituent Companies, the aggregate value of which is supported by independent Appraisals less Reserves for Depreciation and Exhaustion of Minerals and after deduction of the Special Appropriation of \$3,339,841.65 from Surplus Account as at December 31, 1921)		8 per cent. Cumulative First Preference Stock Series "A"	
Investment in Capital Stocks of, and advances to, other Companies		7 per cent. Cumulative First Preference Stock Series "B"	
Cash in hands of Trustees for Bondholders		7 per cent. Cumulative Second Preference Stock	
Bonds purchased for Sinking Funds		7 per cent. Non-Cumulative Preference Stock	
Current Assets:		Common Stock	
Inventories of Finished Products, Goods in Process and Materials and Supplies, less Reserves		Deduct—Held by Constituent Companies:	
Trade Accounts and Bills Receivable, less Reserves		7 per cent. Cumulative Second Preference Stock	
Other Accounts Receivable		Common Stock	
Investment in War Bonds, etc.		Note: Out of the total authorized issue of 7 per cent. Cumulative First Preference Stock Series "B," \$13,116,080.00 is reserved for exchange of the outstanding Preference Stocks of Constituent Companies.	
Cash on hand and in Bank, and Call Loans		Preference Stocks of Constituent Companies outstanding:	
Deferred Charges to Operation:		Dominion Steel Corporation Limited	
Development Expenditures, etc.		Dominion Iron & Steel Company Limited	
Insurance and Other Expenses paid in advance		Dominion Coal Company Limited	
		Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company Limited	
		Eastern Car Company Limited	
		Capital Stock of the Acadia Coal Company Limited Outstanding:	
		Ordinary Stock	
		Capital Stock Reserve:	
		Par Value of the 7 per cent. Cumulative First Preference Stock Series "B" reserved for exchange of the outstanding Preference Stocks of Constituent Companies	
		Less—Par Value of the Preference Stocks of these Companies outstanding	
		Funded and Mortgage Debt, represented by Bonds and Debenture Stock of Constituent Companies	
		Deferred payments on Properties	
		Current Liabilities:	
		Bank Loans	
		Current Accounts Payable, Wages and other Accrued Liabilities	
		Accrued Interest on Bonds and Debenture Stock	
		Reserves:	
		Furnace Relining and Other Operating Reserves	
		Reserve for Contingencies, including Taxes, etc.	
		Dividends accrued on the First Preference Stock of the British Empire Steel Corporation Limited and on the Outstanding Preference Stocks of the Constituent Companies	
		Balance of amount received from the Dominion Government in respect of cancellation of Contract for Ship Plates	
		Surplus as at date of Organization, less Organization Expenses and Adjustments in respect of Inventories, etc.	
		Deduct—Appropriation in reduction of Plant Values on account of high construction costs during the war period	
		Surplus for the period from April 16, 1921, to December 31, 1921, as per Statement attached	

We have examined the books and accounts of the British Empire Steel Corporation, Limited, and its Constituent Companies from the date of its organization on April 16th, 1921, to December 31st, 1921, and have been furnished with all the information and explanations which we have required; and we certify that in our opinion the above Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31st, 1921, is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Corporation and its Constituent Companies, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the various Companies.

Montreal, May 3rd, 1922.

Consolidated Statement of Profit and Loss for the period from April 16, 1921, to December 31, 1921.

Total Earnings of the Properties after deducting all Manufacturing, Selling and Administration Expenses, but before charging Sinking Funds, Depreciation and Interest	\$4,416,450.65
Deduct—Provision for Sinking Funds and Depreciation	1,501,178.11
Deduct also—Interest on Bonds and Debenture Stock	\$2,915,272.54
Net Profit for the period	1,181,681.54
Less—Preference Dividends Paid	\$1,733,591.00
Preference Dividends Accrued but not declared at December 31, 1921	\$718,276.73
Preference Dividends on the First Preference Stock of the British Empire Steel Corporation Limited and (Representing Dividends on the Constituent Companies for the period from April 16, 1921, to December 31, 1921) on the Preference Stocks of the Constituent Companies	259,387.74
Balance at December 31, 1921	977,664.47
	\$755,926.53

They were, he continued, making no splash, they were going along quietly, conducting their business to the best of their ability on a prudent and conservative basis. It would continue to be their endeavour to avoid any conflict with old-established institutions, to take no undue risks, to build up slowly on sound lines, to accumulate out of profits a good reserve, and to distribute a fair dividend. Three months of the current year had expired with satisfactory results, and if, as he hoped, the trade of the Empire improved and labour difficulties were surmounted, he was confident the corporation would, with care, continue along the road of prosperity. He believed the P. and O. Banking Corporation had filled a gap which would have been filled by someone else if it had not come in, and, although he did not ask them to

expect an added half per cent. in next year's dividend, nothing would be wanting on their part to enable them to pay it, provided always they could add to their reserve, which, they would agree, was sound policy for the board to adopt.

The report and accounts were adopted. A dividend was declared at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, less tax, and the retiring directors, Sir Frederick Eley, Bt., Sir Montagu C. Turner, Mr W. O. Grazebrook, and the Hon. Alexander Shaw, M.P., were re-elected. The meeting closed with a unanimous vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, seconded by Sir M. M. Blownaggee.

The Chairman briefly responded.

BRITISH EMPIRE TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED. "VERY STRONG AND SATISFACTORY POSITION."

The annual general meeting of the British Empire Trust Company, Limited, was held on the 3rd instant at the Great Eastern Hotel, London. Mr J. Davidson (deputy chairman and managing director) presided.

He expressed regret that the chairman, Mr R. M. Horne-Payne, owing to ill-health, was not able to preside at the meeting, but he would read to the shareholders the address of their chairman. Proceeding, he said the directors were glad to meet the shareholders with a statement of affairs which showed a very strong and satisfactory position. From the point of view of income, the company's position was better to-day than at any previous time in its history because their two main sources of income—viz., trusteeships, registrarships, and secretaryships, and interest and dividends on investments, had now reached higher figures than ever before. Their income from trusteeships, &c., amounted to £15,782, as compared with £14,481 last year, and interest and dividends on investments amounted to £68,889, compared with £65,693 last year. Their income account this year was further increased by £16,071, arising from the appreciation on balance of the company's investments, due not to any specific cause, but to the improvement which had taken place in security values generally. This brought the company's revenue up to the satisfactory total of £100,743. After providing for income-tax, corporation profits tax, general expenses and expenses of administration, including the exceptional expense of £3,416 incurred in removing to, and fitting up, new offices, and after bringing in the balance of undivided profits from last year, there remains a balance of profits of £90,096 3s 7d. The payment of the dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares requires £12,500, leaving available for further distribution £77,596 3s 7d. After deducting from this figure the dividends now recommended by the directors—namely, 8 per cent. on the employees profit participating shares, 5 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, and 7 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares—there remained a balance of undivided profits of £50,453 1s 2d, which the directors recommend should be carried forward to the current year.

BOARD'S SOUND POLICY.

The directors felt that it was of great importance to have a very substantial surplus, not only for the protection against all possible emergencies of the company's capital—the conserving of which was essential to the company's credit, and, therefore, vital from the point of view of obtaining and carrying through future business—but also from the point of view of rendering secure to the shareholders the continuity of what he might perhaps call the normal dividends of 5 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, and 7 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares. The directors had also in mind the difficulty at present being experienced of employing the company's liquid resources safely and remuneratively, and that financial and commercial conditions generally throughout the world being in an unstable condition, circumstances might easily arise to cause a general set-back in security values.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC.

At last year's annual meeting he stated that the British Columbia Electric Railway had practically completed negotiations with the City of Vancouver for a revised franchise on terms which would have enabled the company to rely with reasonable confidence on such income as would enable it to maintain future dividends at rates which shareholders of such enterprises had the right to expect, and thus lead to the re-establishment of the company's credit. This agreement, however, unfortunately proved unacceptable to the people of Vancouver, mainly, he was convinced, because it was not understood. As the authority to charge a 6-cent fare in the City of Vancouver continued only until July 1, 1922, the company decided to proceed with its application to the Dominion Government for the company's undertakings to be placed under the control of the Dominion Railway Commission, who would then have had power to regulate the company's fares and rates. The application was heard by the Dominion House of Commons in May last, and was supported by a petition signed by many of our great bankers, financial houses, and brokers interested in Canadian

investments. The application, which was opposed by the Government of the Province of British Columbia and the local municipalities on the ground that its effect would be to remove the company's undertakings, which lay practically entirely within the Province of British Columbia, from the control of the Provincial Government, was refused; but an agreement had been come to with the Municipality of Vancouver under which the company's right to charge a 6-cent fare had been extended to December 15, 1922. Agreements had also been come to with the surrounding municipalities giving the company the right to continue existing charges until that date. In the meantime further negotiations with these municipalities were taking place with a view to such revision of the franchises as would give the company authority to make adequate charges. In the event of the failure of the municipalities and the company to come to an agreement, the Government of the Province of British Columbia proposed to establish some local tribunal or authority to institute an inquiry as to what fares the company should be allowed to charge in order to earn a reasonable return upon the invested capital. It would, therefore, appear that at last the company might look forward to a definite settlement either by mutual agreement with the authorities concerned or by an appeal to an independent authority.

MONTEREY RAILWAY, LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

The scheme of reorganisation of the Monterey Railway, Light and Power Company submitted to the debenture holders in July, 1921, was duly approved, and has been carried through. The then existing 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock and arrears of interest on same are now represented by three new debenture stocks called 5 per cent. "A" first mortgage stock, 5 per cent. "B" cumulative income charge debenture stock, and "C" sinking fund debenture stock.

The carrying through of the reorganisation has enabled the company to recommence interest payments; interest on the 5 per cent. "A" first mortgage debenture stock was paid on August 1, 1921, and February 1, 1922. The interest on the 5 per cent. "B" debenture stock is payable only as and to the extent to which the company's revenues permit of such payments, and the revenue has not yet been sufficient to provide any interest on this debenture. The "C" sinking fund stock does not bear interest.

It is hopeful to note that the Republic of Mexico has signed a provisional agreement with the International Bankers' Committee covering her external debt. It is to be hoped that the State of Nuevo Leon will follow suit and come to some arrangement with the company for the payment of the money due under the guarantee.

Having mentioned that his prediction of last year in regard to the Canadian Western Lumber Company had been confirmed, he alluded to the Canadian Western Natural Gas Light, Heat and Power Company, mentioning that last year he referred to the treatment which it had received at the hands of the City of Calgary. He detailed the present position, mentioning that the City of Calgary was endeavouring by legal process to have it declared that the company had no right to sell gas in Calgary, excepting at the entirely unremunerative price of 35 cents per 1,000 feet. Whether successful or not, such action as that of the City of Calgary was absolutely destructive of all credit, and would be received with the strongest condemnation and most active resentment, and if holders, would severely reflect on the credit in London of every enterprise in Canada.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF CORPORATION'S INVESTMENTS. POSITION OF DIAMOND INDUSTRY—LABOUR CONDITIONS.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa was held at Johannesburg, on June 3rd, Mr F. R. Lynch, the deputy Chairman of the Corporation, presiding.

The deputy Chairman said: Your chairman, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, left for Europe a few weeks ago on an urgent business visit, and requested me to express to you his keen regret that he would be unable to preside at this meeting to-day. Our Corporation's utmost importance to our affairs, especially in these critical times, that our chairman should keep in intimate touch with London and New York.

Before he left, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer prepared a review of the corporation's activities for the past year, and, with your permission, I will now present it to you.

"The annual general meetings of all the companies in which we are financially interested have been held during the past week or ten days, and, as in past years, a copy of the chairman's speech

in each case will be forwarded on request to shareholders in this corporation, in order that they may have the opportunity of keeping themselves fully posted as to the position of the various concerns. I propose, therefore, to refer briefly only to the more important affairs of each company, starting with the Consolidated Diamond Mines of South-West Africa, Limited.

"The Anglo-American Corporation remains by far the largest shareholder in the Consolidated Diamond Mines of South-West Africa. Our holding consists mainly of 8 per cent. debentures, which are convertible into shares at par at any time before they reach maturity in October, 1929. I do not think the excellence of this investment is fully appreciated, and I would therefore like to draw your attention to some of its prominent features. The debentures bear interest at 8 per cent. per annum, free of all Union taxation, and are redeemable at par in October, 1929, unless, of course, they have been converted into ordinary fully-paid shares before that date. Under the debenture trust deed the Diamond Company is required to set aside a portion of the profits each year so that a sufficient sum will be accumulated to redeem all the debentures when they fall due in 1929. If the debentures are converted into shares just before maturity, the trust fund will be released, and the company will have at its disposal from this source a sum in cash equivalent to 8s per share on its then total share capital.

DIAMOND COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

"The depression in the diamond trade became accentuated as the year 1921 advanced. The policy of caution in the face of the crisis which the board of the Diamond Company evinced in passing the dividend at the end of 1920—although the company had sufficient funds in hand—was very wisely continued in 1921, first by curtailing production and finally by suspending mining operations altogether, in order to conserve the company's cash resources to the greatest possible extent.

"Thus the Diamond Company's expenditure, in addition to its debenture interest, was reduced to a small figure for running expenses, and its cash funds are sufficient to meet its commitments for a considerable period. But the directors, wishing to make the position of their company doubly secure by providing against the remote contingency that the acute depression in the diamond market would continue without improvement for so long as to exhaust all their funds, approached our corporation for temporary loan facilities if the necessity should arise. As sponsors of the Diamond Company and the holders of the majority of its debentures, and having in view the Diamond Company's substantial cash resources, which would be augmented if any diamonds were sold, we agreed to advance a sufficient sum, should the company's funds become exhausted, for the payment of its debenture interest to June 30, 1923, and its running expenses to the end of that year.

"I am pleased to say that sales of diamonds have already been effected, and I regard it as unlikely that the Diamond Company will require any assistance from us at all.

"The financial position and the arrangement of the affairs of the Diamond Company are such that it can face the present depression in the trade with patience and confidence—in other words, it can subscribe to and carry out, without misgiving, the policy of 'not forcing diamonds on an unwilling market.' This policy has helped the diamond trade over every crisis in the past, and it will be found just as efficacious now.

RAND SELECTION CORPORATION.

"The Rand Selection Corporation is principally interested in gold mining properties, although it also possesses valuable assets in townships, freehold property and plantations. The result of its operations for the past year was satisfactory, and dividends of 15 per cent. and 12½ per cent. were declared, amounting to £165,000.

BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

"Our interest in this company is through the large shareholding of the Rand Selection Corporation, and owing to our ownership of the Schapenrust claims.

"The result of the year's operations was satisfactory. The tonnage crushed at 659,800 tons was 63,000 tons in excess of the 1920 figure, and costs were lower by 2s 5d per ton.

"The balance of revenue over expenditure for the year amounted to £494,545. This is £52,000 less than the previous year, but, as the gold premium received was £265,339, against £336,164, it is apparent that on the standard value of gold the profit for 1921 was higher than during 1920.

"In addition to the above amount the appropriation account was credited with the sum of £100,619, representing the proceeds of gold placed to reserve. This reserve was created in order to assist the company to meet heavy capital commitments in connection with the equipment of the lease area, and was therefore transferred to appropriation account. Over and above this amount represented by the gold reserve the directors decided to utilise a portion of the profit for capital expenditure.

"Dividends declared during the year totalled 30 per cent., absorbing £255,000.

"The amount received by our corporation from Brakpan Mines under the sale agreement of the Schapenrust claims was £5,395.

SPRINGS MINES.

"Although this mine is producing on a considerable scale, the output is still not commensurate with the area of the property. For this reason a vigorous and extended programme of development is being carried on, with a view to building up an ore reserve which will permit expansion of the company's milling operations to an extent more in accordance with the magnitude of its claim area. The nominal milling capacity was about 40,000 tons per month during the past year, while the extension of the reduction plant, which is now approaching completion, will increase its capacity to a nominal 50,000 tons per month. It has recently been decided to further increase the capacity of the plant to 60,000 tons per month.

"The profit earned was £397,803—some £40,000 less than in 1920—owing to the fact that the amount received by way of gold premium showed a reduction of £56,000.

"Two dividends were declared, each of 7½ per cent., the amount distributed being £197,585.

WEST SPRINGS.

"The work of opening up the West Springs property has proceeded satisfactorily, and the excellent progress made in shaft sinking has been maintained in the primary development headings. In March of last year the No. 1 shaft cut the reef at a depth of 3,890 feet. After the necessary work as regards station arrangements had been completed, the east haulage was extended to a connection with the haulage driven from Spring Mines, the connection being effected early in this year.

"The working agreement entered into with Springs Mines Limited, in September, 1918, has greatly facilitated the development of the West Springs property.

"Fortunately little damage was done to the property during the strike, and on the resumption of operations the mine was speedily de-watered, and development work is now in full swing.

"At the end of the year the company had about £100,000 still to be called on its partly-paid share capital, and, in addition, had cash and cash assets amounting to £120,000, making a total of £310,000.

TRANSVAAL COAL CORPORATION.

"At the last annual general meeting shareholders were informed of the coal interest acquired by the Corporation. Our holdings are situated in the Witbank-Middelburg area, which district is pre-eminent as a source of supply in the Transvaal owing to its favourable mining conditions and the great width and high calorific value of the coal to be won from selected areas.

CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

"The year 1921 witnessed very severe financial and commercial depression the world over, and consequently it was a period of great uncertainty. Your board, therefore, thought it prudent to pursue a cautious policy, and no new business was entered into. That accounts for the absence in the 1921 accounts of revenue under headings which figured in previous accounts.

"If you will refer to the profit and loss account attached to the annual report, you will observe that our revenue for the year amounted to £258,600, which simply represents dividends received on various shareholdings, interest on debentures, and interest earned on cash balances. This revenue must be considered very satisfactory when it is remembered that we have considerable sums invested in companies which have not yet reached the producing stage; that Brakpan and Springs are opening up new lease areas, and have not yet reached their full capacity; and further, that in consequence of the depression in the diamond market our large shareholding in the Diamond Company, apart from debentures, was not dividend-earning during the period under review. We have every reason, therefore, to look for considerable increase of revenue in the future.

"The expenditure was kept at the lowest possible limit in Johannesburg, London, and New York, and, including directors' fees, amounted only to £1,381, after deducting the amounts received in fees. I must point out that remuneration to the permanent directors, which is only payable when dividends are declared, amounted to £5,989, and is provided for in the appropriation account.

"The payment of the dividend absorbed £159,701. The only other item in the appropriation account calling for comment is the £65,000 written off investments. This was done in pursuance of the policy of writing down investments to the market prices as at December 31st in the case of quoted securities and to conservative figures in the case of unquoted securities. Our unappropriated balance is £177,953.

"A few remarks on the balance-sheet will conclude my financial review. Our cash assets were 'sundry debtors and debit balances,'

£570,655, earning interest, plus a small amount of £511 earning 6 interest at the bank, which makes a total of £571,166. Our cash liabilities on the other side of the balance-sheet were 'sundry bareholders,' £232, and 'sundry creditors and credit balances,' £44,380, which makes a total of £444,612, showing a surplus of £126,554.

"Of our cash assets, nearly £500,000 was money either then accrued as dividends or debenture interest, or was at immediate call, while of the £444,380 due by us under the heading 'sundry creditors and credit balances,' the sum of £250,000 represented loans on fixed deposit, and the balance was held at call. Our investments amounted to £3,245,000, and if we add to this the £126,000 by which our cash assets exceed our cash liabilities, we arrive at a grand total of assets amounting to £3,371,000, while our share capital remains unchanged at £3,194,028.

SOUTH AFRICAN LABOUR SITUATION.

I think the recent industrial upheaval through which the industry has passed calls for some comment from me.

"The labour movement started from 1914 with the reasonable objects of improving the conditions of labour, raising the standard of living of white workmen, and securing increased wages to meet the rising cost of living and the currency depreciation which resulted from the war. The trade union movement did not stop with the realisation of its primary objects. It advanced further and developed into a determined effort to capture, for its advantage, the management and control of private enterprises. This movement, aggravated by economic circumstances—such as the diminution of the gold premium, which meant in all cases very much reduced profits and in many cases actual losses—made it quite evident that sooner or later the employers would be forced to assert their undoubted right to manage their own businesses and thus restore efficiency and economy. A struggle which would settle once and for all whether trade unionism should manage the mines or whether that function should be restored to its rightful repository had to be both prolonged and bitter.

"Early in the war organised labour had entrusted their cause to a body called the 'Industrial Federation,' which, after several refusals, obtained recognition from the Chamber of Mines. As long as the Federation pursued the legitimate aims of labour they met with great success. But in the hour of trial the Federation was found wanting. They could not prevent their organisation from falling into the hands of unauthorised and unscrupulous men of extreme views, who used their usurped power to the danger and detriment of the community, and even of the State itself.

"It is not surprising that the Chamber found it impossible any longer to recognise the Federation, which had proved impotent. The mining industry made it perfectly clear at the same time that his decision was not aimed at trade unionism proper, but that it was willing, and that it was its intention, to treat in future with such unions as represented the men employed in the industry itself. The non-recognition and decline of the Federation must also make a distinct difference to the powers vested in the Chamber of Mines by its individual members. The managers have had restored to them the powers which they held before the Federation became prominent, and I feel confident that only good can come of the alteration. I look forward now to efficient and economical exploitation of the mining industry, or, in other words, a new era in gold mining in South Africa."

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BARCELONA TRACTION, LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN SPAIN.

BURDEN OF INCREASING TAXATION IN SPAIN.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the company in Toronto, Canada, on Tuesday, July 4, 1922.

The President of the company, Mr E. R. Peacock, took the chair, and in moving the adoption of the accounts of the year 1921, supplemented the annual report by a concise survey of the present financial position of the company, and the business of the operating companies in Spain. He pointed out that in Spain, as elsewhere, social and financial conditions had been unsettled for some time past, cost of living had been high, and business more or less stagnant. In the past few months, however, there had been a notable revival in the textile trade throughout the area in which the companies were operating, and this improvement was reflected in the earnings of the controlled companies in Spain, which for the first five months of the current year were as follows:—

	Pesetas.
Gross earnings	18,897,597
Operating expenses	7,298,660
Net earnings	11,598,938

NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK.

With reference to the new construction work, he pointed out that the work on hand was small as compared with that of previous years, and was mainly in connection with the extension of the distribution system, the chief item being the construction of a large sub-station in the busy factory district, and he added that the funds required for this work had already been provided.

Referring to the Electric Railway (F. C. de Cataluna), he mentioned that it was working satisfactorily, and that the extension to Sabadell was opened for traffic on June 1st last. The operation of this division was already increasing the earnings substantially.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY EFFICIENT STAFF.

The Chairman congratulated the shareholders on the fact that the operating companies in Spain had an exceptionally efficient staff, and that the constant co-operation of the Spanish directors was a source of great strength to the board.

In conclusion, the Chairman observed that while the general outlook was encouraging, the board viewed with considerable anxiety the burden of the constantly increasing taxes in Spain.

PLATT BROTHERS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

PRESENT VALUE OF ASSETS.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

THE B.S.T. PURCHASE.

Presiding at the annual general meeting of Platt Brothers and Co., Limited, on the 6th instant, at Oldham, Mr H. Platt Hall, in the course of his speech moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Notwithstanding the present increased values of properties, our buildings, boilers, steam engines, machine tools, &c., remain (in our balance-sheet) at pre-war values, less the full annual depreciations.

Our valuers estimate these properties, together with the convertible stock, to be worth at to-day's prices £4,697,329, which is nearly double the amount at which they stand in our stock books.

When you see from the figures I have quoted from the balance-sheet that the total of the investments, sundry debtors, cash and bills equals £2,374,523, as against £1,483,822 last year, an increase of no less than £890,701, you will agree that the company is in a very strong financial position.

The most important event has been the offer from B.S.T., Limited, for the purchase of the ordinary shares of the company. For some time past it has been obvious that an increase in the number of shareholders of the company was desirable.

The company is 100 years old. It has been a public company for a considerable time, but the majority of the ordinary shares were held in comparatively few hands, and as the original shareholders died their shares have passed to the hands of trustees.

SHAREHOLDERS REINVEST.

No matter how wide a testator makes the investment clauses in his will, counsel's opinion states that on no account may industrial investments be held indefinitely. The present opportunity is one in which trustees would have incurred a most serious responsibility had they refused to accept.

We have come to the third generation. As was natural, there has been for some time past an increasing number of these trustees who desired to make some change in their investments.

After much thought, consideration, and only after prolonged negotiation, was the business arranged. While the trustees are, of course, debarred in the majority of cases from continuing any portion of their interest in the company, individual shareholders have in a surprising number of cases made a firm application for both ordinary and preference shares of the new issue in respect of a considerable proportion of their original holding.

The fact that so many of our old shareholders are going back into the shares on the new basis is, you will agree, sound evidence of their confidence and belief in the company's future. When the market in the shares finally settles down, I feel sure it will be found that the shares have been spread over a large number of investors, creating a much wider interest in the company, creating a better market in the shares, with benefit to all concerned.

MANAGEMENT UNCHANGED.

No change in the management and business methods is contemplated. Messrs B.S.T., Limited, under the terms of the purchase, have the right to nominate a director. I am happy to be able to

inform you that the Right Hon. Lord Emmott, a native of this town, has been nominated to the board. His wide experience in financial and Government affairs will be of great value to the directors.

In marked contrast to the general engineering trade of the country, textile machinery has been a really bright spot in industry. We have had a very full share of the orders in the trade for the past twelve months, which have resulted in a satisfactory profit.

PROSPEROUS OUTLOOK.

The firm is generally well supplied with orders for at least two years ahead. These orders are principally on behalf of our customers in other countries, therefore, with the revival in the spinning and weaving trades in this country, which revival cannot be delayed indefinitely, we have good grounds for looking forward with confidence to the future, with expectations of improved home trade demand.

The report was unanimously adopted. The resolution sanctioning the payment of a dividend of 20 per cent., making with the interim dividend already paid 22½ per cent. for the year, having been agreed, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

HOWARD AND BULLOUGH, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR DESPITE DIFFICULTIES.

The twenty-eighth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Howard and Bullough, Limited, was held at Globe Works, Accrington, on the 6th instant. The chairman of the company, Sir George Bullough, Bart., presiding.

In moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, the Chairman said: We are dealing with a year which has suffered interruption from the stoppage that affected the engineering trade throughout the country. Fortunately our works extensions were well forward and got into working order. We were thus able to considerably increase our weekly output before the stoppage occurred, more nearly approaching that of pre-war times. Our new No. 4 foundry and the four-storeyed building in Richmond street being completed, we shall now proceed with the erection of the remaining middle building, intercepting the one along Richmond street as originally planned. When this is finished in the course of next year, we shall be in a position to fully carry out the programme we had set before us for the reorganisation and redistribution of our various departments. Our aims are: Greater efficiency, more economical working, a larger output, and also the elimination of night-work and overtime. We are convinced that these are factors of greatest importance if we are to keep well to the fore and to successfully confront the new competition we shall meet.

Towards defraying the costs of the extension and new plant we were able to realise some of our investments to advantage. You will notice, on the other hand, that our balance-sheet shows a substantial bank balance.

The report shows that we propose the payment of a bonus of 1s 6d per ordinary share, in addition to the usual 10 per cent. dividend, to place £50,000 to dividend reserve, £100,000 to general reserve, and to carry forward £94,014 to next account. I hope these recommendations will have your approval.

Your directors have appointed to the Board two tried and trusted members of the staff, Mr James Redman and Mr William Denham Smith, and your confirmation of these appointments will be asked for.

Mr William Hay, of Cheadle Hulme, moved that a dividend be paid for the half-year ending May 31, 1922, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference shares; and a fourth quarterly dividend of 2½ per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary shares, making with the interim dividends already paid, 10 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares.

Mr Thomas W. Hutchinson, of Whitworth, seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

Alderman D. C. Dewhurst, O.B.E., J.P., of Accrington, in moving that a bonus for the year ending May 31, 1922, at the rate of 1s 6d per share, less income tax, be paid on the ordinary shares, complimented the directors and staff on the successful year's work.

Mr D. W. Moffitt, of Accrington, seconded, and the resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr Joseph Watson, of Cheadle Hulme, said he had very great pleasure in moving the re-election of Mr C. A. Peltzer as a director of the company.

Mr R. M. Simpson, of Fallowfield, seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

Mr Peltzer expressed thanks for his re-election.

Mr C. Moorhouse, of Accrington, moved that the appointment of Mr James Redman and Mr William Denham Smith, as directors, be approved and confirmed.

Mr W. A. Walsh, of Accrington, seconded, and the resolution was duly confirmed.

Mr James Redman, on behalf of Mr W. D. Smith and himself, suitably thanked the shareholders for the confirmation of their appointment as directors.

Mr John R. Annis, of Accrington, proposed the re-election of Messrs John Adamson, Son, and Co., of Manchester, as auditors of the company, on the same terms as before.

Mr James Drake, of Altham, seconded, and it was approved.

Mr Percy Needham, on behalf of his firm, Messrs John Adamson, Son, and Co., expressed thanks for their re-election as auditors.

Mr Joseph Watson proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and co-directors, and to the staff and workers for their services.

Col. Harold Wilson, of Mirfield, seconded.

Sir George Bullough suitably responded, and the meeting terminated.

CHANNEL TUNNEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUPPORT FROM MANY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

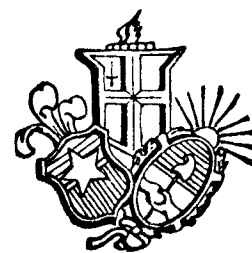
The ordinary general meeting of the Channel Tunnel Company, Limited, was held, on the 3rd instant, at Cannon street Hotel, London.

The secretary (Mr R. D. Heckels) read the notice convening the meeting.

Baron Emile B. d'Erlanger, chairman of the company, presided, and moved the adoption of the report and accounts. He said that last year he informed the shareholders that the board had decided to spend some money on trying a new boring machine, and that they had hopes that it would prove satisfactory and greatly shorten the time of the construction work. Although their hopes had not in any way been affected by the tests that had been made, the machine was ready for trial only a few weeks ago, and Mr Tempest, the company's engineer, was not yet in a position to report fully as to his confidence that it could do all that was expected from it. He felt certain that at the next general meeting, unless they had begun the actual boring of the Tunnel, they would be able to report the trials had been eminently satisfactory.

The hopes of his colleagues and himself with regard to the

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

future of the Channel Tunnel project had been buoyed up by the important banquet which recently took place at the House of Commons. At that banquet, which was attended by a number of prominent and influential Frenchmen, including M. Cambon, the construction of the Tunnel was advocated by a very representative gathering of members of the House of Commons. Moreover, only a few days ago the Channel Tunnel Committee of the House decided to take immediate action, and a petition had been set on foot, which had already obtained a great many signatures, in order to press the Government to appoint a day for a debate on the principle of this important question. Out of the seven hundred members of the House of Commons no fewer than between four and five hundred had expressed their adhesion to the scheme, and therefore it would be really remarkable if the Government refused to appoint a day for the debate. He was confident there would be a very large majority in its favour. He hoped, for many reasons, not only reasons of equity but also of expediency and economy, the promotion of the Bill for the construction of the Tunnel would be entrusted to this pioneer company, which had never wavered in its efforts and in its faith, and that the day would come when the patience of the shareholders would be duly rewarded.

Mr Charles Sheath, J.P., seconded the resolution, which, after some remarks by Sir Robert Perks in favour of the project, was unanimously adopted.

ESTATES CONTROL, LIMITED.

BOVRIL SHARE ISSUE.

PUBLIC APPRECIATION AND CONFIDENCE.

Presiding at the eighteenth annual general meeting of Estates Control, Limited, held on the 3rd instant, Sir George Lawson Johnston (chairman) referred to the marked success of the recent issue by the company of Bovril ordinary shares, and said that last week they offered to the public 100,000 $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. ordinary shares of £1 each in Bovril, Limited, at 2s premium. This was the full market price for the shares at the time they offered them, but they were inclined to believe that Bovril stood so high in public estimation, owing to the unique reputation and standing of its product and national appreciation of its anti-profiteering record, that the public would be likely to think even more highly of the shares than the market did. They had a single-column advertisement in a number of papers, and it had been a feature of the applications that nearly two-thirds of them came in on newspaper forms. They had to close the lists promptly, owing to over-subscription, and were now preparing the lists for acceptance and regret. Their intention was to reduce large applications by at least 90 per cent. on any excess over 1,000 shares, and to eliminate all applications under 25 shares. This would enable them to be more liberal with the applicants between 25 and 1,000 shares. They would probably appreciate that the reason for not accepting the smaller applications was that the postage and cheque stamps cost 7d a year on two dividends.

Bovril circles might, he thought, be excused for feeling some gratification at the result, and at the fact that the lists of this issue of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. ordinary shares at a premium were closed a day earlier than an issue made at the same time with a British Government guarantee attached to it.

Sir George commented on the danger to industrial development of the enormous increase in local rates, which to-day in England and Wales reached an average annual charge of £4 11s 8d per head of the population. He hoped when the quinquennial valuations were made, local authorities would not be so short-sighted as to press for an unfair assessment of energetic, and, therefore, prosperous firms, which brought fresh employment into working-class areas.

CALCUTTA TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

EFFECTS OF LABOUR UNREST.

The annual meeting of the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, was held, on the 4th instant, at 1, Queen Victoria street, London, Mr John G. B. Stone, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the expenditure on capital account had been increased by £3,626s, mainly represented by the cost of motor buses and the car shed extension. In order to repay bank advances, and provide for additional rolling stock and plant, an issue was made last month of £250,000 in 7 per cent. second debentures, which were largely oversubscribed. The revenue of

the company during the year was adversely affected by strikes, the actual stoppages representing 57 days during the year. They hoped that matters were satisfactorily settled, and that there would be no recurrence of the trouble.

The earnings showed a reduction of £81,767, or 17 per cent.; and the working expenses showed an increase of £39,285. The net earnings (after providing for loss on exchange of £44,700) amounted to £64,429, as compared with £240,389 in the previous year. To meet increased expenses, it has been necessary to introduce a new scheme of fares, which came into operation on February 1st last, resulting in a satisfactory increase in the company's earnings. Political agitation and labour unrest were dying down, and the directors were confident that more prosperous conditions would prevail before long.

In order to meet a growing demand, it was essential to add to their rolling stock, and orders were being placed accordingly. The motor buses purchased last year were put into service in August last, but with, so far, disappointing results. The directors were of opinion, however, that a use for these vehicles could best be found for special traffic purposes pending the further development of the city now proceeding under the capable management of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. During the last few years, owing to the expansion of the company's operations, the directors had been faced with the necessity of increasing the generating plant, and at the same time had realised that much economy could be obtained by the adoption of more modern machinery. As an alternative to the expenditure of capital involved in such developments, the directors considered the advisability of purchasing current in bulk from the Supply Corporation, with the result that an agreement had been entered into on what they considered satisfactory terms. Notwithstanding the temporary set-back, the shareholders could regard themselves as the proprietors of a sound and profitable enterprise which supplies a great progressive demand in Calcutta.

SPIERS AND POND, LIMITED.

YEAR'S RESULTS "IN EVERY RESPECT SATISFACTORY."

The thirty-eighth ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held, on the 5th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London, Sir J. S. Harwood Banner, M.P., the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts and payment of the dividends, said: This is the thirty-eighth ordinary general meeting of this company, and it is the fourth I have had the pleasure of presiding over since the re-organisation scheme was carried through in 1918. I think you will agree that the position disclosed is so sound that there is very little comment I need make upon it.

We recommend to-day a final dividend of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., which, with the interim distribution, makes $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year. For the first year after the reorganisation we were able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. We have followed that for the next three years with dividends of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in addition we have given you a bonus in shares of 20 per cent., so that in the four years we have been in office we have been enabled to make a return to our shareholders of a total of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In addition, we have accumulated (with the allocation we propose to you this year) a general reserve of £100,000, and I think you will agree that the financial position of the company has been so strengthened and improved that we may reasonably look forward with confidence to the future.

After a survey of the accounts, the Chairman continued: I venture to submit that whether from the point of view of financial stability or from the point of view of earning capacity, the accounts we have presented to you are in every respect satisfactory. You must remember that many expenses which are quite beyond our control have during the year still shown an upward tendency, though I am hopeful we have now reached the top and may look forward to some amelioration. I refer more particularly to the question of rates and taxes, which for the year under review show an increase over the corresponding period of last year of approximately £5,000, and if you go back a few years more, this item alone shows an increase over 1920 of £13,500, and over 1919 of £15,700. Licences and compensation levy during the year also show an increase of nearly £2,000, and gas and electric light of nearly £2,500.

Our properties have been adequately and fully maintained, and to-day I think we may say they are in first-class condition. I referred earlier in my remarks to the acquisition we have made during the year of the Valley of Rocks Hotel at Lynton. We have had this property thoroughly redecorated, and as it was closed for these alterations for a period of three months, you will understand we have had no advantage from this acquisition in the accounts now before you.

The Chairman's resolution was carried.

HOVIS, LIMITED.

CAPITALISATION OF RESERVE FUND.

The ordinary general meeting of Hovis, Limited, was held, on the 6th instant, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London.

Mr J. Browne-Martin, who presided, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that a chairman's task was always a pleasurable one when associated with such a company as Hovis, Limited, which showed the merit of consistency in its progress. With that feeling there was also a feeling of regret that he could not deal with the accounts brought up to date as the directors would have liked, but the shareholders knew the difficulties all businesses had to meet with when taken over by a Government office. It was only during the last few weeks that they had received a settlement for 1920, but they did not anticipate now that the figures for 1921 would be long delayed. The accounts now before them were for the year ended March 31, 1920, and it would be seen that the reserve account was now £100,000, and they proposed to place a further £10,000 to that account. With regard to the profit and loss account, during the period of control the company was indemnified against loss, and had, as remuneration, the pre-war standard of profits, plus certain allowances, and that, in the year under review, amounted to £50,084, as against £43,416 for the previous year.

They had made provision out of their profits and allowances to spend money on advertising, and since decontrol they had expended a considerable amount. In inducing the public to take the company's products they were promoting the welfare of the community. Medical testimony proved that those of the public who were wise enough to listen to the message that was given to them would benefit both in mind and body. Their investment in the shares of Marriage, Neave, and Co., Limited, had turned out extremely satisfactory. The acquisition of the Chelsea Mill had not only considerably increased the area of the company's activities and its milling capacity, but had enabled the management to effect useful economies and increased efficiency in output and delivery. The directors were entirely satisfied with the results of their investment. In furtherance of promises made at a previous meeting, and in consideration of the satisfactory conditions of the company's position, the directors felt justified in recommending a distribution out of the company's reserves.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and at a subsequent extraordinary general meeting a resolution was passed authorising the capitalisation of the reserve fund.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT. (000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.						
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Reserve.	Bank of England.	
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	
Aug. 26.....	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	18,500	..	48.1	9,924	9,286	11,423	
Dec. 30.....	38,478	..	169	600	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1915.											
Dec. 23.....	103,125	728	159	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536	..	
1916.											
Dec. 27.....	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868	..	
1917.											
Dec. 26.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486	..	
1918.											
Dec. 31.....	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566	..	
1919.											
Dec. 31.....	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802	..	
1920.											
Dec. 29.....	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134	..	
1921.											
Mar. 30.....	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	..	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141	..	
June 29.....	323,894	14,965	..	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150	..	
Sept. 28.....	314,382	14,830	..	3,000	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143	..	
Dec. 28.....	325,584	14,658	..	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161	..	
1922.											
Mar. 30.....	300,351	14,255	..	5,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	..	
June 15.....	299,222	13,187	..	6,000	28,500	19,650	16.0	258,193	166	..	
June 22.....	295,612	12,961	..	6,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,274	148	..	
June 29.....	295,374	13,336	..	6,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312	250	..	
July 6.....	297,904	12,865	..	6,000	28,000	20,150	16.1	256,461	158	..	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £50,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, July 10-July 15, were opened on July 7, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £71,260,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £98 4s 0d will receive about 50 per cent., above in full. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 10s 0d will receive about 28 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 10s 4d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury Bills was £1 18s 4.65d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £5,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £45,000,000.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
1922.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
June 9.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 76,795,000	2 6 9-94	98 1 5-45
June 16.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 69,225,000	2 8 0-44	98 4 2-55
June 23.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 82,215,000	2 1 7-4	98 3 0-9
June 30.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,220,000	2 2 11-55	98 4 4-8
July 7.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 18 4-65	98 5 10-8

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, July 14, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, July 5, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued	145,084,190	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities.....	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	126,634,190
	145,084,190		145,084,190

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Capital	14,553,000	Government securities	67,987,920
Reserve	3,304,859	Other securities.....	75,819,578
Public deposits*	14,922,857	Notes	20,561,050
Other deposits	133,393,567	Gold and silver coin..	1,824,772
Seven-day & other bills	18,997		
	166,193,320		166,193,320

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, July 5, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,304,859	+ 15,705	+ 16,081
Other deposits	14,922,857	+ 1,423,845	+ 4,797,694
Public deposits	133,393,567	+ 18,306,043	+ 4,352,507
Government securities	67,987,920	+ 18,766,875	+ 4,189,842
Other securities	75,819,578	+ 94,304	+ 9,282,727
Reserve	22,385,822	+ 1,962,861	+ 4,675,024
Note circulation	124,523,140	+ 1,475,130	+ 4,585,145
Coin and bullion	128,458,962	+ 487,731	+ 89,879
% of reserve to liabilities	15%	+ 34%	+ 34%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%
April 12.....	128,863,165	122,433,345	142,002,996	132,812,916	24,873,820	17 1/2
19.....	128,876,773	121,638,245	134,595,798	126,555,897	25,688,528	19 1/2
26.....	128,872,818	121,307,055	134,366,940	125,995,611	26,015,763	19 1/2
May 3.....	128,878,378	122,091,126	146,049,335	135,955,611	25,232,698	17 1/2
10.....	128,887,939	121,591,685	142,438,187	134,402,217	25,746,254	18 1/2
17.....	128,879,227	121,070,755	139,061,838	130,549,595	26,258,472	18 1/2
24.....	128,880,842	120,889,975	132,435,633	123,780,787	26,440,867	20 1/2
31.....	128,881,009	122,715,860	130,221,478	123,356,836	24,615,149	18 1/2
June 7.....	128,886,129	122,513,410	141,479,390	134,418,265	24,822,719	17 1/2
14.....	128,884,081	121,957,550	127,874,151	120,304,710	25,376,331	19 1/2
21.....	128,883,226	121,378,810	129,957,974	121,830,727	25,960,416	20 1/2
28.....	128,946,693	123,048,010	131,435,226	124,946,319	24,348,683	18 1/2
July 5.....	128,458,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	143,807,498	22,385,822	15 1/2

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	July 3, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	July 7, 1920.	July 6, 1921.	July 5, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	£ 29,973,385	£ 28,933,380	£ 122,274,815	£ 129,108,285	£ 124,523,140
Public deposits	21,375,735	19,014,809	17,886,048	19,720,551	14,922,857
Other deposits	48,389,027	41,248,364	117,035,455	129,041,060	133,393,567
Government securities	13,383,707	11,046,570	52,423,853	63,798,078	67,987,920
Other securities	44,825,356	41,461,280	83,894,614	85,102,305	75,819,578
Reserve of notes and coin	28,878,671	25,463,980	16,443,887	17,710,798	22,385,822
Coin and bullion	40,402,056	35,947,360	120,737,702	128,369,083	128,458,962
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	41½%	42½%	12½%	11½%	15%
Bank rate of discount	3 ½%	3 ½%	7%	6%	3 ½%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	5 ½%	2 ½%	6 ½%	5 ½%	5 ½%
Price of Consols	76 ½	74 ½	47 ½	47 ½	57 ½
Price of silver per oz.	28 ½d	26 ½d	52 ½d	36 ½d	36 ½d
Average price of wheat	37s 10d	33s 0d	83s 10d	89s 10d	52s 6d
Exchanges { Paris	25 21 ½-2	15 17-20	46-40 8	46-50 3	53-50 54 ½
New York	84-85	84-85	83-25	85-75 3	87-75 3
Amsterdam	12-14 ½	12-05 1	11-13 16	11-35 30 1	10-54 45 1
London	20-46 1	20-49 1	148-150	277-281	277-50 1
Berlin	20-46 1	20-49 1	148-150	277-281	1890-1940
Clearing house return	388,527,000	199,913,000	799,899,000	859,253,000	849,189,000

[July 8, 1922.]

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.	£	£	£
January 1—June 28	17,782,844.000	1,401,293.000	19,184,137.000
July 5	788,177.000	61,012.000	849,189.000
Total to date 1922	18,571,021.000	1,462,305.000	20,033,326.000
Do 1921	16,527,497.000	1,637,422.000	18,164,919.000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,043,524.000	- 175,117.000	+ 1,868,407.000
	12.4%	10.7%	10.3%
Total for 1921	31,928,380.000	3,002,179.000	34,930,559.000
Do 1920	34,946,683.000	4,072,220.000	39,018,903.000
Increase or decrease in 1921	- 3,018,303.000	- 1,070,041.000	- 4,088,344.000
	8.6%	26.2%	10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to July 1.	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	70,523,200	57,172,300	- 13,450,900
BRISTOL	38,419,000	38,588,000	+ 169,000
DUBLIN (to June 24)	178,472,900	163,647,000	- 14,825,700
HULL	28,843,400	28,843,400	0
LEEDS	30,460,300	28,272,000	- 2,188,300
LEICESTER	20,552,200	21,155,500	+ 603,300
LIVERPOOL	237,410,900	219,100,600	- 18,310,300
MANCHESTER	378,125,300	381,778,100	+ 3,652,800
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	50,883,400	49,008,200	- 1,875,200
NOTTINGHAM	19,011,400	17,239,200	- 1,772,200
SHEFFIELD	32,825,600	24,012,700	- 8,812,900

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
RESOURCES.	£	£	£	£
Total gold reserve	3,020,870	3,019,960	3,007,790	2,461,930
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	127,500	127,720	128,680	165,530
Bills discounted for member banks	463,100	421,570	413,680	1,771,560
Bills bought in open market	154,060	121,470	123,980	31,600
Government obligations owned	556,610	555,530	629,680	257,330
All other resources	65,140	61,610	69,540	49,630
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	43,780	10,380	73,270	15,350
Other deposits	1,835,500	1,844,020	1,855,760	1,670,440
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,124,420	2,126,300	2,122,610	2,634,980
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	67,260	67,690	68,000	132,400
All other liabilities	20,820	20,460	20,410	32,030
Capital and surplus	330,480	320,480	320,280	304,220
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	77.5%	79.1%	77.4%	60.8%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	April 30, 1921.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£
Cash and bank balances	460,869	447,021	461,876	503,923
Bank balances abroad	73,568	64,311	68,442	73,667
Call and short loans	278,175	267,419	272,910	264,463
Securities	342,989	355,665	352,377	302,497
Loans in Canada	1,259,799	1,234,496	1,232,974	1,382,255
Loans abroad	150,715	151,970	155,707	153,717
Other assets	98,919	95,870	101,328	112,612
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation	164,724	162,651	164,490	203,274
Deposits—				
Government	145,753	124,699	131,716	130,624
Public in Canada	1,720,566	1,714,862	1,719,129	1,862,954
Foreign	279,525	265,748	267,436	267,600
Bank balances				
Canadian	9,714	8,828	10,545	11,751
Foreign	45,612	45,775	44,283	41,860
Bills payable, &c.	22,648	23,561	20,125	49,850
Other liabilities	3,012	2,456	3,519	3,294
Capital and rest	254,248	254,242	255,742	264,033

BANK OF FRANCE.

	July 6, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	July 7, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
ASSETS.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.
Gold coin and bullion	5,529,200	5,528,858	5,528,549	5,520,505	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367
Silver coin and bullion	281,912	281,862	281,781	274,563	632,650
Discount and advances	4,385,391	4,513,161	4,245,120	5,118,179	2,327,775
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	36,799,717	36,037,356	35,852,312	37,667,080	5,811,875
Government deposits	22,758	57,681	13,297	22,932	183,700
Private deposits	2,341,127	2,390,693	2,275,813	2,689,193	845,950

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 13, 1922.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£	£	£
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	2,176	951	791	6,341	6,252
Bankers' deposits	6,761	7,258	6,357	6,341	6,252
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	92	92	92	92	92
Gold certificates	6,649	5,924	5,824	5,724	5,524
Subsidiary coin					
Loans and advances to the Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other loans and advances	18	12	20	25	25
Investments	1,000	1,000			
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	75.4%	73.2%	83%	82.7%	82.5%

BANK OF SPAIN.

	July 1, 1922.	June 24, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	July 2, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
ASSETS.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.
Gold	2,522,912	2,522,900	2,522,781	2,522,725	2,487,972	521,775
Silver	648,871	648,396	641,652	640,630	622,053	728,600
Loans and discounts	2,202,674	2,228,971	2,263,612	2,294,602	1,815,929	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,144,776	4,126,678	4,165,630	4,185,917	4,184,696	1,901,550
Deposits	1,170,858	1,177,813	1,163,522	1,170,613	1,198,998	477,500

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

	May 27, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	April 28, 1922.	April 13, 1922.	May 28, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
ASSETS.	Drachme.	Drachme.	Drachme.	Drachme.	Drachme.	Drachme.
Gold and balances abroad	1,388,158	1,373,759	1,381,018	1,383,160	1,376,175	1,376,175
Government loans and securities	2,860,971	2,871,858	2,889,052	2,929,091	1,560,948	1,560,948
Discounts and loans	792,232	806,316	785,581	800,662	777,392	777,392
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	1,484,388	1,407,324	1,315,934	1,197,570	1,723,891	1,723,891
Government deposits	1,356,000	1,486,303	1,489,503	1,628,610	1,100,013	1,100,013
Private sight deposits	793,527	781,473	891,288	929,993	809,346	809,346
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,010,744	1,010,057	1,008,124	1,006,495	795,325	795,325

BANK OF JAPAN.

	June 3, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	May 6, 1922.	June 4, 1921.	Position June 30, 1914.
ASSETS.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Cash and bullion	1,274,818	1,274,837	1,273,827	1,272,136	1,280,824	1,280,824
Discounts	94,741	93,577	90,668	94,430	156,867	34,067
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	1,174,468	1,107,362	1,046,379	1,057,598	1,117,666	1,072,056
Govt. deposits	770,648	766,957	778,979	785,332	805,978	362,270
Other deposits	59,865	38,302	57,887	56,766	40,499	87,340

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.	Marks.	Marks.	Marks.	Marks.	Marks.
Gold	1,003,859	1,003,860	1,003,861	1,091,563	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	11,205	321,920
Silver	19,743	19,340	18,754	8,311,208	94,480
Treasury notes	14,605,085	11,150,649	9,163,162	8,311,208	60,780
Bills discounted	190,877,495	171,785,995	175,658,442	81,173,196	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	169,211,792	157,935,228	155,345,277	75,321,095	2,013,860
Deposits	37,173,745	29,492,168	36,431,636	20,392,708	842,340

BANK OF ITALY.

	June 10, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 10, 1922.	June 10, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.	Lire.	Lire.	Lire.	Lire.	Lire.	Lire.
Total cash	1,363,773	1,435,102	1,445,295	1,421,017	1,365,720	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,317,392	4,326,591	4,320,979	4,406,930	3,179,680	418,400
Foreign bills	9,812	9,771	9,785	9,770	20,733	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,044,818	6,107,491	6,196,233	6,318,451	6,674,679	nil
Other advances	2,754,475	3,013,281	3,078,822	3,312,324	2,149,189	79,175
Securities	535,081	534,161	531,525	535,622	217,455	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,360,765	13,326,465	13,169,027	13,489,321	13,639,742	1,556,925
Deposits	1,774,908	1,855,295	1,819,235	1,806,315	1,625,317	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

	July 4, 1922.	June 26, 1922.	June 19, 1922.	June 12, 1922.	July 4, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
ASSETS.	Florins.	Florins.	Florins.	Florins.	Florins.	Florins.
Gold	605,955	605,890	605,890	605,889	605,969	163,092
Silver	7,439	7,439	7,439	7,439	7,439	6,435
Discounts and advances	424,112	370,616	383,301	384,242	515,151	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	103,352	960,477	971,378	991,636	1,032,298	316,632
Deposits	48,513	45,345	65,524	52,776	111,561	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

	June 3, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	June 4, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.	Lei.
Gold	4,714,617	4,744,617	4,744,617	4,744,617	4,744,617	4,744,617
Silver	427	348	376	454	454	454
Government loan	12,522,816	12,512,217	12,511,101	12,519,040	10,010,300	300
Other advances	2,771,429	2,752,591	2,836,937	2,786,680	10,010,300	3,166,192
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	14,130,339	14,121,119	14,153,655	14,036,141	11,100,578	316,632
Deposits	5,962,173	5,933,503	5,911,219	6,024,411	5,973,335	5,016

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	June 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.	Francos.
Gold	530,882	537,022	541,633	542,004	544,076	171,175
Silver	116,865	107,040	107,040	107,520	110,744	18,350
Loans and advances	13,146	13,176	13,629	13,783	10,230	10,230
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	789,083	729,734	732,966	762,854	941,083	275,925
Deposits	198,591	238,345	244,044	308,181	144,526	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENES.

ASSETS.	June 22, 1922.		June 15, 1922.		May 31, 1922.		June 22, 1921.	
	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.
Gold	63,268	63,681	63,701	63,663	75,143			
Other coin and notes	17,459	16,895	16,944	16,929	24,144			
Foreign credits	283,465	282,221	279,369	288,551	338,256			
Bills	843,060	849,540	861,654	860,228	171,913			
Govt. advances	4,492,273	4,498,273	4,498,257	4,498,257	3,941,431			
LIABILITIES.								
Notes in circulation	4,711,466	4,748,051	4,806,252	4,752,367	3,693,259			
State credits	333,982	333,982	333,982	333,982	380,061			
Deposits	636,072	637,725	586,275	574,836	421,188			

LONDON RATES.

	June 30, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	July 3, 1922.	July 4, 1922.	July 5, 1922.	July 6, 1922.	July 7, 1922.
Bank rate (reduced from 4% June 15, 1922)	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 months' do.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 months' do.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
6 months' do.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount (Treasury Bills)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Short	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposit allowances: Banks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Discount houses at call	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
At notice	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2

† Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1922.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
April 21	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
28	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
May 5	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
12	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
19	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
26	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
June 2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
9	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
16	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
23	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
30	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
July 7	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

	Present Rate.		Previous Rate.		Date Changed.	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Discount	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	June 15, 1922	Feb. 16, 1922.
Deposit	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	June 15, 1922	Feb. 16, 1922.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Changed.		Bank Rate	Changed.	
	May 1, 1915	May 1, 1915		May 1, 1915	May 1, 1915
Amsterdam	May 15, 1920	6 1/2	Madrid	May 11, 1922	5 1/2
Athens	Dec. 23, 1914	5	Paris	Mar. 11, 1922	5 1/2
Berlin	June 8, 1922	4 1/2	Prague	Apr. 27, 1922	5
Brussels	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Rome	May 11, 1920	5
Bucharest	July 5, 1922	4	Sofia	June 14, 1919	6 1/2
Calcutta	May 16, 1922	5 1/2	Stockholm	July 1, 1922	6 1/2
Christiania	Apr. 25, 1922	5 1/2	Swiss Bank	Mar. 2, 1922	3 1/2
Copenhagen	Nov. 8, 1920	9	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919	8
Helsingfors	Sept. 3, 1920	7	Vienna	Nov. 29, 1921	7
Lisbon	June 21, 1922	4	Warsaw	Sep., 1921	7
New York Federal Reserve ..	June 21, 1922	4			

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	July 8, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 7, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25.224	46.60-65	52.77-82
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20.43	268-270	1654-1668
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	2300-2350	8280-8600
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	270-280	229-232
Warsaw	zlotys to £1	T.T.	20.43	6500	19500-21500
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25.224	250-255	700-720
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24.02	110	4300-4500
Constantinople	piastres to £	T.T.	25.224	360	720-740
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25.224	132-137	650-700
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T.	25.224	11-36-39	335-345
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12.107	47-48-49	11-48-49
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25.224	25-26-27	59-30-35
Christiansia	krone to £1	T.T.	18.159	26-48-53	26-85-90
Stockholm	krone to £1	T.T.	18.159	17-05-10	17-13-15
Copenhagen	krone to £1	T.T.	18.159	20-57-60	20-55-60
Helsingfors	krone to £1	T.T.	25.224	220-224	195-197
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25.224	66-3	165-175
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25.224	77-8	384-388
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25.224	22-08-13	23-26-29
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25.224	28-30-95	28-31-34
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	53.4	81-3	33-34
Alexandria	piastres to £1	T.T.	97.4	97.4	97.4-97.8
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4.864	3-7 1/4	4-45-45 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4.864	4-20-22	4-49-50
Buenos Ayres	pence to peso	T.T.	47.624	434-438	434-444
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	T.T.	16	61-414	43-44 1/2
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	34-80	34-50
Valparaiso	pence to £1	T.T.	13.53	1% prem.	10% prem.
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	T.T.	10 to	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.	1s 3 1/2 d.
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.
Batavia	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.
Okhama	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.
Sancti	pence to dollar	T.T.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.	2s 7 1/2 d.

† Rate for previous day. ‡ Sellers.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	July 7, 1922.	June 8, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	July 6, 1922.
Call money	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Time money (90 days' mixed coll) ..	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level.	July 7, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	July 6, 1922.
London—					
60 days	4.8666	3.6525	4.3950	4.3850	4.4225
Cable		3.7125	4.4225	4.4125	4.45
Cheques		3.7075	4.42	4.41	4.4475
Paris		19.30	7.96	8.58	8.3625
Brussels		19.30	7.82	8.12	7.95
Switzerland		19.30	16.80	18.97	18.95
Italy		19.30	4.82	4.81	4.71
Berlin		23.83	1.3325	0.3050	0.2725
Vienna		20.25	0.1550	0.0058	0.0055
Madrid		19.30	12.80	15.55	15.54
Amsterdam		40.195	32.65	38.56	38.40
Copenhagen			16.65	21.40	21.43
Stockholm		26.80	14.10	16.62	16.38
Oslo			21.78	25.65	25.93
Athens		19.30	5.70	3.80	3.15
Montreal		100	88.00	98.95	98.12
Yokohama		49.85	47.90	47.90	47.80
Hong Kong			49.40	57.55	58.00
Shanghai			66.90	78.45	79.00
Calcutta			23.45	28.65	29.00
Buenos Aires		103.65	150.25	123.40	123
Rio de Janeiro		32.42	10.35	13.60	13.65
Valparaiso		20.60	11.00	12.625	12.625

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	July 7, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	July 6, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	4.033	0.785	0.725
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123.45	7.87	1.46	1.159
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88.88	7.89	1.411	1.299
Stockholm			6.07	1.178	1.081
Christiania			9.36	1.825	1.725

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £1	10.00	Sight London	July 1 18.00
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	25.25	"	July 4 23.70
Colombia (Bogota) ..	Dollars to £1	100	"	July 4 98.00
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £1	4.8665	"	June 29 4.55
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	9.73	"	July 1 9.10
Guatemala	Quetzales to £1	90.23	"	July 1 25.2
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	10.45	"	June 17 19.75
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	19.20	"	May 27 14 1/2

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	April 1, 1922.	May 15, 1922.	June 15, 1922.
London	£1	1,108	1,128	1,145
New York	\$1	252	258	257 1/2
Paris	100 frs.	2,275	2,325	2,300
Brussels	100 frs.	2,100	2,125	2,100
Stockholm	100 kr.	6,625	6,725	6,500
Copenhagen	100 kr.		5,400	5,500
Christiania	100 kr.	4,475	4,575	4,700
Prague	100 kr.	491	501	494
Amsterdam	100 flm.	9,600	9,750	9,950
Berlin	100 rmk.	83	88	90
Helsingfors	100 fm.	515	525	543
Reval	100 emk.	75	78	83
Warsaw	100 pmk.	7	8	7

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From April 25, 1922.		From May 8, 1922.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
				(a)
T.T.	.. par	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 dia.	8 1/2 dia.
Demand	..	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 "	8 1/2 "
30 days	8 1/2 dis.	* 1 1/2 prem.	2 1/2 "	1 1/2 "
90 days	1 1/2 "	* 1 1/2 prem.	3 1/2 "	1 1/2 "
90 days	2 1/2 "	* 1 1/2 prem.	3 1/2 "	1 1/2 "
120 days	2 1/2 "	* 1 1/2 prem.	4 1/2 "	..

The Anglo-Austrian Bank has been reconstituted as an English company, with head office at 24-28 Lombard street. The business formerly conducted by the Anglo-Austrian Bank in Czecho-Slovakia has been transferred to the Anglo-Czecho-Slovakian Bank, Prague.

(a) Less tax.	(b) Tax free
---------------	--------------

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange

§ Approximate receipts.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JUNE, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cy.	Mill.	Cy.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£
Associated of W.A.	6,135		1,914	634	2,548	(b) 7,444
Balaghat	3,600	8,700			5,472 (a)	25,204
Cam and Motor	14,800				4,910	
Champion Reef	11,912	22,335	3,691	1,219	4,910	
Chibuto of El Oro	13,400				188,720	\$65,930
Rezeno	5,900				2,895 (a)	13,594
Mysore	18,285	47,762	6,129	4,373	10,502	
North Anantapur	500	700	639	83	722	
Nunddroog	9,258	15,048	4,455	622	5,077	
Obhussai	540				533 (a)	2,100
Oreogum	12,900	13,440	7,564	905	8,469	
Oroville Dredging						
Nechi (21 days to June 8)						\$23,005
Pato (15 days to June 16)						\$69,753
(a) Including premium. (b) Not including premium.						
Tin.	Tons.		Other Notes in Return.			
Aramayo	219		Silver, 106,000 ozs.			
Deobok Dredging	621		Est. value, £5,270; est. cost, £2,330.			
Gopeng	19		Est. value, £1,692; est. cost, £1,342.			
Iris	18					
Ipih	20					
Kem Consolidated	34		Value, £3,080; gross profit, £1,622.			
Kinta	34		Profit (including tribute), £2,003.			
Kramat Pulai	34		Value, £3,135; cost, £2,367; tribute profit, £83.			
Lahat	64					
Lower Bishel	25					
Moncu	56					
Northern Nigeria (Bauchi)	195		Black tin, 19.8 tons alluvial.			
Pahang Cons.	194		Gross profit, £78.			
Pusing	50		Est. value, £1,720; est. cost, £760.			
Ramlutan	163		Shipped, 56 tons.			
Rayfield	163					
Ropy	116					
Siamese	42		Est. value, £3,809; est. cost, £3,317.			
Sungei Besi	31		Est. value, £2,680; est. cost, £1,600.			
Tekka	115		Est. value, £1,330; est. cost, £1,930.			
Tekka Taiping	76,485					
Tongkah	32,246					
Twofontain	5					
Vyheid						
Yarde Keeri Group						
Coal.			Week ended July 1st.			
Chislet	4,263					
Dundee	41,841					
East Kent	4,332		Week ended July 1st.			
Midleburg Sitani	22,010					
Vereniging	53,263		Brick Works, £4,880.			
Vryheid	32,246					
Wankie	22,892		Coke sales, 8,884 tons.			
Miscellaneous.						
Premantle Trading	401		Soft lead.			
New Vaal River Diamond	1,822		384 carats, valued at £2,692.			
Rhodesia Broken Hill			Soft lead.			

BRITISH BROKEN HILL.—Mill returns for the fortnight ended July 1st:—6,650 tons crude ore; produced 1,150 tons lead concentrates, containing 685 tons lead and 29,832 ozs silver; also 1,060 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 94 per cent. lead, 10 ozs silver per ton, and 44.5 per cent. zinc; 210 tons carbonates raised. Two days' stoppage.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—For the four weeks ended July 1st 16,250 tons of crude ore and 11,287 tons of dump slime were treated and produced 4,725 tons of concentrates, assaying 59 per cent. lead and 28 ozs silver per ton.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC COMPANY OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.—Production for four weeks to June 28th:—1,981 tons zinc; silver lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation containing 245 tons lead, 46,875 ozs silver.

MINING CORPORATION OF CANADA.—May:—Total number of standard ozs produced, 118,853; operating cost at mine, £13,552; special capital expenditure, £27; total development footage, nil; total tonnage, 8,189.

MOUNT LYELL.—During the four-weekly period ended June 28th there were smelted:—Mount Lyell ore, 592 tons; North Lyell ore (direct to smelters), 397 tons; concentrates, 1,977 tons. The converters produced 493 tons of blister copper, containing—copper, 489 tons; silver, 9,434 ozs; gold, 112 ozs. The mill treated 6,699 tons of ore, and produced 2,206 tons of concentrates. Cable, dated July 6th, adds:—"Burrage shut down to day for approximately a week owing to a shortage of material; similar temporary shut downs will be necessary until additional capacity provided. The third Dwight Lloyd sintering unit expected to reach reduction works end of the month."

MOUNT MORGAN.—For the six weeks ended June 25th treated 9,683 tons Mount Morgan ore, 74 tons Many Peaks ore, 6,651 tons concentrates, and 40 tons of purchased ore and secondary products. Produced 715 tons blister copper, containing 708 tons copper and 6,365 ozs gold, including 1 ton copper and 1 oz gold from Many Peaks; also 18 tons of copper and 7 ozs of gold from purchased ore and secondary products. Concentrator treated 21,575 tons ore for a production of 7,067 tons of concentrates, containing 423 tons copper and 4,511 ozs gold. In addition to above production, have matte on hand containing 18 tons copper and 225 ozs gold.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

BURMAH OIL.

December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1921.
6% pref. shares	250,000	..	Refineries	632,972	.. + 51,366
6% pref. shares	750,000	..	Wells, plant, &c.	330,819	.. + 118,406
8% pref. shares	3,000,000	.. + 3,000,000	Fields, electric	672,244	.. + 366,421
Ord. shares	5,150,962	.. + 7,462	Pipe lines	369,504	.. + 84,251
General reserve	400,000	.. + 200,000	Tanks, tankers	854,908	.. + 379,637
Insurance fund	380,000	.. + 20,000	Stocks of plant	2,766,132	.. + 51,812
Marine fund	436,762	.. + 69,773	Stks. of products	993,641	.. + 91,921
Provident fund	333,018	.. + 77,443	8% pref. issue	100,000	.. + 100,000
Sundry creditors	2,297,134	.. + 1,112,829	charges	4,207,409	.. + 59,554
Pref. dividends	105,000	.. + 105,000	Investments	2,730,994	.. + 1,137,018
Profit and loss	1,389,776	.. + 1,822,107	Sundry debtors	1,464,029	.. + 756,588
			Cash and loans	1,464,029	.. + 756,588
Total	15,122,652	.. + 2,790,400	Total	15,122,652	.. + 2,790,400

DISTILLERS COMPANY, LIMITED.

May 15, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.
Ord. shares	3,116,570	.. + 200,000	Land & buildings	1,225,000	.. + 125,000
Pref. shares	326,620	.. + 150,000	Plant	509,000	.. + 59,000
Reserve fund	750,000	.. + 5,000	Investments	1,099,302	.. + 40,524
Fire insur. fund	145,000	.. + 10,221	Sundry debtors	699,370	.. + 314,918
Superannuation	111,558	.. + 10,221	Stocks	2,186,731	.. + 17,133
Deb. stocks	820,000	.. + 151,976	Cash	24,913	.. + 106,507
Loans from subsidiary cos.	297,943	.. + 77,094	Bills receivable	151,032	.. + 62,846
Sundry creditors	582,200	.. + 20,977	Loans to subsidiary cos.	685,039	.. + 263,916
Carriage on spirits	148,420	.. + 10,134			
Profit and loss	279,576	.. + 146,994			
Total	6,577,987	.. + 146,994	Total	6,577,987	.. + 146,994

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

March 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1921.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1921.
Ord. shares	2,111,975	.. + 50,000	Freehold land & buildings	3,169,155	.. + 463,847
Pref. shares	3,328,681	.. + 3,500,000	Plant, &c.	999,623	.. + 206,755
7% deb. stock	3,500,000	.. + 2,575,000	Premium on purchase of Fraser and Chalmers	110,000	..
4% deb. stock	..	..	Goodwill, &c.	3	..
Loans	..	..	Sundry debtors	3,056,539	.. + 303,372
Sundry creditors	1,335,357	.. + 317,598	Expenses of deb. issue	409,404	.. + 409,404
Premium ord. shares	..	..	Stock in trade	2,195,774	.. + 581,115
Reserve	707,017	.. + 257,017	Trade investments	1,236,989	.. + 81,339
Profit and loss	322,623	.. + 236,668	Govt. securities	..	..
			Cash	128,166	.. + 17,466
Total	11,305,653	.. + 220,734	Total	11,305,653	.. + 220,734

VICKERS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
Ord. shares, £1	12,315,483	.. + 864	Land, buildings, machinery, tools, plant, &c.	7,660,474	.. + 89,814
5% cum. pri., £1	6,863,807	.. + 750,000	Interest on subsidiary cos.	18,144,967	.. + 68,376
5% pref. stock	750,000	..	Marketable securities	1,044,464	.. + 664,383
4% deb. stock	1,450,000	..	Stocks	2,669,329	.. + 812,243
Int. accrued	2,973	.. + 210	Sundry book debts owing to co.	6,213,704	.. + 1,898,808
7% notes	1,500,000	.. + 19,337	Cash and bills	1,620,345	.. + 919,956
Int. accrued	36,753	.. + 1,301,329			
Creditors	6,084,364	.. + 6,499,871			
Reserve acct.	6,499,871	.. + 312,396			
Profit and loss	1,304,035	.. + 968,522			
Total	37,353,283	.. + 968,522	Total	37,353,283	.. + 968,522

Reports and Notices.

Vice-Admiral Sir George Goodwin, K.C.B., has accepted appointment to seat on board of directors of Richardson's, Westgarth, and Co., of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Sunderland. The seat has been rendered vacant by resignation, for reasons of health, of Captain Walter Brown, R.N.

The Standard Bank of South Africa announce numbers of certain bonds of the Salisbury (Rhodesia) Municipal Loan (£100,000 4½ per Cent. Bonds) purchased for cancellation.

We regret to announce that the chairman of the Refuge Assurance Company, Limited, Mr R. Wm. Green, passed away on July 1st.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Limited, Mr Herbert William Lee was unanimously elected to be the working chairman of the association, in succession to Mr John W. McConnell, the late chairman. At the same meeting Mr William Howarth, a member of the executive board, was appointed chairman of the executive directors in succession to Mr H. W. Lee.

RAILWAYS.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.—It is announced that the directors, subject to the approval of the proprietors and debenture stockholders, have, in accordance with the Railways Act, 1921, entered into a provisional agreement with the directors of the London and North-Western Railway Company, under which the North London Railway Company will be amalgamated with the London and North-Western Railway Company, the arrangement to have effect as from January 1st last. The terms on which the several stocks of the company will be exchanged for stocks of the London and North-Western Railway Company are as follows:—

NORTH LONDON STOCK		LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN STOCK TO BE ISSUED ON EXCHANGE	
4% debenture	100 0 0	3% debenture	£ s d
4½% debenture	100 0 0	3½% debenture	133 6 8
4½% to 5% preference, 1866	100 0 0	4% preference	150 0 0
4½% second preference, 1875	100 0 0	4½% preference	125 0 0
Ordinary	100 0 0	(This secures to the holders the maximum dividend to which the stock is entitled.)	
		4% preference, 1902	112 10 0
		Ordinary	80 0 0

A meeting of the proprietors and debenture stockholders will be summoned at a later date, when the proposed scheme will be submitted for their approval.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distri- bution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divi- dend %.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.	Rate.				
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bank of British West Africa	Mar. 31	50,180	105,935	156,115	..	72,000	6	50,000	34,115	139,803	8
Breweries.											
Distillers Company	May 15	108,994	457,964	566,958	11,521	291,667	10½	165,000	98,770	415,393	10½
Hoare and Co.	April 18	3,156	119,456	122,612	..	60,000 Certs.	5	20,000	4,987	112,702	5
E. Robins and Sons	April 30	7,165	6,203	13,368	1,645	37,625	7½	2,959	5,614	6,587	7½
Tamplin and Son's Brewery, Brighton	April 30	22,874	26,261	49,135	5,931	3,150	12½	5,000	24,561	23,463	12½
Financial Land, &c.											
Australian Estates and Mortgage	Dec. 31	2,062	71,847	73,909	..	47,159	5	20,000	6,750	48,889	5
New African Company	Dec. 31	11,557	20,155	31,712	..	19,863	10	..	11,849	..	..
Trustees' Corporation	May 31	50,944	63,839	114,783	16,735	26,030	7	20,218	51,800	67,827	7
Iron, Coal, and Steel.											
Agricultural & General Engineers	Mar. 31	456	13,572	14,028	..	..	..	..	14,028	68,731	..
Vickers	Dec. 31	991,639	708,103	1,699,742	395,707	431,042	5	..	872,993	541,261	nil
Oil.											
Burmah Oil	Dec. 31	348,082	1,902,790	2,250,872	126,000	1,545,288	30½	220,000	359,584	3,737,724	30½
Rubber, &c.											
Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java	Dec. 31	50,898	116,556	167,454	..	115,810	6	..	51,644	147,187	10
Federated (Selangor)	Mar. 31	8,438 Dr	2,730	5,758	..	..	..	1,850	3,908	5,340	..
Merchiston	Mar. 31	Dr 1,706	4,842	3,136	..	..	..	..	3,136	Dr 4,840	..
Tarun (Malay)	Dec. 31	Dr 1,084 Dr	1,208, Dr	2,292	..	..	..	..	Dr 2,292	Dr 1,083	..
Telugoredjo United	Dec. 31	27,183	3,864	31,047	..	..	..	..	31,047	5,712	..
Tempeh (Java)	Dec. 31	2,456 Dr	6,096 Dr	3,640	..	..	..	..	Dr 3,640	Dr 1,842	..
Tremelbye (Selangor)	Mar. 31	Dr 11,383	17,420	6,037	..	..	..	..	6,037	Dr 3,944	..
Shops and Stores.											
International Tea Company's Stores	April 22	52,631	280,020	332,651	53,500	136,000	16	40,000	103,151	231,581	12
Tea.											
Noyapara	Dec. 31	6,145	4,911	11,056	..	2,500	10	..	8,556	Dr 9,968	..
Rosehaugh Co.	Dec. 31	2,572 Dr	32,546 Dr	30,274	..	..	..	..	Dr 30,274	..	..
Textiles.											
Patons and Baldwins	April 30	23,391	456,450	479,841	61,855	199,911	12½	150,000	68,075	104,937	5
Thomas Adams	June 4	15,138 Dr	3,461	11,677	..	..	..	..	11,677	..	..
Tramways.											
New General Traction	Mar. 31	9,813	9,999	19,812	..	10,480	4	..	9,332	10,984	4
Other Companies.											
Brooke, Bond, and Co.	June 7	7,422	31,822	39,244	..	22,500	15	10,000	6,744	29,048	10
Burgis and Colbourne	May 3	5,910	6,278	12,188	3,300	3,000	10	1,000	4,888	2,734	5
De Trey and Co.	Dec. 31	27,613 Dr	90,184 Dr	62,571	..	..	..	Dr 46,000	Dr 16,571	125,423	12½
General Electric	Mar. 31	348,094	384,150	732,244	232,594	105,599	5	177,027	217,024	788,150	10
Lovell and Christmas	June 17	87,328	121,190	208,518	21,375	65,500	14	26,000	95,643	73,882	10½
Molassine Co.	Mar. 31	106 Dr	17,599 Dr	17,493	..	..	..	Dr 18,000	507	Dr 8,756	..

with Australian makes. All English straights 40s to 42s, free on rail at London stations. Imported remains dull, while in liberal supply. Manitoba export patents quoted 45s, straights 41s, Pacific 40s, Australian 40s to 40s 6d, all landed per 280 lbs, ex store. On c.i.f. terms, parcels of Canadian patents, July seaboard, quoted 42s, Canadian straights, ditto, 40s, Kansas patents 42s, and Australian 36s per sack. Millers' offals quiet, and rates easy. Broad bran quoted £6 10s to £6 15s, ordinary ditto £6 5s to £6 10s, middlings £8 10s, bags included, ex mill, feed oat meal £11 5s, ground oats £14 5s per ton, free on rails. Of imported, fancy plate middlings quoted £9 10s, plate pollards £7 10s per ton, both landed. Maize firmer, with a better demand. Yellow La Plata new quoted 40s 3d, No. 5 white round African 36s 6d, both landed. American mixed No. 2 34s, ex ship to arrive, all per 480 lbs. White African maize meal quoted £8 10s per ton landed. Cargo market ruled firm, but generally quiet. Plate cargoes, August-September shipment, sold 34s 6d, Dan/Gal/Foxanian afloat 36s 14d. Parcels in good demand at full to firmer rates. Barley quiet, and tendency easy for imported sorts. English grinding descriptions rule at 45s to 47s 6d per 448 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Californian 38s to 40s, Australian Chevalier 40s to 53s; Chilean ditto 40s to 56s per 448 lbs. No. 4 Canadian Western 34s 6d, Tunisian 34s per 400 lbs, all landed. The cargo market showed more activity, with offers of new crop European in evidence, and steamers of Danubian on sample afloat sold 33s 6d, with August-September held for 32s 9d per 400 lbs. Parcels trade remain slow. Oats generally firm, with rather more inquiry, and native varieties in small supply. English whites rule at 36s to 38s, grey winters 35s to 36s, black ditto 34s 6d to 36s, as to sample per 36 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Plate, f.a.q. quoted 26s 9d, clipped 28s 6d, No. 2 Canadian Western 31s 6d, No. 2 Canadian feed 28s, No. 2 white clipped American 38 lbs 27s, ditto 36 lbs 26s 6d, Chilean Tawny 28s to 29s 6d, New Zealand 37s 6d to 40s, British Columbian 37s 9d, all landed per 320 lbs. Forward market fully steady, and while La Plata kinds were sparingly offered, a fair business resulted in North American kinds at full to dearer rates. Oatmeal steady, with a moderate demand. London made, coarse pinhead £18 10s, medium £17, whole groats £17 10s, rolled oats £18, flaked £20 10s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £20 10s to £22, American all cuts £18 to £18 10s per ton. Beans, English, are steadily held at 57s 6d to 65s, and ticks 85s to 95s per 532 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Madagascar Haricots, old crop, 10s to 12s, New 17s to 17s 6d, Rangoon hand picked, spot, 6s 10d per cwt. Peas, English, quiet, and prices barely steady. Maples range from 90s to 100s, and Duns 65s to 70s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Tasmanian blues 22s to 23s, New Zealand 20s to 22s, Dutch hand picked 29s to 29s 6d, screened 25s to 26s, Japanese 49s per cwt, ex store. English rye quoted 42s 6d to 45s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Lentils steady. No. 1 splits quoted 29s to 30s, No. 2 ditto, 21s to 23s, Egyptian 22s to 24s per 100 lbs. Homeward grain chartering continues on a moderate scale, but rates generally steady, chief business being from North America to Continental and Mediterranean ports. Montreal to Continent paid 15 cents per 100 lbs, ditto to West Italy spot done 4s 3d, and Greece July at 5s per quarter. Northern range to Continent quoted 14 cents per 100 lbs, and to Greece 4s 9d per quarter paid July loading, Gulf of Mexico to Genoa chartered at 4s 6d per quarter. North Pacific continues to absorb tonnage at 37s 6d basis heavy grain to U.K./Continent, August-September option, San Francisco 38s per ton. Eastern markets steady, with 18s paid Bombay/Karachi to U.K./Continent, one port loading one port discharge August. A fair inquiry prevails from the Danube, and charters were completed at 17s 6d to 18s, according to cancelling date for heavy grain cargoes to U.K./Continent.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21, 1919-20, and 1918-19.

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to July 1	63,610	37,613	25,723	98,584
43 weeks to July 1	15,626,844	12,099,231	10,731,831	12,783,193
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
quarter	52 6	89 10	83 10	73 4
= per cwt	12 1½	20 11½	19 6	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.						
June 24	16,069 0	3,097 0	5,026 5	53 2	41 9	32 5
July 1	14,856 0	1,852 1	2,414 5	52 6	41 8	32 8
1918	10,057 3	3,732 0	1,239 3	74 4	61 7	46 10
1919	23,003 1	1,377 6	5,165 6	73 4	62 4	49 0
1920	6,585 2	828 1	2,571 0	83 10	95 4	65 0
1921	8,776 2	2,709 0	4,470 4	89 10	41 11	38 8

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated July 6th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Business in pig-iron is very quiet, but there is rather more business doing in Cleveland foundry iron than in hematite. Cleveland iron prices are unchanged at 95s per ton for

No. 1 and Siliceous, and 90s per ton for No. 3 G.M.B. The price of East Coast mixed numbers hematite is weaker, and whilst business is reported at 93s, it is understood that even a lower price would not be declined. Manufactured iron and steel: There is a slight improvement in some directions, but whilst some of the works are working part of their plant, others are still idle. Steel prices are unchanged:—Steel ship plates, home, £10; steel ship angles £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9 10s net. Iron ore: Consumers are not inclined to buy for forward delivery, and what small business has been done is only in odd cargoes for fairly prompt shipment. Whilst best Bilbao rubio is now quoted 26s, it is reported that at least one cargo has been sold at a lower figure.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business in most kinds of iron and steel has been particularly slow this week, and although stocktaking is responsible to some extent for the unsatisfactory state of things people are disappointed at the slow materialisation of the signs of recovery. Some are inclined to lose heart. There is, however, no lack of confidence in the eventual recovery of trade, as the majority of the manufacturers are either losing money or earning nothing anxiety as to their ability to keep going in a financial sense is very prevalent. Business in hematite iron has been very flat for a month, and practically none is being bought for this district. Prices have been officially fixed at 105s for mixed numbers delivered here. Basic billets are in request, and prices, although low, are firm. The production of mild steel is increasing. The marine and railway steel departments are still without any work to speak of, and very few crucible steel furnaces are in operation except occasionally. The exceptions are fairly substantial. American orders have just been placed with two large makers. Things are a little more brisk in hand tools, but this experience is by no means universal in the city. Business received from shopkeepers for domestic hardware has dwindled rapidly of late, and is now smaller than at any time for many years past. Industry is suffering to an increasing extent from the reduced and still falling buying power of the public. Further expansion of the electric industry is reported, and there are huge schemes ahead in connection therewith. The only important branch of engineering which is anything like busy is the manufacture of textile machinery, for which there has been for a long time, and still is, a world-wide demand. The coal market has sagged very much this week. Best South Yorkshire steam coal can now be bought under contract at 20s at the pits, and Derbyshire at 19s. Steel-making coke for crucible heating has been reduced to 25s per ton for "patent," and 35s for "behive" qualities. Blast-furnace coke, foundry coke, and house and gas coal are quiet markets.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—Business this week in iron and steel, indeed in all metals and materials, has been quieter than for some time past, and there is no prospect

RUSSIA.

FOURTH NUMBER OF RECONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE.

An attempt to collect authoritative information on the Russian Problem from all quarters.

ARTICLES BY

LORD ROBERT CECIL.

PAUL PAINLEVÉ (ex Prime Minister of France).

V. E. ORLANDO (ex Prime Minister of Italy).

DR. NANSEN.

MAXIM GORKI.

J. M. KEYNES, and many others.

THE ECONOMIC PROGRAMME OF THE SOVIET REPUBLIC expounded by themselves, written under the direction of LENIN by the leading People's Commissaries and Assistant Commissaries.

Important section on THE OIL PROBLEM in all its aspects by SIR JOHN CADMAN and others.

BUSINESS BAROMETER OF INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

PUBLISHED BY

Manchester Guardian Commercial

Pages, 68. One Shilling.

Post free from GUARDIAN BUILDING, MANCHESTER.

of an improvement for at least two or three weeks to come. For this the advent of the summer trades holidays is largely, if not wholly, responsible. Already operations in several Clyde ship-building yards have been suspended for the season; others will follow suit on Monday, and by Thursday there will be few establishments not at a standstill in all productive departments at least, and steam will not be raised again, unless in exceptional instances before the end of the month. These conditions do not make for new business, and it is therefore not surprising to hear that few engagements of any consequence have been booked by any firms in the past eight days, either for prompt or forward execution and delivery. Consumers have on every hand been cleaning up old and surplus stocks, and this has reacted on the position of producers, especially of hematite and ordinary irons, who have indeed been obliged to add to their stocks. This has not proved entirely disadvantageous—it has rather helped makers to meet export inquiry, which has been on the expanding side, notably from the United States. Those concerned and informed are not attaching much importance to the suggested American trade, but admittedly it may turn out to have more influence on the market position than many experts are prepared to recognise. Scottish hematite is called £5 8s 9d f.o.t. with No. 1 foundry at £5, and No. 3 at £4 15s, both delivered Glasgow. Bar iron and steel rollers find things very dull, and have not made any headway from the reduction last week of 10s per ton (from £11 to £10 10s) in Crown bars. Steel prices are unchanged, with, however, a declining tendency in a few connections. Boiler plates keep round about £13 10s; ship plates, £10; sections, £9 10s; sheets ½ to ¼ in., £11 5s; 24 gauged galvanised (f.o.b., Glasgow), £16. Export rates are generally 17s 6d to 20s lower. It is stated that inquiry from several colonial markets is giving signs of improvement, as a result, no doubt, of the reductions in quotations lately made. Various export and home markets are looking for yet easier conditions, following on the anticipated break in engineers' wages. Official statistics show that for last month 16 vessels of 34,996 tons were launched on the Clyde, bringing the aggregates for the six months up to 62 and 167,493 respectively. In the existing circumstances of the industry, the figures are not unsatisfactory; and they indicate that a greatly increased number of shipwrights must have been employed of late. The various steelworks are barely earning half-time, but some authorities in the trade are hopeful as to back-end results, though it is added that shipowners declare that current values for new tonnage have no temptation for them. Black sheet makers have secured several substantial contracts from Far Eastern markets; a (local) Hamilton firm has got an order for 250 railway waggons, and inquiries are spoken of for steel wrought tubes, pipes, girders (and other sections), &c., required in bridge and structural work, of which there are several good lines—home and foreign—about. At which there are several good lines—home and foreign—about. At the ordinary weekly meeting yesterday of the pig-iron "ring," there were sellers of No. 3 G.M.B. Scotch at 99s, f.a.s., Glasgow; of No. 3, Cleveland, at 90s, f.o.b. Middlesbro'; mixed numbers, East Coast hematite, at 95s, f.o.b., Middlesbro', but there were no buyers.

Our Cardiff correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Nothing has happened this week to relieve the gloom in the coal export trade of South Wales. The collieries are almost entirely dependent on their contracts. Day-to-day business has been attenuated to a shadow of what it was in April and the early weeks of May, and the consequent drain on the financial reserves of many of the undertakings has been too heavy to allow them to continue to work all their pits. The decrease in the volume of trade in June was about 360,000 tons, or 5 per cent.; but in the average market prices of coal there has been a fall of over 10 per cent., and the combined effect of the reduced prices, the diminished outputs, and the increased costs has been a heavy deficit on the working of the coalfield as a whole. The audit for May was the best since the decontrol of the industry. The owners were called upon to surrender only about £26,000 of their standard profits. Of these profits, therefore, they retained approximately £375,000, or £150,000 more than they had retained in the previous best month. This position will be completely reversed under the June audit, for enough is already known of the statistics of the industry last month to predict that the audit for June will be one of the worst, and that it will leave the district with little, if any, at all of its standard profits. Some of the wealthier of the combines are now breaking under the strain of these adverse trade conditions. All the efforts to resuscitate a schedule of minimum prices having failed, the weakest are going to the wall. The most expensive pits to work are being closed down, and work at those pits which are being kept in operation is becoming more and more confined to the seams where the cost is least. These conditions are also having their effect on the policy of the Miners' Federation. A fortnight ago a delegate conference of that body decided to hand in notices on June 10th to terminate contracts a fortnight hence on the question of non-unionism. It has now been decided to postpone the service of such notices for a week. Meanwhile, at the request of the miners' representatives the coalowners, while strongly repudiating allegations of victimisation, have agreed to appoint a sub-committee to investigate eight cases where the employers are stated to have refused re-employment in contravention of Clause 13 of the national coal strike settlement providing for the reinstatement of all men who came out on strike in 1921 as and when the pits were reopened. It is thought that this step will help to ease matters, and lead eventually to the non-service of the notices. The wage question, however, remains one of crucial importance, but action has been referred to the National Executive, and the policy of the Federation in regard to this matter will probably not be definitely decided upon until the Blackpool annual conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. It is stated that at that conference a proposal will be made that the owners and the Government shall be given notice to increase wages substantially within a month, either by a system of minimum prices or by a subsidy, and that unless the demand is met in that period another national stoppage be declared. The financial position of the industry was bad in March, 1921, when the Government decontrolled the industry; intrinsically, it is worse to-day, for the reserves of colliery companies have been depleted, and on current production the loss is disastrous.

The following are the current prices on the Cardiff market:—Best Admiralty large, 25s to 25s 3d; seconds, 24s 6d to 25s; best dries, 25s to 25s 6d; Black Veins, 24s to 24s 6d; Western Valleys, 24s to 24s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 22s 6d to 24s; best bunker smalls, 17s 6d to 18s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 15s to 17s; coke for export, 35s to 37s 6d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 25s to 27s. pitwood, 31s 6d to 32s.

The improvement in the iron and steel trade is maintained, and more mills are being brought into operation. Tinplates are now quoted on a 20s basis per box (112 lbs) f.o.b., and there has been brought into force a pooling arrangement to assist manufacturers to secure contracts against foreign competition. Sheet and tin bars are unchanged at the official minimum for South Wales of £7 7s 6d per ton.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The sale at Liverpool to-day was awaited with a good deal of interest, and judging from the telegraphed reports, the action of B.A.W.K.A. in withdrawing all their New Zealand wools (over 9,000 bales) has had the desired effect, for crossbreds have apparently sold well at firm rates. Much of the wool offered was more suitable for the Continent than for the home trade, and although German competition was lacking, there was keen bidding from French, Swiss, and Belgian buyers. The best merinos appear to be down about 5 per cent. as compared with the closing rates in London. The raw material market will again be tested next Thursday, when about 30,000 bales of Australasian wool will be offered at Hull. So far as the Bradford market is concerned, there is not much change in actual conditions. Topmakers' quotations are a little irregular, but this is easily accounted for by the fact that some firms are very well sold forward, and are not prepared to add to their commitments. In other cases definite offers of business will frequently bring a concession in the matter of price, and 4s 3d may be regarded as a general quotation for good standard 64's tops for delivery September-November. For a good warp 64's there

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD
PRIVATBANK,
Fredriksstad.

Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21,000,000.

Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

ment of Ways and Means advances from the Bank to the Treasury, and also because of the movement of gold to America, now stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to have been arranged for meeting the service of our debt to the United States, and the uncertain outlook on the Continent. These considerations were regarded as likely to check a reduction in Bank rate, but the Bank court thought otherwise. After the announcement of its decision, the market three months' rate eased off to 1½ per cent. Yesterday, after the announcement of the Treasury Bill result, the market quotation was about 1½-¾ per cent.

	July 14, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3½%	3½%	3½%	3½% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 mths' bills) ..	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½

The Bank return showed a decrease of £274,000 in the note circulation, in spite of a further transfer of £500,000 in notes to the currency note reserve, against a corresponding draft on its gold. The Bank's gold stock declined by £558,000, so that another million in gold seems to be on its way to America; the Bank's Reserve was thus £284,000 lower. Government securities declined by £20½ millions, and Other by 2 millions, these movements causing a corresponding decrease in deposits, Public and Other showing reductions of 2 and 21 millions respectively. Currency notes outstanding in the return dated July 13, 1922, show an increase of £730,700, to £298,634,800, which includes £1,591,400 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £248,893,400, or £61,095,000 below the maximum. Gold coin and bullion in the Redemption account was further reduced by £500,000 to £27,500,000, while Bank of England notes were increased by £500,000 to £20,650,000.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The reduction in Bank rate to 3 per cent. was not altogether expected, but although it led to a general hardening of prices, especially in the gilt-edged and home railway markets, there was no appreciable increase in the volume of business. The slump in the mark led to a good deal of uneasiness in the market for both British and foreign Government securities in the early days of the week, but this was mostly allayed by the subsequent rally. Home Rails were weak at first, but greatly improved later on. Industrials have moved irregularly, and there have been no outstanding features. Stagnation in the rubber market has continued, with a further drop in the price of the raw material, but Oil shares are a little better. A sharp jump in Chartered was the main feature of the Mining section.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

Reports from industrial centres reveal little change this week on the whole, but the position in the South Wales coal trade, reviewed in some detail by a trade correspondent on a later page, has gone from bad to worse. In the wool trade there is much hesitation, owing to uncertainty as regards German developments, but prices at the sales of the raw material are well maintained. From the cotton markets a quieter tone is reported. In the iron and steel trade generally slack conditions prevail, but the resumption of German competition is not greatly feared. The only noteworthy event in the pig-iron trade is the termination of price control of Cleveland pig-iron. The hide market remains firm, but the boot and shoe trade finds orders slower than had been hoped. A fairly steady tone is preserved in the market for vegetable oils. Timber for building construction shows a firmer tone.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

During the past week the foreign exchange market has been bordering on the chaotic, and it is hardly too much to say that conditions have been as uncertain as at any time since the Armistice. The root factor of the situation is, of course, the position of Germany and the attitude of the Allies towards reparation payments. The only ray of hope is that the present position may prove an object lesson in what may be expected if some reasonable agreement is not arrived at without further delay. Signs are not lacking that this is now being realised in quarters which have, up to now, been opposed to any modification in the reparation payments. The Berlin rate, which opened the week at the record figure of 2,450, shows certain signs of improvement, and although fluctuations remained violent, the value of the mark on balance improved, closing on Wednesday at 1,900. This, however, has not been maintained, the quotation on Thursday being 2,000 and at the time of writing 2,100. Paris and Brussels have again moved in sympathy with Berlin, Paris ranging from 56.00 on Saturday to 54.00 on Wednesday, from which figure it has reacted to 54.25, while Brussels in the same period ranged from 58.60 to 57.00, and is now quoted at 57.20. The forward quotation on Paris is six points over spot per month, while forward Brussels is four points under spot for the same period. New York has remained comparatively steady on balance, the present quotation of 4.44½ comparing with Monday's figure of 4.44½. The market still appears to be affected by the possibility of a policy of gold shipments, but the fact should not be lost sight of that a part at least of the American crop is now coming forward, and may at an early date provide a depreciating effect on the rate. The forward quotation in New York remains unchanged at ½¢ of a point per month over spot. Italian lire, although naturally affected by the German position, have remained comparatively steady, with an improving tendency, and the present quotation of 98.25 shows a fractional fall for the week. Dutch florins have shown a quotable appreciation, the rate having fallen at one time on Wednesday to 11.42 on the news of a new Dutch Government loan. This quotation has not been maintained, and the present rate is 11.44. Spain and Switzerland have again remained steady, the present rates of 28.55 and 23.16 showing only trifling alterations since Monday. Steadiness has also characterised the Scandinavian exchanges, Sweden at 17.15 and Denmark at 20.62 being practically unchanged. Norway, which at one time rose to round 27.10, has now reacted to 26.92, showing a slight fractional rise for the week. Finnish marks, on the other hand, have not maintained their recent strength, and the present quotation of 220 shows a rise of some 15 points in the week. Vienna and Warsaw at 117,000 and 24,500, continue their upward course. Little movement is shown in the South American market, and quotations remain round last week's figures. Any tendency discernible, however, was a slight weakness. A weaker tendency was also shown on the Eastern exchanges, the rupee at 1s 3½d being fractionally lower, while the quotations for Hong Kong and Shanghai of 2s 7½d and 2s 4d respectively also show slight declines.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the eight days ended July 8, 1922:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	18,893	Supply Services	10,829
		Interest on Debt	3,946
		Sundries	0,708
		Reduction of Debt	3,918
		Added to Exchequer balances ..	1,307
	18,893		18,893

The total revenue, at £18,892,614, during the eight days ended July 8, 1922, compares with £31,588,972 during the nine days ended July 9, 1921. Expenditure during the same period, at £14,845,074, compares with £23,069,681. The decline in revenue during the past eight days compared with the corresponding nine days a year ago is primarily due to Special Receipts, at £1,079,000, or £8,729,642 lower. Customs, at £2,920,000, are lower by £1,503,000. Receipts from property and income-tax, at £8,388,000, show little variation.

The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £3,917,615, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
Unemployment Insurance....	+ 530	Bank of England Advances ..	- 35,250
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 2,947	War Loan Surrenders.....	- 010
Treasury Bills	+ 16,476	National Savings Certificates ..	- 350
Public Department Advances ..	+ 11,635		
Sundries	+ 105		
	+ 31,693		- 35,610

The floating debt was reduced by £7,120,000 to £958,242,500 during the eight days ended July 8, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to July 8, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	214,063,997	Raised by revenue ..	214,046,767
Dec. in balances	7,432,398	Net repayments.....	7,415,168
Total	206,631,599	Total	206,631,599

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure....	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT. (Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	July 8, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	18	17	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 & 5% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds	..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,974
4% Funding Loan	..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	360	357	348	346	346	346
3½% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24
5-15 year Treas. Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	380	310
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	69
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	777
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Natnl Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	344
War Expend. Certs.	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,082
Other Debt	..	51	51	51	51	..	..	147	181
American Loan	..	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	181
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,711
Total Liabilities.....	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,762

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out- standing	July 9, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	July 8, '22.	Movement 8 days ended July 8, '22.
Temporary Advances	£	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England ..	36,250,000..	..	..	4,750,000..	- 35,250,000
Advances by Public Deptms	114,074,000..	147,301,500..	..	176,772,500..	+ 11,635,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,217,087,000..	882,219,000..	..	777,020,000..	+ 16,495,000
Total Floating Debt.....	1,367,411,000..	1,029,520,500..	..	958,242,500..	- 7,120,000

EXPORT TRADES AND IMPORT DUTIES.

WHEN Lord Derby, accompanying a deputation from Lancashire, asked that the Order imposing a duty of one-third upon fabric gloves from Germany might be subjected to further inquiry, he was asking for bread. The obdurate Mr Baldwin, laughing in his sleeve, has conceded the inquiry, but taken care that the produce of it shall be a stone. A composite Cabinet, squeezed on the one hand by Protectionists and on the other by Free-traders, has wriggled in just the fashion which might have been expected. The Departmental Committee, set up by the Board of Trade to inquire into the effect, if any, which an import duty of one-third upon German fabric gloves and glove fabric may exert upon employment in the fine spinning industry of Lancashire, is the same in *personnel* as the Statutory Committee which has already reported in favour of an Order imposing a duty. We are afraid that the Lancashire spinners have been out-manoeuvred, and that the report of the Committee might be written in advance of the special inquiry which began yesterday. So far, at least as this Committee is concerned, the case is *ane chose jugée*.

It is an able and highly respectable Committee, with

Sir Henry Rew as chairman. Were it possible for this Committee to approach the whole subject with minds swept clear of pre-conceptions, it would probably be a trustworthy court of first instance. But this is not now possible. Lancashire's case has been gravely prejudiced by the manner in which the earlier statutory inquiry was held under the Safeguarding of Industries Act. Lancashire's interests had no legal status, though her representatives were, as an act of grace, permitted to present their views. But no cross-examination by Lancashire's counsel was permitted, and the documentary evidence laid by the fabric glove interests before the Committee was not allowed to be subjected to Lancashire's criticism.

The inquiry was restricted and partial, as are all these inquiries under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, not through any fault in the Committees, but because the Act itself does not permit an adequate investigation. After listening to what Lancashire had to say, and bearing in mind the statutory limitations with which the Committee functioned, the following *obiter dictum* was pronounced:—

"Certain evidence was submitted with the view of convincing us that the exportation from the Bolton district of cotton yarn to Germany for the manufacture of glove fabric would be affected prejudicially if a duty were imposed on imported gloves. We were anxious not to exclude any evidence which could in any way be regarded as relevant to our inquiry, but, on consideration, we think we should not be justified under the terms of our reference in having regard to this point, even if the evidence had carried conviction."

There is here an unmistakable hint that Lancashire's case, the consideration of which was outside the terms of reference submitted to the Committee, did not carry conviction. How can it be expected to carry conviction now when every member of the Committee must realise that the purpose of their reassembling is to provide a shelter for the Government against Lancashire's bombs? It would need to be a pronouncement delivered by an Archangel to carry conviction under such prejudicial circumstances.

It is not at all easy for those who are unacquainted with the conditions in which Lancashire's vast export trade in cotton yarns and cloth has been built up to appreciate the strength of their case. Lancashire's trade is vulnerable because its basis is wholly man-made. Lancashire exports cotton yarn and cloth to all the world because from long and hereditary experience it has learned to spin and weave better and more cheaply than any other cotton centre. But although the county has some inherent advantages in its damp climate, it has no advantages which make the tenure of its trade certain. Other countries may learn—in the fine as already in the coarser counts—to spin and weave as cheaply and efficiently as Lancashire does. This is the peril always hanging over the head of the great cotton county; its trade is no monopoly, and cannot be retained in its present volume if customers in other countries are driven to set up new "Lancashires" of their own. Taken by itself in present-day volume, this fabric-glove threat to Bolton's export trade in fine yarns is not very alarming. But if Saxony cannot send fabric gloves to us to pay for the yarn which it desires to purchase from Bolton, then Saxony must look elsewhere for fine yarns of equal quality. They may not be available elsewhere at the moment, but both France and Germany could learn to spin them if the necessity became urgent. It is very much easier to lose an export trade than to build one up, and Lancashire is justly apprehensive of any tendency—especially when due to the folly of a British Government—which may compel its customers to learn how they may supply themselves. Industrial specialisation is the basis of our export prosperity, under Free-trade, and the intrinsic objections to the fabric glove duty itself, though serious enough, are comparatively slight compared with the danger of once beginning to tamper with the conditions under which vital export trades have been laboriously built up.

INDIAN EXCHANGE AND TRADE.—II. TRADE.

THE causes of the present world depression of trade fall into two broad groups. There are, first, the forces which have always made for ups and downs of trade; the tendency for a boom to destroy itself by the rise in prices, the inflation of credit, and the maladjustment between different branches of industry which it engenders. Second, there is the destruction by the war of the old network of trade relationships, and the obstacles which widespread political disorganisation and impoverishment oppose to the re-establishment of the old relationships or the creation of new ones. It is not easy to disentangle these causes from one another. For the unsettled conditions of the post-war period serve greatly to accentuate the sweep of the ordinary forces of trade fluctuation. How far do they work through this medium, or how far do they exert an independent depressing influence? Upon the answer to this question depend the prospects of British trade in the next few years. In so far as the former explanation holds, we may expect to see, not indeed stable trade conditions, but changing conditions, under which good times will at least alternate with bad, while the next good time should not be very distant. But, in so far as we must wait for a trade recovery upon the restoration of the well-being and comity of Europe, we must wait, it must be feared, for very long indeed. We shall attempt here to examine this question in regard to the particular case of our trade with India, which exhibits in an unusually clear light all the features of the general problem.

The poor demand for British goods which India has offered in the past year represents in a large measure the inevitable reaction from the excessive purchasing which followed the Armistice. During the war the produce of India was in large demand, while she could not secure her customary volume of imports. The Armistice thus found her denuded of stocks, but well equipped with purchasing power; and she naturally proceeded to place heavy orders for imported goods of every kind. This process, as was hardly less inevitable, was carried far beyond the point which the conditions really justified. There is always a considerable time-interval—in 1919-20 it proved an exceptionally long one—between the placing of orders in Lancashire and the arrival of the goods in India. Until the goods arrived India continued to present all the outward signs of an unsatisfied demand; the volume of orders already placed could only be vaguely estimated, and throughout 1919 the rasher type of Indian merchant continued to make purchases on an extravagant scale. He was encouraged in this course by the rising value of the rupee, which weakened the deterrent of the rapidly increasing and sometimes fantastic sterling prices which he had to pay. When the goods began to arrive in India in large quantities the bubble burst. It then became necessary to pay for them; and the attempt to do so was the cause of the immense demand for Reverse Council bills, which precipitated the collapse of the rupee. Later on, as supplies became abundant, prices in India commenced to fall. The Indian merchant was thus doubly prejudiced, and was faced with the prospect of heavy losses on the contracts into which he had lightly entered. The placing of fresh orders was virtually suspended; but meanwhile, month after month, throughout 1920, and hardly abating until the latter part of 1921, continued the flow of imports ordered in the full tide of the boom.

The premature attempt to stabilise the rupee accentuated the difficulties of the situation. The Government's policy contributed nothing, of course, to the exchange débâcle; but it provided the Indian merchant, in his natural anxiety to evade his obligations, with a convenient and colourable excuse. The rupee had been declared by law to be equivalent to 2s gold; upon the basis of 2s gold he was quite prepared to meet his obligations, but was it reasonable that he should be ruined by an exchange loss, against which he had just received a solemn legal guarantee? Cancellation became the order of the day; and stocks began to pile up on the quays of Bombay, of which the consignees refused to accept delivery. The last two years have seen a gradual liquidation; British exporters have for the most part made the best of a bad situation, and obtained acceptance of the goods. But the process is still far from complete,

and the congestion of uncleared stocks will probably impede the recovery of active trade for some months to come.

Meanwhile the export trade was affected by considerations of a similar type, coupled with a succession of poor monsoons. Before the war, grain was one of India's principal exports, ranking after jute and cotton. Good harvests prevailed during the war, but consumption under war conditions was also on a large scale, and left considerable stocks with which to eke out the scanty harvests which followed. The incidence of the shortage was thrown upon the export margin by Government restrictions, designed to secure adequate supplies for domestic consumption. The exports of wheat fell to virtually nothing in 1919-20, while the exports of rice fell in the same year to under 40 per cent. of their pre-war level. It was remarkable, in these circumstances, that the total exports for 1919-20 should have reached (in values) a record figure. But this was due to causes as essentially transient as those which promoted the importing boom—the replenishment of exhausted stocks overseas, affecting notably hides, leather, and tea, and the speculative outburst in Japan, which led her to import enormous quantities of Indian cotton. In 1920-21 there was a different tale to tell. The exports of grain, though they recovered somewhat, remained abnormally low, while there was a serious decline in jute, cotton, tea, hides, leather, and seeds. The total exports fell below those of 1913-14, this decline preceding that of imports by fully a year, and contributing to the collapse of the rupee. The causes of trouble, so far considered, belong to the first of the two groups mentioned at the outset of this article—to those which make for violent oscillations rather than for a sustained depression of trade. But contributory factors of the other type must now be examined. It has become common to single out India as the leading instance of a country whose export trade is likely to be seriously prejudiced so long as the problem of European reconstruction remains unsolved. Germany and Austria, it is pointed out, were formerly important markets for the cotton and jute of India. Russia was a notable consumer of Indian tea. With the elimination of Russia from the world's markets, and the tremendous depreciation of the Central European currencies, it is suggested that India's export trade is likely to suffer a prolonged depression, and that she, in her turn, will thus be unable to purchase British goods on the pre-war scale. This has become Mr Lloyd George's favourite illustration of the theme of the essential unity of the world's trade. When, however, the facts are closely examined, it does not appear that we have here any solid grounds for serious concern. Before the war, Germany and Austria between them accounted for only about one-fifth of India's exports of raw cotton, and for little more than one-quarter of her exports of jute, while in the case of Germany, at least, the depreciation of the mark, though it prejudices, is far from proving an insurmountable barrier to post-war trade. In 1920-21 Germany took over half her pre-war quantities of cotton, and nearly half her pre-war quantities of jute. The principal overseas markets for Indian cotton and jute were Japan and Great Britain respectively; while so far as general world impoverishment is likely to impede trade, it should affect these commodities in a lesser degree than most others. Russia took before the war only 12 per cent. of India's exports of tea, and tea accounted for only about 6 per cent. of the value of her total exports. Trade was not before the war confined so rigidly, and in such unvarying proportions, to particular channels that there need be here a really serious and enduring obstacle to a flourishing Indian export trade.

The threat to our trade with India, arising from the competition of native manufacturers, is more difficult to assess. The rapid expansion during the war in the production of the Indian cotton mills was no flash in the pan, as is shown by the comparatively slight relapse which it has undergone under the conditions of the last few years. The native yarns and piece-goods are of coarser counts and qualities than those in which Lancashire does the bulk of her trade. But, though the direct competition can thus be exaggerated, there is none the less an indirect competition which may prove more and more

formidable, and which we must expect to be stimulated by a growingly powerful nationalist sentiment and protective tariff policy. It is, however, only our cotton industry which can be said to be seriously threatened in this way, and the cotton industry has lived all its life exposed to such dangers, and has shown an unrivalled power of adapting itself to them and surmounting them. For the rest, the gradual industrialisation of India would seem more likely to increase on balance than to decrease the demand for British goods. An enlarged demand for electrical and textile machinery, for example, should counterbalance whatever diminution there may be in the importation of the steel plates and rails, which India is beginning to make herself. In any event, the danger is one affecting the general trend of British trade over the next half century rather than the early future.

Thus, on a general review, there seems no reason for expecting the present depression of our trade with India to be much more prolonged than usual. And this conclusion is supported by all the indications of the moment. Exports from India have recovered lately; for jute, in particular, there is now a strong demand, and the monsoon this year promises well. Meanwhile, the stocks of cotton goods in India are steadily declining, and fresh orders have for some time back been placed in Lancashire on a fairly substantial scale. On the other hand, it is probable that we have still a considerable time to wait for a real revival. The balance of trade swung round some months ago in India's favour, so far as merchandise is concerned, but there have been heavy imports of treasure, while the Secretary of State, in the interests of the rupee exchange, has hitherto postponed, so far as possible, the selling of Council Bills, and must soon find himself compelled to draw large quantities. There seems, therefore, small prospect of an early rise in the rupee, and here enters again into the problem the incalculable factor of exchange policy. The Indian Government have not formally abandoned the policy of the 2s rupee; so long as this remains, much uncertainty necessarily attaches to the future course of exchange, and there will always be those who expect, not perhaps a full realisation of the official policy, but a considerable movement in that direction. Anticipations of an eventual rise in the rupee serve to check the placing of overseas orders by India, since postponement may lead to their being placed later on more favourable terms. Exchange uncertainty may thus hold up the revival of our export trade to India for some months after it would otherwise have taken place. Such difficulties, however, cannot involve more than a comparatively short delay.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

As we have often pointed out before, it is not possible to present an up-to-date statistical picture of the earnings of industry by reason of the varying length of time which is allowed to elapse before company accounts are published. The figures that are available, however, although a few months behindhand, are of considerable interest in that they serve to show how the fluctuations in trade and business have affected the earning capacity of the principal industrial undertakings of the country, and incidentally how the much-abused capitalist, in shape of the holder of industrial stocks and shares, has prospered or suffered. During the past 12 months we have analysed in a weekly table the profit and loss accounts of 1,386 industrial companies. The period covered by these accounts is a wide one, for while the bulk of those analysed in July of last year may have referred to the financial year ended March 31, 1921, those analysed recently will in the majority of cases have referred to the year ended December 31st or March 31st last. During the past three months 401 companies have been dealt with. These showed aggregate net profits, after payment of debenture interest, &c., of £25,195,690, as compared with £38,044,790, earned by the same companies in their previous financial year, a decrease of 33.7 per cent. The following table shows the results of our last four quarterly analyses:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT of DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

		Number of Companies.	Reports Published in		Decrease.	
			1920-21.	1921-22.		
1921.			£	£	£	%
Third quarter	232	24,157,772	13,912,771	10,245,001	42.4	
Fourth quarter	311	30,272,382	14,268,278	16,004,104	52.9	
1922.			£	£	£	%
First quarter	442	47,368,926	26,785,952	20,582,974	43.4	
Second quarter	401	38,044,790	25,195,690	12,849,100	33.7	
		1,386	139,843,870	80,162,691	59,681,179	42.6

There has been a progressive decline in the percentage decreases in each of the past two quarters, but this is due not so much to an improvement in profits as to the fact that the profits with which they are compared had already passed the top point. This is brought out clearly in the next table, which shows the increases or decreases recorded in each of our quarterly analyses since the beginning of 1918:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
First quarter	— 1.0 ..	+ 10.4 ..	+ 26.9 ..	+ 3.5 ..	— 43.4
Second quarter ..	— 5.8 ..	— 5.1 ..	+ 37.8 ..	— 8.4 ..	— 33.7
Third quarter	+ 12.3 ..	— 3.4 ..	+ 41.9 ..	— 42.4 ..	..
Fourth quarter ..	+ 4.7 ..	+ 10.5 ..	+ 27.1 ..	— 52.9 ..	..

The largest percentage increase was shown in the quarter ended September 30, 1920, and this would refer in the main to profits earned in the year ended March or June, 1920. The first actual decrease was shown a year ago. Since then the decreases have been on the substantial scale shown in the first table. The next table classifies the 1,386 companies whose reports have been analysed during the past year into 20 groups, showing the increases or decreases in net profits:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT of DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in Year Ended June 30.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		1921.	1922.				
		£	%	£	%	£	%
Breweries	90	8,428,596	7,234,812	..	..	1,193,784	14.1
Canals, docks, &c.	33	570,389	272,394	..	..	297,995	52.1
Electric lighting, &c.	48	2,014,705	2,066,369	51,664	2.6	..	..
Gas	33	1,553,027	1,840,373	287,346	18.3	..	..
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	33	1,702,282	1,252,661	..	..	449,621	26.3
Iron, coal, and steel	98	18,426,571	11,833,517	..	..	6,593,054	35.6
Land mortgage	78	5,818,420	3,681,572	..	..	2,136,848	36.5
Motor and cycle	27	2,172,391	2,363,225	..	..	4,555,613	..
Trust companies	24	2,039,823	740,662	..	..	1,299,161	63.8
Nitrate	9	10,754,140	9,733,826	..	..	1,020,314	9.5
Oil	260	4,221,249	437,250	..	..	3,783,999	89.8
Rubber, &c.	29	8,567,487	6,561,340	..	..	2,006,147	23.4
Shipping	59	6,145,946	3,276,279	..	..	2,869,667	46.1
Shops and stores	74	255,995	989,203	733,208	256.4	..	..
Tea	19	6,162,770	3,706,126	..	..	2,456,644	39.8
Telegraphs, &c.	47	1,543,038	3,196,161	..	..	9,346,877	74.6
Textiles	30	1,884,010	1,620,242	..	..	263,768	14.0
Tramways	78	5,200,127	3,909,269	..	..	1,290,858	24.8
Trust companies	25	502,293	453,097	..	..	49,196	9.8
Waterworks	318	40,880,611	19,720,760	..	..	21,159,851	51.9
Miscellaneous	1,386	139,843,870	80,162,691	..	..	59,681,179	42.6

In our article a year ago there was an aggregate increase of 9.2 per cent., only seven of the groups showing a decline. The tea group, one of the three in the above table to record an increase, showed a decline of 87 per cent., a fact which largely explains the phenomenal increase now recorded. The effect of the advance in charges is presumably responsible for the increases under gas and electric lighting and power companies. Among the decreases, rubber and textile companies are the most prominent, but nitrate and canal companies and shops and stores are also conspicuous. It should be mentioned that the figures of the miscellaneous group both in the above and in subsequent tables are affected by the figures of the Dunlop Rubber Company, which made a net loss of £8,320,000, as against a profit of £2,163,900 in the previous year. The next table shows how profits were distributed in each of the past four quarters:—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	
	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
Third quarter 1921.	13,912,771	10,646,266	76.6	2,834,956	20.3	431,549	3.1
Fourth quarter 1921.	14,268,278	11,464,889	80.4	3,386,148	23.6	Dr 582,750	4.0
First quarter 1922.	26,785,952	22,171,510	82.9	9,689,030	36.2	Dr 5,074,588	19.1
Second quarter 1922.	25,195,690	20,066,774	79.7	6,156,048	24.4	Dr 1,027,132	4.1
	80,162,691	64,349,439	80.3	22,056,179	27.5	Dr 6,522,992	7.8

It will be seen that in the 12 months the amounts distributed to shareholders have exceeded profits by 7.8 per cent., funds in hand having been drawn upon to this extent. The last column includes the amounts by which the balances carried forward exceed or fall short of the balances brought into the accounts, as well as specific allocations to reserve. It has always been difficult, thanks to the divergence of method adopted by company directors in the presentation of accounts, to maintain an absolutely uniform method of compilation for the figures of reserves, and it is becoming increasingly so with the growing tendency nowadays to reduce the amount of information given. We have made every effort, however, to make the comparisons accurate, and to preserve continuity. In the next table we show how the various groups have dealt with their profits:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Preference Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	%
	£	£	£	£	%
Breweries	7,234,812	4,552,489	630	1,250,321	17.2
Canals, docks, &c.	272,394	121,925	44.4	157,139	58.0
Electric lighting, &c.	2,066,369	626,149	30.2	505,623	24.5
Gas	1,840,373	1,771,338	96.3	293,018	15.9
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	1,252,661	814,040	65.1	443,318	35.3
Iron, coal, and steel	11,831,517	7,753,643	65.6	2,215,291	18.7
Land, mortgage, &c.	3,681,572	3,079,234	83.6	953,350	25.9
Motor and cycle	406,696	406,696	100.0	273,608	67.3
Nitrate	740,662	740,448	100.0	2,066,094	21.1
Oil	9,733,826	7,017,485	72.2	2,716,111	27.5
Rubber, &c.	437,250	857,466	196.1	27,925	6.4
Shipping	6,561,340	3,799,341	57.9	1,186,490	18.1
Shops and stores	3,276,279	2,092,396	63.8	1,360,244	41.6
Tea	389,203	935,762	94.6	306,718	31.0
Telegraph, &c.	3,706,126	2,276,769	61.5	265,189	7.1
Textiles	3,196,161	6,083,659	190.6	1,430,460	44.8
Tramways	1,620,242	666,146	41.2	586,727	36.2
Trust companies	3,309,229	2,323,131	59.4	1,231,583	31.5
Waterworks	453,697	350,919	77.5	95,320	21.0
Miscellaneous	19,720,760	18,079,801	91.8	8,833,604	44.6
	80,162,691	64,349,439	80.3	22,066,179	27.5

Ten of the twenty groups have reduced reserves and balances in hand in order to meet dividend payments, the most curious case being the 27 motor and cycle companies, which have drawn from past profits a sum considerably larger than the net loss for the year for dividend distributions. It must be borne in mind, of course, that these are aggregate figures, and that they are apt to be affected surprisingly by the poor results of a few large concerns. Textiles also make a bad showing. In the matter of reserve appropriations the shipping group has a good record, and it may be mentioned that shipping companies, who incidentally are amongst the worst offenders in the matter of withholding information in their accounts, make a practice of setting aside large sums for fleet depreciation before disclosing profits. Electric lighting companies reserve the largest proportion of profits, while telegraph, tramway, and oil companies also set aside a fairly substantial percentage.

We show next the ratio of net profits and of amounts reserved or withdrawn from reserve to total ordinary and preference capital:—

	Total Ord. and Pref. Capital.	Net Profits.	Carried to Reserve, &c.	%
	£	£	£	%
1921.	166,443,500	13,912,771	431,549	0.3
Third quarter	218,246,700	14,268,278	582,756	0.3
Fourth quarter				
1922.	442,936,400	26,785,952	5,074,588	1.1
First quarter	350,840,200	25,195,690	1,027,132	0.3
Second quarter				
	1,178,466,800	80,162,691	6,252,927	0.5

A year ago the ratio of profits to total share capital was 13.2 per cent., and in July, 1920, 14.6 per cent. The average rates paid on debenture, preference, and ordinary capital in each of the past eight quarters are set out below:—

	Debenture Capital.	Debenture Interest.	Average Rate.	Average Rate a Year Ago.
	£	£	%	%
1921.	35,707,800	1,589,573	4.45	4.12
Third quarter	54,253,900	2,456,478	4.52	4.43
Fourth quarter				
1922.	90,820,900	4,256,527	4.70	4.43
First quarter	87,804,700	4,387,109	5.00	4.61
Second quarter				
	268,587,300	12,689,687	4.72	4.48

	Preference Capital.	Preference Dividend.	Average Rate.	Average Rate a Year Ago.
	£	£	%	%
1921.	56,733,200	2,834,956	5.0	4.9
Third quarter	66,483,200	3,386,145	5.1	5.3
Fourth quarter				
1922.	183,183,300	9,689,030	5.3	5.0
First quarter	121,797,900	6,156,048	5.0	5.6
Second quarter				
	428,197,600	22,066,179	5.1	5.2

	Ordinary Capital.	Ordinary Dividend.	Average Rate.	Average Rate a Year Ago.
	£	£	%	%
1921.	109,710,300	10,646,266	9.7	14.2
Third quarter	151,763,400	11,464,889	7.6	11.6
Fourth quarter				
1922.	259,753,000	22,171,510	8.5	10.3
First quarter	229,042,500	20,066,774	8.8	12.6
Second quarter				
	750,269,200	64,349,439	8.6	11.8

High money rates have had more effect upon debenture than upon preference capital, the latter showing but little variation. The average rate paid on ordinary capital shows some signs of recovering from the low level recorded in the last quarter of 1921, but the average for 12 months shows a marked drop from the 11.8 per cent. for 1920-21. The final table gives the average rates for the various groups:—

	Debenture Capital.	Rate of Interest.	Preference Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Rate a Year Ago.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	%
Breweries	33,461,847	4.85	23,255,166	5.4	35,533,452	12.8	11.8
Canals, docks, &c.	1,480,633	3.5	5,504,810	3.0	6,478,500	1.9	3.8
Electric lighting, &c.	11,766,012	5.0	10,072,071	5.0	10,858,510	5.7	6.6
Gas	9,292,663	3.6	7,909,835	3.7	37,728,399	4.7	3.6
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	7,101,660	4.4	8,149,843	5.4	9,208,732	8.8	10.1
Iron, coal, and steel	27,356,074	5.4	43,647,510	5.1	109,819,606	7.1	10.5
Land, mortgage, &c.	22,771,528	4.3	21,580,481	4.4	37,300,042	8.2	9.2
Motor and cycle	3,306,602	6.7	6,463,761	4.2	14,734,596	2.8	8.6
Nitrate	1,036,450	4.9			6,276,269	12.5	15.8
Oil	5,446,240	5.1	11,712,791	5.5	29,314,644	24.0	28.9
Rubber, &c.	1,039,269	6.8	819,961	3.4	41,247,328	2.1	7.8
Shipping	20,558,360	5.4	21,458,075	5.5	41,690,669	9.1	9.9
Shops and stores	8,176,010	4.9	23,040,335	5.9	25,136,466	8.3	15.0
Tea	1,355,106	5.3	5,335,029	5.7	10,024,362	9.3	5.5
Telegraphs, &c.	4,590,369	4.1	6,032,218	4.4	27,043,061	8.4	9.5
Textiles	9,447,094	4.2	30,999,899	4.6	59,914,173	10.2	13.6
Tramways	24,960,638	4.6	12,911,399	4.5	18,057,248	3.7	3.6
Trust companies	31,405,198	4.1	31,016,599	4.0	37,874,361	6.1	7.4
Waterworks	2,712,315	4.2	2,783,617	3.4	6,103,247	5.7	5.7
Miscellaneous	41,363,218	5.3	155,686,203	5.7	185,925,617	9.8	13.6
	268,587,282	4.7	428,197,603	5.1	750,269,194	8.6	11.8

Four groups only show a slight increase in the average ordinary dividend—namely, breweries and gas, tea and tramway companies. The average rate paid on ordinary shares in the oil group is still exceptionally high owing to the high rates paid by the Shell, Anglo-Persian, and Lobitos Companies. The rubber group shows an exceptionally heavy reduction.

LABOUR AND THE SOCIAL CREDIT SCHEME.

(FROM A LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

To those who believe that it is possible to secure better relations between workpeople and their employers it is of the utmost importance to understand the various currents of Labour opinion. It is for this reason, rather than because of its intrinsic value, that it is worth while to study the Douglas-New Age Credit scheme which has had so remarkable a vogue in the last three years in certain quarters. Strenuous efforts have been made since the war to commit the Labour movement to this. Active propaganda has been carried on in local Labour parties, I.L.P. branches, and trade union branches, and through the *New Age*, a weekly paper distinguished in the past for its advocacy of Guild Socialism, *Public Welfare*, the organ of the "Social Credit" movement, and the columns of trade union journals. Under skillfully chosen titles articles have appeared in the general Press, and even in parish magazines. In certain quarters the theory and schemes of Major Douglas and the *New Age* have been received with the enthusiasm of a new religion, but the Labour movement has remained cold. It was hoped to win support for the new school by the practical application of the scheme to the mining industry, but the miners

continued to insist on nationalisation. Some time ago the Labour Party Executive appointed a committee to inquire into the Douglas-New Age scheme. The members were Sidney Webb, R. H. Tawney, and Sir Leo Chiozza Money, the three non-mining Labour members of the Coal Industry Commission, Frank Hodges and F. B. Varley, of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, G. D. H. Cole, Dr. Hugh Dalton, J. A. Hobson, and Arthur Greenwood (secretary). The committee has reported on the scheme, and its report has been accepted by the Labour Party Executive. With the issue of this report any hope of the Labour movement becoming committed to the teachings of the Douglasites has completely vanished.

The scheme falls under two heads. In the first place it analyses the working of the existing machinery by which credit or the use of capital is obtained, and secondly, it puts forward a proposal for the introduction of a new banking organisation and a new and compulsory system of fixing selling prices. The point which emerges from the Douglasite analysis (which the Labour Committee subjects to detailed criticism) is that the purchasing power in their hands is not and cannot be adequate to purchase the goods available for them. The committee, in its report, easily disposes of this contention. The report, indeed, destroys the theoretical basis of the scheme.

On the constructive side, the scheme proposes that consumable goods should at the outset be sold below their cost of production. How much below cost this price is to be fixed would depend upon how far total national production exceeds total national consumption. This is to be determined statistically from time to time, and prices fixed in accordance with the formula

$$\text{price} = \frac{\text{total national consumption}}{\text{total national production}} \times \text{cost}$$

Manufacturers are to be recompensed for the difference between the prices which they receive from consumers and their total costs by an issue of Treasury notes from the Government. The Labour Committee argues that the scheme is impracticable, on the ground that total production can only be measured in terms of money, and "the money valuation is itself dependent on the price to be set upon each of the different commodities." The scheme is criticised as unsound, on the ground that the wholesale payments to manufacturers of Treasury notes (which never appear to be cancelled) would raise prices, or if all prices could be rigidly controlled by law, the money demand would far outrun available supplies. Under the scheme we should, the committee suggest, "be back in the worst experiences of the war, in soaring prices, inadequate supplies, queues, and the rest of it—only very much more so."

The Douglas-New Age school lays great emphasis on the proposal that in each industry a "producers' bank" should be established, preferably by the trade unions concerned. A scheme for a miners' bank has been worked out in detail. All the workers in the mining industry would be shareholders in the bank, and all wages and salaries would be paid into the bank in bulk by the employers. The bank would be given by law the right to furnish whatever additional capital the colliery companies required from time to time, to the extent, at least, of the proportion that the total of wages and salaries bears to the total distributed in dividends. By this means, it is said, the employees in the industry would gradually become owners of an increasing number of colliery shares without having put up any money for them. The proposal ignores the need of the bank for capital before it can purchase shares, and the amount left out of wages and salaries after the needs of the workers had been met would be negligible. The resources of the bank would in actual fact be entirely swallowed up in expenditure on rent, rates, taxes, salaries, printing, stationery, &c.—expenditure which the authors of the scheme entirely ignore. It is assumed that there is something magical in membership of a clearing house, and it is laid down in the scheme that the producers' bank "shall be affiliated to the clearing house"; but it is not shown that this "affiliation" will in any way assist to secure the solvency of the producers' bank.

The Social Credit scheme, as the Labour Committee

point out, rests on the assumption that "whilst employer may struggle to retain their 'managerial functions' unimpaired, those who control finance will accept proposal which the promoters of the scheme believe will deprive them of their financial power." "We do not think," say the Committee, "that capitalists will relinquish financial control any more readily than the Engineering Employers Federation will surrender industrial and workshop control," and consequently "the view that the scheme holds out hopes of an early and effective revolution in industry is.....untenable, and the main value of the Douglas-New Age credit proposals disappears."

The Committee's final conclusions are emphatic. The scheme is denounced as "theoretically unsound and unworkable in practice." It is, moreover, "out of harmony with the trend of Labour thought, and is, indeed, fundamentally opposed to the principles for which the Labour Party stands." The Committee do not see in the social credit scheme a sovereign remedy for all ills. On the contrary, they assert that "to be effective, a policy in regard to banking and credit must be accompanied by an industrial and a fiscal policy." With the latter questions the Committee do not deal, but they introduce the question of a banking policy, which they propose to treat more fully in a further report. As might be expected, the Committee's alternative proposals are:—(1) The nationalisation of the joint stock banking system, and the substitution in the business of cheque banking and credit issue of a unified banking system, publicly owned and controlled; and (2) the energetic development throughout the country of municipal banks, established under Act of Parliament, conferring general powers upon municipalities to set up such institutions.

Whatever may be said of Labour's own proposals, it must at least be given credit for its investigation in the social credit scheme. Individuals have, here and there, written articles in criticism of it, but no association, organisation, or movement appears to have faced the heretics.

THE HALF-YEAR'S OVERSEAS TRADE.

In pre-war days it was often noticed that June saw some slackening in overseas trade, and in studying the Board of Trade returns for last month it must also be remembered both that the Whitsuntide holidays fell early in the month, and also that price-cuts in British manufactures have taken place in recent months. Nevertheless, the June returns, after all these allowances have been made, remain disappointing. Imports, at £84.3 millions, were £4.5 millions lower than in May, and while re-exports at £8.7 millions were only slightly worse than stationary, British exports were £5.9 millions lower than in May at £52.1 millions. The June export value figure was the lowest recorded since August, 1921. The summary figures for June and the first half of this year and last compare as follows:—

MONTH OF JUNE.				
	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in June, 1922.	%
Imports	£ 88,171,892	£ 84,298,169	— 3,873,723	— 4.4
British exports	38,152,238	52,145,951	+ 13,993,713	+ 36.7
Re-exports	7,082,764	8,720,209	+ 1,637,445	+ 22.1
Total exports	45,235,002	60,866,160	+ 15,631,158	+ 34.6
Excess of imports over total exports	42,936,890	23,432,009	— 19,504,881	— 45.5
SIX MONTHS Ended JUNE 30.				
	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	%
Imports	£ 571,864,872	£ 487,262,611	— 84,602,261	— 14.8
British exports	368,895,027	551,761,805	+ 182,866,778	+ 49.6
Re-exports	49,685,689	55,671,520	+ 5,985,831	+ 12.0
Total exports	418,580,716	607,433,325	+ 188,852,609	+ 45.1
Excess of imports over total exports	153,284,156	79,829,286	— 73,454,870	— 48.1

In each case comparisons with a year ago are vitiated by the long coal stoppage of last year. For instance,

apart from the general dislocation of trade caused by that event, the accounts for June, 1921, included an entirely exceptional item of £5 millions for coal imports, while coal exports had dwindled to a negligible figure. From the financial point of view, the figures provide some satisfaction, the import excess having been reduced by £7.3 millions in the past half-year; and although invisible exports have been hard hit by the trade depression, there should be no doubt that the real trade balance is substantially in the favour of this country.

Value figures being affected so largely by price movements, and all comparisons with a year ago by the coal stoppage, possibly the most useful method of judging the trade of the past half-year is to set out quantities of some of the principal imports and exports for the first half-year of 1922, 1921, and 1920:—

IMPORTS, QUANTITIES.

	First Half-year.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.
Raw cotton ....(centals)	12,758,131	5,133,176	6,638,407
Sheep and lambs wool..	4,578,456	3,693,251	6,776,340
Flax, hemp, & jute (tons)	271,803	96,290	120,628
Wet hides .....(cwt.)	249,754	144,258	212,282
Dry & salted hides (cwt.)	568,956	112,039	208,616
Pulp of wood ....(tons)	505,225	178,592	302,250
Rubber .....(centals)	1,155,940	1,157,347	733,294
Iron ore .....(tons)	3,459,508	1,284,166	1,578,427
Grain and flour ..(cwt.)	82,207,111	75,593,976	85,598,245
Butter .....(cwt.)	1,057,785	2,145,705	2,397,340
Sugar .....(cwt.)	16,056,844	13,991,318	20,781,015
Tea .....(lbs)	217,539,336	219,607,479	186,787,987

Among raw materials, wool alone in this list shows larger imports than in 1920, although in most cases imports of this class were higher in the past six months than in the disturbed period of January to June last year. A similar comparison for leading exports reads as follows:—

BRITISH EXPORTS—QUANTITIES.

	First Half-year.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.
Coal .....tons	14,431,833	6,025,448	27,183,960
Pig-iron & ferro-alloys..tons	360,292	77,786	274,443
Railway material .....tons	130,660	165,700	280,060
Total of iron and steel and manufactures thereof..tons	1,652,688	871,949	1,539,938
Textile machinery .....tons	21,139	79,282	69,071
Total machinery .....tons	182,471	276,637	187,675
Cotton yarns .....lbs	78,614,000	50,638,100	106,039,100
Cotton piece goods ..sq. yds.	2,396,798,000	1,211,021,700	1,850,860,000
Wool tops .....centals	107,211	191,871	208,862
Woolen tissues .....sq. yds.	103,309,700	38,779,000	56,740,900
Worsted tissues .....sq. yds.	40,215,700	19,520,900	32,158,900
Linen piece goods ..sq. yds.	62,362,900	14,907,800	40,795,800
Boots and shoes ....doz. prs.	396,791	175,049	207,396
Leather .....cwt.	168,748	80,485	105,700
Paper and cardboard ..cwt.	968,680	752,607	894,957
Locomotives .....tons	18,123	21,682	18,029
Motor cars and chassis ..No.	2,533	2,340	1,347

Coal is the outstanding feature, and we have so far recovered our export trade that shipments this year have been nearly double those of the first half of 1920. Coal exports of 27.8 million tons compare with 34.0 million tons in the first half of 1914, and in view of the world-wide trade depression, the comparison is by no means so bad as it might be. One of the most satisfactory points about the table is that the quantity of iron and steel exports is almost up to the 1920 level, while machinery, though well behind last year, exceeds the figures of two years ago. The cotton yarn figure is also rather remarkably satisfactory. On the whole, the export figures bear out the contention that trade as a whole has been engaged in slowly, but definitely rising above the depth of last year's depression.

The bullion and specie figures are as follows for the six months:—

	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Jan. to June.	1922.	Jan. to June.	1922.
Gold	23,874,490	13,875,567	29,538,587	14,479,696
Silver	4,896,014	5,050,698	5,281,007	7,312,144

Exports of gold to the United States in the past six months were only £5,287,791, compared with £28,087,714 in the corresponding period of 1921. The figures of shipping engaged in the foreign trade give

evidence of greater activity. They may be summarised as follows:—

	Entered with Cargoes.	Cleared with Cargoes.
	Tons.	Tons.
Jan. to June.		
1920.....	16,849,194	18,263,337
1921.....	17,306,545	13,700,663
1922.....	19,957,402	2,688,451

Among commercial information on a later page of this issue will be found tables setting out in more detail the value figures of imports and exports in June and the first six months of this year and last.

LATIN-AMERICAN NOTES.

(BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

URUGUAY.—While the economic conditions of Uruguay have not improved during the term of office occupied by Dr Baltasar Brum, the President has nevertheless worked hard in the commercial interests of the country. The external debt of the country has increased during the past six years from a little over \$32,000,000 (£6,400,000) to \$74,000,000 (£14,800,000), while general trade has suffered a severe set-back, culminating within recent date in a banking crisis, during the progress of which several monetary institutions of standing have been obliged to reduce their credit operations in order to preserve their own financial integrity.

If the suggestion put forward by Dr Brum should be followed, he will be the last occupant of the Presidential Chair, since he has publicly advocated the abolition of his office and the adoption of a Commission, or Junta form of government, for he believes that "most of the troubles of Latin-American countries have arisen from the schemes of ambitious men to secure political power." Certainly no such charge could be urged against him personally, since it is generally conceded that he has performed his task of government in a thoroughly conscientious manner through an exceptionally difficult period. Notwithstanding the heavy deficit which the accounts of the Banda Oriental display, and the far from plethoric condition of the national treasury, every effort has been made to meet exterior obligations. As recently as June 1st a remittance amounting to 45 per cent. of the Customs duties collected during the last fortnight in May, was received in London to be applied to the service of the Uruguayan 3½ per Cent. Loan, while, at the commencement of the year, resumption of sinking fund operations was notified. During the war, Uruguay carried on a profitable trade, and the finances of the country appeared to be in a thoroughly sound condition, the national bonds being freely utilised as a means of remittance. The actual dimensions of the transactions carried out in these securities, subsequently divulged, created no small surprise.

Of late, Uruguay has been a considerable borrower on the American market, although in 1920 the proportion of the Uruguayan foreign debt in that country did not exceed 5 per cent. of the total amount. A loan of \$7,500,000 (£1,500,000), carrying an interest of 8 per cent. per annum, and issued at 98½, was raised in August last, while soon afterwards negotiations were opened for a further loan in the same direction for \$6,000,000 (£1,200,000), carrying a like rate of interest, the life of the loan being 30 years in comparison with 25, the length of the previous one. Until lately, Uruguay had not been in the habit of borrowing at such a high rate of interest as 8 per cent., with 4 per cent. amortisation; but the condition of the world's money markets at the time that the New York loan for \$7,500,000 was raised sufficed to give a considerable profit upon transfer of the proceeds to the borrowers. Following the example of the National Government, the Municipality of Monte Video has recently raised—with facility—a loan for \$6,000,000 from the United States, which gives a flat investment yield of 7½ per cent.

According to the latest available figures from Uruguay, the current financial year (ending June 30th) is expected

to show a deficit of about \$8,000,000, following upon a deficiency of \$3,500,000 for the previous financial year. Expenditure is estimated at \$43,243,500 (£8,650,700), towards which Customs receipts, which last year contributed \$17,000,000 (£4,400,000), are expected to produce little more than \$15,500,000 (£3,100,000). Whereas the Executive is in favour of extra taxation to meet the deficiency, the Chamber of Deputies prefers the application of the economic "axe," and proposes the exercise of more drastic economy in all spending departments.

BOLIVIA.—The appointment of Señor Don Alberto Gonzales (formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs) as Bolivian Minister in London will be welcomed as an indication of improved economic relations between the two countries. These, of late, have been far from satisfactory. Owing to the comparatively small population of Bolivia (under three millions) and the difficulties experienced in conducting internal commerce owing to the general lack of transportation, British trade has hitherto not been of first importance; but recent discoveries of extensive oilfields believed likely to rank eventually among the richest in the world, and in which British interests are concerned, afford promise of considerable commercial expansion. It would appear, however, that foreign interests will not be allowed to secure anything in the form of a monopoly, and competition, especially from the United States and Germany, is likely to become very lively. It is the desire of the Bolivian Government, profiting by the experience of Mexico, to preserve a dominating holding in its mineral wealth. The new oilfields, comprising an estimated area of 5,320,000 acres, should prove sufficiently important to employ the capital and enterprise of several different foreign companies. The principal field is located in the Santa Cruz district, which already had been selected for the introduction of a system of new railways to be electrically operated, and in connection with which an expenditure of \$10,000,000 (£2,000,000) is contemplated. Apart from this enterprise, a contract has been signed between the Bolivian and the Argentine Governments for the construction of a railway destined to tap the rich mineral and agricultural resources of Eastern Bolivia. With a view to exploiting hitherto untouched natural resources, the Government recently decided to issue a short-term internal loan of 2,000,000 pesos and to raise a foreign loan of \$24,000,000 gold (£4,800,000), at 8 per cent., secured by a first mortgage upon lines of existing railroads as well as upon others under construction. This issue would be in place of the loan of \$15,000,000 gold (£3,000,000) authorised by the Bolivian Senate in February last. The total foreign debt of the Republic, inclusive of the most recent loans, is not large, being under £6,000,000, the previously existing debt to France having now been expunged.

VENEZUELA.—Considering the economic difficulties experienced by the great majority of the Latin-American States during the past year, the financial position of Venezuela may be considered as fairly satisfactory. The Public Debt of that country at the end of 1921 amounted to 124,859,319 bolivars (1 bolivar equals 0.193 cents gold). Taking the population of the country at 2,411,952, it would appear that the *per capita* debt amounts to 51.76 bolivars. The 3 per cent. Diplomatic Debt of 1905, which originally amounted to 130 million bolivars, has been reduced 46 per cent. by amortisation and expiration, the outstanding amount to date being 70 million bolivars. The last date for tenders of these bonds for redemption was June 29th. The issues of 1903, 1904, and 1905, aggregating 5,633,490 bolivars, have not as yet been assigned sums for amortisation.

CHILE.—At the end of the last financial year, the Public Debt of Chile was stated to amount to 501,151,426 pesos (gold) and 145,149,600 pesos paper, exclusive of the sums of £1,500,000 and 80 million pesos paper, which sums of £1,500,000 and 80 million pesos paper, which the President has been authorised by Congress to raise, in the form of a loan, in order to cover the deficit of the fiscal year 1921, such loan being guaranteed either by bank credits, renewable treasury notes, or tax-exempt State bonds, bearing an interest not in excess of 8 per cent. For the current year, the total expenditure of the Republic has been estimated at 288,244,350 pesos paper and 65,958,045 pesos gold.

MONEY, AND HOW TO LOSE IT.

CONCRETE examples may, perhaps, be required to supplement the warnings advanced here last month as to the danger of dealing with a certain class of outside brokers. The financial fashion of this present hour is set rather strongly in the direction of giving money for the call of shares. This is called option-dealing, as, indeed, it is, though in its real sense option-dealing is the most scientific, and the most intricate method of Stock Exchange business which exists. By dint of flamboyant advertisement and adroit appeal to an instinct of sporting greed, certain outside brokers, bucket shops of the most marked type, have succeeded in establishing a wide *clientèle*. Many of their clients make money. The small fry are sometimes paid. Large profit-makers are less lucky. If the man who has "made" money which he cannot get should threaten to take the money out, it is politely hinted to him that the best such a thing as the Gaming Act. He is asked to accept something on account. He is urged to take another option. The bucket-shop, safely entrenched behind the client's fear of publicity, and the protection afforded to its own non-payment by the effect of the Gaming Act, can go on its way rejoicing. One day there was an exasperated victim of sufficient courage to push him to legal extremes. In this case the firm would not pay the money as being cheaper than winning an action, under cover of the Gaming Act, that would give the letting-in of daylight upon its methods. A firm named "Ediff" has been sending out a type-printed circular headed "100 per cent. profit within three months on a Government security," the last three words being underlined. To make such a statement, admits the firm, "appears at first sight to be carrying optimism past the limit of common sense." Any sensible person will heartily agree. Pleasurable anticipation is liable to suffer a chill, however, when further examination shows that the 100 per cent. profit may be obtained through the purchase of a three-months' option on Conversion stock, Corbols, Funding or the War Loan, the first-named being more particularly indicated. The option-rate on conversion for three months is given as 1½ per cent., plus ½ commission and another ½ if the option is exercised, plus a interest charge incurred in holding the stock for the period. Taking conversion at 77, there is 1½ call-rate and commission to be added, and at least another 1 per cent. for interest, making 79½. If the price rises to about 80½, the speculator makes "100 per cent." profit on his Government security. In other words, he will have a profit of £5 note, or thereabout, on £500 stock opened now. It seems a very modest 100 per cent. Another firm at pushing the sale of shares in the New Galician Standard Oil Company, Limited, shares which carry not less than 12 per cent. guaranteed dividend, with participating rights. Nor is this all. The buyer of shares at £1 each receives a discount of 2s. per share and a 5 per cent. income certificate of £1 for every five shares subscribed. "Knowing the immense fortunes that are being made in Galician Wells, we want you," the firm writes "to take up as many of these participating preference shares as you can afford." One pound 12 per cent. participating preference shares, offered at 18s, cum income certificate shares, in a Galician oil company, are sufficiently remarkable to raise the obvious question as to the nature of the guarantee. Maybe the readers of the *Economist* will be better satisfied on this point than we are.

A third case is that of a concern in Newington Causeway, who offer what they candidly call a thousand to one chance, although they may not put the same construction upon the phrase as the mere outsider will be tempted to do. Theirs is a proposition for getting the speculator to buy, for £3 per acre, the lease of oil land in Texas. One example is given of a lease-owner who with "eleven small farmer associates," sold his property for £750,000. "From a very poor man, he became very wealthy overnight," adds the grammatical account. We could go on multiplying illustrations from circulars and appeals, of the same type, that lie in front of us, but these are sufficient to show the traps laid for the unwary and the credulous. How there can be anybody so foolish

as to venture upon such wild-cat gambles, the prosaic, if practical, person may well ask, in frank surprise. But the papers would hardly be circulated unless their authors knew that some folks were likely to put up money. It is in the hope that the better-informed may drop a word of friendly warning to the probable recipients of such literature that this anthology is here presented for the amusement of our readers.

Notes of the Week.

Great Britain's Next Move.—The expected note from Germany asking for a release from further cash payments of Reparation for a considerable period has created renewed activity in reparation circles, and the Commission will shortly have to inform the German Government what payment it must make in August. An unconditional demand for cash even on the reduced scale agreed upon this year would almost certainly cause another downward plunge of the mark. France, as well as Great Britain, is now alive to the fact that the farther Germany is pushed down the slippery slope over which, first Russia, and subsequently Austria, have been rushing so precipitately, the more difficult it will be to call the halt. The last thing France wants is to bring financial ruin to the German Government, for this would only have the effect of making a completely bad debt of her reparation claim, while leaving intact the roots of German economic life, which will sooner or later grow into a great tree. The reiteration in the French Press of regret at the failure of the Bankers' Conference, and the recognition that a general discussion covering the question not only of inter-Allied debt, but also the scaling down of the total due from Germany, must come and come quickly, creates an occasion more favourable for a reasonable settlement than any we have experienced hitherto. The reported demand of the British Government that the Supreme Council should meet again and consider this situation seems to us most unfortunate in view of the circumstances under which M. Poincaré came into power, and the feelings of suspicion which, rightly or wrongly, Frenchmen generally entertain for that particular organ of international diplomacy. Although the general reduction of railway rates just announced will do something to help the recovery of trade in this country, the evidence of the foreign trade returns is not quite so favourable as it was two or three months ago, and the British Government, with the prospect of having to deal with a colossal unemployment problem again this winter, cannot afford to allow any point of punctilio to interfere with its efforts to deal with the one problem which can make a vital difference to our general trade outlook. In present circumstances it would not help matters very much for Great Britain to announce an unconditional cancellation of the debts due to her by the Allies; such an act of charity would certainly be misunderstood both in Europe and America. But it would be of the greatest possible assistance if our Government could state either through the mouth of the Prime Minister in Parliament, or through the usual diplomatic channels, to France, Italy, and Belgium that we are prepared to write them off upon terms to be mutually agreed upon, without regard to any action which the United States may take. This is, indeed, the only step on which it is the proper reply to the less uncompromising attitude of France.

House of Lords Reform.—In the House of Lords on Tuesday the Earl of Crawford read the resolutions upon which the Government propose to base their long-awaited Bill for the reform of the Upper Chamber. In many respects the resolutions are so vague, and leave so much undecided, that they convey the impression that the Cabinet is still unable to agree upon a definite plan. According to the resolutions the House, when reconstituted, is to consist of 350 members. Apart from "Peers of the Blood Royal, Lords Spiritual, and Law Lords," it is to be composed of (a) members elected, either directly or indirectly, from the outside; (b) here-

ditary peers elected by their order; (c) members nominated by the Crown, the members in each case to be determined by statute. These shadowy proposals carry us no further towards solution of the vexed problems of the proportion of elected to nominated members, nor of the mode of election to be adopted. The new House, it is suggested, is not to amend or reject Money Bills—no Government could nowadays propose that—but the decision as to what is a Money Bill is no longer to be left to the sole arbitration of the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is to be decided by a Joint Committee of the two Houses, with the Speaker as chairman. One is left wondering whether at times of political heat such a Committee would approach their decision in so technical and unbiased a manner as the Speaker. The only other point about the resolutions is the proposal that the Parliament Act shall not refer to Bills which alter or amend the constitution of the Second Chamber itself. Obviously, they make only the very beginning of long discussions, and it is impossible to foresee the shape in which legislative proposals will eventually be moulded. For as yet none of the t's are crossed nor the i's dotted, and it is upon the dotting and crossing that everything depends. As they stand at present the various clauses will cause about an equal amount of suspicion in both of the main political camps.

The Reduction of Railway Rates.—The announcement this week of an agreement between the railway companies and the Federation of British Industries renders unnecessary the hearing of the appeal for a general reduction of rates before the Rates Tribunal, and the question of the interpretation of last year's Railways Act is thus postponed for a future occasion. The companies have perhaps been wise to make friends with their enemy while they were in the way with him, for the companies' action lends at all events *prima facie* support to the view expressed in these columns that with the Government grant to assist them in the matter of dividends, the maintenance of the present freight rates could hardly be justified to-day, even if a reduction involved some immediate loss of net receipts. Under the terms now announced, the coal rate of 75 per cent. over the pre-war figure is reduced to 60 per cent., and the additional "flat-rate increase" falls to 2d. Iron ore, &c., which had already fallen to 50 per cent. over 1914, only receives the small concession of the further reduction of the flat rate to 2d. In the case of general merchandise, the increase of 100 per cent. is reduced to 75 per cent. above the rates in operation on January 14, 1920, while the various additional flat rates on the various classes are reduced from 1s to 6d, from 9d to 4d, and from 6d to 4d, the 3d flat rates being unaffected. The rate for smalls is to be reduced from 150 per cent. to 100 per cent. above the rates in force on January 14, 1920. The settlement is not to affect the question of merchandise carried by passenger train, nor any present or future negotiations relating thereto. The reductions are to come into force on the first of August next, and it is understood that neither the Federation nor the railway companies will apply or be parties to any application for a general alteration to come into operation before July 31, 1923, of the rates and charges now agreed. The general reduction in the index of rates from 200 to 175 is half the amount demanded by the traders, and the latter can hardly have accepted this compromise unless the companies had put before them some evidence as to their net receipts. If, as is no doubt the case, the companies are in possession of such information, it ought to be published, for it is only by a knowledge of the facts that a reasonable judgment can be arrived at by the public as to the true situation in so vital a national service.

The Amendment of the Trade Boards Acts.—The Minister of Labour has issued a paper stating that the preparation of a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Cave Committee's report will take considerable time and labour, and presumably will not be introduced in Parliament this session. The Minister has therefore set out in his statement a list of the changes proposed by the Committee which it will be possible to make by administrative action. The chief recommendation of the Committee

on the subject of wage rates, which it is proposed should be divided into (a) genuinely minimum rates fixed, if need be, by the vote of the State nominees, and enforced as at present under the criminal law, and (b) any other rates agreed between the parties enforceable, if approved by the Minister, under the civil law, is an alteration which cannot be made except by statute. The speeding up of the process of rate fixing or rate charging also involves amendment of the Acts, since the periods of notice, &c., are set out in the statute; but the Minister states that, so far as his own action is concerned, steps will be taken which will enable him in ordinary cases to reduce the period for deciding to accord or withhold confirmation to a fortnight. Similarly, as regards District Committees, the Minister has no power to appoint local bodies, this right being at present vested solely in the Boards concerned. The Minister proposes, however, to deal with the question of overlapping, and to endeavour to adjust the jurisdiction between the various Boards; he further undertakes that before instituting new Boards he will adopt the Committee's definition of the conditions in which they may be set up, and also their recommendation that no Boards should be instituted without a public inquiry. These and other minor administrative changes will do something to smooth the working of the system. But it is clear that no substantial progress can be made without a consolidating Act of Parliament. Meanwhile, the Trade Union Congress have also showed their hand in a report which in temperate language declares on the chief issues against the unanimous recommendations of the Committee. The view put forward is to leave the 1918 Act entirely unchanged. But in making their proposals it is evident that the Cave Committee had in mind the possibility that in the not far distant future the powers and procedure of the Trade Boards may be extended to cover not only the new employments that may be made subject to Trade Boards, but also the industries now served by Joint Industrial Councils. It will be a long time before public opinion will accept a system of State regulation of wages enforceable under penalty of imprisonment covering from a third to a half of the wage-earners of the country, however carefully the official "conciliators" with a casting vote may be selected from among the best lawyers and economists of the country. The Committee's scheme is designed to provide a framework within which the system may apply to a larger field, and at the same time avoid the graver objections against too rigid a system of wage determination.

The Quarter's Shipbuilding.—"Lloyd's Register Shipbuilding Returns" for the quarter ended June 30th last show that the merchant tonnage returned as under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of June, 1922, amounts to 1,919,504 tons. This represents a reduction of about 316,000 tons, as compared with the total at the end of the previous quarter; but under the present conditions even these reduced figures cannot be regarded as a true index of the activity of the shipbuilding industry in the near future. The total includes a considerable amount of tonnage (481,000 tons) on which work has been suspended for some time. Deducting this amount in order to enable a comparison to be made with figures for normal times, the tonnage actually under construction in the United Kingdom now amounts to 1,439,000 tons. The average tonnage under construction during the twelve months immediately preceding the war was 1,890,000 tons—i.e., 451,000 tons more than the present figures. As compared with the figures for the quarter ended March 31, 1922, there has been a considerable reduction in the tonnage launched and in the tonnage commenced in the United Kingdom during the past quarter, the tonnage of vessels launched being 185,000 tons and of those commenced 12,000 tons less. The total merchant tonnage building abroad is 1,315,926 tons, but this includes about 290,000 tons upon which work has been suspended, leaving about 1,026,000 tons actually under construction. The tonnage building abroad is about 128,000 tons lower than the total building at the end of March, 1922. The decrease affects most countries, but especially France, Holland, and Italy. The figures for the leading countries abroad are:—Italy, 285,671 tons; France,

243,290 tons; Holland, 226,318 tons; United States, 150,623 tons; and Japan, 115,512 tons. The above figures do not take into account the tonnage building in Germany and at Danzig, for which no returns are available, but it is estimated that the tonnage under construction in Germany at the present time is about 500,000 tons, and at Danzig 45,000 tons, as compared with a total of 547,000 tons in June, 1914. The tonnage of vessels launched in the world during the quarter amounts to 389,760 tons, of which 148,886 tons were launched in the United Kingdom and 240,874 tons abroad. In addition to the above, about 150,000 tons were launched in Germany, but, as previously stated, these figures are only approximate. The tonnage commenced during the same period amounted to 150,822 tons, of which only 38,877 tons were commenced in the United Kingdom.

Trade Facilities.—A statement of the guarantees which the Treasury have stated their willingness to give under the Trade Facilities Act, 1921, up to June 30th last, shows a total of £17,042,145, of which £14,958,145 were detailed in the statement to March 31st. Recent guarantees thus involve a total of £2,084,000, the principal item being £1,000,000 for various improvements to the City and South London Railway, principal and interest being guaranteed for 50 years. The Workington Harbour and Dock Board has obtained a guarantee of £500,000 for 30 years for constructing and deepening a dock and various other improvements, while £300,000 is guaranteed for 25 years for the Guildford and Waldershare Colliery Company for the sinking and equipment of a colliery.

The Bank Dividends.—The half-yearly dividend announcements of the principal banks recently made are at the same rates as at this time last year, as may be seen from the table below, in which the midsummer dividends for a number of years are shown:—

	Per Cent. per Annum.									
	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922		
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's	*16	*16	*16	*16	16	16	16	16		
Barclays Bank "B" shares....	+17½	+17½	+17½	+20	+20	14	14	14		
Lancashire and Yorkshire	16	16	16	16	16	16	19	19(t)		
Lloyds	*18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	16½	16½	16½		
London Joint City and Midland	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18		
Lon. Onty. Westminster & Parr's	18	18	18	20	20	20	20	20		
Manchester and County	13½	13½	13½	15	15	15	15	15		
Manchester & Liverpool District	*17½	*17½	17½	17½	17½	18½	18½	18½		
National Provincial and Union	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16		
Williams, Deacon's	14	14	14	14	12½	12½	12½	12½		
Alexanders Discount.....	10	10	10	12	13	14	15	15		
National Discount.....	10	10	10	11	12	12	12	12		
Union Discount.....	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	15		

* Final dividend. † On old capital. (t) Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank.—Also a special cash bonus of 10s. per share, free of tax.

In addition to the usual dividend, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank makes a distribution of 10s per share, free of tax, equivalent to 5 per cent. actual, in commemoration of the bank's jubilee. The Union Discount Company increases its interim dividend by 1 per cent. It had been generally anticipated that bank dividends for the half-year would be unchanged, for while conditions have not been favourable for the earning of high profits, the necessity for holding back a large proportion of profits for investment depreciation has been obviated by the substantial increase in the market value of gilt-edged securities.

The Situation in Brazil.—The military outbreak at Rio Janeiro has failed to start a revolution, and its prompt suppression has apparently been without material effect either on the business position or the market in Brazilian stocks and bonds. But the disturbance should clear the political atmosphere for the inauguration of Señor Arturo Bernardes as President. His election was confirmed by Congress a month ago; but its legality is disputed, and during the contest he had become unpopular among the officers of the army through the expressions applied to them in a private letter bearing his signature, and published in the Press. He repudiated it, but the Military

Club, after investigation, pronounced it genuine. Their resentment at the confirmation of his election by Congress had been increased by the interference of Federal troops in the State election at Pernambuco, to the disadvantage of the Opposition candidate; and Marshal Hermes da Fonseca, in the name of the Military Club, had sent a telegram to the Federal commander, which was interpreted as an incitement to disobedience. The arrest of the Marshal, an ex-President of the Republic, was followed by a rising in Rio Janeiro under the command of his son. A small body of troops and a number of cadets, after some fighting in the suburbs, seized the fort of Copacabana, some five miles south of the capital, and cut the long-distance wires at Niteroy, on the opposite shore. The fort was bombarded, not too severely, and the insurgents, after further fighting, surrendered. Senhor Nilo Peçanha, the defeated Presidential candidate, has endorsed their action; but the disaffected element is small, even in the Army, and the disturbance may open the way to needed and drastic retrenchment. Since her alliance with Uruguay and Argentina and the disappearance of the danger in the south from Germany, Brazil cannot be threatened by any foreign antagonist. The present strength of the army is 54,000; its chief function is to keep order in the State elections, which would be better done by the non-political gendarmerie. Its higher ranks are powerful socially, but the participation of the cadets has cut off the supply of young officers, and the mutinous members of the Military Club have merited dismissal from the service. President Bernardes, therefore, may be able to recommend reduction to a figure more in conformity with the national need.

Coal and Iron and Steel Output.—The production of coal at the mines of Great Britain for the week ended July 1st was 4,530,000 tons, as against 4,353,900 tons in the previous week, and a weekly average of 4,606,000 tons for the first half of the year. The statistics published by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show that pig-iron output in June was 369,200 tons, as against 407,900 tons in May, a monthly average of 217,600 tons in 1921, and of 855,000 tons in 1913. The steel production in June was 400,200 tons, as against 462,300 tons in May, a monthly average of 302,200 tons in 1921, and of 638,600 tons in 1913.

General Electric Company.—The year ended March 31st last has been "one of difficulties and disappointments" for the General Electric Company, and the recently extended works were not fully employed. The overseas branches have also suffered, and the company has encountered the universal problem of a fall in the value of stocks. A satisfactory feature of the year's trading is that there has been no reduction in the number of transactions, but they have been of smaller amounts. The results, which are said to be better than at one time anticipated, are compared below with those of the previous year:—

	1920-21.		1921-22.
	£		£
Net profit	796,149	....	566,582
Brought forward	175,668	....	348,094
	971,817	....	914,676
Debt interest	8,000	....	182,431
Depreciation	157,915	....	161,745
Pension fund	17,266	....	15,283
Preference dividend	229,344	....	232,594
Ordinary dividend	211,198	....	105,599
	(10 %)	....	(5 %)
Carried forward	348,094	....	217,024

In June, 1921, an issue of £3,500,000 of 7 per cent. mortgage debenture stock was made, and this accounts for the heavy increase in debenture interests. The depreciation allowance comprises £45,500 for land and buildings, £79,500 for plant and machinery, £29,300 for loose plant, tools, &c., and £7,400 for fixtures and installations, the last two items being written down to £1 each, which is the figure at which goodwill and patents stand. The ordinary dividend, which is provided from the amount brought forward, is reduced from 10 per cent., free of tax, to 5 per cent. The reserve fund stands at £707,000, stock in trade and work in progress has declined by £581,100 to

£2,195,800, largely as a result of "a considered policy of stock reduction, which has been carried out throughout the year." Last year's debenture issue enabled loans for £2,575,000 to be wiped off, and the 4 per cent. debenture stock for £200,000 no longer appears, all the holders presumably having accepted the offer to convert into 7 per cent. stock.

Transvaal Output in June.—A welcome improvement is noticeable in the June statistics of gold output and labour in the Transvaal issued by the Chamber of Mines. The June output at 675,697 ounces of fine gold compares with 629,786 ounces produced in May. In June last year the output was 678,490 ounces. The following table shows the production for a number of years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January..	787,467	782,634	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,693	..
February..	753,594	781,321	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	639,728
March ..	796,689	787,094	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	..
April	754,672	742,778	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	511,338
May	777,681	779,385	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	629,786
June	761,764	759,724	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	675,697
July	761,087	757,839	735,199	725,497	736,099	689,555	..
August ..	781,150	756,658	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	..
Septemb'r	771,587	738,231	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	..
October ..	792,339	751,290	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	..
November	783,066	722,839	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	..
December	774,462	722,419	641,245	650,191	632,215	681,847	..
Totals ..	9,296,618	9,018,084	8,418,292	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	2,456,550

NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED at the End of Last Eight Months by Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors.

	Sept., 1921.	Oct., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.
Gold mines....	171,912	175,331	176,410	177,836	124,169	138,277	155,425	170,464
Coal mines....	14,244	13,936	13,465	13,230	11,155	11,385	11,525	12,117
Diamond	1,219	1,223	1,217	1,224	1,204	1,232	1,219	1,211
Total	187,375	190,490	191,092	192,290	136,528	150,894	168,169	183,792

The figures of number of natives employed at the gold mines show a steady improvement.

An address will be delivered to members of the London Chamber of Commerce and others by Mr. Edward Birin (Consul-General for Latvia in London) on "The Prospects of British Trade with Latvia, with special reference to transit trade through Latvia," at the offices of the Chamber, on Tuesday, July 18, 1922, at 3 p.m.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—TRADE CONDITIONS—CROP PROSPECTS—EXPORTS IN MAY—RAILROAD EARNINGS—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 3.

FURTHER improvement in trade and industry generally took place last month, according to the Federal Reserve Board and other authoritative sources of information. The outstanding features of the economic development were the continued increases in the physical volume of production, a further advance in prices, and a decrease in unemployment. There was a noteworthy gain in production, not only in basic industries, but in highly finished lines of manufacture, the increase having been especially marked in iron and steel and in those industries which are large consumers of iron and steel products, such as automobile plants, foundries, and machine shops. Building activity continued practically unabated, the value of contracts having been about 50 per cent. greater than for the corresponding period of last year. Employment conditions generally showed a decided turn for the better. Most of the larger cities reported an increase. In certain lines an actual scarcity of labour now exists, as, for example, in the iron and steel and building trades. While there is still considerable unemployment, particularly in the coal and textile industries, where labour troubles prevail, figures furnished by the United States Employment Service and by various State Departments of labour at the end of June showed marked reductions in numbers out of

work. As in recent weeks, the best reports regarding current trade distribution are being received from the grain-growing regions of the West, where the generally favourable crop outlook has served to increase the disposition to buy more freely. Among the leading industries, record sales and output feature the automobile and cement trades, the latter industry having been greatly stimulated by the big road construction programme that is planned, estimated at some 40,000,000 square yards; other building materials continue active, although in primary lumber markets buying has slackened somewhat, with a slight easing of prices for woods used in house construction. In the steel trade, higher labour and fuel costs are given as reasons for recent advances in prices of finished products, such as wire rods, steel bars and tank plates. Railroads are still in the market for cars, and are buying rails and track material freely. In the market for copper metal heavy sales continue to be noted. With the exception of a material increase in demand for silk piece goods for delivery during the next few months—in strong contrast with the small hand-to-mouth buying for some time past—primary textile markets are quiet, but prices generally are very firmly held, with an advancing tendency in many directions owing to the high costs of raw cotton, wool, and silk. Labour troubles in this country have been augmented by the strike, which began July 1st, of some 400,000 railroad shopmen in protest against the wage reductions recently prescribed by the Railroad Labour Board, effective on that date, and applying to shopcrafts and other classes of railway employees. Whether or not maintenance of way men and other union workers will join the walk-out is at present uncertain; but thus far train service throughout the country has not been interrupted to any extent worth mentioning, and railway managers are emphatic in their declarations that they are fully prepared to cope with the situation, and they express confidence that the movement of traffic will not be seriously interfered with. One thing is certain: public sentiment is not in sympathy with the strikers, who are refusing to abide by the decisions of the Railroad Labour Board—a tribunal created by Congress to fix rules and wages for railway employees.

Latest returns from the Department of Commerce show in what directions, chiefly, our export trade decreased in May, and also reveal some interesting cross movements in the outflow of different products. Exports of merchandise for May aggregated only \$308,000,000, as compared with \$318,100,447 in April and \$329,709,579 in May of last year. Assuming that June exports equalled those of May, the exports for the fiscal year just ended promise to approximate \$3,745,000,000, as against \$6,516,510,033 in the preceding fiscal year. On the same basis of computation imports for the fiscal year will total about \$2,600,000,000, compared with \$3,654,459,346 in the previous year. There is thus indicated an excess of exports to the extent of \$1,145,000,000, which is less than half that of the preceding year, and only about one-quarter of that of the freak year 1918-19; it is somewhat larger, however, than that of 1914-15, and far heavier than the excess of exports reported for any fiscal period preceding the first year of the war.

Reports filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission show that 136 of the 201 first-class railroads of the United States had gross earnings for the month of May of \$332,770,500, representing a gain of six-tenths of 1 per cent. over last year, while their operating expenses of \$262,843,000 were 6½ per cent. less than in the same month of 1921. Their net operating income of \$46,967,700 compares with \$29,393,000 for the same number of carriers in May of last year. In order to earn a return at the rate of 6 per cent. annually on their tentative property valuation, complete reports from all railroads should show a net operating income of \$85,211,600; recent estimates place the total at \$65,000,000 approximately.

The Government succeeded in balancing its Budget for the fiscal year just ended, and will probably be able to show a small surplus. Final reports of Federal financial operations are not yet available, but, according to Under-Secretary of the Treasury Gilbert, expenditures for the past year will fall below \$3,900,000,000, or some \$500,000,000 less than was estimated at the beginning of the year. That result was accomplished through the un-

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President

JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000

Surplus \$25,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of business throughout the world bringing it in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE.
Graham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E.C. 2



remitting efforts of all Government Departments to keep expenditures down to the lowest possible limit consistent with proper administration. The gross public debt of the United States at the end of the fiscal year, as shown by the latest returns, amounted to \$22,950,000,000, approximately, representing a total reduction of more than \$3,600,000,000 from its peak on August 31, 1919. The reduction, Mr Gilbert explains, was brought about by the application of \$1,000,000,000 in the general fund, made possible by lessened expenditures and outstanding maturities; the application of some \$200,000,000 of repayments by foreign Governments; the receipt of funds from salvage and other assets remaining over from the war totalling about \$1,400,000,000; and by the application to debt retirement of about \$1,000,000,000 of surplus tax receipts during the fiscal years 1920, 1921 and 1922. As to the future, liquidation of the public debt, it is pointed out will have to be accomplished principally from surplus revenue receipts, and particularly through sinking fund and other accounts, since the Treasury balance has been reduced to the lowest possible figure consistent with the proper conduct of Government business. The success of the Treasury's plans for refunding the \$7,500,000,000 short-dated debt, consisting of Victory notes maturing next May, Treasury certificates of indebtedness and war savings certificates, seems assured. Since that refunding programme was started in April, 1921, considerable progress has been made. Victory notes now outstanding amount to about \$2,000,000,000, as against \$4,000,000,000 at that time; Treasury certificates aggregate \$1,830,000,000, against \$2,750,000,000; and the amount of war savings certificates has been reduced from \$750,000,000 to \$650,000,000. There are now outstanding approximately \$2,200,000,000 new obligations in the form of Treasury notes issued in connection with the refunding plan, but they will mature at various dates in 1924, 1925, and 1926. There is still outstanding, however, about \$4,500,000,000 of obligations, which will mature in less than a year; of that amount \$2,000,000,000

is in the form of Victory notes, and their refunding will present to the Treasury Department an important problem. For the fiscal year ending next June, present indications point to a Budget deficit estimated in some quarters as high as \$485,000,000; it is too early to make calculations for the ensuing year, however, especially since appropriations have not yet been passed by Congress.

FRANCE.—END OF SESSION — REPARATIONS — GERMAN — A MORATORIUM — PRICES — TAXATION RETURNS — BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 12.

THE Chamber and the Senate, by dint of sittings last Saturday that extended well into Sunday morning, both brought to a close at 12.50 a.m. sessions that began at the commencement of January, and adjourned until the middle of October. With the exception of the Army Bill, it cannot be claimed that any measures of first-class importance have been passed into law. A very large part of the time of both Houses, however, as might have been expected, has been devoted to matters connected with reparations and other features of French foreign policy, which still remain, as is inevitable, the principal subjects of public attention here. The outstanding effect of this has been that the Budget proposals for 1923, although laid before the Chamber some months ago, have not yet come up for discussion, and cannot now be dealt with before the autumn. Recent developments in connection with the Reparations problem and with the financial situation of Germany have rendered the prospects of a speedy disposal of the Budget in the autumn still more doubtful, and there is now the fear that, notwithstanding the commendable promptitude of the Finance Minister, M. de Lasteyrie, in drafting his Budget proposals, recourse will once more be necessary by the end of the year to the objectionable system of *douzièmes provisoires*, or monthly votes on account.

The formal demand of the German Government, which has been received by the Reparations Commission to-day, for a complete postponement of all payments that will become due under the provisions of the Peace Treaty during the next two years, cannot be said to have come as a surprise, so far as French opinion is concerned. There is—and has been, indeed, since even before the Treaty of Versailles was signed—a fixed belief in this country that Germany, although defeated in the field, will make every endeavour to achieve victory in peace, by avoiding the carrying out of her obligations to make reparation to the people whose economic and financial ruin she so nearly accomplished during the war. Whether she will succeed in this attempt now obviously depends very largely on the attitude that is adopted by Great Britain.

The French attitude in regard to Germany may now be described as an irritated but nevertheless patient marking of time. Germany, it is felt, in her effort to cheat her creditors, has set in motion forces that have now got beyond the control of both herself and the Allied Powers, and all that can be done is to await the inevitable catastrophe. Just what action will have to be taken to prevent France being also driven to disaster nobody now ventures to predict. It is significant that for some time past little has been said in the public Press as to the numerous methods that were formerly advocated for bringing effective pressure to bear upon Germany for the purpose of exacting payment. The spectre of the inter-Allied debts and the enigmatic attitude of Europe's Transatlantic creditor appears to have extinguished most of the hopes that were formerly entertained in this country of relief in the form of money, and increasing faith is now placed in the possibility of obtaining payment in German labour and materials.

There appears to be a strong probability, at the time of writing, that Germany's application for a moratorium will be granted, if only through force of circumstances, but it is obvious the matter will not end with this. The Reparations Commission, with whom the immediate response to Germany rests, will in all probability postpone any definite reply until it is in possession of the

report it is awaiting from the Allied Committee of Guarantees, which has been sitting in Berlin for some weeks past, for the purpose of investigating the exact financial situation and potential resources of the German Government. This committee, it is expected, will return from Berlin on Saturday, and its report, it is believed, will throw much light on the real facts of the German situation, and particularly as to the extent to which the Government of the Reich has deliberately contributed towards rendering it impossible for Germany to fulfil her engagements. Light will also be thrown on the capacity of Germany to bear the heavier taxation which the Reparations Commission has insisted shall be imposed, and on the legitimacy of the reckless expenditure on public works either already carried out or projected for the near future. With this information in hand, the Commission will be in a position to give a definite reply to the German request, and, if necessary, to carry matters further. It seems impossible, however, that the eventual outcome can be anything other than a new inter-Allied conference, in the near future, at which decisions must be taken to deal with the reparations question, the inter-Allied debts, and the proposed international loan as integral parts of one and the same whole.

The general index figure of wholesale prices in this country, as published by the *Statistique Générale de la France* for the month of June, indicates that during the four weeks the cost of living again showed a substantial increase. The corrected general index figures for 45 commodities, for the months of March, April, and May (taking the figure of 100 as a base for the period 1901-1910), were respectively 355.4, 362.6, and 366.2, whereas the provisional general index figure for June is returned as 375.7. The detailed comparative figures for the past two months are as follows:—

	May. (Corrected.)	June. (Provisional.)
General index figure (45 categories).....	366.2	375.7
Foodstuffs (20 categories).....	387.3	394.8
Vegetable foods (8 categories).....	371.8	381.1
Animal foods (8 categories).....	427.4	428.6
Sugar, coffee, cocoa, &c. (4 categories).....	338.3	354.4
Industrial materials 25 categories).....	349.3	360.5
Minerals and metals (7 categories).....	298.7	306.2
Textiles (6 categories).....	395.4	435.8
Sundries (12 categories).....	355.7	354.5

The index figure for retail prices of foodstuffs in Paris (13 categories), which was returned as 3,159 (or 194 per cent. increase on 1914) for March, 3,272 (or 204 per cent.) for April, and 3,413 (or 217 per cent.) for May, is given as 3,297 for June, or an increase of 207 per cent. on the prices that prevailed in 1914. Taking France as a whole, however, and by regions, the index figures for the 13 categories of foodstuffs show a general reduction, as will be seen from the following comparative table of regional index numbers for the first and second quarters of 1922:—

	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.
Whole of France.....	3,239	3,163
North of France.....	3,431	3,378
East of France.....	3,127	2,996
South-East of France.....	3,202	3,130
South of France.....	3,120	3,059
West of France.....	3,098	3,015
Alsace-Lorraine.....	3,272	3,134

The taxation returns for the month of June are now in, and show a net yield to the Treasury of 1,224,572,000f. This figure, as compared with that for June last year, shows an advance of 194,612,000f, or an increase of 19 per cent. It is, however, unsatisfactory in so far as that it falls below the Budget estimate by 85,356,070f, or 6 per cent., the reason being chiefly the falling off in Customs revenue (40,631,000f), and in the tax on business turnover (64,464,000f). The improvement last month has been well maintained. The returns for May showed a deficit as compared with the Budget estimates of 6 per cent., but in January the figure was 7, in February 19, in March 14, and in April 11. When the actual yield for the two months of May and June is compared, there is an increase for June of 46,969,000f.

Apart from a certain collapse in Russian nationals that had secured a certain speculative value, the Bourse, this week, has been well maintained, largely owing to the

strength of British sterling and American dollars, but the chief feature of interest has been the remarkable rise in the value of the pound and the dollar, that has been due largely to speculators who have shown uneasiness at the prospect of Germany refusing to fulfil her obligations. French Funds have been a trifle weaker, the Three per Cents. having dropped from 57.90 to 57.70, the 1917 Four per Cents. from 61.95 to 61.20, and the redeemable Five per Cents. from 90.10 to 89.65.

GERMANY.—POLITICAL CRISIS — FINANCES — EXCHANGE AND BOURSE — PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 11.

REPORTS from abroad and comparative quotations show that Germans, not foreigners, bore the mark. The home public, having for a week been frightened out of its wits by frightened Ministers and frightened agitators, rushed to turn its marks into something solid, and as solid wares were too abundantly bought up last October and November, the solid commodities sought were the dollar, pound, and other high currencies. The Reichsbank is reported to have sold 100,000,000 gold marks of foreign bills in a vain attempt to stay the rout. In business circles it caused surprise that the Cabinet, which knows well the disastrous effect of each mark depreciation, made no attempt to reassure the public, and that the Majority parties did not take the initiative. The Reichstag was busy on a Bill which provides penal servitude in certain conditions for the ugly but in no way dangerous offence of insulting the memory of dead persons, considering a Socialist proposal that the death penalty should be extended to offenders who innocently join assassination societies if the offenders, through their own negligence, do not know that assassination is the society's aim, and in general considering official plans for executions, penal servitude and unlimited fines. On the wisdom of these dreadful measures there is a fair agreement between the various Republican parties; but no agreement has been come to on the more reasonable plan to strengthen the Government; the Moderate Socialists refuse to work with the People's Party, and the Communists to-day proved their devotion to the Democratic Republic by publishing an appeal from Moscow for overthrow of Dr Wirth and substitution of a Communist minority dictatorship. Of this there is no more prospect than of a Monarchist revolt.

While it is unquestioned that the unnecessary official and public panic has dealt a new severe blow to the finances, there is a tendency also to exaggerate the severity of the blow. The Cabinet is treating the latest mark exchange decline as a new fact which at last really makes Reparations impossible; there is new talk here, as abroad, of State bankruptcy, sudden collapses, and so on; and, as Germans see, there is a new demand in certain foreign quarters for a radical reconsideration of Reparations, if not of the whole Versailles Treaty. The public memory is here, however, rather short. As regards home finances, the depreciation of the mark to any particular figure cannot produce a crisis, or bring any conditions which may be considered more immediately critical than are produced by any other other mark level; and as regards Reparations also it cannot be said that any particular mark exchange makes them impossible, if they were possible at the preceding bad exchange. Exactly the same crisis was gone through between June and November, 1921. In the latter month the mark at 300 to the dollar was taken as the worst conceivable depreciation from home or Reparations standpoint; the Cabinet, then hoping for a loan or a complete moratorium, proclaimed that it would no longer finance Reparations by mark-selling, and foreign experts generally agreed that something must be done. But after nothing was done that could really help, it was still found possible to balance the 1922 Budget, without Reparations; and when inflation, prices, wages, and other values had more or less adapted themselves to the 300-

French American Banking Corporation

67 William Street
NEW YORK CITY

Cable Address - FRENAMBANK

Capital, Surplus & Undivided Profits - \$2,845,000

We transact a general foreign and domestic banking business and solicit your inquiries.

mark dollar, Reparations were still being financed by mark-selling. For the last reason, a new mark fall must have come before the end of the summer if it had not been precipitated by the unexpected political crisis. To-day the foreign public is again in the mood of last November, convinced that things can go no further, and determined that remedies shall be found; but if last winter's history is repeated by no remedy being found, it will probably be found that a mark at 500 to the dollar also has no absolute significance. Certainly the Republic will not go bankrupt, except in the sense in which it has long been bankrupt, and it is by no means certain that Reparations will not be financed by further mark-selling. As long as Germany is a great producer, her marks, however depreciated, have buying-power for foreigners—it is a matter of indifference to foreigners whether they buy a dollar's worth of German goods with 300, 500, or 1,000 marks. If the Wirth Cabinet this time really means to default on Reparations should no relief be given, it is a pity that it did not execute its promise to default last winter. Had that been done, the crisis might have been over by now. The official view before Dr Rathenau's murder was, however, that the worst conceivable results of the mark-selling system were preferable to the threatened further occupation of the Republic's territory.

On home finances the mark fall will have a bad result. The Cabinet lately limited the yield of the supposed one milliard gold mark Compulsory loan to 60 milliards paper. At the latest exchange, the loan will yield only about half a milliard gold; and owing to the rise in values the loan will be a much smaller burden than was intended. Some taxes will increase immediately and automatically, and on these the State will not lose, but some will increase automatically and slowly, and of these the new mark depreciation will alleviate the burden. This also applies to income-tax already assessed but unpaid. On future income-tax the present progressive rates would impose an unbearable burden; and, having reduced the rates last winter, the Reichstag is reducing them again. The minimum 10 per cent. rate now imposed on the first taxable 50,000 marks will in future be imposed on the first taxable 100,000 marks, and the maximum rate, now imposed on income exceeding 2,000,000 marks, will be first reached on income exceeding 3,000,000 marks. Certain other minor changes are made. The actual tax, according to the new and former schedules, works out at:—

Taxable Income.	Tax Payable.	
	New.	Old.
50,000	5,000	5,000
100,000	10,000	15,500
500,000	119,750	160,500
1,000,000	324,750	385,500
10,000,000	5,574,750	5,710,580

As was pointed out from here when the income-tax was last reduced, the repeated changes in rates cause great confusion. For direct taxes generally the new Austrian system of "taxation-units," based on the currency's changing buying power, is more satisfactory.

The Reichsbank reports clearings of 191,413 millions in June, against 68,764 millions in June, 1921, and 943,612 millions, against 435,183 millions, in the first halves of 1922 and 1921. The bank's report for June 30th shows the greatest recorded increases in Treasury bill discounts and in circulation, the figures being 18,501 millions and 11,276 millions respectively, also a large increase among assets in holding of Kassenscheine, representing an additional demand for credit, which rose to 14,605 millions.

The following is the movement of discounts and note circulation:—

(In millions of marks.)		
	Discounts.	Notes.
June 30, 1914	1,213 ..	2,407
December 31, 1918	27,416 ..	22,188
December 31, 1920	60,634 ..	68,805
December 31, 1921	133,393 ..	113,639
March 31, 1922	148,683 ..	130,671
June 30, 1922	190,877 ..	169,212

The main cause of the inflation continues to be Reparations. Of 23.13 milliards yield from floating debt operations in April-June inclusive, 21.51 milliards went on execution of the Peace Treaty.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* monthly wholesale index, altered by inclusion of 16 finished industrial products, and now calculated on the basis of 100 for 1914, shows a continued price-rise in June:—

	Food.	Textiles and Leather.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Industrial Products.	All.
Mid. 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100
Jan., 1, 1920 ..	1,972	3,407	2,749	1,101	1,343	1,987
Jan., 1, 1921 ..	2,019	3,840	2,780	1,776	1,594	2,127
Jan., 1, 1922 ..	3,840	7,168	5,178	3,149	3,159	4,238
June 1, 1922 ..	6,967	11,891	10,141	6,413	5,859	7,841
July 1, 1922 ..	8,323	13,938	12,168	6,881	6,750	9,140

Stocks, again fully under control of the exchanges, last week rose rapidly; but to-day, with weakening exchanges, there was a sharp all-round decline. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for 15 dividend-payers shows 42,228 for July 7th, against 35,477 for June 30th, and 40,250 at the height of the November boom. All groups of industrial stocks, and practically all individual stocks, took part in the rise; and there was considerable foreign buying. The index for home loans rose during the week from 959 to 1,008, the highest point ever reached. Foreigners apparently did not all share in the panic; and there was active buying, reported largely English, of Federal Threes, which yesterday rose to 249, which is more than four times the price at the end of 1920.

ITALY.—RISE IN SAVING DEPOSITS—PUBLIC REVENUE—SECURITY INDEX NUMBER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, June 30.

THE collapse of the Banca Italiana di Sconto has led to a new increase in the deposits of the State postal savings banks. The following are the most significant figures (in millions of lire):—

June, 1914	2,138.4	September, 1921	7,960.6
" 1918	2,927.9	October, "	7,940.2
" 1919	4,232.9	November, "	7,948.2
" 1920	5,896.2	December, "	8,146.2
" 1921	7,869.4	January, 1922	8,230.9
July, 1921	7,932.0	February, "	8,290.9
August, "	7,946.5	March, "	8,349.1

The increase in the December, 1921, figure was wholly due to a sum of 206.3 million lire of yearly interest falling due. Apart from this exceptional variation, the stagnation of deposits in the second half of 1921 compares strikingly with the increase in the first three months of 1922. The public, uneasy about the private banks, are again bringing their savings to the public postal savings banks.

The latest accounts of the principal revenue items are not so satisfactory as the previous ones:—

(In Millions of Lire.)		
	1920-21.	1921-22. (Inc. or Dec.)
Taxes on incomes	3,146.9 ..	3,984.9 .. + 837.9
Stamp	1,071.4 ..	1,260.9 .. + 189.6
Registration and succession duties ..	716.5 ..	863.9 .. + 147.4
Customs and Excise	1,561.5 ..	1,846.6 .. + 285.1
Monopolies	2,527.0 ..	2,729.7 .. + 202.7
Sale monopolies	466.7 ..	382.1 .. — 84.6
Lottery	133.3 ..	168.9 .. + 35.6
	9,623.3 ..	11,237.2 .. + 1,613.9

These results are not so satisfactory as they appear on the face of it:—(1) It is uncertain how much the month of June will yield; but it seems unlikely that the sum total of principal revenue items for the fiscal year 1921-22, which ends to-day, will exceed 13 billion lire. "Minor" items of revenue may perhaps bring it up to 17-18 billion lire; but even that leaves us far below the expenditure total. The latest hints from the Treasury point to a deficit of 6.7 billion lire for the fiscal year just ending. (2) A beginning of slackening is noticeable in various items. For instance, in the taxes on incomes group the war profit tax in the 11 months has yielded 1,565 million lire, against 1,623 millions in the preceding year; and this item is bound to go rapidly to zero. How this source of revenue is to be replaced is uncertain. The new tax on income will be slow to give abundant fruits. In the meantime, the extraordinary capital levy will tell the position, especially if taxpayers can be induced to pay the whole of tax in a lump sum instead of spreading it over 10 or 20 years.

Another doubtful item is the increase of 189.6 million lire in the yield of the stamp tax. The good result is for the greater part due to 134.5 million lire of increase in the yield of the stamp tax on luxury sales. This tax is 12 per cent. on the sale of luxury goods to customers and of 6.30 per cent. on the sales between merchants and merchants. Like the sale tax in France, this tax has given somewhat disappointing results. The estimated yield was 350 million lire for the whole fiscal year; and the actual yield for the first 11 months was only 188.3 millions. Other items in this group are rather disconcerting. Apart from an increase of 52.2 million lire in the tax for the benefit of wounded and mutilated men and their families, which is simply an additional tax on all stamps, we see decreases in the yield of the stamps on contracts (— 22.6 million lire), on motor-cars (— 18.6), on precious stones (— 9.3), &c. The greatest increase in the old stamp taxes is ominous: the yield of the tax on the paper circulation of issue banks has gone up from 228.9 to 273.1 million lire. As it is desirable that the paper issues should be checked, this item should be bound to decrease.

Professor Bachì has published the usual index number of share prices for May, the basis of 100 representing the price for December, 1918 (see *Economist*, May 13th, page 906):—

	December, 1921.	March, 1922.	May, 1922.
Banks	94.19 ..	90.47 ..	92.14
Railways	50.84 ..	50.09 ..	53.80
Land transport	58.45 ..	61.46 ..	66.13
Navigation	53.97 ..	47.56 ..	52.07
Cotton	125.08 ..	115.75 ..	128.83
Jute	102.15 ..	108.27 ..	104.04
Wool	118.41 ..	118.35 ..	123.41
Hemp and flax	155.41 ..	124.64 ..	144.06
Silk	153.85 ..	128.62 ..	161.60
Mines	53.23 ..	50.14 ..	48.61
Iron and steel	17.77 ..	13.95 ..	15.90
Engineering	32.81 ..	18.12 ..	17.73
Motor cars	56.29 ..	47.55 ..	56.71
Electricity	67.95 ..	68.36 ..	69.13
Chemicals	58.98 ..	54.66 ..	61.40
Sugar	101.54 ..	96.92 ..	103.57
Food	107.33 ..	98.80 ..	105.02
Water supply	90.35 ..	87.06 ..	86.21
Building and land	100.64 ..	93.23 ..	90.48
Miscellaneous	112.26 ..	103.62 ..	110.68
General index	63.84 ..	56.70 ..	59.45

In March the quotations reached low-water mark. The subsequent rise is as yet not general, nor very sure of permanency. The group of textiles shows up most prominently, and it can be said that there the crisis is past. Almost all mills are working at full time. Iron and steel engineering are still at their worst. Not only are the prices of shares seriously depressed, but a national strike has been in progress for about a week in this industry. We have no trace in Italy of the phenomenon known in Germany as the catastrophe-boom. After December, 1918, the number of lire necessary to buy a pound sterling has gone up from 30 to 80-100, but the average index number of share prices has gone down from 100 to 59.45. It is true that in December, 1918, foreign exchanges were pegged, but, at the utmost, this fact signifies that lira has not depreciated in the meantime. This should have kept up values at their former level. The decrease is a sign of the after-war liquidation process which is going on.

DENMARK.—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—BANK FIGURES—PRICES—EXHIBITIONS—GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, July 3.

DANISH business conditions seem to be a shade better. Production is progressing satisfactorily in certain branches of industry, though the development is still unreliable. The improvement is perhaps partly seasonal, for as a general rule there is more life and enterprise in the early part of the summer. There has been a decrease of unemployment. The last figure given was about 40,000, and the question now is whether the decrease implies an actual improvement of conditions.

At the end of April the total balance of the banks' accounts was Kr. 5,288,000,000. At the end of May this figure had decreased to Kr. 5,217,000,000—i.e., by Kr. 71,000,000, of which, however, Kr. 42,000,000 represents the decrease as far as Nationalbanken is concerned. It is pointed out by the Statistical Department, however, that the increase of the item "current account" on the asset side, amounting to Kr. 14,000,000, is presumably due to increased business activity after the settlement of the lock-out. Further, a decrease has taken place in the holdings of home bills, especially as far as Nationalbanken is concerned, their holding of home bills having decreased during the month by Kr. 20,000,000—i.e., from Kr. 204,000,000 to Kr. 184,000,000. Unfortunately, it does not appear from the monthly balance-sheet how large a proportion is bank bills and how large a part represents private bills. Information on this point would have been a very valuable guide by which to judge the change which has taken place. For although an increase of the bank's holdings of bills may undoubtedly indicate increased business activity, it may also be due to uncertainty about the future and an increased demand by sellers of goods for bills in cover, as well as disinclination of the banks to give loans in another form. In consideration of the said movements, especially of the current account item on the asset side, the decrease in home bills may presumably be considered an indication of increased business activity; this should also be the reason for the decrease in the deposit items on the liability side, which as far as Nationalbanken is concerned is very considerable, and is presumably due to the withdrawal of deposits from the bank for productive and commercial purposes.

It is, however, clearly shown by reports from these organisations and from other sources how serious have been the effects of the trade depression. At the recent annual meeting of the Textile Manufacturers' Association, which comprises 133 factories, or practically the entire textile industry of the country, it was stated that the sum total of wages paid by the members of the association last year figured out at well over 17 million kroner, compared with roughly 31 million kroner in 1920. This collapse is with roughly 31 million kroner in 1920. This collapse is mainly due to the disastrous depression experienced, especially by the textile industry. The depression was so severe that the average amount of employment barely reached 60 per cent. of last year's total. The full strength employed by the members of the association totals some 12,000 hands, in addition to some 1,300 home workers, but on resuming work at the conclusion of the lock-out this number had dwindled to 8,000. Even if there has been a slight improvement in sales of late, and consequently a corresponding rise in employment, in the face of the abnormal rates of exchange and resultant serious competition from abroad, nothing definite can yet be said as to the probability of any lasting improvement in textiles.

The price index number of the "Finanstidende" is 2 points higher for May—viz., 179. The rise, which is principally in the foodstuff group, is mostly due to increased prices of meat, pork, potatoes, wool, and certain metals, while the price of butter and a few other articles have been subject to a decline, which, however, is not very heavy. The changes since the beginning of 1922, when the figure was 178, have been rather insignificant, and the paper states that, generally speaking, the decline in the wholesale prices may now be considered to be definitely at an end for the present as far as this country is concerned.

Concerning the retail prices some official information

is available. By means of reports received from the Municipal Councils of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg, as well as from all the local provincial Town Councils, and from about one hundred Parish Councils, sufficient information has now been collected to be able to form some idea of the average retail price level. In a similar investigation undertaken in January the prices for the majority of goods showed a slight decrease on those of October, 1921. This decrease continued during April, but was insignificant as far as the separate items are concerned. In fact, some goods even showed an increase on the January price-level.

During the past month the Danish Town Association contracted an English loan of £2,000,000 through Den Danske Landmandsbank and Hambros Bank, Limited, London. This loan bears interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and was contracted at such a price that the actual interest is 6 per cent., which conditions are regarded as favourable.

A new company domiciled in Copenhagen has recently been established under the style of British Danish Samples, and in co-operation with the Federation of British Industries, and its subsidiary company, British Samples, the new company will superintend the great British Samples Exhibition in this city. The board of directors of the new company will be principally Danish. It is expected that the Samples Exhibition, which will also include Danish exhibitors, will open in the coming autumn, and negotiations for suitable premises are now progressing. Just now the Danish goods for the World Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro are being dispatched. The day before yesterday a large Dutch Exhibition was opened in Copenhagen. This exhibition is of cultural and trade interest, and comprises, for instance, Colonial produce from the Dutch Indies, Dutch industrial produce, and Dutch art. It is pointed out that Dutch exporters desire an extension of the direct export from the Colonies to Denmark, and the remainder to Scandinavia, instead of employing the foreign intermediate ports of London and Hamburg, as in the past.

The well-known Danish company, the Great Northern Telegraph Company, has published its report for 1921. In this report it is stated that in spite of recent "bad times," the general result has been good. Even if the net profits, Kr.7,900,000, are roughly 32 per cent. less than those of last year, and even if the telegraphic intercourse of the world shows little sign of improvement—rather the reverse—the directorate consider themselves fully justified in declaring a dividend of 22 per cent. for the shareholders. This is only 2 per cent. less than that of the preceding year. As the result of a series of protracted negotiations the Great Northern Telegraph Company have been enabled to resume to a large extent their Russo-Asiatic service, which is an important link in the peace organisation of the company. Negotiations have been commenced with England and Sweden for a prolongation of the concessions granted by these countries, but no conclusion has been arrived at. In co-operation with the Eastern Extension Australia and China Telegraph Company, the company have also commenced discussion with the Chinese Government concerning the prolongation of the concessions granted to the two companies, but these negotiations have been delayed by the fact that the Washington Conference had included in their programme the settlement of the Chinese telegraph service question.

CHINA.—THE SHANGHAI PIECE GOODS MARKET—TRADE METHODS—CHINA AS A MARKET FOR BRITISH CAPITAL—TARIFF REVISION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SHANGHAI, June 3.

THE increased interest with which London newspapers appear to be following developments in China is well-comed in Shanghai. British merchants here, however, are quick to detect inaccuracies, and a good deal that is inaccurate has lately been published, more particularly in the correspondence columns of one or two papers, where the most surprising statements have been made,

of my visit to our properties in India and Burma—dealt so very fully with the extent and value of our assets and the nature and scope of our activities generally, that it is unnecessary that I should to-day make more than a general reference to them.

Our drilling and producing operations in Burma have secured the full requirements of our refineries, and in several directions in our older fields the drill has proved considerable extensions of our reserves. But every day in these older fields the necessity for deeper and consequently more expensive drilling is forced upon us, and while generally in our Burma properties we are not faced with the great and costly depths to which drilling in the competitive area of the Twingone and Beme Reserves has to be resorted, we are enormously the prepondering producer in these reserves, and must and intend seeing that we continue to get our full share of the oil there.

NECESSITY FOR TESTING OUTSIDE AREAS.

From our outside fields in Burma I regret that there is still no reward for the heavy sums of money and great expenditure of time and care made on them. But we test only after the most careful geological examination and recommendation, and we cannot possibly risk the consequences of neglecting to put our geologists' reasonable and reasoned views to the test of the drill. If we stand aside, and whether or not, ladies and gentlemen, the lure of oil is so great nowadays that others are ready to at once take our place, and it is merely common prudence in such a business as ours, and a form of insurance of the capital we have put into it, that we should continue, so far as our resources reasonably permit and circumstances require, to take up and test every area considered by our geological advisers as offering favourable conditions for the collection and concentration of oil on a commercial basis. If we sat down to develop merely what we have, and have proved, it might be that for a time we could distribute larger dividends to you, but such a policy would exhaust your assets without any effort at their replacement, and beyond this might even endanger those assets through the discovery by others in India of still unknown productive areas, thereby undermining the predominant position occupied by your company as a marketer as well as a producer in India. Even as it is, we cannot hope to avoid misses or to miss hits. These, however, are excusable deficiencies in every human organisation; there would be no sort of excuse for those responsible for the management of your business if their policy ever became a passive one confined to working proved ground instead of—as it has always been—a policy which, while fully developing what it has, takes every reasonable step and risk to add to your oil reserves—the very life blood of your business. We can only hope that our pioneer and continuous efforts, and our great expenditure in pursuance of this policy, will yet bring the success they at least deserve although they cannot command.

LOWER ASSAM AND THE PUNJAB.

Our operations in Lower Assam have not materially added to the potentialities in oil of the small field we have at Badarpur, and the oil continues to be of little more than fuel-oil value. While we have never anticipated anything big here, we are still hopeful of a moderate field capable of at least paying its way. Water is a great trouble and expense in its development and operation, however, and until we can get down to and test the possibilities of deeper horizons, we cannot speak with any marked confidence either as to life or value.

Elsewhere in Lower Assam, and also in the Punjab, we have continued and added to the test wells being drilled by us. At one point we have reached without result the depth beyond which geological advice held out no hope, and the test and this particular area have been abandoned. The other test wells are still drilling—with varying difficulties constantly being met and overcome—and further tests are on the point of being started up. I need scarcely tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that operations of these kinds are being carried on in remote, difficult, uncongenial, and even unhealthy places, where there are neither reasonable comforts nor even in some cases the most modest amenities of life. Communication is difficult, and slow and expensive, and drilling is frequently unavoidably interrupted. Even the best informed of us on occasions sometimes forget these factors in our impatience for results, but we must never forget the great loyalty, endurance, and perseverance of our staff working day in and day out in such uncomfortable and discouraging conditions. Britons, Americans, Burmese, and Indians all deserve our appreciation and thanks.

Our investment in the Assam Oil Company, Limited, has brought us the commercial and technical management of that company, and the old staff, fortified by our wider experience in every branch of their business, and assisted by our fields and refining technicians, are already improving the general position of the company's properties and business in Assam. As chairman of the company I hope to preside at the annual meeting, which will be held early next month, and I shall not to-day anticipate in any

way what I shall then say as to the present position and future possibilities of the company.

BURMA OIL FIELDS ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME.

Our Burma Oil Fields Electrification Scheme commenced to turn turbines on June 29th. Power should thus be available within another month, and application to the drilling and pumping wells of ourselves and the co-operating companies will thereafter be rapidly made and in due course become general. When the scheme is completed and in full operation we should be able to entirely cut out the consumption of crude oil as fuel in the Yenangyoung field and thereby effect a very important saving in that direction alone, and at the same time find a remunerative outlet for our natural gas production—after compression—as fuel for the power station. In this act of compressing the natural gas we shall produce natural gas gasoline, which will be mixed with our crude oil and conveyed by the pipe-line to Rangoon, where in due course in the process of distillation it will be recovered in the form of petrol.

During the year our main pipe-line—of increased capacity consequent on the additional two pumping stations to which I referred last year—performed steadily and satisfactory service. £95,095 6s 1d, the cost of relaying during the year a considerable portion of the line in the districts where the alkaline nature of the soil makes corrosion specially severe, has been, you will see, charged to depreciation account. In this connection I may mention that the whole main pipe-line is now in course of being coated with a special bitumastic solution which will protect it much more adequately against corrosion, and thereby greatly lengthen the life of the line.

THE REFINERIES.

Operations at our refineries continued throughout the year uninterruptedly and with satisfactory results in yields and qualities of products on lower fuel consumption, and the Allan Atmospheric—a fractionating system developed by our works manager, after whom it is called—have given excellent results in increasing the yield of the lighter and more valuable products of our crude, at the expense of the volume of the less remunerative.

At the refineries, as in the fields, our officials and staff generally have done excellent service, carrying on their day-to-day duties simultaneously with the preparation and development of new capital works. In this connection the works manager and his staff are now progressing with our scheme of refinery concentration and reconstruction. As during the whole of these operations it is our intention to steadily maintain our present throughput, although reconstructing the refinery on the site of the present works at Syriam, and utilising a very large quantity of the present plant, it will be evident to you that these operations will be spread over a considerable period. One undoubted advantage of this, however, will be that as each new unit comes into operation valuable information is certain to be gained from the actual working of the new plant which will undoubtedly prove of great advantage in the designing and erection of the further units.

Our tanker fleet has run steadily and without serious accident throughout the year. Unfortunately, almost on the point of completion, delivery of our new 10,000 tanker, the s.s. "Badarpur"—which was launched in the autumn—was delayed fully three months by the trouble in the engineering trade, and she is only running her trial trip to-morrow, after which she will go at once into commission. She will undoubtedly be a most valuable addition to our fleet.

BULK PETROL IN BOMBAY AREA.

I have in previous years touched on our efforts and the difficulties met by us in attempting to provide facilities for the importation of petrol in bulk into the Bombay area, and it is a relief to us that these have now been overcome, and that the first bulk petrol cargo was discharged safely and satisfactorily at Bombay in May last. As a result of this we have been able to make a considerable reduction on the price of our petrol in the Bombay sphere.

The Tinplate Company of India, Limited, in which we are very largely interested, has made good progress with its works, and the manufacture of tinplates in India is expected to commence on a preliminary scale towards the latter part of the year. It is hoped that this new enterprise, created by the Tatas and ourselves, will prove in time to be a valuable factor in the industrial development of India, which no company more than ourselves should do everything reasonably possible to foster and encourage.

During the year, despite greatly increased political unrest throughout India—happily now much less active—accompanied by labour troubles in many parts and industries of the country, the relations between us and our Indian and Burmese labour were on the whole quite satisfactory, and we continue to do everything possible and reasonable for the comfort, health, and happiness of our large body of employees. As I have already indicated, we

have again been well served in every branch of our business by a capable, loyal, and enthusiastic body of administrators and technicians, and I would ask you to be permitted to convey to all of them your and my appreciation of work so well done.

KEROSENE PRICES AND NEW TAXES.

The necessity for further revenue has caused the Indian Government to resort to increased taxation in their current Revenue Act—mainly in the direction of greatly increased import duties on manufactured and semi-manufactured articles, many of which are essential to the conduct of our business. These must add at least relatively to our producing costs, and I would be failing in my duty did I not make it quite clear to all concerned that there must be a point at which these increased burdens on the one side may make it economically and commercially difficult—if not impossible—on the other, to maintain our maximum price policy for Kerosene in India, which still remains in force. Another feature of new taxation has—as I have already mentioned—been the imposition of an Excise duty on indigenous Kerosene. It is true that this has been accompanied by an equivalent increase in the import duty on foreign Kerosene, and to-day both duties have been passed on to the consumer. One must not forget, however, that circumstances may at any time arise with regard to supplies of and markets for foreign Kerosenes which may lead to the Indian dumping ground for surplus foreign production irrespective of import duties, and I can say with confidence that however we ourselves might be able to stand up against such competition while saddled with this Excise duty on Kerosene, there are other small indigenous producers in India to whom it would sound the death knell, and Government and the indigenous industry generally will require to watch this position closely.

INTERESTS IN TRINIDAD.

Our interests in Trinidad, through the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, have unfortunately not even yet developed into a condition in which production on a satisfactory scale and of reasonable stability has been forthcoming, but geological opinion continues not unfavourable to eventual success in both these directions, and certainly, if expert and thoroughly qualified technical control can secure these results, we have every right yet to expect them.

Our friends, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, continue their wonderful expansion, both in production and in refining and marketing, but I say no more than this, since this is a field which my friend, their worthy chairman, Sir Charles Greenway, has made peculiarly his own, and which he deals with exhaustively every year at the company's annual meeting. In this connection it has been our custom for a number of years to post to every one of our shareholders a copy of Sir Charles's speech, but in view of the wide publicity now given to that speech in the Press, and of the very heavy expense involved in posting a copy of it to our over 25,000 shareholders, we have decided to discontinue the practice—a decision in which you will, I am sure, under the circumstances, quite concur.

Towards the end of last year Mr John Gillespie, head of our engineering and stores department on this side, took a trip to India and Burma, in the course of which he visited all our principal installations in India, including Chittagong; the tinplate works in course of erection at Jamshedpur; the Assam Oil Company's properties; the Badarpur Field; and spent three weeks at our fields in Burma and a month at our refineries at Syriam, and there is no doubt the company should derive most beneficial results in many directions from Mr. Gillespie's extended tour.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

As regards prospects for the current year, I am glad to be able to tell you that in the meantime these are, taken all over, favourable. While there has been a further weakening in prices of wax and candles—the market conditions for which are still somewhat obscure—and a drop in the price of lubricating oils and jute batching oil in India, we have, as from April last, contracted to sell on a greatly improved basis our production of petrol in excess of what our own organisation can dispose of. We have also some of what our own organisation can dispose of, and the benefits we what augmented our throughput of crude oil, and the benefits we what receive in these two directions will be a considerable set off against any lower prices ruling for the products mentioned. Exchange is, of course, still a very uncertain factor, but unless there is a severe drop in it or some unfavourable developments at present unforeseen arise in some other directions, the results for the current year should, I anticipate, be very similar to those to which I have just had the pleasure of referring.

The Chairman, concluding, said: "I now beg to propose that the report of the directors and audited statement of accounts, including the balance-sheet and profit and loss account to December 31, 1921, presented to the meeting, be received, approved, and adopted," and I shall call upon Sir Campbell K. Finlay to second the motion. After the motion has been seconded an opportunity

will be given to the shareholders to ask any questions they may care to.

Sir Campbell K. Finlay: I beg to second the motion.

The Chairman: Are there any questions, ladies and gentlemen?

The Chairman (after a pause): There being no questions, I now beg formally to put to the meeting the resolution which I have just proposed.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I have now pleasure in moving: "That the dividend on the ordinary shares recommended by the directors of 4 per cent. per share, free of tax, making, with the interim dividend paid in November last, 30 per cent. for the year, be adopted, and that the same be hereby authorised to be paid on July 21st, and that the balance of £359,583 14s 7d, subject to corporation profits tax, estimated at £130,000, be carried forward," and I would ask Mr Jas. A. Macarthur to second the motion.

Mr Jas. A. Macarthur: I beg to second the motion.

The Chairman: Well, I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, you are all unanimous in this.

The Chairman: The next business is the re-election of directors, and I have very great pleasure in moving that Sir Campbell K. Finlay be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr Thos. S. Findlay: I beg to second the re-election of Sir Campbell Finlay.

The Chairman: I now beg to move that Mr D. W. T. Cargill be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr Thos. Gibson: I beg to second the re-election of Mr. Cargill.

The Chairman: I beg to move that Mr Leonard Gow be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr Robt. Clark: I have much pleasure in seconding the re-election of Mr L. Gow.

The motions were adopted unanimously.

Colonel R. D. McEwan: I beg to propose the reappointment of Mr Jas Herbert Wilson, C.A., as auditor for the current year at a remuneration of 500 guineas.

Mr W. J. Hill: I beg to second the appointment of Mr J. H. Wilson, C.A., as auditor.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman: That, ladies and gentlemen, is all the business, and I thank you for your attendance here to-day.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN.

Mr T. F. Donald: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think that before we leave this hall it is only right and proper that we should award a vote of thanks to our chairman. The Burmah Oil Company is one of the most successful undertakings that has ever been formed or carried on business in Glasgow, and I think I am not guilty of any exaggeration when I say that a very great measure of that success is due to the fact that we have had, and, I am happy to say, that we still have, as chairman Sir John Cargill. We have to-day had the privilege of listening to one of those lucid and informing statements upon the position and prospects of the company which he is good enough to deliver every year, and I think we must agree that what he has said, though not, perhaps, without a word of warning here and there, is, on the whole, eminently satisfactory. Sir John, like every eminent man, is no doubt exposed at times to criticism, but I am not aware that he has ever been accused of being unduly optimistic, and I think, coupling that fact with what he has said, we may look forward with confidence to continued prosperity. Of course, in such undertakings there must be fluctuations, and I will not undertake to forecast the future; but one thing is certain. So long as the conduct of affairs is in the hands of our present chairman and board, we may be sure that the affairs of the company will be administered with the same sound finance, judicious foresight, and such business abilities that have always characterised the management of the Burmah Oil Company. I will ask you again to give a special vote of thanks to Sir John for his conduct in the chair, and also a very hearty vote of thanks to himself and his colleagues for the admirable way in which they continue to manage the affairs of the company.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman: Mr Donald, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I feel that it will be rather difficult for me suitably to acknowledge what Mr Donald has so very kindly said, and also the very hearty way in which you have seconded, without seeming to exaggerate; and exaggeration, I think, always tends to make one feel that one is not just quite sincere. I do assure you, though, that I appreciate most highly the very kind and very flattering remarks that Mr Donald has been good enough to make. There are few chairmen of any company that have had the good fortune that I have had during the last 18 years to preside every year over meetings where I was able to tell my shareholders of the continued wonderful prosperity and progress of the company. There is one thing I am absolutely confident of, and that is that there is no other chairman of any company who has received such whole-hearted, such consistent, and such loyal support from every one in the

company, from the highest to the lowest, and to that I attribute far more than anything I may have done myself the great and continued success of the Burmah Oil Company. The Burmah Oil Company is founded on sand, and carried on on sand—I mean oil-sand—but, at the same time, below that sand there is the foundation of rock, on which my predecessors in the early days built up the company in the shrewd, the careful, and the honest manner in which they did. My endeavour has been to carry out the precepts that I was taught by my predecessors, and in the edifice which you see to-day—which I say is founded on rock, but lives upon sand—I feel that you have an edifice which will stand against any reasonable competition, or anything that I can foresee, short of a collapse in the whole industry. I thank you most heartily for the very kind way you have received me to-day, and for the very hearty vote of thanks you have given me.

The proceedings then terminated.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

PROSPECTS OF TRADE REVIVAL.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman said that the paragraph in the report which dealt with the conditions under which the bank had had to work all through 1921 told the whole story. The world had been passing through what was probably the most severe commercial and industrial crisis which had ever oppressed it. That the British Empire had escaped with no greater financial crisis than it had experienced was at least very largely due to the soundness of our banking system. The banks had tried to keep things going, and they had succeeded. This bank had played its part in that effort, but it had not done so without losses, and, of course, when trade was so acutely depressed no bank could make the same profit as in normal times. It had always been the practice of the directors of this bank to make scrupulous provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and this year they had done the same, and had taken £225,000 out of the published reserves, which, after that had been done, would stand at £400,000. In addition, they proposed to

transfer £50,000 from profits to a contingency fund, and they were satisfied, after careful examination, that all realised and anticipated bad debts had been amply provided for. He hoped that that policy would commend itself to the shareholders, and that they would also approve of the declaration, under the conditions of the time, of the reduced dividend for the year of 6 per cent. He could not tell them that the depression of trade had passed away. The utmost which could be said was that things were moving very slowly, but that such movement as there was was in the right direction.

THE CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO WEST AFRICA.

Having dealt with the accounts, the Chairman proceeded to say that since he last had the honour of addressing the shareholders he had visited every branch of the bank in Nigeria and every branch but one on the Gold Coast. He was absent from home for four months, and did not confine himself to visits to those places only where the bank had branches. He was anxious to make the personal acquaintance of the members of the staff of the bank. But he was also anxious to see something for himself of that great country which was called Nigeria and of the ancient colony of the Gold Coast. In Nigeria and along its coast he travelled over 4,000 miles, and on the Gold Coast he got as far north as Coomassie. He was proud to report that the bank was served by an efficient and loyal staff, and that the large amount of money spent in recent years on bank buildings and quarters for the staff had been well spent. There were still some new buildings to be erected and some improvements to be made in existing buildings, but nothing more than could be properly undertaken from year to year when the conditions of business began to improve. He would not like to close his remarks without mentioning the definite impression left in his mind of the great future prospects of business on the West Coast of Africa owing to the natural resources of the country, and in certain places to the comparative density and trading characteristics of the population. At the present moment both Government and individuals were passing through a period of stress calling for rigid economy in all respects. He was convinced that no greater service could be done to trade than at the earliest possible moment some reduction of the duties which at present were hampering alike exports and imports.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE HALF-YEAR.

INDUSTRIAL POSITION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Bank of New South Wales was held at the Chief Banking House, Sydney, on Tuesday, May 30, 1922.

The Chairman, Mr Thomas Buckland, president of the bank, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Gentlemen,—I desire first of all to refer to the retirement of the Hon. Sir Charles K. Mackellar, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., from the position of president. Sir Charles has presided at the meetings of the bank for some 20 years, and it was with feelings of the greatest regret we accepted his resignation, but I am pleased to say he will continue to give us the benefit of his experience and knowledge by remaining a member of the board.

BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

Before moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet I will briefly review the figures of the latter so that you may as far as possible understand their incidence.

Note circulation in New Zealand is £130,000 less than at this time last year, which we attribute largely to the reduction there brought about by the curtailment of importations into the Dominion, which for some time after the termination of the war were excessive.

Deposits are £930,000 lower than last year. We pointed out then that the increase was of a temporary nature only and the special items concerned have since disappeared, and our figures are now normal.

Bills payable and other liabilities have decreased £2,760,000. As you may remember, it was necessary last year to use every means to conserve our London funds (which were depleted by excessive importations throughout Australasia), without unduly embarrassing our customers in their necessary requirements for London money. Hence telegraphic remittances gave place to long usance drafts, and acceptances under credits were substituted for negotiations by London. Normal conditions now obtain, and these drafts and acceptances have run off.

THE HALF-YEAR'S PROFIT.

Profit for the half-year is £45,000 less than the exceptional profit in March last year, but £10,000 more than last half-year.

Capital and reserve fund are £185,000 more than last year, and now total £8,500,000. The capital itself stands at £5,000,000, and we are inviting you at a special meeting, to be held immediately after this meeting terminates, to pass resolutions for a further increase of the capital to £6,000,000 by the creation of 50,000 new shares at par, which after due consideration your board considers desirable and in the best interests of the business of this institution.

ASSETS.

On the assets side the first line amounts to £30,798,000, which is £1,255,000 less than at this time last year. This harmonises with the reduction in deposits and the London payments of bills payable to our and acceptances. The proportion of our first line of assets to our liabilities to the public is slightly more than 10s in the £, which is about the average we have maintained for some years past.

Wheat advances have increased £1,670,000. In conjunction with the other Australian banks we have once again financed the various wheat pools in the States under Government supervision, although we would much prefer that wheat, like wool and other produce, be dealt with more on the lines obtaining in pre-war days.

War Loan advances have decreased £846,000 by payments by customers of amounts borrowed to enable them to subscribe to the "peace loans" issued by the Commonwealth.

Bills discounted and advances to customers have decreased £3,240,000. Nearly £1,000,000 of this is accounted for by reduced purchases of goods from abroad, and the balance by proceeds of wool and wheat. We consider that stocks of merchandise held are now normal, and that a healthier tone prevails among the mercantile community than this time last year.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

You will notice in these comparisons that several of the items show a slight shrinkage from this time last year, which I regard as the transition from the abnormal war influences and their immediate aftermath to the more normal conditions which obtained before the war, and not in any way to reflect on the general progress of our business, which continues to expand in the most satisfactory manner. In parts of Queensland some of our connection is more or less stagnant, through the glut in the beef market in London and the consequent inability of graziers to realise on cattle at payable prices. Although we cannot at the moment forecast any immediate improvement, it would be opposed to all precedent if a change were not forthcoming before long, and we can afford to wait as our business and prospects in all other parts of Australasia are very good.

POLITICAL SITUATION—GOVERNMENT BORROWINGS.

I shall touch upon politics only in the briefest manner, but the great change which has occurred in the Government of New South Wales since our last half-yearly meeting can hardly be altogether overlooked. This institution, which I have the honour to represent, has been so closely interwoven with and, if I may say so, so materially instrumental in the development of this great continent, extending over a period of upwards of 100 years, that I and those associated with me in its management naturally view with the greatest interest and concern the general trend of events. During the war period and for some time afterwards the policies of the different Governments in borrowing money and distributing it in a very generous, if not reckless, manner created a fictitious, a very false and erroneous prosperity, which was most harmful in many ways, particularly in the formation of ideas in the public mind, which very largely came to regard this false prosperity as normal, as the natural order of things, and it is now most difficult for people to regulate their lives in conformity with the change from the abnormal to the normal. But, gentlemen, such change must take place. However unpleasant, it is inevitable, unless, like a badly navigated ship, we continue on the wrong tack so long that rocks and destruction cannot be escaped.

REASON FOR LANGUISHING INDUSTRIES.

That our industries are languishing and unemployment abounds are two facts too evident to ignore, and the reason is just as obvious as the facts are. Quite a short time ago the Broken Hill Proprietary Company started what promised to be one of the greatest enterprises ever attempted in Australia, viz., the production of steel in large quantities. The sums of money sent out of Australia for the purchase of rails for railway construction, and other steel necessities too numerous to mention, have been stupendous, and yet this magnificent enterprise, capable of sustaining well many thousands of people, is fading away, for the chief reason that coal is costing more to produce here than in other countries, which is altogether wrong seeing that there are no natural disabilities in the production of our coal, and living expenses are much less with us than with most other white peoples of the world. What applies to the steel works applies equally to other industries, and makes it manifest that our past Governments have encouraged impossible ideals, and the sooner we get back to material facts and not fancies the better for every man, woman, and child in the State.

The present Government, which has just come into power, are evidently endeavouring to meet the seriousness of the position. They appear to realise that it is necessary for a country to be governed for the good of the whole of the community and not for any one particular section of it, and unless such takes place no sustained prosperity can be looked for to the country or the people resident therein. They, the Government, have a titanic and in some instances a thankless task before them. And I feel that it is due to all of us with the best wishes of our country at heart not to hamper them with criticism, but to give them a fair and patient trial.

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPUDIATION ACT—QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S ARBITRARY CONDUCT.

The annual meeting of the Australian Estates and Mortgage Company, Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London.

Mr Andrew Williamson, chairman of the company, presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:

The gross profits at £254,141 show a gratifying increase of £36,210 over last year. It would have been greater by £23,000 had the Queensland Government kept faith with their pastoral lessees, as our revenue account has suffered to that extent by increases in rents, in violation of the express covenants in our leases, to which I will refer later.

The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent., a result which, when we bear in mind the unfavourable as well as the favourable aspects of the past year, cannot but be regarded as satisfactory.

We have been favoured with very good seasonal conditions, the rainfall having been abundant (indeed on some of our properties excessive) and well distributed over the year, resulting in a good, well-grown clip amounting to 15,304 bales, as against 13,834 bales in the previous year. The sound and well-nourished condition of this year's staple is one of its most attractive features in meeting the requirements of American and Yorkshire manufacturers. The demand for wool, especially merino, has greatly strengthened, and there has been a marked improvement in value since this time last year, and our 1921-22 clip has so far realised satisfactory prices. Another essential factor, however, besides a good market for wool, to securing that a bountiful season is adequately reflected in our revenue account, is that of sales of live stock, and I regret to say that during the past year these were extremely disappointing.

THE
ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK,
LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE:
69, Market St., Bradford.

MANCHESTER BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street.

Affiliations:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
 * GUATEMALA
 * SALVADOR
 * MANAGUA
 * SANTA MARTA
 * BARRANQUILLA
 * PUERTO CABELLO
 * CARTAGENA
 * CARACAS
 * MEDELLIN
 * BOGOTA
 * MANTA
 * GUAYAQUIL
 * QUITOS

BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
 * PERAMBUCO
 * BAHIA
 * RIO DE JANEIRO
 * SAO PAULO
 * SANTOS
 * PORTO ALEGRE
 * PELOTAS
 * RIO GRANDE DO SUL
 * MERCEDES
 * ROSARIO
 * MONTE VIDEO
 * BUENOS AIRES
 * MENDOZA
 * SAN RAFAEL
 * BAHIA BLANCA
 * TRELEW
 * COMODORO RIVADAVIA
 * PUERTO DESEADO
 * SAN JULIAN
 * SANTA CRUZ
 * RIO GALLEGOS
 * PUNTA ARENAS

BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.
 * VIGO
 * BILBAO
 * MADRID
 * SEVILLE
 * VALENCIA

HIGH COST OF WORKING PROPERTIES.

Even in the case of wool the high costs of working the properties, which, owing to the demands of the labour unions, still continue, neutralises the advantages from the increase in the selling price of the product. The principal element in the high costs is, of course, that of wages, and the refusal of various unions to submit to a reduction in wages to a true economic level is the most formidable obstacle to Australia's happy return to a full tide of prosperity.

I would now say a word or two about the outlook for the current year. Our latest cable advices indicate that there is a slight improvement in the season on our New South Wales properties, but that the Queensland outlook is not favourable though the lambing has not been seriously affected so far. Beef prices are still wholly unprofitable, and the market for sheep is dull. The volume and quality of our sugar crops have been affected by the adverse season. This does not give a very encouraging prospect for the current year, but the rain telegrams recently show that there is rain about even though the falls so far have been slight, and it is premature to take a despondent view of the outlook as regards the season.

WOOL MARKET—STATISTICAL POSITION.

The wool market has had a wonderful recovery, as we can better appreciate when we look back to the beginning of 1921 and compare the position then with the state of things to-day. The statistical position now is very different from what it was 18 months ago. There then was in sight of the market over 5,000,000 bales of Australian wool; to-day, including the unsold balance of the carried over wool from the war of, say, 1,300,000 bales, the unsold wool of the last clip and the oncoming 1922-23 clip, there can be nothing like that quantity, being nearer 3,800,000 bales. On the other hand, 18 months ago Bradford was bare, or almost bare, of stocks, and to-day Bradford cannot be far behind pre-war stocks; but the congestion of manufactured goods, which was a block 18 months ago, is greatly relieved, and the labour question, which was more or less acute then, has been settled for some time on a most satisfactory basis, with the exception of the top makers' union, who absolutely refuse to work overtime, and are therefore a serious hindrance to full recovery, as they form a bottle-neck to the rest of the trade. There is to-day, both in Yorkshire and in Coleman street, a feeling of confidence in the immediate future, which 18 months ago was conspicuous by its absence.

QUEENSLAND AND THE REPUDIATION ACT.

I have already mentioned how seriously we are injured by the operation of the Queensland Land Act Amendment Act, 1920, known throughout Australia as the Repudiation Act.

The Government of Queensland by this Act forcibly altered a provision of a contract to which their State was a party, not only without the consent, but against the protests, of the other party to the contract and without a vestige of compensation for the wrong done. A vital provision in the Queensland pastoral leases affected by this Act is that the rent, while subject to review and alteration by the Land Court every 10 years during the currency of the lease, cannot be raised more than 50 per cent. above the rate ruling during the preceding 10 years. In reliance on this protective provision, the leases were taken up and millions of money spent in improving and developing the land. This Repudiation Act removes not only the 50 per cent. limitation, but any limitation whatever, and under its operation rents have been raised enormously, in some cases as much as 300 per cent.

This Act was made to apply, not only to the unexpired balance of the leases, but it was also made retrospective to the beginning of the current decennial period, going back to as far as 1914.

An appeal was lodged against the retrospective application of the Act, and was carried to the Federal High Court, but the decision of a majority of the Court was given in favour of the validity of the Act, and confirmed its retrospective operation.

Thus, in a word, the Government of the State of Queensland has, by the arbitrary use of the sovereign power of the State, done that which no private lessor could or would dare to do, namely, has altered to its own advantage, and to the serious disadvantage of the other party to the contract, a vital condition in the Pastoral Leases, which, under the authority of the Crown, it had granted to the pastoral lessees in the State.

Now the practical effect of this breach of contract by the Queensland Government upon your interests has been this:—

Up to the present (and all our properties have not yet been dealt with) the company has been compelled to pay no less a sum than £25,000 in excess of the maximum that could be claimed under our leases.

On this subject it only remains to say that this magnificent State—among whose early pioneers were the immediate predecessors of this company—with all its splendid resources, is still very largely in the process of early development. Its full development is quite impossible without the capital necessary to pay for labour,

machinery and equipment generally, and this capital can only be obtained in this country if there is confidence, and confidence is only possible where contracts are sacredly observed and not deliberately broken.

With the internal politics of Queensland, or of any other Australian State, we have nothing to do—and no desire to interfere—but when a Government of one of the States of the Commonwealth breaks its contract with us and other pastoral lessees, then we have not only the right to emphatically protest, but it is our manifest duty to do so.

It is greatly to be hoped that at no distant date wiser counsels may prevail, and that steps will be taken to repair a wrong which ought never to have been committed.

The report was unanimously adopted and the usual formal business transacted.

DE TREY AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

NEED FOR DENTAL EDUCATION OF PUBLIC.

The 10th ordinary general meeting of De Trey and Co., Limited, was held at 6 Swallow street, London, on the 14th instant, Mr C. De Trey, chairman of the company, presiding.

The joint secretary (Mr George Dawson) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:

It is the first time since the inception of the company that I have to present to the shareholders a balance-sheet which does not show a profit. The reasons for this have already been superficially discussed last year, and find their source in the world's economic crisis, which has lasted much longer than was anticipated.

Last year I told you that the dental trade, in Europe in particular, had received the first serious setback, but that, as is usual when a setback is experienced in our trade, the depression is generally less acute than in others. This stands as true to-day as it did last year, for, while your board of directors are laying before you a balance-sheet which is, indeed, not as we should like it to be, the figures shown are in many respects infinitely better than those exhibited by many old-established and famous industrial and commercial organisations.

PUBLIC NEGLECT OF DENTITION.

You may ask, Why should a trade so essential to the welfare of any nation have suffered such a setback at all? The cause is as real as it is to a certain extent sad, and is a result of the inadequate education of the public in fundamental questions of health. The public at home and abroad has suffered such acute losses that many have been obliged to forego efficient dental treatment.

The public of all classes should realise what it means to anyone to neglect dentition even for a period of twelve months, and the extent to which national health is undermined as the result, and that it always costs infinitely less to attend to dental trouble in its infancy than to cure it when it is no longer local and necessitates the help of both dentist and doctor. When they do so national health will improve, as is the case in America, where the child is taught to use a toothbrush almost before he knows how to pronounce the word.

We are to-day just as optimistic as ever as to the ultimate development of the dental trade. Indeed, trading has shown, all things considered, fair progress for the first six months of this year—a statement which, under present conditions, one is almost afraid to make for fear that further European political or economic developments may arise to offset or delay further the continuation of this improvement.

NEED FOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN MARKETS.

Before the war we had all the heavily populated countries of Central Europe as an available market, but we have been again last year almost completely cut off from all territories east of the Rhine, in which there are no less than 40,000 dentists practising—a greater number than are available to us in the rest of the sphere of our activities. Just think what it means to dental manufacturers and traders in this country! The German Government has imposed total prohibition on the import of all dental goods into Germany—a territory in which there are no less than 20,000 dental practitioners; the German manufacturers, on the other hand (enjoying the full support and protection of their authorities) find it easy, with the help of the depreciation of the mark, to unload their dental products—mostly of greatly inferior quality—in the whole of our allied and neutral territories. This state of affairs is serious for all dental houses in this country.

The prohibition of import of British and American dental goods into Germany, while the British Government allows the free export from Germany of dental goods into this country, appears unreasonable, but, as you know, many industries are suffering in a similar manner, and it is not my purpose to invade the dangerous

territory of policies. I may add, however, that nowhere more than in Germany is the high quality of our goods appreciated by the profession and the retail dealers. This is brought home to us by the fact that a little over a year ago we had an appeal made by over 3,000 dentists, and by more than 90 per cent. of the retail dealers in Germany, for the removal of the barrier of prohibition of imports and the general embargo on our goods in Germany. The above facts caused the German manufacturers who feared the competition of our goods to appeal to their Government for support, and they obtained it.

Mr X. Castelli seconded the motion, which, after questions had been asked by shareholders, and answered by the chairman, was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and auditors re-appointed. A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

MOLASSINE COMPANY, LIMITED.

REASONS FOR ADVERSE RESULTS.

The annual general meeting of the Molassine Company, Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at the company's offices, Tunnel avenue, East Greenwich, London, Mr John Prosser (chairman and managing director) presiding.

Mr E. C. Puplett, F.C.I.S. (one of the joint secretaries), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I very deeply regret that we have not a better balance-sheet to put before you, but we are dependent to a very large extent on the sale of our principal products to farmers, who during the last year have gone through a most disastrous period. The weather was against them, and foot-and-mouth disease also caused great anxiety and loss to stock owners. The cause simply and solely has been conditions over which we could have no control.

On account of the very poor demand for feeding stuffs, stocks that should have been cleared were left on hand at the end of the financial year. These, however, have been written down to current market prices, and as the company is not burdened with adverse contracts for raw material, they are able to take advantage of the market, and so, given normal trading conditions and a normal demand for feeding stuffs, the directors see no reason to doubt, but have every confidence in the future.

As to the figures in the balance-sheet, the capital reserve, which stood at £25,000, now stands at £7,000, £18,000 having been taken therefrom to adjust the loss on the year's trading. The sundry creditors are down about £6,000.

With regard to the credit side of the balance-sheet, we thought it as well to write £500 off "trade marks, patents, copyrights, &c." The item of plant, machinery, motors and equipment is not very different from last year. Cash at bankers is £10,318 18s 3d, against £8,318 17s last year, and sundry debtors are reduced by £7,495 9s 3d. Stocks are down about £20,000, being £50,811 this year, against £71,234 last year.

Freehold poultry farm and equipment has gone up from £16,430 10s 1d to £18,204 13s 2d, caused partly by expenditure on additional necessary equipment and on further payments on account of moors previously purchased.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Molassine dog and poultry food business continues to be satisfactory.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 246,700,000.00

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(31/12/21) - Fmk. 1,234,000,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

INTERNATIONAL TEA COMPANY'S STORES, LIMITED.

RECORD PROFITS.

The annual general meeting of the International Tea Company's Stores, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Mr G. A. Tonge (governing director and chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: I am sure you will agree that it is a very satisfactory balance-sheet and report that we are able to present to you to-day. The profit of £320,612 16s 7d is the largest that has ever been earned in the 27 years that the company has been in existence, and this, with the £52,631 7s brought forward from last year, makes in all £382,244 3s 7d to deal with. This enables us to pay the dividends on both classes of preference shares, to depreciate our fixtures and fittings by £25,000, to place £40,000 to reserve, and, after paying the directors' and auditors' fees, to pay 16 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to carry forward £103,151, which latter amount is subject to corporation profits tax.

Turning to the balance-sheet, freeholds now stand at £587,080. These largely comprise various branches, which, in years gone by, were enabled to purchase very cheaply indeed, and with the great appreciation that has been going on in properties such as these I am confident that were we to have them re-valued we should find that their present worth would be something approaching a million sterling. Stock-in-trade is £706,723, and has been valued upon a strictly conservative basis, and the course of the markets since the date of our balance-sheet and the immediate outlook are such that I feel sure we need not view a fall with any apprehension whatever. The amount owing to us, £250,018, has also been subject to ample reserve—they are only ordinary trade debts, and no doubt have by now been discharged. With regard to the goodwill, various suggestions have at times been made to me that this amount should be depreciated, but to my mind such a policy would be stupid and unsound if you want your balance-sheets to show your true position. Our profits are continually increasing, and the goodwill to-day stands at between one and three-quarters' and two years' purchase of profits. If we depreciate the goodwill and continue to increase our profits, and that is what must ultimately happen with the same continuous and sane management that the business now gets, we should bring the goodwill down to one or even half a year's profits. Surely the goodwill of a business such as ours, which has gone ahead for so many years with profits practically always increasing, must be worth something very substantial.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Coin Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes Current.	Securities.	Balance.	Bank of England.
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£
Aug. 26.	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	48.1	9,924	11,423	9,288
Dec. 30.	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	..	..	..	..
1915.										
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536	6,868
1916.										
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	..	..
1917.										
Dec. 26.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486	..
1918.										
Dec. 31.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566	..
1919.										
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802	..
1920.										
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134	..
1921.										
Mar. 30.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	..	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141	..
June 29.	323,884	14,965	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150	..
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143	..
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161	..
1922.										
Mar. 30.	300,351	14,255	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	..
June 22.	295,612	12,961	..	..	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,274	148	..
June 29.	295,374	13,338	..	..	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,512	250	..
July 6.	297,904	12,865	..	..	28,000	20,150	16.1	256,461	158	..
July 13.	298,635	13,068	..	..	27,500	20,650	16.1	257,411	142	..

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, July 17-July 22, were opened on July 14, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £80,385,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £99 0s 0d will receive about 40 per cent., above in full. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 11s 4d will receive

about 70 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 11s 6d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £1 13s 10.00d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £5,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £40,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
1922.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
June 16.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 50,225,000	2 8 0.44	94 4 2.55
June 23.....	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 55,000,000	2 1 7.4	98 3 0.9
June 30.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 50,000,000	2 2 11.55	98 4 4.8
July 7.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 50,000,000	1 18 4.65	98 5 10.8
July 14.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 45,000,000	1 13 10.06	99 0 5.16

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, July 21, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	RECEIPTS.	July 1 to July 8, 1922.	July 1 to July 9, 1921.
	Apr. 1, 1922, to July 8, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to July 9, 1921.	£	£
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England.....	9,963,424	2,591,051	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs.....	34,229,000	32,768,000	2,920,000	4,423,000
Excise.....	38,277,000	46,552,000	1,539,000	1,656,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	1,885,000	1,633,000	180,000	212,000
Stamp, &c., Duties.....	18,131,000	11,931,000	1,540,000	1,007,000
Stamps.....	3,792,000	3,567,000	350,000	870,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty.....	490,000	400,000	20,000	10,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax).....	65,821,000	72,462,000	8,388,000	8,562,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.....	954,000	1,000,000	90,000	90,000
Corporation Profits Tax.....	4,197,000	2,600,000	330,000	580,000
Post Office.....	13,300,000	10,750,000	1,000,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands.....	220,000	130,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	3,333,721	4,082,813	1,400,260	2,127,976
Miscellaneous.....	13,692,090	7,011,018	146,354	142,354
Ordinary Receipts.....	15,776,956	23,816,526	1,079,000	9,808,642
Special Receipts.....	214,046,767	235,757,357	18,892,614	31,588,972
Revenue.....	225,220,297	238,851,863	..	..
Total, Inc. Balance.....	225,220,297	238,851,863	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion.....	650,000	1,750,000	100,000	200,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,330,000	..	530,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921.....	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	13,000	25,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,450,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues: By Treasury Bills for Supply.....	837,062,000	1,281,947,000	84,386,000	136,838,000
By National Savings Certificates.....	28,396,000	9,580,000	750,000	1,050,000
By National War Bonds.....	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds: 5-15 year, 1925-35.....	..	1,002,675	..	..
5½% 1927.....	..	121,708	..	..
5% 1927.....	..	61,422,074	..	..
4½% 1932.....	..	14,160,300	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	11,869	3,713,840	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	300,690,500	368,324,000	17,250,000	38,950,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired.....	243,012	..	..	..
Repayments:—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921.....	19,018	9,180	5,250	1,461
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	265,460	1,650,250	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	87,358	85,532	..	..
Total.....	1,472,794,596	1,908,946,845	124,860,464	208,628,433

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	July 1 to July 8, 1922.	July 1 to July 9, 1921.
	Apr. 1, 1922, to July 8, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to July 9, 1921.	£	£
EXPENDITURE.				
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	6,413,286	6,220,877	2,326,157	2,329,089
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	98,395,408	116,748,602	1,619,460	4,713,739
Road Fund.....	986,000	1,120,000	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	850,000	1,192,772	..	120,918
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	518,000	..	8,000	..
Land Settlement.....	356,740	824,560	62,115	110,177
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	790,221	483,585	..	31,733
Supply Services.....	105,754,342	167,899,576	10,829,342	15,610,025
Expenditure.....	214,063,997	294,499,971	14,845,074	23,063,681

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	July 1 to July 8, 1922.	July 1 to July 9, 1921.
	Apr. 1, 1922, to July 8, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to July 9, 1921.	£	£
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances:—				
Bullion.....	2,050,000	150,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,600,000	75,000	..	75,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921.....	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	13,000	25,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	..	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed.....	650,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt:—				
Treasury Bills for Supply.....	942,124,000	1,184,396,000	67,910,000	140,942,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (5) War Loan Act, 1919.....	3,912,476	12,812,435	10,462	1,241,925
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds.....	2,000,000	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates:—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	7,550,000	4,150,000	1,100,000	550,000
(b) Repaid otherwise.....	..	3,500,000	..	650,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off:—				
5½% 1922.....	£20,612,188	..	..	..
Less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.....	19,612,188	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	8,325,205	18,380,409	..	1,000,230
Ways and Means Advances Repaid.....	266,769,500	372,489,000	40,865,000	40,950,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....	399,521	7,980,067	..	660,022
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919.....	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4).....	..	4,265,000	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	55,656	61,200	..	..
Balances in Exchequer:—	1,469,053,464	1,906,786,491	124,730,536	209,288,828
Bank of England.....	40,118,000	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	2,027,068	1,978,722	28,294	76,828
Bank of Ireland.....	1,714,064	181,632	158,222	583,567
Total.....	3,741,132	2,160,354	129,928	660,395
Treasury, July 10, 1922.				

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, July 12, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	144,519,565	Government debt.....	11,015,100
		Other securities.....	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion.....	126,069,565
	144,519,565		144,519,565

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital.....	14,553,000	Government securities.....	47,103,552
Reserve.....	3,310,391	Other securities.....	73,663,109
Public deposits.....	12,612,045	Notes.....	20,270,860
Other deposits.....	112,375,059	Gold and silver coin.....	1,831,133
Seven-day & other bills.....	18,159		
	142,868,654		

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, July 12, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest.....	£	£	£
Public deposits.....	3,310,391	+ 5,492	+ 16,781
Other deposits.....	12,612,045	+ 2,310,812	+ 7,052,865
Government securities.....	47,103,552	+ 21,018,508	+ 22,589,250
Other securities.....	73,663,109	+ 20,884,368	+ 28,899,528
Notes.....	20,270,860	+ 2,156,469	+ 3,253,897
Note circulation.....	22,101,993	+ 283,829	+ 3,706,860
Gold and silver coin.....	1,831,133	+ 274,435	+ 3,706,860
Gold and silver coin.....	126,069,565	+ 558,264	+ 472,963
% of reserve to liabilities.....	178%	+ 28%	+ 58%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.						
Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%
April 19.....	128,876,773	121,638,245	134,595,798	126,555,897	25,688,528	194
26.....	128,872,818	121,307,055	134,366,840	125,995,611	26,015,763	193
May 3.....	128,875,978	122,091,180	146,049,335	138,511,460	25,232,638	173
10.....	128,887,939	121,591,685	142,438,187	134,402,217	25,746,254	18
17.....	128,879,227	121,070,755	139,061,838	130,549,595	26,258,472	184
24.....	128,880,842	120,889,975	132,436,093	123,780,787	26,440,867	20
31.....	128,881,003	122,715,860	141,479,390	134,418,206	24,615,149	172
June 7.....	128,886,129	122,513,410	141,479,390	120,304,710	25,376,531	194
14.....	128,884,081	121,657,550	127,474,151	121,830,727	25,960,416	20
21.....	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	121,830,727	25,960,416	20
28.....	128,946,693	124,048,010	131,435,226	124,946,319	24,348,685	184
July 5.....	128,458,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	143,807,498	22,385,822	15
12.....	127,900,698	124,248,705	124,987,104	120,766,661	22,101,993	173

TEN YEARS' RECORD.					
At corresponding date with the present week.	July 10, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	July 14, 1920.	July 13, 1921.	July 12, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	29,566,270	28,933,380	124,237,640	127,955,565	124,248,705
Public deposits	17,891,765	19,014,809	17,671,411	19,664,910	12,612,045
Other deposits	40,355,438	41,248,964	119,622,526	134,964,309	112,375,059
Government securities	13,983,707	11,046,570	59,435,583	76,003,078	47,103,552
Other securities	33,003,853	41,461,280	78,625,562	77,612,637	73,663,109
Reserve of notes and coin	29,272,207	25,643,960	17,091,857	18,868,096	22,101,993
Coin and bullion	40,388,477	35,947,360	122,873,497	128,373,661	127,900,698
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	501%	424%	124%	121%	178%
Bank rate of discount	3½	3½	7½	6½	3½
Market rate, 3 months' bills	2½	2½	4½	4½	2½
Price of Consols	75½d	74½	52½d	37½d	35½d
Price of silver per oz.	38s 2d	33s 0d	84s 10d	88s 7d	52s 6d
Average price of wheat	25-23-26½	25-17-20	46-80-47-10	46-35-45	53-80-55-40
Exchanges on					
New York	84-84½	84-79	83-90-93½	83-65½-65½	84-43-44½
London	12-18-14	12-05-10	11-08-15	11-40-42	11-43-47
Amsterdam	20-47½	20-49½	150-150	270-272	1880-2190
Berlin	20-47½	20-49½	150-150	270-272	1880-2190
Clearing house return	293,243,000	199,913,000	733,220,000	593,174,000	692,967,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.	£	£	£
January 1—July 5.....	18,571,021,000	1,462,305,000	20,033,326,000
July 12.....	632,811,000	60,156,000	692,967,000
Total to date 1922.....	19,203,832,000	1,522,461,000	20,726,293,000
Do 1921.....	17,067,091,000	1,691,002,000	18,758,093,000
Increase or decrease in 1922.....	+ 2,136,741,000	+ 168,541,000	+ 1,968,260,000
	12.5%	9.9%	10.5%
Total for 1921.....	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920.....	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921.....	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	8.5%	26.2%	10.3%

NETHERLANDS BANK.

	July 10, 1922.	July 3, 1922.	June 26, 1922.	June 19, 1922.	July 11, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,955	163,092
Silver	7,697	7,697	7,697	7,697	7,697	8,436
Depts. & advances	429,860	424,112	370,616	383,301	479,512	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	1,002,136	1,013,352	960,477	971,378	1,027,764	316,632
Deposits	50,081	48,513	46,345	65,524	79,590	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	June 11, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	4,744,627	4,744,617	4,744,617	4,744,617	4,744,617	3,859,722
Silver, &c.	376	427	427	427	427	303
Government loan	12,522,553	12,522,810	12,512,247	12,511,101	9,856,389	3,198,001
Other advances	2,666,178	2,771,429	2,752,581	2,752,581	2,752,581	2,752,581
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	14,111,324	14,130,339	14,129,119	14,153,655	11,087,752	6,024,676
Deposits	5,876,062	5,962,173	5,933,503	5,931,219	6,024,676	6,024,676

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	526,484	530,882	537,022	541,633	544,151	171,775
Silver	116,855	116,855	116,855	116,855	116,855	18,350
Assets & advances	304,731	290,092	267,075	275,271	394,033	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	760,711	789,083	729,734	732,966	915,065	275,925
Deposits	233,735	198,591	238,345	244,044	164,687	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to June 30, 1922, total issues were Fr. 21,584,683, of which Fr. 13,146,025 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	July 9, 1922.	May 24, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	328,036	328,130	328,016	328,193	327,262	322,650
Balance abt. and foreign bills	78,717	79,035	79,367	79,391	119,841	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	72,463	72,465	72,051	72,066	14,594	32,465
Discount and loans	426,076	439,162	420,675	450,435	450,435	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	546,634	594,183	530,703	531,881	629,665	226,555
Deposits at notice	243,674	235,282	255,929	291,304	169,512	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

	July 6, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	328,036	328,130	328,016	328,193	327,262	322,650
Securities	491,358	480,085	477,269	477,269	597,125	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,252,731	6,228,202	6,150,693	6,193,332	6,119,845	934,150
Current accounts	753,825	818,496	882,630	866,035	1,050,181	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 7, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	1,896	2,003	1,758	1,599
Silver coin, &c.	20	20	20	20
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	175,301,425	162,658,303	149,432,119	129,109,279
Loans	1,580,255	1,507,447	1,532,011	1,448,755
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	549,515,678	469,213,702	439,463,568	407,661,857
Deposits	31,325,388	37,063,939	30,511,965	32,455,644

HUNGARIAN BANK.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 7, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	13,357	13,253	13,159	13,014
Silver coin, &c.	598	598	598	598
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts, &c.	25,444,863	25,041,425	25,322,499	25,246,898
Loans	1,556,000	1,555,245	1,558,106	1,556,000
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	33,599,554	32,903,967	32,352,257	32,038,583
Deposits	3,740,662	3,508,278	3,539,438	3,481,988

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	May 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin and bullion	228,324	228,325	228,325	228,325	227,570	76,544
Loans & discounts	40,186	461,386	444,618	434,197	15,597	24,102
Debtors abroad	16,215	14,830	18,232	20,983	50,636	11,988
Securities	14,521	15,843	18,922	23,926	30,636	11,988
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	438,743	451,790	446,163	440,822	496,688	157,266
Deposits	114,766	128,857	132,092	124,730	102,295	6,695

BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,292	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	39,027	39,146	40,224	35,135	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,814	9,835	9,835	8,707	8,816
Discounts and loans	438,479	441,118	435,626	415,110	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	386,501	384,710	364,089	420,946	113,484
Deposits at notice	126,732	133,230	149,585	76,996	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

	June 16, 1922.	June 9, 1922.	June 2, 1922.	May 26, 1922.	June 17, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Govt. securities	7,96,41	8,02,91	8,23,99	8,29,03	8,66,89
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,22	1,28,22	1,28,23	1,38,42
Loans	15,63,70	16,27,69	16,27,69	16,12,26	14,50,33
Cash credits	26,98,29	26,95,03	27,66,68	27,80,77	20,86,88
Inland bills	4,85,21	5,20,13	5,21,44	5,67,25	13,49,60
Foreign bills	3,71	95	1,09	1,56	42
Bullion	2,48,22	2,48,01	2,47,09	2,46,81	2,09,69
Dead stock	63,72	62,40	61,37	52,67	56,06
Sundries	6,38	4,91	6,43	5,85	14,45
Balances with other banks	25,06,50	21,46,76	19,76,81	19,39,92	26,85,59
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,40	11,24,32	11,24,32	11,24,32	10,14,32
Capital paid up	5,62,35	5,62,33	5,62,31	5,62,31	5,34,83
Reserve	4,01,83	4,01,82	4,01,82	4,01,82	3,70,85
Public deposits	14,55,53	14,89,24	16,27,18	14,94,19	5,85,25
Other deposits	58,26,31	58,85,99	53,74,85	55,38,07	71,76,70
Loans from Govt. of India	50,53	47,22	46,76	55,19	55,20
Sundries	1,54,00	1,50,41	1,49,17	1,52,77	1,35,52
The above includes—					
Deposits in London	61	64	68	69	21
Advances in London	359	360	359	334	381
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	37	28	38	34	98

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	May 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	3,362	3,358	3,357	3,360	1,571
Government securities	38,779	39,150	39,434	39,966	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	30,322	33,692	31,112	32,855	2,400
Government deposits	3,069	3,668	3,598	2,415	2,315
Other deposits	12,401	12,240	11,431	13,656	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.	June 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Balance abroad and foreign bills	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,626	35,091
Finland and Foreign Government securities	103,108	126,311	131,784	383,716	90,379
Discounts and loans	718,554	743,802	744,096	955,527	81,826
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	822,090	832,317	788,609	338,148	106,161
Notes in circulation	1,373,108	1,367,940	1,370,809	1,398,586	123,941
Deposits at notice	73,748	132,940	105,281	84,133	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

	June 7, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 24, 1922.	May 17, 1922.	June 6, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion	26,757	26,902	26,889	26,965	27,693
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	139,955	141,724	141,163	139,776	5,616
Government loans	700,099	680,099	680,099	680,099	115,233
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	807,020	796,627	785,962	784,110	654,077
Deposits	51,906	52,498	55,762	56,775	44,907

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Sept. 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Levs.	38,101	38,044	38,006	37,953	37,891	37,885
Gold	20,252	20,583	20,866	21,081	21,415	21,910
Treasury notes	107,613	111,535	117,032	119,355	158,135	161,327
Bills discounted	17,292	9,041	10,427	9,530	8,128	5,656
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,602,489	3,587,627	3,615,440	3,629,035	3,517,516	3,414,597
Deposits	1,325,322	1,442,811	1,277,157	1,159,580	1,129,340	1,241,428

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

	June 20, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 10, 1922.	June 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	30,824	30,121	28,879	29,649	14,300
Silver	44,058	44,015	43,916	43,894	39,780
Foreign banks	19,176,513	23,492,056	159,222	146,302	3,200
Advances to the Govt.	225,000,000	217,000,000	217,000,000	220,000,000	89,900
Private loans and discounts	64,932,972	60,622,650	58,746,277	56,227,559	6,863,800
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	285,677,146	276,001,108	267,096,561	266,547,602	102,697,303
Deposits	50,050,676	51,649,766	53,636,427	54,503,177	33,694,002

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.

	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	March 31, 1922.	February 28, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Total cash	244,836	242,320	103,071	78,431
Foreign bank	363,761	363,761	193,191	212,766
Discounts and loans	449,631	379,011	404,266	385,359
Other assets	422,266	278,806	62,276	44,126
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	304,929	304,929	304,929	300,000
Deposits	857,182	423,518	397,582	355,455
Other liabilities	449,816	535,666	56,294	65,226

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	July 14, 1921.	June 29, 1922.	July 6, 1922.	July 13, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	4.18	0.725	0.59
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123.45	8.15	1.46	1.25
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88.88	6.30	1.081	0.8769
Stockholm			9.90	1.725	0.9007
Christiania				1.390	1.470

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	April 1, 1922.	May 15, 1922.	June 15, 1922.
		Buying.	Selling.	Buying.
London	£1	1,108	1,128	1,125
New York	\$1	252	258	253
Paris	100 frs.	2,275	2,325	2,300
Brussels	100 frs.	2,100	2,125	2,100
Stockholm	100 kr.	6,625	6,725	6,700
Copenhagen	100 kr.	4,475	4,575	4,550
Christiania	100 kr.	4,475	4,575	4,550
Prague	100 kr.	491	501	494
Amsterdam	100 hll.	9,600	9,750	9,800
Berlin	100 mk.	83	85	85
Helsingfors	100 emk.	515	525	533
Reval	100 emk.	70	75	78
Warsaw	100 pmk.	8	8	8

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
	London on South Africa.	South Africa on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	14% prem.	14% dis.
Sight	14% prem.	14% dis.
30 days	14% prem.	14% dis.
60 days	14% prem.	14% dis.
90 days	14% prem.	14% dis.
120 days	14% prem.	14% dis.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	100% prem.	100% dis.
Sight	100% prem.	100% dis.
30 days	100% prem.	100% dis.
60 days	100% prem.	100% dis.
90 days	100% prem.	100% dis.
120 days	100% prem.	100% dis.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	50,56,95,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	57,89,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	108,45,95,000

* Sales were discontinued on June 6th.

India Office, July 8, 1922.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended July 12, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £558,264 compared with the previous return.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on June 30, 1922:—

	£	Nil
In India		
In England—		
Cash at the Bank of England	2,427	
British Government securities—		
Value as on March 31, 1922	11,401,467	
British Government securities since purchased (cost price)	29,098,599	
	40,502,493	

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General

India Office, July 12, 1922.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended July 12, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended July 12, 1922.
British South Africa	£ 563,877	United States	£ 1,232,000
Belgium	856	Egypt	9,200
Belgian Congo	20,917	British India	160,794
United States	3,494	Other countries	956
British West Africa	26,101		
Total value of imports of gold	615,248	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	1,402,950

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write as follows on July 13th:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold came into the market, and was taken for India, New York, and the trade; India took the largest proportion. Gold valued \$7,753,000 is reported to have been received in New York, \$7,628,000 from London, and \$125,000 from France. We append the latest figures compiled by Mr Joseph Kitchen:—

GOLD PRODUCTION.

(In Millions of Pounds, at 84s 11½d per fine oz.)

Year.	Transvaal.	The Rest of the Empire.	British Empire.	Foreign Countries.	World.
1921	34.5	12.9	47.4	20.6	68.0
1922	27.0	14.5	41.5	21.5	63.0
1923	27.0	14.5	41.5	21.5	63.0

Drop mainly due to strike of January-March. 1923 should show a recovery to a figure approaching the 1921 total.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of June, 1922:—Total imports, £2,558,078; total exports, £2,058,191.

SILVER.

A considerable amount of selling from China, and a greater willingness on the part of the United States to supply the market, have brought about an easier tendency. Indian bazaar orders have been but slight, and the market has had to rely mostly upon bear covering to absorb supplies. In so lifeless a market, as it has been on some days, the tendency for bears to respond to falling rates has not been quick, hence rather sharp falls have ensued. Owing to falling Continental exchanges, parcels have been forthcoming from that quarter. The following appeared in the Federal Reserve Bulletin of June last:—"The amount of silver in the Reichsbank is not published, but a year ago it was estimated at about 30,000,000 ounces. During 1921 and the first four months of 1922 about \$6,000,000 worth of silver was imported into the United States from Germany. This amount represents about 9,000,000 ounces of silver, which presumably was taken from the Reichsbank's stock and exchanged for goods or credit in the United States." Although it has been reported that some, at least, of this metal was refined, no definite news has been received of its sale.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	June 22, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 7, 1922.
Notes in circulation	17,417	17,601	17,648
Silver coin and bullion in India	7,888	8,073	8,120
Silver coin and bullion out of India	2,431	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion in India	6,514	6,512	6,512
Gold coin and bullion out of India	584	584	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 7th inst. The stock in Shanghai, on the 8th inst., consisted of about 34,300,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 2,000 silver bars, as compared with 32,700,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 2,200 silver bars on the 30th ulto.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

	Gold.	Silver.		Silver.
1922.	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.
July 8 ..	93 0	36½	36½	30½
10 ..	92 10	35½	35½	29½
11 ..	92 10	35½	35½	29½
12 ..	93 0	35½	35½	29½
13 ..	92 9	35½	35½	29½
14 ..	92 9	35½	35½	29½

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distribu- tion.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.		
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward	Net Profit.	Divid- end.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.	Rate.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.				
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bank of New South Wales	Mar. 31*	150,923	359,210	510,133	..	250,000	10	100,000	160,133	403,932	10
Belfast Discount Company	June 30*	333	45	378	..	257	7	25	96	179	6
Union Bank of Australia	Feb. 28	83,057	536,261	619,318	..	412,500	15½	120,000	86,818	516,341	15½
Breweries.											
Ohlsson's Cape Breweries	Mar. 31	30,398	Dr 12,316	18,082	11,500	..	..	..	6,582	17,802	6½
South African Breweries	Mar. 31	33,099	210,542	243,641	50,000	162,891	11½	..	30,750	178,454	11½
Financial, Land, &c.											
Australian Agricultural	Dec. 31	3,248	46,287	49,535	..	44,000	5½	..	5,535	Dr 11,913	5½
Holloways' Properties	Mar. 31	4,193	26,320	30,513	5,559	17,358	6	4,329	3,267	14,780	6
Oregon Mortgage	May 31	18,030	29,751	47,781	8,775	18,200	14	..	20,806	25,353	12
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Belgravia Dairy	May 27	27,195	12,176	39,371	..	4,930	8	50	34,391	12,630	7½
Iron, Coal, and Steel.											
Greenwood and Batley	Mar. 31	18,294	50,405	68,699	7,027	20,904	6	20,000	20,768	23,433	5
Horseley Bridge and Engineering	Mar. 31	12,385	19,190	31,575	..	12,500	5½	10,000	9,075	30,784	8½
Wm. Roberts (Tipton)	Mar. 31	5,924	Dr 1,552	4,372	1,470	..	..	..	2,902	..	..
Rubber, &c.											
Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates	Mar. 31	50,655	80,990	131,645	..	75,000	15	5,000	51,645	230,558	35
Bruas-Perak	Feb. 28	1,280	Dr 3,862	2,582	..	..	..	..	Dr 2,582	Dr 3,563	..
Bukit Rajah	Mar. 31	Dr 19,683	31,784	12,101	..	..	..	8,000	4,101	Dr 8,409	..
Caamano Tenguel	Dec. 31	11,949	Dr 1,203	10,746	..	..	..	1,858	8,888	10,024	..
Emerald Rubber and Coconut	Jan. 31	15,665	23,943	39,608	..	16,722	10	5,000	17,886	15,823	..
Hongkong (Selangor)	Dec. 31	Dr 3,128	Dr 2,358	5,486	..	..	..	..	Dr 5,486	Dr 4,644	..
London	Mar. 31	5,484	Dr 290	5,194	..	..	..	..	5,194	Dr 5,621	..
North Hummock (Selangor)	Mar. 31	Dr 8,476	19,113	10,637	..	..	..	5,000	5,637	Dr 4,010	..
Timbang-Deli (Sumatra)	Mar. 31	Dr 916	Dr 3,812	4,728	..	..	..	..	Dr 4,728	Dr 916	..
Shipping.											
Hazelwood	May 16	3,442	39,936	43,378	..	22,500	10	15,000	5,878	42,799	17½
Sutherland Steamship	June 30	11,477	31,864	43,341	..	21,954	10	10,000	11,387	..	..
Tea.											
Makum (Assam)	Dec. 31	739	7,649	8,388	..	7,500	15	..	888	Dr 4,577	15
Pathini	Dec. 31	27,833	11,276	39,109	1,860	7,440	12	..	29,809	..	..
Upper Assam	Dec. 31	86,327	21,900	108,227	..	7,764	12½	..	100,463	Dr 2,911	12½
Textiles.											
Illingworth, Morris, and Co.	May 31	21,123	42,297	63,420	10,290	..	..	..	53,130	..	..
Trusts.											
Second Industrial	June 15	6,939	20,929	27,868	6,602	10,650	5	3,500	7,116	23,287	5
Other Companies.											
Adolph Frankau	Dec. 31	..	Dr 33,753	33,753	6,435	..	..	Dr 40,188	..	24,393	10½
Alex. Findlater and Co.	Feb. 28	1,040	10,595	11,635	1,155	385	5	500	9,595	2,117	5
Apollinaris and Johanns	Mar. 31	Dr 214,313	15,158	Dr 199,155	..	..	..	..	Dr 199,185	10,460	..
Bradford Coal Merchants, &c.	Mar. 31	3,649	16,405	20,054	5,500	8,387	6	1,000	4,567	13,362	5
Cape Asbestos	Dec. 31	9,136	17,396	26,532	7,105	5,005	10	5,000	9,422	25,378	10
Cork Improved Dwellings	June 30*	218	886	1,104	..	675	4½	209	220	..	..
Gloucester Railway Carriage, &c.	May 31	30,271	32,715	62,986	..	52,500	10	..	10,486	43,904	15
H. H. and S. Budgett and Co.	Feb. 28	12,209	27,263	39,478	15,748	8,404	12½	5,000	10,326	30,905	12½
Reeves and Sons	Apr. 30	5,443	21,146	26,589	8,124	7,227	10	3,000	8,238	21,132	20
Ship Canal Portland Cement	Mar. 31	63,181	Dr 51,926	11,255	..	..	..	..	11,255	45,535	..
W. H. Chaplin and Co.	Mar. 31	8,700	21,483	30,183	3,750	15,000	10	..	11,433	19,503	7

½ Half year.

† Free of tax.

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

NOTICES.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new branch in High street, Westham, Pevensy, Sussex, under the management of Mr A. E. Parsloe.

The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 155 Fortress road, Tufnell park, N.W. 5, the resident officer being Mr F. R. Church.

The Union Discount Company of London, Limited, announces that Mr F. Nevill Jackson, formerly assistant manager has been appointed sub-manager, and Mr A. F. E. Foucar, O.B.E., and Mr E. K. Brown assistant managers.

Mr Thomas Frederick Tattersall, of Messrs C. Tattersall and Co., cotton merchants, Manchester, has been appointed a director of Williams, Deacon's Bank, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr John W. McConnel.

The London office of the Union Bank of Canada announce that a branch of the bank has been opened at Waterways, Alberta.

The Göteborgs Bank of Gothenburg, Sweden, has taken over, as from July 1st last, the business of Kopparbergs Enskilda Bank, established in 1835.

Reports and Notices.

The head office of the British Oak Insurance Company, Limited, has been removed to 63-64 Gracechurch street, London, E.C. 3. The marine department will remain at 2-3 Royal Exchange, E.C. 3.

RAILWAYS.

MISSOURI, KANSAS, AND TEXAS RAILWAY COMPANY. — The Equitable Trust Company of New York remind holders of common and preferred stock in the above company that payment of the third instalment under the reorganisation scheme, and amounting to \$5 per share on common stock and \$4 per share on preferred stock, is required on or before July 18, 1922. As the amount has to be cable to New York the payment should be the equivalent in sterling at the current rate of exchange for cable transfers on New York, and failure to make such payment on or before July 18, 1922, will forfeit all rights in respect of prior instalments paid and otherwise under the temporary receipt or the participation warrant.

BANKS.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL AND MARTINS, LIMITED. — The Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited

CV. of deed of settlement, £125,000; leaving a balance of £385,133, which the directors recommend to be dealt with as follows:—To payment of a quarter's dividend to March 31, 1922, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, out of the half-year's profits, £125,000; to augmentation of the reserve fund, £100,000; to balance carried forward, £160,133. The directors record with much regret the retirement from the presidency of the Hon. Sir Charles K. Mackellar, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., who has presided at the board meetings for some 20 years. Sir Charles has been succeeded by Mr Thomas Buckland, who has long been associated with the bank, and is the second of the name to enjoy the distinction of being president, his uncle, the late Mr Thomas Buckland, having acted in that capacity for years. During the half-year branches of the bank have been opened at Clarence Town and Finlay (N.S.W.). Branches and agencies now number 360.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—Cablegram received (July 12th) from the central office states:—"Net profits for half-year ended June 30th, Rs.63,52,300; brought forward from December 31, 1921, Rs.12,74,500—total, Rs.76,26,800. The governors have declared dividend of 15 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, absorbing Rs.44,98,300; transferred to reserve, Rs.10,00,000; transferred to pension fund, Rs.5,00,000; carried forward, Rs.16,28,500."

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRAZILIAN TRACTION, LIGHT, AND POWER.—The ninth report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1921, shows that revenue received under contracts with subsidiary companies was \$4,410,057; interest on investments and miscellaneous income, \$127,657, making \$4,537,714; general and legal expenses and administration charges, \$169,464; interest and charges on secured gold notes and other loans, \$833,568; provision for general amortisation, \$300,000—\$1,300,033, making net revenue \$3,237,681; dividends on preference shares at 6 per cent. per annum, \$600,000; making surplus for the year, \$2,637,681. The following comparative statement shows the total gross and net earnings of the subsidiary companies in Brazil, the fixed charges and expenses of the subsidiary companies and of this company and the resulting net revenue of this company for the past four years:—

	Year Ended December 31.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.
Gross earnings from operation in Brazil	Milreis. 113,073,982	Milreis. 134,905,832	Milreis. 170,867,353
Net earnings from operation in Brazil	58,423,485	69,990,657	95,105,553
Average value of milreis for exchange on New York based on remittances	Cents. 26.80	Cents. 20.41	Cents. 12.51
	\$ 15,655,477	\$ 14,286,039	\$ 11,898,523
Above net earnings in dollars	86,160	458,576	270,150
Miscellaneous revenue	15,741,637	14,744,615	12,168,673

As will be seen from the above statement the total gross earnings of the subsidiary companies in Brazil were 170,867,353 milreis, being an increase as compared with the corresponding earnings of the previous year of 35,951,521 milreis, or 26.65 per cent. The net earnings from operation were 95,105,553 milreis, being an increase of 25,114,896 milreis, or 35.88 per cent.

BRITISH EMPIRE STEEL CORPORATION, LIMITED.—The earnings for the period April 16th to December 31, 1921, were \$4,416,450, after deducting all expenses incident to operations, current repairs, taxes, administrative and selling expenses, and after reserving sufficient amounts to provide for shrinkage of inventories and other contingencies. The sum of \$1,501,176 was set aside for depreciation of plant and properties and to provide for sinking funds, and \$1,181,681 was deducted for interest on bonds and debenture stock, leaving \$1,733,591 net profit for the period. After payment of dividends declared on the first preference shares of the corporation and the preference shares and preferred stocks of the constituent companies, amounting to \$718,277, and making provision for those which had accrued upon December 31st, amounting to \$259,387, there remained to be carried over the sum of \$755,926. No dividends were paid upon the second preference or common stocks.

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON COMPANY, LIMITED.—The directors report that the accounts for the year ended March 31, 1922, result as follows:—After providing for depreciation, debenture interest, directors' fees, law charges and auditors' fees, the net profit for the year is the sum of £348,160, to which has to be added the balance from last year, £198,354, making £546,514. This amount the directors propose should be dealt with as follows:—Payment of preference dividend (5 per cent.) for the year ended March 31, 1922 (of which 2½ dividend (5 per cent.) for the year ended March 31, 1922, on March 31, per cent. was paid on September 30, 1921, and 2½ per cent. on the 1922), £50,000. Payment of a final dividend of 1½ per cent. on the issued ordinary shares (making with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent. already paid, 15 per cent. for the year), £300,000. Balance carried forward £196,514.

MANILA ELECTRIC CORPORATION.—The report of the above company (formerly known as The Manila Electric Railroad and Lighting Corporation) for the year to December 31st last has now been issued. An issue of \$2,500,000 First Refunding Mortgage 7 per Cent. Gold Bonds, due 1942, was made in April, 1922, to provide funds for the redemption of the Three Year 7 per Cent. Notes due September of this year, and for extensive additions to the electric generating capacity now nearly completed, and other corporate purposes. The dividend has recently been increased from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent., payable quarterly (and an extra ½ per cent. bonus was declared last quarter). After paying all dividends for the year, there was a balance left of \$646,231, which was transferred to surplus, making the total accumulated undistributed surplus at December 31, 1921, \$3,673,054.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim div.	Final div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Year.	Lat's Pro-vious.
Railways.						
Cork and Macroom	5	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Cork, Bandon, and S.C.	2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Costa Rica	..	..	..	..	..	..
Banks.						
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's	4 1/2 p.a.	..	..	Subject to tax	..	..
Bank of New South Wales	10	..	..	..	..	..
Brifast Discount Co.	7	..	..	..	..	..
Equitable	1 7/10 p.a.	July 24	..	Less tax	..	..
Hongkong and Shanghai	£3 p.a.	Aug. 8	..	Subject to tax	..	..
Imperial of India	16	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Lloyds	1 1/8 p.a.	July 29	..	Less tax	..	..
London County Westminster and Parr's	£20 shares	..	..	..	..	..
Do £1 shares	10 1/2 p.a.	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Manchester and County	6 1/2 p.a.	July 14	..	Less tax	..	..
Manchester and Liverpool	5 1/2 p.a.	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
National Provincial and Union	16	July 28	..	Less tax	..	..
Provincial Bank of Ireland	15 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Union of Manchester	5 1/2 p.a.	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.						
Scottish Automobile & General	7 1/2	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Mining.						
Cons. Gold Fields, First Pref.	6	Aug. 10	..	..	..	..
Electrolytic Zinc of Australasia	1 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Cum. Ptg. Pref.	8	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Electrolytic Zinc, Australasia	9/27 1/2 p.a.	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Kerr Lake	12 1/2	July 17	..	..	..	..
Nipissing	12 1/2 p.a.	July 20	..	..	..	..
Witwatersrand Deep	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Anglo-Ceylon and General	10 %	..	..	Free of Union tax	..	..
Cocunut Plantations of Penak	..	..	..	..	..	..
Emerald Rubber	..	..	..	..	..	..
Makum (Assam) Tea	10 %	..	..	..	..	..
Pathini Tea	6 %	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
United Planters of Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
A. and S. Henry and Co.	8	..	..	..	..	..
Alex. Findlater and Co.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Allen Taversley, Ltd.	7 1/2	Aug. 15	..	Less tax	..	..
Anglo-Argentine Tramways, Cm.	2 1/2 p.a.	July 29	..	Less tax 5/6 in £ (arrs. Je. 1918)	..	..
Second Pref.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Continental Guano	6 %	..	..	..	..	..
Arwick Picture Theatre	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atlantic First Leased Lines	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Rental Trust	4	July 31	..	Less tax	..	..
Australian Agricultural	3 1/2 p.a.	..	..	Tax free	5/6 p.a. 5/6 p.a.	..
Barnagrove Jute	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Belgravia Dairy	..	..	..	..	..	..
Borough Spinning	6 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Bradford Coal Merchants	3 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Brazilian Traction	1 1/2	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
British Assets Trust	10 %	..	..	..	..	..
British Investment Trust, Del.	14	..	..	..	..	..
British Oxygen Co.	14 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
British Union Trust	10	July 31	..	Tax free	..	..
Brooke, Bond, and Co.	10 1/2 (and bonus 1/2 p.a.)	..	..	..	..	..
Canadian Explosives, Cum. Pref'd.	13 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
C. and W. Walker	10	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Cape Collieries	10	..	..	..	..	..
Central Investment Trust	3 1/2	July 31	..	..	..	..
Celtic Collieries, Pref.	3 1/2	July 28	..	..	..	..
Central Bahia Rly. Trust, "A"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Certs.	4	Aug. 1	..	Less tax 5/6 in £	..	..
Do "B" Certs.	1 1/2	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
Chili Telephone	3 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Commercial Gas 4 %	5 1/2	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Do 3 1/2 %	5 1/2	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Cork Improved Dwellings	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Courtauld's	1 1/2 p.a.	Aug. 3	..	..	..	..
Dunlop Tar and Chemical	2 1/2 p.a.	July 15	..	Tax free	..	..
Dundee, Perth, and London	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shipping	6 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
George Outram and Co.	2 1/2 p.a.	Aug. 1	..	Tax free	..	..
Glasgow Royal Exchange	20 1/2 p.a.	Aug. 10	..	..	..	..
Gloucester Works	10 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Globe Shipping	16 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Greenwood and Batley	3 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Hazellwood Shipping	1 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Holloway's Properties	3 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Horsley Bridge and Engineering	1 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Irwel Bank Spinning	12 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
John Knight, Cum. Pref'd. Ord.	12 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Kaministiquia Power	5 1/2	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
L. and J. Weber and Phillips	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Manchester Bonding Warehouse	2 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Manchester Commercial Bldgs.	16 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
McIntyre, Hogw, Marsh	3 1/2	Aug. 14	..	..	..	..
Mercantile Invest. and General	3 1/2	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
Mersey Spinning	1 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Metropolitan Electric Supply	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Metropolitan Trust	2 1/2 p.a.	July 31	..	..	..	..
Mond, Nickel	1 1/2 p.a.	..	..	Tax free	..	..
North Eastern Breweries	5	July 1	..	..	..	..
Olson's Cape Breweries	13 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Oldham Twist Spinning	12 1/2 (and bonus 4%)	..	..	..	..	..
Oregon Mortgage Co.	4 1/2 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Park Road Spinning	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Peel River Land and Mineral	5	..	..	..	..	..
Reeves and Sons	1	..	..	..	..	..
Reynolds' Canal and Dock	1	..	..	..	..	..
Rochdale Co-operative Spinning	16 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
Royce, Limited	6	..	..	..	..	..
Sandown Park	6	..	..	..	..	..
Scarborough & Whitby Breweries	6 %	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
S. C. Larkins and Sons	10 %	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish American Mortgage	7 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Scottish Industrial Investment	7 1/2	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
Second Industrial Trust	6 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Selincourt and Sons	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Spear Bros. and Clark	7 1/2 (and bonus 5%)	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Spillers Milling, & Co., Pref.	10	..	..	..	..	..
Stoll Picture Theatre (Kingsway)	10	..	..	..	..	..
Sutherland Steamship	1 1/2 p.a.	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Thames, Limited	10	..	..	Tax free	..	..
United States Debenture	10	..	..	..	..	..
Wembley Park Estate	5 %	..	..	..	..	..
W. H. Chaplin and Co.	10 (bonus 5 %)	..	..	..	..	..
Wm. Roberts (Tipton), Pref.	10	..	..	..	..	..
Wren Spinning	14 p.a.	..	..	..	..	..
York Gas	2 1/2	July 21	..	..	..	..

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended July 8, 1922.			Aggregate 27 Weeks 1922.		
	Passen-gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total	Passen-gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total
Brecon and Merthyr	60	1,127	3,648	4,775	27,241	98,735
Great Central (e)	578	52,500	125,400	177,900	1,265,800	3,506,500
Do Joint Lines	161	..	..	37,600	..	..
Great Eastern (e)	1,207	135,800	85,700	221,500	2,881,000	2,539,400
Great Northern (e)	1,050	109,500	129,000	689,000	7,203,000	10,640,000
Great Western (d)	3,535	316,000	373,000	854,000	3,324,000	11,520,000
London & N. Western (d)	2,633	425,000	48,000	185,300	3,588,000	1,582,000
London & South Western	968	137,300	30,411	138,367	2,344,055	773,655
Maryport & Carlisle (e)	427	1,156	1,969	3,125	31,848	98,038
Metropolitan (e)	794	34,229	3,392	37,621	4,499,000	8,672,000
Midland (e)	1,585	189,000	314,000	503,000	3,601,9	38,320
Midland & S. W. Jnc.	63	1,832	1,755	3,587	28,300	9,858,600
North Eastern (e)	1,850	132,000	243,400	375,400	3,251,200	6,607,400
North London	16	4,796	15,055	131,117	270,358	4,438,400
South-East & Chatham	654	160,200	46,000	206,200	3,305,600	1,132,800
Underground E.R. (e)	..	..	..	223,048	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (e)	..	..	..	24,655	..	..
Caledonian	1,097	90,800	90,800	181,800	1,783,600	2,667,800
Glasgow and S. W. (e)	476	41,600	37,800	79,400	771,400	984,200
Gt. N. of Scotland (e)	492	12,520	6,230	18,910	227,230	258,000
Highland (e)	1,377	18,064	8,268	26,332	279,896	280,301
North British (e)	1,377	76,300	109,900	186,200	1,615,100	3,189,800
Belfast and County	80	6,938	1,304	8,242	129,411	37,979
Down (b)	160	4,479	976	5,355	142,453	96,354
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	4,479	2,278	4,742	264,075	389,098
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	..	..	..	..	655,153

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended July 7, 1922.

(c) Week ended July 8, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	10 weeks	June 10	1,043	2,25,769	+ 1,46,490	22,82,540	+ 8,05,210
Baral Lt. Ry.	10 weeks	17	118	32,200	+ 11,009	401,600	+ 1,72,600
Bengal & N. Western	10 weeks	10	2,067	6,46,710	..	63,71,240	+ 2,14,390
Bengal N. Ry.	9 weeks	3	2,637	2,37,000	+ 247,000	1,26,97,000	+ 11,04,314
Bombay, Bar. & C.L.	13 weeks	July 1	2,871	22,37,000	+ 3,15,000	5,16,15,000	+ 37,46,000
Burma	9 weeks	June 3	1,340	6,91,735	+ 1,19,157	69,94,691	+ 18,65,000
Delhi, Umballa & Kal	13 weeks	July 1	1,339	1,08,000	- 715	1,09,42,000	- 1,32,000
East Indian	14 weeks	18	2,772	30,13,000	- 21,000	3,77,33,030	+ 22,41,000
G. Indian Peninsula	13 weeks	1	3,721	24,07,900	- 1,09,838	14,99,00,000	+ 12,96,281
G. Indian Peninsula	10 weeks	June 10	3,028	14,75,000	+ 1,68,000	6,61,177	- 66,998
Robt. & B. Mahr. ..	10 weeks	20	269	66,182	+ 5,064	8,22,408	- 8,353
Robt. & B. Mahr. ..	10 weeks	10	302	1,33,182	- 1,65,991	94,89,786	+ 13,94,880
Do Lucknow-Brailly	10 weeks	10	1,852	10,01,039	- 1,65,991	46,77,799	- 2,52,763
South Indian	10 weeks	31	717	8,65,541	- 23,696	..	..
Sibb. Punjab (month)	6 mths	Mar. 31	..	..	..	10,100	- 1,400
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	8 days	July 8	752	..	..	1,170	- 695
Argentine N.E.	8 days	8	111	..	..	129,000	32,000
Argentine Trans.	8 days	8	3,428	..	..	158,000	31,000
B. A. and Pacific ..	8 days	8	3,547	..	..	30,000	+ 21,000
B. A. & G. Southern	8 days	8	1,869	..	..	15,000	+ 15,000
B. A. Western	8 days	8	Net	..	..	497,759	10,500
Buenos Ayres Cent.	11 mths	May 31	190	43,572	- 3,265	210,000	2,000
Central Argentine ..	8 days	8	3,305	..	..	75,400	11,600
Cordoba Central ..	8 days	8	1,205	..	..	15,200	9,300
Entre Rio	8	811	..	..	..	..	..
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	5 mths	May 31	..	Ms 47,250	- 16,500	206,750	11,650
Gt. West. of Brazil.	27 weeks	July 8	1,205	9,400	+ 1,400	357,400	25,700
Leopoldina	27 weeks	8	1,831	29,872	+ 5,344	706,503	168,583
State of Bahia, F.W.	27 weeks	9	1,554	26,673	..	774,270	38,300
State of Bahia, F.W.	2 mths	June 30	52	Ms 90,000	+ 42,000	158,000	+ 69,000
Chile & Peru.							
Antofagasta	27 weeks	July 9	838	23,220	+ 9,290	515,280	160,870
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 31	644	12,000	500	..	..
Nitrato (2 weeks) ..	26 weeks	June 30	366	17,668	278	..	153,520
Peruvian Corp.	11 mths	May 31	1,059	Si 142,300	+ 105,750	141,36,830	+ 1,066,770
Talca	12 mths	June 30	172	(b) 11,010	+ 63	113,110	168,050
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	- 500,572	7,020,807	- 3,080,221
Havana Central	1 week	July 8	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,562	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana ..	8 days	8	1,210	8,919	- 2,012	54,332	- 2,479
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	8 days	8	273	..	..	22,578	6,134
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	8 days	8	311	..	..	1,466	1,092
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	8 days	8	185	..	..	1,698	960
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	8 days	8	211	12,979	- 224	16,884	36,777
Midland Uruguay ..	12 mths	June 30	113	21,519	- 142	28,850	2,331
North-West Uruguay	11 mths	May 31	73	1,957	+ 555	..	1,327
Uruguay North	12 mths	June 30	..	..	..	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia ..	27 weeks	July 8	33	Ps 21,000	- 2,000	543,800	+ 110,900
Bilbao	6 mths	June 30	156	80,291	- 1,171	7,272	5,105
Bolivar	6 mths	30	136	15	8,000	3,869	27,180
Colombian Nat. Bly.	10 mths	Oct. 31	198	16	12,400	1,340	193,390
Costa Rica	10 mths	Apr. 30	70	22,386	+ 406	52,486	+ 5,531
Dorado Extension ..	5 mths	May 31	45	15,005	- 5,500	28,750	42,475
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	5 mths	30	45	4,750	..	62,452	45,000
Guantanamo Delta ..	27 weeks	June 30	5594	7,982	..	28,750	5,000
Gt. B. & N. of Spal	10 mths	July 1	104	Ps 50,494	- 1,233	64,347	9,525
Inter. of Central America	26 weeks	July 1	104	Ps 50,494	- 1,233	2,062,089	+ 671,651
La Guaira & Caracas	6 mths	June 30	403	246,000	- 104,000	402,836	5,947
Mexican Railway ..	1 week	July 7	403	\$125,500	+ 231,500	170,919	8,838
Do	5 mths	May 31	Net	\$282,630	- 2,105	80,810	870
Naasjo Oscarshamn.	4 mths	Apr. 30	193	11,669	..	246,000	74,300
Ottoman R. & Ry. ..	1 week	July 1	274	6,310	- 850	18,380	1,250
Paraguay Central ..	47 weeks	May 27	274	\$4,311,374	+ 414,841	65,299,660	+ 5,239,660
Piraeus-Athens, &c.	9 mths	Feb. 28	2	5,400	500	4,763	+ 192
Puerto Cabello, &c.	4 mths	Apr. 30	100	..	..	..	..
Salvador	8 days	May 31	..	135,168	+ 6,745	51,240	8,809
Santa Fe Province	4 mths	May 31	..	15,320	- 1,913	58,058	14,957
Samarang & Santiago	5 mths	June 30	112	(a) 11,795	2,361	..	..
Satra and Fiallet ..	5 mths	May 31	..	..	..	..	..

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Cereal crops have derived considerable benefit from recent moisture, but a spell of warmth and sunshine is needed to hasten maturity. English wheat continues in small supply, while firmly held at 55s to 58s per 504 lbs free on rail for suitable milling grades. Imported descriptions remain firm in sympathy with improved forward offers, though trading marked no appreciable expansion. No. 1 Northern Manitoba landed quoted 61s 6d per 490 lbs, No. 3 ditto 50s 6d, Australian 50s 6d, Rosale 64 lbs 57s, all ex ship to arrive per 480 lbs. The cargo section displayed firm features, the tendency being affected by stimulating foreign advices, but the demand was restricted on Continental account owing to fluctuating exchange rates. A steamer of No. 2 hard winter August-September sold 48s 6d and Victorian shortly due 52s 6d, both to France. Parcels were dealt in quietly, chiefly North American grain prices being somewhat irregular, though fully steady on balance. Flour in generally quiet request, and home milled varieties were reduced 1s per sack, at which there was rather more inquiry. London standard straight run quoted 45s 6d, town households 43s 6d, patents 47s 6d to 48s 6d, all English straights 43s 6d per sack delivered London area. All English country straights 40s 6d to 42s 6d free on rail at London stations. Imported steady, but quiet. Manitoba export patents quoted 45s, straights 41s, Pacific 40s, Australian 40s per 280 lbs ex store. On c.i.f. terms only a small business resulted, chiefly in strong Canadian makes, Manitoba patents July seaboard quoted in 44s, ditto straights 42s, Kansas patents 39s, and Australian 36s per 280 lbs. Millers' affairs quiet, but occasionally the turn easier. Broad bran quoted £6 15s to £7, extra £7 10s, ordinary bran £6 to £6 5s, middlings £8 5s to £8 10s per ton ex mill, bags included. Of imported, fancy Plate middlings quoted £9 10s and Plate pollard 7 10s per ton both landed terms. Barley remains dull. English grinding sorts rule at 46s to 47s 6d per 48 lbs free on rail. Of imported, Californian 38s to 40s, Australian chevalier 49s to 53s, Chilean ditto 49s to 50s per 48 lbs, Tunisian 34s, No. 4 Canadian Western 34s 3d per 400 lbs, all landed terms. Cargo market quiet and easier. A steamer Danubian-Bessarabian-Kustendji afloat sold at 32s per 400 lbs. Maize ruled firmer, owing to higher c.i.f. offers, and La Plata qualities sparingly offered. Plate yellow quoted 42s, No. 5 white African 37s, both landed, American mixed ex-ship to arrive 34s 6d per 480 lbs. The cargo section ruled firm for near, but forward positions quiet. A steamer Dan-Gal-Foxanian afloat was resold at 30s, and yellow Plate afloat 37s 3d, with August-September at 34s per 480 lbs. Parcels in good request at generally firmer rates. Oats, English, in small supply, and steadily held at 35s to 38s, according to sample, per 336 lbs, free on rail. Imported occasionally in buyers' favour. Plate f.a.q. 26s 9d, ditto clipped 28s 6d, Chilean tawny 28s, No. 2 white clipped American 38 lbs 27s, ditto 36 lbs 26s 3d, No. 2 Canadian Western 31s 6d, No. 3 ditto 29s 3d, New Zealand 37s 6d to 40s, all landed per 320 lbs. On c.i.f. terms small dealings occurred, chiefly North American grades, at generally easier rates, Plate descriptions being largely nominal in absence of offers. Oatmeal firm, but quiet. London made coarse pinhead £19, medium £17 10s, special groats £18 10s, rolled oats £18 10s, flaked £21, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £21 10s to £22, American, all cuts, £18 to £18 10s per ton. English beans steady. Springs quoted 58s to 65s, winters 51s to 53s per 532 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Rangoon spot 6s 10½d, Madagascar haricots old crop 9s to 10s, and new 17s to 17s 6d, per cwt; Chinese horse beans £10 15s to £11 15s per ton ex store. Peas quiet. English maples 80s to 90s. Denes 65s to 70s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Japanese spot 48s to 49s, Dutch hand-picked 20s, screened 25s, Tasmanian "A" grade 23s to 24s, New Zealand blue 22s to 24s per cwt. Lentils steady. No. 1 split 20s to 30s, No. 2 ditto 21s to 23s, Egyptian 21s to 25s per 100 lbs. English rye 40s to 45s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Home-ward grain chartering was on a moderate scale, chiefly from North American ports to Continent and Mediterranean. The River Plate section was very depressed, especially for prompt loading, and steamers up river to U.K./Continent July worth 17s 6d, while forward positions are nominally 20s to 20s 6d heavy grain, with options. Montreal to Continent August done at 15 cents, ditto Northern Range loading 13½ cents per 100 lbs. Range to West Italy November and December 4s 6d per qr, Montreal to four ports Denmark 21 cents per 100 lbs, Gulf to Continent August 18 cents per 100 lbs, and Mediterranean not east of West Italy August and first half September at 4s 9d per qr. North Pacific steady, but no business reported, and values stand at 37s 6d per ton to U.K., Continent September October. Eastern markets quiet but steady, with 18s paid from Bombay to U.K./Continent on deadweight. South African maize new crop rules at 22s 6d, while similar cargoes from the Danube would come at 17s 6d to 18s 6d according to size and position.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21, 1919-20, and 1918-19.

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to July 8	77,627	26,515	20,013	80,916
44 weeks to July 8	15,704,471	12,125,746	10,751,843	12,864,103
Average price of English wheat per quarter	52 6	58 7	84 10	73 3
per cwt	12 14	20 8	19 8	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	£ d	£ d	£ d
July 1	14,856 0	1,892 1	2,414 5	52 6	41 8	32 8
July 8	18,115 6	1,531 3	2,179 4	52 6	40 2	32 8
1918	6,576 0	1,259 3	296 7	74 4	57 5	47 0
1919	19,547 1	1,817 2	2,216 7	73 3	63 1	49 11
1920	4,669 5	860 1	2,407 6	84 10	90 11	64 9
1921	6,186 5	2,677 0	3,471 2	88 7	42 10	39 4

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated July 13th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The only event of importance this week is the termination of the price control of Cleveland pig-iron. In the absence of demand, it is not expected that any material change will be made in the selling prices. Nominal quotations are to-day:—90s for No. 3 Cleveland, G.M.B., and 94s for mixed numbers, East Coast hematite. Foreign exchange has stopped export trade for the moment. Manufactured iron and steel: Business in steel is very slack, and orders scarce. Steel prices are unchanged: Home—Steel ship plates, £10; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9 10s net. Iron Ore: Buyers seem to have withdrawn from the market, and hope for lower prices. Best Bilbao Rubio is nominally 25s.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The slowness of the recovery of local industry from the effects of the recent lock-out is illustrated by the statistics of unemployment. There was a total of 50,000 persons receiving out of work benefit when the dispute ended, and this has since been reduced by only 6,000. Some increase of activity in the cheaper kinds of mild steel is noticeable as buyers abroad are obtaining supplies from this country instead of the Continent. British billets at £7 5s, delivered to works here, is below Continental quotations, British pig can also be bought as cheaply as foreign, although Continental makers are beginning to cut their prices again, in order to recover their footing in overseas markets. The steel output of the country was at the last return 60 per cent. of the average of 1913, and has since increased, but the output capacity is now much larger than in that year. The im-

proved statistics are the result of a really great revival in South Wales, which is producing a much greater tonnage than before the war. South Wales tin plate has regained fully the Canadian market, which went to the United States during the war. In other parts of the country the steel trade shows a small gain week by week. In railway steel, heavy steel castings, forgings, and tool steel, Sheffield trade is still seriously depressed, with little sign of substantial improvement, but things are decidedly better in cold-rolled steel, engineers' small tools, and various craft tools. A substantial Russian order for files, saws, edge and engineers' tools has just been placed in Sheffield with satisfactory arrangements for payment. There is a general complaint that trading at the current low rates is quite unremunerative, and makers state that prices must go up as wages cannot be cut any further. The only economy in costs now remaining lies in a reduction of railway carriage charges, and a valuable concession in this direction has just been announced. The coal trade is unchanged, except a further decline in sales of household sorts, and reduced prices. Railway companies have placed contracts for South Yorkshire steams at 20s per ton, this being the lowest figure for three years. Rather less is being asked for export. Coke is being asked for on a steadily increasing sale. Weakness in the demand for gas coke is reported. Small fuels are in request, and inclined to become scarce, with prices tending upwards for the best sorts.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says: Business in iron and steel (raw and manufactured) has this week been practically at a standstill. That is to say, works have been almost solely concerned in clearing off booked orders, in view of the almost day-to-day of the usual summer industrial holidays, but nothing to speak of has been transacted in relation to new contracts on home and export accounts. The future in these connections is still shrouded in uncertainty, and neither buyers nor sellers, producers or consumers, are inclined for the time being to expand their engagements. Of course, inaction is influenced by the fact that the off-interregnum will last more or less generally from now till the first week in August, before which much may unexpectedly transpire, a condition which traders naturally prefer to prising that prices for most kinds of material have leaned to the easier side, but particularly so as regards pig-iron, which here and there has yielded 2s 6d to 5s a ton. These reductions, however, can hardly be said to be fixed, though they cannot fail becoming pronounced should the competition from Germany (that has again revived, make further progress. That will depend largely on the course of exchange. Scotch hematite continues quiet in the tone, round £5 8s 9d. Scotch No. 1 foundry, 100s, f.o.b. maker's works and ditto No. 3, £4 15s. At the usual meeting of the ring yesterday there were sellers of No. 3 Scotch at 98s, f.a.s., Glasgow; No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B., 89s; f.o.b. Middlesbro'; but no buyers. West Coast hematite, 94s, f.o.b. Middlesbro'; and mixed numbers To-day some holders of Cleveland are asking 90s, while consumers are offering 87s 6d f.o.b. at producers' works, and this, it is believed, would be accepted for a good prompt line. No feature has transpired over the week in shipbuilding or engineering relations—nothing notably, at least, in the giving out of structural contracts. In informed quarters, however, the opinion holds that when operations are resumed, two to three weeks hence, ship-builders and engineers will be in better positions than they are to-day, especially as regards engine building, but, of course, departures in oil engines construction is promised, and these what is desired are realities in that and other lines, and these are slow in coming along. The coal trade position is most unsatisfactory: demand is concentrated on smalls, supplies of which are fully 50 per cent. behind requirements.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The position on the Cardiff coal market during the past week has grown from bad to worse. There has never been within the memory of the oldest member of the Exchange a week when there was so acute a dearth of current business. The collieries have been dependent for cargo shipments almost entirely on their contracts, and in a very considerable number of cases these contracts have not been sufficient to keep the pits working for more than three or four days. The number of collieries closed down indefinitely is greater than ever, and employment is, therefore, on the increase. The depression has been aggravated by the heavy falls during the week in the French, Italian, and German exchanges. The violent fluctuations in the values of the franc and the lira have accentuated the distrust of exporters in the securities offered them, and little business has been done except for sterling cash in London against documents. Colliery companies in these circumstances are finding it more and more difficult to finance the working of their pits. There is no sign of any improvement in prices. The tendency continues downwards. Best Admiralty are from 6d to 1s per ton lower than they were a week ago, and other large qualities have sagged in sympathy. At these prices the loss per ton must be considerable. Even in May, when large coal prices were ruling for current supplies at between 27s and 27s 6d, the average pit-head proceeds per ton raised in the coalfield was only 18s 10d. That price left a profit of about 1s 2d per ton, which, however, accrued less from the slight increase in the average realised price than from the fall of over 1s per ton in the cost of production in consequence of the much improved output in that month. At the present moment the outputs are considerably less than the outputs in May, and in addition to the heavy fall in price the colliery owners have to contend with a much higher cost of production. The inland demand for household purposes has slightly improved, but the supply for industrial consumption is, as usual at this time of the year, at its lowest, while the quantity of coal exported in the foreign trade from the South Wales ports in the week ending July 8th was only 430,301 tons, compared with 501,215 tons in the previous week.

The following are the current market prices for representative coals:—Best Admiralty large, 24s to 24s 6d; seconds, 23s 9d to 24s; best drys, 24s to 24s 6d; black veins, 24s to 24s 6d; Western Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; Eastern Valleys, 22s to 24s; best bunk smalls, 17s 6d to 18s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 15s to 17s; col for export, 35s to 37s 6d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 2s to 20s; patent fuel, 25s to 27s; pitwood, 31s 6d to 32s.

In the iron and steel trade business has not been quite as active but a large contract has been placed by the Burma Oil Company, and tinplate prices are steady at 10s 6d to 10s 9d per box, f.o.b. Galvanised sheets are quiet at £15 12s 6d to £15 17s 6d, f.o.b. for 24-gauge corrugated in bundles, while sheet bars are unchanged at £7 7s 6d.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—July 7, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
						Med.	Good Med.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Extra Fine.
Sea Island	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American	Ord G O L M	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	5 74	5 89	5 74	5 74	5 89	5 74
Brazilian	Mid M F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	5 74	5 89	5 74	5 74	5 89	5 74
Pernam	1110	1290	1440	1440	1440	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1110	1290	1440	1440	1440	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
Maceio, &c.	1110	1290	1440	1440	1440	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
Mossoro, &c.	1110	1290	1440	1440	1440	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
Coara	1110	1290	1440	1440	1440	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
Maranhão, &c.	1110	1290	1440	1440	1440	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
São Paulo	1165	1265	1335	1335	1335	5 64	8 14	2112	2862	2112	2862
Egyptian	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	8 50	11 50	nm	420	nm	420
Upper	1450	1525	1600	1650	1750	8 50	11 50	nm	420	nm	420
Sakellaris	1700	2250	2000	2225	2500	8 50	12 50	nm	555	nm	555
Brown	1500	1625	1750	1825	2000	8 50	12 50	nm	555	nm	555
Peruvian	MF	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	1100	1100	460	460	1100	460
Rough	1400	1450	1525	1525	1525	6 50	10 00	3300	410	6 50	10 00
Moderately Rough	1275	1350	1400	1400	1400	6 14	9 14	1039	3362	6 14	9 14
Smooth	1285	1460	1560	1610	1710	6 14	9 14	1039	3362	6 14	9 14
Tangul	1310	1460	1560	1660	1860	6 14	9 14	1039	3362	6 14	9 14
Mitid	1200	1400	1550	1650	1850	6 14	9 14	1039	3362	6 14	9 14
West Indian, &c.	2300	2600	2900	3000	3000	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Do	2300	2600	2900	3000	3000	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
African, East, &c.	9 75	10 75	12 50	13 50	14 50	5 50	7 50	9 50	3050	3350	475
Do	1185	1235	1260	1260	1260	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Machine Ginned Surtee	G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	Fr. G F	8 05	8 05	208	208	8 05	208
Machine Ginned Broach	1085	1125	1165	1205	1245	6 80	7 05	7 55	1835	1885	198
Machine Ginned Bhowuggar	9 25	9 75	10 25	10 65	11 05	4 84	5 34	6 09	1394	1494	165
Machine Ginned Oomra No. 1	9 35	9 85	10 35	10 75	11 15	4 90	5 40	6 15	1400	1500	165
Machine Ginned Oomra No. 2	9 35	9 85	10 35	10 75	11 15	4 90	5 40	6 15	1400	1500	165
Machine Ginned Khandels	10 55	10 95	11 35	11 75	12 15	4 15	4 65	5 40	1225	1325	148
Machine Ginned Comphal	10 55	10 95	11 35	11 75	12 15	4 15	4 65	5 40	1225	1325	148
Machine Ginned Bengal	7 85	8 25	8 65	9 05	9 45	3 50	4 40	5 15	8 25	9 00	102
Machine Ginned Scinde	7 75	8 15	8 55	8 95	9 35	3 78	4 28	5 03	8 07	8 82	100
Tinnivelly	1215	1255	1295	1335	1375	7 80	8 05	2060	2110	7 80	8 05
Madras, Western	9 90	10 30	10 70	11 10	11 50	6 45	6 70	1735	1785	6 45	6 70
Madras, Northern	10 95	11 35	11 75	12 15	12 55	6 45	6 70	1735	1785	6 45	6 70
M.G. Cocoonada, Red	Fr. 1055	1055	1055	1055	1055	6 45	6 70	1735	1785	6 45	6 70
China, Smyrna, &c.	10 95	11 35	11 75	12 15	12 55	6 45	6 70	1735	1785	6 45	6 70

MANCHESTER, July 13.

A much quieter tone has prevailed in the market during the past week. A disturbing factor has been the fluctuations in raw cotton rates, and generally speaking buyers have operated very cautiously, as there is still a great dread of any depreciation in values. With regard to cloth, business has been done in an irregular way. If the demand does not improve within a week or so, then some manufacturers will be desperate for orders. Some encouraging light piece goods transactions have taken place for India, but most of the offers for shirtings have proved entirely unworkable. No developments have taken place with regard to China, and shippers to that outlet are very slow in raising rates. A recent advice reads in a discouraging manner. Day-to-day buying in a small way has been recorded for the outlets of the Near East. Rather less demand has been met with for the Continent and South America. Home trade buying has been patchy. American and Egyptian yarn quotations have been irregular, and on the week are slightly easier. Weak sellers are still to be found. The offtake for home use has been unimportant. Most of the bids in export numbers have had to be turned down.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd.,
24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1332 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £600,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,100,000 RESERVE FUND - £320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

Previous Weeks in 1922.					
Price, July 13, 1922.	Price, July 6.	Price, June 29.	Price, June 22.	Price, June 15.	Price, June 7.

	d	d	d	d	d	d
	13	15	17	19	21	23
Raw Cotton —Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13	15	17	19	21	23
<i>Sakellaridis</i> Fully Good Fair . . .	13	15	17	19	21	23
<i>Egyptian</i> per lb	13	15	17	19	21	23
Yarns —32's twist per lb	13	15	17	19	21	23
40's twist per lb	13	15	17	19	21	23
50's twist (Egyptian) per lb	13	15	17	19	21	23
32-l. Printers , 115 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	33	35	37	39	41	43
32-l. Shirtings , 75 yds, 13 by 19, 32's and 40's	31	33	35	37	39	41
32-l. ditto , 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	17	19	21	23	25	27

Price, July 13, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.

	d	d	d	d	d	d
	1865	874	2747	2186	2267	1909
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	15.65					
— Sakellaridis 'Folly Good Fair	19.75	16.50	62.00	27.09	29.98	30.75
— Egyptian per lb	20.24	17.1	54	45	50.4	50.75
Yarns—32's twist per lb	19.1	16.4	43	42	50.4	24
— 40's twist per lb	30	31.3	32	56.3	64	44
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	35	0	32	0	88	6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	31	0	31	0	81	6
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	18	6	18	9	49	0
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 lbs	17	9	16	9	42	6
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 lbs	17	9	16	9	42	6

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says :—The decision of the directors of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association to withdraw all their medium and low crossbreds from the July-September sales has apparently had its effect on the trade. Reports from Hull this afternoon indicate that the offerings of crossbreds have been well taken up at, in most cases, firm prices, and if the demand continues at the London auctions, the B.A.W.R.A. may have succeeded in their declared intention of stopping the rot. In this centre there is a somewhat better tone to-day, though business is still being conducted on restricted lines. The great trouble at the moment is the uncertainty in regard to Germany, for it is recognised that a financial collapse in that country would completely upset trade. As it is, most firms are adopting a waiting attitude, and are content to work off old orders. In the circumstances there is some irregularity in the quotations for tops. In most cases they are nominally unchanged, but definite business would doubtless find sellers willing to make concessions. Good warp 64's have been sold at 4s 5d, and various prices have been taken for average sorts for delivery in October and later months, anything from 4s 2d to 4s 4d being mentioned, according to the position of the seller in regard to commitments. Crossbreds are more or less neglected, and although there is not much change in quotations, the position favours the buyers. Botany mixture spinners are busy, but in other departments demand is rather quieter, though practically all spinners have enough work in hand to keep their machinery employed for from two to three months. There is not much change in the piece goods trade, but prices are fairly firm. Home-grown wools are selling well, the feature still being the high prices paid in the country for Downs.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The season can now be regarded as over in Australia, and cables to hand this week from Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane indicate that sellers and growers are satisfied with the past twelve months' work. It would have been interesting to have known the actual carry-over, but the number of bales remaining unsold can not be very large, and the way the trade has absorbed such big weights of wool in London, Liverpool, Australasia, South Africa, and South America is remarkable. Practically all the Colonial clips have been sold, while letters to hand this week from South Africa indicate a bare market, with hardly anything available excepting Basutos and six months' clothing wools. The Cape clip never disappeared so readily, and the Australian season will open probably the third week in September with chiefly new clip wools. The trade would appreciate more information regarding the shearers' strike, and whether shearing is taking place anywhere. If this strike continues any length of time, it will play sad havoc with markets, and can to a large extent upset the equilibrium of the trade. If it goes on for three months, every pastoralist will want his wool off the sheep's backs at once, and the forthcoming clip may easily be of extra length and the succeeding clip a short stapled one.

The sale at Liverpool last week-end passed off better than the majority expected, and although the opening was somewhat slow, with prices mostly in buyers' favour, towards the middle of the sale competition broadened, and the bulk of the merinos sold on a parity with the close of the London sales. The few Australian crossbreds catalogued sold at very firm prices. A sale is taking place to-day at Hull, where there is a very good show of wool, particularly Tasmanian merinos and crossbreds, and steady prices are generally expected. Next week another series of London sales will commence, and if the wool to be offered is actually sold, the

takings of the trade during June and July will be well on towards 500,000 bales. Surely after taking such a quantity buyers will deserve a month's holiday.

Last Monday B.A.W.R.A. issued a statement which the trade generally has regarded as of a "bullish" character. Undoubtedly the object is to inspire confidence in the present and future position of crossbreds, and the statement deserves consideration. It is satisfactory to know that the Association have got rid of such a big weight of crossbreds this year. It may be suggested that the Association need not set forth in pounds weight the quantity of wool absorbed by the trade. The weight of a Colonial and South American bale is well known, and the trade are accustomed to think of raw wool in terms of bales. No mention is made of the position of merinos, everything in regard to these wools evidently being considered satisfactory. I do not think anybody will object to the statement that it is not intended to sell crossbreds below a parity with June, neither need the taking off the market of N.Z. wools from the June and September series of sales disturb anyone. New Zealand pastoralists are undoubtedly experiencing a ruinous time, and should have an opportunity to market their free wools.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

So far as linseed oil is concerned, the market has preserved a fairly steady tone, and spot and "near" values show some appreciation on the week, $\$44$ now being the value for prompt delivery, and $\$43.58$ late July. Supplies are not heavy, and a strong factor has been the purchases on American account, substantial quantities having again been booked for early shipment. Evidently buyers on the other side have still plenty of faith in the capacity of the United States to absorb the oil between now and the incoming of the new domestic crop of linseed into the mills. America has been buying Argentine seed rather more freely of late, but notwithstanding the increased tariff on the imported oil product, English oil continues to find its way into the States. It is recognised, however, that the time is coming when domestic oil will be in competition with foreign, and that the extent to which the latter will be required will depend upon an increased capacity of America to absorb it. Forward positions of English oil are moderately steady, at a substantial discount off spot and near positions, August and $\$38.00$ or $\$38$ below July.

Cotton oils are more money in sympathy with Egyptian being £40 10s per ton, or £30, or less inactive, and offer at somewhat less easier seed, current value of crude Egyptian, naked, ex-Hull mill. Soya bejan, rape, &c. without notable change.

In the oilseed section, Plate linseed maintains a level of over £20 for shipment, and is slightly firmer, but crushers, in view of the uncertainty of the future, are indisposed to do more than to meet current oil commitments. Cottonseed is rather lower on the week, and a little more trade doing.

The imports of oilseeds and oil nuts in June were 130,703 tons, or above the average, thanks to large arrivals of linseed. For the six months the aggregate imports are 710,336 tons, against 630,759 tons same period last year, or 79,577 tons more, the principal increases being under the heads of cottonseed, rapeseed and soyabbeans. Linseed arrivals at 102,746 tons are 17,500 tons below a year ago, and nuts and kernels, at 102,684 tons, nearly 17,000 tons behind. Exports of unrefined oils for January-June are returned at 59,921 tons, against 31,738 tons, linseed oil accounting for 43,788 tons, against 10,650 tons, the heavy increase being due wholly to the large exports to America.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Hides from home slaughtered cattle were firm at the auctions held in Bermondsey this week, best ox and heifers making on the average about $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb advance. The three top weights in seconds recorded a similar advance, with the lighter weights remaining at last week's figures. First cows were a shade easier in the 50 lbs and under, seconds were unsold, while bulls realised

(Registered in Japan, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed	-	-	-	Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up	-	-	-	Y52,500,000
Reserve	-	-	-	Y11,780,000

Head Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office - - - - - 25 OLD BROAD STREET
(Gresham House), E.C.2.

BRANCHES: Amoy, Batavia, Bangkok, Bombay, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Kiukiang, Keelung, Kobe, Moji, New York, Osaka, Semarang, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c., &c., and Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

The Bank is incorporated by Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue note in Formosa, conducts general Banking Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business, and acts as Business Agents for other Banks. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

last prices. Calf skins were slightly easier in some classes as compared with last week, while lambs made from 2s to 4s 4d and pelts from 2s 2d to 3s 2d per skin. In the foreign hide market a fair amount of trading has been done during the week, and it is reported that Frigorifics at origin are very firm. Campana ox have changed hands at round about 44 dollars, while Bovril ox have made 8½¢, c.i.f. shipping weights. Dry and dry salted descriptions have experienced a moderate demand, but buyers are acting with extreme caution in regard to buying ahead.

Sole leather is patchy, with the demand about that of the preceding week. Hinds in the lighter averages are the main features of the trade passing, and repairers are taking these goods in 8 to 10 lbs average at round about 2s. Shoe manufacturers are inquiring for something lighter, and better selections round about 4 to 6 lbs have found buyers during the week, while there has been the usual weekly inquiry for something very common at a low price. Bellies are a fair market, although the better grades have not been so much sought after, while the call for shoulders seems to have slackened off.

Upper leathers are also a slow sale, the larger portion of what inquiry there is going around being for the commoner selections in glacé kid. Box and willow calf leathers are in limited request, and the call for suede leathers seems to have fallen off altogether. There is a small trade doing in waxed kips butts, but nothing much to speak of.

Shoe manufacturers are not finding orders coming to hand so freely as has been the case of late, and some are of the opinion that there is likely to be another dull period. However, there is still a moderate amount of business to be executed, and it is hoped that by the time this is completed the position will have improved.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The position as regards the market for building construction woods during the past month has been in favour of sellers, f.o.b. prices having shown a firm and steady tone. This is principally due to the fact that the Finnish shippers in the early months of the year

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended June 30.		Six Months Ended June 30.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	15,233,329	8,685,852	67,715,537	51,284,535
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	445,448	382,561	3,177,202	2,494,437
C. Meat	11,309,374	10,929,249	74,566,161	53,933,297
D. Animals, living, for food	445,407	271,553	1,303,475	1,035,668
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	14,331,717	11,859,927	91,771,213	69,624,026
F. " " " dutiable	7,957,837	8,007,042	50,874,416	49,992,545
G. Tobacco	1,581,620	1,608,828	12,877,630	9,779,462
	51,904,727	39,935,992	302,325,641	234,343,970
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	5,022,371	..	6,577,916	20
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	392,263	442,907	3,834,327	2,477,860
C. Iron ore and scrap	78,829	364,794	3,684,753	2,245,522
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	612,793	781,953	4,573,090	3,154,233
E. Wood and timber	1,110,384	3,074,494	13,233,836	13,365,083
F. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	3,828,498	7,279,124	32,164,793	38,954,390
G. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	2,943,001	5,704,243	24,706,642	36,024,744
H. Other textile materials	82,362	1,107,777	396,340	1,013,329
I. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, gums	362,239	1,108,322	6,065,779	4,620,327
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, gums	2,097,039	3,613,945	17,180,733	19,040,373
K. Hides and skins, unprocessed	469,326	903,559	4,146,919	7,161,876
L. Paper-making materials	465,216	470,965	5,052,046	3,836,861
M. Rubber	638,491	470,965	6,728,081	3,569,307
N. Miscellaneous, raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	286,107	618,323	3,597,993	4,268,533
	18,388,919	25,241,886	131,895,339	138,884,142
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	62,712	2,542	97,153	13,475
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	533,626	560,061	3,585,618	3,404,138
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,306,502	736,350	13,875,589	5,102,325
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,427,469	1,155,351	10,088,345	8,350,814
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	469,411	475,267	3,595,087	3,126,109
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	191,959	89,784	1,238,770	615,140
G. Machinery	783,364	664,747	6,997,965	4,071,125
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	279,319	390,463	3,010,791	1,983,160
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	486,332	521,173	2,671,375	3,553,553
J. Woolen and worsted yarns and manufactures	854,799	771,793	4,799,891	3,405,255
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,467,607	1,675,277	10,270,992	10,706,261
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	533,892	883,892	4,258,164	5,096,443
M. Apparel	765,872	1,164,195	4,437,663	6,899,010
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	720,335	878,489	7,498,537	5,354,136
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	4,065,979	3,635,619	31,261,763	21,828,789
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	574,523	1,093,022	3,351,729	5,357,978
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,065,251	1,021,296	5,778,809	5,340,362
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	446,021	524,283	4,346,283	3,406,581
S. Rubber manufactures	279,742	529,687	3,987,009	3,002,489
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	1,287,201	2,091,717	9,805,538	11,356,395
	17,599,916	18,856,724	136,047,071	112,619,538
Total, Class III.	46,183	18,924	203,843	143,696
IV.—Animals, not for food	232,147	244,643	1,392,798	1,271,265
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles ..	88,171,892	84,298,169	571,864,872	487,262,611
Total				

cleared a considerable portion of their f.o.w. stocks, some on cash terms and at very attractive prices, and were thus in a position to hold for, and obtain, more advanced rates for their later shipments. This action forced buyers to the Swedish market, which had been neglected because of what was considered to be the too high ideas of Swedish sellers—i.e., £26 for deals and £18 for 7-inch unsorted red, f.o.b.—and business has been negotiated both by Continental and United Kingdom buyers at these basis figures, and, to a greater extent, lower quality wood below these bases.

On the spot, however, the situation is not so satisfactory from importers' and merchants' points of view as now pertains to the f.o.b. market, for competition is still keen, and goods are turned over at prices that, under shippers' present ideas, cannot be replaced. With the fairly large import during June the country is well supplied with wood (though the stock is considerably less than last year's very heavy holdings) at the present rates of consumption. The latter is the key to the whole position of price—the demand is the thing, and it will have to improve considerably if spot values are to go much higher. One of the difficulties of a firmer spot market is that the early and cheaply purchased Finnish timber is piling up against the wood bought later at higher figures.

The Swedish *Svensk Travarar Tidning* reports that "the sales figures for the half-year will probably slightly exceed than fall short of 475,000 standards.....this means that all but 50 per cent. of the total supplies of the year have been sold, a result that is extremely satisfactory in view of the fact that the British market really opened only six or seven weeks ago." "Extremely satisfactory" is hardly the term to use, for importers were forced to enter the market on shippers' terms for immediate and early future requirements, and the competition in the United Kingdom for a share of the balance of the 50 per cent. stocks may not be so keen as for their share of the first 50 per cent. It rests with the demand on the Continent, which certainly has shown improvement of late months, and the United Kingdom. The Finnish balances unsold are not nearly of such importance.

It is worth mentioning that Russia during the first five months of this year sent us 34,900 loads sawn softwoods, against 2,840 loads for the first five months of last year, and Norway 63,300 loads, against 21,280 in 1921.

Canadian spruce is being imported moderately, about the same:

EXPORTS of PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES of the UNITED KINGDOM

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES				
(Value F.O.B.).				
	Month Ended June 30.		Six Months Ended June 30.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	173,119	294,065	1,929,209	1,652,078
E. Feeding stuffs for animals	125,659	125,674	529,767	960,360
C. Meat	73,099	66,039	373,667	499,797
D. Animals living, for food	5,611	1,861	20,865	11,645
E. and F. Other food and drink	1,713,885	2,048,701	18,665,012	12,102,520
G. Tobacco	547,761	507,711	2,594,701	2,758,633
	2,439,107	3,044,051	18,093,225	17,985,032
Total, Class I.				
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	12,677	5,391,946	15,433,560	30,847,763
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	25,544	154,704	504,951	801,932
C. Iron ore and scrap	9,620	44,240	71,020	319,322
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	41,050	382,848	356,620	3,433,671
E. Wood and timber	30,042	30,098	212,064	163,805
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	27,192	61,691	250,941	461,693
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	285,830	676,814	2,226,483	3,584,544
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	462	9,344	8,484	37,793
I. Other textile materials	31,669	81,525	219,121	285,004
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	363,748	479,629	2,393,013	4,795,693
K. Hides and skins, undressed	34,237	88,643	736,199	928,675
L. Paper-making materials	19,307	83,582	320,492	562,215
M. Rubber	6,069	5,948	68,228	52,424
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	148,061	179,932	2,077,368	1,612,351
	1,215,468	7,671,334	24,878,546	46,170,801
Total, Class II.				
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactures thereof	85,294	385,294	1,534,579	2,219,414
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	602,121	879,754	6,885,895	5,560,587
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	2,771,218	4,272,723	38,150,482	30,359,149
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	638,364	857,577	6,611,001	3,059,286
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	656,337	504,602	5,231,531	3,123,534
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	877,190	519,911	7,671,555	3,907,185
G. Machinery	5,185,130	2,321,929	41,120,395	27,775,075
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	11,258,150	10,454,200	905,383	631,697
I. Cotton yarn and manufactures thereof	9,605,229	10,641,232	94,415,882	90,427,463
J. Woolen and worsted yarns and manufactures	3,285,203	4,917,256	32,156,468	28,453,812
K. Silk and silk manufactures	178,810	189,224	1,260,286	1,114,751
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,476,705	1,923,952	9,493,911	11,094,959
M. Apparel	1,113,024	1,600,458	10,301,786	10,066,558
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	998,565	1,785,111	11,035,683	10,415,558
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured	338,124	481,432	2,084,289	2,896,041
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	351,907	343,867	2,288,729	2,423,730
Q. Paper and cardboard	490,912	553,263	4,550,776	2,984,314
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	2,877,236	2,279,936	26,458,133	28,620,632
S. Rubber manufactures	268,082	420,737	2,594,416	2,598,688
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	1,725,436	2,152,568	14,377,864	13,139,765
	33,658,121	40,555,339	319,229,784	281,548,698
Total, Class III.				
	181,920	121,559	1,814,949	775,882
IV.—Animals, not for food				
	747,522	753,668	4,878,524	5,281,592
V.—Parcel Post.				
	38,152,238	52,145,951	368,895,027	351,761,805
Total				

as last year, and stocks are light. Prices have shown more steadiness lately, and will depend on the demand here, and also in the home market and in the United States. For American pitchpine the home demand has lived up, resulting in a rise of prices there and also here for forward shipments, but owing to the bad state of the shipbuilding and engineering trades shippers' higher prices are hard to pass on to consumers.

In the furniture wood market the situation shows improvement, but more in price than in demand, although the latter is a little better than it has been for months past. For mahogany, particularly for British Honduras logs, goods prices have been made at auction; stocks in first hands are reduced, and new supplies are coming in very sparingly. For American furniture woods it is difficult to educate buyers to the higher ideas of States shippers, and the demand consequently lacks activity.

The teak market continues disappointing to importers and merchants in that branch of the trade. The demand from the shipbuilding trade is very slow, whilst the present changes in railway organisation and depressed conditions generally are having the effect of curtailing the call from constructors of rolling-stock. Values continue weak.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, July 14.

The markets for the chief part disclosed quiet features, buyers continuing purchases to wants of immediate necessity, while export requirements do not extend in face of the difficulties attaching to the question of the rates of exchange.

SUGAR.—General stability was again apparent under sustained buying orders and firmness existing in American centres. Recent prices were not only fully maintained, but in several cases substantially exceeded. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, sold, 57s to 58s; crushed, 55s 6d; nibs, 56s; granulated, 50s 9d to 51s 3d; caster, 53s 3d to 54s 3d; yellow crystals, 45s 3d; pieces, 35s to 36s; granulated, August, 50s 9d; ditto, September, 50s 6d; October-December, 50s 6d. Crystallised West India, sold, from 42s 6d to 45s as to quality. American granulated received fair support, and spot parcels sold, 49s 7½d to 49s 9d; July, steamer, 22s 9d to 22s 10½d, 22s 9d; August, 22s 10½d to 23s; September, 23s 1½d; white Java, July, sold, 21s to 20s 10½d; August, 20s 10½d to 20s 9d, all c.f. and i. terms, London. Dutch and Czechoslovakian sugars quite nominal for shipment. White Mauritius, spot, ranges from 47s 6d to 48s 6d, as in quality; white Trinidad, 48s 3d; white Brazilian, 47s. Cuban, basis 96 per cent., July, quoted, 17s 6d; Java, No. 17, Dutch standard, July, 18s 6d; Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., July-August, 9s 3d; ditto, 96 per cent., September-October, sold, 17s, all c.f. and i., U.K. Belgian crystals, October-December, 20s, f.o.b., Antwerp. Terminal market firm in the early part of the week, but quieter later. White, August, sold, 22s 9d to 22s 4½d; September, 22s 6d to 22s 3d; October, 21s 10½d to 21s 9d; October-December, 21s 7½d to 21s 3d and 21s 6d. Cuban stocks stand at 789,980 tons, against 1,431,700 same time last year. American glucose, spot, 27s 6d.

COFFEE.—A quiet tone pervaded this market, and prices for common descriptions tended in buyers' favour. General run of quality at the moment is not attractive to home-trade buyers. Futures dull. December, sold, 61s; March, 60s 1½d.

COCOA.—Market very quiet, but prices about unaltered. Transactions effected by private treaty include fine Grenada, at 57s; Bahia, 58s; West Coast African, 48s. Butter selling quietly at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—37,500 packages Indian were catalogued in auction this week and met with a generally slow demand. All the finer qualities denoted some irregularity, though about unaltered on balance. Inferior types were ½d to ¾d per lb lower. Ceylon auctions embraced some 28,600 packages, and for which the market ruled distinctly unsettled. Common and medium broken kinds ¾d to 1d per lb lower. Finest broken and leaf teas met a good demand, and market disclosed steady features.

RICE.—Shippers again offered sparingly, and market ruled firm, though buyers were not much in evidence. Two Stars, spot, new crop, 15s 3d; July-August, 14s 9d, c.f. and i. terms. No 3 cleaned Rangoon, afloat, quoted 14s 9d, c.f. and i., Levant, double bags. Broken descriptions steady, unaltered. Rangoon beans quiet of sale. Hand-picked, spot, sold, 6s 10½d; Madagascar butter beans, spot, old crop, 9d; new held for 17s to 18s. Japanese peas, spot, 49s; new crop ditto, September-October, sold, 33s 6d to 34s; and October-November, 33s. Dutch peas quiet. Screened, on spot, 24s to 25s.

SPICE.—Pepper market quietly steady. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 4½d; ditto, August-October, steamer, 3½d; Aleppy, spot, quoted 4½d; Ceylon, 4½d; Tellicherry, 4½d to 4½d, as to sample; white Singapore, spot, 7d; ditto, July-September, 6½d; white Singapore, spot, 7½d; ditto, August-October, sold, 6½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 1d; ditto, July-September, 9d, and October-December, 7½d per lb. Pimento, spot, 2½d. Flake tapioca, spot, fair, sold, 2½d per lb; ditto, July-September, London, quoted, 22s 9d; fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 21s 6d; July-September, 21s. Sago flour quiet; July-September, quoted 15s. Desiccated coconut dull; spot, 38s to 37s; ditto, July-August and August-September, sold, 36s 9d to 35s 9d. Ginger quiet, but prices steady.

FRUIT.—Currants steadily held, but demand was only moderate. Pyrgos quoted 52s; Amalia, 53s to 54s; Vostizza, 57s to 65s. Sultanais quiet. Smyrna, medium to good, 115s to 120s; fine to choice, 126s to 135s. Raisins quiet, and without new features. Dates quietly steady.

JUTE.—The market disclosed some irregularity and weakness, as buyers were not so frequent with actual dealings confined to a very moderate limit. First grade, July-August, continent, sold 136; new crop, August-September, 138; September-October, 137 10s. Lightning grade, July-August, 132 10s; August-September, 134; and September-October, 134. Hessians, 10-oz, spot, 38s 6d; 8-oz, 28s. A twills, 77s 6d; B, 70s. The Director of Agriculture of Bengal confirms acreage under jute at 1,456,000, and adds that crop will be

very late, owing to drought in earlier months. Present crop prospects fair, and stocks of old jute up country limited.

HEMP.—Manila slow of sale, and prices barely steady. F grade, July-September, quoted 139; G ditto, 133 10s; J, 130; K, 129; L, 128; M, 127. New Zealand steady, and H.P.F., spot, quoted 131 10s per ton.

SHELLAC.—Market slow, but steady. T.N., spot, 360s; August, 352s 6d; October, 345s.

COPRA.—Market slightly unsettled, but a fair amount of business resulted. F.M.S. Straits, July-September and August-October, Rotterdam, sold, 125 5s to 125 8s 9d; F.M. ditto to Marseilles, 124 7s 6d; Ceylon to Hamburg quoted 126 10s; Java ditto, sold, 125 8s 9d to 125 10s; South Sea quoted 124 10s; Cebu, 124 15s. Palm kernels steady. August-October, Liverpool, sold, 17 7s 6d.

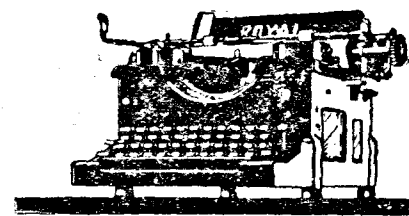
RUBBER. remained in a quiet and rather featureless condition. Standard crepe and sheet, spot and July, sold, 7½d to 7½d and 7½d; August-September, 7½d; October-December, 8d; January-March, 8½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 19½d; soft fine, rod; ball, 7½d.

MENTHOL.—Spot, sold, 24s; forward, quoted, 22s 6d. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, sold, 5s 3d; aniseed, spot, 2s 4d; August-October, 2s 5d. Ceylon citronella oil, spot, sold, 2s 4½d; June-July, 1s 11d; Java, spot, quoted, 2s 11d; forward, 2s 9d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 87s 6d; forward, 74s.

OLDS.—Linseed market generally firmer, with improved inquiries. Spot, net, naked, 44s; July, 42s 7½d; July-August, 42s 6d; September-December, 38s 7½d. Rape quiet. Crude, spot, 44s; refined, 48s. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, 42s; Bombay nominal; common edible, 48s. China-wood: Hankow, spot (barrels), 64s; shipment, 65s. Coconut steady. Ceylon, spot, 42s; July-August, 38s 9d; Ceylon, ditto, 43s. Soya steady. Oriental, barrels, ditto, 41s. Japan fish steady. July-August, cases, 22s. Cod steady. English, spot, 31s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, nominal, forward, 48s; deodorised, barrels, 56s. Turpentine easier. American, spot, 102s 9d; July-December, 91s; September-December, 88s 6d; January-April, 88s 6d. Rosin firm for common grades. American, grade B, 14s; F, 14s 9d; G, 14s 9d; WW, 20s 6d. French, FJG, 14s 6d; WW, 17s 6d; extra pale, nominal. Petroleum quiet. American standard white, 1s 4½d; and water-white, 1s 5d per gallon.

OLSEEDS.—Linseed market opened firm, but quieter since. Bold Bombay, afloat, 122 15s. Small Bombay, ditto, 121 15s. Calcutta, afloat, 121 15s; June-July, 121 15s. Plate, afloat, sold, 120 2s 6d; June-July, 119 15s; July-August, 119 12s 6d; August-September, 119 12s 6d. Rapeseed irregular. Toria, July-August, quoted 118 12s 6d; real bold Ferozepore, July-August, quoted 118 2s 6d. Cotton seed firm. Egyptian black, July, sold, 12 2s 6d; and white, 11 2s 6d. Bombay, July-August, sellers, 19 5s. Gingly dull. Chinese, June-July, Continent, nominally 12 7s; large Bombay, ditto, 12 6s. Castor, Bombay, May-June, quoted 19 5s, to Hull. Ground nuts dull. Coromandel, machine-dried, July-August, Hull, 12 3s.

METALS.—Tin: With a fair number of buying orders in evidence,



INVEST IN A ROYAL TYPEWRITER It Pays for Itself.

Typing, copying, and duplicating work can invariably be found by those who are anxious to earn money in their spare time.

The "Royal" Typewriter has a well-deserved reputation for producing the finest work. The clean-cut lettering, the ease of operation, and the adaptability for every class of work make it an ideal machine for home or office work—and it pays its own instalment.

If you think of hiring a typewriter or obtaining one on easy purchase terms, ask us to call, or call on us. Our terms are most reasonable. Please write for them.

Skilled operators provided at any time for special or temporary work.

Portable Typewriters Supplied.

Send your enquiries to:—
ROYAL STANDARD TYPEWRITERS
Dept. E, Royal House, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4
Phone: City 7891.

ROYAL

general firmness characterised movements at the opening market. Cash registered 154 15s to 154 10s, and three months 155 to 155 10s, and finally at 155 5s. The tone, however, was not maintained on the following day, sellers being less reserved, while obliged to make concessions in order to effect business. Cash sold, 154 down to 153 12s 6d, and three months 154 15s to 154 5s and 154 7s 6d. The tendency continued in a downward direction at the middle of the week, though offers were fairly well absorbed. Cash was established at 153 5s, and three months 154 10s to 153 15s and 154 5s. At Thursday's meeting the tendency was again easier, with a fair amount of business in force. Cash sold, 153 5s; three months, 154 5s to 154 15s; and three months, 154 to 153 15s to 154, while finally registered at 153 17s 6d. English ingots, 154. Copper has been a very steady market, but trading on a moderate scale, sellers showing no disposition to press sales. Standard cash commenced at 162 17s 6d, and three months 163 10s to 163 2s 6d and 163 7s 6d. Values improved by the middle of the week, and business was more extensive, cash being dealt in at 163 5s, and three months 163 10s to 163 13s 9d. Market showed firm features on Thursday, and moderate transactions resulted, including cash at 163 5s, three months 163 15s to 163 12s 6d, and again at 163 15s. At Friday's session values ruled easier. Standard cash sold at 163 1s 3d to 163 2s 6d; early September, 163 7s 6d; three months, 163 10s to 163 13s 3d to 163 10s. Electros, 170 5s to 171 15s; best selected, 166 to 168; strong sheets, 194; wire bars, 171 15s per ton. Lead dearer, 124 12s 1d to 123 12s 6d as to position. Spelter firmer at 128 15s to 128 12s 6d, according to position. Antimony, English Regulus, 127 to 129 10s. Aluminium, home delivery, 1100; export, 1105.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on July 12th as follows:—The tallow market was less active during the week, and prices are fully maintained. Little business is possible for shipment, because prices at the sources of supply are above the parity of those current here. At auction to-day 1,522 casks tallow were offered, and 1,017 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 40s 6d; good to fair, 40s to 38s 3d; dull to dark, 36s 6d to 33s 6d; hard, 39s. Australian beef: Fine, 40s 9d; good to fair, 38s 6d to 37s 6d; dull to dark, 36s 3d to 33s 3d; sweet, 41s 3d. Present shipment from Australasia: Mutton, fair coloured, 48 degs., —, and mixed, 43½ c.i.f. London, 38s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 34s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 14d; melted stuff, 24s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town: 33s 6d net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 33s; home melted, shipping casks, net f.o.b., good coloured, 3½s; fair to dull, 35s to 34s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 30s; melted stuff, 29s 6d, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—JULY 13.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	8 0 to 8 8	Sheep—Downs (clipped)	12 0 to 13 4
Shorthorns	7 8 to 8 8	Ewes (clipped)	6 8 to 7 4
Devons	8 4 to 9 0	Crossbred (clipped)	11 4 to 12 8
Norths	7 8 to 8 8	Scottish (clipped)	12 4 to 13 8
Scottish	nominal	Lamb—Downs	12 4 to 13 8
Irish	nominal		
Fat Cows	nominal		

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—JULY 13.

	Per Cwt.					Per Cwt.				
	s	d	s	d		s	d	s	d	
English Epicures	7	0	to	8	0	Dutch	7	6	to	..
" Kidneys	9	0		10	0					

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS.		INDIA RUBBER.		PROVISIONS.		SPICES—Pepper, per lb.	
COCOA.—Duty, British grown		Alces, fine E.I., p.cwt	120 0	Para, fine, hard, spot	175 0	Butter—per cwt.	22 0	Black	7 8 to 8 8
22s 6d foreign 28cwt.		Cape, good to fine	23 0	Plantation crepe	0 75 0	Irish creamery	22 0	White	7 8 to 8 8
Trinidad, per cwt.		Balsam Peru	0 8 0	INDIGO—per lb.	0 2 0	Do factory	19 0	Black Singapore	0 5 8 to 0 6 0
Granada		Camphor	1 6 0	Bengal, good red vilo	9 0 10 8	Argentine	22 0	White Siam	0 7 8 to 0 8 0
Ceylon, plantation		Japan, refined	3 6 3	Let to fine	9 0 10 8	Dutch	22 0	Cinnamon—1st sort	1 0 0
Guayquil		Cardamoms, Ceylon	1 6 5	Mid ord vilo to good	7 9 9 0	New Zealand	22 0	Do 2nd	0 11 8
Bahia, finest		Cantharid, China prib	4 6 6	Low to good ord	5 6 7 6	Danish	22 0	Do 3rd	0 11 8
COFFEE.—British grown		Castor oil	58 0	Madras, dry leaf, good	5 6 7 6	Bacon, engd.—Irish	167 0	Do 4th	0 11 8
22s 6d foreign 28cwt.		Gum Benjain, Sum, cwt	120 0	Korowai, dry leaf, good	5 6 7 6	Danish	156 0	Chips	0 2 6
E India, finest		Oilbainum, drops	0 11 0	Low to mid	5 6 7 6	Canadian	123 0	Cassia Lignea	45 0 8 8
Do good to fine		Fair to good	80 0	HEMP—per ton	2 8	American	123 0	Cloves—Zanzibar	1 2 0
Costa Rica, ord to mid		Ipecacuanha	7 0 0	Russian Sietz	48 0	Hams—Irish	155 0	Peppercorn	3 0 0
Good to fine		Jalap	2 9 0	Manila "G" Grade	32 15	Canadian	155 0	Ginger—per cwt.	100 0
Central American, 8d.		Musk pod, China	85 0	July Spot	32 0	American	155 0	Cochin, cut	100 0
Ord to mid		Aniseed	2 4 0	N.Z. afloat, high mark	32 0	Do washed	155 0	Do small rough	100 0
Mid to fine		Peppermint, H.G.H.	22 6	JUTE.—		Pork—per 8 lbs	8 0 8	Japan	45 0 8 8
Columbian, ordinary		Rubbr, China, fr to fn	4 6 5	July Aug. 1st grade	36 0 0	Best—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 4 1	Jamaica, small	0 21 8
Do good to fine		Galls, China, per cwt	75 0 0	LEATHER.—per lb.	4 8	Do washed	11 4 1	Make	1 6 2
Do mid to fine		Turmeric, Bengal	nom	Sole Bends 6 10 lb.	1 4 2	Cheese—Cwt—Canadian	60 9 4	Nutmegs, good to fine	1 1 2
ACID, CHLORIC.—per lb		Madras, finger	31 0 0	Do do 10 12 lb.	1 4 2	New Zealand	60 9 4	Small to medium	0 10 8
Nitric		Gambier, block	31 0 0	Do do 12 14 lb.	1 4 2	Eng. Cheddars	91 0 120 0	Chilies—per cwt.	160 0 0
Oxalic, net		Cutch, ord to fair	35 0 0	Do do 14 16 lb.	1 4 2	Cheshire	nom	TALLOW.—per cwt.	38 6 8
Tartaric, English		DYEWOODS.		Do do 16 18 lb.	2 2 10	Kegs, pr 12½—English	17 0 15 0	Good mutton	38 6 8
Foreign		Brazil	18 0	Do do 17 18 lb.	2 2 10	Irish	14 0 15 0	Beef	38 6 8
Alum lump, per ton		Fustic, Jamaica	14 0	Bark Tanned Sole	2 9 3 6	FLOUR—per cwt.	44 6 0 8	TAPIoca.—per lb.	0 2 6
Do ground		Cuba	15 0	Shidra fr 18 Hides	0 9 11	Do extra fine mill	44 6 0 8	E.I. Flake, fair, spot	0 2 6
Ammonia, carb., p lb		Lima Wood	18 0	Do Eng or WS do	0 9 11	RICE.—per cwt.	11 4	Pearl	0 21 6 28 0
Muriate, White, ton		Logwood, Campeachy	12 0	Bellies fr 18 do	0 7 4 0 8 4	Rangoon No. 2	14 9 15 0	TEA.—duty 6 d, British	
Sulphate		Honduras	13 0	Do Eng or WS do	0 7 4 0 8 4	Broken 1A	12 8 0	foreign 6d per lb.	
Arsenic, lump, per ton		Red Sanders	12 0	Dressing Hides	1 9 2 3	Do 2A	12 8 0	Indian and Ceylon	0 10 1 4 4
Powder		Sapang Ceylon	15 0	Do Eng or WS do	0 7 4 0 8 4	American	14 0 20 10 0	Pekoe	0 10 1 4 4
Asbes, pot., per cwt		FLAX.—spot, c.i.f.	2 8 5 0	Do Eng or WS do	0 7 4 0 8 4	French	14 0 17 10 0	Broken Pekoe	0 10 1 4 4
Pearl do		Riga 2K	85 0 85 0	METALS.—B. Copper	2 8	SAGO—Pearl, per cwt	25 6 33 0	Orange Pekoe	0 11 1 5
Bleaching pwr, ptn		Parana 8K	85 0 85 0	Best selected	66 0 68 0	Sago flour	21 0 0	Broken Orange	0 11 1 5
Brass, crystal		Shaneta U.A. Medium	11 0 0	Sheet (strong)	54 0 0	Do	21 0 0	Pekoe Southerly	0 8 0 11 2
Iron, pig		FRUIT.		Standard	63 2 6	SHELLAC.—per cwt.	3 8 0	TIMBER.—Timber & Hewn Wood	
Cream Tartar		Oranges, Val. selected	0 0 29 0	Lead—Eng. Pig, 25 lb	3 0 0	Oranges, first	42 0 45 0	E.I. Teak (bowl)	15 0 0 45 0 0
C		Do Naples, boxes	0 0 13 6	Soft Foreign	23 12 6 24 12 6	Macassar	15 0 0 15 0 0	Kauri Pine cubic ft.	7 0 14 0
32% powder		Lemons, Naples, cases	0 0 13 6	Do Eng. Pig, 25 lb	23 12 6 24 12 6	Garbet, Lac, AC	235 0 0	Satinwood super	1 0 8 0
Chlorate, net		Do boxes	7 6 29 0	Spelter G.O.B.	28 12 6 28 12 6	Burton—pure	492 0 0	Cedar	6 4 1 0
Frusiate		Do Malaga boxes	0 0 0	Tin—English, ingots	124 10 0	Blocky (TS)	360 0 0	Japanese Oak sup.	0 8 0 19
Sulphate		Grapes, Lisbon, boxes	0 0 0	Standard, cash	153 5 0 153 7 0	Stilk.—per lb.		American Ash	0 3 0 6
SA-Acetone		Amberia	0 0 0	OLDS.—Fish, per ton	2 8	China—Blue Elephant	25 0 0 0	TOBACCO.	
SA-Ammoniac, p.cwt		BIDES—Washed	0 5 0 7	Seal, pale	42 8 42 0	Canton	35 6 35 0	Duty 2-10 4d per lb.	
SA-Bicarb, per ton		Australian	0 5 0 7	Seed, Linseed, per ton	44 0 0 0	Tasman	15 0 16 0	Virginia leaf	1 3 2 3
Crystals, exship, p. lb		Cape	0 5 0 7	net, naked	44 0 0 0	Re-seed	16 0 16 0	Common to fine	1 3 2 3
Alkali		Lisbon	0 5 0 7	Rape, reseed	44 0 0 0	Japan	36 0 36 0	Strips	2 8 2 8
Caustic		Goire	0 5 0 7	Crude	44 0 0 0	Itain—Raw, fr. Milan	40 0 0 0	Kentucky leaf	1 8 1 6
Sugar of lead white		Dry & Drysalted Cape	0 4 0 5	Cotton-seed, crude	42 0 0 0	SHELLS.—M. o.		Common to fine	1 8 1 6
Foreign white		Dry & Drysalted Cape	0 4 0 5	Refined	48 0 0 0	Manilla, bold	15 0 0 13 10 0	Strips	1 3 1 6
Sulphate Quinine		Madagascar	0 4 0 5	Cocoa-nut, crude	47 0 46 0	Macassar	15 0 0 13 10 0	Burma	1 3 1 6
English Brands		Central American	0 4 0 5	Refined	48 0 0 0	Stryder	9 10 0 12 10 0	Borneo Super Burma	1 8 7 8
Do Foreign		Buffaloes, Singapore	0 4 0 7 4	Palm	38 0 41 8	Warralton	5 10 0 6 10 0	Sedifac	1 6 4 6
Sulphate Copper, p.tn		Peang	0 4 0 7 4	Lard, American	38 0 41 8	Bombay	5 10 0 6 10 0	Havanna	1 6 6 8
Zinc cut		Market Hides, London	0 4 0 7 4	Petrolm. Oil, per 8 lb	1 4 4 0 0	SUGAR—per cwt duty 25s	8 4	Greek	1 6 6 8
Sulphur Flour		Resthyr, or neither	8 8 0	Water-White	1 4 4 0 0	per cent. Polarisation	8 4	Green	0 1 0 0
Do Roll		Do light	8 8 0	O Cakes, Lead, Eng	1 5 6 0 0	per cent. Polarisation	8 4	India	0 1 0 0
Do Yellow		Do heavy	8 8 0	per ton	612 12 612 15 0	Crystallised	42 0 45 6	Chirs, duty 15 7 per lb	2 8 0 8
English		Do light	8 8 0	Oil Bees—Linseed	42 0 45 6	Java, c.i.f.	21 2 12 0	TURPINE, p.cwt 12	9 0 8
COBRA—per ton, c.i.f.		Do heavy	8 8 0	La Plata June July	419 15 0	RAPINE—London		WOOL—per lb.	2
Malabar, June Aug.		Best cow	0 7 4 0 0	Bombay, p.tn, June July	22 12 6	Yellow Crystals	45 3 0 8	English, Southdown, whsd.	d
Ceylon		2nd do	0 7 4 0 0	Guatima, p.tn, June July	21 12 6	Cuba	57 0 58 0	"Line do ing	12
N.B. Bristle		Best calf	11 0 0	PORTLAND CEMENT.		Crushed	55 0 51 3	Queensland and sup. embg.	45
F.W. Strate		2nd do	11 0 0	Best English, per ton	63 0 63 6	Granulated	55 0 51 3	S.W. W. W. W. W. W. W.	16
CROMBINEAL per lb		2nd do	11 0 0	delv'd, London	63 0 63 6	Crystallised	42 0 45 6	N.Z., crys, c.i.f. (d. 55)	62
						Pices	35 0 42 0	Crossed, 44 54 A	16

Insurance.

INSURANCE & INVESTMENT.

Endowment Assurance is the ideal combination of Life Assurance and Investment.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Chief Office: OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER.

(For the year ending December 31st, 1921)

ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS £6,600,000.
ASSETS EXCEED £21,600,000.
CLAIMS PAID EXCEED £34,900,000.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE CO., LTD., 50 Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2. Premium Income exceeds £1,350,000. Funds exceed £3,000,000. Claims paid exceed £6,000,000. Annual Reports and Prospectuses can be obtained on application.

The Investor's Monthly Manual

ESTABLISHED 1864.

THE MOST COMPLETE PERIODICAL RECORD

in existence of the dealings, throughout the United Kingdom, in every description of stocks and shares.

Over 4,000 securities are dealt with each month, showing recent dividends and yields at latest prices. The Manual also contains a valuable summary of Profit and Loss Accounts each month.

It is absolutely free from any connection with any financial house or speculative agency.

HALF-YEARLY DOUBLE NUMBER.

PUBLISHED on JULY 3rd.
POST FREE - - 2s. 3½d.

The Double Number gives, in addition to the usual information, the highest and lowest prices of all stocks and shares for 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921, and for the first six months of 1922, the latest quotations for 1922; also the recent dividends declared and Yields at latest prices, a tabulated chronicle of the half-year's events, the names of the markets where each security is chiefly dealt in, besides memoranda relating to the financial position of Foreign and Colonial Governments, to Railways, &c., &c. In addition, there is furnished the addresses of the various companies, with the names of the Chairmen and Secretaries, or Managers.

Annual Subscription £1 1 0
Publishing and Advertisement Offices:
3, ARUNDEL ST., STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

BANK OF LIVERPOOL & MARTINS LIMITED,

Head Office: 7 WATER STREET, LIVERPOOL.

London Office: 68 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

325 Branches and Sub-Branches.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 30th JUNE, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Capital paid up, viz.: £2	Cash in hand and at
10s. per Share on 939,556	Bank of England ... £7,981,148 17 4
Shares of £20 each ... £2,348,890 0 0	Money at Call or Short
Reserve Fund ... 1,400,000 0 0	Notice ... 7,515,518 9 11
Amount due on Current,	Loans on Stocks and
Deposit, and other Ac-	other negotiable
counts ... 68,999,197 19 9	Securities (partly under
Bank's Acceptances ... 1,916,182 7 4	Treasury Minute of
	31st October, 1914) ... 349,274 17 9
	Investment in 5 per cent.
	War Stock, 1929-1947,
	National War Bonds,
	and 4 per cent. Victory
	Bonds ... 9,503,375 7 4
	Investment in Local
	Loans Stock, Exche-
	quer Bonds, Treasury
	Bills, and other First
	Class Securities ... 3,881,148 14 0
	Bills of Exchange ... 4,979,364 17 5
	Loans and Advances to
	Customers, &c. ... 37,089,637 16 3
	Customers' Liability for
	Bank's Acceptances as
	per contra ... 1,916,182 7 4
	Bank Premises—Liver-
	pool, London and
	Branches—at cost, less
	amounts written off ... 1,448,618 19 9
	£74,664,270 7 1
	£74,664,270 7 1

Contingent Liability on Indemnities and on Credits opened but not yet accepted against, etc. £2,079,017 5 6

The Great Liberal Progressive Paper DAILY NEWS

EVERYBODY SMOKES

PLAYER'S "NAVY" MIXTURE

The Scientist "The MIXTURE OF MATCHLESS MERIT."

SOLD IN THREE STRENGTHS:
WHITE LABEL - - - 10½d. per oz.
MILD AND MEDIUM - - - 1/- per oz.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS,
Nottingham.



Branch of the Imperial Tobacco Company (of Great Britain and Ireland), Ltd.

JULY 22, 1922.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCV.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1922.

No. 4,117.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2
ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD, President

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full Information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

issued by the Company may
be obtained on application
from the Head Office or any
of the Offices or Agencies
of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

Christiania, Norway,

transacts all kinds of banking business.

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Aalesund Haugesund
Bergen Sandefjord
Christiansand S. Skien
Drammen Stavanger
Fredrikstad Trondhjem

and all Norwegian places of any importance.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS

1 Jan., 1920... Kr. 69,000,000

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Fully Paid ... Lire 300,000,000
Reserve ... Lire 90,000,000
Deposits and Current Accounts at 31st Dec-
ember, 1921 ... Lire 4,419,768.340

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

(D. A. HORNER.
Managers F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having
correspondents in all Countries, and is specially pre-
pared to grant facilities for the development of trade
between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London." Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market 137	Stock Exchange News—
Leading Articles—	The Stock Markets 158
A Great Opportunity 139	New Issues 159
The Story of the Cattle	Active Securities 159
Embargo 140	Company Meetings 160
Insurance & Public Policy 141	Government Returns—
Lancashire Cotton Trade .. 142	Currency Notes Account .. 164
Nitrate Position & Results 143	Treasury Bills and Bonds
The Panama Canal 144	by Public Tender 164
Notes of the Week—	Public Income and Ex-
The Price of Honours 146	penditure 164
Conditions in Ireland 146	Bankers' Gazette—
The Miners' Conference 147	Bank of England 165
Our Debt to the United	Clearing Returns 165
States 147	Overseas Bank Returns ... 165
Employment in June 147	Monthly Statement of Lon-
Cost of Living 147	don Clearing Banks 166
The Banking Half-year 148	Loan and Discount Rates .. 167
British Coal for Germany .. 148	Overseas Bank Rates 168
Chartered and the Pro-	Rates of Exchange 168
visional Agreement 148	Bullion 168
The Niger Company's Loss.. 148	Imports and Exports of
Bawra Accounts 149	Gold 169
English Sewing Cotton 149	Gold and Silver Prices ... 169
Queensland "Repudiation"	
Act 149	
Gordon Hotels 150	Company News—
Marconi International	Analysis of Balance-Sheets.. 169
Marine 150	Reports and Notices 170
Kafir Costs 150	Transvaal Gold Outputs .. 171
West African Gold Industry 150	Dividend Announcements.. 172
Japanese Trade and Finance 151	Mining Outputs 172
Overseas Correspondence—	Railway and Tramway
United States 151	Traffic Returns 173
France 152	Rubber Outputs, &c. 174
Germany 153	Profit and Loss Accounts .. 175
Canada 154	Commercial Reports—
Austria 155	Corn Trade 175
Greece 156	Iron and Coal Trade 176
Books and Publications—	Wool Trade 177
The Beginnings of Economic	Cotton Trade 178
Theory 157	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds 178
Iron and Steel in France .. 157	Hide and Leather Trades .. 178
White Men and Men of	Overseas Trade Returns .. 179
Colour 157	Price Current 180
Books Received 158	

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 0d; Yearly, £2 18s. 0d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 0d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at
Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons,
5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar
Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street;
Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 53 Finsbury
pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,
37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad
street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

As usual in these times, when the Treasury is not borrowing from the Bank the market has a very narrow margin, if any; and on Monday some large withdrawals by the clearing banks, for balance-sheet and other purposes, combined with the absence of maturing Treasury bills, forced borrowers to go to the Bank of England for considerable sums. Since then the supply of credit has been uneven, but barely adequate; 2 per cent. was readily paid for loans over the night, and on Thursday one of the

[July 22, 1922.]

banks proposed to arrange advances until Monday at this rate, thereby arousing some comment among the bill brokers, on the ground that for some time they paid the banks more than they could earn on bills, and that it was thus hardly fair to seize the present occasion to squeeze them, when the Government, as shown by the Bank return, was sitting on an unusually large balance.

	July 21, 1922.	July 14, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	1	1	2	2	..

The Bank return showed another withdrawal of half a million in gold, with a corresponding cancellation of notes in the Issue department, and the transfer of another half million of notes from the Banking department, which reappeared in the Currency Note Reserve. The "circulation" was practically unchanged, and the Reserve was thus half-a-million lower. Other securities rose by 2½ millions, and there was a small decline in the Government securities. Public deposits showed an increase of no less than 9½ millions, and the Other deposits were thus nearly 8 millions lower. The circulation of currency notes was reduced on the return dated July 20th by £1,023,900 to £297,610,900, which includes £1,588,600 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £247,872,300, or £62,116,100 below the maximum. The sum of £1,000,000 was added to silver coin in the Redemption Account, making it £7,000,000, while gold was reduced by £500,000, making it £27,000,000, and £500,000 was added to notes, making them £21,150,000.

The monthly statement of average weekly balances of the London clearing banks is printed in detail on another page. The aggregate figures of the nine English banks for June are compared with those of previous months in the table below:—

	June, 1921.	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.
Capital and reserves	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9
Acceptances	57.7	65.3	57.1	56.7	57.0	55.2
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,768.4	1,818.6	1,746.9	1,737.1	1,745.3	1,755.2
Total Liabilities	1,942.0	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,909.7	1,918.2	1,926.3
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	265.1	273.5	245.8	253.3	250.5	251.3
Money at call	98.0	105.7	102.5	107.3	103.0	113.0
Investments	335.9	343.3	392.7	402.3	415.7	412.0
Discounts	346.2	424.3	350.5	319.8	325.1	346.2
Loans and advances	815.4	762.3	706.2	745.2	735.7	723.3
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	8.4	90.7	82.2	81.8	82.2	80.5
Total Assets	1,942.0	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,909.7	1,918.2	1,926.3

Deposits show an increase for the second time in succession, but the decline in advances continues. Discounts have risen again, and are nearly up to the March figure, but investments have fallen off a little. The half-yearly figures of the "big five" banks are referred to in a "Note of the Week."

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The reduction in Bank rate last week to 3 per cent. has made itself felt in all the investment sections of the Stock Exchange, and gilt-edged stocks have shown a steady upward movement. French securities have been a little firmer, and there has been a slight improvement in Russians, but German bonds have gone back. Home Railways are better, North-Easterns being conspicuous on expectation of the terms of amalgamation of the North-Eastern group. Rubber shares continue flat, and oils are dull. Tobacco shares were strong on the increased dividend of the Imperial Tobacco Company, and Brewery stocks were good. There was a fair demand for gold mining shares, and considerable activity in Chartered in anticipation of the terms on which the Union Government

may propose to take part of the property, a subject to which we refer elsewhere.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

The reports from principal commercial centres this week are somewhat after the nature of the curate's egg. The best point is the news from Bradford woollen trade, where the position is thus summed up by our special correspondent:—"While it cannot be said that there is any great activity, there is certainly more doing in most sections of the industry." In the coal industry, although recent unsatisfactory conditions continue, there is the good news that the Miners' Federation has decided to stand by the wage agreement, while the presidential speech of Mr. Herbert Smith, commented on in a later column, has created a good impression. The holiday season is beginning to cast its shadow, and this week has affected production in the cotton weaving districts of Lancashire. Trading in the Manchester cotton market is reported as being on a limited scale, but hopes of greater activity are entertained, especially since the monsoon news from India is favourable. From iron and steel centres come reports of rather discouragingly slow expansion of business. Quotations in the hides and skins market are easier; the demand for leather is only moderate, and boot and shoe manufacturers note a slackening of orders. In the for vegetable oils and oilseeds the feature is the steadiness of linseed oil.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

The foreign exchange market is still in an extremely unsettled condition awaiting political developments. The erratic and violent movements witnessed during the last few days are more the result of nervous speculative operations than of real business. German marks, although they have not again attained the record figures of a fortnight ago, have been subject to uncertain and violent movement, and Berlin remains the storm centre. Marks opened for the week under 2,000, but immediately lost this recovery, rising on Tuesday to 2,125, and after rapid and varying fluctuations closed on Thursday at about 2,220. At the time of writing the quotation is 2,150, with forward quotation 10 points over spot per month. Paris and Brussels once more followed the mark movements, the franc appreciating on Tuesday to 51.65 only to relapse on Wednesday to 53.00, and is now quoted 52.75. The forward quotation for French francs is round 5 points per month over spot. Brussels at 55.80 shows a recovery of almost one franc on the week. Italian lire have, of course, also been under the influence of the German position, and the violent fluctuations have been further assisted by political events in Italy. The recovery in lire to 92.50 on Tuesday has not been maintained, and the present price of 96.00 shows a fall in the rate of only slightly more than 1 lira since last Saturday. Dollars have been surprisingly steady throughout, with a firm tendency inspired from New York, where the position appears to be viewed much more optimistically than in Europe itself, and at one time during the week New York came in as a buyer of practically all European currencies. The present rate of 4.45½ shows an appreciation of 1½ points since last Saturday. Forward quotations remain unchanged. Holland, which opened the week round 11.47, fell on Tuesday to 11.45, round which figure it is now quoted. The Swiss exchange has remained comparatively steady with a slightly rising tendency, and is now 23.20, whilst Spain, after spurring on Monday to 28.70, has gradually receded to round last week's closing quotation. On balance Scandinavians have fractionally moved against this country, Denmark being now quoted 20.62, whilst Norway and Sweden are 26.67 and 17.12 respectively. In spite of rumours that a loan to Poland had been arranged, the rate for the Polish mark has gradually receded to round 25,000, but Vienna, after reaching the new record of 160,000, recovered sharply at one time on Thursday to 100,000 on the news that the Government were again taking steps to control the exchange. This again was not maintained, however, and the rate is now about 135,000. South Americans have remained fairly steady round last week's quotations, with the exception of Buenos Ayres, the quota-

July 22, 1922.]

tion for which has now fallen to round 44½. In the Eastern exchanges the rupee remains quatably unchanged at 1s 3½, but the silver exchanges have shown a slightly easier tendency, Shanghai being now 3s 6d and Hong Kong 2s 7½d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended July 15, 1922:—

From Revenue	Min. £ 18,790	EXPENDITURE	Min. £ 18,790
Supply Services	7,950	Interest on Debt	559
Interest on Debt	559	Sundries	361
Sundries	361	Reduction of Debt	9,788
Added to Exchequer balances ..	152		
	18,790		18,790

The total revenue during the week ended July 15, 1922, amounted to £18,790,172, as compared with £17,778,124 during the week ended July 16, 1921. Expenditure was reduced from £11,004,216 a year ago to £8,869,625. The expenditure under the head of interest, &c., on the War Debt amounted to £551,263, against £1,537,253 a year ago. The receipts from Property and Income-tax were about £500,000 higher than a year ago at £8,386,000. Special receipts under Miscellaneous amounted to £3,000,000, or just double the amount received a year ago. Customs at £2,324,000 are £570,000 higher. Excise at £1,794,000 compares with £3,868,000. Estate, &c., Duties yielded £355,000 more at £1,070,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £9,768,421, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £ + 5,245		Min. £ - 15,013
Unemployment Insurance	+ 130	Bank of England Advances ..	- 4,750
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 4,915	Public Department Advances ..	- 8,995
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 200	War Loan Surrenders	- 925
		Treasury Bills	- 495
		Funding Loan &c., Sinking Fnd ..	- 750
			- 15,013

The floating debt was reduced by £14,260,000 to £943,982,500 during the week ended July 15, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to July 15, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	222,933,622	Raised by revenue ..	232,836,939
Dec. in balances	7,280,272	Net repayments	17,183,589
Total	215,653,350	Total	215,653,350

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1915.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1917.	Dec. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	July 15, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,974	1,974	1,974
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,636	1,609	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090	1,090
4% Funding Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3½% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year Treas. Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do by tender 4½%	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	776	776	776
Treasury Bills	80	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159	159	159
Exchequer Bonds	138	227	267	274	285	294	285	324	344	344	344
Nat'l Savings Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
War Expend. Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,658	7,658	7,658
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,752	7,752	7,752

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Temporary Advances Out- July 15, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	July 15, '22.	July 15, '22.
standing—				
Advances by Bank of England ..	41,000,000	147,301,500	167,477,500	4,750,000
Advances by Public Deposits ..	114,674,000	882,219,000	776,505,000	8,995,000
Treasury Bills outstanding ..	1,208,272,000	..	..	515,000
Total Floating Debt	1,363,946,000	1,029,520,500	943,982,500	14,260,000

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

For the first time for two years the Council of the League of Nations met in London this week to consider a number of important questions, of which the principal were the "A" and "B" mandates, particularly the British mandate for Palestine. The "B" mandates have been approved, but at the moment of writing the discussion of the meeting, which is likely to last well into next week, is important and in some aspects critical, yet the British public have been singularly ill-informed as to its import and relevance. We cannot resist the impression that the fault does not lie with the Press, but that the Council should take more active steps to ensure that its discussions obtain full publicity. We do not wish to see a League meeting heralded by the sort of publicity which customarily surrounds meetings of the Supreme Council. But it is surely peculiarly deplorable at the present time that the light of the League should be hidden under a bushel. Thirteen international conferences have achieved little, and the fourteenth, at the Hague, is drifting to failure; Europe shudders at the idea of reviving the Supreme Council, and the man in the street, looking in bewilderment for some machinery of salvation, is beginning to ask, "Did not the Peace Treaty set up a League of Nations? What is the League doing? Why does it not solve Europe's problems?" Such questions arise out of an ignorance of the League and its functions, which is widespread and colossal, and which cannot be dispelled by the devoted efforts of a small band of disinterested enthusiasts. We would ask the Council of the League itself to consider this question, and to see whether the public cannot be provided with a ready flow, not of propaganda, but of clear official information on the past achievements, the current proceedings, the functions, limitations, difficulties, and possibilities of the League.

Its most ardent supporters realised from the first that the League was a tender plant, whose growth must be carefully fostered. To saddle it with problems not yet ripe for solution would have been an obvious mistake, but, in our opinion, statesmen have grievously overdone the care of this healthy infant. We trust that the reference to the League by the Genoa Conference of several questions of minor importance are a promise that the nations which compose it will in future make greater use of this great international instrument that they have created. Two facts more than any others stand in the way of its development. They are the absence of the United States and the exclusion of Germany from its councils. To the former we must reconcile ourselves until such time, at any rate, as America in her wisdom sees fit to readjust her policy towards the Old World. But the latter defect is remediable. Obviously at the present time no international body on which Germany is unrepresented is as fully

LONDON JOINT CITY AND
MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN: The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS: FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	10,860,852
Reserve Fund ..	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,600 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS: BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

equipped as it should be to discuss the problems that are keeping Europe in unsettlement and irritation. This truism received at least partial recognition at Genoa. Germany, we believe, would apply for membership of the League to-morrow if reasonably sure that she would be treated as a great European Power and not merely as a humble member of no more importance than a Central American republic. France, we also believe, has so far abandoned the policy of exclusion as to be willing to accept Germany as a humble member. Not until pride and prejudice have given way before the pressure of economic fact and Germany obtains full membership of the League with representation on the Council can the League hope fully to perform those services to the world for the carrying out of which it was created. The Prime Minister has said that if Germany applies for membership Great Britain would vote in favour of admission, but he will be losing a great opportunity if he allows all the diplomats now assembled in London to depart without attempting to bring them round to his view of this all-important question. For several reasons the present moment is peculiarly favourable to an attempt to secure French agreement to Germany's full admission to the League. The proceedings at the Hague have helped to produce an atmosphere more conducive to agreement; for France has now seen that, when once the representatives of Great Britain and France got down to strict business over the Russian problem, the views of the two countries were far less violently in conflict than they appeared to be at Genoa.

But, clearly, Mr Lloyd George cannot hope to achieve this object so long as no progress is being made with the main issues between France and Germany, and his desire to see Germany brought within the comity of nations would be more likely to be achieved if he would seize this moment to make the gesture for which France is waiting, and which, we believe, would set France on the high road that leads safely out of the forest of difficulties which now surround her. We refer, of course, to the remission, on certain terms, of French debt to Great Britain. A persistent rumour, so far undenied, is current in the United States to the effect that Mr Lloyd George has promised France to remit this debt on condition that Germany's reparation bill is scaled down. Whether this rumour represents truth, exaggeration, or fiction we are not in a position to say. Ingenious minds may be inclined to read into a Parliamentary answer of Mr Lloyd George this week supporting evidence of a change of front on the subject of the French debt. A short time ago he was denying the possibility of cancellation. But on Monday, when questioned by Colonel Wedgwood on the proposal that Great Britain, while paying her debt to America, should accept German C. Bonds in lieu of her debts from her allies, Mr Lloyd George contented himself with merely pointing out the disadvantages of such an arrangement. The apparent change of tone may mean little—or much. But, be that as it may, the outburst of approval with which the report has been received across the Atlantic possesses a significance which can hardly be lost upon Mr Lloyd George and his advisers. It should serve to remove one main reason for hesitancy. For it will reveal to the Government a vital fact, which some politicians have been slow to recognise, namely, the existence in the United States of an atmosphere in which a great and disinterested move by Great Britain might produce astounding reactions upon the orientation of American opinion and attitude toward Europe's problems. America is waiting, as France is waiting, for this big initiative on the part of this country. The stage is set for it. The audience look for it. If it is delayed beyond the psychological moment, half its effect will be lost. The psychological moment is now, when the alternative of political and economic disintegration in Central Europe is more threatening than ever. If it is used as Mr Lloyd George could use it, then at last we may find ourselves on the way to the solution of great international problems which are holding back Europe and the world from economic recovery.

THE STORY OF THE CATTLE EMBARGO.

THE history of the so-called Canadian cattle embargo is spread over the last quarter of a century. It may be briefly stated. By the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, and earlier Acts, the power was conferred on the Minister for Agriculture to exclude live "foreign" cattle from entry into the United Kingdom. This power was exercised as seemed necessary to preserve the health of home herds, but its enforcement was an invidious task, and gave rise, quite naturally, to remonstrance. In 1892 a supposed case of pleuro-pneumonia occurred in a consignment of cattle from Canada, and in consequence the Board was not unwillingly deprived of its discretion (which at the time was exercised in favour of Canada alone), and the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896, was passed. By this measure the prohibition of live-cattle importation was made absolute, and the present issue was raised. On close investigation it became more than doubtful whether the case which had brought the matter to a head was in fact well founded, and naturally enough an agitation arose for the restitution to Canada of the status quo. Successive Governors-General sent home protests from the Privy Council, the Senate, and the Parliament of the Dominion. On this side the Free Importation of Canadian Cattle Association was formed, and soon gained powerful adherents in the councils of the large cities, the co-operative societies, and representatives of the meat trade and consumers.

To this agitation all governments, Liberal and Conservative, turned a deaf ear. Their reply was always the same. We are blessed with a "moat," and mean, so far as we can, to use it to give our herds the priceless advantage of protection from disease.

The controversy reached a further stage in 1917, when at the Imperial Conference the Canadian representatives renewed the old demands. The situation had changed a good deal. For one thing, there was the possibility of the depletion of British herds as a result of the war. Accordingly, Lord Ernle, who was President of the Board of Agriculture, gave the famous "pledge," and Mr Long endorsed it. The words of it are familiar:—

"Mr Prothero said:—'.....As far as I personally am concerned, and so far as the English Board of Agriculture is concerned, after the war is over, of course, because it is not an economical mode of bringing meat to this country during the war to bring over live animals, we should, I consider, be wise to remove the embargo.....and I can assure you that so far as the English Board of Agriculture is concerned, we are in favour of the removal of the Embargo. We do not believe that there is now, or has been for a good many years past, the slightest ground to exclude Canadian cattle on the score of disease.....'

"Mr Walter Long said:—'.....As far as I am concerned, my name has been brought into it; I can only say that I entirely agree with Mr Prothero's policy. I think the time that has elapsed has shown that Canada has had a complete and clean bill of health during that time.....Now the position is that the restriction is to be removed, and the Board of Agriculture will take such steps as are necessary for this purpose.....'

"Mr Rogers:—'Do you not think we should have a Resolution about it?'

"Mr Walter Long:—'You do not want a Resolution, do you?—or if you like, you can simply move that the Embargo on Canadian cattle be removed as speedily as possible.'

"Mr Rogers:—'I beg to move that.'

"Mr Walter Long:—'Mr Prothero accepts that, and there is an end of it.'"

It is sometimes said that this pledge was only a personal one, but the Prime Minister did not take this view. On the contrary, he called it a pledge given "on behalf of the Cabinet." The matter rested there. Difficulties of shipping made any immediate change impracticable.

After the peace, however, the Dominion representatives, supported by their British allies, began to demand the fulfilment of the promise. A crisis arose when Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, newly appointed President of the Board of Agriculture, went to fight his by-election at Dudley. The embargo was made a test question, and by its means the Minister was defeated. Before Sir Arthur

proceeded to Taunton, where he secured re-election, Mr Lloyd George in the House of Commons promised to appoint a Royal Commission, which met in May, 1921, and reported in August. This completes the story of the controversy to the present day.

Lord Findlay's report, though indecisive in some ways, cleared the air. It disposed in a final and authoritative way of the argument from disease, but it expressed no great hope of the possibility of cheapening home-killed meat by the removal of the embargo, and it expressly stated that the questions of Protection and food supply in war-time had not been considered. Except for one point, which will be mentioned in a moment, this laying of the disease-spectre refined the issue to one of Free-trade against Protection.

The exception refers to cruelty. There is little doubt that the transport of live animals, whether by sea or land, involves a great deal of suffering. Evidence abounds. The embargo does not prevent it. Fat cattle come here for slaughter at the ports. They suffer. Store cattle suffer in coming from Ireland. If sent to the United States, Canadian cattle would suffer also. The plea on their behalf makes a strong appeal, and it is to be hoped will produce necessary remedial legislation, but it is beside the point. It is said lean cattle would be worse treated than the more valuable fat cattle, but the argument is weak.

The Free-trade case, therefore, emerges. It happens to be fortified by the theory of preferential Imperial trade, but to this reason a Free-trader can give no weight. It is not our business to suit our fiscal system to the wishes of Canada. The Canadians have frequently recognised this. If other countries at any time can show a bill of health as clean, their stores have an equal claim. Our duty is to procure the best for Great Britain on the most favourable terms.

The embargo party oscillate between the argument that few stores would arrive and therefore prices would not fall, and that so many stores would be sent that the home breeder would be driven out of business and feeding stuffs would run short. They cannot ride both horses. The truth is that stores would come accordingly as the condition justified. That the fatterer would get more raw material, and in the end the public cheaper meat. That is the conclusion of the Commission.

"We think in the long run the tendency would be to bring prices to a level somewhat, but not greatly, lower."

Cheap and plentiful imports are often the basis of a successful export trade. Could this become the case here? The argument is ridiculed. Says Sir Arthur Boscawen:

"On the question of the Canadian embargo, he was bound to say that of all the extraordinary remedies for agricultural depression, the suggestion to remove the embargo was the most extraordinary."

But his view is disputed by Mr Moreton Frewen.

"If I am right, we in England ought to be exporters of beef instead of importers. I persuaded the late Sir John Lawes that this was our true economic position by reason of the infinite advantage our mild climate affords us, and this is much more true to-day, linked up as we are by an unbroken water connection, via the new St Lawrence water route, with the greatest maize area in the world. Three thousand million bushels of maize are available by that route, and the cattle resources of Chicago are over ten thousand a day."....."All of this we can get from imported live bullocks and imported maize, and ten times more still from the great hydro-electric plants on the new St Lawrence waterway promised by President Harding. All this a proper Commission will point out in order to guide public opinion."

And the Duke of Devonshire, who of all men has seen the case from both sides, says:—

"If any encouragement is given them, we in this country—we are the only country that can provide them with what they want—will see a big demand in the course of the next few years for the highest class of our stock to act as the foundation stock, and they will return to this country for stock for renewal purposes. If the old country can do something to help them in developing their trade, there is no reason why steps should not be taken

which would be equally beneficial to the breeders of stock in this country and to the breeders of stock in Canada, especially in the Prairie Provinces."—(House of Lords, July 12, 1922.)

In short, the case presents the usual features. The division in the Cabinet shows it. Mr Chamberlain, Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, and Mr Baldwin on the one side, against Mr Churchill and Mr McCurdy on the other. Free-traders can hardly remain in doubt. They are encouraged by such naïve assertions as the following. Supporting the embargo, the National Farmers' Union say:—" (i) It provides for the maintenance of our home meat supplies, without the cost of a single penny to the taxpayer or the consumer, that national insurance which the Corn Production Acts were intended to provide in respect of our cereal supplies. The principle underlying these Acts has never been abjured by the Government, but has been reiterated in the Key Industries Act and in the course of the debate on the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act." If, indeed, the Canadian Cattle Embargo is of a piece with the policy of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, the sooner it goes the better.

INSURANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It is commonly assumed that invention and progress go hand in hand, and, indeed, that invention is progress. One of the most startling commercial developments of recent years has been the inventiveness which has been displayed by an ever-enterprising community, namely, those engaged in the business of insurance. Half a century ago the amount of insurance which was not comprised within the terms Marine, Life, and Fire was small; but since then (and particularly during the present century) new forms of insurance have been forced upon the attention of the public with bewildering rapidity and un-failing attractiveness. Bad weather, hail damage to crops, motoring accidents, including liability to third parties, and almost every ill to which poor human flesh is heir, can now be mitigated by the purchase for a premium of a solatium or an indemnity; while the fertility recently produced by the alliance of the journalist and the insurance manager continues to provide a new breakfast thrill week by week. However, we are not concerned to speculate upon the limits to which newspaper insurance may go, and the extent to which the newspaper proprietor may out the broker by becoming the normal medium between the public and the insurance company in making provision against the contingencies of private or business life. Quite apart from this, certain forms of insurance have recently been offered to the public which give one cause to "think furiously," to inquire what the real economic function of insurance is, and to wonder whether in giving free rein to insurance enterprise and freedom of contract we are not losing sight of larger considerations of public policy.

All trading operations are attended with risks. Some of these risks may be regarded as more or less inherent in the business itself—loss of market, change of fashion, fluctuation in exchange, bad debts; such risks the trader will usually run himself. Others are more adventitious, and less within the purview and calculating capacity of the ordinary business man; for instance, fire, war, the perils of marine transport, pilferage, riots and civil commotion; such risks will usually be transferred to a specialist, a man who, as has been said, "by balancing the good against the bad, and by adjusting the premiums as the circumstances seem to require, may not only escape loss, but may even secure for himself considerable profit from the result." Similarly, the private citizen may obtain a measure of peace of mind by insuring his life, and may devote himself to the business of making a living and keeping alive with greater equanimity and a larger bank balance than if he were under the constant necessity of accumulating savings to protect his family against the catastrophe of his premature demise. It is perhaps contrary to human nature to expect that a man will exercise in all respects the same degree of care to avoid a risk against which he has insured himself as if he knows that

he had to bear the blow himself; but, in the main, insurance of the types illustrated above cannot be said sensibly to impair responsibility, and to operate in the case of most men to increase their economic efficiency by affording to them legitimate relief from certain external anxieties and enabling them to concentrate upon the fulfilment of those economic functions to which they are best adapted. Accepting this as a fair though necessarily brief indication of the economic value of insurance, can it be said that certain recent forms of insurance will satisfy this test?

Can it be doubted that the knowledge of the possession of an adequate insurance policy does not seriously diminish in certain types of driver the degree of care exercised in driving a car? Fortunately, most road accidents are likely to injure the offender as well as his victim, but there are many accidents, notably collision with pedestrians and the humbler type of cyclist, where the odds are in favour of the car and its occupants. Last year the courts had to deal with a claim on a motoring third-party indemnity policy, where the plaintiff, by grossly negligent driving, injured two pedestrians and killed a third. The two survivors and the widow of the third were suing him for compensation, and he claimed from the insurance company a declaration that he was entitled under his policy to be indemnified against these claims. The company raised the defence that the insurance was contrary to public policy, in so far as it was an indemnity against the criminal acts of the plaintiff (who had pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter), but the judge, who remarked that he believed the defence to have been raised for the first time, held that in insurance against the consequences of one's own negligence, whether slight or great, and provided it does not amount to a wilful and intentional act, was not contrary to public policy, and gave judgment for the plaintiff.

Similarly, policies insuring newspaper proprietors against libel actions in respect of matter appearing in their publications are enforced by the courts—at any rate, where the newspaper proprietor has been successful in the libel action brought against him, and is merely claiming from his underwriters the costs he was unable to recover from his defeated opponent.

Another form of insurance, which is not novel, though perhaps now being more energetically "pushed" than in the past, is the insurance to navigating officers of the merchant marine of a lump sum in the event of the cancellation of their certificates as the result of a Board of Trade inquiry for causes other than "any breach of discipline, gross misconduct, or conviction for any offence against the law of the realm." The attention of the Board of Trade was directed in the House of Commons to this form of policy, but the Department took the view that the scheme did not militate against the public interest, and that no action on its part was necessary. Many of us, however, would sleep sounder with the knowledge that the man on the bridge was staking his whole livelihood on his efficiency.

But the most disturbing of modern insurance developments is the Directors' Indemnity Policy, which is now attracting attention. One form of this policy protects a director against liability to third parties "arising out of negligence of the assured in his office of director of the said company and/or in the performance of the duties of the said office," provided that the third party's claim is based solely on negligence and not, in addition or in the alternative, on the "fraud, deceit, misconduct, or misfeasance of the assured." Is such insurance in the interest of the investing public? Is the present position of the director so onerous and hazardous that there is any difficulty in finding men of standing and substance to become directors of a company with a sound basis and a reasonable prospect of success? Surely such insurance runs counter to the whole policy of the State in its regulation of companies. Recognising that complete freedom of contract between the investing public and the promoters of joint stock enterprise would be disastrous by reason of the ignorance and gullibility of the former, the Legislature has by a series of statutes particularised the duties, as to disclosure and otherwise, of the promoter and the director. And when the famous case of *Derry v. Peek* in 1889, arising

out of a tramway company's prospectus, revealed the fact that at common law directors were not liable to subscribers in respect of false statements negligently (and not fraudulently) permitted or inserted by them in a prospectus, Parliament hastened to reverse this decision by the Directors' Liability Act, 1890, which now forms part of the companies code. The director's relations with his company are not merely contractual; they are also fiduciary. That is a basic principle of our company law, and any infringement upon the strict accountability of directors for the exercise of fair and reasonable diligence places upon those proposing it a heavy burden of proof of its necessity.

The experience that complete immunity from the consequences of negligence, whether by insurance or by express bargain with the party exposed to those consequences, is unsatisfactory, has already found expression in several ways. Underwriters realise that by accepting only seventy-five per cent. of pilferage risks the efforts of the assured to prevent pilferage are stimulated. More recently, the Hague Rules, 1921, show that in the opinion of practically the whole of the mercantile community in any way concerned with overseas transport, merchants, underwriters, bankers, warehousemen, and shipowners, the British policy of permitting the shipowner to obtain by means of a clause in his bill of lading complete immunity from the consequences of his own and his servants' negligence must be abandoned; accordingly, the principle of the American Harter Act and similar legislation in several of our Dominions has now, with modifications, been adopted by general consent in the Hague Rules, 1921, which are on the point of receiving a statutory sanction.

The company director who wished to bargain with his shareholders that he need not exercise care in the management of their interests would probably soon be out of business; but the new Directors' Indemnity Policy would seem to enable him to achieve this result for a money payment, without the embarrassment of telling his shareholders that he has done so. Such a degree of undisclosed immunity can hardly be essential to legitimate joint stock enterprise, and is likely to encourage the other kind. A compulsory statement in every prospectus that the directors propose to insure themselves against negligence, where that is so, might afford a certain safeguard, and it seems worthy of the consideration of the Stock Exchange Committee whether they should permit official dealings and settlements in the shares of a company whose directors have so little confidence in their business capacity as to require indemnities of this nature.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

(BY OUR MANCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the past quarter cotton spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire have continued to improve their position. Although progress towards better times has not been rapid, production has been gradually increased, and from the point of view of employment for the operatives the position is more satisfactory than for over 18 months back. The conditions, however, are far from healthy, and producers are still experiencing much difficulty in securing prices which cover the cost of production. Speaking generally, manufacturers of cloth are more favourably situated than spinners of yarn. Values have tended to harden, and there has been a very fair rise in raw cotton prices. On several occasions, however, it has been apparent that our customers abroad are not in a position to pay more than a certain price for manufactured articles, and support is withdrawn when sellers hold out for stiff advances.

As is usual at this time of the year, considerable interest has been taken in the reports relating to the prospects for cotton supplies during the coming season. The American crop made a poor start, but during the last few weeks there has been an improvement in the conditions, and the plants are now making steady progress. In some quarters great stress is laid upon the damage from the boll weevil, but it is extremely difficult to estimate the effect upon the ultimate yield. At the beginning of July the condition of the growth was estimated by the Agricultural Bureau at 71.2, against 69.6 a month earlier, and

69.2 at the same time last year. The statement was worse than expected, and there was a rise in prices of about 3d a lb. The advance, however, was not maintained. The acreage has been officially estimated at 34,852,000 acres, as compared with 31,763,000 acres for the current season. The increase of about 10 per cent. was about equal to anticipations. As things stand at present, there seems to be every probability of an output of quite 12,000,000 bales. It is generally believed, however, that the consumption will not be less than 13,000,000 bales. The situation, therefore, causes some anxiety. There is no likelihood of a famine, but if scarcity exists in due course prices are bound to advance. If values for manufactured goods reach a much higher level than at present, it seems pretty certain that the consumption in Eastern and Far Eastern markets will be restricted. There is more fear of Lancashire machinery standing idle for want of orders than owing to a scarcity of raw cotton. On March 31st the quotation for Fully Middling American, on the spot in Liverpool, was 10.84d. By April 21st the price had fallen to 10.26d, but an upward movement then took place, and 11.75d was posted on May 9th, with 12.22d on May 16th. Fluctuations occurred from day to day, but 12.91d was the figure on June 12th. There was a stiff rise on July 4th to 13.94d, but part of the advance has since been lost, the quotation on Wednesday last being 13.65d. Advances relating to the Egyptian crop are fairly satisfactory. The area under cultivation has been officially estimated at 1,465,135 feddans, against 1,286,180 feddans for the current season. It is too early for anything to be said as to the probable production. On March 31st the quotation in Liverpool for Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis was 17.75d. There was very little change during the following month, but at the end of May 19.25d was registered, whilst in the middle of June 20d was posted. The quotation last Wednesday was 19.75d.

Compared with three months ago, manufacturers of piece goods, as a body, have more work to go on with, and, speaking generally, better prices are being secured. Producers of fancies and specialities are more favourably situated than certain makers of plain materials. Production at the moment is very irregular, owing to the annual holidays in weaving districts, but it is estimated that about 90 per cent. of the looms are fully working. Quite an encouraging business has been done for India. Light cloths have moved off fairly freely, and many manufacturers now want October-November delivery. Although during the last week or two grey shirtings have been quieter, the trade done has been fairly substantial. Printing cloths have also attracted more attention. Favourable reports are being received relating to the monsoon. There is every probability of a continuance of the improved demand for our Dependency if prices are on a reasonable level. Operations for China have been irregular, and the anticipated decided improvement in trade has not been realised. Political and financial matters on the other side are not all that could be desired, and merchants are rather nervous. In fancy goods, however, the buying has been encouraging. The Near Eastern outlets are now giving less support, but during the last two or three months the turnover for Egypt and Turkey has improved. Business has also been better for the markets of Central and South America. An active trade has been done, especially in printing and finishing styles, for European countries, and exports to Switzerland are on a distinctly larger scale than last year.

The following is a comparative table of cloth shipments, the figures being given for the six months ended June 30th in each year:—

	Yards.	£
1913	3,582,788,800	48,756,738
1920	2,396,798,000	153,347,097
1921	1,211,021,700	75,104,452
1922	1,850,860,000	67,391,014

So far this year we are exporting more freely than last to China, Switzerland, Australia, Egypt, Germany, and the United States, but there are small decreases in the shipments to Bengal, Roumania, and Mexico.

Spinners of yarn have continued to meet with an increased demand. A most favourable development has been the reduction in stocks held at the mills. Producers

as a body have obtained relief, and more determined efforts have been made to secure remunerative prices, but this section of the industry is not yet on a profitable basis. Speaking generally it may be said that all mills are now working full hours, but in certain factories machinery can be found that is standing idle. Yarns suitable for home consumption have been bought on a freer scale to cover the larger cloth contracts secured by manufacturers. In export descriptions there has been an increased turnover for India, but latterly the demand for China has fallen off. Quite an encouraging trade has been done for European countries, especially Holland and Germany.

The following is a comparative table of yarn shipments, the figures being given for the six months ended June in each year:—

	Lbs.	£
1913	106,409,000	7,512,062
1920	78,614,700	23,912,824
1921	50,638,100	10,301,588
1922	106,309,100	14,242,341

The big increase in the exports so far this year compared with last is rather striking, and the improvement is chiefly accounted for by larger shipments to the Netherlands, Germany, and India.

The stocktaking results of spinning companies continue far from satisfactory. According to an analysis of the returns published by 103 mills at the beginning of this month the directors of 58 concerns were not able to recommend any dividend. Sixty-seven companies that balance their books for the three months ended June paid an average dividend of 4.65 per cent. per annum, against 4.74 per cent. in March last, and 5.35 per cent. in December, 1921. In the case of 36 companies that balance their books for the half-year ended June the average dividend declared was 4.39 per cent. per annum, against 4.53 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December last.

The prospects in the Manchester market at the moment are rather uncertain. Since the beginning of this month there has been a distinct pause in business. It may be said that spinners and manufacturers are losing a little ground again, and this week prices for yarn and cloth when tested have been easier. It is not usual to find great activity in the height of the summer, and there is a disposition in most quarters to await further developments relating to the cotton crop in America and the monsoon in India. The position of the industry as a whole is much sounder than at the beginning of the year, and spinners and manufacturers are not likely to lose the improvement secured without a struggle. In distributing centres abroad supplies of manufactured goods are not heavy, and there is every reason to expect another buying movement in the early autumn. It is realised, however, that when a broad view of the conditions prevailing throughout the world is taken, anything approaching a trade boom in the immediate future is very improbable.

NITRATE POSITION AND RESULTS.

As regards its severity, and the extent to which it is due to the failure of international trade to revive, the slump through which the nitrate industry of Chile has been passing is comparable to that out of which the rubber plantation industry is still seeking some means of escape. In other ways the two are not comparable. For while a chief difficulty in the case of rubber is to obtain the harmonious co-operation of the industry in emergency measures, the Chilean nitrate industry, being centralised, is more amenable to control. The growth of stocks has been checked by output limitation; stocks in Chile are held by a Producers' Association, while stocks in Europe are in the hands of a pool. Marketing policies, therefore, are not haphazard as in the case of rubber. Fortunately the recent months have shown distinct signs of improvement in the nitrate industry, and with European stocks passing fairly well into use, the American market proving better than was expected, and Chilean output being restricted in the past half-year to about one-third of normal, it is hoped that the industry has set its feet on the toilsome upward path that leads to normal prosperity.

But the top of that path will not be reached until international trade revives and consuming countries on the Continent are better placed to buy the fertiliser in more adequate quantities. The following table showing shipments, production, and stocks for various periods is compiled from statistics presented in the annual report of Messrs Aikman (London), Limited :—

(In Thousand Tons.)

	1913	1914	1920	1921	1922.
	2nd	1st	1st	1st	1st
	Half.	Half.	Half.	Half.	Half.
Shipments to Europe and Egypt.....	1,194	831	555	517	198
" " U.S.A.....	237	310	798	228	74
" " Other countries.....	46	41	153	28	52
Production in Chile.....	1,367	1,455	1,183	838	456
Visible supply in Europe and Egypt at end of period.....	..	416	317	836	..
" " U.S.A.....	..	84	216	249	..
" " Other countries.....	..	11	19	3	..
Stocks in Chile.....	..	754	1,248	1,317	..

* Estimating production in June at 65,000 tons, and shipments at 5,000 tons to Europe, 23,000 tons to the United States, and 3,000 tons to Japan and other countries. † Excluding about 175,000 tons reserve stock held by the American Government.

Stocks in Chile have again increased, but European stocks are being dispersed satisfactorily, and it is rumoured that the "pool" may be dissolved before long. It will be seen from the above figures to what a low Chilean production has had to be restricted.

As regards the outlook for consumption, Messrs Henry Bath and Sons write in their half-yearly report on nitrate:—"A forecast of consumption for the 12 months commencing July, 1922, can only be made with the usual reservations; but the likelihood of sulphate of ammonia remaining in short supply, combined with lower prices for nitrate of soda and the probability of a general expansion of demand, seems to point to 1,800,000 or 1,900,000 tons for the world, excluding the contingency of a material revival of consumption in Germany and Austria, which at present it is not possible definitely to gauge. Allowing for supplies already in sight, there may therefore be room for new shipments from Chile in the 12 months of about 1,750,000 tons, and if 750,000 tons be assumed to come out of the existing Coast stock, there will consequently be about 1,000,000 tons to be supplied by new production. On these lines, say 85,000 tons production per month, it is obvious that a considerable time must still elapse before manufacture can be resumed on anything like a normal scale; but it can at least be said that the worst times appear now to have been weathered, and that the industry is at last in process of convalescence."

Below we summarise the 1921 results of a number of Chilean producers, whose reports have been issued. The first table, setting out net profits and appropriations, clearly reflects the adverse influences of the year :—

	Net Profits.		Ordinary Dividend.		Reserve, Deb. Redemption, &c.		Carried Forward.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
Angela.....	£21,004	£17,294	£14,000	£10,500	£17,047	£..	£2,223	£7,677
Anglo-Chilean.....	457,152	183,384	137,500	135,000	175,000	25,000	210,624	203,607
Lautaro.....	5,335	Dr 209,569	..	..	Dr 210,202	71,922	72,555	..
New Paccha.....	4,137	9,427	5,496	4,122	..	2,000	959	4,264
Rosario.....	125,666	99,442	120,000	60,000	..	..	23,206	62,648
Sal'r del Carm'n.....	45,936	55,761	30,800	30,800	15,000	15,000	8,615	18,577
San Patricio.....	9,074	2,569	5,000	2,500	..	..	4,075	69
San Sebastian.....	37,017	5,881	..	..	10,000	11,366	7,247	..
Santa Rita.....	37,891	17,621	17,500	15,000	..	20,391	23,012	..

* Period ended September 30th.

Lautaro provides the most startling figure. The profit and loss account of this company for 1921 records a "trading loss in 1921 on the manufacture and sale of nitrate and iodine" of no less than £473,667; while on the other side of the account is entered "over-provision in previous years for depreciation of property in Chile written back," £282,082. This step, which is at first sight surprising in view of the present position of the industry, is not commented on in the report, but at the recent annual meeting the chairman explained that even after this writing up the properties still stand at less than their real value. This company draws £210,202 from reserves in order to maintain the carry-forward. Salar del Carmen shows up remark-

ably well with an increase from £45,936 to £55,761 in net profits, the only other company to show any increase being the New Paccha and Jazpampa. Salar del Carmen alone maintains the previous year's dividend rate. The principal items in the latest balance-sheets are analysed below :—

	LIABILITIES.					
	Share Capital.	Debentures and Loans.	Creditors.	Bills Payable.	Reserves.	Profit and Loss.
Angela.....	£70,000	£..	£9,166	£..	£35,000	£14,677
Anglo-Chilean.....	900,000	203,600	120,640	38,871	555,965	293,607
Lautaro.....	350,000	417,088	58,577	39,972	225,202	72,555
New Paccha.....	79,577	..	6,150	..	22,000	8,386
Rosario.....	600,000	..	150,212	55,658	60,000	122,648
Salar del Carmen.....	220,000	..	15,348	10,000	29,879	56,677
San Patricio.....	100,000	..	6,539	..	5,000	11,931
San Sebastian.....	143,750	15,373	1,170	..	4,950	17,247
Santa Rita.....	100,000	..	11,734	..	40,000	37,697

	ASSETS.			
	Property, Buildings, &c.	Stocks.	Debtors.	Cash and Investments.
Angela.....	£12,364	£43,908	£857	£41,713
Anglo-Chilean.....	1,225,624	263,057	16,391	607,289
Lautaro.....	501,515	377,612	28,833	107,884
New Paccha.....	75,814	19,600	731	19,968
Rosario.....	573,223	147,223	16,107	232,004
Salar del Carmen.....	227,029	69,218	1,129	74,527
San Patricio.....	101,271	2,840	12,143	6,815
San Sebastian.....	153,836	27,054	890	1,113
Santa Rita.....	101,399	58,020	922	29,090

If should be noticed that the New Paccha Company has completed its repayment of outstanding debentures. Lautaro's writing up of the property item has been referred to above, and among this company's liabilities appears a loan of £417,088, as compared with £156,000 a year ago. As regards liquid position, the Anglo-Chilean shows up well. A final table shows prices, dividends, and yields of the companies listed above :—

Company.	PRICES, DIVIDENDS, AND YIELDS.											
	July 24, 1919.				July 29, 1921.				July 19, 1922.			
	Share.	Price.	Div.	Yield.	Share.	Price.	Div.	Yield.	Share.	Price.	Div.	Yield.
Angela.....	1	14 ¹ / ₂	30	15 ¹ / ₂ %	1	14 ¹ / ₂	30	15 ¹ / ₂ %	1	14 ¹ / ₂	30	15 ¹ / ₂ %
Anglo-Chilean.....	1	14 ¹ / ₂	15	5 ¹ / ₂ %	1	14 ¹ / ₂	15	5 ¹ / ₂ %	1	14 ¹ / ₂	15	5 ¹ / ₂ %
Lautaro.....	5	7 ¹ / ₂	18	9	5	7 ¹ / ₂	18	9	5	7 ¹ / ₂	18	9
New Paccha.....	1	2 ¹ / ₂	10	4 ¹ / ₂ %	1	2 ¹ / ₂	10	4 ¹ / ₂ %	1	2 ¹ / ₂	10	4 ¹ / ₂ %
Rosario.....	1	6 ¹ / ₂	15	11 ¹ / ₂ %	1	6 ¹ / ₂	15	11 ¹ / ₂ %	1	6 ¹ / ₂	15	11 ¹ / ₂ %
Salar del Carmen.....	1	2 ¹ / ₂	20	9 ¹ / ₂ %	1	2 ¹ / ₂	20	9 ¹ / ₂ %	1	2 ¹ / ₂	20	9 ¹ / ₂ %
San Sebastian.....	1	1 ¹ / ₂	nil	nil	1	1 ¹ / ₂	nil	nil	1	1 ¹ / ₂	nil	nil
Santa Rita.....	1	1 ¹ / ₂	5	5	1	1 ¹ / ₂	5	5	1	1 ¹ / ₂	5	5

(c) £5 shares.

Prices show no very striking change from a year ago, and the position of the market reveals the feeling that the worst of the depression in the industry is past. But shareholders will have to exercise patience before a return to prosperity can be expected: for this depends, as in the case of other industries, on a general revival of international trade, and of the achievement of some degree of exchange stability.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

It is nearly eight years since the Panama Canal was opened to commerce (August 15, 1914), compared with 53 years since the Suez Canal was opened (November 17, 1869); the former has a total length from sea to sea of 50 miles (43.84 nautical miles) and the latter 96 miles (84.17 nautical miles). In the course of construction of the two canals there was a remarkable point of resemblance; both pass through lakes for a distance of 22 miles. In the case of the Panama Canal a huge artificial lake 163 square miles in extent was formed by the construction of an enormous dam across the bed of a river; by using this artificial lake the excavation of a channel was saved for the length of 22 miles, and in addition the cutting of 85 feet where the Canal passes through a range of hills, a notable engineering feat. The Suez Canal is laid for the same distance through the beds of two lakes, from which for at least 2,000 years the Red Sea had receded, and they had become part of the desert; they were

refilled by the Canal from both sides, five months being required for the process.

The essential difference between the two canals is that the older one has no locks, whilst the Panama Canal has three at each end. Both canals have their entrances protected by long breakwaters. The Panama Canal has a bottom width of 300 feet through the deepest cutting, and of 500 feet in the sea-level sections at each end; through the great lake there is a clear bottom width of 1,000 feet, whilst the depth ranges from 45 to 85 feet. The Suez Canal has a bottom width ranging from 146 to 195 feet, and a maximum depth of 39 feet.

As regards earnings, the older canal has developed a traffic, which pays both working expenses and a handsome return on the capital expenditure, whilst the Panama Canal, which may be described as still being in its infant stage, pays working expenses, but has not yet reached the stage of paying a return on the capital outlay of £76,780,000 and a reserve for covering the cost of replacement of machinery which will become necessary from time to time. At present these two items are a charge on the national exchequer, which will no doubt be reduced year by year as the canal trade grows. The Manchester Ship Canal has had to pass through a similar period of slow development, at the expense of the original shareholders. Both canals have a railway alongside, and a modern town at each end, with public buildings, hotels, water supply, electric lighting, and every convenience for travellers.

The number of vessels which have used the Panama and Suez Canals, as well as the net tonnage, are given below since the opening of the American canal :

Year.	Panama Canal.		Suez Canal.	
	Ships.	Net Tonnage.	Ships.	Net Tonnage.
1915.....	1,072	3,772,100	3,708	15,266,100
1916.....	760	2,385,200	3,110	12,325,300
1917.....	1,806	5,817,600	2,353	8,368,900
1918.....	2,068	6,584,000	2,522	9,251,600
1919.....	2,028	6,145,000	3,986	16,013,800
1920.....	2,478	8,546,000	4,009	17,574,600
1921.....	2,892	11,415,800	3,975	..

The small number of ships using the Panama Canal during 1916 was due to a land slide, which closed the canal for seven months; apart from that the traffic figures given above show a steady increase. In a few years the Panama Canal may be competing with Suez for the lead. A considerable number of Government vessels pass through the Canal, but as they do not pay toll they are not included in the figures given above; last year they numbered 426. Vessels flying the flags of 23 nations used the Panama Canal during 1921; those of the United States were the most numerous, and those of Great Britain followed. Japanese and Norwegian vessels held third and fourth places respectively. In cargo tons, American vessels carried approximately 45 per cent. of the total, British vessels 32 per cent., Japanese vessels 7 per cent., and Norwegian vessels slightly under 6 per cent. The vessels of these four countries carried between them 80 per cent. of all the cargo which passed through the Canal. Of the nationalities which shared the remaining 11 per cent., the most important were Denmark, Holland, Spain and Sweden. Details for last year are given below. Germany, in spite of the fact that the Allies have seized the whole of her mercantile fleet, has sent no fewer than 19 steamers through the canal, and it is confidently asserted that within very few years she will be third on the list.

	Number of Ships.	Tons of Cargo.
The United States.....	1,210	5,163,000
Great Britain.....	972	3,738,200
Japan.....	136	758,600
Norway.....	140	637,800
Denmark.....	60	322,000
Holland.....	50	216,400
Spain.....	44	143,000
Sweden.....	25	128,900

The total tolls received amounted to £2,349,350; the gross returns from all sources during 1921 reached £5,625,000; the excess of revenues over operating expenses amounted to £573,000. The railroad alongside the canal, with its associated Panama Railroad Steamship Line, contribute largely to the successful working of the canal, thus the railway has a gross revenue of £4,583,000 and operating expenses of the same amount,

and the steamship line had gross revenues of £1,074,000 and operating expenses somewhat in excess of that amount. The money turnover of the combined canal, railway, and steamship line during 1921 was approximately £11,250,000, and the operating expenses £10,830,000.

The canal authorities keep large stocks of coal and oil in hand for vessels in transit, 468,800 tons of the former were sold, and 4,565,700 barrels of oil were pumped into passing steamers. There are also facilities for repair and dry-docking; during the year 671 steamers required repair, and 104 were dry-docked. The Canal authorities expedite the passage of ships through the Canal under the plan that if a vessel arrives at either entrance at an hour which will permit her dispatch through the last lock before dark, there is no obstacle to a continuous passage; should she need fuel, supplies, or repairs, these are furnished with the least possible loss of time.

The traffic through the Canal may be divided into two sets:—(A) That for which the Canal is an undoubted convenience by shortening distance and saving time to such an extent that shipping could hardly afford to use any other route, assuming that reasonable efficiency and fair charges prevail at the canal, and (B) the trades in which routing through the Canal may or may not be an advantage, such as those in which the saving of distance as between the Canal and an alternative route is not great.

This may be described as competitive traffic; the Canal authorities are thoroughly alive to the necessity of retaining, and, if possible, increasing it by good management. Almost one-third of the total tonnage handled in 1921 was so strongly competitive that prompt and complete service may have been the determining factor in the choice of the Panama route. The two great trades in which the Panama Canal is in distinct competition with other water routes are those between Europe, Australia, and New Zealand and between the Atlantic coast of North America and the Far East, principally the area lying between Singapore and Japan. A ship from Great Britain with cargo for both Australia and New Zealand might go through Suez, or around the Cape of Good Hope, or through the Panama Canal, without gaining any very great advantage in distance and time through the choice, and for the homeward journey would have, in addition, a choice of the course through the Straits of Magellan and up the Atlantic coast of South America. If the vessel went through one canal and returned through the other, it would serve the area with the least possible travel, but it would save only about 1,400 miles over a course via the Cape of Good Hope, and a return through the Straits of Magellan. By not using either canal, it would avoid paying approximately 5s 2½d per ton net in tolls on each leg of the voyage (the tolls for cargo vessels at Suez and Panama are substantially the same). The greater distance of 1,400 miles by the Cape and the Strait would mean about five additional days at sea for a 12-knot vessel. Such a saving of itself alone would not compensate for the canal tolls, the deciding factors would be fueling costs and possibilities of additional traffic to be handled along the way. Before we declared war it was customary to figure roughly that the cost of operating a steamer over the average route was equivalent to 5d per net ton per day, including capitalisation, insurance, &c.; on that basis it would probably be equally accurate to use 10d per net ton as the average daily operating cost at present. With this assumption the canal tolls of 5s 2½d per net ton would equal the cost of six and one-fourth days at sea. In other words, with other factors equal, a ship would have to save about six days and six hours on a voyage to offset the canal tolls. It follows that prompt and cheap handling of ships at the canal is an attraction to traffic from alternative routes.

The more important cargoes passing through the Canal are the following:—(1) From the east coast of North America to the west coast of South America, 1,908,800 tons, equal to 16.46 per cent. of all the cargo passing through the Canal, about an equal quantity each way. (2) The tonnage of cargo between the east coast of North America and the Far East was nearly as great, in the aggregate: 1,641,900 tons, equal to 14.15 per cent. of the total. In this trade 187 vessels went to the East,

but only 74 returned via the Panama Canal. Apparently vessels go out to the Far East through the Panama Canal and return by the Suez Canal. The American coastwise trade passing through the Canal was 1,641,900 tons of cargo last year, representing 11.83 per cent. of the total traffic.

Another important trade route through the Canal is from the west coast of North America to Europe, amounting to 1,165,100 tons, equal to 11.21 per cent. of the total, but the number of vessels and the tonnage of cargo going to Europe was double that to America. On the trade route from Europe to the west coast of South America 136 vessels passed through the canal and 178 returned, owing to many vessels using the Straits of Magellan.

The principal commodities shipped through the Panama Canal during 1921 were:—Nitrate, 1,530,500 tons; crude oil, 1,182,900 tons; coal and coke, 767,800 tons; wheat, 697,000 tons; steel and iron, 510,200 tons; refined oil, 454,800 tons; food in cold storage, 408,300 tons; and timber, 356,000 tons.

Notes of the Week.

The Price of Honours.—For a long time past there has been a growing conviction abroad that the connection between the Honours list and the subscription lists of political party funds is often close enough to amount to a public scandal. Suspicion in this case has, no doubt, been supplemented by fiction and exaggeration, but that things are very far from what they should be has become a matter of general acceptance. We welcome, therefore, the appointment of a Royal Commission, although admittedly it is a rather serious comment on our public life that such a Commission should be needed. Probably the revelations that will be unearthed will prove unsatisfying to the whetted appetites of expectant scandalmongers, but the air will be cleared, and future Prime Ministers will perhaps walk more warily in the matter of their recommendations to His Majesty. Certain unsavoury facts may be exposed and some future scandals prevented. But probably the whole affair is not quite worth all the fury and heat that rage round it. This heat was particularly in evidence in the debate in the House of Commons, where the process of washing dirty linen apparently revealed one or two pieces of linen that had got into the basket by mistake. For our own part we should weep no tears if honours lists were abolished altogether. If they are to remain, we agree that greater care should be taken lest honour be rooted in dishonour. Honours should be earned by public service and not bought. But it has to be remembered, firstly, that selection by pure merit is almost utopian in any human community, especially one of the size of Great Britain; and, secondly, that those who are keen enough politicians to subscribe to party funds are not necessarily unworthy of honour on other grounds; and, thirdly, that abuses are almost bound to creep in under any honours system. Fortunately this rather unpleasant business has its humorous side. The Duke of Northumberland quoted what purported to be a regular tariff for honours—so many thousands of pounds for a knighthood, so many for a baronetcy, and so many for a peerage. We commend the idea to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If honours are to be bought and sold, let them be quoted publicly, and let the Exchequer, not party funds, reap a harvest from the vanity of certain types of rich people. We would gladly print the weekly quotations, which presumably would fluctuate with the demand, in our price current of commodity markets. A capital levy graded to the vanity of millionaires would be a popular plank in an election platform. But in all seriousness the Royal Commission is to be welcomed, and we trust its personnel will be beyond cavil or suspicion. Even more welcome would be the introduction of a Bill compelling the publication of party subscription lists. If such a Bill were to be passed the public would be able to decide for themselves whether connections between honours lists and subscription lists were fortuitous and proper or studied and improper; while the fear of publication would act as a

deterrent against abuses. For the dark diseases of public life there is no cure so effective as fresh air and the sunshine of publicity.

Conditions in Ireland.—The task of restoring conditions of settled government is proceeding surely, if somewhat slowly, writes a Dublin correspondent. Large numbers have to be enrolled, and elaborate methods of organisation devised for the purpose of pushing further and further to the West and go to the South the armed cordon which encloses the ever-growing area of re-established peace and order. Both entail inevitable delays. The end, however, is quite certain. The country is positively aching to get back to normal conditions, and notwithstanding the rather mischievous interventions, or attempted interventions, of the Labour Party, there is no countenance or unconstrained support for the rebel bands from any quarter. The Labour extremists are already with them, and official Labour is seeking an aggrandisement of its own prestige and power by affecting to treat the Irish Government and the revolting Republicans as rival factions between whom it is timely and appropriate for it to mediate. It protested against the postponement of the meeting of the newly elected Dail, in total disregard of the fact that the Parliamentary minority, dissatisfied with the decision of the electorate, were actually at the moment in arms against that decision and against the Dail and Government which must needs give effect to it. Its next step was an attempt to convene an unofficial meeting of the Dail on the 20th instant by the issue of an invitation from the Labour members to their colleagues to meet them in conference at the Mansion House to debate upon the situation and to discuss proposals for peace. The attitude of the Irish Government was thereupon made clear in an official statement:—"The whole economic life of the country is threatened. The safety and future welfare of the nation depend upon the power of the Irregulars being broken. It is the duty of all to stand solidly together to establish that the will of the people shall prevail." The result proved that Labour had made a false move: only one member accepted the invitation, and the proposed conference proved abortive. There is no move yet in North-East Ulster analogous to that made by the Provisional Government of Ireland. Belfast is a great commercial community, whose principal industries are shipbuilding and linen manufacture. Its prosperity, similar in kind to that of Liverpool and Glasgow, has depended in large measure upon its proximity to both, and on its large distributive trade and banking business with the rich agricultural hinterland of Ireland. But if things continue unchanged, the distributing trade of Belfast will die, rather from a popular boycott than from a Customs barrier—though it might have to face both. Ireland's exports of poultry and eggs (£18,319,795 in 1919 and £16,397,965 in 1920) exceed those from the shipbuilding yards (£10,600,000 in 1919 and £12,720,000 in 1920) by some 30 per cent., and whereas the gross value of the former is the produce of the soil, in the latter case Belfast merely obtains a net profit derived from the application of capital and labour to imported raw materials. Again, Ireland's meat exports dead and alive (£37,577,573 in 1919, £52,845,761 in 1920) exceed Belfast's linen exports (£36,519,011 in 1919 and £44,645,759 in 1920), and the linen trade is also something of an exotic growth, which is to-day faced with its own difficulties in the restriction of foreign markets both as to the purchase of its raw materials and the disposal of its finished products. If Belfast cuts itself off from the great, real and potential wealth of Ireland, what, from the standpoint of purely economic theory, are its chances of future prosperity? Responsible men in Belfast are apprehensive of the worst when to an unpromising economic prospect are added the factors of chronic internal tumult on sectarian lines, a most expensive administration, and the loss of business confidence and moral esteem in circles of an ever-lengthening radius. In these apprehensions will be found the ovum of a new school of political thought in North-East Ulster more in touch with the actualities of the position and more in harmony with accepted principles for the framing and maintaining of the structure of human society.

The Miners' Conference.—Owing to the continuance of trade depression the coal industry is passing through a period of difficulty calculated to provide a severe test for the new régime under which the industry has been conducted since decontrol and the great stoppage of a year ago. Particularly welcome, therefore, is the restrained and optimistic tone of the review of the industry and its outlook which Mr. Herbert Smith delivered on Tuesday as President of the Miners' Federation. Mr. Smith frankly admitted that the coal owners, as well as the miners, had experienced hardships, and emphasised the point that without the wage agreement between the owners and the miners the latter would have been worse off than is actually the case. In his view the principles underlying this agreement are sound, and he mentioned that to maintain the minimum wage at 20 per cent. above the level of 1914 had cost the owners approximately £3,000,000; which is, of course, another way of saying that the agreement has saved the miners from £3,000,000 worth of hardship. Two or three other points in Mr. Herbert Smith's speech call for special notice. He announced that, while retaining the seven hours' day, they could "with proper internal organisation and the more extensive use of scientific methods, not only maintain the output per man employed of pre-war days, which they were doing, but they could increase the output beyond the aggregate output produced in 1913, provided they had the same number of men employed and worked the same number of shifts per week." Turning to the question of the publication of statistics of the industry, Mr. Smith expressed great pleasure that the owners themselves had acceded to the miners' request for information, and recognised that the supply of information as to costs of production "had been of the greatest possible advantage to the workmen in assisting them to understand more fully the finances of the industry." Developing the theme, he stated his conviction that "if the owners took the workmen still more into their confidence, a much better spirit would prevail throughout the district." We do not know what further information Mr. Smith had particularly in mind, but in view of recent experience the remark is one which owners should not overlook. On the general outlook Mr. Smith refused to be pessimistic. World trade might, he thought, recover "in spite of the Government," and the industry would emerge from its present position in the course of the next twelve months. We venture to share his restrained optimism. The coal industry has got down to an economic basis; and provided that the better relations between owners and men, which Mr. Smith's speech indicates, continue, there should be nothing to prevent the coal industry from benefiting to the full from trade revival as and when it comes.

Our Debt to the United States.—In the course of the third reading debate on the Finance Bill last Friday both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Asquith were at special pains to repeat, what has often been said and is unquestionably true, that every section of responsible opinion regards the British debt to the United States as an obligation that must be fulfilled to the uttermost. The Budget for the current fiscal year includes £25 millions for payment of interest on this debt, and in recent weeks gold has begun to be shipped in preparation for such payment; but it has been a matter of some comment that no attempt had as yet been made to arrange a regular funding scheme. This omission is now to be repaired, for in reply to an answer to a Parliamentary question on this point on Monday the Prime Minister made this announcement:—"In response to their request the United States Government has been officially informed that a special delegation will arrive in Washington early in September to make funding arrangements with the Special Commission set up by the United States Government under Act of Congress for dealing with the debts owed to the United States Government in respect of war advances." We welcome the news that this obligation is at last to be put upon a definite basis, and hope that it may help to pave the way to closer co-operation with America on vital questions of international finance.

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

Employment in June.—June saw further slight improvement in employment conditions. The coal industry was an unfortunate exception, but the textile and clothing trades and some sections of the woodworking trades record a better demand for labour, while the settlement of the engineering dispute was responsible for better employment in the iron and steel trades. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* the percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns are received moved down from 16.4 per cent. to 15.7 per cent. during June. The following table shows how this figure has moved month by month over a number of years:—

	TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.											
	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.					
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%					
January ..	2.2	0.3	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8					
February ..	2.0	0.3	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3					
March	1.9	0.3	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3					
April	1.7	0.3	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0					
May	1.9	0.4	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4					
June	1.9	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7					
July	1.9	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	..					
August	2.0	0.5	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	..					
September ..	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	..					
October	2.2	1.1	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	..					
November ..	2.0	1.1	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	..					
December ..	2.6	1.4	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	..					

* Excluding coal miners.

A closely corresponding decline during June is also shown by the unemployed percentage figure for all workers insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, which fell from 13.5 at May 22nd to 12.7 at June 26th. The total number of workers registered as unemployed at the employment exchanges was 1,455,000 at June 26th, as compared with 1,522,000 at the end of May. "A small part" of this decrease is stated to be due to the temporary exhaustion of insurance benefit.

Cost of Living.—A sharp upward movement in the Labour Ministry's Index Number of the cost of living took place in June, which is the first break in the decline that has proceeded month by month since July, 1921. At July 1st the cost of living was estimated to be 84 per cent. above the pre-war level, as compared with 80 per cent. above at June 1st. The following table shows monthly movements of this index figure over four and a half years:—

ALL ITEMS: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	%	%	%	%	%
January 1st	85-90	120	125	165	92
February "	90	120	130	151	88
March "	90	115	130	141	86
April "	90-95	110	132	133	82
May "	95-100	105	141	128	81
June "	100	105	150	119	80
July "	100-105	105-110	152	119	84
August "	110	115	155	122	..
September "	110	115	161	120	..
October "	115-120	120	164	110	..
November "	120-125	125	176	103	..
December "	120	125	169	99	..

Those who are disposed to hail this movement as a definite check to the long-continued price fall should not overlook the fact that the upward turn in June was due mainly to increases in the prices of potatoes, butter, and eggs. Such increases are seasonal, and were mainly responsible

for the temporary rise in the index figure eleven months ago. According to the Labour Ministry's calculation retail food prices, which at June 1st were 70 per cent. above the pre-war level, rose to 80 per cent. above that level by July 1st.

The Banking Half-Year.—The half-yearly balance-sheets of the banks as at June 30th, the last of which has appeared this week, show changes in comparison with the figures for December 31st last, the tendency of which has already been indicated by the monthly statements of average weekly balances. In the table below we compare the aggregate figures of the "big five" banks with those of six and twelve months ago:—

	June 30, 1922.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1921.	Compared with June 30, 1921.
	£	£	£
Paid-up capital	59.2	..	..
Reserves	47.1	..	+ 0.2
Acceptances and endorsements	45.5	— 8.3	— 1.9
Deposits (including undivided profits)	1,600.2	— 49.1	— 19.9
Total	1,752.0	— 57.4	— 21.6
Cash, notes, balances at bank, and cheques in course of collection	242.5	— 28.5	— 11.1
Ratio to deposits	15.0 %	— 1.4 %	— 0.6 %
Money at call and at short notice	100.3	+ 20.6	+ 20.4
Investments	377.0	+ 67.3	+ 73.8
Discounts	308.1	— 86.8	— 23.8
Loans and advances	655.9	— 22.4	— 79.8
Premises and sundries (including cover for acceptances)	68.2	— 7.6	— 1.1

There is a very definite downward movement in deposits, and the decline in acceptances is only to be expected at a time of world-wide trade depression. Changes on the assets side are of more interest. The decline in bills discounted, which include Treasury Bills, has been a feature of the monthly statements, and is to be ascribed to the transfer from Treasury Bills to Treasury Bonds, which accounts for the increase of over £67 millions in investments. Two years ago discounts stood at £158 millions and investments at £330 millions. Advances which two years ago stood at £843 millions dropped by £107 millions in 1920-21, and the decline has been continuous during the past twelve months. In comparison with the end of 1921, the advances of the London Joint City and Midland are practically unchanged, but those of each of the other four banks show a decline. The decline in the cash item has been to some extent offset by the expansion in money at call and short notice.

British Coal for Germany.—The most remarkable feature of the coal export returns for the United Kingdom in June was the phenomenal expansion in the volume of trade with Germany and the Netherlands. In 1913 these two countries took nearly 11 million tons of coal from the British coalfields. Of that total about 9 million tons were direct shipments to Germany and 2 million tons to the Netherlands. During the war exports to Germany were stopped, and in 1918 the Netherlands received only 88,000 tons. Last year the exports to the Netherlands were 1,787,678 tons, and to Germany 817,877 tons. Last month, however, the exports to Germany amounted to no less than 889,644 tons, and those to the Netherlands 568,081 tons. It is doubtful whether the records of the coal export trade contain any month where the volume of our trade with Germany and Holland was so great. Last month's shipments to Germany were 143,000 tons more than the average monthly shipments in 1913, while those to the Netherlands were nearly three and a half times the average monthly shipments in the pre-war year. The Northern exporting districts gained most from this remarkable improvement. The North Eastern ports absorbed 56 per cent. of the coal exports to Germany and 49.3 per cent. of those to the Netherlands; the Scottish ports 23.4 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively; the Humber ports 15.1 per cent. and 17.5 per cent.; and the South Wales ports 3.7 per cent. and 14.5 per cent. This proportionate distribution differs from the normal share

of German and Dutch coal import trade enjoyed by the different British coalfields in pre-war years. The chief change is that the exports from the North Eastern ports have been increased at the expense of those of the Humber and Scottish ports, and that in the case of the Netherlands the South Wales' share has been increased from 5 per cent. to 14 per cent. The immediate cause of this sudden and phenomenal demand from the Continent has been the shortage in the supply of coal in Germany. In 1913 Germany produced more coal than she required for her own consumption, and her exports to Allied countries exceeded her imports from them by nearly 8½ million tons per annum. As the result of the war, Germany has lost the Alsace-Lorraine, Saar, and Palatinate coalfields, and her output in April last was only about 11¼ million metric tons. Moreover, Germany is under an obligation to supply France, Belgium, and Italy with approximately 20 million tons per annum as reparation coal. It will thus be seen that Germany has much less coal of her own production available for inland consumption, and that of this reduced production she is compelled to send roughly 15 per cent. to France, Belgium and Italy as a form of reparation payment. Germany's need has been Britain's opportunity, and it is rather remarkable that so big a volume of trade should have been undertaken in June under the unstable foreign exchange conditions prevailing in that month. There is every indication that the exports in July will be even greater than those in June.

Chartered and the Provisional Agreement.—The provisional agreement between the British South Africa Company and the Union of South Africa, which is to be considered at a special meeting of shareholders on Friday, was issued yesterday in an interim report of the directors. The excitement in the market for Chartered shares which heralded the approach of this special meeting receives justification in the favourable terms of the provisional agreement. In summary the upshot of the terms is that the Union Government is prepared to pay the company £6,215,000, plus 5 per cent. interest, in return for the cession to the Union of railway interests, and of rights, interests, public works, and assets in Southern Rhodesia, of preferential rights in Bechuanaland, and certain other assets. The agreement is subject to acceptance by the company's shareholders, which is recommended by the directors, and should be a foregone conclusion, and presumably also to concurrence of the Union Parliament. It is also conditional "upon Southern Rhodesia actually forming a part of the Union of South Africa not later than March 31, 1924." In other words, it becomes inoperative if the result of the forthcoming referendum in Southern Rhodesia is unfavourable to incorporation with the Union. Such a result to the referendum would also invalidate the offer made by the British Government to waive claims against the company on account of advances, amounting to not far short of £2 millions, for war expenditure. Any exuberance which the terms of the provisional agreement may arouse must therefore at this juncture be tempered by the recognition that everything depends upon the voting of the people of Southern Rhodesia. But it is not unreasonable that shareholders should entertain substantial hopes of a considerable strengthening of the company's balance-sheet, which General Smuts's offer would effect if carried into practice. For supplementary information, elucidation of certain financial points, and for an estimate of the chances of the fulfilment of the conditions, investors will eagerly await the statement to be made at the meeting in London next Friday.

The Niger Company's Loss.—"The directors now present the audited balance-sheet at December 31, 1921, which they regret shows a loss of £836,701, after taking credit for the general reserve and the amount carried forward from 1919. This heavy loss is caused by the unprecedented fall which took place in the value of West African produce and trading goods, and in the price of tin. The directors have made a re-valuation of the assets of the company, and are satisfied that the figures in the balance-sheet now represent the true value of the assets." In these three sentences the directors of the Niger Co. con-

dense their report on the financial results of the company's operations for the two years ended December 31st last, no report having been issued since the belated publication of the accounts for the year 1919 in January, 1921. We have rarely seen a more glaring instance, in the case of a reputable company, of so entire a disregard of the rights of shareholders to be informed as to the results of the company's trading. Here is a company which has issued no accounts for two years, and then gives one figure, the composition of which it is entirely impossible to ascertain without reference to the preceding balance-sheet, for no profit and loss account is given. The general reserve, which is "taken credit for," stood in the last balance-sheet at £1,300,000, while the balance carried forward at the end of 1919 was £460,520. The loss on the two years' working was, therefore, £2,597,221, or rather £60,000 less than this amount, for from a note in the balance-sheet under the preference capital it is to be gathered that a half-year's dividend was paid on the 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares for the first six months of 1920, no dividend having been paid since. At the beginning of 1920, it may be recalled, an offer was made by Lever Brothers to purchase the ordinary capital of the Niger Company for £6 10s. per share, the current market value being about 4½. This offer was accepted by some 75 per cent. of the shareholders. Lord Leverhulme is now the Governor of the company, and the Hon. W. H. Lever the chairman. At the end of 1920 £2,500,000 8 per cent. seven-year notes were issued. The balance-sheet, which is analysed in comparison with that of two years ago elsewhere in this issue, shows some marked changes. Land and property has risen by £1,589,500, and shares in associated companies by £2,984,600, while stock-in-trade and debtors have declined by £1,225,900 and £1,415,000 respectively. Creditors are £1,411,100 higher. The auditors, a different firm appointed on the proposal of Lever Brothers, say that they are unable to express an opinion as to the value at which shares in associated companies, &c., standing at £3,824,600, are valued, "but we are informed by the directors that they consider them to be of that value," a curiously non-committal remark. While the speech of the chairman at the statutory meeting held in February last prepared the way for the disastrous results now published, which are, of course, largely due to the slump in prices, shareholders in Lever Brothers cannot be expected to feel much satisfaction at the purchase of Niger shares at the top of the boom at an inflated price. Niger company shareholders may be able to comfort themselves with the reflection that they would have been worse off but for the existence of a fairly substantial reserve fund. But this has now been wiped out, and, however quickly trade may recover, it will be some time before the company can build up a strong balance-sheet.

Bawra Accounts.—The accounts of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association for the year 1921 show that sales during the year amounted to £6,424,006, while interest, discounts, and sundry receipts brought in £526,539. The surplus for the twelve months was £13,823, after meeting carriage and shipping charges, £1,042,130, and administration, insurance and other expenses, allowing £17,811 for depreciation of plant, pensions, and office furniture, and for expenditure on new offices, and providing £200,000 for deterioration of wool, &c. Stocks of wool on hand valued as at date of acquisition (cost less 40 per cent.) were reduced during the year from £14,000,914 to £8,542,280, of which £5,853,490 was in the United Kingdom and Antwerp, and £2,688,790 in Australia or afloat. The value of the assets acquired by the Association as at December 31, 1920, amounted to £22 millions, the consideration for which was the distribution to nominees of the Commonwealth of Australia Central Wool Committee of 11,848,036 fully paid shares of £1 each, and priority certificates £9,902,267, and the retirement of small interests and fractional payments £249,697. On July 30, 1921, 47.5 per cent. of the priority certificates were repaid, leaving £5,198,686 outstanding at the date of the balance-sheet. The authorised share capital is £25 millions, of which the amount mentioned above has been issued. At the meeting held in Melbourne on Thursday,

a resolution was submitted to the effect that the capital be reduced from £25 millions to £19 millions, and that such reduction be effected by the directors as and when they consider it advisable by paying off paid-up share capital (approximately £12 millions) to the extent of £6 millions, and by reducing the nominal amount of each paid-up share accordingly. The balance-sheet shows what seems an almost unnecessarily liquid position, bank balances amounting to no less than £3,089,224, of which £994,289 is on current account, and the balance on deposit and at short call. Investments total £5,412,266, and include £4½ millions in Treasury Bills and £920,440 in National War Bonds. Buildings, plant, machinery, &c., stand at £223,400.

English Sewing Cotton.—An almost surprising recovery is shown in the profits of the English Sewing Cotton Company, Limited, for the year ended March 31st last. A year ago profits fell very heavily, and in order to maintain the ordinary dividend, £200,000 was withdrawn from stock contingencies reserve. Net profits have now risen from £189,700 to £348,200, but the latter is substantially below the high record touched in 1919-20, as may be seen from the following comparative table:—

	1913-14.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	19 20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Trading profits	£ 376,365	£ 468,733	£ 503,854	£ 588,105	£ 794,136	£ 254,242	£ 414,915
Dep. and deb. int.	65,843	64,804	65,396	64,363	64,012	64,497	66,754
Net profit	310,522	403,929	438,458	533,742	730,124	189,745	348,161
Brought forward	100,079	174,029	177,958	191,416	193,563	358,608	198,353
Amount available	410,601	577,958	616,416	725,158	923,687	548,353	546,514
Preference dividend	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Ordinary dividend	130,000	200,000	200,000	250,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Reserves, &c.	125,000	150,000	175,000	231,595	415,307	198,353	196,514
Carried forward	105,601	177,958	191,416	193,563	193,563	198,353	196,514

* Includes £200,000 transferred from stock contingencies reserve. The capital was doubled three years ago by the capitalisation of £1,000,000 of the reserve fund. No additions have been made to reserves for the past two years, and they now total £650,000; a reserve of £108,400 for depreciation of investments has disappeared in the latest balance-sheet, and investments are given at or under market value. The balance-sheet is a fairly strong one. Stock is taken at cost or market value, whichever is the lower, having been reduced by £444,800 to £879,800 since the previous balance-sheet. Debtors are £174,800 lower, and creditors £189,500 lower at £515,100 and £385,000 respectively. The property item has been increased by £564,700 to £3,251,000, a call of \$1½ on 1,197,500 shares of the common stock of the American Thread Company of \$10 each (making \$9 per share paid) having added £485,100. An analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in the usual column.

Queensland "Repudiation" Act.—The Queensland Land Act Amendment Act, 1920, known in Australia as the Repudiation Act, was referred to at some length by the chairman of the Australian Estates and Mortgage Company at the meeting in London last week. By this Act, he maintained, the Government of Queensland "forcibly altered a provision of a contract to which their State was a party, not only without the consent, but against the protests, of the other party to the contract, and without a vestige of compensation for the wrong done. A vital provision in the Queensland pastoral leases affected by this Act is that the rent, while subject to review and alteration by the Land Court every ten years during the currency of the lease, cannot be raised more than 50 per cent. above the rate ruling during the preceding ten years. In reliance on this protective provision, the leases were taken up, and millions of money spent in improving and developing the land. This Repudiation Act removes not only the 50 per cent. limitation, but any limitation whatever, and under its operation rents have been raised enormously, in some cases as much as 300 per cent. This Act was made to apply, not only to the unexpired balance of the leases, but it was also made retrospective to the beginning of the current decennial period, going back to as far as 1914. An appeal was lodged against the retrospective application of the Act, and was carried to the Federal High Court, but the decision of a majority of the Court was

given in favour of the validity of the Act, and confirmed its retrospective operation." The Act has so far cost this particular company £25,000 in excess of the maximum that could be claimed under the leases. Queensland, just as much as any other young country, will need capital for development for many years to come, but arbitrary action of this kind does not improve the standing of the State in the eyes of the investor. The reports of some of the other Australian land companies affected by the Act will be awaited with interest.

Gordon Hotels.—In spite of an increased turnover the accounts of the Gordon Hotels Company show a net loss for the year ended May 31st last of £14,500, which compares with a profit of £48,000 a year ago, and of £124,200 two years ago. Below is a summary of results for a number of years past:—

	1913-14.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Trading profit	161,665	100,969	107,110	174,542	204,121	138,682	157,427
8% notes, interest, and sinking fund.	8,650	12,417	9,252	8,641	8,553	8,844	39,343
Red. funds, fees, &c.	71,325	71,325	71,325	71,325	71,325	71,325	61,672
Debt interest	4,927	17,227	26,533	94,576	124,243	48,018	Dr 11,518
Net profit	81,690	Dr 8,017*	9,210	35,743	24,170	30,838	25,781
Brought forward	86,617	9,210	35,743	130,319	148,413	78,856	11,235
Preference div.	53,075	..	..	106,150	106,150	53,075	..
Ordinary div.	28,950	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carried forward	4,592	9,210	35,743	24,169	42,263	25,781	11,235

* Dr 23,525 less £15,500 compensation for Hotel Metropole.

Gross receipts for the past year were £1,375,100, as against £1,183,200 in the previous twelve months. Accrued interest on the 8 per cent. seven-year notes required £19,200, against £8,800, and a further £20,000 was required for the sinking fund. Income-tax and corporation profits tax, which did not figure in last year's accounts, totalled £29,400, while £17,600 went to the L.B. and S.C. Railway for its share in the profit of the Grosvenor Hotel. Preference dividends are now in arrears since May, 1919, and nothing has been paid on the ordinary shares for eight years, while the deferred shares of £10 each have had no distribution since 1903. Claims against the Government in respect of the occupation of the Northumberland avenue hotels have been settled, but those in respect of hotels in Folkestone, Dover, and Broadstairs have not yet been finally agreed, though a payment has been received on account. The company has a claim against the Government for loss of goodwill, which it is hoped will be heard at an early date. It is proposed to alter the date of the financial year to December 31st, and the next accounts published will be those for the seven months ended December 31st, 1922.

Marconi International Marine.—In spite of the depression in the shipping trade, and of the fact that the directors have met shipowners to the extent of £100,000 on the matter of rebates of rentals and payment of operators whilst unemployed during the time that ships were laid up, there was no decline in the profits of the Marconi International Marine Communication Company for the year 1921. As may be seen from the comparison below, both revenue and expenses were substantially higher than in the previous year, but net profits for the past two years are considerably below the average of the three previous years:—

	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Total revenue	£ 146,326	£ 470,855	£ 563,445	£ 772,462	£ 933,723	£ 1,084,591
Expenses, &c.	102,700	272,892	371,119	569,596	811,751	962,747
Interest	6,597	5,907	5,989	4,725	4,402	3,801
Balance	37,029	192,056	186,342	198,141	117,570	118,043
Rep. of debts	3,500	2,080	..	..	..	..
Reserve	..	50,000	..	..	..	..
Dividend	30,604	89,997	150,000	178,909	178,909	119,273
(10%)	(10%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(10%)
Carried fwd.	6,068	105,418	141,760	161,890	46,552	25,322

The report points out that many shipping companies have gone into liquidation, and £12,000 has been written off in respect of bad and doubtful debts. Although profits were

practically unchanged, the dividend is reduced from 15 to 10 per cent., and £21,000 less is carried forward, the explanation being the very large sum brought into the 1920 accounts. As regards the outlook for the current year, the report mentions that some improvement has taken place, the number of ships laid up having been reduced by approximately one-half.

Kafir Costs.—Our mining correspondent writes:—In our recent article on the Rand dividends, a general reference was made to the fact that a number of the companies had succeeded in reducing their expense ratio. The whole of the returns for June being now available, it will be interesting to compare last month's figures with those of May, and the two, again, with the ratio for the last preceding normal period—December. Costs being only half the story, the statistics under this heading are supplemented by the declared profits for June and December. The appended table embraces the more important undertakings:—

Company.	Costs per Ton.			Working Profit.	
	Dec.	May.	June.	Dec.	June.
Brakpan	s d 28 5	s d 25 7	s d 24 7	£ 30,200	£ 45,880
City Deep	28 6	25 6	26 6	42,720	51,850
Consd. Langlaagte	24 2	23 9	24 9	9,240	5,660
Consd. Main Reef	30 7	29 3	29 4	7,210	6,730
Crown Mines	23 2	22 0	23 0	31,110	42,770
East Rand Proprietary	23 5	22 10	22 10	560	8,410
Geduld Proprietary	21 4	20 5	20 4	31,630	29,480
Government Areas	20 11	17 5	18 7	140,090	155,170
Langlaagte Estate	24 9	21 11	24 1	9,480	12,810
Meyer and Charlton	25 3	24 4	23 9	22,410	20,190
Modder B	27 5	23 4	22 3	59,800	81,630
Modder Deep	31 3	19 2	18 7	64,790	65,680
Modder East	34 2	30 11	33 2	7,830	4,090
New Kleinfontein	26 1	21 6	22 11	80	4,300
New Modder	21 5	20 0	18 7	114,200	120,450
Nourse	27 7	24 10	26 4	890	5,590
Randfontein	27 6	23 10	22 3	*110	31,500
Robinson Deep	25 7	24 2	21 1	9,410	15,160
Rose Deep	22 1	19 5	19 11	3,320	9,300
Springs	28 7	26 8	25 8	27,840	28,960
Sub Nigel	44 11	46 1	43 3	6,760	5,920
Van Ryn Estate	25 4	23 5	21 5	5,020	8,090
Van Ryn Deep	25 2	20 7	22 1	65,620	62,040
Village Deep	30 8	24 5	23 4	*1,500	12,510
West Rand Consd.	26 3	23 6	24 6	1,080	4,010
Witwatersrand Deep ..	25 4	23 3	23 4	3,900	10,160
Witwatersrand (Knights)	21 7	21 8	20 3	5,490	11,580

* Loss.

It will be seen that in the 27 instances cited, comparing June with December, reductions of greater or lesser extent in the cost ratio are recorded in all save a couple of examples. Here and there the differences are only trifling, but with a fair proportion of the companies the savings are of substantial extent—to wit, 3s 10d per ton on the part of the Brakpan, 5s 2d Modder B, 3s 2d New Kleinfontein, 2s 10d New Modder, 5s 3d Randfontein, 4s 6d Robinson Deep, 2s 11d Springs, 3s 11d Van Ryn Estate, 3s 1d Van Ryn Deep, and 7s 4d Village Deep—whose December average was exceptionally high. The less favourable showing made by some companies for June than for May is attributable to the increase in the Miners' Phthisis assessment for the quarter. This factor, however, should in the future be fully offset by the withdrawal of the last instalment of the war bonus paid to the white miners, which takes effect as from the beginning of the current month. As regards profits, some three-fourths of the companies earned more last month than in December, and in many cases the gains are of very appreciable extent. Changes in the opposite direction are comparatively unimportant.

West African Gold Industry.—Shareholders in Gold Coast mining enterprises are having a very lean time just now. Even the doyen of all—the Ashanti Goldfields—has paid no dividend so far this year, difficulties being encountered one after another. The 1921 report of the Abbotiakoon, whose meeting was held last Monday, shows a loss of £22,800, whereas in the two preceding years small profits were made, out of which one dividend of 5 per cent. was disbursed. Last year's disappointing results are due to a sharp rise in working costs, largely arising

from shortage and inefficiency of the labour supply, as well as to the decline in the gold premium. Developments on the West Reef in the bottom levels are highly encouraging, but underground work failed anything like to replace the ore extracted; hence the reserves are 51,700 tons down at 447,500 tons, albeit the value is somewhat better at nearly ½ oz per ton. The Prestea, upon which an enormous amount has been expended without a penny of return, is in process of reorganisation. Members are to be given one 4s share for each £1 share held, and are offered £50,000 6 per cent. debentures at 95, the stock being redeemable by five annual instalments at a premium of 20 per cent. Subscribers will be entitled to take up at par 50,000 "B" shares of 1s each, part of a total of 75,000, entitling to one-third the profits of the company. The underwriters of the debenture issue get a cash commission of 12½ per cent., and subscribe for the remainder of the "B" shares. The terms appear onerous, but the arrangement is doubtless, as claimed, the only alternative to liquidation. The company has secured the support of the Minerals Separation, whose process is expected to effect a great reduction in costs. Last year the latter averaged 61s 7d, as against a recovery value of 43s 7d. Naturally, in these circumstances, a heavy loss resulted. The ore reserves represent little more than one year's supply at the normal rate of crushing, so it is to be hoped that there will be a continuance of the good developments at depth recently reported. The two other important producing companies—the Abosso and the Taquah—have fared rather badly of late, one factor being the inadequacy of the native labour supply.

Japanese Trade and Finance.—Cabled advices from Tokyo report that since the close of the half-year the money market has been abundantly supplied with funds, and the rate for day-to-day loans descended to 3½ per cent. In the expectations that the abundance will continue, bankers are eager to take securities of longer terms, with the result that the market for National loans has become active, and new issues of municipalities and private concerns are meeting with good demand. Profit-taking has, however, caused stock market fluctuations. In the market for raw silk the good demand noticeable in the early part of the month has given way to quiet conditions. The index number of wholesale prices in Tokyo rose 3 points in June, the latest figure being 261.02. June imports were 157,000,000 yen, and exports 146,000,000 yen. On July 15th the note issue of the Bank of Japan was 1,146,000,000 yen, compared with 1,053,000,000 yen a year ago, while discounts and advances were 157,000,000 yen, as compared with 66,000,000 yen.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—COTTON REPORT—CONDITION OF CROPS — MAY RAILROAD EARNINGS — STRIKE SITUATION — UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASING — TREASURY FINANCES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 10.

SUCH a spirited advance in cotton prices as that which followed the publication last week of the Government report, showing an improvement in the crop's condition during the preceding month, is indeed a rare occurrence. Ordinarily, prospects for a larger yield than had previously been indicated would serve to depress the market for the staple, but nothing like that happened. On the contrary, from the moment the condition figures became known there was a wild scramble to buy, which carried prices up 10 to 20 points, not only to new high levels for this season, but to the highest reached since the extensive deflation two years ago forced the staple down from around 40 cents to 10 cents. Last Monday, when the Government report was issued, spot cotton closed at 23.75 cents, the October Option well above 23 cents, and other months above 22 cents. The net rise for the day was about 1½ cents a pound, or more than \$8 a bale. Reasons

for the sensational advance are not hard to find. The June crop report was a big surprise. Instead of an improvement of three or four points, as had generally been expected, the gain in condition was only 1.6 per cent. over the preceding month. The condition of the crop on June 25th was given as 71.2 per cent. of normal, as against 69.6 per cent. on May 25th, 69.2 per cent. on June 25, 1921, and a ten-year June 25th average of 76.9 per cent. The report pointed to a yield of approximately 151.9 pounds per acre, as compared with 124.5 pounds last year. The report indicated a crop of 11,065,000 bales, which would compare with last year's actual production of 7,953,641 bales, with 13,439,603 bales in 1920, 11,420,763 in 1919, and 12,040,532 bales in 1918. The yield now forecast falls short by a very wide margin of the yield which is considered necessary to meet world requirements, which are estimated at about 13,000,000 under present conditions. Obviously, the situation is greatly complicated by last year's short crop, because reserves have been depleted to a marked degree. A realisation of such facts was mainly responsible for the intense excitement and spectacular advances witnessed last Monday. Since then prices have eased off somewhat from the top figures, but in many quarters it is predicted that much higher prices will be witnessed later in the season. The Department of Agriculture says:—"Boll weevils are reported more numerous this year than ever before in the history of the American cotton industry. In the south-east the damage is already reported as considerable; on account of the lateness of the crop it is difficult to estimate the exact damage." The next two months will be critical ones for the cotton crop, and manifestly any extensive damage from weevils or other unfavourable developments will reduce the yield now indicated. Occasionally the crop has improved during that period, but, as a rule, the June condition proves to be much higher than that shown in the final condition report as of September 25th. That consideration was also an important factor, no doubt, in the recent vigorous rise.

Conditions with respect to other crops are irregular. Harvesting of winter wheat is about completed, and threshing is proceeding rapidly. Winter wheat yields are variously estimated at 555,000,000 to 574,000,000 bushels; the previous estimate was 607,000,000 as against 587,000,000 bushels actually harvested last year. Private estimates of the spring wheat yield indicate a crop of about 260,000,000 bushels, as against the June Government forecast of 247,000,000, and last year's harvest of 209,000,000 bushels. Corn is making good progress, although the stand is very irregular. Condition estimates range from 86 to 87, compared with 91.1 a year ago, and the indicated yield varies from 2,807,000,000 to 2,835,000,000 bushels, compared with last year's production of 3,081,000,000 bushels. As regards oats, present forecasts of the yield range from 1,205,000,000 to 1,235,000,000 bushels, as against last year's harvest of 1,061,000,000 bushels. Rye and barley crops promise to be larger than in 1921, and harvesting of rye is progressing.

Complete reports filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by the 201 first-class railroads show total operating revenues for May of \$448,947,900, and operating expenses of \$355,588,800. Net operating income amounted to \$61,980,600, which, on an annual basis, represented a return of 4.36 per cent. on their tentative property valuation. For the first five months of the current year the net operating income of all lines amounted to \$273,259,000, as against \$94,417,907 during the like period of 1921, representing an annual rate of return of 4.36 per cent., compared with 1.51 per cent. for the first five months of last year.

The railroad strike which began July 1st has not resulted in such an extensive walk-out of employees as was threatened a while ago. Probably not more than 400,000 employees all told are on strike, the great majority being members of the shop-crafts unions. An equal number of workers, comprising the maintenance of way brotherhood, eventually refused to join the strike. The brotherhood of signalmen has adopted a similar course, and it now seems likely that the same policy will be pursued by other classes of employees, whose pay was reduced as from July 1st. No serious or widespread

interruption to freight or passenger service has yet taken place, and developments in the past few days would seem to indicate that the shop-crafts strike will not be of long duration.

In view of the unsettled conditions caused by the coal, textile, and railroad controversies, it is considered remarkable that employment throughout the country actually increased last month. The Government's industrial survey for June, published to-day, and embracing 355 principal industrial centres, shows that, of 65 leading cities, 52 reported an increase in employment last month over May. The survey covered employment conditions in every line of trade and industry in the United States, including 1,428 concerns each usually employing 500 or more. The report states particularly that building activities have developed to such an extent that a shortage of skilled building craftsmen is becoming apparent in many sections of the country, and there is at least a temporary shortage of help in the harvest fields of the Middle West. Similar conditions prevail in the iron and steel industries. Commenting on general conditions, the report says:—"The country is steadily but surely forging its way toward a period of industrial prosperity, in which it is possible that the labour supply will not equal the demand. As contrasted with opinion six months ago, a note of optimism pervades practically every industry in every section of the country."

A complete record is now available of the Government's receipts and expenditures during the fiscal year ended June 30th. Receipts aggregated \$4,109,104,150, while expenditures chargeable against them amounted to only \$3,795,302,499. Receipts were some \$140,600,000 larger than had been expected, while expenditures were about \$197,600,000 less, and a surplus of \$313,801,651 was shown by the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year. The increases in receipts came from several sources, notably from Customs collections, which totalled \$356,443,378—the largest on record, and over \$81,000,000 above estimate. Miscellaneous receipts, including Panama Canal tolls, reached \$539,407,506, or about \$50,400,000 above the estimate, the gain being due chiefly to increased realisations on property and to the sale of approximately \$44,000,000 Federal Farm Land Bank bonds owned by the Government. Internal revenue receipts, including income-taxes, aggregated \$3,213,253,256, or only about \$1,200,000 less than was estimated. The decrease in expenditures resulted largely from smaller outlays on account of the railroads.

FRANCE.—REPARATIONS AND DEBTS—RAILWAYS—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 18.

THE expected German Note to the Reparations Commission, asking for a further moratorium, arrived last Thursday, and took the form—as was anticipated—would be the case—of a request for a complete suspension of all reparation payments in cash for the next two and a half years. The German demand is based on the fact that the mark has now fallen so low that it will in future be impossible for the Berlin Government to find sufficient money to purchase the dollars, sterling, francs, and other foreign currency in which the payments would have to be made. The Note insists that the recent heavy fall in the mark "began with the adjournment of the negotiations of the Loan Committee," and makes use of the present situation as a skilful additional argument in favour of a great international loan on behalf of Germany. As usual (as French opinion views the matter), the German Government made the mistake of overstating its necessities, and was so ill-advised as to ask also to be relieved from the necessity of making the payment due on July 15th, the foreign currency to meet which was admittedly already in the possession of the Reichsbank. The Reparations Commission, as was to be expected, saw no reason why the Allies should make a present of this money to Germany, and insisted, in its reply, that it should be handed over, in the usual course, after deductions amounting to 17,892,602.50 gold marks, representing certain interest charges and payments made in kind in the form of coal (for Luxemburg)

and dyestuffs. The balance of the total sum of 50 million marks, amounting roughly to £1,600,000, has accordingly been paid in cash. This £1,600,000, so far as can be seen at present, bids fair to be the last cash payment Germany will make to her creditors for a long time to come.

Exactly what the fate of the German request for a complete moratorium for two and a half years will be it is at present difficult to offer even a suggestion. At the time of writing, the Reparations Commission is still awaiting the report of the Allied Committee of Guarantees as to the real facts of the German financial situation. This Committee, as is known, has been sitting in Berlin for some weeks past, carrying out a thorough investigation of Germany's financial position, and the Reparations Commission's reply to the German request will depend largely on what this Committee's inquiry has disclosed. One thing is certain, and that is that under present conditions it is absolutely impossible for Germany to continue to make the payments in cash that were required from her. This fact alone, however, is insufficient to determine the future action of the Allies. If the report of the Committee of Guarantees proves—as it is universally believed here will be the case—that Germany has deliberately and intentionally brought about her present inability to continue her payments in order to be able to cheat her creditors, the principal result of her dishonesty will be to place the Allies legitimately in a position to deal much more drastically with her than would have been the case had her situation been due merely to unavoidable misfortune. Both plain commonsense and poetic justice, as this country sees it, demand that Germany should be subjected to the same treatment that would be meted out to any other fraudulent bankrupt, and that her estate should be handled for the benefit of her creditors as would be that of any other bankrupt. The great underlying fear that is felt in France, however, is that Germany's greatest asset, in spite of her financial bankruptcy, is to be found in the divergence of views between England and France. M. Poincaré's Government is anxious that the Allies should declare Germany bankrupt, and thus clear the ground and render possible the taking over of the derelict estate for the benefit of the creditors. The Government of Mr Lloyd George, on the other hand, is considered here to be in favour of continuing to be kind to the German aggressor, and to render still more impossible the position of Germany's greatest victim. To the average Frenchman the attitude of the British Government—and this in spite of the failure of all its previous efforts to extract satisfaction from Germany in the past—is an absolute mystery.

Almost equally mystifying, from the French point of view, is the attitude of America, which at the moment when all hope seems to be vanishing of obtaining from Germany the money required to reconstitute the devastated area, persists in demanding payment of the inter-Ally debts. The French situation *vis-à-vis* her own and Germany's reparation payments, is thus eloquently summed up by one of the Paris newspapers for the consideration of that portion of American public opinion which is calling for repayment by France of the debt she owes to the United States:—"Germany, which has not had a factory window broken by the war, has paid on account of reparations during three years only \$1,250,000,000. France, which has had seven of her departments ruined by the war, has paid on account of the same reparations, in the same period, \$7,500,000,000."

It is impossible, the same writer points out, to state that the German mark has fallen to zero because the country has had to pay a milliard and a quarter in reparations, if the French franc has fallen only 40 centimes, in spite of France having had to pay 7½ milliards in the same time. If Mr Lloyd George is so anxious to accord a moratorium to Germany, it is asked in the same article, what moratorium do Great Britain and America propose to grant to France?

Figures that are now available setting forth the situation of the French railways, show that, in spite of the enormous burden imposed upon her by Germany's failure to pay her reparation debt, France is working with commendable energy to bring about her economic restoration. The increased railway rates imposed some two years ago,

coupled with the steady increase in traffics, are having an extremely satisfactory effect on the enormous deficits that characterised the whole of the French lines as the result of the war, and there appears to be little doubt that before long the railways will be at least able to balance expenditure with revenue. The situation at the end of 1921, as compared with that of the previous year, is shown in the following table:—

	(In Millions of Francs.)		Comparative	
	1920.	1921.	Gross.	Per Cent.
Railway.	578	233	345	60
Nord	578	233	345	60
Est	303	160	143	47
Orléans	494	385	109	22
P. L. M.	633	426	207	33
State	718	696	22	1.5
Midi	255	184	71	28
Totals	2,981	2,084	897	Average 31

The results of the first 23 weeks' working of the present year were a total increase of 194,000,000 francs in receipts, as compared with the corresponding period of 1921, the average increased yield per kilometre for each of the six companies being 7.9 per cent. It is estimated that by the end of the present year the total deficit on the year's working will have been reduced to between 1,000 and 1,100 million francs. The P.L.M. system expects to reduce its 1921 deficit of 426,000,000 francs to 40,000,000 francs during 1922, while the Est expects to get down to 150,000,000 francs, the Midi to 180,000,000 francs, the Etat to 240,000,000 francs, the Nord to 230,000,000 francs, and the Orléans to 250,000,000 francs. Much of this possibility is due to the fact that the lines are now being worked on a unified national basis, instead of independently.

The sudden appreciation of sterling that on Monday attained 57f 40c, and then declined almost as rapidly as it had risen, has been the governing feature of the Bourse, and has resulted in violent fluctuations in those securities that are largely governed by the foreign exchanges. To take one illustration, that of Tintos. There was a brisk advance from 1,465 to 1,492 that was later followed by a decline to 1,447. The French 3 per cents. were in demand, gaining 25 centimes at 57.95, but other rentes were weaker, the 1915 5 per cents. falling from 75.40 to 74.55, the 1917 4 per cents. from 61.40 to 60.65, and the 1920 6 per cents. from 87.95 to 87.55. French banks have been depressed, Banque de l'Union Parisienne declining from 620 to 594, Banque Nationale de Crédit from 619 to 600, and Banque de Paris et Pays Bas from 1,130 to 1,110. Banque de France, however, moved from 5,740 to 5,850. Railways, influenced by M. Le Trocquer's favourable report, were notably stronger.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—LEGISLATION—CREDIT—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 15.

THE Reparation Commission's provisional reply to the new moratorium request caused some disappointment; with the result that the foreign exchanges, and with them commodity prices, yesterday again rose moderately, after the big drop which came when first the question of a moratorium was reopened. The disappointment in part arose from the Commission's insistence on the 32 million gold mark payment due to-day; but mainly from the Commission's expression of belief that Reparations are not the main cause of the mark's depreciation on exchange. At present exchange 32 million gold marks are about 4 milliard paper marks; and though the Government has the necessary foreign currency, an extra four milliard marks paper will have to be sold for import payments, or an even larger sum if, as may be expected, the first selling further depreciates the mark. The Commission's views about the cause of the mark's depreciation would, if taken seriously, exclude all hope of a Reparations alleviation; and it is hard for Germans to understand why, if this is an

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital ... £1,000,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

expert considered view, such a fuss is being made about Reparations in London, and why, if it is not an expert considered view, it is expressed. The immediate prospects of the mark exchange are very hard to judge. The last week's movements closely resemble movements in similar earlier circumstances. The opening of negotiations for a new Reparations basis first leads to a sharp mark recovery, after which follows a relatively stable period until the final decision is given. The prospect of an increase of the present 1,450 million deliveries in kind is not relished here. At present exchange, compensation to the native producers of the 1,450 million goods would cost about 170 milliard marks. This would be covered by Floating Debt operations, which means in the main by inflation; and the unpaid-for exports would increase seriously the existing passive payment balance on ordinary trade.

The Bill reducing income-tax rates has been accepted, with certain further alleviations for pensioners and petty rentiers, and on income from savings bank interest. The paper mark maximum of the Forced Loan has been raised to 70 milliards paper. The Reichstag has passed on third reading a Bill empowering the Government, in case of pressing necessity, to increase or reduce import duties, or to impose new duties, after taking the views of the Reichsrat, Reichswirtschaftsrat and a Reichstag Committee. This is one more of several surrenders by the Legislature to the Cabinet of control of taxes. The gold supplement on Customs duties was raised on July 12th to 7,900 per cent., and from 19th to 26th will be 9,400 per cent. The consumer, who is probably on an average earning thirty-fold his pre-war income, will pay 95-fold the pre-war duty on imported goods; in some cases, where the nominal duty was lately doubled, 190-fold. The 40 per cent. coal tax is felt as an equally serious burden. This tax is one of the best revenue-yielders; and it was bearable when 20 per cent., and when the difference between German and world-market coal prices was much greater than now. The threatened result is the almost complete cessation of domestic heating next winter. Under the dwellings law of July 1st, the Housing Conciliation Boards can at the request of an apartment tenant order the partial or complete cessation of central heating. Being unable to pay, tenants are preparing to demand this wholesale, arranging instead for stove-heating of only one room. Railway fares will be raised 50 per cent. next October. In this matter the Government has been unreasonably lenient. Measured in gold, or, as is fairer, in paper earning power, fares which have been raised only from 14 to 19-fold according to class are unreasonably low. The loss on railways must always be met by inflation, which expropriates certain classes. The official explanation is that raising fares on the eve of the holiday season would be a hard measure. This reasoning is characteristic of the Government's general weakness when faced by clamour from the classes which make most trouble. Millions of citizens from whom the debased mark has taken not only holidays but also bread are being further impoverished in order to provide cheap holidays for the very small rich class which takes any holidays at all.

The credit strain continues. The Reichsbank's statement for July 7th is significant of this. Nearly every first

week in the month, and in particular the first week in the quarter, has so far shown a heavy drop in credits given, owing to reaction from the credit strain of terminal settlements. Although the bank's holdings of Treasury Bills in the last June week increased by the unprecedented sum of 18 milliards, the decline in the week ending June 7th was only 1,123 millions. The note circulation increased by 3½ milliards. Dr Salomohnson, chief of the Disconto Bank, declares that the money scarcity has brought the era of increasing company capitalisations to an end; and adds that at present mark exchange the difficulty will be met in financing imports. To meet the credit demand, the Darlehenskassen have decided to lend up to 50 per cent. on Bourse stocks quoted at under 600, above that quotation up to 2/5ths; the interest rate on loans secured on such stocks or on wares is raised from 5½ to 6 per cent. Hitherto the maximum loan has been 40 per cent. of the quotation value or at most 100 per cent. of the nominal value for single-quotation securities, and 60 per cent. of quotation value or at most 150 per cent. of nominal value for securities with continuous quotation.

Stocks last week closely followed the exchange market, falling considerably on the first reaction in the foreign rates, and ending with a moderate recovery. The improvement in the Darlehenskassen's loan conditions helped the market. On the 10th, mainly it is believed owing to English buying, Federal Threes rose to 249.50, which is four times the quotation of the end of 1920; but declined yesterday to 188. The movements of this bond are more erratic than those of any of the leading speculative stocks. Other loan prices yesterday were: War 77.50, 4 per cent. 117.50, 3½ per cent 93, Colonial 4 per cent. 126.75, Savings and Premium 79.70, Prussian 4 per cent. Consols 79.50, Three per cent. 79.25, Hamburg 3½ per cent. Staats-Rente 76, Berlin 4 per cents., 1904, ser. 2, 95, Cologne 4 per cent., 1900-1912, 98.

Foreign trade in May, as compared with April, shows an increase of imports in weight; but otherwise no very great change. The import surplus in values was 5,291 millions, against 5,300 millions in April. Imports in the first five months of 1922 were 13,127,400 tons, value 108,464 millions; exports 10,196,000 tons, value 100,492 millions, the import surplus being a little under 8 milliards. Monthly details are:

	Quantity. (In 1,000 Doub. Centners).		Values. (In Million Marks).	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
January	23,100	20,300	12,641	14,394
February	14,752	17,473	12,001	14,482
March	26,446	21,526	22,911	21,238
April	28,889	21,750	28,249	22,949
May	38,098	20,933	32,444	27,152

(In 1,000 Double Centners.)

Main Imports in May—		Main Exports—	
Food	10,279	Minerals	12,136
Minerals	23,832	Chemicals and dyes	2,632
Base metals	2,642	Base metals	2,235
Chemicals and dyes	902	Food	1,444
Textiles	168	Machines, vehicles	543
Paper and cardboard ..	107	Paper, cardboard	459
		Stone wares	439
		Textiles	173
		Pottery	401
		Glass	128
		Toys, clocks, &c.	80

Berlin Municipal Budget for 1922-23 balances at 13,179,856,720m.; but a supplementary Budget is already made necessary by the price rise. Municipal workmen have demanded wage increases totalling 2 milliards a year. The lowest municipal wage at present is 32.95m. per hour, the highest 34.60m. Unskilled workmen, as in the private industries, have almost caught up on skilled. Berlin has decreed that foreigners not resident in Germany shall pay a fivefold hotel-room tax. As the tax is assessed on room-prices, and as already foreigners pay four to five times as much for their rooms as Germans, the actual tax on foreigners for the same class of rooms is 20 to 25-fold that falling on Germans. As already the prices of rooms and tax thereon charged to Germans have in great measure caught up with the currency depreciation, the special tax on foreigners is unreasonable.

CANADA.—CROP PROSPECTS—TRADE CONDITIONS — NATIONAL RAILWAYS — FREIGHT RATE REDUCTIONS—PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION— PENDING DOMESTIC LOAN—GRADING SCHEMES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, July 6.

Crop prospects are the topics of paramount interest in Canada to-day, and the last survey of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which records conditions at the end of June, is distinctly encouraging. In the West, which is the most important crop area, there has been severe loss through drought in certain parts, and local hailstorms have done damage, but now that June, the most critical month, has ended, the outlook for a really good crop is regarded as extremely promising. Manitoba crops were reported as needing rain, but on July 5th they received a good drenching. They are well advanced in growth, and autumn rye is almost ready for cutting. Hay and pastures are excellent. It is in this province that hail damage has been most serious, 30,000 acres of crop being completely ruined by a storm on June 23rd. In Saskatchewan the seeding was accomplished under good conditions, and the store of moisture was sufficient till the weather broke on June 17th. Since that date regular rains have occurred and the crops are making excellent progress, some of the wheat being in the shot blade. Recent alarmist reports about the conditions of the crops in Southern Alberta have been contradicted by local experts, and recent rains have in any case materially improved the situation. The grasshopper menace has been successfully combated, and the general prospects are for an average crop of wheat and oats. Owing to the lightness of the hay crop, 50 per cent. of the rye sown is being cut for winter feed. In British Columbia grain and pastures have suffered from a lack of moisture, but the fruit crop is in good condition.

In Ontario and Quebec prospects are generally encouraging. Eastern Ontario has had rather too much rain for its crops, but its pastures have profited. Elsewhere autumn wheat is well headed out, and barley, oats, and spring wheat promise well, but all grains are decidedly short in the straw. Potatoes, roots, and maize have got a good start. Early apples are abundant, and most orchard fruits are good. All the smaller fruits except raspberries are plentiful. The maritime provinces report that a judicious regularity of rainfall and good growing weather have brought the crops into excellent condition. Cereals, turnips, and potatoes are very promising, and the hay crop is good though damaged by floods in some areas. Pastures are excellent, and stock is in first-class condition. In Nova Scotia, however, the set of the fruit has only been fair, and the apple crop may not be more than two-thirds as large as last year's.

Reports from various commercial centres agree that trade is still on the mend, but it is difficult to point out any feature which stands out prominently. Wholesale houses state that orders are coming in with reasonable freedom; firms dealing in drygoods and groceries find business quite brisk, and there has been marked activity in the sugar market, due to European orders and the advent of the preserving season. Now that freight rates to the West have been cut, a large flow of orders from western merchants who were awaiting the verdict is anticipated. Industry is holding its own quite well, with unemployment continuing to decrease. Better strength is shown in the steel markets with iron and steel bars selling at \$2.90 and \$3.00, but very few of the plants are working even at an approximation to full capacity. The motor factories have lots of orders, and the building boom is being maintained in many cities. The coal strike in the United States is causing some inconvenience to Ontario manufacturers, but as an offset it is helping the Nova

Scotia mines, which are sending considerable quantities of coal into the United States. Now that the holiday season has arrived retail business in the towns and cities is likely to experience a period of dullness, but good autumn trade is anticipated. The banks are still keeping a close rein upon loans, and merchants declare that if they would loosen their purse strings trade would be greatly stimulated. The stock markets after a period of liveliness are now experiencing a reaction, and most local stocks are in a listless condition.

The President of the Canadian National Railways reports a welcome improvement in their prospects. There was a small operating deficit for May amounting to \$38,638, but it is a welcome change from the deficit of 2½ million dollars shown in May, 1921. There has been a satisfactory reduction in operating costs, whose ratio to earnings was 100.28 : 100, as compared with 129.87 : 100 in May, 1921.

The controversy in Parliament over the western freight rates has resulted in a real triumph for the Progressive party, who are fighting the claims of the C.P.R. Most of the latter were conceded by the first report of the Transportation Costs Committee, but it was only carried by the casting vote of the chairman, and the Government found that at least a score of their own followers were determined to support the Progressives in their obstructionist tactics against the legislation necessary to implement the report. Accordingly, the Committee were invited to reconsider their report, and the later version which they produced conceded the main point of the western claims by restoring the rates on grain and flour embodied in the Crows' Nest Pass agreement. The rest of the agreement has been suspended for another year, and the Railway Commissioners were asked to examine the rates on the other basic commodities and, if possible, reduce them. They have already ordered some reductions amounting on an average of 7½ per cent. The changes in freight rates will involve heavy decreases in the revenues available for the railways, and it is calculated that the C.P.R. and the National system will have to share in almost equal amounts a loss of about 15 million dollars, the exact amount being dependent upon the size of the crop.

In the final stages of the Budget further evidence was afforded of the dominance of protectionist influences in the councils of the Ministry. There was put through an amendment to the Customs Act which Mr Meighen described as the most protectionist measure ever passed at Ottawa; it virtually gave the Cabinet arbitrary power to fix a scale of valuation and impose duties at their own caprice on imported natural products which they judged were competing under unfair conditions with home-grown products. The Progressives, when the Budget was being discussed in committee, fought hard for more drastic cuts in the duties on blankets, clothing, and other commodities, but the Government resisted all changes, and were able to secure Tory support to defeat the amendments moved.

Before the close of the present financial year the Government must raise \$350,000,000 to meet various obligations, and the Finance Minister has announced that if financial conditions are reasonably good, a domestic loan will be raised in the early autumn. During the debate on the Budget a plea, probably instigated by bond houses, was made that no domestic loan should be floated by the Government; it should seek its money abroad and leave local capital available for private enterprises which had less chance of securing funds elsewhere. Mr Fielding, the Minister of Finance, and Mr Ernest Lapointe, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, will be two of the Canadian delegates to the next Assembly of the League of Nations, due to take place at the end of August. Mr Fielding will also take up with the British Treasury a number of matters which require adjustment, and he will discuss with the French Government the question of a commercial treaty between France and Canada.

Apparently considerable apprehension has developed in British trading circles about the new system of Government grading of Canadian dairy produce. It should be realised that in no sense does it imply Governmental control of marketing; the new regulations are merely designed to stimulate an improvement in the quality of the product, and by promoting a uniformity of standards secure an improvement in prices.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

PARIS OFFICE

3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME

CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

AUSTRIA.—THREAT OF FINANCIAL RUIN—NOTE CIRCULATION — AN INTERNAL LOAN — 1921 TRADE—THE BUDGET DEFICIT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, July 1.

THE last month has seen a considerable change for the worse in the financial situation in Austria. Consternation reigns in Government and Parliamentary circles and among all classes of the population. The latest impulse in the downward direction is caused by the fact that, contrary to the optimistic announcements of the Government, the arrival of certain delegates of the Morgan group, expected a week ago, has not taken place. The Social Democratic Party, being in opposition to the present Government, which is composed of Christian Socialists and Pan-Germans, would like to upset the "bourgeois" Government, and, despite constant statements to the contrary, to form a Socialist Government, which would bring in a Socialist financial programme. One of their leaders, Dr Bauer, has brought forward a proposal to urge the German Government and German financial circles to participate with German capital in the foundation of an Issue Bank, and to prepare the way for the introduction of the mark currency, but without suggesting that a political union should follow yet. Disturbed by the threats of the Socialist party and the appalling state of the exchange market, as well as by the general panic which has seized the whole population, the Government has in most emphatic terms demanded from the banks that they should found, by means of their own available resources and with the help of any affiliated foreign groups, an Issue Bank, which would be required to buy in the present kronen notes in circulation and to replace them by a new issue based upon a pool of foreign negotiable securities. The banks, as well as the foreign diplomatic representatives have been informed by the Government and the leaders of the political parties that something must be done if disturbances are to be avoided. The banks have declared themselves ready in principle to finance the new Issue Bank with their foreign holdings without, however, giving a hope that the storm which threatens to break over Austria will hold off for any appreciable time; but, at all events, it would mean that for the time being the situation would be calmer.

The preliminary legislative work for the foundation of the new Issue Bank has made fairly good progress. The Government has steadily insisted on the banks and influential bankers subscribing the share capital of the proposed bank, which is to be 100 million Swiss francs. The Government has made it quite clear to them that only by a voluntary subscription in foreign currencies of an adequate portion of this share capital can they avoid the confiscation of their foreign currencies, as had been demanded by the Socialist party. The first instalment,

to be raised on the share capital must amount to 24 million Swiss francs. The allotment of this first instalment, however, is not very simple, as each bank is inclined to give precedence in the subscription to the others. As in the Bill for the foundation of the new bank brought before the Parliament, the new bank is only pledged to prevent a further fall of the krone, and not given the task of gradually improving the rate of exchange, it is again proved that the Government itself has lost all hope in the recovery of the krone.

The Finance Administration has made considerable demands upon the Austro-Hungarian Bank during the last two weeks. The increase in the note circulation has amounted to 42,000 million kronen—i.e., 3,000 million kronen daily. Of this sum, the Ministry of Finance required 20,800 million; the remainder is due to the demands of the banks, industries, and commerce. A proof of the lack of confidence which the Austro-Hungarian Bank has in the recovery of the krone is the fact that, in agreement with the Ministry of Finance, it has always fixed the gold parity for payment of Customs dues, which is officially determined every week, at a higher level than justified by the price of Swiss currency, which previously was the basis for all such calculations.

Simultaneously with the foundation of the new Issue Bank, it is proposed to invite subscriptions to an internal loan. One of the securities for this loan will be a compulsory general mortgage on the entire real estate of Austria. The farmers and peasants seem to oppose this part of the scheme and are endeavouring to obtain at least the concession of redeeming this mortgage immediately by payment in cash. With regard to capital and personal property, it is proposed to compel all companies to subscribe 15 per cent. of their share capital in gold kronen; private individuals will have to contribute their share in proportion to their income-tax (20-33 times this year's tax). There is, of course, this danger: the enormous demand for money which will be caused by this loan will increase the prevailing money stringency, and either cause many insolvencies or, what is more probable, augment the demands on the Austro-Hungarian Bank, and so result in a further increase of the banknote circulation. The concession made by the Government to the State employees—i.e., that their salaries will be automatically increased in proportion to the official index figures, will compel commerce and industry to grant the same increase to their employees. This will again enlarge the demands upon the Austro-Hungarian Bank for both public and private needs.

The Government has just published the figures concerning Austrian imports and exports during the year 1921:—Imports, 1,698 million gold kronen; exports, 926 million gold kronen; excess of imports, 772 million gold kronen. This excess of imports, 772 million gold kronen, equals in paper kronen 43,000 million. Of these imports, 136 million gold kronen represent fuel, 729 million foodstuffs, and 201 million industrial raw materials. Of the total of 926 million gold kronen exports, 790 million gold kronen represent various industrial products. This year the excess of imports will probably be greater, as the import of fuel and foodstuffs has no doubt been much larger.

A few examples are given below which show clearly how the cost of living has increased during the last 14 days:—

	Beginning of June.	Middle of June.
	Kronen.	Kronen.
Tram tickets	80	150
Coal	70	116
Loaf of bread	940	1,230
Beef	4,500	7,000
Fat	4,000	6,800
Shoes	25,000	40,000
Gas (per cub. meter)	130	220
Unemployment dole	1,600	2,400

The official statistics show that the cost of living has increased 71 per cent. since May 16th.

The demand for foreign currencies and securities has become so great that certain stocks show from one day to another a rise of half-million kronen; a rise of 200,000-300,000 arouses no comment. The banks and brokers' offices are quite unable to cope with the demands of

the population for the purchase of securities. Below are a few examples of the rise in the prices of securities:—

	Beginning of June.	Middle of June.
	Kronen.	Kronen.
Nordbalm (Northern Railway)....	760,000	1,500,000
Staatseisenbahngesellschaft	179,000	350,000
Cosmanos (textile firm)	194,500	385,000
Schoeller Zucker (sugar)	271,000	530,000
Pilsner Brewery	640,000	1,010,000
Veitscher Magnesit.....	390,000	1,100,000

The Government recently demanded a credit for 220,000 million kronen, which, it explained, would only cover the requirements of the Treasury for three months. But as in the meantime the value of the krone has depreciated, the monthly Budget deficit is bound to increase even above the present figure of 78,000 million kronen. It remains to be seen if the new financial programme which the Government will introduce in the next few days will bring about a change in this lamentable state of affairs.

G R E E C E. — BANKERS' CONSORTIUM — TARIFF REVISION AND INCREASES—FOREIGN TRADE—COST OF LIVING—SERVICE OF THE DEBT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, July 1.

As a result of negotiations between the Government and the banks regarding the fate of the Bankers' Consortium established a year ago to handle foreign exchanges, it was finally decided, at the suggestion of the Government, to renew the capital of the Consortium, which will continue its operations, with some modifications in its internal organisation and methods.

In a statement to the Press, the Minister of Finance declared that the Government, as well as the banks, have formed the conviction that the foreign exchange rates will soon fall. During the ten months past, he said, the Consortium bought £24 millions. The daily receipts average £70,000. This sum would be, in fact, considerably larger but for the illicit dealings which take place in the so-called free market, chiefly for account of Smyrna. The latter is not subject to the restrictions imposed by the law concerning the Consortium, and as it is always ready to pay higher rates for obtaining exchange, a considerable portion of exchange finds its way there through the free market.

The capital of the Consortium amounts now to £1,353,000, the Government participating for £1,000,000 and the balance having been taken up by the principal banks. New members may be admitted with a participation in the capital of at least £5,000. The Consortium resumed its functions on June 26th, and fixed the rate of the pound sterling at 140 dr for cash transactions and 125 dr for forward contracts. The difference between these two rates is attributed to the confidence of the Consortium in a fall of the rates during approaching months, when foreign exchange is usually imported in the country owing to the exports of currants and other products.

The Minister of Finance has introduced and passed through the National Assembly a Bill providing for the inclusion in the tariff of some articles hitherto not specifically mentioned in it. On the other hand, some of the articles already contained in the tariff are classified more methodically, while the duties on some others are increased. But the importance of the Bill lies in the increase, by means of co-efficients ranging from 2 to 15, of the import duties on various articles which either were hitherto lightly taxed (in consideration of their present value), or are considered as luxuries. It should be added that, independently of these increases, the raising of the official rates of foreign exchanges has already brought about an automatic general rise of the import duties of more than 30 per cent., since duties are levied in gold and paid for in bank-notes, the rate of one gold drachma varying according to the official fluctuations of the rate of exchange on London. Besides increasing duties, the Bill contains a provision prohibiting for six months the import of various articles which are defined in the Minister's introductory report as being luxuries and not of primary necessity. The aim of these measures is, on the one hand

an increase of revenue, and, on the other hand, the protection of the drachma by every possible restriction of imports of merchandise from abroad.

The foreign trade for the first four months of this year and the corresponding period of last year shows the following improvement:—

	(In Million Drachmæ.)		Excess of Imports.
	Imports.	Exports.	
January to April, 1921..	539	185	354
January to April, 1922..	675	453	222
	+ 136	+ 268	— 132

In the appended table will be found index numbers of retail food prices in Greece, calculated by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of National Economy, for the years 1914 and 1921:—

(Average Price in 1914 = 100.)			
Bread	400	Eggs	458
Dry legumes	356	Milk	347
Vegetables	424	Wine and beer	424
Meat	469	Cheese	463
Poultry	512	Coffee	249
Fish	348	Sugar	412
Butter	402	Rice	376

Index numbers for 55 various articles (principally foodstuffs) show the following gradual rise of the cost of living since 1914:—

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	121	167	289	382	341	359	421

The actual increase of prices is, however, now larger than would appear from the above figures.

According to information supplied by the International Financial Commission, the receipts from the revenues assigned for the service of the Greek public debt during the first four months of this year show the following increases over those for the corresponding period of last year:—

	(In Thousands of Drachmæ.)		Increase.
	1921.	1922.	
Receipts from monopolies, tobacco and stamped paper	29,165	48,935	19,770
Receipts for Custom houses	32,901	67,457	34,556
Total	62,066	116,392	54,326

Books and Publications.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ECONOMIC THEORY.

This is a readable little book, written, as a result of studies pursued before the war in the British Museum, and after the war in Warsaw, by an author who now occupies the position of Professor of Political Economy in the University of Lublin, Poland. The purpose is "to find among the doctrines advanced more than one hundred years ago such theories as still to-day can help us to understand economic phenomena." In a chapter on the Beginnings of Political Economy he shows how some economic laws go back to the 16th and 17th centuries, or earlier. We find, for example, the astronomer Copernicus in 1526 inquiring into the debasement of the currency in Prussia, and forestalling the "quantity theory" of money. Seventy years later Gresham enunciated his famous law:—"When two sorts of money are current in the same nation of like value by denomination, but not intrinsically, that which has the least value will be current, and the other as much as possible hoarded." Locke developed the law of supply and demand, and writers of the 17th century applied it to interest as well as to prices. In the three following chapters he explains clearly the place of the Physiocrats, Adam Smith and Ricardo, in the development of economic doctrine. He shows a sympathetic insight in summing up their views, while at the same time pointing out limitations and mistakes. In these chapters the author is at his best. He is not so happy in dealing with the "Post-Ricardian Period," to which he devotes a final chapter; and we think that these few pages might with advantage have been omitted. It would be hard to

By Jan St Lewinski, D.Ec.Sc. (London) P. S. King. 6s 6d.

justify his sweeping assertion that "all the authors of the post-Ricardian period who have investigated the problem of interest, wages, and rent, are lacking in the large perspective which is characteristic of Ricardo's work." His judgment also that the theoretical advances of political economy since Ricardo's "Principles" are comparatively irrelevant, while "the last decades especially have been very barren," does far less than justice to such men as Jevons and Marshall—to mention only these two.

IRON AND STEEL IN FRANCE.*

WITH Lorraine restored and Morocco her Protectorate, France possesses some seven milliard tons of iron ore, or 57 per cent. of the European total. But it is widely scattered, associated with different geological formations in different districts, and relatively poor in iron; that of the Briey region, now again French, has only been made valuable through the Gilchrist-Thomas process, that powerful factor in the German industrial advance. This book covers the whole history of the French industry. Beginning in Gaul in the Bronze Age with furnaces dug in the earth, worked by half-a-dozen men at most, and abandoned as soon as material or fuel became scarce, it passed, about 1300, into a stage, copied from Central Europe, of permanent foundries aided by a water-driven bellows and hammer. From about 1800 these have had to meet the competition of smelting by coke, introduced from England by Wilkinson; but charcoal has only been gradually superseded since 1870, and "the iron age" in France only began about 60 years ago. Dr Levainville shows how the competition of the different areas, stimulated by rail and water transport, specialised the local manufactures, how "combines" of foundries with coal mines arose, and how the reluctance of the French labourer to settle far from his home necessitated the importation of Belgians, Spaniards, Italians, Croats, Poles, and even Moors. From 1860 to 1913 the French output of iron multiplied tenfold, and Dr Levainville expects an annual export, in the near future, of 17 million tons of ore. For French iron and steel the outlook is less hopeful, owing to the present and future competition not only of other European countries but of America and the East. The book is packed with information admirably set forth, and full of interest for all students of economic history or of French social life.

* "L'Industrie du Fer en France." By J. Levainville, Docteur es Lettres. (Paris) Armand Colin, 1922.

WHITE MEN AND MEN OF COLOUR.*

This fifth volume of lectures delivered at the annual summer school at Woodbrooke, near Birmingham, is of the highest interest to all students of European history and international politics; and the closing essays have an economic and practical application, dealing, as they do, with the great problem of native labour. Mr J. H. Harris and Sir Sydney Olivier show that the negro, whether in Africa or the West Indies, does not easily submit to modern "industrialisation," even in the rudimentary form of the organisation of his labour for the collection and production of the various raw materials which are indispensable to civilised life. He is much more effective as a producer if he tills his own land than he is as a wage-earner on an elaborately organised plantation, with all the latest appliances for production. The two systems were tried side by side before the war, the former on the Gold Coast, the latter in the Cameroons, then German. The Gold Coast in 1906 produced thrice as much cocoa as the Cameroons; in 1913 the German output had tripled, that of the Gold Coast had increased nearly sevenfold. Further proof has been supplied by the small holdings created on a sugar estate in Trinidad. The negro works well intermittently and on piece work; but he will not work continuously if he has land. Hence the white man's effort to force him to labour by expropriation or otherwise—an effort happily frustrated in Kenya, though a flagrant example of it is supplied by Southern Rhodesia. But con-

* "Western Races and the World." Edited by F. S. Marvin. (Unity Series, V.) Oxford University Press. (London) Humphrey Milford, 1922. 12s 6d net.

Report on the Problem of Raw Materials and Foodstuffs. By Professor Gini. With annexes prepared under his direction. Published by the League of Nations. (London) Constable and Co. 10s net.

America and the Rehabilitation of Europe. Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. (Philadelphia.)

Le Bilan de l'Etatisme. By Adolphe Delemer. (Paris) Payot and Co. 10 francs.

Hungary of To-day. Memorandum on the Economic Situation of the Country. (Budapest) Royal University Press.

Coal in International Trade. By A. J. Sargent, M.A. (London) P. S. King and Son. 2s 6d net.

Le Problème des Assurances Sociales en France. By Monchrestien. (Paris) La Société d'Etudes et d'Informations Economiques. 7 francs.

La Corruption Légale et l'Esclavage International. By Victor Costin. (Lassy) Viata Romineasca. 6 francs.

The Edinburgh Review. July, 1922. (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 7s 6d net.

Drugs and Tanning Materials. Reports on Cinchona Bark and Myrobalans. Imperial Institute, Indian Trade Enquiry. (London) John Murray. 4s net.

The World's Health. (Geneva) League of Red Cross Societies. 50 centimes.

Bulletin of the Pan-American Union. July, 1922. (Washington, D.C.)

Garden Cities and Town Planning. July-August, 1922. (London) P. S. King and Son. 1s net.

Wages and Hours of Labour in the Petroleum Industry, 1920. United States Bureau of Labor Statistics No. 297. (Washington) Government Printing Office.

Colonial Tariff Policies. United States Tariff Commission. (Washington) Government Printing Office.

Trade Revival and the Reparations Muddle. (London) Fight the Famine and European Reconstruction Council 4d.

Die Sozialdemokratische Presse Deutschlands. By Dr Ludwig Kantorowicz. (Tubingen) J. C. B. Mohr.

The upward movement of the War Loan steadily continues. This sets the pace for other gilt-edged issues. The effect of the reduction to 3 per cent. in the Bank rate has made itself felt throughout the past week in all the investment parts of the Stock Exchange. Business has been, if not active, at any rate good, though members are inclined to think it would have been still better had there been a sufficiency of stock to supply the demand. National War Bonds are higher. Rises have occurred in all the India Government securities, in Irish Land, Consols, Local Loans, and the older War stocks. Home Railway prior-charge varieties are a point or so up in some two score instances. The Colonial market is strong, and Corporations are almost impossible to get.

Greater firmness characterised the list of French securities, including those of the railways. This came about by reason of the slight recovery in the value of the franc; but German bonds, on the other hand, have gone back. There is a good deal of speculation in them, and people who buy the bonds turn them out at very short profits. The Brazilian group is harder. Far Eastern stocks have moved but little. Peruvian

Corporations spurred strongly, and, in spite of profit-taking, the preference stock, in particular, is substantially higher on the week. Rio Tintos moved up in response to a little demand from Paris. Russians have advanced to some extent. Czechoslovak bonds have further weakened.

Home Rails are better in most cases. Another advance in the popular "Berwicks," North Eastern Consols, had the effect of stiffening the prices of Midlands, Great Westerns, and North Westerns. Once more it is stated that the terms of the North-Eastern grouping will be out during the week-end, and, in consequence, Great Northerns, Great Centrals, and Great Eastern are all better. Led by a good rise in Brighton deferred, the Southern passenger stocks have hardened, while the Scottish issues found ready supporters who came from the south, as well as north of the border. There is nothing much doing in Undergrounds.

Grand Trunk Pacific debentures are a trifle better as a result of the meeting in the middle of the week, called to enable proprietors to protest against the manner in which their security is being treated by the Dominion Government. Argentine Railways held a fair amount of firmness, but the main features of strength in the Foreign Railway market are Antofagasta and United of Havana stocks, both of which spurted sharply. A few of the Nitrate producers' shares are better.

There is nothing doing in rubber shares, and the oil market is dull. Selling, for account of holders rendered apprehensive by falls in the price of crude-oil in America, found no support ready to take the shares, and prices have accordingly given way. The main feature of excitement amongst industrials came about through the declaration of an increased dividend by the Imperial Tobacco Company. This sent the shares, and the tobacco market, soaring upwards; there has been a huge turnover of British-Americans, as well as Imperials, this week. Animation amongst the textiles was confined to mild speculative dealings in Courtaulds. Trade reports from Manchester do not encourage enthusiasm in regard to the immediate outlook for textile companies. Dealings in the Royal Mail new $6\frac{1}{2}$ preference stock, issued at par, started at 1 premium, but this was rapidly doubled. The ordinary stock gave way on holders trying to sell this in order to invest in the new preference. The banking market is very quiet, and so is that for insurance shares. Electric Lighting issues are firm; the new County of London ordinary and preference were readily underwritten. The Aerated Bread Co. quickly secured its money for the new $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference issue, offered at a guinea: the lists of the Bengal Telephone bonds closed within an hour after they were opened. Some of the land companies' shares went better. Brewery stocks remain good, with two or three somewhat dramatic rises in stocks, for which there is a persistent demand, but no supply. Marconi Marines fell away on the reduction in the dividend, taking the parent company's shares with them, though a little recovery ensued in both cases. The cable group is hard. Two or three very substantial rises in Trust companies' stocks indicate how firmly these are held by proprietors who decline to be tempted, even by rising prices, out of their stocks.

The Kaffir market is generally good, with Rand Mines better, and a fair demand for a number of the gold-producing shares. It is expected that this month's production returns will show a substantial increase upon those of June. Something like the old-time activity in Chartered came about as the result of the knowledge that a statement was imminent in regard to the terms upon which the Union of South Africa may propose to take part of the Chartered company's property into its own control. Diamonds are quiet. Broken Hills have advanced on the declaration of a dividend, the first for three years, on Broken Hill South shares. This was followed by buying of all the Barrier shares from the Colony. Russo-Asiatics advanced in consequence of the proceedings at The Hague. The tin market has been a shade better, thanks to a rise in the price of the metal, and Burma Corporation improved upon a little inquiry, said to have originated from India.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital. £	Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Li- ability. £
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded	..	468,983,126	..	..
$\frac{4}{5}$ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender				
July 14, 1922), £5,000,000, at				
\$99 0s 5d	..	..	4,951,041	..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES
7 WEEKS WEEK ENDED JULY 15, 1922

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED JULY 15, 1922			
	£	s.	d.
April 1 to July 15, 1922 ..	£21,048,000	....	200,000
		200,000	....
			200,000

To the Public -				
Bengal Telephone Corporation, Lim., ₹350,000 7% 1st Mort. Bonds to Bearer (rep. at par Dec. 31, 1945, or at 102% on Jan. after Jan. 30, 1952), iss. at 97% (July 18)	350,000	..	339,000	.. 35,000 .. 304,500
Aerated Bread Co., 500,000 6½% Cum. Pref., \$1, at 21s (July 19) ..	500,000	..	525,000	.. 25,000 .. 500,000
			₹84,500	.. 60,000 .. 804,500

To Shareholders only—							
Preston Block "A,"		£50,000	6%				
Deb. Stk. at 95% (July 15) ..		50,000	..		47,500	..	47,500
Total offered for subscription to date		whole year—					
in—				1921			£388,978.21
1920	£475,046.167			1921			567,549.631
1921	130,307.801			1922			1,036,059.919
1922	256,596.373			1923			1,353,361.474
1923	414,906.162			1924			1,318,686.000
1924	799,538.437			1925			585,436.81
1925	1,065,514.298			1926			685,236.200
1926	553,546.200			1927			512,522.65
1927	612,123.876			1928			

Liverpool Corporation Bills.—Tenders are invited for £1,000,000 Liverpool Corporation Bills, dated July 31st, and repayable on July 31st, 1923. Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Tuesday, July 25th, and payment in full of the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made at the Bank of England in London not later than 2 o'clock on July 31st.

Aerated Bread Company.—Authorized capital £1,750,000, in 1,250,000 ordinary shares, and £500,000 $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cumulative preference shares, both of £1 each, of which £977,500 ordinary shares have been issued and paid up. The present is an offer of £500,000 preference shares at 21s. per share. No issue of debenture stock can be made ranking in priority to this issue without the consent of the preference shareholders. The company was incorporated in 1862, and owns and operates 140 tea shop depôts in London and the suburbs. The proceeds of the issue are required for expansion and development, for the erection, at an early date, of an up-to-date establishment on the Wilton road site, and a further extension of bakeries and stores at Camden Town. Profits for the past four years only are given. These show that the preference dividend is covered four times over, while net assets in the balance-sheet, dated October 31st last, were £1,118,500. The preference shares only confer the right to vote at the general meeting when the dividend is three months in arrear, or if the meeting is called for reducing capital, winding-up, etc. The issue was quickly over-subscribed.

Bengal Telephone Corporation.— Authorised capital 2,00,000 shares of 10 rupees each, of which 600,000 have been issued and paid up. Equivalent at 15 rupees to the £ to £400,000. The present is an offer for sale by the P. and O. Banking Corporation of £350,000 7 per cent. First Mortgage bonds to bearer at 97. The bonds are repayable at par on December 31st, 1943, or at 102 in the event of the Bengal Telephone Co. going into voluntary liquidation before that date. The company also has the right to redeem at 102 on and after June 30, 1932, on giving three months' notice. The bonds are secured by a Trust Deed constituting them a first specific mortgage upon the immoveable property of the company and a floating charge upon the undertaking and assets, present and future. Further bonds, to a maximum of £800,000, inclusive of those now offered, may be issued, but such issues must not exceed the paid-up capital. The Government of India had the option of purchasing the undertaking on certain terms on April 1, 1923, but under a new agreement

the Government agrees not to exercise this option before 1943. The purpose of the present issue is to provide funds for extensions and improvements. Financial results since 1910 are set out, the ordinary dividend having steadily risen from 5 to 10 per cent. Interest on the bonds, which were all readily bought, would appear to be well covered.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

		Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
War Loans	3 1/2%	1925-28.	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	+
	4 1/2%	1925-48.	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	+
	5 1/2%	1925-48.	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	+
	6 1/2%	1925-42.	101 1/2	101 1/2	101 1/2	+
Funding Loan 4 1/2%			88 1/2	88 1/2	88 1/2	+
Victory Bonds 4 1/2%			90 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2	+
Conversion Loan 3 1/2%			90 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2	+
Consols 3 1/2%			93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	+
Irish Loan Stock 3 1/2%			60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	+
India Loan Stock 3 1/2%			68 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2	+
Aust. 6%	1931-41					+
Canada 4 1/2%	1920-25	100	100	100	100	+
India 3 1/2%	1920-25	66 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2	+
Do 7%	1926-31	117	119 1/2	119 1/2	119 1/2	+
Do 5 1/2%	1932	99 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	+
N.S.W. 5 1/2%	1922-34	100	100	100	100	+
Nigeria 6%	1949-79	111	112	112	112	+
U.S.A. 6%	1930-40	104	105	105	105	+
Victoria 5 1/2%	1934-34	101	102	102	102	+
W.Aust. 6%	1920-40	103	103	103	103	+

Antioquega Cons.....	67	70	+ 3	Grand Trunk 1st Pref. 17	16	+ 1
B. A. & Pacific.....	51	52	+ 1	Leopoldina.....	292	31
B. & Gt. Southern.....	78	79	+ 1	Mexican Railway.....	12	14
Buenos Ayres West.....	72	73	+ 1	Do 1st Pref.	28	29
Canadian Pacific.....	157	158	+ 1	Do 2nd Pref.	125	125
Central Argentine.....	674	692	+ 18	San Paulo	654	68
Grand Trunk Ord.	13	12	- 1	United Havana.....	654	68

03	Barclays B (£1, 1 p.d.)	25x.. 28x..	Nat. Bank of Egypt	191.. 201..
56	Chartered Bk of India	17½ .. 18 ..	1910	194 ..
51	Lloyds (£5 with 2½ p.d.)	24½x. 21½x.	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	105 .. 108 ..
10	London Joint Stock Bank	(£10)	105 .. 108 ..	
50	Midland (£12 with		Nat. Prov. & Union of	
22	£2½ paid)	8½x. 8¾x. +	England (£20	108x. 108x.
36	London County West-		£4 paid)	
53	minster and Parer's		Standard of S. Africa	121 .. 121 ..
26	(£10 with 1 p.d.)	17x.. 17x..	(£20 with £5 paid)	

Argentina 5%, 1886-7	100	99	-1	Greek 4%, 1888	563	545	-2
Belgian 3%	70	70	0	Japanese 4%	105	105	0
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	72	70	+2	Do 4%, 1910	69	69	0
Chilean 4%	106	106	0	Mexican Cons. 1899	64	62	+2
Do 7%	106	106	0	Do 4%, 1910	27	27	+3
Chinese 5%, 1912	70	70	+1	Russian 5%, 1906	104	111	-7
Egyptian 4%	374	394	-2	Spanish 4%	29	100	+1
French 5%	294	319	+12	Sine (Dopt.) 7%	28	108	+1
Do 4%	294	319	+12	Siamese 7%	108	108	0

Anglo-American "A" 2 ³⁴ .. 2 ³⁹	Marconi Canada..... 2 ³⁴ .. 2 ³⁹
Marconi Wireless 2 ³⁶ .. 2 ³⁸ .. — 8	Marconi Marine..... 1 ³⁴ .. 1 ³² .. — 1

Great Central Pref.	22	22	Metropolitan District	39	39
Great Eastern	40	408	Midland Deferred	673	69
Great Northern Def.	99	4	North British Def.	172	191
Great Northern	104	106	North-Eastern	119	121
Great Western	8	63	South-Eastern	351	371
London Brighton, "A"	60	22	Underground Electric		
London, Chatham	8		(£10)	2	2
L. & N.W. (New)	10	10	Do "A" (1)	79	80
L. & S. Western, Def.	30	301	Do Inc. Deb. (£100)	79	80
London, Brighton	48	4			

Chesapeake & Ohio..	77	..	77	..	..	Southern	27	..	27	..	..
Erie	19	..	19	..	..	Do Non-cum Pref..	64	..	61	..	—
Do 4% 1st Pref....	27	..	26	..	— 1						

Aerated Bread (£1) ..	183.	18	—	+	Imperial Tobacco (£1)	378.	378.	—	+
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	5	—	—	—	Lingpi Plantations (£1).	1.	1.	1.	—
Armstrong (Sir W. G.)	—	—	—	—	LiverBrst'GmP (£1)	10.	10.	10.	—
and Co. (£1) ..	17.	17	—	—	Do 8% Cm A Prd (£1)	10.	10.	10.	—
Ass. Paint Cement (£1)	103.	159.	—	+	Do 20% Cm A Prd (5)	12.	12.	12.	—
B'ham Small Iron (£1)	103.	103.	—	—	Lister (£1)	12.	12.	12.	—
Brail Trust (£100)	518.	52	—	—	Lobitos Oilfields (£1).	12.	12.	12.	—
British-American	—	—	—	—	Loyds J & Co (£1)	94.	94.	94.	—
Tobacco (£1)	378.	4.	—	+	Mageda (£1) (£1 Ord.)	3.	3.	3.	—
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	1.	1.	1.	—	Manila Eagle (£10).	3.	3.	3.	—
Burmah Oil (£1)	58.	5.	—	+	Pekin (£1)	12.	12.	12.	—
Coats (J. and P.) (£1).	58.	3.	—	+	Rubber Plantations	—	—	—	—
Courtaulds (£1)	28.	2.	—	—	Investment (£1).	3.	3.	3.	—
Cunard (£1) ..	2.	2.	2.	—	Shell Transport (£1).	498.	498.	498.	—
Dominion Lons (£1)	75.	75.	75.	—	Smithfield & Argentine	—	—	—	—
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	75.	75.	75.	—	Meat (£1) ..	12.	12.	12.	—
Fine Cotton Spinners	—	—	—	—	United Siam (£2) ..	148.	148.	148.	—
(£1) ..	183.	2	—	+	United Tobacco (£1).	148.	148.	148.	—
Forestral Land (£1) ..	1.	1.	1.	—	Vallambrosa (2)	—	—	—	—
Furness, Withy (£1)	115.	115.	115.	—	Vickers (£1)	—	—	—	—
Highlands and Low-	12.	12.	12.	—	Watney Def. Bk.	1918.	198.	198.	—

Brexpain (£1)	27x	23x	+ + ⁿ	Knights	88x	88x
Broken Hill Field (8f)	1 ⁿ	14x	+ + ⁿ	Madderton (10)	34x	4 +
Chartered Gold Fields (8f)	1 ⁿ	8x	+ + ⁿ	Madderton, "B" (5f)	14x	13
Crown Mines (10)	2 ⁿ	2x	+ + ⁿ	Madderton, Deep (5f)	2 ⁿ	2x
De Beers Del. (£24)	11x	11x	+ + ⁿ	Premier Debt (26f)	2 ⁿ	2x
East Rand Group (£1)	5 ⁿ	3x	+ + ⁿ	Rio Tinto Mines (5f)	26x	26x
Geduld (£1)	3 ⁿ	3x	+ + ⁿ	Rio Tinto (£5)	26x	28x
Gold Fields (10)	5 ⁿ	5x	+ + ⁿ	Spring Mines £1)	2 ⁿ	2x
Gold Areas (£1)	5 ⁿ	5x	+ + ⁿ			

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

VICKERS, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The fifty-fifth annual general meeting of Vickers, Limited, was held at River Don Works, Sheffield, on the 19th instant, Mr Douglas Vickers, M.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, expressed regret at the death of one of their valued members, Sir Francis Barker. He also had to record the death of Mr J. T. Coffin, who had been secretary since 1912 and had been with the company for more than thirty-five years. Mr A. Cartwright, who had been chief of the accountants' department, had been appointed in his place.

WAR ACCOUNTS.

Proceeding, the Chairman said: The settlement of the war accounts is not yet terminated. It has been a long and wearying task on both sides; with one department of the Government alone over 600 contracts had to be analysed and reviewed, some because the company were instructed to take them at prices based on ascertained (or actual) cost plus a percentage, but most because the Armistice brought about suspension of the work before the orders were completed. This naturally involved many difficult questions and the most careful investigation of books. In addition to these dealings with the buying departments of the Government, there have been long negotiations with the Inland Revenue. Some points have still to be settled with several departments, but, as indicated in the report, these have been so reduced in number that it has been possible to put before you a balance-sheet into which estimates come only as a comparatively small proportion. These estimates have been framed on conservative lines. Shareholders will no doubt have gathered from notices issued by other companies that we have not been the only sufferers from these delays. In fact, certain other companies do not appear to have advanced as far as we have, although there was only one company whose activities could be compared to ours.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

Making a running comment on the leading items in the balance-sheet, he continued: Stocks and work in progress and book debts owing to the company show decreases of £812,000 and £1,898,000, due in the first case to decreasing trade and writing down stocks to meet the fall in values, and in the second partly to the state of trade and partly to gradual settlements with the Government. Cash and bills at £1,620,000 show an increase of £919,000. This figure should be taken into consideration with the increase mentioned in marketable securities. It indicates the financial strength of the company, but is not altogether a good sign in other respects, for the increase is largely due to bad trade and the consequent reduction of stocks and work in progress and book debts owing to the company. When trade improves, these items will show increases which will diminish the cash and securities.

I now turn back to the other side of the balance-sheet, to the items most interesting to shareholders—the figure of the net profit for the year. It stands at £708,102. This figure comprises profits made in Sheffield, Barrow and Weybridge (our aeroplane factory), a dividend of 7½ per cent. from the Metropolitan Carriage and Wagon Company, other dividends from subsidiary companies, among which there were good returns from Glovers, Booths, Arrols, and the Japan Steel Works. Against those had to be set losses at the three factories in the London district—Erith, Crayford, and Dartford. The last two have been practically closed down now except for some self-supporting departments mainly connected with wood-working, which show some promise. Wolseley Motors, Limited, had a bad year, due to depreciation of work in progress and strikes which disorganised the output. Their results did not justify the payment of dividends, but, when compared with those of other motor-car companies making cars of similar class, were quite encouraging after allowance had been made for taxation.

In our own figures reserves were made for taxation based on the figures of the year and for any weak points in the company's holdings and interests.

No depreciation has been written off for the year. The directors are of opinion that consideration of this should be deferred till a final settlement has been reached with the Inland Revenue.

The final result is the figure just mentioned, which, with the carry-forward from the previous year, and after payment of preference dividends for the year, amounts to £1,304,035. Out of this sum the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 1s. a

share, less income-tax, which will leave a carry-forward of £872,993, or £118,646 less than the previous year.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

So ends 1921, a year of troubles, disappointments, falling prices, and diminishing trade for practically all the engineering concerns in the country. The only exceptions known to me were the textile machine trade, in which we are not interested, and the electrical trades. At the present time, with seven months of 1922 gone, there is no change for the better. If we did not know that trade must recover in the end, and that every month brings us nearer to that revival, we should say that recovery is as far off as ever. The electrical trade still shows best, though orders do not come in as fast as work goes out; there are very few inquiries for ships or steel products or railway material, carriages and wagons; motor-cars, on the other hand, are selling quite well. We are still waiting for armament orders, though our reduced designing staffs are very busy with new designs which we have been asked to get out, and which we must undertake if we are to retain that trade in the future. We are getting our share of such aeroplane orders as are being placed, and our types of machines are very successful, but orders come for such small quantities that the cost of designing and experiments bears much too high a proportion to the works' cost of a machine. The position of an aeroplane manufacturer here contrasts very unfavourably with that of the French manufacturer, who gets orders for large series of machines, and works, therefore, with much reduced charges and all the advantages of repetition work.

The report was adopted.

The payment of the preference dividend for 1921 was confirmed, and the dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, as recommended, approved.

An extraordinary general meeting was afterwards held, when a resolution was carried modifying the objects clause of the memorandum of association of the company in the light of present experience, including provision for the carrying out of research work and various aspects of welfare work.

E. ROBINS AND SON, LIMITED.

FAVOURABLE RESULTS—NEW PROPERTIES ACQUIRED.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of Messrs E. Robins and Son, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at the Anchor Brewery, Waterloo street, Hove. Mr A. B. Taylor (the chairman) presided, supported by Messrs H. Ferguson, H. Rashleigh Gray, C. Conyers Haycraft, and E. M. Taylor (directors), and Mr C. Phillips (secretary).

The Chairman at the outset expressed great personal regret that Mr H. Geere had resigned his seat on the board, a position he had held since the formation of the company, while he had been connected with that particular business nearly fifty years. Throughout that time there had been no more notable figure in the liquor trade of the Brighton district, and a better fellow never walked. The meeting passed a resolution of regret at Mr Geere's resignation.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts. The report showed a satisfactory increase in the company's sales, and announced that during the year the company had acquired the following properties: 30, College place, Brighton, freehold; 37 Church road, Tunbridge Wells, freehold; 50 and 60 St James's street, Brighton, leasehold; 91, 93 and 95 London road, Southborough, freehold; Leonfield Arms, Brighton, freehold (previously leasehold); 80 St George's road, Brighton, leasehold. Ample provision had been made for all outstanding taxes and excess profits duty, and it was proposed to pay a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares. An interim dividend of 1½ per cent. had already been paid. The balance was now recommended. The sum of £2,000 was placed to reserve and £500 added to the leasehold reserve account, leaving a balance of £5,614 4s 7d to carry forward. Despite a falling market the sales were up by a few thousand pounds, and they had to thank the managing directors and the staff generally. Moreover, during the first two months of the present year's trading over £3,000 more business had been done than in the corresponding period of last year. The acquisition of additional properties during the year had consolidated the company's position.

Proceeding, Mr Taylor expressed the view that the Government made a mistake in the last Budget in not reducing the beer duty and that the effect had been to add to the unrest and unemployment the country through. They tried to foster the best relation between employer and employed, and to this end had, where possible, distributed bonus in the way of extra wages. The provider fund he started a few years ago for the employees had now £2,84 invested in it. The directors guaranteed 6 per cent., and if money was so well invested by the employees' committee that it had only had to find £33 during the year. There had been

some calls on the Disabled Soldiers' Fund, which at present stood at £2,100.

Mr E. M. Taylor, in seconding, said that, compared with 1913, the reserve was now £23,000 instead of only £2,000, and they had also a reserve of £5,000 for repairs, and of £1,000 for dilapidations on leaseholds, while the loan of £19,000 from the bank had been wiped out.

The motion was carried unanimously.

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

YEAR'S RESULTS SATISFACTORY.

The annual general meeting of the General Electric Company, Limited, was held at Magnet House, Kingsway, London, on the 18th instant, Mr Hugo Hurst, chairman and managing director, presiding.

The secretary, Mr Leslie C. Gamage, having read the notice convening the meeting, together with the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I imagine many of you will be somewhat disappointed at this first setback in the results of the company after its marvellous record during the last 14 years. For the benefit of those who come with that feeling, I propose to read one of the opening sentences of my last year's address, when nearly four months of the present financial year had elapsed. I said:

"To-day it is my privilege to put before you the balance-sheet of the year just completed, of which we have every reason to be proud, yet the four months of the new year that have just elapsed are casting a shadow over these results. Unrest in the labour world, the stoppage of the coal mines, the shutting down of most of the steel works of the country, the standstill of the shipbuilding industry and automobile industry, the condition of the textile industry, and many more that I could mention, have all at once reduced our home market beyond recognition. The general fall in the values of securities has impaired the purchasing power of the public. Simultaneously the state of exchange in many of our foreign markets has interfered with export, and has added to the present state of depression, bordering on paralysis."

ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

I added the hope that things might improve, but clearly indicated that unless they did we were temporarily in for a bad time. Ladies and gentlemen, you must be aware that things did not improve. To the long list of ailments reiterated above can be added a number of additional strikes, the engineering dispute—to which latter I shall refer later—the state of civil war in Ireland, the state of sedition and civil commotion in India and South Africa, and last, but not least, through various causes, a further deterioration of the economic conditions in all European countries which were already suffering from weak or collapsed exchanges.

Bearing in mind these conditions, I do not hesitate to say that we have done remarkably well—better than we dared to hope—and the results speak well for the soundness and strength of our company, and for the ability of your staff and employees. It is true the results of some electrical concerns published during the last few months might have justified the hope that things were better, but let me here say an upheaval such as we have witnessed during the last 15 months does not affect every company in the same manner.

We manufacture very largely for stock to fill the shelves of the world with our material, and we suffered naturally from the fact that we produced that stock when wages and raw materials were still high, whilst throughout the year we were selling in a falling market. It is not likely that there will be a further serious drop,

but stocks have both been replaced at cheaper rates and are reduced. Thus it happened that our sales organisations, which year after year have been the main contributors to our profits, have failed us this year. A carefully built-up organisation cannot adapt itself quickly to such extreme changes: its expenses remain substantially the same, but the drop in turnover and falling prices have reduced satisfactory profits in these departments to a minimum. One cannot immediately lower wages and reduce staff, and a firm like ours which has so many valuable, well-trained and loyal old servants must think twice before parting with any—not only on account of sentiment but also with an eye to the turning point when things get better once more.

LABOUR AND WAGES.

Labour and salaries being in our industry the most important item, an adjustment of wages and salaries is the first essential for competitive production. I am afraid wages and salaries will have to be further lowered. It is no pleasure to the employer to reduce wages; it is a great pleasure to every employer to be able to give rises. Yet a country that has to live on industry in order to be able to live at all, but which will not take steps to protect that industry efficiently, cannot keep in employment millions of workers if it produces at a cost which the world cannot afford to pay, or if its prices are above those at which other countries can produce.

We have not built the works to see them empty; and, instead of 12,000 workers, we could employ at least 24,000 in due course if we could produce at the right price, and if, at the same time, we could rely on the Empire primarily as our market.

A publication by the so-called Labour Research Bureau has recently been placed in my hands, in which we are taunted with playing into the hands of the capitalist by paying a high price for capital. I do not know the importance of this Research Bureau, but it impressed me with somewhat of an official stamp. If this Research Bureau were to study the problem more thoroughly with a less biased mind they would find that the dearthness of capital has been largely the result of the unfortunate attitude of misguided Labour during the last few years.

There are other conditions prevailing which do harm to industry at the present moment, but which industry alone cannot settle unless it has the support of the Government. We can only get that support if employer and employed co-operate: we should insist jointly that public money should only be spent for British labour. We should also insist on better protection against countries with collapsed exchanges.

The resolution was carried.

ANGLO-CYLON AND GENERAL ESTATES COMPANY, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF AN ABNORMAL YEAR.

The thirty-sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at 6 Laurence Pountney hill, Cannon street, London, Sir Edward Rosling (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. J. Hitchcock) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, referring to the recent death of their late chairman, Mr Crichton, said: Our present satisfactory position is largely due to Mr Crichton's care and foresight, and during the whole 36 years of the company's existence his one desire was for its success. The board deplore his loss, not only as a valued colleague, but as a personal friend, and I am sure the shareholders join with us in tendering their sincere sympathy to Mrs Crichton and the members of her family.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

CROP RESULTS IN CEYLON AND MAURITIUS.

Continuing, he said: The year under review has been an abnormal one in almost every respect. In Ceylon—partly as the result of an unusually dry season and partly owing to finer plucking necessitated by the market demand for the finest quality—our tea crop ran very short, amounting to only 2,714,768 lbs, a decrease on the previous year of 142,679 lbs. One result of a short crop is to send up the cost per lb, and this has been increased still further by a more or less general rise in the cost of labour. The selling price has been satisfactory, the net average realised being 1s 1d. The cocoa crop has been fully up to the average, amounting to 5,200 cwt, as compared with 4,754 cwt in the previous season, and the price has been fairly well maintained. The rubber harvested was 220,000 lbs. Up to December last the crop was restricted by 25 per cent. in agreement with the Rubber Growers' Association, and costs have been very materially reduced.

In Mauritius the crop was very disappointing, resulting in only 125,720 tons of canes passing through our factories, giving a total of 12,988 tons of sugar. This is the smallest crop for many years, and is partly the result of a hurricane, which, although not in itself severe, came too late in the season to allow time for recovery—partly generally adverse climatic conditions, and, to a certain extent, shortage of labour. The previous season's high prices, accompanied by inflated rates of pay, had a very demoralising effect on much of the labour, which resulted in irregular and indifferent and expensive work. In spite of the difficulties encountered, the reports from the Ceylon and Mauritius Estates in regard to the condition and the state of the cultivation generally are satisfactory.

EXCESSIVE TAXATION.

Taxation continues to press heavily. In the last two years we have paid away £59,170 in excess profits duty, £17,843 in corporation profits tax, or over 15 per cent. of our capital, and this in addition to £25,000 we have had to set aside for income-tax payments in excess of the amount deducted from the dividends, and so recovered direct from the shareholders.

Dealing with the accounts, the Chairman continued: The proposed allocation of the profit does not call for much comment. With the balance brought forward from last year there is a sum of £131,644 to be dealt with. Out of this a 5 per cent. dividend amounting to £25,000 has been paid. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., which will absorb £50,000, to place £5,000 to the general reserve, and carry forward £51,644 to the new year, subject to corporation tax and the adjustment of the excess profits duty.

THE FUTURE.

In regard to the prospects for the current season, tea prices are materially lower than they were a year ago, in spite of the fact that stocks are some 50,000,000 lbs lower. The indications point to another short crop from Ceylon, and if the Indian crop is not excessive there is every reason to anticipate a better market in the autumn. The outlook for cocoa does not call for any special comment. Ceylon cocoa is really in a class by itself, and the price is chiefly dependent on a satisfactory export demand. As regards rubber, there is little one can say. All attempts to form a combination voluntarily to restrict output have failed, and this is not to be wondered at when the number of different interests are considered. It now remains to be seen whether the Dutch Government will join with the British in regulating exports over a series of years, in which case we should see a greatly improved position. Failing this, it is difficult to see where relief is to come from, anyhow in the near future. That the industry will once more become a profitable and thriving industry I have not the shadow of a doubt, but without some assistance in the matter of regulation it will probably be several years before we are free from anxiety. The prospects for sugar are decidedly more encouraging than they were. The excessive Cuban stocks appear to have been disposed of, and Germany has for the time being become an importer instead of the big exporter she was before the war. Prices are over £5 per ton up from the bottom, and our crops promise to be better than last season, so that, taking all our products in review, and averaging the good with the bad, I think we can anticipate reasonably satisfactory results for the current season.

Mr Henry K. Rutherford seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the usual formal business terminated the proceedings.

OHLSOON'S CAPE BREWERIES, LIMITED. TRADE OUTLOOK IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The ordinary general meeting of Ohlsson's Cape Breweries, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool street, London, Mr Gerald Buxton (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said it was a matter of great regret to him and to his colleagues that they had to report that the past year had been a

most unprofitable one, and that they were not in a position to pay a dividend. Not only all over the world, but especially in South Africa, general business had been bad, and it certainly had been made worse there by the prolonged strike in Johannesburg, during which the Government thought fit to close all public-houses for three months, and naturally the output of all breweries ceased. This had the effect of turning the considerable profit usually made in Johannesburg into an actual loss. The consequences of the strike would be felt for some time, but it was hoped that good might come out of evil, and that they would be free from labour troubles for some time at any rate. Last year the Colonial barley crop was a good one, and there was sufficient grown to enable the company to make the great bulk of its malt. Local-grown barley meant a great saving to the company, as if they imported malt they had to pay a very big duty. He hoped the company would reap some benefit from that source during the coming year.

The price of hops had kept up because in this country they were under Government control, which did not tend either to economy or cheapness. He was glad to be able to say that the efforts of the brewers in South Africa to induce the people there to drink draught beer instead of bottled beer were gradually meeting with success. To supply beer in bottles was, of course, much more expensive to the brewer. They had had a letter from a very important customer, complimenting them on the quality of their lager beer, and comparing it favourably with the German lagers imported into South Africa. Mr W. D. Buxton had paid a visit to South Africa recently, accompanied by Mr C. G. Ferrier and Mr Montague Clayton. These gentlemen had looked thoroughly into matters on the spot, and as a result of their visit and the energy of Mr Swan, the new manager, it was expected that many useful economies would be effected. In the course of some further remarks the Chairman said that some of their best houses were in the vicinity of Cape Town, and had suffered especially owing to the stagnation in trade and shipping there. This could not be helped, and there was nothing to look for until trade revived. He believed that South Africa was beginning to get over the shock of the strike and interruption to all business, and he would point out that in countries like South Africa trade revived much more quickly than it did at home.

Mr Herbert J. W. Jervis seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

THE DISTILLERS COMPANY, LIMITED. BIG DISTILLERY AMALGAMATION.

The 46th annual general meeting of the Distillers Company, Limited, was held, at Edinburgh, on the 14th instant, when Mr W. D. Graham Menzies, chairman of the company, presided.

RECOVERY IN PROFITS.

Before moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said:—A year ago I had occasion to record a diminution in our profits of £86,000 below those of the previous exceptional year. To-day I am glad to be able to chronicle a recovery of that deficiency to the extent of almost exactly one-half. This recovery has been all the more remarkable, as it is coincident with a curtailment in our production by no less than 2,600,000 gallons of whisky during the 12 months, which has more than neutralised any benefit we have received by reductions in the price of coal or in the rate of wages paid. We have had the benefit, however, of lower costs of grain, which has enabled us to pass on a large part of that benefit to our customers in the shape of a reduction in price of the manufactured article.

Previous to last Budget speech the whisky trade of the United Kingdom petitioned the Chancellor of the Exchequer against the continuance of the present exorbitant rate of duty on spirits, and submitted figures to show that a reduction of the duty from 72s 6d to 50s per gallon would enable the bottle of whisky to be retailed at 10s in place of 12s 6d, which would so stimulate the consumption amongst the moderate consumers of whisky that it would more than make up for the revenue lost by reduction in the rate of duty. In his wisdom the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not see his way to adopt the trade's suggestion, and apparently prefers to face the continued shrinkage in the revenue from this source.

I now move that the directors' report and statement of accounts be adopted.

HIGH SPIRIT DUTY EFFECTS.

In seconding the adoption of the report, Mr. W. H. Ross, the managing director, said: Sufficient, I think, has been said regarding the effect which the present high rate of duty is having upon the consumption of whisky in this country. It is more difficult, however, to estimate what is to be the ultimate effect of this high duty on our own industry. There can be no

doubt whatever, that the greater the number of people who can be weaned from the habit of partaking of spirituous liquors as a beverage in moderation through the effects of the high price which the continuance of this excessive duty entails, the more venerable will be our position when the next local veto election takes place.

MOTOR SPIRIT DEVELOPMENTS.

Now, just as a prudent man insures his property against the possibility that some day it may be burned to the ground, although not necessarily that it will be, so your directors are ever alive to the importance of looking out for new outlets for their products to provide for the possibility of the present channels of business being closed against them. I have referred in past years to the work which your directors have undertaken to produce a satisfactory motor fuel to supplement the supplies of petrol should these fall short. I am glad to acknowledge the valuable assistance which we have received from the Fuel Research Board through their officer, Sir Frederic Nathan, K.B.E., also from H.M. Board of Customs and Excise in getting the necessary alterations made to the regulations permitting of the easier handling of this product. This has enabled us to erect a mixing plant at our Hammer-smith Distillery, London, from whence we are regularly supplying quantities of our "Discol" motor spirit to a limited number of users. So much are we convinced of the future of this product that we are just completing the installation of a second mixing plant in Liverpool, and are now preparing plans for a third installation in Glasgow. In other directions we see possibilities for the use of alcohol which may solve the difficulties of over-production.

SHARE MARKET RUMOURS.

I think you may expect me to say something regarding the recent rise in the price of the company's shares. We have got the credit in turn of having been bought up by an American syndicate for £12,000,000; of having bought up one or other or all of the important blending businesses of this country, of the intention to pay a higher dividend than 10 per cent., or at the very least to distribute another bonus in the form of shares. In regard to the whole of these rumours, they have been very wide of the mark. The directors have not suggested paying a higher dividend, nor do they propose to distribute a further bonus in the form of shares. Neither of these courses would, they consider, be in the future interest of the company. There has been no offer by, nor yet any negotiations with, the large Scotch blending firms to acquire their interests, nor has there been any offer of £12,000,000, or any other sum, by an American syndicate to buy up this company. It is true that such a suggestion was thrown out—not for any given sum, but in the nature of a proposal. It is but fair to say that the American proposals had as their origin a desire to put an end to the rival yeast productions of the world, and if, therefore, some scheme can be formulated dealing with this portion of the industry only and safeguarding our interests as distillers we shall be quite prepared to consider such when presented.

ABSORPTION OF IRISH COMPANY.

Growing out of these proposals, and with the desire to consolidate still further the production of spirit in this country, your directors have had under consideration during the past month proposals to acquire the remaining shares in the United Distilleries, Limited, Belfast, of which we already own practically the one-half. The other half of these shares, which carry with them the control of that company, are held by the Distillers' Finance Corporation, Limited, which also owns or controls various other important blending and distributing businesses in the North of Ireland, Glasgow, and London. Within the past week we have concluded a provisional arrangement with the directors of the Finance Corporation whereby we agree to buy, and they agree to recommend their shareholders to sell, the whole of the ordinary shares of the Finance Corporation at a price which works out at rather under £3,000,000. This, you will no doubt feel, is a very large sum to pay for a concern whose businesses are to a great extent situated in Ireland. It will therefore be a relief for you to know that of the surplus assets over liabilities shown in said businesses there is represented in actual cash in bank about £1,200,000, while as part consideration of the price your directors are proposing to issue to the shareholders of the Finance Corporation about 53,000 of new shares of this company at a premium of £10 per share, thereby reducing the purchase at a premium of £10 per share, thereby reducing the purchase figure by roughly £530,000. This will then leave only about £740,000 to finance temporarily until some of the other assets can be realised. Thereafter the permanent burden left upon this company will be the £530,000 of additional capital. I shall not attempt to estimate the value of this amalgamation to you as shareholders, and also to the whole industry. But assuming that the offer is accepted, it will give your

directors power to regulate the production of spirits in accordance with the demand, and thus avoid that bogey of over-production from which most industries periodically suffer.

The Chairman, having invited questions, and none being forthcoming, declared the motion for the adoption of the report to be carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF EARL HAIG.

The election of Sir James C. Calder as a director having been confirmed, Mr William H. Ross moved the election of Field-Marshal Earl Haig as a director of the company. He said: I regard it as a very great honour to be allowed to put forward the proposal that Field-Marshal Earl Haig be elected a director of this company. It is now over 40 years since I was first brought into contact with Earl Haig. Mr Douglas Haig was a frequent visitor to the company's office in those days, and although our spheres of labour afterwards drifted apart, I never ceased to take a genuine interest and pride in watching the brilliant career which gradually unfolded itself in the person of the great soldier. I naturally consider it no mean honour to become a director of this company, but it is given to very few to shed the same lustre upon the company as the election of Earl Haig to a seat on our board will undoubtedly do.

Mr W. H. Fraser, W.S., in seconding, said: It must be a matter for satisfaction on our part and on the part of many others to find that a man like Lord Haig, who, apart from his public position, is well entitled to speak with authority by reason of his knowledge of his fellow-countrymen and his sympathy with their aims and aspirations, is prepared to throw in his lot with those who hold the conviction that the welfare of the community is to be attained not by destruction, but by reconstruction; not by curtailment of liberty, but by enlightenment towards the proper enjoyment of liberty; not by the imposition of unknown and new conditions, but by the reform, where necessary, of known and existing conditions. Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution.

The Chairman: I declare the motion carried unanimously.

ILLINGWORTH, MORRIS, AND CO., LIMITED. COMPANY'S POSITION "IN EVERY WAY SATISFACTORY."

The second ordinary general meeting of Illingworth, Morris and Co., Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Mr T. H. Morris, D.L., J.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I had unfortunately last year a not very satisfactory statement to make of the prospects of trade at that time. We had not then recovered from the effects of the long coal strike; raw material values were still falling; accumulated stocks of goods were difficult to dispose of; still filled the merchants' shelves and were difficult to dispose of; foreign exchanges and the poverty of Continental markets stood in the way of an export trade, and there appeared to be a lack of confidence in every branch. But in the early autumn there appeared signs of some slight improvement and a strong feeling that we had seen the worst. Our mills, which so far had been only partially employed, began to work more time; there was more inquiry, and orders were more numerous, though small. By September all the mills were again running full time, and they have continued so ever since, and are now busy with ample orders and at rates which ought to give a fair margin of profit. This is a pleasant position at the present time, when so many other industries are still suffering, and when, owing to the difficulties of foreign exchanges, there are practically no markets open to us on the Continent. The mills are well equipped, considerable sums have been spent during the year on repairs and improvements, economies have been effected in working, an increased output has been secured, the profit-earning capacity has distinctly improved, and the position of the company is now in every way satisfactory.

At present taxation is our chief difficulty. A sum of approximately £100,000 has been retained to cover all possible contingencies. The directors much regret that the question of distribution of dividends out of this year's profits has therefore to be postponed until this matter is finally settled. You will, I am sure, understand it has been an anxious year, but the fact that the production of the first six months of 1922 shows an increase of over 100 per cent. on the first six months of 1921 and an increase of over 40 per cent. on the second half of that year is a gratifying result, and that the fact that substantial profits have been earned throughout the whole period of the greatest trade *debacle* in history proves the soundness of the company's properties and of the branch of the worsted trade in which they are engaged.

Sir Arthur H. Marshall, K.B.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Re-serve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.	
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	3,810	18,500	..	48.1	9,924	9,286	11,423	
Aug. 26. 1915.	38,478	169	600	18,500	..	48.1	9,924	9,286	11,423	
Dec. 23. 1916.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536	
Dec. 27. 1917.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868	
Dec. 26. 1918.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486	
Dec. 31. 1919.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566	
Dec. 31. 1920.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802	
Dec. 29. 1921.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134	
Jan. 30. 1922.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141	177	
Feb. 29. 1922.	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150	150	
Mar. 28. 1922.	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143	143	
Apr. 28. 1922.	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161	161	
May 30. 1922.	300,351	14,555	5,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	177	
Jun. 29. 1922.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312	250	250	
Jul. 6. 1922.	297,904	12,865	6,000	28,500	20,150	16.1	256,461	158	158	
Jul. 13. 1922.	298,635	13,068	6,000	27,500	20,650	16.1	257,411	142	142	
Jul. 20. 1922.	297,611	13,194	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.2	255,486	167	167	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, July 24-July 29, were opened on July 21, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £77,055,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £100 3s will receive about 3.4 per cent., above in full. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 10s 6d will receive about 26 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 10s 8d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £1 16s 10.8d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £10,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
June 23. 1922.	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 82,215,000	2 1 7.4	98 3 0.9
June 30. 1922.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11.55	98 4 4.8
July 7. 1922.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 18 4.65	98 5 10.8
July 14. 1922.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10.06	99 0 5.16
July 21. 1922.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10.8	100 4 11.4

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, July 28, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to July 15, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to July 16, 1921.	Week Ended July 15, 1922.	Week Ended July 16, 1921.
Bank of England.....	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs.....	36,553,000	34,522,000	2,324,000	1,754,000
Excise.....	40,071,000	50,420,000	1,794,000	3,868,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	2,147,000	1,851,000	264,000	218,000
Stamp & Duties.....	19,201,000	12,646,000	1,070,000	715,000
Stamp.....	4,392,000	3,774,000	600,000	205,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	500,000	400,000	10,000	..
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax).....	74,207,000	80,274,000	3,886,000	7,812,000
Excess Profits Duties.....	954,000	1,114,000	60,000	..
Corporation Profits Tax.....	4,377,000	2,860,000	230,000	260,000
Post Office.....	14,300,000	12,000,000	1,000,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands.....	220,000	130,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	3,333,721	4,082,813	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	13,804,262	7,147,142	112,172	136,125
Ordinary Receipts.....	18,776,966	25,316,526	3,000,000	1,500,000
Special Receipts.....	232,836,939	253,535,481	18,790,172	17,778,124
Revenue, Inc. Balance ..	244,010,469	256,609,987	..	..

OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to July 15, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to July 16, 1921.	Week Ended July 15, 1922.	Week Ended July 16, 1921.
Temporary Advances Repaid:—	650,000	2,100,000	..	350,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,460,000	..	130,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921.....	..	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	13,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	25,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,450,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—	894,994,000	1,366,772,000	57,932,000	84,825,000
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	29,298,000	10,330,000	900,000	750,000
By National Savings Certificates ..	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds.....	..	1,024,990	..	22,315
5-15 year, 1925-35.....	121,708	..	..	..
5%, 1927.....	61,422,074	..	..	..
4%, 1932.....	19,075,050	..	4,914,750	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	11,869	3,713,840	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	365,390,500	378,924,000	4,700,000	10,600,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	243,012	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	..	..	..	..
Repayments—	19,018	9,180	..	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	..	..	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	265,460	1,650,250	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	87,358	85,532	..	..
Total.....	1,560,161,518	2,023,272,284	87,366,922	114,325,439

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to July 15, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to July 16, 1921.	Week Ended July 15, 1922.	Week Ended July 16, 1921.
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	6,421,567	6,302,877	8,281	82,000
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	98,946,671	118,285,855	551,263	1,537,253
Road Fund.....	1,282,000	1,332,000	296,000	212,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	900,000	1,192,772	50,000	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	518,000	..	..	..
Land Settlement.....	370,821	1,070,655	14,081	246,095
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	790,221	680,453	..	196,868
Supply Services.....	113,704,342	176,629,575	7,950,000	8,730,000
Expenditure.....	222,933,622	305,494,187	8,669,625	11,004,216

OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to July 15, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to July 16, 1921.	Week Ended July 15, 1922.	Week Ended July 16, 1921.
Temporary Advances—	..	2,200,000	..	150,000
Billion.....	..	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,600,000	1,125,000	..	1,050,000
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921.....	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	13,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	25,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—	650,000	..	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed.....	..	..	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt.....	1,000,549,000	1,278,121,000	58,425,000	93,725,000
Treasury Bills for Supply ..	3,937,647	13,309,828	25,171	497,393
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919.....	2,750,000	..	750,000	..
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds ..	..	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—	..	..	..	..
(a) Repaid by Issues under Finance Act, 1917.....	8,250,000	4,800,000	700,000	650,000
(b) Repaid otherwise.....	..	3,500,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—	19,612,188	..	..	..
5%, 1922, £20,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.....	8,325,205	18,380,409	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	285,214,500	377,739,000	18,445,000	5,250,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	399,521	7,980,067	..	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919.....	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4).....	..	4,790,000	..	525,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	55,656	61,200	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—	1,556,268,260	2,019,638,100	87,214,796	112,851,609
Bank of England.....	2,040,508	1,936,552	13,440	42,170
Bank of Ireland.....	1,852,750	1,697,632	138,686	1,516,000
Total.....	3,893,258	3,634,184	152,126	1,473,830

Treasury, July 18, 1922.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
ESTABLISHED 1824. £12,000,000
ASSETS EXCEED FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.	
Week ended Wednesday, July 19, 1922.	
ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued.....	144,021,065
Government debt.....	11,015,100
Other securities.....	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	125,571,065
144,021,065	144,021,065
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Capital.....	14,553,000
Other deposits.....	3,339,124
Public deposits.....	22,174,832
Other deposits.....	104,466,978
Seven-day & other bills.....	17,448
144,551,382	144,551,382
* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.	
COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.	
Amount, July 19, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.
Rest.....	3,339,124 + 28,733
Public deposits.....	104,466,978 + 9,562,787
Other deposits.....	46,739,853 + 363,699
Other securities.....	76,215,636 + 2,552,527
Reserve.....	124,256,265 + 7,660
Note circulation.....	127,402,158 + 498,540
Coin and bullion.....	17% + 51%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.	
Date.	Coin and Bullion.
1922.	128,872,818
April 26. 1922.	128,872,818
May 3. 1922.	128,872,818
10. 1922.	128,872,818
17. 1922.	128,872,818
24. 1922.	128,872,818
31. 1922.	128,872,818
June 7. 1922.	128,872,818
14. 1922.	128,872,818
21. 1922.	128,872,818
28. 1922.	128,872,818
July 5. 1922.	128,872,818
12. 1922.	128,872,818
19. 1922.	128,872,818

TEN YEARS' RECORD.	
At corresponding date with the present week.	July 17, 1912.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills).....	29,344,360
Public deposits.....	17,580,596
Other deposits.....	41,476,111
Government securities.....	13,983,532
Other securities.....	32,936,426
Reserve of notes and coin.....	30,068,111
Coin and bullion.....	40,362,471
Proportion of reserve to liabilities.....	51%
Bank rate of discount.....	3-3 1/2
Market rate, 3 months' bills.....	7 1/2
Price of Consols.....	27 1/2
Price of silver per oz.....	38s 3d
Average price of wheat.....	25 1/2
Exchanges—	Paris.....
New York.....	24 1/2
London.....	20 1/2
Berlin.....	20 1/2
Clearing house return.....	332,117,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.	
Week Ending—	Town Clearing.
1922.	19,203,832,000
January 1—July 12.....	713,158,000
July 19.....	19,916,990,000
Total to date 1922.....	17,681,963,000
Do 1921.....	2,235,027,000
Increase or decrease in 1922.....	12.7%
1921.	31,928,

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances, June, 1922.	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Comt. and Co.	Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	London City and Midland Bank, Limited.	London County and Westminster Bank, Limited.	National Provincial and Union Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Willis's Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	7,755	38,820	1,562	2,709	35,651	55,165	30,732	29,881	3,991	4,823	211,089
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom ..	1,920	6,967	455	958	8,041	9,617	8,268	6,794	137	1,199	44,356
Items in transit ..	6,390	22,584	3,321	6,090	15,111	14,197	23,417	17,151	5,766	4,752	118,779
Money at call and short notice ..	6,059	52,128	1,657	808	83,283	59,635	87,198	51,096	3,386	4,404	349,654
Bills discounted ..	12,282	84,373	4,641	10,238	86,998	66,915	56,987	57,015	18,645	8,073	406,167
Investments ..	37,430	130,008	7,183	4,534	123,389	176,966	105,251	120,661	17,901	17,851	741,174
Advances to customers and other accounts ..	4,060	5,867	141	1,958	7,742	17,537	13,169	4,032	348	655	55,509
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	1,442	4,566	346	370	4,848	4,944	4,015	4,115	550	667	25,863
Bank premises account ..	..	8,016	..	..	7,666	3,558	2,991	2,240	..	..	24,471
Investments in affiliated banks ..	77,338	353,329	19,306	27,665	372,729	408,534	332,028	292,985	50,724	42,424	1,977,062
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts ..	11.15	11.99	8.89	11.26	10.46	14.93	10.21	11.08	8.89	12.43	11.73
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up ..	2,349	15,592	800	1,000	14,373	10,861	9,004	9,309	1,500	1,875	66,662
Reserve fund ..	1,400	8,250	800	500	10,000	10,861	9,004	8,878	1,000	1,100	51,793
Current, deposit, and other accounts ..	69,529	323,620	17,565	24,052	340,615	369,275	300,837	270,766	44,869	38,794	1,799,922
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	4,060	5,867	141	1,958	7,742	17,537	13,168	4,032	348	655	55,508
Notes in circulation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,022
Reduction of bank premises account ..	..	..	..	..	155	..	..	..	..	..	155
	77,338	353,329	19,306	27,665	372,729	408,534	332,028	292,985	50,724	42,424	1,977,062

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	May 27, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	April 28, 1922.	April 13, 1922.	May 28, 1921.
Gold and balances abroad ..	1,388,158	1,373,759	1,381,018	1,383,160	1,376,175
Government securities ..	2,860,974	2,871,858	2,889,052	2,929,091	1,560,948
Discounts and loans ..	792,232	806,336	785,581	800,662	777,392
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	1,484,388	1,407,324	1,315,934	1,197,570	1,723,891
Government deposits ..	1,356,000	1,466,303	1,489,503	1,628,640	1,109,113
Private sight deposits ..	793,327	781,473	891,288	929,993	809,346
Private deposits at fixed dates ..	1,010,744	1,010,057	1,008,124	1,006,495	795,325

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	1,004,859	1,004,859	1,003,859	1,091,544	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England ..	50,032	50,032	50,032	19,743	..
Silver ..	19,467	17,617	19,743	11,450	321,920
Treasury notes ..	10,789,974	14,281,874	14,605,085	5,511,748	943,460
Bills discounted ..	195,214,961	189,949,656	190,877,495	78,126,729	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	175,437,418	172,736,686	169,211,792	75,352,635	2,013,860
Deposits ..	36,275,651	31,531,019	37,173,745	14,584,808	842,340

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	June 20, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	June 10, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash ..	1,372,156	1,363,773	1,435,102	1,445,295	1,368,720	1,221,875
Inland bills ..	4,389,521	4,317,392	4,326,594	4,320,979	3,179,680	418,400
Foreign bills ..	9,858	9,812	9,771	9,785	20,733	81,300
Advances to the Treasury ..	6,002,182	6,044,818	6,107,491	6,196,233	6,674,679	nll
Other advances ..	2,760,894	2,754,475	3,051,287	3,078,822	2,149,189	79,175
Securities ..	533,658	535,081	534,164	534,525	217,455	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation ..	13,505,440	13,360,765	13,326,466	13,169,027	13,639,742	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts ..	2,043,644	1,778,908	1,853,296	1,819,235	1,625,347	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 17, 1922.	July 3, 1922.	June 26, 1922.	July 10, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,955	163,092
Silver ..	7,720	7,607	7,499	7,540	8,436
Dr. & adv. ..	390,267	429,860	424,112	370,616	153,504
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	993,517	1,002,136	1,015,352	960,477	316,632
Deposits ..	48,158	50,081	48,513	46,345	53,226

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	June 18, 1921.
Gold ..	4,759,772	4,744,627	4,744,617	4,744,617	3,859,722
Silver ..	330	376	427	348	292
Government loan ..	12,498,215	12,522,553	12,522,810	12,512,247	10,067,778
Other advances ..	2,481,986	2,666,178	2,771,429	2,752,581	3,159,812
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	14,106,890	14,111,324	14,130,339	14,129,119	11,084,372
Deposits ..	5,849,509	5,876,052	5,962,173	5,933,503	6,044,886

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	July 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	524,451	526,484	530,882	537,022	544,206
Silver ..	116,865	116,865	116,865	116,865	117,175
Dr. & adv. ..	12,697	13,174	13,174	13,174	9,729
Assets & advances ..	308,628	304,731	290,092	267,075	299,877
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	742,624	760,711	789,083	729,734	891,084
Deposits ..	255,660	233,735	198,591	238,345	98,186

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenkasse) shows that up to June 30, 1922, total issues were Fr. 21,584,683, of which Fr. 13,146,025 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	July 16, 1921.	May 24, 1914.
Gold ..	273,962	273,975	273,935	274,003	281,339	104,918
Balance abrd. and foreign bills ..	78,453	78,717	79,035	79,367	117,863	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities ..	72,463	72,463	72,463	72,051	14,134	32,465
Discounts and loans ..	413,613	426,076	439,162	420,675	443,347	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	533,851	546,634	594,183	530,703	614,407	226,555
Deposits at notice ..	253,467	243,674	235,282	255,929	192,143	69,560

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 13, 1922.	July 6, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	July 14, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion) ..	329,441	328,036	328,130	328,016	327,176	322,650
Securities ..	478,953	..	491,358	480,085	575,368	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	6,273,528	6,252,731	6,228,202	6,150,693	6,126,750	934,150
Current accounts ..	772,834	753,825	818,496	813,285	1,021,405	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills ..	1,087	1,896	2,063	1,758
Silver coin ..	20	20	20	20
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts ..	191,577,314	175,301,425	162,058,303	149,432,119
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	582,879,843	549,915,678	469,213,702	439,463,568
Deposits ..	38,777,958	31,325,388	37,063,939	30,511,985

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Coin and bullion—Gold ..	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,291	44,294
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	38,569	39,027	39,146	31,815	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities ..	9,814	9,814	9,835	8,507	8,816
Discounts and loans ..	440,833	438,479	441,118	416,337	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	381,555	386,501	384,710	425,278	113,484
Deposits at notice ..	134,480	126,732	133,230	71,314	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 15, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills ..	13,364	13,357	13,253	13,159
Silver coin, &c.	598	598	598	598
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c ..	25,869,248	25,444,863	25,041,425	25,322,493
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	34,443,271	33,599,554	32,903,967	32,352,257
Deposits ..	3,450,248	3,740,662	3,508,278	3,539,438

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	May 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Coin and bullion ..	228,324	228,325	228,325	228,325	227,570	65,644
Loans & discounts ..	420,186	461,386	444,618	434,127	311,289	88,470
Debtors abroad ..	16,215	14,830	18,232	20,983	15,597	94,122
Securities ..	14,521	15,843	18,922	23,265	50,636	11,988
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation ..	438,743	451,790	446,163	440,822	495,688	157,266
Deposits ..	114,766	128,857	132,092	124,730	60,295	6,695

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

	(000's Rupees)				
	June 23, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	June 9, 1922.	June 2, 1922.	June 24, 1921.
ASSETS.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Govt. securities	7,97,65	7,96,41	8,02,91	8,23,99	14,43,72
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,22	1,28,22	1,38,43
Loans	14,82,45	15,63,70	16,27,69	16,28,97	14,09,96
Cash credits	25,77,32	26,48,29	26,95,03	27,66,68	21,03,12
Inland bills	4,77,52	4,85,21	5,20,13	5,21,44	13,28,94
Foreign bills	3,58	3,71	95	1,09	78
Bullion					3
Dead stock	2,48,35	2,48,32	2,48,01	2,47,09	2,09,78
Sundries	66,74	63,72	62,40	61,37	52,99
Balances with other banks	6,27	6,38	4,91	6,43	14,67
Cash	29,41,82	25,06,60	21,46,76	19,76,81	30,45,27
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	11,24,40	11,24,40	11,24,32	11,24,24	10,53,36
Supervised capital	5,62,35	5,62,35	5,62,33	5,62,31	5,44,59
Published paid up	4,01,83	4,01,83	4,01,82	4,01,82	3,71,10
Reserve	15,55,55	15,55,53	14,89,24	16,27,18	19,05,01
Public deposits	60,32,62	58,26,31	55,85,99	53,74,85	67,56,33
Other deposits	50,43	50,53	47,22	46,76	55,30
Loans against securities					
Loans from Govt. of India					
Sundries	1,58,23	1,54,00	1,50,41	1,49,17	1,46,36
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	61	61	64	68	20
Advances in London	358	359	360	359	381
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	37	37	28	38	98

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Present Rate.	Date	Previous Rate.	Date
Discount	July 13, 1922	4 1/2	June 15, 1922.
Deposit	June 15, 1922	2	Feb. 16, 1922.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Amsterdam	July 13, 1922 .. 4
Athens	May 15, 1920 .. 6 1/2
Berlin	Dec. 23, 1914 .. 5
Brussels	June 8, 1922 .. 4 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 .. 6
Calcutta	July 5, 1922 .. 4
Christiansia	May 16, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Copenhagen	Apr. 25, 1922 .. 5
Helsingfors	Nov. 8, 1920 .. 9
Lisbon	Sept. 3, 1920 .. 7
New York Federal Reserve ..	June 21, 1922 .. 4
Madrid	May 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Paris	Mar. 11, 1922 .. 5
Prague	Apr. 27, 1922 .. 5
Rome	July 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Sofia	June 14, 1919 .. 6 1/2
Stockholm	July 1, 1922 .. 4 1/2
Swiss Bank	Mar. 2, 1922 .. 3 1/2
Tokyo	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Vienna	Nov. 23, 1921 .. 7
Warsaw	Sep. 1, 1921 .. 7

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	July 22, 1921.	July 14, 1922.	July 21, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	46-17-22	54-22-27
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	272-275	2035-2045
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	2600-2700	11500-12500
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	273-278	190-195
Warsaw	zlotys to £1	T.T.	20-43	6700-6800	24000-26000
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	262-267	5400-5600
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	110	535-555
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	375-450	675-725
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	140-145	360-380
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-41-43	11-45-46
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	47-37-42	57-10-15
Christiansia	krone to £1	T.T.	18-159	27-39-35	26-82-87
Copenhagen	krone to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-38-42	17-10-12
Helsingfors	krone to £1	T.T.	18-159	23-50-60	20-65-68
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	223-226	210-213
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	801-804	974-984
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	21-80-85	23-15-18
Lisbon	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	21-75-80	28-53-56
Madrid	pesetas to escu.	T.T.	53-4	74-78	34-4
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-66 1/2	3-59-59 1/2	4-44 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86 1/2	4-02-04	4-48-49
Buenos Ayres	pesos to £1	T.T.	47-62 1/2	43-43 1/2	44 1/2-44 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pesos to £1	T.T.	51	39 1/2-40 1/2	44 1/2-44 1/2
Montevideo	pesos to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Lima	soles to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Calcutta	rupees to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Madras	rupees to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Hong Kong	dollars to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Shanghai	taels to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Singapore	dollars to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Yokohama	yen to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Manila	dollars to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60
Mexico	pesos to £1	T.T.	13-33	35-80	34-60

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	July 21, 1921.	June 22, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	July 6, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	July 20, 1922.
Call money	5 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Time money (90 days)	6	4	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Bank acceptances	5 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Members—eligible, 90 days	5 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	6	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	6 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	6 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level.	July 21, 1921.	July 6, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	July 20, 1922.
London—					
60 days	Dollars for £1	4-86 1/2	3-53	4-42 1/2	4-41 1/2
Cable			3-58	4-44 1/2	4-45 1/2
Cheques			3-58	4-44 1/2	4-45 1/2
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-74	8-05	8-22 1/2
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-74	8-05	8-22 1/2
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-74	8-05	8-22 1/2
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	23-83	1-30	0-2150	0-2225
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	20-26	0-132	0-3045	0-3038
Vienna	Cents for 1 krona	19-30	12-90	15-62	15-58
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	40-195	31-39	38-73	38-88
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	15-11	21-70	21-57	21-62
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner	26-80	12-77	15-73	16-98
Stockholm	Cents for 1 krona	19-30	5-65	2-75	2-85
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	100	88-50	98-93	99-06
Montreal	Cents for Can. \$1	49-85	48-70	47-75	47-75
Yokohama	Cents for H. Kong \$	..	49-50	58-50	57-90
Hong Kong	Cents for 1 Shing. tael	..	68-00	78-80	77-75
Shanghai	Cents for 1 rupee	103-65	15-26	12-30	12-30
Calcutta	Gold pesos for \$100	32-42	10-45	13-75	13-45
Buenos Aires	Cents for 1 milreis	20-60	11-00	12-375	12-875
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 peso	..	..	..	..
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	..	..	..	..

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Suores to £1	Sight London	July 8	18-00
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	..	July 12	23-50
Colombia (Bogota) ..	Dollars to £20	..	July 18	98-50
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £1	..	June 29	4-65
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	..	July 15	9-10
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	..	July 15	25-70
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	..	June 24	20-55
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	..	June 10	158

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	April 20, 1922.	April 25, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	May 9, 1922.	May 30, 1922.
London (cheque) ..	£1	Selling. 1,485	Selling. 1,495	Selling. 1,490	Selling. 1,465
New York ..	£1	336	338	338	330
Berlin ..	100 Rmk	120	148	121	114
Helsingfors ..	100 Fmk	627	655	695	698
Stockholm ..	100 Kr	8,750	8,800	8,800	8,585
Copenhagen ..	100 Kr	7,135	7,225	7,225	7,040
Paris ..	100 Fr	3,140	3,100	3,030	3,010
Amsterdam ..	100 Hfl.	12,750	12,975	12,975	12,850
Riga ..	100 Lrb	132	132	131	130
Prague ..	..	670	670	660	635

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	July 21, 1921.	July 6, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	July 20, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	4-09	0-59	0-495
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123-45	7-87 1/2	1-159	1-25
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	6-26	0-8769	0-9007
Christiansia	..	..	10-07 1/2	1-390	1-470

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	April 1, 1922.	May 15, 1922.	June 15, 1922.
London	£1	1,108	1,128	1,125
New York	..	252	258	253 1/2
Paris	100 frs.	2,275	2,325	2,300
Brussels	100 frs.	2,100	2,125	2,100
Switzerland	100 frs.	6,625	6,725	6,700
Stockholm	100 kr.	4,475	4,575	4,500
Copenhagen	100 kr.	4,475	4,575	4,500
Christiansia	100 kr.	4,475	4,575	4,500
Prague	100 hfl.	9,600	9,750	9,800
Amsterdam	100 fl.	83	88	90
Berlin	100 rmk.	515	525	533
Helsingfors	100 fmk.	70	75	78
Reval	100 emk.	..	8	8
Warsaw	100 pmk.	..	..	..

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
	London on South Africa.	South Africa on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	11% prem.	11% dis.
Demand	11% prem.	11% dis.
30 days	11% prem.	11% dis.
90 days	11% prem.	11% dis.
120 days	11% prem.	11% dis.

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. on demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	..	..
Sight	..	..
Cable	..	..
On demand	..	..
30 days	..	..
90 days	..	..
120 days	..	..

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	July 8, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	47,13,05,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	57,89,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	105,02,05,000

* Sales were discontinued on June 6th.

India Office, July 14, 1922.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended July 19, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £498,540 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Week Ended July 19, 1922.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	Week Ended July 19, 1922.
Countries from which Consigned.		Countries to which Exported.	
British South Africa	£ 836,932	Belgium	£ 17,000
Belgium	130	Netherlands	186
Hungary	2,147	British India	464,970
Other countries	1,290	Total declared value of exports registered in the week ..	482,156
Total value of imports of gold	840,469		

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on July 20th as follows:—

GOLD.

A considerable amount of gold came into the market. The bulk was taken for the United States of America; Indian requirements were small. Gold valued at \$2,500,000 has arrived in New York from London. A further million pounds arrived in New York from London. The White Star liner "Laurentic," which was mined off the coast of Donegal in 1917. This recovered treasure will doubtless follow the successive substantial Government consignments that have been sent to the United States of America. There is a possibility that the balance of the submerged gold will be recovered within the next few months. It is interesting to hear of gold being coined, now that its hand-to-hand employment as currency has so much diminished. The Washington Mint coined gold pieces worth \$53,000,016 during the fiscal year 1921/2, and others worth \$8,420,000 during the month of June last. The same Mint coined 16,030 gold pieces for Costa Rica.

SILVER.

Continued weakness has been shown by the China exchanges, and sales have been made from that quarter, as well as on account of America. Support has not been at all eager, being mostly composed of bear covering. Although news as to the monsoon is, as a whole, encouraging, it is too soon for whole-hearted buying from that quarter. Hence prices have been inclined to be retrograde. The following movements of silver were made in the month of June:—From New York to England, 1,105,787 ounces; from New York to India, 619,699 ounces; from San Francisco to China, 6,168,176 ounces. The last total seems to indicate that supplies in the Americas are plentiful. As 92,708,659 silver pieces, worth nominally \$92,548,566, were coined during the last fiscal year at the Washington Mint, a much larger number of dollars would appear to have been coined out of silver bought under the Pittman Act than could have been made from silver thus acquired during that period. The holding of silver rupees in the Indian Treasury continues to increase. The total exceeded 70 crores for the first time on June 30, 1921; exactly a year later it passed the 80 crore mark (almost reached on October 31st last with 7,996 lacs). The return for the 15th inst. is a new record with 8,222 lacs. This is the more remarkable, as the note circulation—17,750 lacs—was not so high as the record of 17,971 lacs established on October 31st last. The percentage of bullion (gold and silver) was then 58 per cent., as compared with 60 per cent. on the 15th inst.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)	June 30, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	July 15, 1922.
Notes in circulation	17,601	17,648	17,750
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,073	8,120	8,222
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	2,432
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	6,512	6,512	6,512
Securities (British Government) ..	584	584	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 15th inst. consisted of about 35,400,000 ounces in sycee, 32,000,000 dollars, and 2,460 silver bars, as compared with 34,300,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 2,900 silver bars on the 8th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.	Silver.	Date.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.		Cash, Per Ounce.
July 15 ..	92 9	35 1/2	July 28, 1916	30 1/2
17 ..	92 8	35 1/2	27, 1917	39 1/2
18 ..	92 9	35 1/2	26, 1918	48 1/2
19 ..	92 5	35 1/2	25, 1919	55 1/2
20 ..	92 7	35 1/2	23, 1920	54 1/

shares held, in satisfaction of the bonus, any fraction of £1 being paid by the company in cash. It will, of course, be open to any shareholder preferring cash for the whole bonus accruing to claim payment in that form. To carry this arrangement into effect, an extraordinary general meeting will be held on August 1st."

Name of Mine.	May, 1922.			June, 1922.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Anura W. United (10s shares)	9,400	12,197	1,543			
Brakpan	52,500	113,974	46,697	58,000	116,957	45,883
City Deep	84,000	157,845	50,831	86,000	165,676	51,585
Consolidated Langlaagte	33,600	44,550	5,051	35,900	48,188	5,664
Consolidated Main Reef	45,600	71,546	5,035	43,600	72,015	6,773
Crown Mines (10s shares)	161,000	223,271	44,672	172,000	240,705	42,581
Durban Roodepoort Deep	25,000	33,145	1,382	27,500	129,856	1,551
East Rand Proprietary	102,000	117,315	642	106,500	42,296	8,480
Eretria Deep	20,200	23,819	2,024	26,200	31,781	1,385
Gold Proprietary	45,800	74,585	27,916	44,600	74,783	29,489
Goldenhuis Deep	48,178	55,139	221	52,787	57,521	2,618
Glynn's Lydenburg	4,036	6,578	1,634	4,244	6,498	536
Goch, New	16,550	16,965	1,630			
Government Areas	139,000	280,323	160,328	141,000	285,522	155,177
Kleinfontein, New	42,100	46,430	1,097	42,000	52,399	4,303
Knight Central	24,000	23,851	1,287	28,500	26,469	510
Langlaagte Estate	40,700	59,833	13,559	42,300	63,508	12,807
Langlaagte Vlei	13,915	11,539		17,910	19,249	2,172
Meyer and Charlton	12,000	13,347	17,203			
Modderfontein B.	55,000	125,004	60,965	60,000	148,217	81,629
Modderfontein Deep Levels	44,400	107,739	65,177	43,300	106,627	65,675
Modderfontein East	25,900	39,812	5,073	25,500	46,316	4,086
Modderfontein, New (24 shs.)	17,000	17,092	9,471	106,000	218,630	120,453
New United	10,600	10,206	1,026	10,600	11,600	1,287
North West Mines	42,500	60,869	8,026	43,800	63,260	8,650
Primrose, New	16,500	17,763	1,036	17,800	19,150	1,419
Randfontein Central	103,500	143,263	21,516	119,000	163,196	31,495
Robinson (45 shares)	13,500	20,728	4,422	16,500	22,253	5,058
Robinson Deep	51,500	74,061	11,212	60,700	79,242	16,683
Roodepoort United	9,450		927			9,299
Rose Deep	43,400	48,483	6,486	47,200	55,686	7,293
Singer and Jack	37,600	43,379	3,081	40,100	48,169	2,930
Spring Mines	43,500	82,122	24,315	43,000	84,233	28,995
Sub-Nigel	8,800	25,668	5,460	10,000	27,528	5,961
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	15,790	24,326	1,225	15,490	24,089	1,166
Van Ryn	26,900	34,391				
Van Ryn Deep	54,000	117,419	62,490	55,100	122,301	62,030
Village Deep	32,000	74,556	10,982	54,100	75,470	12,503
West Rand Consolidated	32,500	41,157	3,383			
Witwatersrand Deep	30,000	44,213	5,310	32,800	48,336	11,168
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	33,000	45,301	11,156	39,600	50,765	10,586
Woluter	32,000	31,545	1,511	32,500	35,795	2,251

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS.—The accounts for the year ended March 31, 1922, show a net profit for the year amounting to £15,158 after paying in cash £10,710 for interest on debenture interest certificates for the past year. All advertising expenditure, both home and foreign, together with the usual amounts for depreciation, have also been written off. The report states that "the sales during the year under review show an increase on last year's total and are of an encouraging character, but the profits have been kept down by reason of the high cost of indispensable raw materials, which the company was compelled to buy at a time when commodities were scarce and dear. The adverse effects of these high costs on future profits will tend to disappear as the company's remaining stocks of raw materials—in which coal for the bottle works and timber for the packing cases play an important part—are gradually replaced by materials purchased at the lower prices now ruling. The export business of the company, a vital factor in its prosperity, has suffered, and is continuing to suffer, very severely from the restricted trade that has been experienced by all branches of overseas commerce, in addition to which prohibitory import duties have to be faced in many non-European countries. It must also be placed on record that it has been found almost impossible, so far as the greater part of the Continent of Europe is concerned, to do business of a remunerative character owing to the utter disorganisation of exchanges. Still, the fact remains that there is an increasing demand for Apollinaris, with the result that the sales have gone up. The capital suspense account in connection with the shares held by the Apollinaris Company, Limited, in the Owens European Bottle Machine Company, of the last year's figure of £108,349 7s 8d."

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES 5½ PER CENT. LOAN, 1920-1922, DUE AUGUST 15, 1922.—Holders of stock and debentures outstanding are reminded that the above loan matures for payment on August 13, 1922. Applications for repayment of the principal should be made to the London County Westminster and Parrs' Bank, Limited—head office, 41 Lothbury, E.C. 2—from whom the prescribed forms of request are now obtainable.

BANKS.

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.—Average weekly position during June, 1922:—

LIABILITIES.		£	ASSETS.		£	Ratio to Current, Deposit, & Other Accounts %
Capital paid up	10,860,852		Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..		55,164,743	14.9
Reserve fund	10,860,852		Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in Great Britain and Ireland	9,616,480		2.6
Current, deposit, and other accounts (includ- ing balance of profit and loss account)	369,275,469		Money at call and short notice	14,197,453		3.8
Acceptances and engage- ments on account of customers	17,536,987		Investments	66,914,931		18.1
			Bills discounted	59,634,839		16.1
			Advances to customers and other accounts	176,965,811		47.9
			Liabilities of customers for acceptances and engagements	17,536,987		
			Bank premises at head office and branches ..	4,944,063		
			Shares of the Belfast Banking Co., Lim., and the Clydesdale Bank, Lim.	3,258,853		
			Shares of the London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Co., Lim. .	300,000		
	408,534,160			408,534,160		

408,534,160

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.—The report for the year ended March 31, 1922, shows a net profit of £502,313. The amount brought into the accounts from March 31, 1921, was £206,725, making £709,038 available. The dividend of 14 per cent. absorbed £131,083, and the bonus of 2½ per cent. absorbed £55,729. The sum of £50,000 is placed to bank premises account and £100,000 is added to officers' pension fund and £191,226 is carried forward to next account. The principal items in the balance sheet under liabilities are capital £2,229,165, reserve fund £2,893,335, notes in circulation £4,207,800, deposits, current and other accounts £52,018,941, drafts and acceptances £1,034,029, and customers' bills £7,763,111. The principal assets are cash £13,010,949, investments £5,110,110 (standing at or under cost taken below market values as at March 31, 1922), bills of exchange £5,551,085, bills discounted £36,442,485, customers' bills £7,763,111, and bank property £976,434. The accounts published a year ago covered a period of 15 months, the date of the report having been changed from December to March. In that period profits amounted to £759,377.

BRITISH BURMA PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.—A cablegram has been received from Burma reporting the production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for the month of January 1900 amounted to 70,500 barrels.

CALTEX OIL.—The Caltex Oil Company advise us of receipt of oil from Mexico giving the production of the company's oil for the month of June, 1922, amounted to 70,590 barrels.

COMMONWEALTH OIL CORPORATION, LIMITED.—Advice from Sydney reports for four weeks ending July 14, 1922:—Shale mined, 1,935 tons; shale retorted, 1,944 tons; crude oil and naphtha produced, 195,603 gallons (equal to 100.6 gallons per ton of shale).

KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LTD.—The total production during June amounted to \$6,376 barrels, or approximately 12,330 tons, including 8,768 barrels from the properties of the St Helens Petroleum Company.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—Production for June, 1,814 tons. Metres drilled, 395 (1,600 feet). Combined

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, July 12, 1922, amounted to 705 tons.

MOND NICKEL COMPANY, LIMITED.—The balance-sheet, dated April 30, 1922, certified by the auditors, shows a balance to the credit of profit and loss account of £610,383. After deduction of the amount of £220,000 dividends declared and paid in respect of the year ended April 30, 1921, there remains a balance of £390,383, which the directors propose to deal with as follows:—Interim dividend on the preference capital at 7 per cent. per annum, paid on March 3, 1922, subject to deduction of income-tax, £87,500; dividend now to be paid on the preference capital at 7 per cent. per annum, subject to deduction of income-tax, £87,500; interim dividend on the ordinary capital of 6d per share, paid on March 3, 1922, free of income-tax, £22,500; dividend now to be paid on the ordinary capital of 1s per share, free of income-tax, £45,000; income-tax, £10,000; balance to be carried forward, £37,883. The report states that "trade conditions in the metal industry during the period under review have continued to be unfavourable, with the result that the operations of the company, both in Canada and in this country, had to be conducted on a reduced scale. Amongst the investments in associated and other companies is included the amount paid for the shares of Messrs Hy. Wiggin and Co., Limited, Birmingham, which were acquired in 1920. No dividends have yet been received from that investment, but the directors are satisfied that no alteration is necessary in the value at which the shares stand in the books, being of opinion that the setback in that business is due to the present depression in the metal industry. The world stocks of metallic nickel which had accumulated owing to the war have been mostly absorbed. The company have, however, on hand considerable stocks of intermediate products which were manufactured in Canada at high cost for war purposes. These have been written down substantially in the accounts now presented."

RIO DE JANEIRO FLOUR MILLS AND GRANARIES.—The directors, owing to the continued expansion of the company's business, have decided to recommend to their shareholders the capitalisation of part of the surplus profits and reserves which up to the present have been employed in the business, and that a distribution should be made to the shareholders of 5s per share, free of income tax, in the form of one fully-paid new share of £1 for every four shares held, in satisfaction of this bonus. The proposed new shares to rank for dividend as from the payment of the interim dividend in July, 1922, and in all other respects to rank *pari passu* with the existing issued shares of the company.

THE RIO DE JANEIRO FLOUR MILLS AND GRANARIES, LIMITED.
—A circular issued by the company states that "in view of the continued expansion of the company's business and of the fact that accumulated profits have necessarily been used as working capital, it has become advisable to capitalise part of the surplus profits and accumulated reserves. This capitalisation will form part of a proposed increase of the nominal capital of the company to £1,500,000, and for this purpose the directors propose the declaration of a special bonus of 5s per share, free of income-tax, which the shareholders may apply to the taking up of one fully-paid new share of £1 for every four

* Loss. *e* £4 12s per fine oz. *f* £4 10s 3d net per fine oz. *g* £4 10s net per fine oz. *h* £4 10s 6d net per fine oz. (i) £4 12s 6d per fine oz. (j) £4 10s 9d net per fine oz.

THE
WORKS and LIFE of
WALTER BAGEHOT

Edited by
Mrs. RUSSELL BARRINGTON

10 Vols. (Works 9 Vols., Life 1 Vol.), 8vo.
£3 15s net. The "Works" only will
 also be supplied, **£3 7s 6d** net.

Prospectus sent on Application.

* * THE Life of Walter Bagehot

By his Sister-in-Law (Mrs. RUSSELL BARRINGTON). With Portraits and other illustrations
(In the original binding.) 8vo. 14s net
(1914.)

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO.,
39 Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

[July 22, 1922.]

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim div.	Final div.	Method of Payment.	Lat's Pre-vious.	Dividend for Whole Years.
Railways.						
Canton Extension	2	..	..	..	..	..
Cuba, Non-Cum. Prof.	6%	Sept. 1	Loss tax	..	..	..
Great Southern and Western	3 1/2	Aug. 11	Less tax	..	..	..
Midland (Preferred)	4	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
North Staffordshire	3 1/2	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
Pondicherry	..	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Banks.						
Bank of Ireland	12	..	..	..	..	..
Bank of Montreal	3	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Bank of Victoria	3	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Canadian of Commerce	3	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Commercial Bank of Australia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Monster and Leinster	20	..	..	Less tax	..	..
National	12	July 29	..	..	..	..
National of Australasia	10	..	..	..	..	..
Provincial of Ireland	13 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Royal Bank of Canada	3	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Standard of South Africa	3 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.						
Employers' Liability Assurance	1/6 p.s.	Aug. 30	Tax free at 5/3 in £	..	..	..
Indemnity Mutual Marine	20/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Bordubi Tea	10 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Bambrakilly (Ceylon) Tea	5 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Ceylon Upcountry Tea	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dhondai Tea	6 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Jorahant Tea	10 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Nedem Tea	7 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
United Planters of Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mining.						
Bechuanaland Exploration	2/ p.s.	Aug. 18	..	Less tax	..	..
Broken Hill South	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicago-Gals Development	3/6 p.s.	July 27	..	..	..	..
Kaliguri Gold (in liquidation)	50 p.s.	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Miami Copper	1/9 p.s.	Aug. 9	..	..	..	..
South Kaliguri Cons.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
African Produce	5	July 31	..	..	..	..
Agua Santa Coffee	3 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
American Thread	7	..	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Continental Guano	..	..	..	..	..	..
Assets Co.	3	July 28	..	Less tax	..	..
Average Trust	5	..	..	Tax free	..	..
"Bodega" Co.	7	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
Bon Marche	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boston (Lines) Gas, Old	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do New	..	..	..	..	..	..
Broadley Wood Spinning	2/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Brompton and Kensington Elec.	9	..	..	..	..	..
Brotherhood Spinning	1/3 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Cement	1 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
City of London Brewery	5	..	..	Less tax	..	..
City Property Investment, Def.	15	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Commercial Gas, 4% Ord.	£5/12	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Do 3% Ord.	£5/10	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Crown Brewing	7	July 20	..	Tax free	..	..
David and William Henderson	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dublin United Tramway	3	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Dundee, Perth, and London	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shipping	6 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
East End Dwellings	5	Aug. 1	..	Tax free	..	..
East Indian Coal	5 1/2	July 28	..	..	..	..
Edward Wood	2 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Electrical Distribution of York-	7	..	..	..	..	..
shire	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fodens	6	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Freeman, Porter, and Co.	10 1/2	July 31	..	Less tax 5/6 in £	..	..
Geo. G. Bussey and Co., Pref.	5 1/2	July 26	..	..	..	..
George Outram and Co.	1/ p.s.	Aug. 10	..	Less tax	..	..
Gloucester Railway Carriage	10 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Greenwood and Bailey	3 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Hawk Spinning	1/3 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Hayes, Candy, and Co.	3 1/2	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Holloway's Properties	3 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Holly Spinning	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Imperial Tobacco of G. Britain	7 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Investment Corporation, Canada	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kaministiquia Power	8 1/2 p.s.	Aug. 15	..	..	..	..
Kensington and Knightsbridge	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electric	5 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Lloyd and Yorath	5	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Lochelly Iron and Coal	1/ p.s.	..	..	Less tax	..	..
London and British North	..	..	..	..	..	..
America	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Long Sutton Market House	..	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Manchester Dry Docks	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mather and Platt	3 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Mond Nickel	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Moorfield Spinning	3/6	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Mortgage Co. of River Plate	3/6	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Murrayfield Real Estate	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mutual Tontine Westminster	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chambers	3 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
National Gas Engine	7 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Normanby Iron	6 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
North Glamorgan Wagon	8	July 18	..	Less tax	..	..
Octagon Brewery	3 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Parkside Spinning	3/6	July 31	..	..	..	..
Pawsons and Leads	3/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Pine Spinning	5/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Rayton Spinning	5/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Samnagar, Dittagur, & Victoria	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jute	10 1/2	..	..	Subject to tax	..	..
Santa Rosa Milling	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Sawers, Lim.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish American Mortgage	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
S. Hoffnung and Co.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spratt's Patent, Limited	1/ p.s.	July 29	..	Less tax	..	..
Spratt's Patent (America)	1/6 p.s.	Aug. 4	..	Less tax	..	..
St. David's Steam Navigation	..	..	..	..	..	..
T. H. Downing and Co.	20	..	..	..	..	..
Trefall's Brewery	10	..	..	Less tax	..	..
U.S. Mfg. of Scotland, Def.	10 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
W. and T. Avery	10 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Wembley Park Estate	10 1/2	Aug. 1	..	Tax free	..	..
Wilkinson and Hiddell	7 1/2	July 26	..	Less tax	..	..
Williams, Ltd.	6 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Wm. Murray and Co.	5	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Yorkshire Electric Power	5	..	..	..	..	..

For 15 months.

EDISON SWAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED, announce that the dividend for the half-year ended July 1, 1922, on the first preference shares will not be paid. No dividend was paid on the preference shares for the second half of last year.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JUNE, 1922.

Gold.	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Grande Works.	Mill.	Grande Works.		
Abbottiaakoon	6,920	..	..	..	..	..
Akoko Main Reef	7,400	..	..	..	..	..
Ashanti	200	..	..	..	2,965	938
Associated Northern	6,083	..	..	..	..	..
Iron Duke	277	..	..	..	5,277	22,419
Colombian Mining	..	..	..	..	..	..
Richenda	900	270	..	..	..	1,193
Cons. of New Zealand	1,200	450	..	..	..	1,900
Blackwater	3,980	..	..	..	..	3,125
El Oro	34,151	..	..	..	..	..
Globe and Phoenix	6,318	..	..	..	..	..
Golden Horsehoe	10,320	..	..	..	..	..
Great Boulder Prop.	9,540	..	..	..	..	..
Hampton Celebration	870	..	..	..	..	..
Ivanhoe	15,893	..	..	..	..	..
Jumbo	1,450	450	..	..	..	..
Lake View and Star	6,852	..	..	..	..	..
Lonely Reef	5,440	..	..	..	..	..
Menzies Cons.	2,000	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico of El Oro	15,315	..	..	..	..	..
New Chuquibambilla	1,400	..	..	..	..	..
Orevalle Dredging	17,702	..	..	..	..	..
Neelhi (22 days to July 1st)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pato (15 days to July 2nd)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Planet Arcurus	5,580	..	..	..	..	..
Plymouth Cons.	8,200	..	..	..	..	..
Prestea Block A	8,379	5,616	..	..	..	..
Rhodesia G.M.I.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Huntsman	233	..	..	..	..	..
Santa Gertrudis	13,136	..	..	..	..	..
Shamva	58,700	..	..	..	..	..
South Kaliguri	7,544	..	..	..	..	..
St. John del Rey	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taqash	2,024	..	..	..	..	..
Tomboy	14,800	..	..	..	..	..
Wahiti (period ended July 8)	15,156	..	..	..	..	..

Loss. (a) 90 per oz. (b) Par value. (c) 94/6 per fine oz net. (d) 84/11 1/2 per oz. (e) 84/ per fine oz. (f) 92 per oz. (g) 92/6 per fine oz.

Output.

Other Notes in Return.

Concentrates average 66 % fine tin.

Approx. value, £6,350. Quarter to June 30, 1922.

Approx. value, £7,100. Quarter to June 30, 1922.

Despatched 113 tons.

Despatched 103 tons.

Despatched 4 tons.

Value, £5,610; cost, £3,822.

Chinese Engineering 27,189 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. || Chislet | 3,506 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
East Kent	4,778	..	..	..	..	..
Natal Navigation	39,362	..	..	..	..	..
Northern Nat.	22,387	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous.						
Burma Ruby	..	..	..	..	..	..
Keelley Silver	..	..	..	..	..	..
San Francisco de Mexico	1,950	..	..	..	..	..
Transvaal Silver	9,035	..	..	..	..	..
Zinc Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	..
Copper.						
Falcon	296 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
Poderosa	550	..	..	..	..	..

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY.—Report for four weeks ending June 21, 1922: The whole of the iron and steel works closed down except steel foundry, Broken Hill: Underground operations unchanged. Ore Dressing Mills: Produced 312 tons lead concentrates and 4,594 tons slimes. Zinc Separation Plant: Produced 2,653 tons zinc concentrates. Slimes Flotation Plant: Produced 1,596 tons lead concentrates and 5,648 tons zinc concentrates.

BURMA CORPORATION, LIMITED (Incorporated in India).—Cable advices received July 19th report: During the month of June 15,055 tons of ore were milled in the bearing material we e smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 3,491 tons hard and 379,683 ozs refined silver. Refinery products were, 3,281 tons refined lead.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC.—Production during four-weekly period ended June 28th, taining 245 tons lead, 46,875 ozs silver.

FALCON MINES, LIMITED.—Particulars of June output received from Bulawayo (2,000 lbs) of blister copper, containing 3,120 ozs of gold, 6,361 ozs of silver; estimated value, £32,451 (taking copper at £50 per short ton, gold at 90s per oz, and silver at 3s per oz).

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—Production for June: 2,075 tons lead concentrates, averaging 64 per cent. lead, 33 ozs silver per ton, and 8 per cent. zinc; also 1,840 silver per ton.

SAN FRANCISCO.—June: "Ore treated, 8,100 tons; residues treated, 590 tons; mated net smelter returns, 998,270 United States currency; operating expenses, \$47,015; estimated operating profit, \$51,225."

SULPHIDE CORPORATION, LIMITED.—Advice has been received from the tons of ore and 3,638 tons of slimes were milled at the central mine, producing which assayed 43 ozs silver, 67 per cent. lead, together with 5,985 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 12 ozs silver, 8 per cent. lead, 47 per cent. zinc per ton. The refinery products for the same period were 168 tons soft lead, 84,546 ozs silver, 639 ozs gold, and 249 tons antimonial lead.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended July 15, 1922.			Aggregate 28 Weeks 1922		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Brecon and Merthyr..	60	1,262	3,296	4,558	102,031	1,355,534	1,350,534
Great Central (c)	5762	155,300	128,000	183,300	1,321,100	3,634,500	4,955,600
Do Joint Lines	161 1/2	40,900	96,900	38,100	5,021,900	2,636,300	954,000
Great Eastern (c)	1,207 1/2	108,500	140,500	249,000	2,612,800	3,958,000	5,658,200
Great Northern (c)	1,050	322,000	381,000	703,000	7,525,000	10,545,000	18,070,000
Great Western (d)	3,535	470,000	423,000	893,000	9,794,000	11,940,000	21,442,000
London & N. Western (d) ..	2,633	470,000	423,000	893,000	9,794,000	11,940,000	5,140,000
Lon. & South-Western	968	145,100	54,900	200,000	5,503,100	1,636,900	3,235,971
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c) ..	487	108,237	30,014	138,251	2,452,222	803,679	8,076,771
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	723	34,385	5,339	37,724	926,840	101,377	1,028,217
Metropolitan (c)	1,584	201,000	323,000	524,000	4,700,000	8,995,000	13,695,000
Midland (c)	63	1,719	1,612	3,331	37,738	39,932	10,267,670
Midland & S. W. Jnc.	1,850	145,500	260,500	406,000	3,396,700	6,867,300	415,817
North Eastern (c)	26	4,808	9,554	14,362	135,925	272,892	6,462,500
North London	16	4,808	9,554	14,362	135,925	272,892	6,462,500
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	654	159,300	44,800	204,100	3,464,300	1,177,600	6,288,851
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	15,576	..	..	374,035
..	..	..	..	51,885	..	..	1,376,000
..	..	..	..	9,848	..	..	145,120
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	228,200	1,908,500	2,771,100	4,679,600
Caledonian	1,097	124,900	103,300	228,200	1,908,500	2,771,100	1,851,100
Glasgow and S.-W. (c) ..	476	56,400	39,100	95,500	827,600	1,023,300	507,670
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	336 1/2	14,000	8,440	22,440	232,230	266,440	588,020
Highland (c)	492 1/2	16,872	10,920	27,792	293,296	291,261	5,014,900
North British (c)	1,377 1/2	92,000	118,000	210,000	1,707,100	3,507,800	..
Belfast and County Down (b)	80	10,464	779	11,243	139,875	38,758	178,631
Dublin and S. East. (c) ..	160	6,693	2,438	9,131	149,146	98,792	247,933
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	5,488	7,147	12,635	269,561	396,225	665,778

RUBBER OUTPUTS AND DIVIDENDS

In the table below we give the June and past three years outputs, and dividends for five complete years of a number of Rubber Companies, while the latest reports of Rubber Companies are analysed under our Summary of Profit and Loss Accounts each week. The latest dividends declared appear under Dividend Announcements, and the Rubber Share Market is dealt with in our Stock Market section. Particulars as to the Market Price of the Commodity and other information will be found in our Produce Market Section.

Name. Year ends December 31, Except where stated.	Outputs.			Output Month June, 1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	Output 6 Months 1922, Except Where Otherwise Stated in Brackets.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	Dividends paid in Past 4 Complete Years.			
	Year 1919.	Year 1920.	Year 1921.					1918. % nil	1919. % 17 1/2	1920. % nil	1921. % nil
Allagar	Lbs. 359,250	Lbs. 354,250	Lbs. 329,300			Lbs. 74,000(3)					
Anglo-Java	2,416,470	2,101,424	1,746,500	106,985	+ 25,526	113,800(1)	20,500				
Anglo-Malay	1,669,279	1,430,807	814,209			537,700	67,836				
Anglo-Sumatra (May 31)	771,865	1,058,736	920,074			65,394(1)	5,983				
Ayer Kuning	960,175	943,803	812,127	78,000	+ 12,000				20(18-19)	30(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Bah Lias (Oct. 31)	974,520	1,561,555	1,123,341	95,347	+ 13,663	786,729(8)	52,138		74(18-19)	10(19-20)	
Bajoe Kidol (Mar. 31)	941,776	1,029,608	729,518	55,076	+ 26,214	196,252(3)	21,342		10(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Bakap (June 30)	225,800	230,300	164,080			144,850(8)			20(19-20)	nil(20-21)	
Bandar Sumatra (July 31)	474,148	614,867	523,957	35,000	+ 3,800	376,000(1)	92,597		5(18-19)	nil(19-20)	
Bantam (Java) (June 30)	349,146	913,616	713,132			76,125(2)			124(18-19)	nil(19-20)	
Batang (Selangor) (April 30)	348,145	571,712	467,803	41,890	+ 6,420	77,360(2)	10,380		25(28-19)	15(19-20)	5(20-21)
Batang Consolidated	321,271	390,686	296,140	28,875	+ 2,137	154,123			15(18-19)	25(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Batu Caves	675,534	647,153	534,893	45,834	+ 6,075	246,357	14,654				
Batu Tiga	784,000	765,100	510,500	50,500	+ 12,000	275,450	15,950		110	150	5
Bekoh (June 30)	443,860		418,745	35,797	980	432,773(12)			30	10	nil
Bertam Consolidated (March 31)	1,534,416	1,869,877	1,351,255	179,000					25	25	
Bukit Clich	375,745	375,250	277,730			277,730(12)	64,520		54d p.s.	74d p.s.	2d p.s.
Bukit Kajang (June 30)	697,900	881,671	756,638	54,555	+ 11,011	651,687(12)	104,931		25(18-19)	10(19-20)	2d p.s.
Bukit Mertajam (March 31)	900,681	842,362	669,000	55,133	+ 2,867	162,487(3)	34,772		124(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Bukit Rajah (March 31)	769,303	1,169,830	1,094,000			234,482(3)	24,148		50(18-19)	150(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Bukit Sembawang	1,060,000	1,636,320	984,500								nil(21-22)
Ceylon (Para)	1,118,202	1,214,645	975,540								5
Choronesse	665,165	653,367	504,891	41,168	+ 7,465	255,675	52,712		274	40	nil
Cheviot	705,765	875,814	867,033	58,520	+ 28,720	339,149	24,572		10	20	6 1/2
Cicely Ordinary (March 31)	812,925	1,070,989	835,118	83,743	+ 20,333	245,724(5)	21,476		75(18-19)	60(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Consolidated Malay	1,002,435	1,070,989	835,118	83,743	+ 20,333	422,225			25	37 1/2	12 1/2
Damansara	748,935	801,897	664,798			666,393(12)	135,504		28	32 1/2	nil
Dennistown	565,621	436,210	391,289	42,026	+ 10,768	226,853	70,406		20	30	nil
Dunblair	451,577	491,282	406,000			327,500(8)			20	nil	nil
Dustin Durian	752,228	1,053,163	698,008			325,979(3)	6,593		7	32 1/2	5
Eastern Sumatra (June 30)	338,504	494,740	413,300	43,000	+ 11,000	366,000(12)	7,900	1d p.s.(18-19)			
F. M. S. Planters	793,000		900,300	73,500	+ 12,500	444,000	37,000		5	25	10
General Ceylon	1,252,782	1,247,524	1,063,642						15	30	nil
Goleconda Malay	535,932	612,403	473,041			45,120(1)			20	35	nil
Golden Hope	376,849	461,824	233,446	21,695	+ 1,123	108,758	9,896		10	25	nil
Grand Central (Ceylon)	5,164,927	5,217,447	4,379,972	100,000	+ 15,000	885,510(3)	264,641		9	15	6
Gula-Kalumpang	1,549,500	1,618,387	1,025,600						23	24	7 1/2
Harpden	423,423	454,966	320,861	104,700	+ 6,100	318,200(12)	134,708		10	72	7 1/2
Highlands and Lowlands	1,504,374	1,533,919	1,215,779						174	30	nil
Inch Kenneth (May 31)	361,180	427,039	334,688			35,600(1)	6,890		40(18-19)	45(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Java Amalgamated	937,688	932,212	882,331	64,400	+ 6,800	416,832	39,815		20	nil	
Java Rubber Plantations	317,381	380,504	375,635	34,600	+ 34,600	296,100	103,900		40	20	nil
Jeram (March 31)	319,403	298,821	233,639	23,740	+ 5,490	63,780	30,130		10(18-19)	15(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Jong-Landor (June 30)	564,325	663,950	570,479			473,660(8)			20(18-19)	15(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Jugra Land and Carey (Nov. 30)	2,457,721			68,790	+ 37,400	716,870(12)	26,530		5(19-20)	nil(20-21)	
Kamuning (Perak) (June 30)	705,772	902,695	747,769	74,041	+ 6,622	442,717	54,560		124(18-19)	124(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Kapar Para	1,036,565	1,092,925	851,775	48,900	+ 27,300	149,400(3)	56,400		50	40	7 1/2
Kawie (Java) (March 31)	503,217	610,200	474,800			421,596(9)	25,661		20(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Keptigalla (March 31)	503,217	536,311	421,596			441,596(9)	25,661		20(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Kepitalla (March 31)	412,320	750,704	483,360	60,106	+ 28,239	348,580	126,438		40	10	nil(21-22)
Kopong (Malay)	700,023	693,685	662,000			176,750(3)	70,250		20(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Kinta Kelas (March 31)	1,579,662	1,709,537	1,350,385	53,909	+ 1,099	1,013,000(12)	337,385		214	15(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Kuala Lumpur (June 30)	640,867	656,468	664,712			439,540	45,680		62 1/2	62 1/2	25
Kuala Selangor	1,113,792	1,120,230	1,120,230	68,230	+ 6,290	439,540	45,680		22 1/2	25	5
Labu (F.M.S.)	1,245,745	1,451,209	1,097,352	100,027	+ 8,216	570,625	25,970		20	20	nil
Lanadron	700,222	812,728	455,034	53,900	+ 32,936	474,418(10)	62,649		15(18-19)	74(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Lanzang Java (Aug. 31)	467,900	451,500	370,000	30,000	+ 3,500	165,000	3,600		12 1/2	20	nil
Langkai Sumatra	703,929	685,259	454,970	42,407	+ 3,133	208,768	15,111		15	35	nil
Linggi Plantation, Ord.	2,804,900	2,804,217	2,175,728	183,160	+ 18,590	1,985,272	1,015,944		50	25	nil
London Asiatic	1,615,566	1,605,830	1,419,741	91,350	+ 41,548	567,551	93,563		25	35	nil
Lumut (Sept. 30)	4,210,746	4,122,973	3,508,340	286,820	+ 11,040	1,925,510	12,272		174(18-19)	124(19-20)	74(20-21)
Malacca, Ordinary	1,752,709	1,853,366	1,246,752	75,400	..	259,492(3)	8		10	30	nil
Malayalam	1,002,567	1,416,558	1,141,285	88,905	+ 9,551	625,360	5,823		10	12 1/2	nil
Mendaris	1,509,080	1,646,237	1,145,456	106,479	+ 42,018				14 1/2	5	nil
Merlimau	625,790	782,070	516,550	54,485	+ 3,066	280,030	104,130		10	17 1/2	nil
New Crocodile	608,765		510,286						10	10	nil
Nordland (Johore)	548,392	587,880	592,981	58,236	+ 17,476	398,316(10)	239,479		50	10	nil
North Hummock (March 31)	548,392	587,880	592,981	58,236	+ 17,476	398,316(10)	239,479		50	10	nil
Padang Jawa (March 31)	339,188	303,089	264,375	22,777	+ 3,687	61,179(3)	49,016		25(18-19)	25(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Panawatte	676,583	751,379	736,381	61,944	+ 1,182	308,547	14,295		10(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Pataling	725,278	761,638	599,770	51,765	+ 8,088	273,068	3,573		20	20	nil
Pegoh (Sept. 30)	789,308	1,067,638	897,110	67,300	+ 68,308	520,757(9)	131,467		35(18-19)	10(19-20)	5
Perak Rubber (March 31)	578,480	587,800	544,718	63,400	+ 22,950	544,718(12)	42,453		6(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Port Dickson-Lukut (March 31)	511,142	532,365	478,893	64,000	+ 18,000	227,340(3)	106,840		6(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Rangoon Para	883,806	793,597	701,347	58,994	+ 9,573	292,572	39,339		10	30	nil
Rani (Travancore)	677,548	722,240	514,020	43,671	+ 1,405	296,679	71,480		6	15	2 1/2
Rubber Estates of Johore	415,000	352,770	299,650	31,500	+ 9,050	161,100	30,385		12 1/2	25	5
Rubber Estates of Krian	280,900	303,132	229,003	48,000	+ 26,500				12	15	2 1/2
Sampang Java	704,198	774,293	602,828	56,300	+ 4,918				nil	54	nil
Sapumalkande	701,873	774,293	602,828	56,300	+ 4,918	301,196	50,044		10	10	nil
Scottish Malay	1,147,553	1,116,012	853,967	101,363	+ 26,210	569,477	186,415		35	75	5
Seafield	397,500	506,000	450,000	43,000	+ 11,015	530,000(12)			12(18-19)	13(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Seaport (June 30)	888,830	868,833	656,554	56,833	+ 5,649	343,924	80,000		100	50	10 1/2
Selangor	463,173	630,352	496,123				27,313		20(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Sembilan (July 31)	432,034	404,751	333,000	34,000	+ 12,000	173,000	14,000		10(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)
Serdang Central	1,073,723	1,102,321	650,648	63,428	+ 8,157	357,331	77,396		5	12	

of wool, tops, yarns, and piece goods are all in favour of the home trade, the aggregate turnover being considerable. During the first six months of this year we exported 20,886,000 lbs of tops, compared with 22,605,700 lbs in the corresponding period of 1913. The total volume of yarn exports was 20,521,000 lbs, compared with 25,091,100 lbs during the first six months of 1913. These figures go to show that British export trade in partly manufactured textile goods is approaching a pre-war level, and if one reckons the increased consumption by machinery on home account, the volume of business passing is now quite equal to pre-war days, this notwithstanding the comparative quietness of the woollen section. There is every probability of this important section of Great Britain's overseas trade continuing to expand, particularly if wool values remain reasonable.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—July 14, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.					Good Med.					Fine.					Extra Fine.					Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
		Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.						
Sea Island.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm						
Florida do.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm						
Georgia do.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm						
American.....	Ord	G	O	L	M	Mid	G	O	L	M	Mid	G	O	L	M	Mid	G	O	L	M	Mid						
Brazilian.....	Mid	M	F	P	R	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P						
Peram.....	..	1175	1325	1455	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.....	..	1175	1325	1455	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Macao, &c.....	..	1175	1325	1455	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Mossoro, &c.....	..	1175	1325	1455	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Ceara.....	..	1175	1325	1455	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Maranhão, &c.....	..	1225	1305	1350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
São Paulo.....	..	Fr.	G	P	per	G	F	Med	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Egyptian.....	..	1425	1500	1575	1625	1725	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Upper.....	..	1675	1900	1975	2200	2475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Sakellariadis.....	..	1475	1600	1725	1800	1975	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Brown.....	MF	Fr.	G	P	G	F	Med	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Peruvian.....	..	1400	1450	1525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Rough.....	..	1275	1350	1400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Moderately Rough.....	..	1300	1475	1575	1625	1725	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Smooth.....	..	1325	1475	1600	1675	1875	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Tanguis.....	..	1200	1400	1550	1650	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Mitaff.....	..	1200	1300	1400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
West Indian, &c.....	..	2300	2600	2900	3000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Do Sea Island.....	..	1250	1350	1450	1550	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
African, East, &c.....	975	1075	1250	1350	1450	1550	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Do.....	Mid	G	M	F	Med	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Do West.....	..	1200	1250	1275	nm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	G	F	Med	G	P	Med	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Broach.....	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Brownnugger.....	..	1085	1125	1165	1205	1245	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Ombra. No. 1.....	925	975	1025	1065	1105	1145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Ombra. No. 2.....	935	985	1035	1075	1115	1155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Ombra. No. 3.....	..	1010	1050	1090	1130	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Khandeish.....	935	985	1035	1075	1115	1155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	1055	..	1095	..	1135	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Bengali.....	785	825	865	905	945	985	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Machine Ginned Seinde.....	775	815	855	895	935	975	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Tinnivelly.....	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Madras, Western.....	990	1030	1070	1110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
Madras, Northern.....	..	1095	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
M. G. Cocanada, Red.....	Fr.	1055	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						
China, Smyrna, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..						

MANCHESTER, July 20.

Trading in the market during the past week has been of a limited character. Buyers have not been in the mood to place orders of any weight with spinners and manufacturers. The fact of the matter is there is less fear of higher values in the near future. A fair miscellaneous inquiry has been dealt with in cloth for India, and moderate transactions have been put through in light fabrics, but grey shirtings have not attracted much attention. The monsoon reports continue very favourable. Trade for China has been dull, and advices from the other side are not encouraging. Operations for the minor outlets East and West have only been of a sorting-up nature, and the demand for the home trade has been on a restricted scale. In weaving districts production at the moment is very irregular as a result of the annual holidays. It has been a poor week for spinners of yarn, and prices have been rather easier when tested. The turnover has been small in both home counts and export numbers.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, July 20, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		July 13.	July 6.	June 29.	June 22.	June 15.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American... per lb	13.70	13.65	13.77	13.34	13.74	12.80
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb	19.75	19.75	20.25	19.75	20.00	19.75
Yarns—32's twist..... per lb	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2
— 40's twist..... per lb	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian)..... per lb	30	30	30	30	30	29 1/2
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	32 6	33 0	33 6	33 0	33 0	32 0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	31 6	31 9	32 0	31 6	31 0	30 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	18 3	18 6	19 0	18 9	18 9	18 6
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs	17 3	17 9	18 0	17 6	17 6	17 3

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, July 20, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American... per lb	13.70	8.34	27.29	21.16	20.80	19.35
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb	19.75	15.50	67.00	27.09	30.19	30.50
Yarns—32's twist..... per lb	20 1/2	17 1/2	54 1/2	43	50	25
— 40's twist..... per lb	19 1/2	16 1/2	50	42	50	24 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian)..... per lb	30	31	98	58 1/2	64	44 1/2
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	32 6	32 0	87 6	61 0	62 3	51 6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	31 6	31 6	81 6	59 6	60 3	51 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	18 3	18 9	48 6	35 6	33 3	18 3
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs	17 3	16 9	42 0	31 0	31 0	16 6

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Largely owing to scarcity on spot and in near positions, raw linseed oil has maintained a steady level of value round £44 naked ex Hull mill for spot, and £43 10s July delivery. A fair home trade has been done, and renewed inquiries for supplies for shipment to America have assisted to a degree of firmness, though an easier feeling appears to be making its appearance. For August £42 12s 6d is quoted, and there is rather more doing for September-December at slightly improved values, Thursday's closing quotation for this position being £38 12s 6d. Cotton oils have been featureless, and prices of both crude and refined are a shade lower on the week. Soya bean oil is steady, and English make in fair request, the Hull ex-mill figure being £40. Rape oil is now in good supply, and offers freely at £42. Ground nut oil has appreciated to £47 ex Hull mill. Palm kernel and castor oils are about unchanged.

In the oilseed section, Plate linseed on lower Argentine options eased off somewhat, and crushers were moderate buyers at £19 12s 6d for shipment. A speculative interest also developed, and, in sympathy with Argentine reports, the market developed firmness, £20 5s being paid for seed on passage to Hull, and up to £20 wanted for shipment.

Calcutta to London has been done at £21 7s 6d June-July, and £21 2s 6d and £21 5s July-August, with sellers asking above these figures. Egyptian cottonseed is easier, £11 2s 6d being accepted for July Sakellariadis to Hull, while Bombay has been done at £9 3s 9d July-August. Soya beans for shipment are held above the market. Cawnpore castor seed has been done to Hull at £17 7s 6d July-August.

A little more demand is experienced for linseed cakes, but requirements are not above normal for the time of year, and selling values are without change.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

An easier tendency for hides and skins was to be noted at the auctions held in Bermondsey this week, all first-class ox and heifers recording reductions of from 1d to 3d per lb. Second ox and heifers were also weaker on the average, while cows, bulls, and kips made last sale prices. Only the 17/24 lb best calf skins made any alteration in price, this class appreciating 1d per lb in value. Other classes and weights were unchanged.

Generally speaking, the market for foreign hides is on the quiet side, although here and there spot parcels have been cleared. Prices at origin, however, are too high to interest the home trade, and the majority of the business that has transpired of late has been on account of the United States. Refrigerics are now on offer at something like 44 dollars, and although, as previously mentioned, little has been done for this market, America has taken something like 45,000 of these hides. Liebig hides have also been dealt in at round about 9 5/11 landed weights, with Frey Bentos cows fetching 8d. A small amount of business has been put

EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY INSURANCE.

dates, £157 to £157 5s; three months, £157 to £157 10s; English ingots, £157 to £157 10s. Copper: Market opened fairly steady, with dealings on the basis of cash, £63 2s 6d to £63 8s 9d and £63 2s 6d; July, £63 2s 6d; and three months, £63 10s to £63 8s 9d. Values since were generally maintained, though demand showed a slight falling off. At Wednesday's session cash stood at £63 to £63 2s 6d, with dealings in August at £63 7s 6d; September, £63 7s 6d; and three months at £63 10s to £63 8s 9d. The tone was steady at Thursday's market, and a good inquiry prevailed. Cash sold at £63 2s 6d; three months, £63 10s to £63 7s 6d, and finally at £63 10s. At Friday's session the tendency was rather steadier, with a good trade in force. Early August, sold, £63 5s; mid-September, £63 7s 6d; three months, £63 10s to £63 13s 9d, while finally, £63 12s 6d. Electros £70 10s to £72; best selected, £66 to £68; wire bars, £72; strong sheets, £94 per ton. Lead firmer at £25 12s 6d to £24 2s 6d as to position. Spelter dearer at £29 12s 6d to £29 5s as to position. Antimony, ordinary, £27 to £29 10s. Aluminium, home delivery, £100; export, £105.

TALLOW—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on July 19th as follows:—The tallow market was steady during the week, and prices are 1s 6d dearer to-day. Shipments of tallow from Australasia during June amounted to 4,400 tons. At auction to-day 932 casks tallow were offered, and 881 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 42s; good to fair, 41s to 40s; dull to dark, 39s 9d to 39s 6d; hard, 42s. Australian beef: Fine, 40s 6d; good to fair, 40s to 39s 6d; dull to dark, 36s 6d to 34s 6d; sweet, 42s. Present shipment from Australasia: Mutton, fair coloured, 48 degs., —; and mixed, 43½, c.i.f., London, 38s 3d. The market letter is dearer. Tallow, 1s; stuff, 1s. Town tallow, 35s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 2d; melted stuff, 25s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town 35s net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 34s 6d; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 36s 6d to 35s 6d. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 31s 6d; melted stuff, 31s, f.o.b.

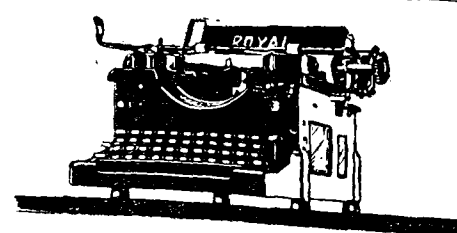
METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—JULY 20.

British Beasts, per stone of 14 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	8 0 to 8 8	Sheep—Downs (clipped)	11 8 to 12 0
Shortfords	7 8 to 8 8	Ewes (clipped)	7 4 to 8 0
Derons	8 4 to 9 0	Crossbred (clipped)	11 0 to 12 0
Norfolks	7 8 to 8 8	Scottish (clipped)	12 0 to 13 4
Scottish	nominal	Lamb—Downs	12 0 to 13 4
Irish	nominal		
Fat Cows	nominal		

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—JULY 20.

English Epicures	6 0 to 7 0	Dutch	6 0 to 6 6
" Kidneys	7 0 to 8 0		



When you
Rent a Typewriter
have the best possible—
"The ROYAL"

Makes work easy because the touch is so light that the keys would almost appear to anticipate your thought; it makes the work look so well because the sharp, clean-cut letters please the eye, and, in fact, the machine seems to do anything you wish, so adaptable is it. The duplicating is particularly good. Machines can be hired at reasonable rates, by the week, month or any period. Skilled operators provided at any time for special or temporary work.

Portable Typewriters Supplied.

Send your enquiries to:—
ROYAL STANDARD TYPEWRITERS
Dept. E, Royal House, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4
Phone: City 7891.

ROYAL

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS—		INDIA RUBBER—lb		PROVISIONS—		SPICES—Pepper, per lb	
0000A—Duty, British grown	2 54	Almonds, E.I., per cwt	150 0	Para, fine, hard, spot	10 10	Butter—per cwt	220 0	Black Singapore	6 0
25, 4d. foreign	2 54	Cape, good to fine	23 0	Plantation	9 7 8	Do factory	220 0	White Singapore	6 0
Trinidad, per cwt	63 0	Balsam Peru	8 0	Latex	9 7 8	Australian	220 0	White Siam	6 0
Granada	50 0	Capivi	1 6 0	Mid. ord. via to good	9 0	Argentine	220 0	Pimento	6 0
Ceylon, plantation	75 0	Camphor	1 6 0	Low to good ord.	5 6	New Zealand	220 0	Cinnamon—1st sort	1 0
Guayquil	58 0	Japan, refined	3 5	Do low to ord.	1 6	Danish	220 0	Do 2nd	1 0
Bahia, finest	55 0	Cardamoms, Ceylon	1 6	Kurpan, gd. mid. to gd.	6 0	Bacon, engd.—Irish	134 0	Do 3rd	1 0
COFFEE—British grown	2 54	Caster oil	4 4	Low to mid.	5 6	Peru	152 0	Chips	6 0
25, 4d. foreign	2 54	Gum Benjun, Sum. cwt	5 0	RRMP—per ton	48 0	Canadian	140 0	Cassia Ligna	6 0
E. India (Bencol) and ind.	103 0	Oilbanna, drops	12 0	Manila, "D" Grade	34 0	American	120 0	Cloves—Zanzibar	1 2
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	60 0	Ipocacuanha	2 0	Manila, "A" Grade	31 0	Hams—Irish	140 0	Ginger—per cwt	3 10
Good to fine	100 0	Musk yod, China	95 0	Native first marks	35 10	Lard—Irish	70 0	Coccol, cut	100 0
Central American, gd.	100 0	Oil, Casia	4 4	July Aug. 1st grade	35 10	American	132 0	Do small rough	57 0
ord. to mid	70 0	Peppermint, H.G.H.	22 0	LEATHER—per lb	1 1	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Do washed	57 0
Mid. to fine	83 0	Do good to low	45 0	Do 10/12	1 1	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Japan	45 0
Columbian, ordinary	63 0	Do mid. to fine	85 0	Do 12/14	1 1	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Jamaica, small	45 0
Do gd. ord. to low	45 0	CHEMICALS—		Do 14/16	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Mace	215 0
Do mid. to fine	85 0	Acid, citric	2 54	Do 17/18	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Nutmegs, good to fine	1 1
Acid, citric	2 54	Nitric	0 8	Do 18/20	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Small to medium	1 1
Oxalic	0 8	Tartaric	1 54	Do 20/22	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Oilbills—per cwt	10 0
Foreign	2 54	Foreign	2 54	Do 22/24	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	TALLOW—per cwt	41 0
Alum lump	15 0	Alum lump	15 0	Do 24/26	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Good mutton	41 0
Do ground	15 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 26/28	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Beef	40 0
Ammonia, carb. p. lb	4 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 28/30	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	E. I. Flake, fair, spot	23 0
Muriate, White, ton	60 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 30/32	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Pearl	21 0
Sulphate	60 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 32/34	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Foreign 84 per lb	10 0
Arsenic, lump, per ton	65 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 34/36	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	TEA—duty 6 d, British	20 0
Powder	42 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 36/38	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Indian and Ceylon	10 0
Ashes, pot.	70 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 38/40	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Pekoe	10 0
Pearl	60 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 40/42	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Broken Pekoe	10 0
Bleaching pwr. p. lb	13 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 42/44	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Orange Pekoe	10 0
Borax, crystals	29 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 44/46	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Broken Orange	10 0
Do powder	30 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 46/48	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Pekoe Souchong	10 0
Cream Tartar	114 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 48/50	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Second, fair to fine	400 0
Calomel	4 11	Do ground	15 0	Do 50/52	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	TN Orange	355 0
Iodine, dry	1 9	Do ground	15 0	Do 52/54	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Garnet, Lac. AG	355 0
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton	15 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 54/56	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Button—Pure	450 0
Potash	114 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 56/58	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Blocky (TN)	350 0
Chlorate, net	0 44	Do ground	15 0	Do 58/60	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	SILK—per lb	25 0
Frassate	1 4	Do ground	15 0	Do 60/62	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	China—Blue Elephant	25 0
Do Foreign	23 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 62/64	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Canston	32 0
Sulphate	23 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 64/66	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Tussah	15 0
Sal-Acetates	1 18	Do ground	15 0	Do 66/68	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Re-reeled	15 0
Sal-Ammoniac, p. cwt	60 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 68/70	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Japan	35 0
Soda-Bicarb. per ton	210 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 70/72	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	India	35 0
Crystals, ex ship. p. ton	7 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 72/74	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	SHALLS—M. P. per cwt	15 0
Alkali	8 15	Do ground	15 0	Do 74/76	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Macassar	15 0
Castile	22 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 76/78	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	W. Australian	15 0
Sugar of lead white	0 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 78/80	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Bombay	15 0
Foreign white	42 10	Do ground	15 0	Do 80/82	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	SUGAR—per cwt duty 25s	84 0
Sulphate Quinine	2 2	Do ground	15 0	Do 82/84	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	B. W. L. multi-variety	35 0
English Brands	2 2	Do ground	15 0	Do 84/86	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Crystallised	42 0
Sulphate Copper, p. ton	27 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 86/88	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Java, c.i.f.	21 0
Zinc, cut	14 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 88/90	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Rawlston	21 0
Sulphur Flour	14 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 90/92	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Cuba	45 0
Do Roll	13 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 92/94	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Crushed	56 0
Vermillion, Chinese, p. lb	4 4	Do ground	15 0	Do 94/96	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Crystallised	51 0
English	4 4	Do ground	15 0	Do 96/98	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Castor	51 0
COPIA—per ton, c.i.f.	2 5	Do ground	15 0	Do 98/100	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	N. S. V. greasy, super	55 0
Malabar, June Aug	25 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 100/102	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	N.Z. grey, hiford (50-56)	16 0
Ceylon	25 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 102/104	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8	Crossbd. (40-44)	16 0
FMS Singapore	22 7 6	Do ground	15 0	Do 104/106	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8		
FW Australa	24 15 0	Do ground	15 0	Do 106/108	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8		
COCHINEAL per lb	2 9 3 6	Do ground	15 0	Do 108/110	2 0	Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	11 8		

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XXV.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1922

No. 4,118.

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)

BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

Capital and Reserve Fund - Kr. 112,000,000.00

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.
BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.
MESSRS. COX & CO.
LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1884.

Capital (paid up):
Esc. 24,000,000

Reserve Funds:
Esc. 27,200,000



Branches as Under.

82 offices in Portugal.
28 " " East and West Africa.
6 " " Brazil.
6 " " India and China.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
New York Office—98, Liberty street.
Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—27B, Throgmorton street.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, paid up ... 348,786,000
Reserve ... 180,000,000
Deposits ... 5,079,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.
Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

London Office - 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
Manager: E. CONSOLO.
Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	181	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	202
A Plea for Greater Publicity	183	New Issues	202
Fabric Gloves	184	Active Securities	203
The Palestine Mandate....	184	Company Meetings	204
South Africa, Australia, and the Gold Standard	185	Government Returns—	
Position in Central Europe	187	Currency Notes Account ..	216
Foreign Taxation of Shipping Profits	188	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	216
Branch Shop Companies ..	189	Public Income and Expenditure	216
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
The Cattle Embargo	190	Bank of England	217
Russia at the Hague	190	Clearing Returns	217
West Indian Problems ..	190	Overseas Bank Returns ..	217
Strife in Paraguay	191	Loan and Discount Rates ..	219
President de Alvear's Visit	191	Overseas Bank Rates	219
Rebuilding the Bank	191	Rates of Exchange	219
Home Railway Dividends..	191	Bullion	220
South African Banking and Development	192	Imports and Exports of Gold	220
Dutch Rubber Restrictions	192	Gold and Silver Prices ...	221
Base Metal Producing Companies	192		
Irish Linen and the U.S. Tariff	192		
Pre-War House Building..	193		
Deep Sea Fisheries	193		
Overseas Correspondence—		Company News—	
United States	193	Mining Outputs	203
France	194	Rhodesian Gold Output ..	203
Germany	195	Reports and Notices	221
Argentina	197	Dividend Announcements ..	221
Poland	198	Railway and Tramway Traffic Returns	222
Sweden	199	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	223
Switzerland	199		
Letters to the Editor—		Commercial Reports—	
Inter-Allied Debt Cancellation	199	Corn Trade	223
The Cattle "Embargo" ..	200	Iron and Coal Trade	224
Books and Publications—		Wool Trade	224
A Coal Trade Study	201	Cotton Trade	225
Unemployment	201	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds ..	226
The Bankruptcy of Bureaucracy	201	Hide and Leather Trades ..	226
Books Received	201	Overseas Produce Markets ..	22

those bills at less than 2½ per cent. discount had little effect on market rates.

	July 28, 1922.	July 21, 1922.	July 14, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3½	(July 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1½	(July 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1½	(July 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	(July 13, '22)
Market rate (3 mths' bills) ..	1½	1½	1½	2½	..

The Bank return showed an increase of £501,000 in the note circulation, presumably owing to the holiday demand for currency, and a small addition to the stock of gold, leaving the Reserve half-a-million lower. Other securities were reduced by 4 millions, and Public deposits by 7½ millions, and the Other deposits were thus 3 millions higher. The circulation of currency notes shows a further reduction this week of £1,163,700 to £299,447,200, which includes £1,585,700 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £246,711,500, or £63,276,900 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The approach of the holiday season has begun to make its influence felt on Stock Exchange business, and after fairly busy conditions in some markets during the first three days the volume of transactions fell away towards the close of the week. War Loan is dull, and large lines of conversion stock have come on the market. Indian stocks have held their recent advances. French bonds have fluctuated sharply with the see-saw of exchange. Home railway prior charge stocks enjoyed some improvement, and the ordinary stocks, on the whole, were firm on the dividend announcements. Rubber and oil markets have been weak and dull. Among industrial descriptions colliery shares are prominent owing to coal shipments to America, and tobacco shares are in strong demand. There has been an improved demand in the Kallir market on the strength of reductions in mining costs. Chartered fell back after the meeting. Junior Grand Trunk stocks became unsaleable yesterday on the Privy Council judgment.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

The commodity markets appear to be under the influence of the prevailing holiday spirit. Our Manchester correspondent reports that in the cotton trade buyers are inclined to hold back orders in anticipation of lower values, although at the London wool sales, while prices display no upward tendency, business is regarded as satisfactory. Prices of pig-iron are weak and transactions are few, while our Middlesbrough correspondent states that the steel rolling-mills can barely keep going with their limited orders. The American demand for coal, however, has brought about a complete change in the Cardiff coal market. Best Admiralty, which a week ago was priced at 24s 6d, is now quoted at 32s 6d, with a rising tendency, and other descriptions of coal have advanced in sympathy. A slight improvement is noticeable in forward quotations for linseed oil, but prices in the hide market were slightly weaker for most descriptions of skins.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Quieter conditions have prevailed on the exchange market during the last few days, and although rates have been far from steady, the excitement of the previous week seems for the moment quietened. Impending political events once more overshadow the market, and operators are inclined to await the outcome of the French Premier's London visit. Meantime, Berlin has again relapsed to 2,390, and the fortunes of the mark continue sympathetically to affect Allied currencies. Paris, which rallied on Monday to 52.55, did not retain this gain, and gradually fell away to 53.80 on Wednesday. The present quotation of 53.60 shows a depreciation of about 50 centimes since the close last Saturday. Paris forward dealings are now about 7½ centimes per month over spot. The spread between French and Belgian francs has remained round three francs during the week, and Brussels is now quoted at 56.60. Italy, which rose from 95.40 on Monday to 97.40 on Wednesday, has since recovered a part of this loss at 96.80. The New York rate, which was inclined to fall away earlier in the week, rallied fractionally on Thursday, and further recovered yesterday to 4.45½, showing

a net drop of about 50 cents since last Saturday. Forward dollars are now quoted 1½ per month over spot. Switzerland and Holland have moved in favour of this country, the present rates of 11.47 and 23.42 both showing rises for the week. Spain, however, has remained steady, and the quotation 28.62 is practically unchanged. Of the Scandinavians, Norway and Sweden have both moved against us at 26.33 and 17.07 respectively, but Denmark, on the other hand, is fractionally higher at 20.69. Vienna has not retained last week's gain, and kronen have again slipped back to 150,000. The Polish rate is also weaker, at about 26,500. Helsingfors is fractionally higher at 213, and Bucharest is a shade better round 700. Eastern exchanges have been quiet, and rupees remain unchanged at 1s 3½d, while the silver exchanges following the price of the metal have had a weaker tendency, Shanghai being now 3s 5½d to 3s 6d. Little change is evident in South Americans, except in the case of Valparaiso, which has further improved to 34.10.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended July 22, 1922:—

Receipts.	Min. £	Expenditure.	Min. £
From Revenue	19,685	Supply Services	6,600
		Interest on Debt	361
		Sundries	450
		Reduction of Debt	12,138
		Added to Exchequer balances ..	136
			19,685

The total revenue during the week ended July 22, 1922, amounted to £19,685,360, as compared with £29,095,869 during the week ended July 23, 1921. Expenditure was reduced from £19,286,894 a year ago to £7,411,604. The expenditure under the head of interest, &c., on the War Debt amounted to £361,732, against £2,294,174 a year ago. The receipts from Property and Income-tax reached £6,673,000, against £7,056,000 a year ago. Customs at £2,107,000 are £1,694,000 lower than a year ago. Excise at £7,511,000 compares with £8,615,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £12,137,625, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
Unemployment Insurance	+ 430	Public Department Advances ..	5,839
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 431	War Loan Surrenders	734
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 30	Treasury Bills	11,096
		Sundries	200
	+ 5,731		17,869

The floating debt was reduced by £16,934,000 to £927,048,500 during the week ended on Saturday last.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to July 22, 1922).

Total spent	230,345,286	Raised by revenue ..	252,522,499
Dec. in balances	7,144,001	Net repayments	29,321,214
Total	223,201,285	Total	223,201,285

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

Ordinary Expenditure	£23,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000

Surplus

706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 & 5% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,996	1,956	1,943	1,943	1,973
4% Funding Loan	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	405	405	405	405	405	405	405
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	360	357	348	346	346	346	346
5½% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	265	265	265	265
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	273	380	310	310
Do by tender 4½%	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	40
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	765
Exchequer Bonds	80	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Nat'l Savings Certs.	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	345
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Debt	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,082
American Loan	...	51	51	51	51	...	...	...	...
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	161
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,689
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,740

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	July 23, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	July 22, '22.	July 22, '22.	Movement Week ended July 22, '22.
Temporary Advances	£	£	£	£	£	£
standing	18,500,000	18,500,000	18,500,000	18,500,000	18,500,000	18,500,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	126,974,000	126,974,000	126,974,000	126,974,000	126,974,000	126,974,000
Advances by Public Deposits ..	147,301,500	147,301,500	147,301,500	147,301,500	147,301,500	147,301,500
Treasury Bills outstanding ..	1,207,197,000	1,207,197,000	1,207,197,000	1,207,197,000	1,207,197,000	1,207,197,000
Total Floating Debt	1,332,651,000	1,332,651,000	1,332,651,000	1,332,651,000	1,332,651,000	1,332,651,000

A PLEA FOR GREATER PUBLICITY.

THE system of private enterprise on which the recent material progress of the Western world has been built up has been subjected to sustained and often bitter criticism. Undoubted flaws have indeed from time to time emerged, and many of those who think that its underlying principles are likely to govern society, at all events for a very long time to come, have felt it to be of the utmost importance that no effort should be spared to bring it more closely into harmony with the public interest. The sense of national unity and co-operation engendered by the war stimulated a desire for a better and more harmonious order in industry and trade. The "National Movement Towards a Christian Order of Industry and Commerce" is an instance of this in one direction. Developments with perhaps a less consciously idealistic motive are the discussions not only in Labour circles, but among employers and business men, of means for promoting a greater spirit of co-operation. In all such discussions the one conclusion common to them all is the need for greater frankness and publicity.

The arguments for steadily increasing publicity as to economic affairs in the interest of investors, wage-earners, and consumers, and, indeed, of the public generally, are many-sided and cogent. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the whole case for competitive enterprise depends upon it. It is commonly maintained that competition is the best means of ensuring that the maximum productivity of the national resources will be attained, and that capital, under the stimulus of profits, and labour, through the attraction of high wages, will move most freely into those channels where it can be employed with the greatest advantage to the community. But the argument falls to the ground if and in so far as profits are successfully concealed. The economic function of the investor can only be very inadequately carried out if he is working in the dark, and the same is true of those who might embark upon new ventures or enlarge the scope of existing ones. We fully appreciate the natural instinct of directors who are not anxious to encourage competition by disclosing profits, but we must face the fact that in this respect there may be a genuine conflict between personal interests and those of the public which may require the encouragement of such competition. We have more sympathy with the argument of those who are genuinely afraid that if figures are revealed they will be misunderstood or lead to harmful results when times are good by exciting the cupidity of shareholders or of wage-earners when the true interests of a concern demand that its resources should be conserved. But it is not impossible to educate the public and the wage-earner as to the necessity of adequate reserves and the nature of depreciation, and in any case any disadvantages in this respect cannot weigh against the evil results of the alternative policy of secrecy, for when it is realised that the whole truth is not told, suspicion is inevitably aroused.

This brings us to a consideration of a different kind. It is our considered opinion that a very great deal of the industrial unrest of recent years would have been avoided if workpeople had known the true facts as to wages and profits. From time to time estimates have been made of the nation's wages bill, which has been shown to be, say, half of the total national income; and from this it has been assumed that there is a large fund of profits, out of which the level of wages and the status of the manual labourer could have been considerably raised simply by redistribution. This is not the place to discuss the flaw in this argument, which has been faithfully dealt with by Prof. Bowley and others; but the dissatisfaction to which it has given rise would not have arisen if it had been met in detail by a simple authentic disclosure of the facts relating to particular industries. In this connection a remarkable example is to hand in the case of coal industry. No one who has

followed the recent history of that trade can doubt that the exceedingly difficult circumstances through which it has been passing would have aroused far greater bitterness of feeling against the employers, had it not been that the actual results of the working of the mines have been made known month by month to the miners, who have thus been able to see for themselves what are the true causes which control their situation to-day. Mr Herbert Smith in his presidential address to the Miners' Federation last week dwelt upon this fact in a highly significant manner. "The decision to supply information to the workmen," he is reported as saying, "as to cost of production had been of the greatest possible advantage to the workmen in assisting them to understand more fully the finances of the industry. The Federation desired to have still greater information than was now given, but it was a source of pleasure to think that the owners themselves had acceded to their request for further information without their having to go before the independent chairmen, who had already given a decision against the workmen. He was convinced that if the owners took the workmen still more into their confidence a much better spirit would prevail throughout the districts."

What is true of labour in industry applies also to the public generally in relation to monopolies and the often ill-founded charge of profiteering. Where trade or industrial combinations flourish all experience shows that public disclosure of the facts is the first essential step in safeguarding the public against the abuses of monopoly. If exploitation is shown to exist, the way is opened for competition or, failing that, to whatever regulation may be deemed expedient. If, on the other hand, no undue profiteering is revealed, the uneasiness of public opinion is set at rest.

Another equally important aspect of this question is the need of much fuller knowledge if we are to learn in the future to minimise the grave evils which result from recurring periods of over-trading followed by depression and unemployment. These fluctuations are largely to be attributed to faulty adjustment of supply to the world's requirements, to excessive production in particular directions, and to the accumulation of stocks to meet a demand which is inaccurately gauged. Clearly, fuller and more widely disseminated information will tend to lessen these errors; even the influence of harvest variations, which are beyond our control, can be more accurately discounted and their harm minimised by fuller knowledge. Those who are responsible for our banking policy are often criticised and held responsible for not checking these movements before they get out of hand, and in future it is to be hoped that more may be done in this direction. But it is a difficult matter to know at what moment to perform the invidious task of checking the optimism of the business world when it is in full cry, and it is not to be expected that it will be adequately performed without much fuller economic data than exist at present.

We have not space to elaborate these various aspects of the problem or to deal further with their importance. But we have recalled them because we have recently observed with regret a not unnatural tendency to greater reticence in financial and other statements. Within the last few months we have had occasion to call attention to several such instances. A prominent case is the failure of the railway companies to publish figures of their net revenue without which the public is unable to judge the merits of the rates question. In joint stock company accounts there are many flagrant instances, two of which—Vickers, Limited, and the Niger Company—have recently come up for notice. In the case of great amalgamations or of holding companies there is a special danger, even where a fairly detailed statement of accounts is presented, that the true state of affairs may be concealed by combining the figures of differing types of enterprise, and this can only be met by presenting statements in respect of, at all events, the main component concerns. Messrs Vickers, Limited, however, whose interests cover a substantial fraction of the engineering industry of Great Britain, have actually converted one of their main constituent companies from a public into a private company. Examples could be multiplied at length, but we will only mention that amongst the worst offenders in recent years

have been the great shipping companies, which have reduced reticence to so fine an art that the assets side of their balance-sheet has become one solitary item—in the case of the P. and O. Company of a value of over £23 millions.

These instances are recalled not because they are deserving of special censure, but in order that we may remind our readers that, though the Government collects a certain amount of economic statistics, the overwhelming mass of information which is available as to production as well as on financial conditions is produced voluntarily and as a matter of custom and tradition. It is, for example, often overlooked that even public joint stock companies are not legally compelled to publish a balance-sheet, although they normally undertake to do so in their articles of association. It may be that the time has come for reconsidering the obligations as to publicity which should be laid upon joint stock companies, in view of the vastly important interests which are involved. But the matter is one, in the first instance, for the serious consideration of the business community. If the financial and industrial leaders of Great Britain accept the view we have put forward they can by their example do much to develop commercial practice in this direction without recourse to the hampering restrictions of statutory regulations. But whether adequate knowledge of the facts of business comes voluntarily or under compulsion, we are convinced that it is the only condition on which in the long run the continuance of the system of private enterprise will be tolerated.

FABRIC GLOVES.

As was fully anticipated, the Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade—late the Statutory Committee on Fabric Gloves and Glove Fabrics—has reported unanimously against the fine cotton spinning industry of Lancashire. The Committee were asked to inquire whether the imposition of a duty of 33½ per cent. on fabric gloves imported from Germany would adversely affect employment in Lancashire, and they have replied that no convincing case for Lancashire has been made out. The whole question turned upon whether there were sources of supplies of fine yarns other than those of Lancashire to which the glove fabric weavers of Saxony could turn if they resented the application of a British duty on their goods, or if their sales of gloves in this country materially fell off as the result of a duty. In the opinion of the Committee there was no reason to suppose that Saxony either could or would turn to other sources of supply. France and Switzerland, which might supply the fine yarn required—at a price—already imposed import duties on German gloves, and when it came to price, Lancashire could always undersell France and Switzerland in fine yarns. One gathers from the report of the Committee that, in their opinion, Lancashire has been crying out before she was hurt, and is, in any case, not likely to be hurt. She is, in fact, too strong to be hurt. The Germans, they suggest, would rather pay the British duty themselves than see their sales of fabric gloves in this country seriously diminished, and they hint that there is plenty of margin available in the depreciated mark which would permit the Germans to pay the duty. The impression left by the Report is that the Committee regarded the whole question of a temporary duty on German fabric gloves—the clauses of the Safeguarding of Industries Act under which the duty would be imposed expire in August of 1924—as not worth making a fuss about. They evidently think that the German exporters will pay the duty, and that fabric glove makers in this country will not be a penny the better for the duty nor Lancashire fine spinners a penny the worse.

The case has been a very instructive one to those who recognise the far-reaching importance to Great Britain and to the world of our fiscal policy, and in particular has brought out the absurdity of making the question of an import duty depend upon an investigation of the effect upon employment in a particular, and in this case a minor, industry. If we allow our action to be based on

this consideration, and carry the principle to its logical conclusion, we shall utterly destroy the foundations of Great Britain's economic life. For if we attempt to deny the principle of international division of labour, there is no length to which we may not go. Why, for example, should we not grow the raw cotton itself? If we only spend sufficient labour and capital upon it we can grow tropical products in this country, or why should we not insist upon the yarn for the fabric glove industry being spun on the spinning wheel? It is surely not difficult to prove that, if we set our minds to it, we could occupy the population of a whole town in catering for the needs of this favoured trade. The argument behind the demand of the glove industry for protection in the interests of the people employed in it is the same argument that has been used in favour of retaining every uneconomic process and every uneconomic industry throughout the whole of our history, and it is always an unassailable one so long as consideration is confined to the numbers that might be employed in a particular occupation. If, as our Protectionists desire, this argument is applied all round, the result will be national poverty.

In Monday's debate the Coalition-Liberals will no doubt shelter themselves behind the argument implied in the Committee's Report that, after all, the principle of a fixed rate of duty embodied in the Act is faulty, and that the duty will not, in fact, keep German gloves out or spoil Lancashire's market. But this process of reasoning surely represents a rather weak type of compromise with conscience and principle. That its machinery is ineffective is scarcely a sound reason for bolstering up a bad Act. The fact remains that the Safeguarding of Industries Act, faulty or not, ineffective or not, sets out to reverse the fiscal policy under which this country has maintained its world-wide commerce. It must be small consolation for those Free-traders who are about to reverse our traditional policy, and thereby weaken Great Britain's position as the upholder of international specialisation, to reflect that the actual step now in contemplation is for the moment a completely ineffective one.

THE PALESTINE MANDATE.

TOWARDS the end of last week there was a lively fear that the question of the Palestine Mandate would again be suspended owing to difficulties arising out of the political crisis in Italy. Fortunately, the Council of the League was able to proceed with its business, and on Monday stamped its formal approval upon the British Mandate for the Holy Land. This event is doubly welcome; for not only was a quick decision by the Council most desirable in view of the position in Palestine, but also any further postponement of the Mandates question would have been a blow at the prestige of the League. We have been fortunate enough to obtain a copy of the final draft of the Palestine Mandate as approved by the Council. This historical document, which we hope will soon be made available to the general public, at present appears to be in short supply. It contains 28 articles, but the principal points lend themselves to brief summary. Article 2 strikes the keynote by laying down that the Mandatory "shall be responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative, and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home, and the development of self-governing institutions and also for safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine irrespective of race and religion." Article 3 stipulates the encouragement of "the widest measure of self-government for localities consistent with the prevailing conditions." Article 4 provides for the consultation of the Government with a representative body of Zionists, and Article 5 prohibits the cession or lease of Palestine territory to any foreign Power. Article 6 refers to "the close settlement by Jews on the land, including State lands and waste lands not required for public purposes," and Article 7 to the acquisition in Palestine of citizenship by Jewish immigrants. Article 9 deals with the establishment of a Judiciary designed to safeguard the rights of foreigners and "law and (to the extent deemed expedient) the juris-

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

diction now existing in Palestine with regard to questions arising out of religious beliefs of certain communities....." Article 11 enjoins on the Mandatory to take proper measures for the development of the country, and Article 12 entrusts to the Mandatory the control of the foreign relations of Palestine.

With the next two articles we come to the vexed question of the Holy Places. "All responsibility.....including that of preserving existing rights, of securing free access to the Holy Places and religious buildings and sites, and the free exercise of worship, while ensuring the requirements of public order and decorum, is assumed by the Mandatory, who will be responsible solely to the League of Nations in all matters connected therewith." Thus Article 13, which ends by stipulating that the Mandate confers no authority "to interfere with the fabric or the management of purely Moslem sacred shrines, the immunities of which are guaranteed." Article 14 is calculated further to allay susceptibilities and apprehensions as regards these Holy Places. It provides for the appointment by the Mandatory (subject to the approval of the Council of the League) of a Commission to frame a report defining rights of ownership, use and access in respect of the Holy Places. This report is to be laid before the Council of the League, and when confirmed is to be binding on the Mandatory. Any sect, if not satisfied by the provisions of the Commission's report are that the provisions of the League, who may being carried out, may appeal to the League, who may thereupon call for a further report from the Commission. Article 15 provides for complete freedom of conscience and religious toleration, and concedes the right of each and religious community to maintain its own schools for the education of its own members in its own language. The administration may organise on a voluntary basis the forces necessary for the preservation of peace and order and for the defence of the country (Article 17). Article 18 prohibits discrimination in the matter of taxation, commerce, navigation, &c., between the nationals of various countries, or discrimination against goods originating in any of these States, and lays down that there shall be "freedom of transit under equitable conditions across the mandated area." But the administration may, of course, impose such taxes and Customs duties as it deems necessary. The main point in other articles is that the Mandatory is to conform to international conventions approved by the League.

The question of the Holy Places has claimed a large measure of the attention which has been devoted to the Mandate. We cannot, as Lord Balfour has said, pretend to hope that there will not be further discussions, or that historical controversies will suddenly die. But the provisions described above should assure the various religious bodies that the only wish of Great Britain is to secure absolute justice and safeguard cherished rights. "The last thing," said Lord Balfour, at the concluding and public session of the Council this week, "we wish is to deprive any man, any community, any nation, of the rights to which they have a claim, and our solitary wish is that all these ancient rights shall be carried on

with decency and order in the future, and in a manner which will prevent any religious interest feeling that it has been unjustly treated by those who possess authority." But of high importance as the question is, it is secondary to the question whether the terms of the Mandate hold out the prospect of a peaceful and prosperous Palestine. The Mandate terms are, of course, only a sketch of the foundations on which the structure of constitution and government is to be reared. But so far as the terms go, they sketch out the lines of government which should enable the desired end to be achieved. For the ideas that run through the Mandate are the provision of a national home for the Jews in accordance with the 1917 pledge, but of equal citizenship and equality of justice for all sections of the community, of religious and educational freedom, and of equality of commercial opportunity and of fiscal burden for all nationalities. It is to be feared that the Arabs remain dissatisfied and disappointed. Indeed, a protest against the approval of the Mandate has already been made. But there is surely ground for hope that before the new régime has lived very long they will find that (although what they regard as a broken pledge may never be forgotten), they have, in fact, obtained a just status under a Government that accords them every right and opportunity in all spheres of life. In our view the terms of the Mandate promise the best possible way out of the difficult situation with which the British Government was faced; and we hope that actual experience of their translation into practice under British supervision will steadily kill the grievances of the past. Lord Balfour made an eloquent appeal to dissatisfied parties to refrain from agitation, and to give the new régime a chance. Incredible though they may be, the pains taken to provide every safeguard in the Mandate terms should be sufficient to persuade the Arab community to wait until the test of experience has been applied to Lord Balfour's expression of hope that a new era of good government and prosperity is dawning in the Holy Land.

SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, AND THE GOLD STANDARD.—I.

THE new interest which the British public has learnt to take in monetary matters has not yet extended to the currencies of South Africa and Australia. At first sight, indeed, these seem to form an unexciting topic. The unit of account of both countries is the pound sterling; there is no exchange market of the ordinary type in which their money is freely bought and sold for ours; and, accordingly, there are no exchange quotations to intrigue us with their fluctuations appearing daily in the newspapers. Corresponding to them there are, it is true, the statements issued by the colonial banks, indicating the premium or discount charged or allowed on the remittance of money between London and these Dominions. But the premium or discount is usually trifling, and, in appearance at least, has remained so, even under post-war

conditions. The fortunes of the South African pound and the Australian pound thus appear so closely associated with those of the British pound, that it might seem unlikely that they could raise in themselves any problem of especial interest.

But this association with British money is really a most remarkable fact. In pre-war days, under gold standard conditions, it was natural enough. But, for the time being, the currencies of Great Britain, Australia, and South Africa have alike lost their connection with gold, and in losing it they have lost any necessary connection and in losing it they have lost any necessary connection with one another. To-day they are all, either in form or in effect, inconvertible paper currencies, issued quite independently of one another, and controlled by the very different regulations which commend themselves to the respective Governments and Legislatures of the three countries. In these circumstances the apparent maintenance of exchange stability at the pre-war parity is a paradox, which should puzzle us and stimulate us to explore its causes at least as much as the wildest fluctuations of the krone or the mark.

The same phenomenon has another striking aspect. The great gold-producing and gold-exporting countries have inconvertible paper currencies depreciated in terms of gold. The interests of gold producers plainly lie in the earliest possible restoration of gold standards throughout the world, and the largest possible use of gold in currency reserves and in actual circulation. It was the general abandonment of gold standards during the war which was mainly responsible for the heavy fall (at one time reaching 60 per cent.) in the commodity value of gold, and its present partially recovered value is dependent on the very conservative banking policy of the United States, the permanence of which is perhaps somewhat doubtful. The commodity value of gold is an important matter for Australia, who produced before the war about £9 millions of gold per annum; it is a matter of extreme importance to South Africa, where gold still accounts for well over half her total exports. In the circumstances, there might be expected to prevail in these countries not merely a sentiment in favour of gold standards in the abstract and elsewhere (which, indeed, there does), but an agitation sufficiently determined to secure a prompt return to a gold standard in actual fact at home. As Professor Cannan has well put it, "It is not well for the village bootmaker to declare boots expensive and unhealthy, and to parade himself and his family barefoot. To the leather merchant there is nothing like leather, and to the Transvaal there should be nothing like gold." But the fact remains that the idea of an independent return to the gold standard is not so much as mentioned in Australia, even by the gold producers themselves, while in South Africa, where it was formally considered two years ago, it found small support, was deliberately rejected, and opinion seems to have hardened against it since.

The course of discussion in South Africa is instructive. Until 1920 South Africa maintained, as we still do in Great Britain, the nominal convertibility of the paper pound, and relied on the prohibition of the melting and export of coin to render this convertibility illusory. But with a large native population the leakage of coin over the frontier proved so serious, that it became necessary to face the issue of convertibility squarely and without equivocation. Accordingly, after inquiry by a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly the Currency and Banking Act, 1920, was passed, which provided for the formal suspension of convertibility, though only until June 30, 1923. The prospect of an early reopening of the issue has stimulated a renewed output of monetary pamphlets in South Africa. But, so far as there is controversy, it is of a peculiar type. On the one side the protagonist is Sir Henry Strakosch, whose evidence dominated the Select Committee of two years ago. Sir Henry Strakosch maintains, now as formerly, that "it is not practicable to fix any definite time limit for the resumption of specie payments,"* and argues his case vigorously against—against exactly whom? Chiefly, it would seem, against our own Professor Edwin Cannan, and an article from his pen which appeared in the *Economic Journal* for December, 1920. For the precise arguments of this

article, almost in their original phraseology, are reproduced by Sir Henry Strakosch as representing the opposition which he sets out to refute. This is a remarkable testimony to the cosmopolitan character of monetary discussion in these days. It testifies no less to the absence in South Africa of any effective support for Professor Cannan's views. Even Mr Samuel Evans, whom Professor Cannan singled out for special commendation as the one mineowner who had "risen to the height" of advocating a sound gold policy, has now recanted and declares that "what was within the bounds of practical politics two years or 18 months ago is out of the question now,"† and is content to satisfy his "nothing like gold" proclivities in the remoter field of European problems by deploring the projects for "managed" and gold-economising currencies, emanating from Professor Cassel and Mr J. M. Keynes. Meanwhile, the Currency Conference, appointed by the Government to reconsider the problem, has reported in favour of the extension of inconvertibility until June, 1925. The Government has not yet committed itself; but few things are less probable than a resumption of specie payments in South Africa in 1923, or in advance of Great Britain at any time.

What are the reasons for this prevailing attitude? First there are the ordinary objections to the "deflation," which a return to the old standard would necessitate. These objections are twofold:—(a) The aggravation of trade depression and unemployment which the process of deflation would entail; (b) the added difficulties of Government finance which its accomplishment would leave behind. It is the first of these objections that carries most weight in South Africa, as here. It is felt by the mineowners no less, and perhaps more vividly, than by other classes of the community. For, though the commodity value of gold has fallen since pre-war days, it fetches a premium in terms of money, and the first and most obvious effect of a return to the old gold standard would be the disappearance of this premium. It is all very well to speak easily of the consequential readjustment of wages and other costs; but the process is extremely painful everywhere; and nowhere is it apt to prove more painful than on the Rand, as the recent troubles indicate. But real though this difficulty is, it is only transitional after all, and, if it stood alone, South Africa might perhaps be expected to "rise to the height" of it for the sake of her ultimate interests.

But the other difficulty is not merely transitional. With huge Government debts, fixed in terms of money, and relatively as heavy as our own, few people with a concern for the public finances of South Africa or Australia could contemplate with equanimity a further permanent reduction in the price-level. The point receives an extended application when it is added that part of these debts—a particularly large part in the case of Australia—is owed to Englishmen, and is fixed not in terms of their money, but of ours. Thus, while it is to the interest of South Africa and Australia that the purchasing-power of gold should appreciate, it is equally to their interest that the purchasing power of sterling generally, should not appreciate. Devaluation provides the only means by which these divergent interests can be reconciled. The really surprising thing is, thus, the very cold reception which the gold-producing Dominions have accorded to devaluation schemes. Doubtless this is mainly due to a confusion between the essentials of such schemes and the abominated gold-economising devices which their authors usually append to them as accessories.

There remain two further considerations which have played a considerable part in the South African discussions. Suppose the pains of deflation to have been endured, and specie payments to have been resumed, would it be easy to maintain the gold standard amid all the vicissitudes of post-war trade, and the incalculable possibilities of heavy inter-Governmental payments? The exchange effects of large international payments are not confined to the countries immediately concerned, and the country which first returns to a gold standard in effect places its gold reserves at the disposal of any country which has large obligations to discharge in the United States. We in Britain have seen many times in the last few years how the difficulties of France in meeting Ameri-

* "The Monetary Policy of South Africa." By Mr Samuel Evans.

can claims may serve to depreciate the sterling-dollar exchange. As the franc falls in terms of dollars, it becomes temporarily more profitable for Frenchmen to effect their payments through the medium of sterling, and this sends the pound up in terms of francs, but down in terms of dollars. This movement would take the form of an outflow of gold if gold were allowed to go. The truth appears to be that in order to maintain a gold standard successfully under present conditions, no matter upon what parity, a country requires that its balance of payments should be not merely not absolutely adverse, but relatively as favourable as that of the United States. Perhaps there is no country of which this can be predicted confidently, so long as the future of inter-Allied debts remains obscure. This is the main explanation of the reluctance of countries like Switzerland and Sweden, whose exchanges are near dollar parity, to resume unrestricted specie payments. The same consideration may well give pause to South Africa; later on, we may have to reckon with it seriously here.

Finally, there is the consideration that in returning before Great Britain to a gold standard, South Africa would lose the advantages of exchange stability with sterling. From the ordinary business standpoint, this would be a definite loss, since it is with Great Britain that South Africa does the great bulk of her foreign trade. Here we revert to what is perhaps the most curious feature of the whole situation. How is this apparent exchange stability maintained between inconvertible paper currencies which are unconnected with one another? Is it a reality, or an illusion? If a reality, is it purely accidental, and, therefore, transitory; or is it due to forces whose continued efficacy can be relied upon? We shall reserve the examination of these questions for a succeeding article.

THE POSITION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.—I. GERMAN AUSTRIA.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE present position of the German-Austrian Republic, this miserable remnant of a once mighty Empire, is certainly one of great gravity. One fact must at the outset be patent to all observers: the country needs, above everything, a strong Government. Under present conditions this is indeed a counsel of perfection, for in no country, perhaps, have party strife and the conflicting interests of rival politicians done so much to undermine respect for all government. Having regard to this total absence of moral prestige, in a country where even the sanction of physical force is lacking, we cannot but conclude that it is relatively unimportant who may be at the head of the Government and what schemes may be proposed.

Economy in the administration is obviously the first condition of financial reconstruction, yet officials—whose names are legion—are now paid according to the index number figures, and these, in face of the downward rush of the krone, are always rising. But more serious, because more fundamental than this consideration, is the fact that the little Federal Republic has received as a heritage from the old Empire a veritable surfeit of officials. The railways, for example, cost the Government fabulous sums annually, and the introduction of an eight-hour day, combined with the fact that large numbers of railwaymen who formerly worked in what are to-day the other Succession States, have now, either from choice or from compulsion, attached themselves to the German-Austrian system, has led to an economic impasse. Yet all proposals, whether for handing over the railways to a private syndicate or for reducing the number of officials—which would certainly be a necessary consequence of the former scheme—are almost inevitably doomed to failure in face of the opposition of the trade union of railway workers, which has only recently shown itself once again to be the strongest force in the country. It must, of course, at once be conceded that schemes which would place transport on an economic basis would leave the fundamental question of what the dismissed men are to do quite unsolved.

It is alleged that the banks, of which there are an immense number, have done nothing to help and every-

thing to hinder financial reconstruction. Of course, what in England would be called sound banking is in Vienna an impossibility in view of the continual depreciation of the krone. It is not surprising, in consequence, that bucket shops abound, and that all incentive to saving has disappeared. Why, indeed, consume less than one produces, when the difference, in terms of the national currency, will each month represent less in terms of goods and services? In consequence, business men are always buyers of foreign currency, and the very official who buys a pair of boots is, in a sense, a speculator.

The constant depreciation of the krone is due, in the main, to three causes. (1) The lack of a sound financial policy on the part of the Government. The Budget never will come anywhere near balancing until a great financial effort is made, and this, in view of the political situation, is practically impossible. But this is not the only cause of depreciation, and hence a financial scheme which to-day would be truly heroic might, in a month's time, be wholly inadequate in view of a further fall in the value of the currency. (2) The trade deficit to which the country is condemned if even the present standard of living is to be maintained. Austria needs, amongst other things, both coal and food supplies from abroad. (3) The connection between the krone and the German mark. Much of the coal comes from Germany, and hence Germans are normally in possession of kronen. With each fall in the mark, and, what may often be the same thing, with each recurring reparations payment, the Germans buy foreign currency in Vienna, and help the downward movement of the krone.

But together with, and, in large part, in consequence of these factors, there is a growing lack of confidence in the currency and a feeling of despair as to the future of the country. Inquiry reveals that most shops in Vienna have very depleted stocks, this, in part, thanks to the purchases of foreigners who flock to a country where living is, for them, ridiculously cheap, but also in consequence of the fact that the Austrians themselves prefer goods to paper. In a word, the very foundations of modern economic life are here being undermined.

At present a Bill is being discussed for an internal loan of 400 milliards of kronen, and this is described everywhere as the supreme effort which will save the State. In view of the fact that this year's deficit, as estimated in June last, will be 1,500 milliards of kronen, and as the recent collapse of the currency, combined with the fact already mentioned that officials are now paid according to index number figures, will lead to this estimated deficit being very considerably exceeded, such legislation as that now proposed is almost worthless.

A distinguished Austrian described the Austrian peasant to me as being a greater enemy of the country than all the Jews and profiteers put together. Nevertheless, one cannot be surprised at the peasant's lack of confidence in the legal tender, and, in view of the Government's notorious lack of authority over the Provinces, the attitude of *saave qui peut* is quite understandable. To the countryman, Vienna appears as the home of Bolsheviks and profiteers. This judgment is certainly unfair as far as the mass of the Viennese, both workers and middle class, is concerned. But with the total instability of prices, and the constant rise in the cost of living, the desire of the workman working for private undertakings to share, along with the State official, the privilege of being paid according to the index number, is quite natural, though economically quite unsound.

In the event of a further collapse of the exchange—and there seems to be absolutely no reason for optimism in this respect—the resultant further dislocation in economic conditions must almost inevitably open the door to counsels of despair. The events of last December provide an ominous precedent. It would be futile to deny that the position is exceedingly grave. It seems equally futile to hope for any salvation from within. The people have proved that they are unable to govern themselves, and there is a widespread desire amongst the educated classes for some form of foreign intervention. Recent events have demonstrated that foreign credits, in the absence of strong government, can provide no final solution. Nearly a half of the recent British credit, for example, was used to peg the exchange for about six weeks earlier in the year, and for the million pounds thus spent there is now nothing to show. If the long-pro-

* "The South African Currency and Exchange Problem Re-examined." By Sir Henry Strakosch.

phesied "krach" is to be avoided, some formula must be sought which, while providing for foreign credits, will at the same time provide for such measure of foreign control as will be acceptable to Austria, her neighbours, and the Great Powers. Having regard to the present frame of mind of the Austrian people, this task, though difficult, should not prove impossible. In any case, it is essential that something drastic should be done, and that right early.

FOREIGN TAXATION OF SHIPPING PROFITS.

ONE of the heavy burdens which now hamper British shipping is the toll which it pays in taxation to foreign countries, and, unless the problem is faced and solved at once, there is every prospect of the toll being heavily increased in the near future. It is necessary to state how this burden arises, and, as it is in the main the reflex result of British fiscal policy and practice, to understand what the British policy and practice are. We levy income-tax upon non-resident persons and corporations who derive income "from any trade, profession, employment, or vocation exercised within the United Kingdom." In administering this provision our Revenue officials have displayed a zeal which, though perhaps commendable in its immediate effect of enhancing the receipts of our Exchequer, from wider considerations is questionable in view of the retaliation which it evokes and perpetuates; for they have interpreted it to legalise the taxation of foreign shipowners having vessels trading to this country and offices or agents or subsidiary companies in this country for the purpose of booking freights in this country on their behalf, income-tax being levied upon the profits accruing from those freights. Similarly the United States Government has since 1916 levied income-tax upon the profits made by British shipowners on the freights booked in the United States for their ships trading to the United States. The British shipowner is not allowed to deduct the amount of tax paid abroad from the tax which he pays to his own Government, but may treat it as a working expense and deduct it from his gross profits; he is thus to that extent subject to double taxation. The magnitude of the burden of foreign taxation may be gathered from the amount paid by one British company. Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., at the annual general meeting of the Cunard Steamship Company, on April 26th last, said, speaking of foreign taxation: "In this connection I would mention that for this year we have had to charge to revenue account over £100,000 for payment made, or to be made, to foreign Governments." It is known that the Governments of the Scandinavian countries are watching the situation with interest, and the Norwegian Government has already obtained authority from its legislature to tax the profits of foreign ships trading to its ports.

Last year the American legislature, with an enlightenment which is curiously at variance with the ultra-national tendencies embodied in President Harding's Shipping Subsidy Bill now under discussion, took a step which opens a way out of the international tax war thus well launched on its career. By section 213, sub-section 8, of the American Revenue Act, 1921, it is provided that:—"The term 'gross income' does not include the following items, which shall be exempt from taxation under this title: (8) the income of a non-resident alien or foreign corporation which consists exclusively of earnings derived from the operation of a ship or ships documented under the laws of a foreign country which grants an equivalent exemption to citizens of the United States and to corporations organized in the United States." This offer of reciprocity cannot be ignored; which does not mean that it must be blindly accepted. But the following considerations seem to point towards acceptance. (1) Although the present British policy yields a certain revenue from foreign ships, this yield can be obtained at too high a cost. Broadly speaking, freights on goods (and passengers) are booked in the exporting country. We are an importing country, and the freights on goods imported into this country are mainly booked in the country which exports them. This means that, in so far as these goods are imported from America in British bottoms, (a) our shipowners pay tax to the United States Government (as well as to their own) upon the

profits arising from those freights, and (b) the freights and, in consequence, the delivered cost of the goods are increased. On the other hand, the flow of goods in the reverse direction—United Kingdom to the United States—is very much less; and it would seem that in a fiscal contest of this kind an exporting country is bound to come off best.

(2) Another factor is that a large part of American tonnage is at present in effect Government-owned, and, it is believed, accordingly exempt from British taxation. But in so far as the United States Shipping Board continues its policy of disposing of its tonnage, this inequality against British tonnage will tend to disappear.

(3) The result of the present position is that, while the other leading maritime countries of the world abstain from taxing the profits of one another's shipping, the British ship is faced with the prospect of a demand for tax wherever she enters an American port to earn a freight booked in that country. Her Scandinavian and other competitors, on the other hand, are immune from this burden so long as their Governments refrain from taxing American ships. Thus in exchange for the revenue which the British Exchequer receives from American ships, the British ship is saddled with a severe handicap in competing for the shipping trade of the world. If a return were forthcoming from Somerset House as to the amount of tax thus flowing into the Exchequer, it might be possible to arrive at the purely financial equation. But even if that showed a credit balance in favour of the yield of revenue over the aggregate sum paid in taxation abroad by British shipping (which is extremely doubtful), there would still remain many wider considerations of economic and international importance. Amongst these considerations is the belief that in the long run the country owning the most tonnage will suffer the most from the policy of taxing and counter-taxing foreign shipping.

(4) It is a commonplace to remark upon the value to the United Kingdom of the carrying services rendered to the world by British shipping in maintaining the sound economic position of a country like ours, which must import so much of its food and raw materials, and must pay for those imports somehow. Hitherto those carrying services have played an important part in preserving the balance of trade, and a decline in them can only be viewed with alarm. We were driven to take to the sea in order to get what could only be found overseas, and we have developed a natural aptitude for seafaring which has enabled us to satisfy not only our own overseas transport requirements, but those of a large part of the world. This seafaring aptitude is one of our principal assets, and we must be allowed to develop it to the full. No artificial handicap should be allowed to hold it in check. He is a bold man who suggests at the present moment that the British Exchequer should close any pipe-line which may replenish its tanks. But is this taxation of foreign shipping really a substantial source of supply? It seems to be to foreign shipowners beyond doubt, irksome enough to evoke retaliation. Is it "good business"? One can well understand the embarrassment caused to a shipowner of knowing that if he sends his ship to a foreign port to earn a freight booked there his master will be faced with a demand for an income-tax return (upon which he will probably need expert advice) and for a payment of tax (which his owner was probably unable to calculate beforehand when fixing his freights). If that much misused term "freedom of the seas" has any meaning in British ears, it must mean liberty to ply one's trade at sea without any let or hindrance other than Nature has contrived. In that sense freedom of the seas is essential to British prosperity, and it is because this incipient tax war, with the vista of intensification which it has opened up, trenches upon that freedom of the seas that the question of its continuance or discontinuance merits our serious consideration.

(5) There are also wider questions of international comity and policy which need only be mentioned. No one can deny to a country the right to tax profits earned by a foreigner within its frontiers or territorial waters. But the taxation of profits earned by a foreigner on the high seas or in his own territorial waters is a different proposition. Again, the wisdom of perpetuating a tax war and all its occasions of friction and misunderstanding, with

the object-lesson of Europe in its present condition before us, seems to require more justification than is at present apparent for it.

The whole question was raised last week in the House of Commons upon an amendment to the Finance Bill by the Hon. Alexander Shaw in the following form, closely resembling the American clause:—"There shall be exempted from income-tax the income of a non-resident alien or foreign corporation which consists exclusively in earnings derived from the operation of a ship or ships documented upon the laws of a foreign country which grants an equivalent exemption in respect of shipping registered in the United Kingdom." The amendment was negatived after some discussion, but enough was said to show that more will be heard of the matter before next year's Finance Bill is introduced. We commend to the Government and to the public during that period the fullest exploration of the question. They must be satisfied that the monetary *quid pro quo* being received in return for this burden upon British shipping is adequate compensation for its many and obvious repercussive advantages. A Departmental Committee representative of all interests, including the Foreign Office, the Board of Trade, and the Treasury, would throw a flood of light on the problem.

BRANCH SHOP COMPANIES.

IN May last we published an article reviewing the profits of several companies engaged in retail shop trade in London, and in the following article propose to supplement this with a brief examination into the accounts of several more retail shop companies whose business is run on somewhat different lines, namely, on the principle of a number of branches in various parts of the metropolis and in the provinces, with centralised management. Our list is a miscellaneous one, but the companies are all well known, and will require no introduction. The majority of the reports refer to the year 1921, but some come up to a later date. The fall in prices of commodities was not so severe during 1921 as in the second half of 1920, and the amounts which had to be written off stocks, therefore, were probably not so heavy in 1921 as in the previous year. From the dividend record below it will be seen that three companies raised their dividend distributions for the past year:—

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
Bobby and Co.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Charles Baker and Co.	nil	5	10	10	6	6	8	8	10	10	10	12
Home and Colonial ("A")	nil	20	20	20	25	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Hope Brothers	5	8	8	9	10	10	10	10	12	12	12	16
International Tea Stores	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	12	12	12	12
Lipton	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Maynard's	nil	nil	nil	4	6	4	7	7	10	10	10	10
Parke's Drug Stores	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	10	10	10	10
Pim Bros.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Plummer, Roddis	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

* Free of income-tax.

A year ago the Home and Colonial dividend, which was reduced from 30 to 15 per cent., was paid on a capital which had been raised from £100,000 to £400,000, and the past year's increase in the dividend to 25 per cent. must be regarded as very satisfactory. The International Tea Company's Stores also has a good dividend record. Four companies reduce their distributions, the explanation of which may be seen in the following table of net profits:—

	1913.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Bobby and Co.	£19,456	£23,461	£30,058	£29,595	£32,249	£51,136	£44,400	£52,900
Chas. Baker & Co.	17,634	17,488	16,367	14,990	21,207	97,314	16,954	3,047
Home & Colonial	179,486	251,537	256,877	226,156	235,650	249,290	267,023	309,875
Hope Brothers	41,553	27,261	51,780	58,171	64,353	116,043	67,552	37,173
Internat'l. Tea	132,733	109,619	140,889	206,741	156,831	240,974	251,581	305,020
Lipton	140,286	104,340	238,530	354,044	380,270	378,229	162,155	205,710
Maynard's	10,716	13,733	26,512	43,332	80,468	148,427	86,508	59,250
Parke's Dg. Sts.	4,326	4,712	5,159	6,675	12,234	15,979	7,383	6,613
Pim Bros.	18,366	24,718	27,726	29,472	23,945	34,725	27,449	Dr 6,377
Plummer, Roddis	20,787	16,997	22,635	20,351	22,111	36,887	16,852	21,878

* Eighteen months.

There is an increase of over £40,000 in aggregate net profits, the two grocery concerns mentioned above being

prominent with substantial increases. Liptons also show a good increase, but the report states that while the home business was good, there were losses of £100,000 incurred abroad, towards meeting which £50,000 was transferred from reserve. Sir Thos. Lipton added at the meeting that the benefit of the reductions in prices, which had been handed on to the consumer, amounted to approximately £160,000, and proportionately reduced the profits on trading. Carriage and freight had cost upwards of £116,000, more than in the previous year, owing to increased railway rates, and £76,000 more had been paid in wages at the retail branches alone. Pim Bros., whose loss on the year's trading was over £6,000, brought £15,000 into the profit and loss account, being part of a claim of £20,000 for refund of excess profits duty, there being "no reason to doubt that the major portion, if not the entire, of this will be recovered." Hope Bros., whose profits show a further substantial decline, suffered in the manufacturing departments, but the retail department, according to the chairman, had been entirely satisfactory.

In the next table we show the principal items of the balance-sheets:—

	Total Liabilities	Re-serves	Leases, Property, &c.	Stock in Trade	Goodwill	Cash & Investments
Bobby and Co.	£1,125,289	£45,000	£572,452	£237,202	£25,155	£82,962
Chas. Baker and Co.	511,994	75,770	143,599	275,959	40,000	22,502
Home and Colonial	3,143,488	532,689	366,715	1,116,668	671,246	895,715
Hope Brothers	980,971	100,000	193,646	411,120	250,000	49,779
International Tea	2,579,882	184,906	654,400	706,724	626,675	150,351
Lipton	5,581,998	500,000	2,008,396	1,501,067	?	544,433
Maynard's	491,870	76,754	116,890	94,371	nil	202,727
Parke's Drug Stores	136,819	25,252	39,037	63,299	12,151	6,744
Pim Bros.	464,051	65,000	*160,000	119,500	?	6,293
Plummer, Roddis	504,355	61,000	207,872	120,031	50,000	3,196

* Includes goodwill.

With the exception of two companies, goodwill, which is, of course, an important item with concerns of this kind, is shown separately. The Home and Colonial and the International Tea Stores both value it at a high figure, but the attitude of the directors of the respective companies towards its reduction shows a curious divergence. At the meeting of the International Tea Company's Stores the chairman, after pointing out that, while freeholds stood at £587,080, their present worth was "something approaching a million sterling," referred to suggestions that goodwill should be depreciated, and characterised them as unsound and stupid. "Our profits are continually increasing, and the goodwill to-day stands at between one and three-quarters' and two years' purchase of profits. If we depreciate the goodwill and continue to increase our profits, and that is what must ultimately happen with the same continuous and sane management that the business now gets, we should bring the goodwill down to one or even half a year's profits. Surely the goodwill of a business such as ours, which has gone ahead for so many years with profits practically always increasing, must be worth something very substantial." The chairman of the Home and Colonial, on the other hand, said that it was not proposed to utilise the excess of the property item at its present-day value over book value, either as capitalisation or in payment of dividends on the share capital, as the weight of legal opinion was against either method, "but by writing down the item of goodwill." In most cases stock-in-trade shows some reduction, but the decline is not so large as might reasonably have been expected. In the final table we show share prices and the yields at the latest quotations:—

Description.	Share.	Present Amount.	Price July 30, 1922.	Price July 31, 1921.	Price July 31, 1920.	Price July 31, 1919.	Price July 31, 1918.	Price July 31, 1917.	Price July 31, 1916.	Price July 31, 1915.	Price July 31, 1914.	Price July 31, 1913.	Present Yield.
Chas. Baker, 8% cum. pref.	1	70,000	5 1/2	5	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 3/4
Home and Col., 6% cum. pref.	1	900,000	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 3/4
Do 15% cum. pref.	1	250,000	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	10 0
Do 15% cum. ord.	1	300,000	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 0
Hope Bros., 5% cum. pref.	1	300,000	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	17 0
Do 5% cum. ord.	1	600,000	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	17 0
Internat. Tea, 6% cum. pref.	1	250,000	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 5/8
Do 7% cum. "A" pref.	1	1,250,000	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 0
Lipton, Limited, Ord.	5	150,000	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 0
Pim Brothers	1	175,000	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2
Plummer, Roddis	1	175,000	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2

In the majority of cases present prices are higher than at this time last year, but the advance is small in comparison with that in many other sections of the Stock Exchange. The yield, however, cannot be called high for the shares of companies of this kind.

[July 29, 1922.]

Notes of the Week.

The Cattle Embargo.—The House of Commons, as frequently happens when members are freed from the control of the Party Whips, registered a common-sense decision on Monday, when a vote in favour of the removal of the cattle embargo was carried by a majority of 78 votes. We do not propose to re-tread the ground covered in our last week's article to explain why we sincerely welcome this decision. But there are several points in connection with the decision that deserve attention. In the first place, we are surprised at Mr Chamberlain's statement that "he did not think there was a chance of passing a Bill on the subject within the Parliamentary session of this year." Mr Chamberlain spoke without consulting the Cabinet, and we trust the Cabinet will take a different view. Now that the Commons have given a definite vote, it is absurd that legislation embodying their decision should be postponed for six or seven months. Since there is to be an autumn session, we can see no possible excuse for such delay. The other important point arising out of the debate is one of Ministerial responsibility. The Cabinet, unable to agree upon the embargo, decided to abandon Cabinet responsibility, and abide by the free decision of the House of Commons. Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen, the Minister of Agriculture, did not adopt the Cabinet attitude. He might have told the House simply that he, as the responsible Minister, was prepared to carry out whatever policy the House thought fit. But he chose a different course. He made a strong speech in favour of the embargo, and declared that its removal "would be a serious blow at the agricultural industry." He is therefore in the position of a Minister who has clearly explained to the House the policy of his department on an important matter, and has seen that policy definitely rejected. In our view immediate resignation is the only course, consonant with the doctrine of Ministerial responsibility, which is properly open to Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen. In recent years we have seen the doctrine of corporate Cabinet responsibility sadly undermined. If individual Ministerial responsibility on departmental questions of the first importance is also to be disregarded, another serious blow will have been struck at the system of democratic government.

Russia at the Hague.—From Thursday's debate in the Commons and the Papers relating to the Hague Conference (Cmd. 1,724, 6d), it appears that the Conference brought the minds of the Russian Delegation nearer to the realities of the situation and to the level of practical common sense. Three non-Russian Sub-Commissions discussed with it separately the restitution of foreign properties, the foreign debts owed or guaranteed by the Russian State and local and public authorities, and the credits demanded by it for the restoration of Russian economic life. But it proposed to make its concessions on the two first questions dependent on a satisfactory solution of the third. The first Sub-Commission, however, ascertained that restitution and compensation would only be granted in exceptional cases, and that several important industries—notably engineering and textiles—would be retained entirely "in the inexperienced and unsuccessful hands of the Soviet Government." Further, there was no security that former owners would get back their businesses, which they themselves had created, or that promises of compensation would be carried out. But, as the Sub-Commission contended, and Mr Lloyd George insisted in the debate on Thursday, Russia can only restore her industries by bringing back the foreign skill and capital which created them; and these a continuance of Government management would inevitably keep out. The second Sub-Commission found that the Budget figures were unreliable, but that continual deficits were certain, and that the persistent refusal to recognise the obligations of the Tsarist Government set a precedent for future repudiation. Moreover, the proposal of the Delegation that negotiations regarding the foreign debts should be conducted directly between the Governments of the creditors' countries and the Soviet Government, instead of directly between that Government and its creditors, would necessitate compelling the latter to accept the

settlement effected, and this was held to be impossible. Ultimately the Delegation suggested a composition by the payment of a lump sum, to be distributed by the foreign Governments; but obviously Russia, which cannot even meet the interest on her obligations, could not find the necessary amount. The third Sub-Commission pointed out that adequate arrangements for granting credits existed already, but that the sum demanded (£322,400,000) must come out of private capital, which would not be offered—especially as the Soviet Government demanded that all credits should be granted directly to itself. This point was admirably emphasised by Comptroller Hilton Young, whose speech elicited a fresh proposal—viz., that the Soviet Government should be invited to acknowledge the debts of the Tsarist Government on terms to be settled within two years between it and the sufferers. This offer the Commission rejected, there being neither machinery nor security for its performance; but it was regarded as opening the way to further negotiation. So the Soviet Government has at last learnt something, and there are signs that it is learning more. This week it is reported to have recognised, to some extent, the rights of property and of inheritance, and to have decided to restore the State monopoly of spirits—which may perhaps be offered before long as the security for a foreign loan.

West Indian Problems.—The report (Cmd. 1679) resulting from the recent tour of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies deals fully with many subjects, of which only the economic group can be noticed here. The sections devoted to them are somewhat depressing. All the staple products are suffering through the world-wide fall in prices, and several from special drawbacks besides. Coconuts and copra, produced chiefly in Jamaica and Grenada and Trinidad will hold its own; it is grown also in Dominica, Jamaica, and St Lucia, but it is only in extension. Jamaica in a good year produces one-third of the world's supply of bananas, and they could be grown in most of the other islands; but the hindrances are hurricanes and "Panama disease." The industry is dominated by the United Fruit Company, which has done much for the tourist traffic. Of its 1,500 employees in the island, all but three are British, and the benefits it confers are substantial, though it is an American "trust." Cotton, the staple product of Montserrat and St. Vincent, and important in St Kitts and Nevis, is of high quality, but suffers from boll-worm and exhausts the soil. For nutmeg, pimento, and arrowroot—grown respectively in Grenada, Jamaica, and St Vincent—the market is always limited, and the last-named is suffering from Japanese competition. The timber trade has great possibilities in Jamaica. Trinidad, of course, flourishes largely on its (struggling) industry, had prospered greatly during the war, and in a less degree for some years earlier; but the war profits went largely to pay off mortgages and modernise the machinery. Rum, its by-product, suffers through American prohibition, and the present price of sugar in Great Britain—even with the whole of the below which the production is unprofitable; and the possible dumping of the Cuban surplus in the British market, and the competition of Continental beet sugar favoured by a depreciated exchange, have set up a demand amongst the growers for a doubled preference for a term of years, during which, should the duties be reduced, it shall be maintained at £3 15s a ton. The report favours this concession, though, as it must be extended to the rest of the Empire, it will entail a loss of revenue; for, should the cultivation be stopped, the lost, there will be grave unemployment, and the elimination of the European staffs will be a serious matter politically and socially. The Dominican lime industry suffers from the competition of Sicilian lemon juice, from decreased demand (chiefly for cocktails) for the fruit in "dry" America, and for citric acid among English calico printers; but the acid is being made (ex-

July 29, 1922.]

perimentally) in the island, and may be brought under the Safeguarding of Industries Act. In spite of all this, there is little or no unemployment, and the bounty of Nature prevents actual hardship. Transatlantic and inter-insular communications have deteriorated, and the islands cannot hope for Imperial pecuniary aid. The report is worth study, both for its explanation of the difficulties which keep back the development of the islands and for the light it throws on the complications incidental to the working of Imperial preference.

Strife in Paraguay.—A South American correspondent, writing in the last week of June, says:—Notwithstanding the frequency with which contradictory reports come to hand from the north regarding the revolution now paralysing all business in Paraguay, it is abundantly plain that the present outbreak is serious. To trace in detail the causes which have led up to the armed revolt of Colonel Chirife in support of Señor Schaerer would not be profitable or interesting. The position at the moment of writing is as follows: Dr Eusebio Ayala, who is actually president, and who professes to act on behalf of Dr Manuel Gondra, the ex-president, whose voluntary resignation was the result of a *coup d'état* accomplished last October, holds Asuncion. Against this capital the troops under Chirife have launched an attack which failed. Some damage was done by shells, and there were several casualties. The railway line has also been destroyed, and certain bridges outside Paraguari have been broken down, that is, assuming reports to be correct. South at Encarnacion, the revolutionaries hold the city, which is being bombed by a Paraguayan gunboat, the *Adolfo Riquelme*, which for the first time is engaged on the official side. Damage has been done to the railway station and to some house property, and many of the inhabitants have fled to Argentine territory at Posadas, which is on the opposite side of the river, and the Argentine terminus of the international railway service, which at that point crosses to Encarnacion by train ferry, and continues on the track of the Paraguayan Central system. A request for aid in arms and munitions, addressed to President Irigoyen by Dr Gondra, has been peremptorily rejected, and attempts of the insurgents to buy material in the Argentine will be summarily dealt with. Meanwhile the business is at a standstill, and to make matters worse, the moratorium granted to the Mercantile Bank of Paraguay ends on June 25th. Before the revolution began it was proposed to extend the period of the moratorium over a further three years, but to do this legally the assent of Congress is required, and with most of the members of this body absent on military duties, a quorum cannot be obtained. Export trade is dead, ports are closed, the season's tained. Orange crop may be considered lost, and even if an early cessation of hostilities can be arranged, so much damage is done that the country will suffer for some years to come. It may be as well to explain that it is not so much the material damage of shot and shell that counts, as the complete dislocation of affairs caused by both sides busily pressing recruits, so-called volunteers, into their service. Nominally, Paraguayan exchange continues to be quoted at \$1,800 Paraguayan to the \$100 Argentine paper, but whether this rate can be maintained when peace reigns once more is highly doubtful. Both sides have taken such public monies as were available for the purpose of furthering their ends, and it is safe to assume that there will be little available for remission to Europe in settlement of the nation's external obligations, whoever may be the victor in the present fracas.

President De Alvear's Visit.—Last week the President-Elect of Argentina was entertained by the King, the Government, and the Lord Mayor of London, and stress was very properly laid at the banquets at Lancaster House and in the City on the historic and economic ties of Argentina with Great Britain, and on its importance, mainly through British capital and enterprise, as a source of supply of British food, especially during the war. Early in the last century, and fortunately for both parties, the country barely escaped forcible incorporation in the British

Empire; later, British money and British sailors aided it to gain independence, and, after a long period of despotic government, civil warfare, and financial disturbance, it settled down in the last decade of the last century as a stable and progressive Federal Republic. British enterprise has developed its cattle ranches, and especially its sheep farms, built its leading railway lines, provided it with the greater part of its trans-oceanic communications, and, more recently, taken over the ownership of much of its river and coastal traffic. British capital has taken up nearly all its foreign loans, and its temporary misfortunes nearly brought about a grave financial crisis in London a generation ago. It emerged, however, from disaster, paid its debts, and entered on a career of prosperity only occasionally broken by the extravagant claims and the turbulence of its Labour unions. Their power, however, has waned of late, and there is no reason to suppose that it will revive under the new President. His experience of European life as Ambassador in Paris has placed him in touch with European opinion, and he represents a very large majority of the Argentine electorate, which, as a whole, sided cordially with the Allied Powers in the war. His visit to London is an auspicious prelude to a period of closer relations between the two Governments and peoples, and Englishmen will cordially wish him a prosperous and successful Presidential term.

Rebuilding the Bank.—The volume of business transacted by the Bank of England has grown so enormously since pre-war days that the staff engaged in various sections of the Bank's duties are scattered over various City offices. Obviously, it is desirable that as far as possible the Bank's activities should be concentrated under one roof, and we are glad to know that the Court of Directors have under consideration plans for reconstructing the famous building in Threadneedle street. We have before us the plans and a sketch of the proposed reconstructed building, which, though not finally accepted as yet, are engaging the careful attention of the Court. A study of the sketch and the plans will please those who approach the problem from the various points of view of sentiment, dignity, and efficiency. In the eyes of the public the supreme merit of the projected plan is that the external ground floor features so familiar to generations of City men are to remain intact. The blank outer wall, the top-lighted halls, and the arrangements for quietude devised by Sir John Soames are to form the basis of reconstruction policy. Judging from the data before us, the central superstructure to be reared above the present shell will complete an imposing and worthy home for the central institution of British finance.

Home Railway Dividends.—A number of home railway dividends have been announced this week. The list below compares the midsummer declarations for the past five years:—

Name.	Mid-summer, 1918.	Mid-summer, 1919.	Mid-summer, 1920.	Mid-summer, 1921.	Mid-summer, 1922.
	Rates per		Cent. per Annum.		
Great Central, 1881....	4	4	4	4	4
Do 1889.....	4	4	4	4	4
Do 1891.....	..	..	..	4	4
Great Eastern.....	1	1	1	4	1
Great Northern, pf. ord.	4	4	4	nil	4
Do Cons. 6% "B" ..	6	4	6	5	6
London and N. Western	5½	5½	6	4	4
London & South-Western	4	4	4	2	2½
London, Brighton.....	2½	2½	2½	4½	4½
London, Chatham, Arb. pf.	4	4½	4½	1½	2½
Metropolitan.....	1	1	1	3	4
Midland, def.....	3½	3½	4	6	6½
North-Eastern Cons....	6	6½	6½	4½	5
North London.....	4½	4½	5	1½	2
South-Eastern, ord.	1½	2	2		

So far, there have been no reductions and some increases. But it must not necessarily be assumed that, where an increase is made in the interim dividend rate, the rate for the full year will be higher than that declared in respect of 1921.

South African Banking and Development.—Mr Clifton Brown's speech made in his capacity as chairman of the Standard Bank of South Africa contained some interesting remarks on recent banking amalgamation. He pointed out that "In the past there has been too much rivalry of the unhealthy kind among banks, with the result that many people have been able to secure more accommodation than their position entitled them to, a state of affairs which is obviously dangerous to the credit of any community." And that "We have reached the point of realising that, whilst healthy rivalry is necessary and beneficial, reckless competition is dangerous to the best financial interests of the country." It was also instructive to learn that, after a tour of South Africa lasting 9½ weeks and covering over 8,000 miles, this responsible City banker was deeply impressed by the "rich possibilities" of the country. Mr Clifton Brown is convinced of the prosperous future before the Union of South Africa, especially in view of the programme of new railway development about to be undertaken by the Union Government. In conclusion, the chairman of the Standard Bank of South Africa expressed his confidence in the bank's future, and its intention to carry out its traditional policy of "steady though cautious progression."

Dutch Rubber Restrictions.—When the representatives of various nations interested in rubber-production voted last month, at The Hague, upon the question of restriction of rubber output in the Netherlands East Indies, a majority of two to one supported the resolution in its favour. This was duly reported to the Dutch Government, and it had a pronounced effect in stirring for a few days the dry bones of the rubber market in the Stock Exchange. Caution suggested at the time that, before making too much of the incident, details of the voting should be awaited in order that the necessary analysis might be applied to show how far the Dutch interests approved a policy which hitherto had been politely rejected by them. The prospective buyer of rubber shares took the hint, and, after a very brief spasm of animation, the share market relapsed into a waiting attitude. This week, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, has brought a *résumé* of the voting by the representatives assembled at The Hague, and the figures are much as might have been expected. The Dutch vote, taken on the acreage of rubber under cultivation, is rather less than two to one against the restriction resolution. Considering the way in which Dutch growers have opposed the policy heretofore, it says a good deal for the change of mind amongst the Dutch that the proportion should not have been materially greater against the scheme. Holders of rubber shares in this country will probably derive encouragement from the figures, particularly when these are supplemented by the knowledge that the matter is receiving careful attention from the Dutch Colonial Minister in Holland and the Agent-General of the Netherlands East Indies. These two gentlemen are in earnest consultation over a subject which has a very direct bearing upon the revenues of the Dutch Colonies, and, indirectly, upon those of Holland. Rubber has again dwindled to the insignificant price of 7½d. per lb., disappointing the hopes of those who anticipated an early return to 1s per lb on the expectation of the Dutch Government agreeing to some plan whereby restriction could be put into force. The British vote at the conference went almost solidly in favour of restriction, but the American interests opposed it by more than 20 to 1, as is natural enough. Americans are the principal consumers, and therefore want rubber as cheaply as possible, although the somewhat ingenuous argument has been advanced that even the consumers would be benefitted by such a rise in rubber as would lead to stabilisation of the price. The chief point gained as a result of The Hague rubber conference was to crystallise the question of restriction into a shape which enabled it to be brought officially before the Dutch Government, already disposed to be sympathetic to suggestions that might serve to revive the diminished rubber revenues of the Netherlands East Indies. The figures which we have quoted do not by any means imply that Holland will decline to take steps appropriate to remedying the present desperate situation. Nevertheless, the

spark of hope kindled in holders of shares in rubber-producing companies that are likely to find themselves plunged before very long into financial difficulties, is again dimmed. The prospect of assistance—in the shape of a rise in rubber—arriving too late to save them from reconstruction or liquidation is, unhappily, getting uncomfortably near in some cases. There are many others, however, where resources have been so skilfully conserved as to enable the companies to hold out for a considerable time in the hope of brighter days coming.

Base Metal Producing Companies.—The rise in metal prices, the issue of several reports, and the declaration of dividends have combined to direct attention to the position of companies winning lead, zinc, tin, and copper. The accounts of the Amalgamated Zinc Company for the half-year ended December 31st show only small receipts; the dividend of 1s per share was paid out of profits earned before the end of 1912 and transferred to equalisation reserve; the further distribution of like amount since declared was provided by the realisation of a portion of one of the company's assets—i.e., dumps of tailings. The net cash assets at the end of 1921 totalled £121,500. As only to be expected, in view of the circumstance that work was in progress for no more than about six weeks of the period, the accounts of the British Broken Hill Proprietary Company for 1921 reveal a substantial loss. The net liquid assets on December 31st amounted to £209,200. Legal proceedings have been initiated with a view to the abrogation of an onerous contract. Hopes are entertained of an amendment of the labour award which presses so heavily upon the Barrier Range companies; but unless any concession granted be of greater extent than that secured in Western Australia, it will afford little relief. The somewhat unexpected declaration of a dividend of 2s by the Broken Hill South Company—the first since the 1s 6d paid in March, 1919—has aroused anticipations with regard to the neighbouring North Company. The cabled summary of the report of the Mount Morgan Company for the year ended May 31st shows a deficit, which would have been greater but for substantial adjustments in respect of preceding periods. Operations were in abeyance from April, 1921 until recently, when they were resumed under the arrangement of a modest reduction in wages combined with a rebate for six months on freights on the Government railway. Even now, however, losses are resulting. Efforts are being made to meet the position by increasing the output. As usual, the cash position is strong, the liquid assets standing at £481,000. The deficit incurred by the Briseis Tin Company mainly arose through the concentration of efforts upon the final re-diversion of the Ringarooma River, now practically completed; tin-winning is expected to be resumed on a normal scale very shortly. This is just as well, as the company's resources have become slender. The last dividend paid was 6d in July, 1919. All the companies above referred to are operating in different parts of Australasia. The Rhodesia Broken Hill Development—whose *locale* is indicated by its title—pays 6d per share, equal to 10 per cent., for 1921, or the same as in respect of the preceding year. The output of 18,100 tons of lead fell short of the 1920 total, and the profit of £33,000 compares with £90,000 previously. As the distribution of 10 per cent. calls for £35,000, it is apparent that a very conservative policy was followed 12 months ago, whereas on the present occasion the carry-forward is drawn upon to a slight extent. The results of the Minerals Separation Company fully justify the cautionary attitude adopted in last year's "Note." Important developments have occurred in connection with showing a substantial profit, the accounts reveal a loss of £24,000. Fortunately, the financial position is particularly strong.

Irish Linen and the U.S. Tariff.—A Belfast correspondent writes:—Contrary to sanguine anticipations, the long-expected revival in the Irish linen industry has still failed to develop to any extent. Undoubtedly there is a very considerable increase in buying as compared with a year ago. In fact, the export of 4,958,660 sq. yards

of piece fabric valued at £472,740 during May compares very favourably with the 2,685,600 square yards, valued at £399,315, exported for May a year ago. America is our best linen customer, purchasing in normal times a round 50 per cent. of total linen goods exported, and consequently Belfast manufacturers are exceedingly apprehensive of the results of the threatened American Tariff additions. They plead that since this class of textiles are not manufactured in the United States, there is no necessity for any high rates with no industry to protect. It is indisputable that with towels, which now sell at 6.00 dollars per dozen, being increased to 7.5 dollars, and the duty on such universal articles as handkerchiefs raised from 4.00 to 4.71 dollars, buying would be much limited. Paradoxically, too, in face of this possible rise, there is no great purchasing now in advance. Indeed, for many months past the placing of orders has been in small, almost in retail, quantities. So with disproportionate overhead costs incurred in producing these limited bulks, some manufacturers aver that the margin of profit, if any, is more nominal than real. Somewhat over one-half of the total looms in the trade are working, and there are fears that several factories may soon close down for a spell until prospects are brighter. Meanwhile, with flax-growing at its minimum in Ireland this season, spinners tend to advance yarn prices.

Pre-War House Building.—The development of housing in Great Britain during the last half century is shown in some recent statistics of the quinquennial increase in the total number of existing dwelling houses prior to 1914:—

Quinquennial Periods.	England and Wales.	Great Britain.
Increase During	Figures Not Available.	
1875-1879 .....	.....	492,079
1880-1884 .....	.....	421,420
1885-1889 .....	.....	356,771
1890-1894 .....	.....	324,409
1895-1899	504,788	575,672
1900-1904	581,848	654,611
1905-1909	513,529	541,131
1910-1914	303,238	328,320

A steady decline is visible from 1875 to 1894, followed by sharp rises in the two succeeding periods. But it will be seen that another decline set in in the period 1905-1909, and was strongly accentuated in the five years following 1909 and its famous Budget. Another set of statistics given by the Minister of Health concern the number of dwelling-houses of annual value of under £20 and of annual value of £20 and upwards in Great Britain in the fifteen years before the war. From these we extract the following:—

Year.	Under £20.	£20 and Over.
1900-01	5,613,228	1,187,758
1905-06	6,047,579	1,414,383
1909-10	6,368,441	1,507,056
1910-11	6,379,092	1,532,562
1911-12	6,459,257	1,544,932
1912-13	6,505,507	1,558,711
1913-14	6,548,648	1,574,250
1914-15	(Figures not available)	1,592,117

The last column excludes shops, &c., used as dwelling-houses.

Deep Sea Fisheries.—The landings of wet fish by British vessels at the ports of England and Wales in the first half of the year were larger than in January-June last year, viz., 4,979,397 cwt, against 4,155,056 cwt. Those of Scotland, now included in the official return, were 2,381,782 cwt, against 2,251,914 cwt. The notable feature is a considerable decline in value. The total for England and Wales was £6,919,814 (including shell fish, £214,056), against £8,557,051 (including shell fish, £288,740), and for Scotland £1,874,391, against £2,597,473. The nature of the decline is, perhaps, better shown by the fact that the average value per cwt of the fish landed in England and Wales was only 26s 10d, as compared with 39s 10d a year ago; and of that landed at Scottish ports 15s 9d, against 23s 1d. The discrepancy in the average value of fish landed

in Scotland is possibly accounted for by the fact that it includes less North Sea fish and indifferent markets. The quantity of wet fish landed by foreign-owned vessels from the deep sea fisheries in the whole of Great Britain in the first quarter is returned at 184,498 cwt, against 90,610 cwt in the same period last year, the values being £170,175 and £147,399 respectively. This is equivalent to between 5 and 6 per cent. of the British landings. The fact, however, that the quantity has doubled is giving some anxiety to British trawler owners, who see in it a portent giving point to an alleged threat on the part of German fishing vessel owners to extend the practice which is not confined to German boats, but is followed by Danish and Dutch boats principally. The decision of the Treasury that fish caught by German boats in extra territorial waters does not come within the scope of the Reparations Act is resented by the British Trawler Owners' Federation, whose contention is that fish so caught is the product of German machinery and labour, and should therefore be included. An agitation is also afoot, through a committee of members of the House of Commons, to bring pressure on the Government to this end, and also to bring about the prohibition of the entry of fish caught by vessels of nations who take measures to protect their fisheries against the British owner. The latter proposition, if carried into effect, might possibly prove a two-edged weapon, inasmuch as Great Britain exports roughly twice as much as it imports. Last year, for example, we imported from abroad 2,031,545 cwt, chiefly wet fish (herrings, &c.), from foreign sources, and including 496,048 cwt landed by foreign-owned boats from the deep sea grounds, the total value being £3,037,475. On the other hand, our exports of fish aggregated 5,768,240 cwt, having a value of £6,071,543, principally cured or salted herrings, of which Germany took 2½ million cwt, valued at £1,793,345. In pre-war times Russia shared with Germany the distinction of being the most considerable markets for English-cured or salted herrings, taking 85 per cent. of the total exports between them.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—COMMODITY PRICES—NEW BUILDING RECORD—TARIFF OUTLOOK—CROP PROSPECTS—BONDS ACTIVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 17.

COMMODITY prices registered another advance in June, the eleventh rise since June 1, 1921, when prices were at their lowest level following the 1920 and 1921 deflation. *Bradstreet's* July 1st index number, \$12,1069, represents a gain of 1.7 per cent. over that of June 1, 1922, and of 14 per cent. over June 1, 1921. Although the latest number is still 41.9 per cent. below the peak of February 1, 1920, it is 39 per cent. higher than on August 1, 1914. Last month nine out of thirteen groups of commodities advanced, while three declined and one remained unchanged. A large part of the net gain was due to the increased strength in textiles, especially cotton goods; other groups showing advances were provisions, hides and leather, metals, oils, coal and coke, building materials, naval stores, and miscellaneous products. Breadstuffs, live stock, and chemicals declined, while fruits were stationary. Last month also witnessed a further increase in building activity. According to the same authority, returns from 141 of the principal cities of the United States for June give a total value of construction, for which permits were issued, of \$218,674,449, a new high monthly record; it compares with the corrected total of \$206,804,015 at the identical cities in May, and with only \$127,671,278 for the same cities in June of last year. The figures represent an increase of 5½ per cent. over May and about 71 per cent. over the June, 1921, total. Marked gains are shown by all groups of cities over June a year ago. In fact, the total for the second quarter of this year exceeds that of the combined first and second quarters of 1921. With 23 cities yet to report for June, the total for the half-year amounts to

security, the Bavarian communication declares that the law threatens order and security in Bavaria, and therefore bases its decree annulling the provisions of the law on Article 48 of the Constitution, which authorises States to take special measures against disorder. While Bavaria's act is an open and technically unconstitutional defiance of the Republic, the actions of the Republic show a painful lack of political sense.

The elaborate terms of the agreement with the Guarantee Committee are criticised mainly on the ground that the Committee's mere right to obtain full information must bring also the right to interfere and dictate; but the majority parties are satisfied with the official declaration that the agreement will come into force only if a further moratorium is granted. The Right parties criticise the Cabinet for abandoning its declaration of last spring that no such terms would be tolerated. The measures agreed upon to prevent indirect export of capital will create new obstacles for foreign trade. The most serious aspect of Reparations is, however, not here; but in the indications that, instead of a bold treatment, or even a bold refusal to treat, the question is to be dragged out, confused and complicated by deals, like the Guarantee Committee agreement, which are at best masterpieces of bureaucratic ingenuity, and have no material relation to the real question. The Vice-President of the Reichsbank, Dr Glase-napp, has issued a reply to a London bank's statement that Germany is intentionally debasing her currency, the proof given by the London bank being that in a certain term the total of new note circulation largely exceeded the current Reparations liability. On this subject a great deal has been of late written, and the writers do not always understand that the movement of German note circulation is automatic, corresponding to money market conditions. The factor governing circulation in any given term is the amount of discounted and rediscounted bills (mostly Treasury bills) held by the Reichsbank. The exchange value of the currency, the matter which most attracts foreign interest, has no calculable relation at all to the note circulation, and has sometimes risen during and immediately after abnormally heavy inflation. In general, owing to the demand for credit caused by higher prices, heavy inflation has followed heavy exchange depreciation. This applies both to the private and the State demand for credit.

In general, the State demand for credit has not increased. The recent absolute monthly increases of the Floating Debt are, it is true, bigger, though not very much bigger, than those of last year and of 1920. That is inevitable owing to the general rise in nominal values. But the proportion of Floating Debt (i.e., current deficits) to revenue falls rapidly and almost continuously, so that the "real" deficits to-day, even with reparations being paid, are a mere fraction of the deficits of two years ago. The *Berliner Tageblatt* of July 23rd publishes a useful table illustrating this. The best month of 1920 (October) showed 2,318.9 million marks increase in floating debt and 5,120.7 million marks revenue received, the ratio being 45.3 per cent.; the worst month (June) showed respectively 11,553.1 millions, 3,226.9 millions, and 358 per cent. In only three months of 1920 was new floating debt less than revenue received; in four months it was over 200 per cent. on revenue. In 1921 the new floating debt in only three months exceeded revenue by more than 100 per cent.; in 1922 (January-May months) the highest percentage in any month was 59.9 per cent., and the lowest 27.2. This can be understood when it is stated that in early 1920 the monthly receipts were under 2 milliards; while in 1921 the lowest monthly receipts were 8 milliards and the highest 13 milliards, and in 1922 the lowest were 14½ milliards and the highest 30 milliards. The revenue in May, 1922, was almost exactly 30-fold the revenue in January, 1920, while the new floating debt (current deficit) was a little over fourfold. The absolute increase in floating debt is, of course, a register of the degradation of the currency; but it should not be taken as a register of the "real" deficit, or of the real State indebtedness. In general, in the last two years, the finances have greatly improved.

The Forced Loan Bill has been finally passed. The levy rises for physical persons from 1 per cent. of property on the second 100,000 marks wealth (first 100,000 marks being exempted) to a maximum 10 per cent. on wealth exceeding 1,000,000 marks. For juristic persons these rates are halved. The subscription price rises from 94 per cent. in July, 1922, to 106 per cent. in March, 1923. Amortisation begins on November 1, 1925, at at least ½ per cent. of the original total. After October 31st, 1925, interest will be paid at 4 per cent., after October 31st, 1930, 5 per cent. The loan stock will be accepted as security for advances on by the "Darlehnskassen," but, as long as it bears no interest, not by the Reichsbank. Official salaries have been raised, for July by 24 per cent., for August by 34 per cent. on last rates. The gold supplement on Customs duties for the week following July 26th is 10,400 per cent., or 105-fold. The supplement is now being fixed from week to week. The Finance Ministry is preparing to issue new aluminium and copper coins, to replace small denomination notes, to value of 1,850 million marks. The Reichswirtschaftsrat has received a private Bill authorising, and after 1926 requiring, all such persons as are legally obliged to keep books to draw their accounts in gold marks, values to be determined on a price-index basis. This is an imitation of the Soviet-Russian expedient, tried and abandoned last year. The measure is useless if the currency is stabilised, and unworkable if it is not.

The Reichsbank presented another bad report for July 15th. The increase in Treasury bill discounts is 10,126,373,000 marks, of note circulation 2,700,732,000 marks, and of Kassenschein 570,300,000 marks. The Darmstadter Bank has withdrawn from the Northern Bank for Commerce and Trade, which it and a Berlin Russian group founded in 1918 for conducting Russian business. The Bourse last week was moderately firm, the *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index figure for dividend-bearers rising from 38,491 to 39,356, and home loans also rose. The main stimulus was a great rise in Harpener Bergbau, supposedly due to buying by rival groups, one of which at least has foreign capital. This stock, which closed on July 14th at 2,160, to-day sold for 3,125. Other metal and mining papers rose in sympathy, favourites being companies whose business year ended on June 30th. There has been heavy buying of Austrian securities as a result of interest shown by the other Succession States. In general the Bourse is watching the exchanges, which have been very nearly stable during the past few days. Loans to-day are quoted:—War Loan 77.50, Federal 4 per Cents 117.25, 3½ per Cents 91.3 per Cents 200, Colonial 4 per Cents 150, Savings and Premium 79.40. There is still some foreign speculative buying of loans. The *Essen Bergwerks-Zeitung* estimates that foreign investors have lost about £700,000,000 from their purchases of mark loans and other mark securities. It holds that nominal values of 60 milliard marks come under the category of losing purchases; for these, at an average depreciation of 75 per cent., was paid 15 milliard marks gold, and as the present value is not more than 750,000,000 marks gold, the loss is about 14,250,000,000 gold marks. The average purchase price given by this journal seems high, but very heavy foreign purchases were made in 1919, when the mark's relatively slight depreciation was taken to foreshadow speedy restoration to gold value. Regarding the theory referred to last week, that the paper mark may any day cease to be saleable abroad, it may be noted that more than once after heavy falls, foreigners, so far from being frightened, have rushed to buy mark securities. The great rise in Federal Threes in connection with the new mark fall is the latest instance.

Prices are rapidly rising. Potash prices have been raised by 25 per cent., and new increases in coal and steel prices are under consideration. The accounts of the State railway for 1921 show receipts of 45.1 milliards, and expenditure of 52 milliards, deficit being 6.9 milliards, or 3.9 milliards less than estimated, and 8.7 milliards less than in 1920. The favourable result has been attained by raising freight rates. In 1921 56,000 new patents were registered, the largest number on record. Patent fees were raised on July 1st. The fee for reporting a patent is now 300 marks, and the annual fees rise progressively from 300 marks in the first year, and total 66,000 marks in the whole 15 years for which a patent runs.

ARGENTINA.—THE QUESTION OF GOLD EXPORTS— CATTLE INDUSTRY—AN AGREEMENT WITH GERMANY—BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, June 23.

FOR some time past the question of rescinding emergency legislation passed in August and September of 1914 for the purpose of retaining Argentina's stock of gold has been under discussion. The chief supporters of the proposal are the Socialist members of Congress, who hold that there is no longer any real argument against restoring to the Conversion Office its full functions. Before the war this institution gave notes against gold in the ratio of \$227.27 paper for the equivalent of \$100 Argentine gold, and also delivered gold against notes in the same proportion. This latter function of the Conversion Office was suspended by Government decree at the outbreak of the war in Europe, nor has it been resumed, despite the wording of the Act, which expressly states that the obligation to deliver gold against notes at call is in abeyance during such time as a state of war exists. This measure was further strengthened by the prohibition of gold exports in general, over and above a small sum for personal use, \$500. Between 1914 and 1919 the latter ordinance was strictly enforced, but during 1920-21 a certain amount of clandestine exportation went on, the quantity of gold leaving Argentina during the latter year being put at nine million dollars, chiefly sent through private channels to Uruguay, where export, under certain conditions, was possible. A recent legal decision has, however, declared that the Law 9,483, which prohibits export, is null and void, the judge of the appeal court basing his verdict on the fact that the state of war which gave validity to the prohibitive measure officially ended in 1920. The case turned on a seizure of some \$10,000 gold by the Buenos Aires Customs, the specie having been acquired here by the captain of an American steamer, whose attempt to take it out of the country was discovered, and the gold itself held subject to forfeiture. As the alleged offence took place in 1921, Dr Jantus, the judge in question, held that no case against the respondent, since the Act and its prohibitions automatically lapsed when the state of war ended. He therefore ordered the Customs to release the gold, and acquitted the captain, who, it would seem, has now a good case for damage and loss, should he care to initiate proceedings against the Argentine Government. That is, however, by the way. What is of much greater interest is the fact that this reading applies equally to the gold movement of the Conversion Office. It has, indeed, been suggested that a test case should be created by officially demanding gold against notes, and proceeding against the institution before the Federal Courts in the event of its refusal to deliver. That it would so refuse is certain, its refusal to deliver is in no way disposed to take hasty action calculated to reduce the store which the Conversion Office now holds; a store which has not altered in amount since 1920, and which now stands at \$466,476,974 gold. Hence the judge's finding may be said to have rather a theoretical than a practical importance in so far as the Conversion Office is concerned. The argument of those who would see it resume its accustomed operations is based on the assumption that by bringing the exchange down until it was at or near par it would cheapen the appreciation of the Argentine dollar which would help the importer—and which he might or might not pass on in the shape of reduced prices to the retailer or consumer—the most react unfavourably on the price gained by the producer of Argentine exports, which is already sufficiently depressed. Moreover, it is plain that the international arbitrageur would at once be busy, and inasmuch as it is difficult to say how Argentina's trade balances now stand, a free movement of gold might have consequences of a serious and far-reaching nature, which would only force themselves on public attention when the harm done was beyond remedy. It would, it is true, tend at the outset to relieve the apparent plethora of money now in circulation, since as gold leaves the Conversion Office the paper circulation automatically shrinks. Banking deposits would fall, thereby affording temporary relief to banking in-

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LIMITED

1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Managing Agents of Rubber, Tea and other Produce Estates.

BRANCHES:

Colombo Ceylon Quilon Batavia Medan Kuala Lumpur Kobe Montreal

terests, who are at present unable to make profitable use of the moneys in their charge. It must, however, be remembered that Argentina is just now suffering severely from the sharp drop in the European demand for her cattle and meat, the "mother industry" of the Republic, and that many of the Argentine banks, including the Bank of the Nation, are carrying the weaker members of this trade on their shoulders to an unprecedented extent. This is only possible thanks to the collective confidence shown by depositors in the banks. Sudden diminution of the figures shown in the monthly published returns, which give the loans, deposits, cash in hand, and capital of each individual bank, would almost certainly weaken this confidence, while the steady outward movement of gold, heralded, as it would be, in the Press, might very easily precipitate matters and convert a position which only needs careful nursing to be brought round once more into acute disaster. Hence it will be gathered that resumption of gold shipments by Argentina is not as near as might be supposed on reading the comments relative to the recent finding, interesting rather from a legal standpoint than from any prospect of its immediate practical application to the monetary position of Argentina.

In connection with the cattle industry, a rather novel agreement is at present being discussed, under which Argentina will ship 80,000 head of cattle and 60,000 tons of meat per annum to Germany, taking payment in merchandise, and granting that country four months' credit from the date of shipment. Briefly, the ten clauses boil down to this: Argentina will fix a price for the meat she ships, and also fix the exchange equivalent of her invoice in paper marks according to the official quotation of the Bank of the Nation on the day such shipment is made. At the same time she will intimate what class and quantity of merchandise she requires, and the price for these goods will also be taken at the same rate—i.e., paper marks will be converted into Argentine dollars. A German syndicate will handle the business in Europe, and it will be asked to put up guarantees, signed by either the Deutsche or the Dresdner banking groups, for the amount at risk under the term of the credit. Somewhat nebulous as to details, the scheme has none the less been warmly received by the Argentine official world, and as the interests of the German import syndicate at this end are being looked after by the representative of Herr Stinnes, it is probable that every effort will be made to carry it to completion. On the face of it, Germany benefits most, since she can, in reason, practically fix her own price for the goods she ships hither, and once having fixed it and covered the exchange—which she has four months' credit to meet—her liability virtually ends. Her market is assured, and although the intention is to make Government requirements, such as railway material, ships, oil-boring plant, and public works plant generally, the first call on the proceeds of the cattle, provisos are made for the importation of other goods such as may be required by the general import trade. Indeed, a German-Argentine syndicate is said to be in readiness to take this part of the business off the Government's hands should the scheme be definitely approved, and altogether there seems to be a real danger of Argentina, for the sake of one important industry, sacrificing to a very large extent her economic independence in so far as her purchasing powers are concerned.

Nothing further has been heard of the proposed National Government loan to be sought abroad, but in the Province of Buenos Aires the Government has formally asked the Senate to sanction a call for £5,500,000—or the equivalent of that sum in other currencies. The terms offered are 6½ per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. per annum accumulative amortization, this latter not being obligatory until January, 1927. Special guarantees would be afforded by the taxes on property transfers,

stamps, and legal dues, also the profits derivable from the public works authorised by the Law which is to give the loan official sanction. Proceeds are to be devoted as follows:—\$34,000,000 paper to consolidation of part of the floating debt of the province; \$5,000,000 for a cattle market and freezing works in Avellaneda; \$2,500,000 for a general market in Avellaneda; and sundry other objects which may or may not be urgently needed, but are certainly of no direct value as revenue producers. The floating debt of the province is \$59,000,000 paper, while its total indebtedness, as quoted in the official preamble introducing the proposed loan, is set down at \$390,026,000 paper.

General business in Argentina during June has been abnormally quiet, a condition which naturally reflects on the local money market, and above all, on the banks, who are competing keenly for first-class business at 5 per cent. per annum, but unwilling to extend facilities to anything not classifiable under that category save at much higher rates, say 7 to 8 per cent. per annum. The movement on the local stock exchange continues good in respect to National bonds and Cédulas of the National Mortgage Bank, though the application for leave to issue the 13th Series has caused a slight set-back in price, the two previous series being now \$91.40 for cash, which is 0.50 cents down on the month. Exports are moving more leisurely than they did in May, but nevertheless over 3,000,000 tons of wheat have left the country; the wool stocks are down to what may be considered the unsaleable residue, some two million kilos, and the demand for finest dry hides has been firm. Wheat prices fell considerably during the first fortnight of June, touching \$11.60 Argentine paper per 100 kilos, but they have since improved, and may now be quoted at \$12.20 spot Buenos Aires. Maize and linseed are \$8.40 and \$20.15 respectively, with markets firmer. Homeward freight is weaker, a 5,800-ton boat, prompt, San Lorenzo/U.K.-Cont. being fixed at 26s 3d, while as low as 19s has been accepted for parcel cargoes, Buenos Aires/Rotterdam.

POLAND.—THE DEPRECIATION OF THE POLISH MARK—CAPITAL LEVY—GROWTH OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT—RAILWAY FINANCE—FORMATION OF A NEW CABINET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, July 12.

FROM October to May the financial situation of Poland was steadily improving. As shown in my last letter (*Economist*, July 1st), the speed of the printing press became slower month by month, and in April and May one could observe for the first time since the foundation of the new Polish Republic a reduction of the advances made to the Government by the Polish National Bank. This check to the printing press had a very beneficial influence on the foreign exchange market. The movements were less spasmodic, and a certain stabilisation could be observed. Unfortunately, since the beginning of June the Polish mark has resumed a downward trend. English pounds, which at the end of May were quoted 18,000, have reached a level of 29,000. American dollars rose during the same period from 4,000 to 6,000, French francs from 390 to 486. To a certain extent this recent collapse of the Polish mark is the result of the Cabinet crisis, which has lasted more than six weeks. During this time the country has been without a Government, and obviously such a situation must have a detrimental influence on the finances of the country. But the real reasons for the resumed decline lie much deeper, and the political crisis has only aggravated the movement. The financial improvement of recent months was achieved by the collection of the capital levy, which yielded 50 milliards. Though this amount is 30 milliards below estimate, it enabled the Government to cover its expenditure for several months without resorting to the printing press.

The percentage of the collected levy as compared with the assessed amount shows very great divergences in the different parts of Poland, as shown below:—

	Per Cent. of Amount Assessed.
Former Congress Poland.....	35.5
Eastern districts	23.7
Former Austrian Poland.....	43.1
Former Prussian Poland.....	73.9

In the former Prussian Poland, when under German rule, the population was accustomed to a regular payment of taxes. The percentage is more than double of that in the former Congress Poland, and three times greater than in the eastern districts. In those two parts which were subject to Prussian administration the collection of all taxes encounters much greater difficulties. It seems that the yield of the capital levy is already exhausted. The last return of the Polish National Bank for June reveals the beginning of a new period of inflation. During that month the paper circulation increased from 276.0 to 300.0 milliards. This is the greatest increase since October, 1921. Advances to the Government increased in June by 18 milliards (from 217 to 235 milliards), as compared with 15.5 milliards in November, 6.0 milliards in December, 6.4 milliards in January, 3.2 milliards in February, 1.5 milliards in March, and a decrease in April and May.

The financial outlook is rendered still darker by the increase of the Budget deficit for the current year. According to the Budget of Mr Nichalski, which was presented to the Diet at the beginning of this year, the expenditure was estimated at 591.6 milliards and the revenues at 458.6 milliards, leaving a deficit of 133.0 milliards. It has now been officially announced that the real deficit will be not less than 400 milliards. Mr Nichalski's estimates have been completely upset by the rise of prices, which has forced the Government to increase the salaries of officials by 180 milliards. The rise in expenditure is also partly explained by the growing deficit of the railways. In Mr Nichalski's Budget the deficit of the Ministry of Railways was estimated at 62.5 milliards. Though the railway rates have been increased several times since January, the deficit for the current year will exceed 120 milliards.

The State railways are one of the weakest points in the whole financial system. Mr Nichalski lays special emphasis on this fact in a memorandum which he presented to the Cabinet shortly before leaving office. He is of the opinion that the railways are not economically administered. According to the report of a special Commission the staff of the railways should be reduced by 40,000. Mr Nichalski thinks that under present conditions, as long as the railway authorities are certain that all deficits must be covered by the Ministry of Finance, no marked improvement may be expected. The railways must be administered as business undertakings, covering all expenditure from their own revenues. Should the Minister of Railways not succeed in achieving this aim the lease of the transport system to a foreign concern would become necessary. This is the opinion of the former Minister of Finance, who in this respect is backed by a resolution passed in March by the Union of Polish railway engineers. In an interview with a representative of the *Czas*, Mr Nichalski dwelt in the first instance on the intimate connection which exists between the railway problem and the future of the Polish finances. "Without an improvement of the whole railway administration," he concluded, "a normal Budget and the introduction of a new sound currency is impossible." Mr Nichalski is in general in favour of leasing State undertakings to foreign concerns. In a letter written to Mr Sliwinski, who tried to form a new Cabinet, he declared that he could retain the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance only under the condition that the Diet will vote a Bill authorising the Government to form a special joint-stock company for the exploiting of the tobacco monopoly. The capital of this company subscribed in a foreign currency was to be divided in equal parts between the Government and a foreign concern. Mr Nichalski is strongly attacked by the Socialist Press for his plans "of selling the country's resources to foreign capitalists." This attitude is not shared by the majority of competent writers, who express the opinion that Poland in exchange for obtaining a

foreign loan must make some sacrifice and give real guarantees.

The collapse of the mark has convinced the parties of the Diet that the Cabinet crisis cannot be protracted indefinitely, and that some solution must be found. Hitherto the equilibrium of forces existing between the parties of the Right and of the Left has rendered the formation of a Parliamentary Cabinet impossible. The new Cabinet will have no pronounced political character. Its principal task will consist in a solution of the financial problems with which the country is confronted. In its character the new Cabinet will be quite similar to that of Mr Ponikowski, who accepted the office of the Prime Minister in October of last year when the depreciation of the Polish currency forced the parties of the Diet to put an end to their political quarrels and to seek a compromise.

SWEDEN.—THE EIGHT HOURS DAY—A NEW RAILWAY—WEATHER AND CROPS—A BOND ISSUE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, July 20.

THE eight-hour working day, established by law two or three years ago, does not seem to have been a success. The Employers' Union, which has made investigations in the matter, has come to the conclusion that the eight-hours' day is a great misfortune for the whole country, and the sooner the law is abolished the better. Investigations made in the pulp industry give the result that for this industry the general increase in costs caused by the eight-hours' day amounts to 15 per cent. The very much increased working intensity, which was promised by those who were in favour of the law, does not seem to have become a fact. It is believed in some quarters that if this law had not been passed we would have been better able to meet present competition and unemployment would have been less.

A great deal of interest is at present centred on the plebiscite on August 27th, when the votes will be given all over Sweden for or against prohibition. It seems as if those who are for prohibition are mostly to be found in the country, while the town inhabitants, as a rule, seem to be more against it. The smuggling of spirits and unlawful trade in liquors are already very lively here. On a single day there were 76 different alcohol cases at the police-court of Stockholm. From a financial point of view prohibition would be serious, as the income from alcohol taxes is substantial, and would be difficult to replace.

An important line of communication is now ready, and will be opened for traffic shortly. With the aid of this railway one will now be able to go by a direct line from the middle of Sweden up to the heart of Lapland via Wilhelmina. This railway has been badly needed by the inhabitants of the provinces through which it passes, especially Hørjedalen, where many people have been living not less than 70 to 80 kilometres from the nearest railroad, and some have even had to pass via Roraas and Trondhjem in Norway if they wanted to go to Stockholm.

The weather here during the early part of the summer was very dry indeed, and the crop suffered accordingly. When the rain came it was almost too late in some parts and for some crops, and it has been so heavy that it is not feared it might spoil the crops, which generally are not expected to give above average yield. There is some fear of labour troubles among the farm-workers, otherwise the labour market is comparatively peaceful.

The Ropparberg-Hofors concern has just issued a 10 million crown loan against 5 per cent. bonds. The bonds, which were sold at par, had a very good sale, which is quite remarkable, as the rate of interest is only 5 per cent., which is 1 per cent. less than the rate on bonds issued early in spring. The sea insurance company, Ocean, in Gothenburg, has had a good year during 1921, with a net profit of 1,588,110 crowns, compared with 1,872,000 crowns for 1920. A dividend of 27 per cent. is declared.

SWITZERLAND.—DYESTUFF INDUSTRY—LIFE ASSURANCE WITH GERMAN COMPANIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, July 24.

THE shares of the Basle aniline dyestuff industry were a week or so ago the object of anxiety to the holders. Rumours of agreement between the German concerns and the leading English, French, and American manufacturers were the immediate cause. But the shares sold by frightened people were willingly taken up at slightly reduced rates, and the uneasiness was quickly allayed. Even in the event of the French, English, and American manufacturers being in a position to use all German methods and patents, there remain sufficient Swiss specialities, which were before the war even exported to Germany herself. It is not generally known that before the war Germany imported up to 20 millions of marks worth of aniline dyestuffs from Switzerland. At any rate, the financial position of the Swiss aniline dyestuffs industry, especially as regards liquid reserves, is now so strong that we may be sure they will in time become actively interested in those of the English, French, and American firms which have really good lasting prospects. There is no doubt that the production of specialities will in future remain with the Basle industry and with the individual firms.

The 30,000 unfortunate Swiss people who have life insurance contracts with German companies to the value of 470 millions of Swiss francs have no very pleasant prospect before them. The German companies are now more or less officially declared insolvent. The sum they owe to their Swiss insured amounts to ten milliards of German marks. The German Government proposed to impose an extraordinary stamp duty on all new policies issued by German companies in order to redeem this enormous liability, but those German life insurance companies having no liabilities in Switzerland offered strong opposition, and there is no possibility of passing such a law through the German Parliament. It will be necessary for the Swiss State to intervene by way of a loan to the German companies, and, unfortunately, there is no possibility that this loan will ever be redeemed. As to the policies, there is still a discussion whether they should be remitted to Swiss life insurance companies or whether the 30,000 insured shall be combined under Government assistance into a mutual assurance company.

Letters to the Editor.

INTER-ALLIED DEBT CANCELLATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In a letter to the *Economist* which you published on July 8th I asked, "Am I not right in believing..... that our outstanding debt to America is wholly due to the fact that we backed the bills of France, Italy, and the other Allies for food and munitions supplied not to us, but to them?" You appended a note in which you stated: "It is certainly not the case that we have already paid America for supplies of food furnished to us," and then went on to justify your statement.

In to-day's *Times* there are reported two speeches of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. To the bankers at the Mansion House he said: "It is true that all we owe to-day, outside our own country, we contracted not for ourselves but for others. The debt which we now owe to the United States was contracted on behalf of our Allies." In the House of Commons the same afternoon he spoke of "the amount which we owe to the United States borrowed in the course of the war in order to help our Allies. I think I am right in saying that not a single pound in any way was for the British service."

When two doctors as authoritative as the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Editor of the *Economist* flatly disagree, whom is the mere man in the street to believe?—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

W. M. A.

July 22nd, 1922.

["W. M. A." must judge for himself. But we venture to repeat the facts. After April, 1917, the United States Government advanced to the French Government nearly 3 milliard dollars. This represents the balance of the account between the two Governments in respect of the American goods supplied to France, on the one hand, and services, &c., supplied by France to the American army on the other. At the same time, the United States Government advanced over 4 milliard dollars to Great Britain in respect of (a) goods supplied to the British Government and (b) credits in New York for the purpose of supporting the sterling exchange. Out of the funds which Great Britain raised in America before 1917 from private sources, a small amount was spent on goods supplied to France and a substantial amount on orders for Russia. But practically none of the 4 milliards of American Government money was spent on goods for the Allies and our borrowings were only of direct assistance to our Allies in so far as our support of the exchange was needed to balance Allied purchases in other neutral markets of the world. The only important qualification of this statement is in certain cases like that of steel, where it was found convenient, for various technical and military reasons, to continue making French shell steel, &c., in British steel works, and to make good the consequent deficiency in our own munition programme by buying American steel. In 1917 such purchases, though directly in substitution for goods supplied by us to France, were paid for out of the British credit in Washington; but before the end of the war the American representatives on the Inter-Allied Finance Council admitted the doctrine of "replacement," and our last purchases of American iron and steel were paid for out of the French and Italian credits in Washington. But, apart from this special case, the industrial resources we used for assisting France could certainly not have made the goods which we bought in America. Nor could they, in practice, have been used for exporting goods to America to pay for our imports. The statement that we should not have run into debt if we had not had to lend to our Allies is only true on the assumption that the United States Government would have lent to Italy and France sufficient dollars to meet all their external requirements, including those from Great Britain, and not merely their purchases in America. In this case our sales to Allies would have given us command of the vital American dollars needed for our own requirements. This assumption is implicit in the Chancellor's statement, and should have been clearly expressed if confusion is to be avoided. In any case, it is not true that "the supplies and food furnished to us" by America have been paid for, and the Chancellor would be the first to admit that his statement was not intended to convey this impression.—ED., *Economist*.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I am sorry to find you saying that "every section of responsible opinion regards the British debt to the United States as an obligation that must be fulfilled to the uttermost," and I am much afraid that the Treasury delegates who are going to Washington in September will tie us down to some unreasonable agreement. Above all, we must not consent to any variation of our contract which substitutes private investors for the American Government as our creditors.

Whatever may be said about the details, it is certain that our £900 million debt would not have been incurred but for the exigencies of our Continental Allies; yet it is proposed that we should repay the U.S.A. without obtaining payment from France and Italy. Do you really think that we can go on for 25 years paying about £70 millions per annum, when we cannot even now pay £25 millions without suspending the Sinking Fund, and when the Washington Government is doing all it can to shut out the British goods and shipping services by which alone payment can be made?

So far, all these inter-Allied debts and German indemnities have done nothing but hamper trade, create acute distress in special British industries—such as shipbuilding and mining, and stir up ill-will between the Allies. During the war our middle-classes were paying a 5s income-tax while French millionaires were paying

nothing, and even now I doubt if well-to-do people in France are paying much more than half the taxation that is paid by people with similar incomes in this country. If we can pay our debt to the United States, *a fortiori*, France can pay her debt to us; though I would rather see these debts and the Allied claims on Germany scaled down drastically. It is evident from the Chancellor's statement yesterday that the German payments will not be made. You and I never thought they would.—Yours, &c., J. E. ALLEN.

1 Mitre Court buildings, E.C. 4.

THE CATTLE "EMBARGO."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your article contains, if you will allow me to say, some inaccuracies and processes of reasoning of doubtful value. In the first place, the Dudley election was fought not on the "Embargo" question, but that of "Cheap meat"; the promise made to the electors being that beef would be 6d a lb cheaper if the "Embargo" were removed. You state that "if other countries at any time can show a bill of health as clean (as in your opinion the Canadians have shown), their stores have an equal claim." This is practically what I wrote in the letter which you published in your issue of June 17th last, but how will the new principle be carried into effect? Are you going to revert to the permit system, which was found to be unworkable? It is officially recorded that one dispute with a foreign Government was only settled after 17 years' correspondence! The sanitary law of total exclusion is at least logical and practical. The permit system can, it is true, claim to be equally logical, but it was found not to be practical because it involved the acceptance or rejection by our Ministers of the official assurances as to a clean bill of health of cattle in other countries. The matter in dispute refers to under 3 per cent. of our meat supplies!

I would, moreover, join issue with you as to Free-trade arising on this question. In the interests of "clear thinking" cannot a measure or a policy have a primary object and a consequential or secondary result? And is it not an exaggeration to emphasise the consequential result and ignore the primary object?

With regard to the "Pledge," in the first place, I would point out that you quote it without the context. Whether, as the Premier states, that it was given "on behalf of the Cabinet" or whether his statement, expressed only last year, that the pledge was unequivocal was merely an expression of opinion, surely we arrive at a startling and novel constitutional doctrine. In effect, it is as follows:—Dominion Ministers attend an Imperial Conference armed not only with powers of Plenipotentiaries in the accepted diplomatic sense, but, in addition, they respectively represent, therefore our Ministers have equal powers.

Those who have argued not only that there was no "pledge," but there could have been no "pledge," have on these lines set forth in the House of Commons J. H. Thomas, and accepted by a majority of 76. In view of your acceptance of this new constitutional doctrine, the trade principles appears to be somewhat in the nature of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.—Yours faithfully, R. T. HINCKES, Capt.

Mauset Court, Hereford.

[Local exaggerations at the Dudley election are surely immaterial to the main argument. We can see no inconsistency in regarding the exclusion of store cattle (or any other ground than that of real sanitary danger) as an infringement of the Free-trade principle. As regard regulation of imports when the embargo is removed surely the only regulation necessary is that adequate quarantine arrangements should be made where required.—ED. *Econ.*]

Books and Publications.

A COAL TRADE STUDY.*

THE Professor of Commerce in the University of London has written a very business-like little manual on a subject of great practical importance, and his work is none the less valuable because it suggests problems rather than solutions. The author's purpose is to provide matter for thought on the question of coal in international trade. Unfortunately, the number of people who think is quite small, though perhaps they are worth addressing. Professor Sargent, however, really stimulates reflection about the important questions on which he touches, and his way of broadly generalising figures without insisting on minute details is a help towards appreciating the true significance of the facts which he brings into association. As to coal, the chief comparison is between America and Europe (including this country), and important considerations are the extent and commercial availability of the reserves of the mineral which exist. Another important matter is the relative cost of production and transport of coal, including the question of the effect of variations in the price of bunker coal on the cost of transport and prices of commodities in general. The coal factor in general manufacturing costs involves more intricate points, while the vagaries of circumstances during and since the war raise some specially difficult questions. Finally, there is the relation to coal of water power and oil, now and in the future. Professor Sargent covers a wide field, and his outline view of the problems he examines is most interesting.

* "Coal in International Trade." By A. J. Sargent, M.A. London) P. S. King and Son, Limited. 2s 6d net.

UNEMPLOYMENT.*

MR PETHICK LAWRENCE'S "Unemployment" is one of a series of booklets, designed to educate the general reader upon the important economic problems of the day; and it is a model of what such a work should be. Mr Lawrence commences with a comprehensive and orthodox account of the ordinary causes of unemployment, seasonal, cyclical, &c., proceeds to show how these causes "are accentuated by the results of the war, and supplemented by other causes which are purely of war origin," then turns to the question of remedies, and examines the various possibilities both of prevention and relief in a spirit at once scientific and sympathetic, and with much penetration and good sense. This is an amazing range of topics of which to treat within the compass of 63 pages; but the result is not, like so many short books, either a superficial treatment which ignores essential aspects of the subject, or a prodigy of high compression intelligible only to those who know the subject already. On the contrary, not merely is Mr Lawrence's grasp of economic principles sound and sure, but his exposition of them is accurate and thorough, never indulging the reader in easy superficialities when the real point is hard to state. At the same time, he avoids technical phraseology and intricate argument, is always interesting, and should prove entirely lucid to any reader, approaching the subject for the first time, who is capable of a quite moderate degree of mental concentration. This booklet is, indeed, an object-lesson in what may be achieved in the way of popular exposition of complex economic problems by a man who understands his subject thoroughly, realises that what his readers want is subject thoroughly, realises that what his readers want is not lollypops but lucidity, knows what to put in and what to leave out, and can write plain English as well.

* "Unemployment." By F. W. Pethick Lawrence, in "The World of To-Day Series." Published by Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 2s 6d. net.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF BUREAUCRACY.*

IN France, as in England, war-time "Controls" seem to have produced a lively reaction against anything in the nature of what we, lacking the admirable French word "Etatisme," have to call State Socialism, Collectivism, or, more familiarly, "Webbism"—though this last

* "Le Bilan de l'Etatisme." Par Adolphe Delemer. Preface de M. Jacques Bardoux. (Paris) Payot. 10 francs.

appellation is no longer strictly applicable, Mr and Mrs Webb having felt the general revulsion and adopted a modified Guild Socialism in their latest works. Certainly the very careful and thorough survey of the actual exploits of the various State monopolies controlled or regulated industries in France, which makes up the greater part of M. Delemer's most interesting and valuable book, makes one feel that were the French taxpayer satisfied he would be less than human. M. Delemer's balance-sheet is terribly damaging; what he brings is an indictment of bankruptcy, hardly less.

After a preliminary chapter, which is very well done indeed, on the movement of opinion in relation to the idea of bureaucratic State control, he turns to examine one after another the various departments of war-time industrial administration, passing in review, with the aid of official statistics and reports, munitions, transport, the posts and telegraphs, food, coal and oil, &c. His judgment is severe, but it is impossible to say that it is not just. Again and again he has to quote sentences like this from the Report, in 1920, of the General Controller on the Food Administration:—"A private company which conducted its affairs in this manner would find itself bankrupt." Or, again, "The agents of the Food Department signed contracts that they would assuredly not have made for themselves, and accepted risks they would have never run on their own behalf.....To estimate the responsibility of the Food Department is impossible, but this is certain, that instead of combating a rise in the cost of living, it contributed to its increase." M. Delemer's survey of the Post Office accounts makes any criticisms passed on our own P.M.G. Department look absurd. In 1919 the expenditure was 1,573,699,292f, whereas the receipts were 585,710,200f; in 1920 there was a net deficit of over 1,795,000,000f, and so on. Government control, Government monopoly, far from proving a source of revenue, has proved a source of increasing embarrassment. And always there yawns the five milliard deficit on the Budget, debt charges taking 51 per cent. of the whole expenditure (against 25 per cent. in 1914) and the debt itself standing at over 66 milliards. It is small wonder if the average elector has no very clear ideas as to what changes in the régime of Governmentalised industry should take place, is, in general, very little interested in politics, concerns himself only with trying to get off his back the burden of war debt and war prices. Yet, as M. Delemer remarks in his closing pages, the old mot, "*Faites moi la bonne politique et je vous ferai de bonnes finances*," is as true as ever. In so far as he is not hopeless of this "*bonne politique*," he is, apparently, more sanguine than Professor Bardoux, who writes an introduction to his monograph, and says that, whereas it is obvious that what is needed is a logical separation of executive and administrative functions, a reduction in the number of Ministers, a new system of selecting officials, a modernisation of industrial operations, and a restoration of administrative efficiency, "after three years, nothing of that has been begun. France has neither a Government nor an administration. There are some competent Ministers and some talented officials who still strive to serve—in what material and moral conditions!—a senile, anæmic, impotent wastepaper basket of a State."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The London Money Market.* By W. F. Spalding. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons. 10s 6d net.
- The Elements of Actuarial Science.* By R. E. Underwood. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited. 5s net.
- Christiania Sparebank, 1822-1922.* (Christiania) Offices of the bank.
- The Production of Plantation Rubber.* (London) Guthrie and Co., Limited.
- City of Birmingham Financial Statement, 1921-22.* (Birmingham) The Council House.
- The Mauritius Almanac and Commercial Handbook for 1922.* Compiled by A. Walter. (Port Louis) General Printing and Stationery Company. 10 rupees.
- The Smokeless City.* By E. D. Simon and M. Fitzgerald. (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 1s 6d.

British and Colonial Government																				
		Price	Last	Week.	Latest		Price	Last	Week.	Latest		Price	Last	Week.	Latest		Price	Last	Week.	Latest
War	100, 1925-28.	954	954	+	954	+	+	+	+	+	+	Aust. 6% 1931-41	100	107	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100, 1925-45.	954	954	+	954	+	+	+	+	+	+	Canada 4% 1920-25	100	100	+	+	+	+	+	+
Loans	100, 1929-47.	1008	1008	+	1008	+	+	+	+	+	+	India 3% 1926-31	119	119	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100, 1922-42.	884	884	+	884	+	+	+	+	+	+	Do 7% 1926-31	99	99	+	+	+	+	+	+
Funding Loan 4%		904	904	+	904	+	+	+	+	+	+	Do 5% 1932-33	100	101	+	+	+	+	+	+
Victory Bonds 4%		767	767	+	767	+	+	+	+	+	+	N.A.W. 5%, 1922-32	110	112	+	+	+	+	+	+
Conversion Loan 3%		598	598	+	598	+	+	+	+	+	+	Nigeria 6% 1949-79	105	105	+	+	+	+	+	+
Consols 2%		604	604	+	604	+	+	+	+	+	+	U.S.O.A. 6%, 1930-40	105	105	+	+	+	+	+	+
Irish Land Stock 2%		604	604	+	604	+	+	+	+	+	+	Victoria 5%, 1924-34	102	102	+	+	+	+	+	+
Local Loans 3%		66	66	+	66	+	+	+	+	+	+	W.Aust. 6% 1930-40	103	103	+	+	+	+	+	+

NOTE.—The value of the gold output fluctuates each month in accordance with the amount of premium which may be declared to the Mines Department of Southern Rhodesia in that month.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF YEAR'S BUSINESS.

DIVIDEND AND BONUS MAINTAINED.

CONFIDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE.

CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

The 109th ordinary meeting of Shareholders of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, was held at the Cannon street Hotel, London, E.C., on July 26, 1922.

Mr E. Clifton Brown presiding.

The Secretary (Mr Herbert G. Hoey) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—

This is the second time that we have held our annual meeting in July, but the accounts which I bring before you this year represent a trading period of 12 months, and not 15 months, as they did last year, when the date of our annual meeting was first altered.

The accounts which are before you to-day represent the working for the 12 months which ended on March 31st last, and before going into the figures in detail I would like, with your permission, to call your attention to some of the main factors which affected business during these particular 12 months. Although in this country—and, indeed, I may say throughout Europe—the disastrous results of the war as it affected business were felt particularly in 1920, traders in South Africa, being further away from the centre of trouble, were still making money in 1920, and the tremendous slump in prices which caused such disastrous losses all over the world did not really reach South Africa until 1921. Indeed, at the commencement of 1921 trade was still active, and prices very inflated. One is reminded of a stone thrown into a pool of water, where the rings, although they may be violent when they reach the edge of the pool, only reach there long after the stone has been thrown into the centre. Such, indeed, appears to have been the result of the aftermath of this great war on our Empire, and one of the features of this disastrous fall in commodity prices seems to have been that although everybody seemed sure that it must come, hardly anyone appears to have gauged the time of its arrival correctly.

Trade in South Africa during the period that these accounts cover received a staggering blow, and I think you will agree that it is a matter of great satisfaction and congratulation to those responsible for the working of this bank that the accounts we are able to present to you are so satisfactory, and that, instead of having to reduce the payment to our shareholders, we are still able to pay them a good dividend, plus a bonus.

Last year you will remember that the chairman was able to announce to you the absorption by your bank of the African Banking Corporation, and expressed the expectation that this amalgamation would result in an increase of strength and prosperity. I think, ladies and gentlemen, that this increased strength has enabled the amalgamated institution to offer greater facilities to trade during the recent financial stress than could otherwise have been the case. It proves, I think, that this amalgamation was fully justified, and truly in the interests of our shareholders. And I will go even further, and say that in my opinion this amalgamation has also been in the interests of the South African community at large.

I fully realise that there have been remarks in the Press about the danger of reducing competition amongst banks, and that the existing banks in South Africa are not able to give the accommodation the country requires. I cannot, however, agree that these statements are in any way justified at the present time. In the past there has been too much rivalry of the unhealthy kind amongst banks, with the result that many people have been able to secure more accommodation than their position entitled them to, a state of affairs which is obviously dangerous to the credit of any community, and we have reached the point of realising that whilst healthy rivalry is necessary and beneficial, reckless competition is dangerous to the best financial interests of the country.

Unhealthy Rivalry Amongst Banks.

With larger figures, resulting from the amalgamation of the Standard Bank of South Africa and the African Banking Corporation, we are better able to meet the demands in the vast territory which we cover, and I can assure you that both your board and the management gladly recognise the responsibility which banking in a developing country involves, and are entirely ready to take their proper and their fair share in the development of those vast territories of South and East Africa where they are doing business. It is essential, however, for the credit of the country as a whole that banks, having regard to the great responsibility which rests on them, should not take on business rashly or run any risk of damaging the credit of the country. Rates in South Africa are naturally higher than they are at home, but this is warranted in view of the fact that the business done cannot be as cut and dried as it generally is here, and I venture to say that this bank, in common with the other banks in South Africa, has never refused to give farmers, or their other clients reasonable assistance against satisfactory security or at any time unduly pressed those clients to whom advances have been made.

The chairman last year also alluded to the South African Reserve Bank which had just been established, and I only refer to this matter again because on July 1st of this year one of the chief functions of this Reserve Bank (which is to be the note issuing bank of South Africa in the future) came into operation. We are extremely sorry to lose our note issue, both from a sentimental point of view and also because it was a source of considerable profit, but I think you will agree with me that it is a matter of great congratulation that the retirement of such a very large amount of bank paper and its replacement by the new Government notes has been effected by us so very smoothly and without any trouble, and without having recourse to facilities from the Reserve Bank, or restricting facilities to customers in any degree. When you think that this bank's note issue was over £4,000,000, and that we have already taken over nearly £3,000,000 in Reserve Bank notes to exchange for our own issue, you will realise how large an operation this has been, and how easily a little mismanagement might have caused considerable friction in the financial world.

I cannot think of any further particular feature that I ought to call your attention to, unless it is the question of the date for resumption of specie payments, which has naturally exercised the minds of all South African bankers, and about which considerable controversy has raged. You will all remember that in the Currency and Banking Act of the Union of 1920 there is a clause which provides that gold certificates shall not remain in operation after June 30, 1923. With the state of the world's exchanges as they are, it would appear doubtful whether the 1923 is not too soon for South Africa to resume specie payments, and the Commission who were appointed to study this question have reported to the Government their opinion that this clause must be amended by an extension of time or else by the deletion of the cent improvement in the American exchange, the Government of South Africa have, we learn, removed the embargo on the export of gold coin and bullion, and we can only trust that this action will prove beneficial to trade.

I would now like to take you through our own particular figures in detail, and, with your permission, will start with the debit side of the accounts. Capital and reserve fund remain unaltered, but the other figures show an all-round contraction of, roughly, 10 per cent. This will hardly surprise you, as at our last meeting the chairman predicted that, as a result of falling prices, we should probably see some of our figures at a lower level.

Assistance to Africa's Development.

South African Reserve Bank.

Resumption of Specie Payments.

The Accounts.

Capital and Reserve Fund.

A certain amount of deflation has been going on during the year, and the effect of this is now being reflected in the deposit figures of most of the large banks. Our notes in circulation stood at March 31st at £4,207,800—a decrease of about £400,000 for the year.

I have already referred to the fact that our issue of notes ceased at the end of last month, and the South African Reserve Bank from now onwards will be the only bank issuing notes in South Africa.

Our deposits have fallen during the year by about five millions, but still stand at over 52 millions.

I have also referred to the general fall in bank deposits due to deflation, and in view of this, and also the slackness of trade, the reduction in these figures is not surprising.

Drafts outstanding, acceptances under credits, and customers' bills for collection are items which fluctuate considerably, and beyond noting the fact that they stand at a much lower figure, I do not think I need make further reference to them.

If you will turn now to the assets side of the balance-sheet you will see at a glance that our position is a very liquid one.

Our cash assets, including remittances in transit and native gold on hand stood at March 31st at the satisfactory figure of 14½ millions, as against 12½ millions in March, 1921.

These cash items represent just over 26 per cent. of our liabilities for notes and deposits.

Our investments still figure in the balance-sheet at a little over 5 millions, being approximately £150,000 less than last year, due to certain changes in our investments consequent on the maturity of short-dated Government securities, and this in spite of the fact that we show for the first time the item of £115,000, representing our holding of South African Reserve Bank Stock.

Bills of exchange have fallen from just under 8 millions in March, 1921, to a little over 5½ millions, owing chiefly to the falling off in the imports into South Africa.

Bills discounted and advances to customers stand at £36,442,485—about 5½ millions lower than last year.

At the beginning of the year heavy stocks were held by many of the large importing houses in South Africa, and the reduction of their liabilities to the bank, due to the realisation of these stocks, is reflected in the figures of advances.

Full provision has, of course, been made for all bad and doubtful debts, and securities have been written down to, or below, market values.

Bank property and premises stand at £976,433—being an increase of approximately £80,000 for the year, due to expenditure on alterations and additions, and the purchase of premises at various places.

While talking of premises, as I had the opportunity this year of visiting South Africa and seeing most of our more important premises with my own eyes, I can assure you that this figure—large though it may seem to you—is worthily represented by the offices I saw.

Our chief office in Cape Town, which is being enlarged and is still swarming with builders and scaffolding, struck me as being one of the finest banking halls I have ever been in. It is hoped that when these premises are completed we shall be able more economically to centralise our business, and some departments, which are now working away from the central office, will be able to be housed there, which will mean considerable economy for the bank. I can assure you that this building is well worthy of the important bank in which you are shareholders.

Another very fine building is our new bank in Eloff street, Johannesburg, which, by the business it is doing, has thoroughly justified the money which has been spent on it, and is certainly a very handsome and imposing building.

Other premises of the bank which I visited, both in Rhodesia and the Union, do credit to the bank and are worthy of our great institution; but I have only time to mention these two, which are perhaps two of the most important and have caused us all a good deal of thought before embarking on the expenditure thereon. I am sure you will agree that it is an important thing that our bank should have handsome offices, and that the working conditions of our staff should be as comfortable as we can make them. Improvements and additions to the bank's premises continually have the close attention of the management.

Turning now to the profit and loss account, you will see that our net profits for the year, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, amount to £502,313, which, added to the £206,724 brought forward from last year, gives us a total of £709,037 to dispose of. Of this sum we have already paid £156,041 as an interim dividend, and have appropriated £50,000 to the further writing down of bank premises.

This leaves a balance of £502,996, which we recommend be disposed of by allocating £100,000 to the Officers' Pension Fund, and by the payment of dividend and bonus at the same rate as last year, leaving £191,225 to be carried forward to the next account.

I feel sure that, having regard to the difficulties of the past year, you will be well satisfied with these results, and it is hardly necessary to remind you that they have been attained during a period marked by a considerable falling off in the trade of South Africa.

You will, I am sure, be interested in the particulars of the trade returns for the period under review, and some details in connection with the most important of the South African industries.

Total imports into South Africa for the year 1921 fell from £107,502,039 to £61,473,849, and exports from £86,058,997 to £65,068,955.

The marked decline in imports in 1921 followed as a natural sequence the excessive and abnormal importation of the previous year, when indents, some of which had been outstanding for a considerable time, were executed with unexpected celerity owing to the falling off in demand in other countries. This resulted in the accumulation in the hands of importers of large stocks of high priced merchandise which were difficult to realise at a time of rapidly falling prices and restricted demand. The uncertainties of price movements and the violent fluctuations in foreign exchange also tended to make importers cautious, and fresh indents were limited as far as possible to immediate requirements. Thus, whilst the fall in values affected the totals to some extent the reduction in quantity was a more important factor, and the tonnage of overseas cargo landed in Union ports was about 36 per cent. less than in 1920.

The value of the gold output of South Africa (Union and Rhodesia) for the year 1921, on the basis of £4.24773 per fine ounce, was £37,015,772, which compares with £37,135,045 for the previous year. The gold premium, estimated by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines at an average for the year of just over £1 per ounce, increased the value of the output for 1921 to £45,982,421, as against £47,687,313 in 1920, when the average premium was £1.23143 per ounce.

The annual production of gold throughout the world has steadily declined since 1915, but the fall has been proportionately greater in other countries than in South Africa, and the percentage of the whole represented by that country's output has accordingly increased, and in 1921 was about 56 per cent. of the world's total production for that year.

The downward trend in output figures was less marked in the last twelve months than in the preceding periods, but the present year will show a further material decline owing to the cessation of work on the mines during the recent strikes. The output from the Transvaal for the first quarter of this year was only 639,733 ounces, as against 1,883,976 ounces in the corresponding period of 1921.

The price of gold averaged 107s 0½d per fine ounce in 1921, compared with 112s 11½d per fine ounce in 1920. The highest quotation recorded was 127s 4d in February, 1920. The maximum and minimum quotations in 1921 were 115s 11d in January and 97s 7d in December, and the price has since declined further to 92s 5d.

The substantial fall in the price of gold in the latter months of last year revived in an acute form the question of the payability of the low grade mines, and a conference was arranged between the Chamber of Mines and the representatives of the workers with a view to readjustment of wages and working conditions.

Unfortunately the conference proved abortive, and further efforts by the Government to find a solution satisfactory to both parties were unsuccessful. The failure to come to an agreement resulted in a strike being declared by the miners in January last, and the industry was brought practically to a standstill. The strike continued for more than two months and developed into a revolutionary outbreak, necessitating the declaration of martial law and the employment of the armed forces of the Government to restore law and order. This was only accomplished after a good deal of bloodshed and regrettable loss of life.

Profit and Loss Account.

Pension Fund and Dividend.

Trade Returns.

Gold Mining Industry.

Output Figures.

Gold Prices.

The Strike.

[July 29, 1922.]

With restoration of order the strike collapsed and work was resumed on the terms offered by the Chamber of Mines, though with the promise of a Government Commission to inquire into the whole position. This Commission is now pursuing its investigations.

The gold output for Rhodesia for 1921 was 585,525 ounces valued at £2,487,152, as compared with 552,498 ounces valued at £2,376,052 for the previous year.

Gold discoveries are reported from South West Africa, East Africa, and Portuguese territory, but sufficient development work has not yet been undertaken to prove their value.

The Union Mint building at Pretoria has been completed, and will be in a position to commence operations towards the end of the year.

The *Refinery at Germiston* commenced working in December last, but had to close down temporarily during the strike. Work has now been resumed, and the bulk of the gold produced on the Witwatersrand will be lodged there for refining.

Whilst the effects of the recent industrial upheaval are likely to be felt for some time, and will be reflected in reduced output and dividends this year, it is generally hoped that the gold mining industry will benefit from more stable working conditions. Reduced costs of production will bring within the margin of payability large quantities of ore which could not profitably be worked under the old conditions, and the lives of some mines should be prolonged.

The output of diamonds fell from 2,545,017 carats in 1920, valued at £14,762,899, to 806,643 carats valued at £3,103,448 in 1921. Of the latter total 659,005 carats valued at £2,208,758 were produced at the mines, and 147,638 carats valued at £894,690 by alluvial workers.

These figures reflect the extent to which this important industry has suffered from the abnormal conditions generally prevailing. Demand has been restricted owing to the financial situation, but an adverse factor has been the forced realisations at low prices of large quantities of cut stones from Bolshevik and other Continental sources.

Hitherto America has been the most important buyer of South African stones, but the requirements of that country during the past year have been supplied chiefly from the other sources mentioned.

Exports of diamonds from *South West Africa* in 1921 were 171,188 carats, compared with 606,423 carats in 1920.

The production of coal within the *Union* for the year 1921 amounted to 11,389,015 tons valued at £4,989,028, which compares with 11,473,464 tons valued at £4,519,665 for the previous year.

The output tonnage in 1921 showed a slight decrease compared with the record figures of the previous year, but better average prices were obtained at South African ports owing to the high cost of production in other countries and the strike of mine workers in Great Britain in the earlier part of the year. With renewed activity in coal mining in Britain, however, the South African export trade has suffered from the keen competition in Eastern and other markets, and output in recent months has declined. The position was further adversely affected by industrial troubles in the Transvaal in the early months of this year.

To assist the export trade considerable reductions have been made in railage charges from the mines to the ports, and this pithead prices at the collieries have also been reduced.

The labour position showed no material change during last year, but early in January this year a strike of white miners was declared following proposals to reduce wages. The strike failed after lasting for more than two months, and many of the strikers have not been re-engaged owing to the present position of the industry.

Both output and shipments during the past year show record figures for the industry in Natal.

In Rhodesia the whole of the output comes from the Wankie collieries, whose total sales for the year ending August 31, 1921, were 314,125 tons, which compares with 320,477 tons in the previous year.

Owing to the fall in the price of copper which did not permit the profitable production of the metal, the output has been greatly reduced, although a considerable amount of copper ore still continues to be exported from South West Africa. Development work and the erection of additional plant is being proceeded with in anticipation of renewed activity when the demand in overseas markets improves.

The average price of this metal in London in 1921 was £165 5s 7d per ton, as against £295 16s 3d in 1920, and this fall in value is

responsible for the curtailment of the output from 2,463 tons to 1,439 tons.

Asbestos occurs over wide areas in the Cape Province, Transvaal and Rhodesia, and numerous fresh discoveries have been reported during the year. Output has been temporarily curtailed on account of market conditions, but as these improve further developments may be anticipated.

This industry continues to make good progress and production last year exceeded previous records. The iron and steel industry in South Africa has advantages in the way of ore reserves and ample fuel supplies at very moderate cost, but progress during the year has been hampered by existing trade conditions and industrial unrest. As conditions improve expansion of the industry may be looked for, and given efficient management it should be able to hold its own against overseas competition.

There is but little doubt that South Africa is rich in deposits of other useful metals and minerals, but difficulties of transport and lack of water have in many cases militated against successful enterprise.

It is expected, however, that with the development of the country and the construction of a number of new branch railway lines we can look forward to a material expansion in the base metal industry in South Africa in the near future.

Climatic conditions during the year were fairly favourable on the whole, though the distribution of rainfall in the several provinces of the Union was irregular. Good rains, however, have recently fallen in most districts and the outlook is at present satisfactory.

The farming community suffered severely from depressed markets in the early part of last year, brought about by the rapid fall in values of both stock and produce. The buoyant conditions of the years immediately following the Armistice encouraged farmers to extend their operations, and many of them purchased land and stock at high prices during the boom period, on which no adequate return could be obtained when the reaction set in. Markets improved in the later months of the year and values are showing more stability.

The wheat crop of the Union for the 1921/22 season is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 5 per cent. below the previous year.

The total imports of wheat and flour for the year 1921 were valued at £751,052, as against £4,708,253 in 1920, but the latter figures were abnormal owing to drought and failure of crops in South Africa the previous season.

The area in the Union under maize, which is the most important of the cereal crops, was estimated at 5 per cent. more than the previous year, but the latest forecast of the Department of Agriculture anticipates a short fall of 5 per cent. in the yield owing to adverse conditions.

There is still scope for greatly increased maize production, and efforts are being made, by improved methods of cultivation and more careful seed selection, to improve the yield, which at present gives a much smaller average return per acre than in most of the principal maize growing countries.

Livestock in the Union is reported to be in good condition generally, and there were no serious outbreaks of disease during the year.

Livestock markets have been very depressed, and farmers have found difficulty in disposing of surplus stock at remunerative prices, though there is still a demand for good breeding animals at a moderate figure. There has been marked improvement in grade of livestock in South Africa of late years, particularly as regards dairy cattle. A recent shipment to England of 100 South African bred Friesland cattle attracted considerable attention, and extraordinarily good prices were realised for them.

In Rhodesia the condition of livestock is satisfactory, but there, as elsewhere, farmers are feeling the effects of the heavy fall in values.

In South West Africa stock raising is the mainstay of the farming community, and the number of head of cattle in the country is given as 470,000. Markets, however, are distant, and at present prices of stock, the cost of transport, and the deterioration *en route* make the returns inadequate. A Commission was appointed during the year by the Administrator to report on the position and prospects of the industry, and as an outcome it is proposed to erect cold storage works at Walvis Bay with a view to establishing a meat export trade.

Dairy farming continues to make satisfactory progress, and the regular returns received for dairy produce at a time when other markets were very uncertain encouraged farmers to devote more attention to this branch of farming. During last year exports of butter exceeded

July 29, 1922.]

million pounds in weight, valued at £252,331, which compares with 727,000 lbs valued at £88,413 the previous year.

The scheme for *grain elevators* in the Union is now being proceeded with and construction work has been commenced at Durban and Cape Town, here port elevators are to be erected with capacities of 42,000 tons and 30,000 tons respectively. Provision is also made for 34 elevators in the country districts with capacities varying from 1,800 tons to 5,800 tons. The work is expected to be completed in time for the 1924-25 harvest, and will be of material assistance in developing the grain trade of South Africa.

Wool exported during 1921 was nearly twice the quantity, though little more than half in total value of the previous year's export, the average price per lb having fallen from 2s 8d in 1920, to slightly under 1s in 1921. The actual exports for the two years were as follows:

1920—119,504,747 lbs valued at £15,988,103.
1921—230,421,915 lbs valued at £8,236,835.

Values continued to fall steadily until May, and, with the exception of the highest grades, wool was practically unsaleable owing to excessive stocks and paucity of demand. In the second part of the year, however, prices gradually improved and, apart from one or two temporary setbacks due to Continental exchange difficulties, the improvement has been maintained.

Stocks in the Union are now about normal and markets are steady on the lower basis of values.

Exports of mohair in 1921 were 17,128,915 lbs valued at £583,643, which compares with 6,289,888 lbs valued at £518,973 in the previous year, and the average price last year was 8½d per lb as against 8d in 1920.

In the years immediately prior to the war more than 75 per cent. of the production went to Germany and other Continental countries, and in the absence of these markets large stocks of mohair accumulated in South Africa, which were for the time unsaleable. With the revival of manufacturing activity in Germany, and a greatly reduced export of mohair from Turkey, demand for the South African article has latterly improved, and local stocks, particularly of superior grades, are finding markets. It is stated that South African mohair has deteriorated in quality in recent years, but attention is now being directed to improvement of flocks and production of a finer quality hair.

Ostrich feathers exported during 1921 amounted to 296,711 lbs valued at £461,533, an average of £1 11s 11d per lb, which compares with 285,144 lbs valued at £547,366 or £1 18s 4d per lb for the previous year.

The depression in this branch of the farming industry shows no signs of lifting, and as feathers may be classed as luxury articles and the demand also depends on the vagaries of fashion, it is not possible to say when revival may be expected.

Hides and skins exported during 1921 were valued at £1,211,835 compared with £4,235,311 in 1920, a decrease of about 70 per cent. In bulk, however, there was very little change and the lower values recorded for 1921 reflect the heavy fall in prices.

Conditions in the markets for hides and skins were very similar to those obtaining for other classes of produce, and local quotations followed the fall in values in other countries.

From East Africa, where large herds of cattle are held by the native population, considerable quantities of hides were exported to European markets, but for the past two years this trade is reported to have been very much restricted and large stocks are held by the coast merchants.

The position of the wine farmers is still unsatisfactory and the industry has not yet recovered from the setback resulting from the excessive speculation in 1920. The value of the wine and brandy exported during 1921 was £116,362, compared with £221,360 the previous year.

The value of fruit exported from the Union during the last two years was as follows:—

Fruit.	1920	1921
Fruit, fresh	£173,561	£421,591
Fruit, dried and preserved	£186,045	£245,597

The satisfactory increase shown is the result of larger production, better organisation, and improved transport facilities. Cold storage accommodation on the steamers of the Union Castle Company has recently been considerably enlarged, and we understand will be further increased to cope with the anticipated material expansion in the export trade. Efforts are also being made to open up Continental markets.

The yield of the sugar crop in Natal for the past three seasons and the quantities exported were as follows:—

Season.	Total Crop. Tons.	Exports. Tons.
1919-20	188,710	16,500
1920-21	143,750	30,000
1921-22	151,500	32,000

Exports of *raw cotton* from the Union in 1921 amounted to 914,268 lbs, valued at £36,527, which compares with 997,238 lbs, valued at £69,830, in 1920. The steady, if slow, progress made in recent years has been checked by the fall in values, but greater care is being given to seed selection and grading, and there should be further expansion if prices improve.

Exports from *Nyasaland* during 1921 amounted to 1,475,232 lbs, valued at £66,560, as against 913,718 lbs, valued at £86,483, in the previous year. Crops for the present season are promising, but the small margin of profit to the grower at present values has discouraged planting, and the yield is likely to be lower.

In *Uganda* cotton is entirely a native crop, but it is the most important product and chief source of revenue in the territory.

The total value of ginned cotton and cotton seed exported from *Uganda* in 1921 was £1,303,470, as against £3,930,326 in 1920.

In *Tanganyika Territory* the cotton crops also suffered from drought, and the output in most districts will be considerably below the estimates.

The area under tobacco in the *Union* is estimated at about 25,000 acres, giving a crop return of approximately 11,000,000 lbs. The major part of this is dealt with by the local factories, of which at the time of the last census there were 66, with a total output valued at £1,951,236. Exports of tobacco from the Union in 1921 amounted to 641,825 lbs, valued at £87,890. The Department of Agriculture estimates that the crop this season will fall considerably short of the quantity reaped last year.

In Rhodesia last season's crops were a record for the territory. The area planted was 9,531 acres, giving a return of 3,746,982 lbs, of which 3,192,662 lbs was Virginian and 554,320 lbs Turkish. Official estimates for the present season anticipate a smaller return owing to unfavourable weather conditions, the crop having suffered both in yield and quality from lack of moisture during the growing period.

Exports of tobacco from *Nyasaland* in 1921 amounted to 4,945,169 lbs, valued at £297,091, as against 4,963,130 lbs, valued at £481,519, in the previous year. Market conditions have improved since last year, but it is stated that large stocks are still held in London.

Exports of wattle bark and bark extract from the *Union* for the past three years were as follows:—

Year.	Lbs.	Value.
1919	140,406,846	602,182
1920	176,819,312	986,484
1921	170,823,744	570,127

The extent of the wattle plantations is estimated at approximately 250,000 acres, nearly all in Natal. In common with all other commodities, values have shown a material decline during the past two years, and stripping of trees was temporarily curtailed or suspended on many estates owing to the restricted demand and accumulation of stocks. Local quotations for chopped bark gradually receded from £12/13 per ton in 1920 to £5 10s per ton in 1921, but have since recovered to about £7 per ton. Wattle extract also declined from about £44 to £24 per ton.

The total quantity of timber used in the *Union* annually is estimated at 17 million cubic feet, of which 1½ million cubic feet are supplied from local forests and the balance is imported. The total value of imports during 1921 was £1,454,948, compared with £3,442,334 for the previous year.

The area under forests and plantations is estimated at approximately 800,000 acres, and though afforestation is proceeding steadily it will be some years before local output can be materially increased.

The area of the tea estates in Natal, according to the latest statistics available, is 3,497 acres, yielding 3,702,634 lbs of green leaf, or 913,751 lbs of manufactured tea. Imports during 1921 were 8,136,316 lbs, valued at £439,169, which compares with 6,672,975 lbs, valued at £597,268, in the previous year.

[July 29, 1922.]

South African production has steadily declined during the last few years owing to labour difficulties resulting from restrictions on Indian immigration, and to the displacement of tea by sugarcane on some estates on account of the more profitable returns obtained from the latter.

Exports of tea from *Nyasaland* during 1921 were 208,255 lbs, valued for Customs purposes at £3,414, as against 496,836 lbs, valued at £22,505, in the previous year. The decrease is due to the cultivation of tea having given place to tobacco.

Coffee from East Africa is now well known on the London market, and offerings find a ready sale at good prices. Exports from *Uganda* in 1921 totalled 48,856 cwts, valued at £94,038, which compares with 43,112 cwts, valued at £141,271, in 1920. The condition of this season's crops is satisfactory, and as freight and other charges have been reduced, the outlook is more promising.

Export statistics for the other East Coast territories for last year are not yet available. In *Kenya* trees are reported to be healthy, and given normal weather conditions, there is promise of a record crop, but in *Tanganyika* the output is likely to be adversely affected by drought.

Sisal is cultivated extensively in all the territories on the East Coast, where climatic conditions appear to be particularly suitable to its growth. For the current season production is estimated as follows:—

	Tons.
Tanganyika Territory	8,000
Kenya Colony	10,000
Portuguese East Africa	7,000

Flax is cultivated extensively in the higher altitudes of Kenya Colony, and considering that the first flax factory was only started in 1914, the progress made is regarded as very satisfactory. The area sown in 1921 is estimated at 20,000 acres, and the yield approximately 2,500 tons of flax and 2,500 tons of tow. The quality of the fibre is improving, and further expansion of the industry is anticipated.

Zanzibar and Pemba supply about 80 per cent. of the world's production of cloves, and it is estimated that there are about 52,000 acres under cultivation, the total number of trees in bearing being about 4,700,000. Output varies considerably, but averages approximately 14,000,000 lbs per annum, for the current season the crop is estimated at 8,000 tons.

As regards other manufacturing industries, the figures of the latest census show an increase in the total output of £52,478,962, or approximately 130 per cent., compared with five years ago. The number of factories increased from 3,998 to 6,890 during the same period.

At the time the last census was taken trade conditions were still buoyant and the effects of falling prices, depression in trade and renewed overseas competition will only be reflected in the later returns now in course of preparation. The recent industrial troubles in South Africa will also affect the position during the current year.

I think you will agree that the balance-sheet figures I have given you are satisfactory, and I see no reason to believe that your Bank will not be able to continue its prosperous course in the future, but South Africa has not yet recovered from the effects of the war, and is indeed a long way from being normal in trade. Banks, as you know, are an indication of the trade of the country, and in times like these we must exercise great caution.

One point I ought perhaps to call the attention of the shareholders to. I have already referred to the loss of the bank's note issue, and this is one source of profit which is cut off. But we must also bear in mind that, with low rates for money ruling in London, it becomes increasingly difficult for the Bank to maintain its profits.

Our fixed charges chiefly under the head of salaries during the last few years have risen very considerably, and this has made it necessary to close a number of small branches and agencies which could no longer be continued on a paying basis.

For this reason we have closed five branches and about thirty agencies during the year, and, in addition, we have in the process of absorbing the African Banking Corporation consolidated our branch system by closing thirteen branches in various places where both banks were formerly represented.

The only new branches opened during the year were at Kigoma in Tanganyika territory and at Vrededorp—a suburb of Johannesburg which is growing in importance as an industrial centre.

Chairman's Visit to South Africa.

I have already referred to my recent visit to South Africa and, with your permission, I cannot close without giving you one or two further details with regard to this.

I had originally meant to visit East Africa, unfortunately this was not possible on the present occasion, which was particularly disappointing since in these territories both planters and traders have been adversely affected by conditions by currency difficulties. The position is, however, I believe, now improving, and I understand that a much more optimistic feeling with regard to the future prevails.

I was accompanied on my visit by Mr Hoccy, our Secretary, and also by Mr Jeffrey, one of the General Managers in Cape Town, and I owe a great deal to these gentlemen, who, with their fuller knowledge of local conditions and details of actual business, were able to post me up and explain local conditions to me, which would otherwise have taken me much longer to ascertain.

We travelled over 8,000 miles during the 9½ weeks I was in Africa, and I was able to see something of Portuguese East Africa (the Mocim-bique Co.'s territories), as well as something of Southern Rhodesia and of the Union Provinces.

In Portuguese East Africa your Bank is at present carrying on business under great difficulties, and until the currency problem in these districts is straightened out it would appear that any British or African bank doing business there must do so at considerable risk of making losses.

In Rhodesia, where I visited Salisbury, Bulawayo and Livingstone, your Bank holds a very strong position, and although the country was suffering from a severe drought and there was much talk of serious loss both to farmers and ranchers this year, I was on the whole greatly impressed with the future possibilities of this wonderful country. But it must always be borne in mind that distances are enormous in this part of the world and transport development is necessary before it can attain the prosperity it deserves. It is remarkable, however, how quickly Rhodesia is going ahead.

I am very thankful that I was able to visit Johannesburg and Pretoria, as at one time it looked as though the revolution would prevent my getting there. This trouble was, however, so satisfactorily dealt with, that within a week of what might have been a disaster of the greatest magnitude to South Africa everything was quiet, and I was able to realise in a quite exceptional way, when I went to Johannesburg within a week of the fighting, how serious had been the danger and what a wonderful escape South Africa had.

I was immensely struck with the size and importance of Johannesburg as a city, and am confident that it will maintain its position as one of the most important distributing and business centres in South Africa.

Another city with which I was much impressed was Durban, and it is remarkable to see the development of the Congella district, with its large warehouses and factories where a few years ago there was nothing but marshy waste land.

I have not time to refer to all the interesting towns and places I visited, but I trust that the results of this visit may be beneficial to your Bank. This I can at least assure you—that the cordiality with which, as a Director of the Bank, I was received everywhere shows in what high esteem the representatives of the Standard Bank are held; and my visit gave me the opportunity of Africa, and of discussing various matters with them in the friendliest of ways, which was not only a very great pleasure to me, but I truly believe of advantage to your great institution.

The general feeling I have, after travelling over so much of South Africa, is one of great confidence in its future, and although it must take time for industry and trade to develop, the country as a whole is so full of rich possibilities that, assuming these can be developed along the right lines, it must, I feel convinced, have a prosperous future before it. My confidence is all the greater since reading in recent mail advices of the important programme of new railway development undertaken by the Union Government.

Although we fully realise our responsibility in the development of the country and have no wish whatever to minimise this responsibility, we feel, as I have said before, that it devolves on us to see that we do not at any time encourage bad banking or bad financial enterprise, but do our utmost to maintain and increase the high credit of this bank and of South Africa.

Prosperous Future Prophesied.

July 29, 1922.]

I cannot, of course, forecast the future, but I think South Africa is learning, perhaps quicker than any other portion of the world, that true prosperity can only be secured by increased production, thrift and real industry, and I have the greatest confidence that, in spite of possible reduced earnings your Bank will be able to maintain its position, and that in continuing to carry out our traditional policy of "steady though cautious progression," we may be enabled to meet all the problems that we are, in the course of natural events, bound to be faced with in the future. (Applause.)

I will now conclude by moving the first resolution, viz:— That the report and balance-sheet to March 31, 1922, now presented, be adopted, and I will ask my colleague, Sir David Barbour, to second it.

Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by the chairman, Lord Middleton, K.P., P.C.: After the admirable and comprehensive statement which we have heard from the chair, I do not imagine that it would be ungracious if no shareholder rose to express our sense of the admirable result that the board has been able to show for the last year's working. Those of us who were shareholders in the African Banking Corporation were sanguine that this amalgamation would not be a great advantage to both banks, but would be, as the chairman has told us to-day, of advantage to South Africa, and it is certainly encouraging to know that, even after so short a time, this result may be regarded as already achieved, and I would venture to congratulate the board especially on the courage with which they have already set to work to evade one of the greatest dangers of amalgamation, the multiplication of staffs and branches which are no longer profitable. We have heard from him of what we may almost describe as the drastic steps which have been taken in that direction, and I think the board have every reason to feel encouraged by the results. I only rise to express what I know is felt—the appreciation of shareholders of the results which in a very disturbed condition of trade, and a not too quiet condition of South Africa, have been achieved in the last 12 months.

The Chairman: I am much obliged to Lord Middleton for his remarks. If no other shareholder has any remark to make I will put the resolution to the meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now have to make a formal declaration of dividend by reading the following to the meeting:—"As empowered by the articles of association, on behalf of the board, I now declare a dividend for the six months ending March 31st last of 7s per share on 445,833 shares, as a final dividend for the 12 months ending on that date, with a bonus of 2s 6d per share (making, with the interim dividend, a total distribution at the rate of 16½ per cent. per annum), (subject to income-tax), to be paid to those shareholders whose names appeared on the register on June 28, and to become payable on the 27th inst."

The Chairman: I now have another resolution to propose, and that is, "That Mr William Smart be re-elected a Director of the company." I will ask the Right Hon Lord Sydenham, G.C.M.G., to second this.

The Right Hon Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., F.R.S.: I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Right Hon the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G.: I have great pleasure in moving "That Mr E. Clifton Brown be re-elected a Director of the company."

Mr Horace Peel: I have pleasure in seconding it.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I have another resolution, and that is to propose: "That Mr James Fairbairn Finlay, C.S.I., be re-elected a Director of the company."

Mr. William Smart: I have great pleasure in seconding that.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The fifth resolution I will ask Mr. Skeel to propose.

Mr. W. H. Skeel: The resolution that I have to propose is "That Sir William B. Peat, F.C.A., and Sir A. T. Turquand-Young, Esq., F.C.A., and Sir Gilbert Garnsey, F.C.A., be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of 400 guineas each."

Captain Chas. Slack, F.R.G.S.: I beg to second the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my very pleasing duty to move the next resolution, and I am sure it will have the unanimous support of this meeting. It is:—"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the General Managers and other officers of the Bank for their valuable services."

I should like to preface my remarks by a word or two of very sincere regret for the loss which your Bank has suffered in the retirement, owing to ill-health, of one of our Joint General Managers in South Africa, viz., Mr Noel Jennings. His health has been worrying him for some little time, but we did not anticipate that we should be deprived of his services so soon. He came to the Bank in 1897, and during my recent visit to South Africa I was continually having inquiries made with respect to this gentleman, and it is quite evident that he is held in very great esteem by our customers in all parts of South Africa. The loss of Mr Jennings' services to the Bank is, we feel, very great, but we trust the release from his heavy duties will give him renewed health, and that he may have many years of health and happiness in store for him; we know at least that he will always be an ardent supporter of this Bank.

It is impossible for me to over-estimate the value of the services rendered by our General Managers and other responsible officers of the Bank, but the only name that I intend to mention on this occasion is that of our Senior General Manager, Mr. J. P. Gibson, who I much hoped might have been with us to-day, since he is by way of enjoying a holiday at home at the present time. He had, however, an opportunity of visiting Germany and seeing conditions out there, which your Bank thought would be of such value that we asked him to undertake this trip—which he naturally gladly did. His responsibilities in South Africa are very great, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I give this reassurance of the board's absolute confidence in his great ability and judgment.

One of the reasons that I do not on the present occasion mention any other names is that I am nervous, after visiting South Africa so recently, that if I once begin I shall not know where to stop, as many of the officers of the Bank are really worthy of special mention. It must be clearly understood that this vote of thanks includes the members of our staff in all parts of the world where we have a branch or agency, and includes those who work for us at the Head Office in London, who are sometimes apt to be forgotten.

I feel I must refer again for a moment to my recent visit to South Africa, since one of the great objects about which I wished to inform myself was the conditions under which those who work for us—and who are giving the greater part of their lives to the Bank's services—were working and living. I am sure you will agree that the last thing any of us wish is that those who are working for us should be exposed to unnecessary or avoidable inconveniences either during the time they are working in the office or the time they have to spend in their homes. We are a business enterprise, and cannot be a philanthropic institution, but we do wish to see that, as far as possible, healthy conditions exist both in the bank offices and in the homes of those who work for us; and this brings me to one of the difficulties of our foreign service, which I know you will all appreciate. Our branches are situated not only in large towns, but in many cases in outlying country districts and in smaller towns, where, while there is probably plenty of opportunity for the man who is in business and meeting business friends, to pass his time profitably, the same conditions hardly attach to the wives who, although experiencing considerable difficulties in very out-of-the-way places, are able to keep their husbands free from home worries and so enable them to give their best thoughts to the bank's interests.

During my trip, owing to the fact that my wife accompanied me (although in case any shareholder might feel critical, I would like to say that her visit was not at the expense of the bank!), we had several excellent opportunities of meeting the wives of many of our officers. My wife and I attended, and enjoyed greatly being able to attend, a garden party given in Cape Town, also one given at the Country Club in Johannesburg, and another very delightful river party in East London, to which the wives of members of the staff were invited with their husbands.

Although I should be quite out of order in including the wives in this vote of thanks, I do seize this opportunity of mentioning them and thanking them for the assistance they are indirectly giving us. (Applause.)

I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, you will be glad to hear that the conclusion I came to as a result of my visit was that the members of your Bank were well looked after, and, what is I think still more important, there was the greatest sympathy with any legitimate and proper complaint or grievance which was brought to the notice of the General Managers. Whether it is partly the result of

this or not, I am also glad to assure the shareholders that, in my opinion, the set of men who have risen to the rank of managers and other senior posts in your Bank do credit to this institution, and we ought to be extremely grateful to them one and all for the way in which they are carrying out their duties in these distant countries.

With the greatest cordiality I ask you to give this vote of thanks, and I will ask Mr Dodds Fairbairn to second it.

Mr A. Dodds Fairbairn: The chairman has referred to the valuable services which the manager and staff in London have given to the bank, and I am sure all on this side of the table associate ourselves with the remarks that the Chairman has made in that regard. I have especial pleasure in seconding the Chairman's motion, as it gives me an opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to the officers of the bank in Africa during my visit there last year. I had the benefit of interviews with the Senior General Manager, Mr Gibson, as well as his assistants, and from these gentlemen I received valuable help in the business matter in which I was specially engaged in Africa. I had also occasion to call at the bank offices in Johannesburg, Buluwayo, Durban, East London, and one or two other places, and in all cases I received equal sympathy and help from the officers, and I can quite confirm what the Chairman has said of his experience in South Africa, that we have an excellent staff out there. At the time of my visit wool and grain markets were somewhat disturbed, as the chairman has hinted at, and naturally there was a good deal of discussion in the hotels and clubs where we were, and these matters came under our notice. On more than one occasion, you may be interested to know, Mr Gibson's name came up, and reference was made to the very able and tactful way in which he was handling what then was a very difficult situation. With these few remarks I beg to second the Chairman's motion for a vote of thanks.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr Francis Shipton (London manager): On behalf of the staff at home and abroad, in South Africa, in New York, in Holland, and in London, I beg to thank you, sir, and Mr Fairbairn for the

way you have proposed and seconded the resolution, and the shareholders for the way in which they have received it. It is a great encouragement to the members of the staff, especially those situated at big distances from the railway line, to know that their services are valuable.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting.

Lord Fairfax: Mr Chairman and gentlemen, before the business of the meeting is concluded, I should like to have the privilege of proposing a vote of thanks to our Chairman and the Directors of the Standard Bank of South Africa for the very splendid manner in which they have looked after our interests during this difficult and critical time for banking, particularly for banking of an overseas nature. The balance-sheet submitted to us is a striking example of the great capacity and ability which our directors have shown in times of stress—in fact, the most strenuous times the banks have ever had to pass through, when every credit and all new business called for the most careful consideration—and I feel that we are to be congratulated in having the affairs of our institution in such excellent hands. I feel that the managers, and the staff too, have helped a great deal, because without their whole-hearted co-operation such results could not have been achieved. I hope—in fact, I feel confident—that all the shareholders present here to-day will join with me in giving their unqualified support to this resolution, for we are all grateful to the directors for the work they have done on our behalf.

Mr Retallick: Mr Chairman and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to the chairman for his statement on South Africa, and I am sure it is a great pleasure to us to have listened to him, and to have had such a clear account of the bank's doings in South Africa. I have therefore great pleasure in seconding the resolution of cordial thanks of the meeting to the directors for their attention to the affairs of the bank and to the chairman for his conduct in the chair.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: I thank you very much indeed on behalf of myself and my colleagues for your kind expression of confidence. The proceedings then terminated.

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS DESPITE DIFFICULTIES.
TRADE AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE NEAR EAST.
ADVERSE CONDITIONS OF THE PAST YEAR.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN 1920 AND 1921.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held, on the 26th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., presiding. The secretary (Mr Charles E. L. Corbhorn) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—I have been informed that this meeting is properly constituted. I am sure that you will share our satisfaction that this year we have been able to hold our general meeting at a date approaching that which was usual with us before the war. I presume that it will be your pleasure that the reports and accounts, as printed and circulated among you, shall be taken as read.

Before going into the details of our affairs during the year 1921, you will permit me, perhaps, in order that the results obtained may be presented to you in their setting, to make a general and rapid survey of the conditions under which we have had to work.

These conditions are of two kinds: those which are the product of events that have affected similar establishments in varying degrees in all parts of the world, and those which are peculiar to the territory with which we have to deal. With the former you are well enough acquainted to allow me to confine myself to a brief reminder that they have been universally depressing; with the latter I would ask you to let me deal in rather more detail.

UNFAVOURABLE FACTORS IN NEAR EAST.

In the Near East we have a political situation which has grown gradually worse. The unfavourable factors which dominated preceding years prevailed even more emphatically during 1921, and ceding years prevailed even more emphatically during 1921, and the state of instability and uncertainty created by the war was more pronounced. During the year various efforts at mediation were attempted by the Allied Governments. Among these, the most notable was the Conference of London in March, 1921. All alike failed to produce any solution of the Turco-Greek problem or to restore peace. During the second half of the year hostilities broke out afresh in Asia Minor, and in the month of August a Greek offensive took place which, for a moment, threatened Angora itself.

These military operations obliged us to close or to transfer several of our branches as a temporary measure. In the economic sphere—perturbed by the general world crisis to which I have referred—the persistence of a state of war, with its attendant troubles, produced grave results.

TRADE FROM CONSTANTINOPLE.

Constantinople, as you know, owes its importance to its geographical position. It has always been the distributing centre for the countries bordering on the Black Sea, from which trade routes penetrate far to the North, East, and South. During the war, with the closing of the Straits, stocks in the countries dependent on Constantinople, and stocks in Constantinople itself, were exhausted, and it was assumed that on the signing of the Treaty of Sèvres there would be an immense demand for goods of every description. This, indeed, followed, and a period of intense activity marked the year 1920. Important stocks were accumulated at Constantinople to be re-exported to Russia, the Caucasus, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Asia Minor. Then in a few months the movement collapsed. Countries in the Hinterland were cut off or their currencies depreciated, and one by one the doors closed. The shipments to Rumania and Bulgaria became fewer and fewer as these peoples turned towards the commercial centres of the West. The ports of Southern Russia were held by Bolshevik armies and every transaction became precarious.

MARMORA AND GREEK OCCUPATION.

Finally, relations with the neighbourhood of the Marmora itself were rendered extremely difficult by the Greek military occupation. Already new falls in the price of the chief commodities had been produced by the general trade depreciation, and importers were reduced to a liquidation of their stocks at forced sale values. The importation of foodstuffs and articles of first necessity to Constantinople, dependent for these on foreign countries, was strictly limited by the difficulty of re-export, and, in addition, the closing of its export trade, although, on the whole, harvests were fairly good and tobacco, mohair, opium, and silk were in constant demand.

The history of this crisis is reflected in the figures for exports and imports during 1920 and 1921. The total of imports at Constantinople in 1921 was 121,329,000 Turkish pounds, against 169,396,000 Turkish pounds in the previous year. The total exports were 39,380,000 Turkish pounds in 1921, against 47,625,000 Turkish pounds in 1920. The deficit in the commercial balance was, indeed, reduced from 121,771,000 Turkish pounds in 1920 to 90,949,000 Turkish pounds in 1921, but the decrease is evidence not so much of an improved situation as of a pronounced decline in business. It should be regarded as the result of a limitation of imports caused by the depreciation of the currency and by monetary stringency. To this commercial decline the general downward tendency of the Turkish exchange—and even more its instability—was a great contributing factor. In this connection we may remark that Constantinople, owing to the isolation of Anatolia, has had to import from abroad the flour, cereals, and cattle necessary for its own subsistence.

During the year the rates of exchange were subject to violent fluctuations. For the first six months the pound sterling wavered between 570 and 580 piastres. In the month of May it fell to 500. Then it rose steadily till it reached its limit of 875 piastres in October. At the end of the year it stood at 700.

OTTOMAN FINANCE.

All these elements of uncertainty, political and economic, have had their effect on the public finances.

The Ottoman Treasury, deprived of its revenues from Anatolia, found difficulty in meeting even the most urgent of its charges. In order to supplement the resources collected through the Provisional Financial Commission it was obliged to rely on advances from various institutions. Our own establishment lent assistance to the Treasury, and placed at the disposal of the Government the sum of 1,200,000 Turkish pounds as an advance on account of its share in the profits of the Ottoman Tobacco Régie. In the course of this year the advance has been repaid. The receipts of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt have similarly been affected by the continuance of a state of war in Anatolia, and by the severance of the capital from its provinces in Asia Minor. The net receipts for 1920-21 amounted to 8,187,000 Turkish pounds, while for 1921-22 they are estimated at only 7,732,000 Turkish pounds.

Such was the situation, and such the conditions, during the past year—political unrest, economic uncertainty, and commercial stagnation. The effect on our establishment has been less severe than might be expected.

In Turkey the chief centres have had a satisfactory movement in current operations and in exchange. As a result of the general situation business in Mesopotamia, Palestine, Cyprus, Egypt and Greece has suffered a certain inevitable decline. In Paris and London, on the other hand, our agencies have been able to increase their activities. Together with our agencies in Manchester, Marseilles, and Tunis, they have steadily pursued their task of building up relations between East and West.

NEW BRANCHES AND OFFICES.

During the year we opened a branch at Hamadan (Persia), and offices at Troodos (Cyprus) and at Bethlehem and Ramallah (Palestine). We are now studying the possibilities of further extension in regions bordering on those where we already have a system of branches.

In conformity with the decision of our last general meeting, our Syrian branches were transferred to the Banque de Syrie as from January 1, 1921. During the year the banking business of our subsidiary developed in a healthy fashion, and it is satisfactory to observe that the profits realised have enabled it to distribute a dividend of 6 per cent. on its capital.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

In the establishment of our balance-sheet, as will be seen from the report, assets and liabilities in foreign currencies have been converted into pounds sterling at the rate ruling on December 31, 1921. Francs have been converted at the rate of 52 to the pound sterling.

That part of our assets which, in the ordinary course of events, we are obliged to keep in francs for the normal purposes of our establishment must necessarily be subject to fluctuations in the

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Branches:
CENTRAL AMERICA: GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SANTA MARTA, BARRANQUILLA, PUERTO CABELLO, CARTAGENA, CARACAS, MEDELLIN, BOGOTA, MANTA, GUAYAQUIL, IQUITOS.
SOUTH AMERICA: LIMA, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, COPIAPO, COQUIMBO, VALPARAISO, SANTIAGO, CHILLAN, TALCAHUANO, CONCEPCION, RIO DE JANEIRO, SAO PAULO, SANTOS, PORTO ALEGRE, PELOTAS, RIOGRANDE DO SUL, MERCEDES, ROSARIO, MONTE VIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, MENDOZA, SAN RAFAEL, BAHIA BLANCA, TRELEW, COMODORO RIVADAVIA, PUERTO DESEADO, SAN JULIAN, SANTA CRUZ, RIO GALLEGOS, PUNTA ARENAS.

● BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
+ BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
* BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

exchange of the franc in its relation to the pound sterling, since our balance-sheet is established in the latter currency.

Principally as a result of the appreciation in the balance-sheet of the sterling value of the funds employed in francs, the balance of the difference on conversion, which figured in the last balance-sheet at £702,569, has been reduced to a figure considerably lower, which is covered by the £511,461 devoted to this purpose at our last general meeting. Thus, at the rate of 52, the deficiency of £191,108, referred to in the report last year, disappears. Consequently, on December 31st last, the balance of the profit and loss account of £268,000 remains available. We have, therefore, the satisfaction of being able to propose to you the distribution of a dividend at the rate of 10s per share.

Recalling our brief survey of the conditions which prevailed generally, and those which were peculiar to the Near East, you will appreciate, as we do, the results which, in spite of adverse circumstances, have been obtained. These results justify hopes expressed at former meetings.

TRIBUTE TO COMTE DE GERMINY.

Before closing, I wish to pay a tribute to the memory of our old colleague the Comte de Germiny, who was a member of the committee in Paris for so many years, and who passed away in March last.

I am sure that I interpret your wishes in expressing our thanks to our Direction-General in Constantinople, to the managements of our London and Paris agencies, and to those of our various branches, as well as to the staff of all ranks. In particular, I should like to address a special message of recognition to the staffs of our branches in Asia Minor, who have given, in a situation of great delicacy, new proofs of their devotion.

I beg to move: "That the report and accounts now read be received and adopted; that the dividend for the year ended December 31, 1921, be fixed at the rate of 10s per share, and that this dividend be payable in Constantinople, London, and Paris on August 1, 1922."

M. le Baron de Neufelize, C.V.O., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That Messieurs le Baron de Neufelize and Arsene Henry, G.C.V.O., be and they are hereby re-elected members of the general committee."

General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE, OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Mr A. Hood proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, general committee, officers, and staff of the bank, both at home and abroad, and, after remarking that the chairman had already referred to the devotion of the staff, said he would like to take that opportunity of thanking his lordship for the very clear statement he had made of the affairs of the bank, and of congratulating the management and the staff on having steered and handled the ship during a period which, he hoped the chairman would be able to say in the not distant future, had been the most difficult, dangerous, and unstable period known in the history of banking.

Mr J. Roselli seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY PROFIT DESPITE UNFAVOURABLE EXCHANGE.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. Locke) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: As you will see from the report, the profit for the year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, income-tax, corporation tax, &c., and placing £2,000 to the pension fund, amounts to £25,384 15s 2d. This amount has been transferred to the contingency account.

Until now we have continued to follow our established custom of converting the accounts from Roumania in the balance-sheet at the parity rate of 25 lei to the £ sterling. The difference between this rate of 25 lei to the £ and the current market rates was covered by the reserve accounts (including the contingency account).

In view of the further heavy and continuous depreciation in exchange which has occurred since the last report was issued, the accounts from Bucharest are now converted into sterling in the balance-sheet before you at the rate current on December 31st last (550 to the £).

In order to increase the contingency account to an amount suffi-

cient to cover the difference on conversion at this rate of 550 lei per £ in the bank's funds employed in Roumania, the directors have transferred to that account from the old reserve a sum of £124,059 6s 7d. This leaves a balance of the reserve accounts at £76,300 9s, which amount is more than ample to cover any further exchange depreciation in the funds actually employed in Roumania.

The reduction in the sterling totals of the balance-sheet is due to the conversion into sterling now being effected at 550 lei per £, as against 25 lei per £ in previous years, although the figures from Bucharest show a large expansion.

In view of the general conditions obtaining during the year under review, your Board have continued to follow a conservative policy of liquidity, and are sure that you will view with satisfaction the strong position which our balance-sheet shows. As you will observe, the year's working has yielded a satisfactory profit, notwithstanding the fact that the unfavourable rate of exchange, of course, operates against us when converting currency profits into sterling.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONSOLIDATION.

To turn from consideration of our own affairs to those of Roumania generally, I may say that the country, in the year 1921, has continued its work of economic and financial consolidation. The considerable increase in taxation and the efforts which the Government is making to stabilise the financial situation, by a careful examination of the expenses of the State, should have the effect of bringing about gradually the balancing of the Budget.

The harvest last year was larger than that of the previous year, and the export of cereals amounted to 1,472,760 tons, as against 917,730 tons in 1920. Hopes are entertained that the figures for this year will be even better, although it is still too early to speak definitely on the subject.

The total production of unrefined petrol also increased in 1921 to 1,160,885 tons, as against 1,030,086 tons in 1920, an increase of 129,799 tons; while the oil exported amounted to 362,340 tons, compared with 246,912 tons in 1920. The production has not yet reached the level attained before the war owing to the insufficient means of transport, the lack of labour, and the difficulty of importing drilling materials. During the year, however, new oil companies have been formed, and the position of existing ones has been improved, so that there is every ground for believing that the production will increase greatly in the future. I may add that there are large areas owned by the State and also by private individuals which only await more favourable conditions for exploitation.

Roumania is relatively one of the richest countries in Europe in forests. In the Old Kingdom, as well as in her new territories, the production of timber, &c., is not only sufficient for her own needs, but should constitute one of her principal exports. It is estimated that New Roumania alone could export annually about 100,000 portionate to the resources, owing principally to the lack of adequate transport to the ports on the Danube.

Last September Roumania organised an important exhibition at Bucharest, which was very successful in demonstrating the possibilities of her industrial activity.

In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of the board, to thank the managers and staffs, both at home and abroad, for the valuable assistance they have rendered to us in the conduct of the bank's business.

General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the usual formal business terminated the proceedings.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED. IMPROVED TRADE CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

The annual general meeting of the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, was held, on the 24th instant, at 71 Cornhill, London.

Mr Henry P. Sturgis, who presided, said that, in accordance with the powers conferred upon them by the proprietors in July following October. The issue having been fully subscribed, the capital of the bank, namely, £3,000,000. The premium received on the new shares, £400,000, had been added to the reserve fund. The net profit for the past year, including the amount brought forward, was £619,317. They had placed £20,000 in reduction of the reserve fund, which, with the £400,000 already referred to, now stood at £3,250,000, and after payment of a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free of tax, £86,817 was being carried forward.

The balance-sheet figures now submitted, compared with those for the previous year, showed a growth of £613,000, the principal

increases on the liabilities side being:—Capital, £500,000; reserve fund and balance of profits, £541,000; and bills payable, £33,000; while deposits and circulation showed a decrease of £343,000 and £118,000 respectively. The decrease in deposits was principally in New Zealand, where conditions had been unfavourable, owing chiefly to the poor market for coarse wools and cash meats. On the assets side there were increases in specie and cash balances, £300,000; money at call and short notice in London, £70,000; investments, £157,000; and bills receivable, &c., £1,876,000; while advances were lower by £1,795,000. Advances in February, 1921, were abnormal, owing to the heavy imports in 1920. These had to a great extent been realised, and stocks were now more normal, thus reducing advances, which reduction was reflected in bills receivable owing to large shipments of primary products.

The liquid assets amounted to 8s 6d in the £ of the bank's total liabilities to the public. Taking both Australia and New Zealand, the balance of trade, which in 1920 was £29,000,000 against those countries, changed in 1921 to a balance in their favour of some £5,000,000, which they could not but regard as a satisfactory feature, especially in view of the disturbed trade conditions throughout, out the world since the termination of the war. The past season, both in Australia and New Zealand, was a splendid one. Trade during the last six months of the year under review had shown generally a marked change for the better. Abnormally heavy stocks had been reduced to ordinary requirements, but not without heavy loss to traders. Consumption had been satisfactory, the realisation of produce making money more plentiful. The Commonwealth Government and the State Governments had raised very large loans in 1921 to a balance in 18 months; and in this on the London market during the last 18 months; and in this connection he could not refrain from repeating what he ventured to say at the meeting a year ago—how very necessary it was for States, as well as for individuals, to exercise the greatest caution and economy, in view of the financial position throughout the world.

The report was unanimously adopted.

COMPAGNIE ARAMAYO DE MINES EN BOLIVIE. LOWER PRICES FOR COMPANY'S PRODUCTS. COST OF PRODUCTION REDUCED.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Compagnie Aramayo de Mines en Bolivia was held at the registered offices of the company in Geneva, 16 Quai de la Poste, on July 21, 1922, Mr F. A. Aramayo, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman spoke as follows:—
Gentlemen,—I beg to submit for your consideration the results of the operations of our company for the year 1921. The balance-sheet and profit and loss account, together with directors' and auditors' reports corresponding to that period are already in your hands.

YEAR'S PROFIT.

As you will see by these accounts, the result of the year's working, as remitted by the local administration in Bolivia, gives a profit of 1,984,407.03f for the year 1921, after making allowance for the very considerable loss in exchange due to the fall of 27 per cent. in the value of the Bolivian dollar compared with that of the Swiss franc. This figure has been to a certain extent modified, by as you will see by referring to the profit and loss account, by taking credit for interest on deposits and on securities, and by deduction of directors' fees, law expenses, and other outlays in Europe, leaving the sum of 1,847,844.84f as the net profit for the year. This profit, considerably less than that of the preceding year, which amounted to 5,279,967.08f, is due to the general depression of trade, and low prices that our principal products have fetched in consequence.

In reality our tin ores have produced a loss, with the exception of those of Chocaya, which have just paid for their cost of production.

Bismuth has left a small profit upon the moderate sales made, while the working of these mines has been almost totally stopped. It is only the production of silver which has allowed us to face the needs of our enterprise, and to maintain the payment of dividends.

The sales of black tin, copper, and silver during the period under review, were as follows:—

The sales of tin concentrates amounted to 3,097 tons, at an average rate of £71 1s 6d per 1,000 kilos, the sale of silver sulphides was 91,838 marcos, or 679,233.85 ozs troy, at an average of 40.65d per oz; the sale of silver ore was 64,226.85 marcos, or 475,021.78 ozs troy, at an average of 40.42d per oz. The sale of copper in cement form was 272.44 tons, and that of bismuth was considerably less than in the previous year, and at a much inferior price.

HEAD OFFICE:

1 Dale Street,
LIVERPOOL.



LONDON:

Chief Office,
1 Cornhill, E.C.3

TOTAL ASSETS exceed - £20,000,000
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID over - £102,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. ANNUITIES.

Marine, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee, Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, &c.

OFFICES IN ALL THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL CENTRES

The total production of barilla, or tin concentrates of 60 per cent., in the various mines rose to 2,361 tons, against 2,011 tons in the preceding year.

The production of bismuth in bars and flue dust was limited to 20,328 kilos, produced from mineral which was already extracted and in Quechisla, and 9,103 kilos in rich ore from Tasna.

The production of silver sulphides and exportable silver mineral reached 1,178,215 ozs troy, against 973,038 ozs the year before. The production of copper was 93 tons, against 78.6 tons of the previous year.

Works of development amounted to 3,206 metres run, against 3,885 metres of the preceding year.

SOCAYON SAN BARTOLOME DEVELOPMENT.

The new development work on the level of the Socayon San Bartolomé, of which I made mention in my speech last year, has not given quite the results wished, but it is evident that veins Nos. 2 and 4 correspond to the Quellucuya vein which has been rich at 400 metres higher up, and it is quite probable that the rich mineral which has been found in the level of the Socayon will continue in depth.

Happily we are favoured in this part of the mine by natural ventilation produced by cavities in the rock, and there is little water to interfere with the work of exploration.

In Tasna, as has been mentioned before, the work in bismuth has been almost totally stopped, and the extraction of tin reduced to a very moderate scale, solely with the object of giving work to the workmen.

Before recommending the production of bismuth, we have decided to install the Cottrell condensation process, in order to perfect the extraction from the ore; the material for this plant has already been contracted for in the United States.

Development in Chocaya in silver and tin continues to be entirely satisfactory, down to the gallery on the 175-metre level, and in the shafts which are already down to .190 metres.

RESERVES.

The development of the past year has increased our reserves upon the veins Colorado and Santa Rosa to 130,672 tons, containing 21.19 d.m., i.e., 0.2119 per cent. of silver and 7.04 per cent. of tin over an extent of 388 metres and 58 metres respectively, without taking into account the Llampera, Judios, and Animas veins which contain some silver ore at sight.

The new establishment at Telamayu, with a capacity for treating 75 to 100 tons of ore per day, is on the point of being finished, but we met with great difficulties in obtaining a branch line from the Antofagasta Railway Company, and we have decided to construct an aerial ropeway over the 8,000 metres from the mine to this establishment, the material for which will be shortly shipped from England, and the cost will be about £13,000 f.o.b.

The solution of this difficulty by this ropeway is very satisfactory, and the transport of mineral will be more economical than by rail.

CURRENT YEAR.

Now, referring to the results of the first four months of the present year, i.e., January-April, I am pleased to be able to record that the production has not diminished. On the contrary, that of tin concentrates has increased by 286 tons over that of the same period of last year, copper has increased by 1½ tons, and silver by 11,746.24 marcos, or 86,920.00 ozs, and it is only bismuth which has decreased by 29 tons, the production of this metal having been entirely suspended.

It is, on the other hand, of great interest to report that on account of considerable economies having been introduced, the cost of production has been reduced since the commencement of 1921, and the extraction of tin from the ore improved.

All the above makes us recognise that our general manager, Mr. Malcolm Roberts, and all the company's staff in Bolivia, have energetically carried out the recommendations of the board with a view to alleviating the effects of the present world's crisis, and, consequently, they have deserved well of your company.

In April last, typhoid fever reappeared at Chocaya somewhat severely, but it has been overcome with success by drastic measures of hygiene.

SEQUESTRATION OF DIVIDENDS.

Referring to the report, presented to the general meeting of the English company, which took place in London on September 16, 1920, upon the sequestration of dividends corresponding to German shares since the commencement of the war, I have to inform the shareholders that notwithstanding a vigorous and costly defence on our rights, the House of Lords has decided that the British authorities had the right to act in the manner in which they did, in view of the war legislation.

It therefore now remains for us to study other means to recover these dividends, which, according to the final judgment, the shareholders should not have paid themselves.

Returning to the final results of the year's operations, as shown by the accounts which have been presented to you, the board asks you to confirm the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November last, to vote a bonus of 5 per cent. for the year 1921, and to carry forward the balance of 13,126,869.76f.

CARRY FORWARD.

I would like to state, as regards this large amount carried forward, that the situation is much about the same as that explained last year, and besides that, we must also take into consideration the debit balance of the exchange account, which is the result of the depreciation of Bolivian currency in relation to Swiss currency on that portion of the capital of the company represented by the stocks, merchandise, and local debtors in Bolivia. Although it is hoped that this situation will be modified in the future by an improvement of the exchange, it is prudent to keep a reserve to face this amount.

If any shareholder present wishes for information, I shall be glad to answer questions. No questions being asked, the following resolutions were passed:—

1. That the statement of accounts presented by the board for the year 1921 be approved, and entire discharge given to the directors, especially to the managing director, with thanks for the services rendered by him.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

2. (a) That the dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1921, be confirmed. (b) That the declaration of a bonus of 5 per cent., making a total of 10 per cent. for the year 1921, be approved.

This resolution was also carried unanimously.

The Chairman informed the shareholders that the board had decided to pay a further interim dividend of 5 per cent. on account of the present year, and that this dividend (No. 5), and the bonus (No. 4) of 5 per cent. on account of the year 1921, would be paid on August 1st next to shareholders on the register of the company on July 20, 1922.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the auditors, and Messrs. Tribe, Clarke, Painter, Darton and Co. were duly re-elected for the year 1922.

A shareholder proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. F. A. Aramayo, the managing director, and to Mr. Malcolm Roberts, the general manager in Bolivia, and his staff, which was carried with acclamation.

The proceedings then terminated.

MINERALS SEPARATION, LIMITED. SUCCESS OF BRIQUETTING TESTS.

The 17th ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Minerals Separation, Limited, was held, on the 28th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr. Francis L. Gibbs, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr. H. G. Hankins) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, speaking of the developments of the new briquetting system of the company's invention, said he referred last December to trials commenced to prove the process in conjunction with the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company. Wonderful success had attended their efforts. To those acquainted with the existing dry methods of briquette making it was wonderful to see ground-up coal mixed with 50 per cent. of water going into a press, all the water except 4 or 5 per cent. ejected as a clear jet,

and the resultant briquette coming out in compact shape, with a more or less hard surface, and becoming in a few hours so hard that it could be thrown about without breaking. The amount of binder was only about one-third of that usually employed, and briquettes from Powell Duffryn coal could be made to contain only about 3 per cent. ash and 3 per cent. moisture. All they had hoped to establish by their new system had been more than justified, and a new field undoubtedly opened out for a largely increased use of this kind of fuel. The first step, now that the process was proved sound, was to erect plants to produce in quantity, and this work they were immediately setting themselves to accomplish. The Powell Duffryn Company and they had acquired a site in Wales where a plant would be erected to produce daily at least 2,000 tons of "Minseps," the registered brand of the highest class of patent fuel which would be manufactured by their methods in this country. All over the world there were collieries where owners would be handsomely rewarded by cleaning their fine coal by the company's processes, and then briquetting it, mixed with some coarser class of coal; or by cleaning certain classes of coal, so as to make part of it available for cooking and the balance for briquetting. There were many new avenues of business opened by the success of this briquetting system, and all that was required was time to enable the work before them to be carried through. A leading French expert in briquette manufacture had declared that it was not merely an improvement; it marked a revolution in the briquetting industry. So it was. The combination of interests of the two companies was a factor of the highest importance in the coal industry, and the manufacture of patent fuel would experience a revolution from the discoveries they had made.

The erection of a plant treating 600 tons per day at the Skinningrove Iron Company's works had made considerable progress, and they were gratified by the success so far obtained in the problem of getting rid of the moisture content in the coal after passing through the flotation system. At the Oughterside Collieries in Cumberland they had erected a plant with a capacity of 600 tons per day, which had commenced operations and enabled the owners to produce from the coals an excellent metallurgical coke far superior to that previously produced. At the Low Laithes Colliery in Yorkshire a 250-ton plant was being erected, and one of similar capacity was under construction for the Team By-Products Coke Company. The Powell Duffryn, after innumerable tests, had decided to instal two large plants for the production of metallurgical coke. Three outstanding sides of their coal business thus existed: (1) a perfect system of cleaning fine coal; (2) a system under which the problem of reducing the moisture in fine coal was capable of solution; and (3) a new system of manufacturing briquettes which had none of the disadvantages of the present system, was much less expensive, and produced a far purer fuel.

Work had been actively proceeded with in regard to the conversion of semi-coking coals into coking coal. The problem was not yet completely solved, but was receiving close attention.

Turning to their coal business in foreign countries, and remembering that the solution of the briquetting problem had greatly increased the advantages arising from the use of their coal cleaners, the installation of a plant with a capacity of 1,000 tons at Nœux-les-Mines was proceeding satisfactorily, and tests having shown the advantages obtainable by the use of the briquetting system, a briquetting plant would be erected. They were quite satisfied with the progress made in France and other countries.

Having dealt with the ore treatment side of the undertaking,

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI (National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - - Fmk. 247,000,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.
Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

[APOLOGY.]

In the High Court of Justice.
King's Bench Division.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY v. CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS.

The defendants in the above proceedings having submitted to an order and injunction restraining them from further publishing and circulating copies of the book entitled "Where the Strange Trails Go Down," by E. Alexander Powell, published by them in New York and London, on terms which include, among other things, payment of the costs of the plaintiff company of and incident to the proceedings and of advertising this notice, they desire to tender publicly to the plaintiff company their sincere apologies for the grossly libellous and untrue statements and criticisms of the plaintiff company and its administration contained in Chapters II. and III. of the book.

The defendants, having had their attention called to the libels in question, are satisfied that there is no foundation for the defamatory statements complained of, which were published by them without adequate investigation, and they express their great regret that those statements should have been published in a book issued to the public by them, and they hereby unreservedly withdraw all imputations on the plaintiff company.

decrease in the value of the reserves of $\frac{1}{2}$ dwt per ton. The cash position was a strong one, the cash and gold consignment account amounting to £187,445, against which there were creditors on current account and outstanding debentures, interest and dividends amounting to £22,200. The tonnage treated in the first three months of the current year was 46,840 tons, or 600 tons more than in the same months of last year, while the value of the gold recovered was £73,668, which was only £509 less. It was satisfactory to find that, apart from the price of gold, they were not losing ground. They had received a cable that morning stating that good values had been struck at Elandsdrift mine. It was hardly necessary to point out that a considerable amount of work would have to be done in the neighbourhood of the strike, but it encouraged the hope that good ore might be opened up as development proceeded. The new strike showed that at the lower levels prospecting gave good values.

THE NIGER COMPANY, LIMITED. COMPANY'S VALUABLE ASSETS.

The adjourned forty-first ordinary general meeting, followed by the forty-second ordinary general meeting, of the Niger Company, Limited, was held, on the 24th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, the Right Hon. Lord Leverhulme, governor of the company, presiding.

At the forty-first meeting the appointment of certain directors was confirmed and the auditors were reappointed.

The Chairman, addressing the shareholders at the forty-second ordinary general meeting, said that the directors regretted that it was not possible to congratulate the shareholders on the result of the trading of the Niger Company and of its associated companies during the last two years. They need not be alarmed at that, however, for West African trade had had severely hard times to pass through many times in its past history, and had always recovered itself and resumed its interrupted course of prosperity, although, as far as memory or record served to show, it had never been so severely tried as during the two years covered by the accounts. Undoubtedly West African trade would recover again.

In November, 1920, owing to the very serious position in the West African trade and the rapid decline in the values of produce and trading goods, it had become necessary to put the finances of the company on a more secure basis, and an issue of £2,500,000 8 per cent. seven-year notes had been made. With regard to the value of the assets, the directors were satisfied that they were worth, as a going concern, considerably more than what they appeared at in the balance-sheet, and that if a sale of such assets were contemplated, which was not the case, there would be many financiers, especially in America and Europe, ready and willing to purchase those assets at a much higher figure in order to secure the entry into British, French and Belgian West African colonies which the acquisition of those assets would secure to them. In that connection he might say that the West African interests of Lever Brothers, now transferred to the Niger Company, had for the five years prior to that transference earned most substantial dividends, which, added to the earnings of the associated com-

the Chairman said that in the autumn they hoped to be able, from the plant at Ashington, to supply any shareholder with quantities of their "Ovoids" from two tons and upwards, on application to the secretary.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, the retiring directors and the auditors were re-elected, and the proceedings concluded with the vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff.

MOND NICKEL COMPANY, LIMITED. CHAIRMAN CONFIDENT OF THE FUTURE.

The annual general meeting of the Mond Nickel Company, Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at 39 Victoria Street, London, Mr. Robert Mond, J.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman said that the accounts now presented covered a period of two years to April 30th last. The publication of the usual accounts had been postponed with the consent of the shareholders, owing to the difficulties in settling complicated taxation problems in connection with the company. Although a final settlement with the Revenue authorities had not yet been reached, the ground had been sufficiently cleared to enable the board to submit figures showing the progress of the company during the past two years and its financial position at the end of the period under review. In respect of the two years 1921 and 1922 there was a balance of £610,383 left for distribution. An amount of £220,000 had already been allocated for dividends paid in respect of the year ended April 30, 1921, and in respect of the year ended April 30, 1922, an interim dividend on the preference and ordinary capital amounting to £110,000 had already been paid.

It was now proposed to distribute a further sum of £87,500 on the preference capital, making up the dividend of 7 per cent. for the year, and a further 1s per share on the ordinary capital, free of income-tax.

THE FUTURE.

As to the outlook, the clouds had not yet lifted so as to enable the board to see clearly ahead. The demand for metallic nickel was naturally far less than during the war. With a return, however, to stable conditions in the world and a general trade revival, there was no reason why they should not expect renewed prosperity in the nickel industry. New uses for the metal were constantly being discovered.

Some time must elapse until the consumption of metal for peace purposes reached a tonnage which would enable present producers to work their plants to normal capacity, and in the meantime the company would no doubt have to face hard competition. Thanks, however, to its unrivalled process and excellent organisation, the board had every confidence that they would continue to take the share of the trade to which they claimed the company was entitled. With the view of extending the use of nickel they had acquired the control of Henry Wiggin and Co., Limited, in this country, and had recently participated in the formation of the American Nickel Corporation of Clearfield, Pa.

The report was unanimously adopted.

TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING ESTATES, LIMITED. LARGE RESERVES—GOOD VALUES AT ELANDSDRIFT.

A meeting of the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Limited, was held, on the 27th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr. Matthew T. Brown, who presided, said the accounts showed a net profit of £28,416, of which approximately three-fourths were earned in the first six months, and one-fourth in the second half-year. With one exception that was the lowest profit since 1905, year. Last year he mentioned that the tonnage treated was 189,752. Last year he mentioned that the tonnage treated was a record, amounting, as it did, to 194,560 tons. This year they came slightly short of that total by 7,930 tons. For the year ended March, 1921, the average price realised for their gold was £5 10s 1d, whereas for the year under review it was only £5 0s 8d, and on their output of over 60,000 ozs of gold the drop in price made a difference of over £28,000, but what was of more serious import was that if they had only been able to get the standard price of gold they would have been faced with a serious loss. Their future depended largely on the results of an energetic prospecting and development programme in the hope of discovering and opening up ore of a higher grade than they had at present available, coupled with an earnest endeavour to reduce working costs.

The fresh ore developed during the year reached the high total of 257,525 tons, of which 186,630 went to replace the ore milled, and 70,895 to swell their already large reserves, bringing them up to 673,760 tons, or over $3\frac{1}{2}$ years' supply of ore for the mills; there were developed nearly 40 per cent. more tons than were milled. The one "fly in the ointment" was that there was a

[July 29, 1922.]

panies of the Niger Company already held, made an annual dividend return of considerably over 10 per cent. per annum on the amount at which those associated companies' properties appeared in the balance-sheet.

So much for earning power, but there was also their capital value in properties apart from and in addition to stocks and other floating assets. The West African associated companies of the Niger Company possessed in West Africa over 9,000,000 acres of freehold land and over 1,000,000 acres of leasehold land on which they had built eight towns and continued to expand them.

The figure representing stock-in-trade had been reduced by over £1,000,000, mainly due to the very drastic writing down which the directors had decided upon. The board had adopted a bold policy with regard to stocks, bringing them down to their replacement, or market, value. Those factors accounted for most of the loss which the company had made, but the future position of the company had been greatly strengthened by that bold course. The directors felt confident that the potentialities of the company were such that the ground which had been lost in the past two years would easily be regained when the rapidly approaching improvement in trade took place.

The report and accounts were adopted, and the formal business was duly transacted.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Redemption Account.	Bank of England.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
Aug. 26, 1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	..	48.1	9,924	11,423
Dec. 30, 1915.	38,478	169	600	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536
Dec. 29, 1916.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	190	118,102
Dec. 27, 1917.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	134	186,637
Dec. 25, 1918.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	8.9	305,133
Dec. 31, 1919.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537
Dec. 31, 1920.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504
Dec. 29, 1921.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.9	331,334
Mar. 30, 1922.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150
June 29, 1922.	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143
Sept. 28, 1922.	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161
Dec. 28, 1922.	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177
Mar. 30, 1922.	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	16.3	254,312	250
June 29, 1922.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,450	16.1	257,411	142
July 13, 1922.	298,635	13,068	6,000	27,000	20,650	16.2	255,488	167
July 20, 1922.	297,611	13,194	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.3	253,995	185
July 27, 1922.	296,447	12,883	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.3	253,995	185

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, July 31-August 5, were opened on July 28, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £71,435,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £100 1/4s will receive about 40 per cent., above in full. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 11s 5d and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 11s 6d will receive about 31 per cent. and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £1 13s 6.4d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £10,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
1922.	£ 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11-55	98 4 4-8
June 30, 1922.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 18 4-65	98 5 10-8
July 7, 1922.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10-06	99 0 5-16
July 14, 1922.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10-8	100 4 11-4
July 21, 1922.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6-41	100 14 0

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, August 4, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £50,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from July 22, 1922, to July 23, 1921.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from July 22, 1922, to July 23, 1921.	Week Ended July 22, 1922.	Week Ended July 23, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Excise	38,660,000	38,323,000	2,107,000	3,801,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	47,582,000	59,035,000	7,511,000	8,615,000
Estate, &c., Duties	2,147,000	1,851,000	..	..
Stamps	20,801,000	13,925,000	1,600,000	1,279,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	4,482,000	4,032,000	90,000	260,000
Property & Income Tax (Including Super-Tax)	510,000	410,000	10,000	10,000
Excess Profits Tax, &c.	80,880,000	87,330,000	6,673,000	7,056,000
Corporation Profits Tax	954,000	22,114,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Post Office	4,657,000	3,266,000	280,000	400,000
Crown Lands	15,050,000	13,250,000	750,000	1,250,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	220,000	130,000	..	..
Miscellaneous	3,344,446	4,095,325	10,725	12,512
Ordinary Receipts	14,314,285	7,519,499	510,023	372,357
Special Receipts	18,920,768	27,356,525	143,812	2,040,000
Revenue	252,522,499	282,631,350	19,685,560	29,095,869
OTHER RECEIPTS.	263,696,029	285,705,856	..	..
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion	800,000	2,250,000	150,000	150,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,890,000	..	430,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,450,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues: By Treasury Bills for Supply	946,443,000	1,473,524,000	51,449,000	106,750,000
By National Savings Certificates	30,148,000	11,130,000	850,000	800,000
By National War Bonds	..	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—				
5-15 year, 1925-35	121,708	1,024,990	..	..
5%, 1927	61,422,074	3,700,000	..	3,700,000
4½%, 1932	24,026,125	..	4,951,075	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,869	3,713,840	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	306,940,500	406,774,000	1,550,000	27,850,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company	243,012	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired	..	..	..	..
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	19,018	9,186	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	265,460	1,650,250	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	87,358	85,532	..	..
Total	1,639,227,153	2,191,620,153	79,065,635	168,347,869

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from July 22, 1922, to July 23, 1921.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from July 22, 1922, to July 23, 1921.	Week Ended July 22, 1922.	Week Ended July 23, 1921.
EXPENDITURE.				
Permanent Charge of Debt	6,421,567	6,302,877	..	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt	99,308,403	120,580,029	361,732	2,294,174
Road Fund	1,282,000	1,550,000	..	218,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	1,050,000	1,392,772	150,000	200,000
Payments to Northern Land and Exchequer	518,000	..	..	..
Land Settlement	438,684	1,101,125	67,863	30,470
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,022,290	680,453	232,069	16,544,250
Supply Services	120,304,342	193,173,825	6,600,000	19,286,894
EXPENDITURE	230,345,286	324,781,081	7,411,664	..
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	2,350,000	..	150,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1921	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,600,000	1,695,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	2,000,000	2,000,000	350,000	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	650,000	..	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	1,063,094,000	1,386,191,000	62,545,000	108,070,000
Redemption of Unfunded Debt	..	..	..	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 36 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (5) War Loan Act, 1919	4,671,347	13,800,738	733,700	490,910
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	2,750,000	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates	..	..	..	..
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	8,750,000	4,800,000	500,000	850,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	4,350,000	..	..

July 29, 1922.]

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from July 22, 1922, to July 23, 1921.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from July 22, 1922, to July 23, 1921.	Week Ended July 22, 1922.	Week Ended July 23, 1921.
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5%, 1922, £20,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,188	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	8,325,205	18,380,409	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	292,605,500	415,789,000	7,389,000	38,050,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	8,980,067	..	1,000,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issues under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	..	5,165,000	..	375,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	1,635,197,624	2,188,480,304	78,929,364	168,842,804
Bank of Ireland	1,990,779	1,335,847	49,729	705
Bank of Scotland	2,038,750	1,203,402	186,000	494,230
Total	4,029,529	3,139,249	136,271	494,935

Treasury, July 24, 1922.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, July 26, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.		£
Notes issued	144,023,470	11,015,100
Government debt	..	7,434,900
Other securities	..	125,573,470
Gold coin and bullion	..	..
Total	144,023,470	144,023,470
BANKING DEPARTMENT.		£
Capital	14,553,000	46,504,853
Reserve	3,401,565	72,243,297
Public deposits	14,296,634	19,265,840
Other deposits	107,576,472	1,830,460
Seven-day & other bills	16,779	..
Total	139,844,450	139,844,450

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, July 26, 1922.	Ino. or Dec. on Last Week.	Ino. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,401,565	+ 62,441	+ 44,540
Bank balances abroad	14,296,634	+ 7,878,198	+ 1,077,217
Call and short loans	107,576,472	+ 3,109,494	+ 1,140,565
Other deposits	14,296,634	+ 235,000	+ 3,316,775
Government securities	46,504,853	+ 3,972,339	+ 2,559,607
Other securities	72,243,297	+ 499,593	+ 3,525,740
Reserve	124,757,630	+ 501,365	+ 966,133
Note circulation	127,403,930	+ 1,772	+ 2%
Gold and bullion	171%	+ 4%	+ 2%
% of reserve to liabilities	..	..	..

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

THREE MONTHS							
Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%	q
May 3	128,873,878	122,091,180	146,049,335	138,511,460	25,232,698	17.4	4
10	128,873,878	121,591,685	144,438,187	134,402,217	25,746,254	18	4
17	128,873,878	121,070,758	139,061,838	130,549,595	26,258,472	20	4
24	128,880,842	120,889,975	132,436,093	125,780,787	26,440,867	18	4
31	128,881,000	120,889,975	132,436,093	125,780,787	26,415,149	20	4
June 7	128,881,000	122,715,860	130,221,478	124,318,206	24,822,719	17	4
14	128,886,199	122,513,410	141,479,390	120,304,710	25,376,531	19	4
21	128,884,081	121,557,550	127,874,151	121,830,727	25,960,916	20	4
28	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	124,946,319	24,348,683	18	4
July 5	128,946,693	121,048,010	131,435,226	124,807,681	22,582,822	15	4
12	128,458,362	124,583,140	148,316,494	120,769,861	22,101,993	17	4
19	127,402,158	124,248,705	124,987,040	122,955,489	21,595,893	17	4
26	127,403,930	124,256,265	126,641,810	118,746,150	21,096,300	17	4
		121,873,530	121,873,530				

[July 29, 1922.]

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 1, 1922.	June 24, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	4,568	2,935	2,681	2,176	951
Bankers' deposits	5,640	6,659	6,612	6,764	7,258
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	132	132	132	92	92
Gold certificates	7,829	7,199	6,969	6,649	5,924
Loans and advances to the Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other loans and advances	25	81	11	18	12
Investments	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	77.9 %	76.4 %	76.4 %	75.4 %	73.2 %

BANK OF SPAIN.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	2,523,151	2,523,301	2,523,129	2,524,912	2,491,337
Silver	648,837	645,549	644,369	618,871	625,065
Loans and discounts	2,157,056	2,175,561	2,244,052	2,202,674	2,025,601
Spanish 4% stock	344,474	344,474	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	4,146,791	4,177,394	4,197,626	4,144,776	4,176,177
Deposits	1,176,858	1,164,28	1,177,588	1,170,858	1,039,672

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)					
	May 27, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	April 28, 1922.	April 13, 1922.	May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances abroad	1,388,158	1,373,759	1,381,018	1,383,160	1,376,175
Government loans and securities	2,860,974	2,871,858	2,889,052	2,929,791	1,560,948
Discounts and loans	792,232	806,336	785,581	800,662	777,392
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,484,388	1,407,324	1,315,934	1,197,570	1,725,891
Government deposits	1,356,000	1,446,303	1,489,505	1,628,640	1,100,113
Private sight deposits	793,327	781,473	891,288	929,993	803,346
Private deposits at fixed date	1,010,744	1,010,057	1,008,124	1,006,495	795,395

BANK OF JAPAN.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	June 18, 1921.	Position June 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Cash and bullion	1,281,850	1,279,159	1,274,818	1,275,755	221,320
Discounts	96,265	78,095	94,741	99,577	41,740
Advances	133,176	129,547	135,098	111,418	70,540
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	1,183,498	1,164,757	1,174,468	1,107,362	362,270
Govt. deposits	695,485	724,513	770,648	766,957	87,340
Other deposits	60,356	49,352	59,865	38,302	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 15, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	..	321,320
Silver	19,467	17,617	19,743	11,450	943,460
Treasury notes	10,789,974	14,281,874	14,605,085	5,511,748	943,460
Bills discounted	195,214,561	189,949,556	190,877,495	78,126,729	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	175,437,418	172,736,686	169,211,792	75,352,635	2,013,860
Deposits	36,275,651	31,531,010	37,173,745	14,584,808	842,340

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)					
	June 20, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Total cash	1,372,156	1,363,773	1,435,102	1,445,295	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,389,521	4,317,392	4,326,594	4,320,979	418,400
Foreign bills	9,858	9,812	9,771	9,785	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,002,182	6,044,818	6,107,491	6,196,233	..
Other advances	2,767,894	2,754,475	3,051,287	3,078,822	79,175
Securities	533,658	535,081	534,164	534,525	205,700
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	13,505,440	13,360,765	13,326,466	13,169,027	15,639,742
Deposits and drafts	2,013,641	1,774,908	1,853,296	1,819,235	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 24, 1922.	July 17, 1922.	July 10, 1922.	July 3, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,955	163,092
Silver	8,020	7,707	7,949	11,159	8,436
Depts. & advances	399,256	390,267	429,660	424,112	153,504
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	978,576	993,517	1,002,136	1,013,352	316,632
Deposits	73,605	48,158	59,091	46,513	53,430

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	523,667	524,451	526,484	530,892	171,175
Silver	116,335	116,865	116,865	116,865	16,360
Deutsche-Kassen	12,114	12,697	13,174	13,146	12,957
Assets & advances	311,372	308,628	304,731	290,092	103,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	729,121	742,624	760,711	789,083	382,227
Deposits	263,224	255,660	233,735	188,591	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Da-lehenkasse) shows that up to June 30, 1922, total issues were Fr.21,584,683, of which Fr.13,146,025 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(000's omitted.)					
	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	June 18, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	4,759,772	4,744,627	4,744,617	4,744,617	3,859,722
Silver, &c.	530	376	427	348	292
Government loan	12,498,215	12,522,553	12,522,810	12,512,247	10,067,778
Other advances	2,641,386	2,666,178	2,771,429	2,752,581	3,159,812
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	14,106,890	14,111,324	14,130,339	14,129,119	11,084,372
Deposits	5,849,509	5,876,052	5,962,173	5,933,503	6,044,886

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	May 24, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	273,930	273,930	273,930	273,930	281,305
Balance abrd. and foreign bills	77,965	78,453	78,717	79,035	117,781
Swedish and for. Govt. securities	72,557	72,463	72,463	72,465	32,465
Discounts and loans	412,792	413,613	426,076	439,162	444,946
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	514,816	533,851	546,634	594,183	592,972
Deposits at notice	258,411	255,467	243,674	235,282	226,555

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 18, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	June 29, 1922.	July 19, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	330,763	329,441	328,036	328,330	322,650
Securities	481,638	478,953	491,358	567,287	697,600
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	6,287,335	6,273,528	6,252,731	6,228,202	6,092,590
Current accounts	761,223	772,834	753,825	818,496	1,023,132

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 23, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion, bills	1,328	1,087	1,896	2,003	2,003
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	213,779,401	191,577,314	175,301,425	150,747,307	150,747,307
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	616,861,131	582,879,848	549,915,678	469,213,702	37,063,939
Deposits	40,974,165	38,777,958	31,325,368	37,063,939	37,063,939

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 23, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion, bills	13,150	13,364	13,357	13,357	13,357
Silver coin, &c.	597	598	598	598	598
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	25,495,627	25,869,248	25,444,865	25,041,425	25,041,425
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	35,103,483	34,443,271	33,599,554	32,903,967	32,903,967
Deposits	3,880,712	3,443,271	3,740,662	3,508,278	3,508,278

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)					
	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion	228,324	228,325	228,325	228,325	228,325
Loans and discounts	420,186	461,386	444,618	434,127	275,570
Foreign bills	16,215	14,830	14,832	14,832	14,832
Securities	14,521	15,843	18,222	23,296	50,636
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	438,743	451,790	446,163	440,822	495,688
Deposits	114,766	128,857	132,092	124,730	157,266

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)					
	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 15, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,291	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,569	39,027	39,146	31,815	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Govt. securities	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814	9,814
Discounts and loans	440,833	438,479	441,118	416,337	8,816
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	381,555	386,501	381,710	425,278	76,911
Deposits at notice	134,480	126,732	133,230	71,314	113,484

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 60 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922, his day included.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

STATE OF INDIA.						
(000's omitted.)						
	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	June 9, 1922.	July 1, 1921.	
ASSETS.						
Govt. securities	Rs. 7,72,38	7,97,55	7,96,41	8,02,91	14,79,32	
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,22	1,35,23	
Loans	14,20,91	14,82,45	15,67,70	16,27,69	13,46,80	
Cash credits	26,23,95	25,77,32	26,48,29	26,55,03	32,03,14	
Inland bills	4,65,08	4,77,58	4,85,21	5,20,15	12,87,11	
Foreign bills	4,18	3,58	3,71	95	34	
Bullion	2,47,26	2,48,35	2,48,32	2,48,01	2,05,57	
Dead stock	92,44	66,74	63,72	62,40	58,29	
Sundries	6,03	6,27	6,38	4,91	15,72	
Balances with other banks	33,91,85	29,41,82	25,06,60	21,46,76	34,69,54	
Cash						
LIABILITIES.						
Subscribed capital	11,24,40	11,24,40	11,24,40	11,24,32	10,65,56	
Capital paid up	5,62,35	5,62,35	5,62,35	5,62,33	5,67,69	
Reserve	4,01,83	4,01,83	4,01,83	4,01,82	3,71,21	
Public deposits	16,69,94	15,55,55	14,55,53	14,89,24	20,15,41	
Other deposits	62,96,84	60,32,62	58,26,31	55,65,99	70,83,96	
Loans from Govt. of India	49,83	50,43	50,53	47,22	55,41	
Sundries	1,71,58	1,58,23	1,54,00	1,50,41	1,26,59	
The above liabilities	£ 60	£ 58	£ 54	£ 50	£ 55	
Deposits in London						
Advances in London						

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended July 22, 1922.			Aggregate 29 Weeks 1922.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Brecon and Merthyr...	60	1,375	3,198	4,573	29,878	105,229	135,107
Great Central (c)	676½	58,100	137,900	196,000	1,379,200	3,772,400	5,151,600
Do Joint Lines (c)	161½	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Eastern (c)	1,207½	135,900	93,200	229,100	1,517,800	2,723,500	4,241,300
Great Northern (c)	1,050	110,900	139,700	250,600	2,723,700	4,097,700	6,821,400
Great Western (d)	5,535	323,000	362,000	685,000	7,848,000	10,407,000	18,255,000
London & N. Western (d)	2,633	479,000	428,000	907,000	1,027,300	1,237,600	2,264,900
Lon. & South-Western	968	149,400	36,900	186,300	1,652,500	1,693,800	3,346,300
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c)	487	111,147	29,742	140,889	2,563,439	833,421	3,396,860
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	422	1,309	1,956	3,265	33,758	53,583	87,341
Metropolitan (c)	79½	34,315	3,225	37,541	961,155	104,603	1,065,758
Midland & S. W. Jnc.	1,585½	205,000	330,000	535,000	4,905,000	9,325,000	14,230,000
Midland (c)	63	1,615	1,778	3,393	39,353	41,710	81,063
North Eastern (c)	1,850	153,100	251,500	404,600	3,549,800	7,119,400	10,669,200
North London (c)	16	4,770	9,424	14,194	140,695	289,316	430,011
South-E. & Chatham (c)	654	168,200	49,400	217,600	3,633,100	1,227,000	4,860,100
Underground E.R. (c) ..	—	—	—	—	231,521	—	231,521
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	—	—	—	—	51,837	—	51,837
Caledonian (c)	1,097	98,400	64,700	163,100	2,096,900	2,835,800	4,932,700
Glasgow and S.W. (c) ..	476	52,400	31,400	83,800	880,200	1,054,700	1,934,900
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	336½	15,800	6,220	22,110	257,120	272,650	529,780
Highland (c)	492 (a)	14,857	10,149	25,006	311,625	301,410	613,035
North British (c)	1,377½	95,900	78,300	174,200	1,803,000	3,386,100	5,189,100
Belfast and County Down (b) ..	80	7,756	1,264	9,020	147,631	40,022	187,653
Dublin and S. East. (b)	160	6,329	3,142	9,471	155,475	101,934	257,409
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	5,179	10,402	15,581	274,742	406,687	681,429

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended July 21, 1922.
(c) Week ended July 22, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	12 weeks	June 24	1,043	Rs 2,37,413	Rs. 1,58,134	Rs. 27,78,470	+ 11,42,582
Barelly Lt. Ry.	12 weeks	June 24	118	31,300	+ 12,600	435,900	+ 1,85,200
Bengal & N. Western	11 weeks	June 17	67	6,66,080	+ 24,932	75,23,174	+ 7,25,177
Bengal Nagpur	12 weeks	June 24	2,703	12,15,000	+ 21,029	1,66,89,000	+ 14,98,631
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	16 weeks	July 22	2,871	20,03,000	+ 119,000	3,78,90,000	+ 45,97,700
Burma	10 weeks	June 10	1,342	7,15,346	+ 1,14,011	77,09,947	+ 19,80,999
Delhi, Umballa & Cal.	15 weeks	July 15	239	1,02,000	+ 6,962	1,66,239	+ 1,83,248
East Indian	16 weeks	June 22	2,772	30,47,000	+ 1,11,000	4,68,85,000	+ 16,61,000
G. Indian Peninsula	15 weeks	June 15	3,121	22,81,700	+ 1,54,600	4,24,51,530	+ 23,12,420
Madras & S. Mahr.	13 weeks	June 17	1,328	14,60,000	+ 1,08,161	1,95,38,613	+ 18,36,990
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	11 weeks	June 17	1,268	75,868	+ 9,016	7,58,871	+ 93,190
Do Lucknow & Breilly	11 weeks	June 17	302	83,188	+ 5,758	9,37,149	+ 93,190
South Indian	13 weeks	July 1	1,852	9,30,523	+ 80,709	1,23,76,794	+ 16,68,072
Stann. Punjab (month)	6 mths	Mar. 31	717	8,65,541	+ 23,696	46,77,799	+ 2,32,763
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	3 weeks	July 22	752	10,600	+ 600	29,700	+ 3,900
Argentine Trans.	3 weeks	July 22	1,111	1,200	+ 744	3,570	+ 1,965
B. A. and Pacific	3 weeks	July 22	3,428	125,000	+ 8,000	374,000	+ 42,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	3 weeks	July 22	3,947	145,000	+ 12,000	44,000	+ 55,000
B. A. Western	3 weeks	July 22	1,882	75,000	+ 8,000	222,000	+ 32,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	11 mths	May 31	190	18,000	+ 8,000	44,000	+ 26,000
Central Argentine ..	3 weeks	July 22	3,305	43,572	+ 3,265	497,759	+ 10,655
Cordoba Central	3 weeks	July 22	1,825	193,000	+ 1,000	588,000	+ 5,000
Entre Rios	3 weeks	July 22	811	60,000	+ 12,500	197,400	+ 29,100
Brazilian (b).	3 weeks	July 22	1,210	18,300	+ 1,700	49,000	+ 15,200
Brazil Gt. Southern	6 mths	June 30	30	Ms 39,000	+ 14,500	245,750	+ 26,150
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	29 weeks	July 22	1,005	11,600	+ 3,300	380,400	+ 18,100
Leopoldina	23 weeks	July 22	1,831	32,296	+ 2,613	769,442	+ 161,762
San Paulo	23 weeks	July 22	1,537	27,302	+ 1,504	829,494	+ 36,038
State of Bahia, S.W.	2 mths	June 30	52	Ms 90,000	+ 42,000	158,000	+ 69,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	23 weeks	July 22	838	24,260	+ 8,115	566,150	+ 139,600
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	64	19,000	+ 500	—	—
Nitrato (2 weeks) ..	28 weeks	July 15	566	24,710	+ 9,036	—	—
Peruvian Corp.	11 mths	May 31	1,059	\$134,250	+ 105,750	\$1,36,830	+ 1,066,720
Taitai	12 mths	June 30	172	(b) 11,010	+ 63	113,110	+ 168,050
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,080,221
Havana Central	2 weeks	July 15	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana ..	3 weeks	July 22	1,210	9,070	+ 1,484	19,880	+ 5,563
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	3 weeks	July 22	273	21,431	+ 1,233	65,375	+ 7,321
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	3 weeks	July 22	311	4,699	+ 1,011	13,614	+ 1,961
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	3 weeks	July 22	185	2,655	+ 642	6,184	+ 1,661
C. Urug. (West Ext.) ..	3 weeks	July 22	211	1,517	+ 35	5,535	+ 813
Midland Uruguay	12 mths	June 30	319	12,979	+ 224	168,877	+ 36,777
North-West Uruguay	11 mths	May 31	113	5,319	+ 142	69,844	+ 2,331
Uruguay North	12 mths	June 30	73	1,957	+ 555	24,850	+ 1,327
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	29 weeks	July 22	33	Ps 15,000	+ 7,000	575,300	+ 102,400
Bilbao	6 mths	June 30	15	291	+ 1,171	7,272	+ 5,105
Bolivar	6 mths	June 30	136	8,000	+ 3,869	57,180	+ 4,947
Bolivar	10 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	+ 1,340	193,391	+ 3,531
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 mths	Apr. 30	10	22,386	+ 106	208,246	+ 42,275
Dorado Extension	5 mths	May 31	70	14,000	+ 5,500	62,735	+ 45,000
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	14 weeks	July 10	559	4,750	+ 412	80,605	+ 10,765
Egyptian Delta	28 weeks	July 15	104	Ps 75,464	+ 46,678	2,197,352	+ 749,705
Gt. Southern of Spain	15	104	64,458	+ 7,549	469,091	+ 2,255	
International of	6 mths	June 30	Net	19,943	+ 9,012	190,815	+ 18,923
Central America	6 mths	June 30	23	10,030	+ 1,510	59,500	+ 870
La Guaira & Caracas	2 weeks	July 21	403	\$233,000	+ 62,500	724,000	+ 223,000
Mexican Railway	5 mths	May 31	403	\$127,500	+ 107,500	619,700	+ 704,500
Do	5 mths	May 31	Net	\$282,600	+ 231,300	1,360,400	+ 492,100
Nasejo Oscarshahn	4 mths	Apr. 30	193	11,669	+ 2,105	41,359	+ 11,240
Ottoman Railway	1 week	July 15	15	5,920	+ —	—	—
Paraguay Central	47 weeks	May 27	274	3,310	+ 850	165,470	+ 43,780
Pirassununga, &c.	9 mths	Feb. 28	4	\$2,311,374	+ 414,841	16,380,765	+ 5,299,660
Puerto Athens, &c.	4 mths	Apr. 30	35	4,500	+ 500	18,500	+ 250
Puerto Cabello, &c.	3 weeks	July 22	100	127,600	+ 9,865	13,500	+ 5,420
Salvador	1 mth	June 30	Net	13,320	+ 1,913	51,240	+ 8,809
Santa Fe Province	6 mths	June 30	30	112	+ 1,689	68,999	+ 16,646
Samarana & Santiago	6 mths	June 30	30	112	+ 1,689	68,999	+ 16,646
Safrana and Huécula ..	6 mths	June 30	30	112	+ 1,689	68,999	+ 16,646

(b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	234,202	236,625	400,430,580	+ 4,772,834	76,708,840	+ 54,862,320
Mar.	234,338	234,959	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
Apr.	235,333	234,931	447,499,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,565	+ 28,064,928

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.		Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	11 mths	May 31	Gross	\$151,085	+ 45,804	1,555,520	—
Canadian Ntr.	29 weeks	July 21	Gross	\$1,014,600	+ 166,927	29,166,382	—
Canadian Ntr.	5 mths	May 31	Gross	\$470,500	+ 428,177	21,604,034	—
Canadian Pac.	29 weeks	July 21	Gross	\$2,991,000	+ 228,000	85,027,000	—
Canadian Pac.*	5 mths	May 31	Gross	\$13,664,000	+ 919,000	7,452,000	—
Grand Trunk.	28 weeks	July 21	Net	\$2,345,000	+ 51,838	11,007,802	—
Transcontinental	1 mth	May 31	Gross	\$30,363	—	—	—

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	Apr. 30	810	91,713	+ 10,821	—	—
Mid. of W. Aust.	11 mths	May 31	277	10,036	+ 1,157	120,378	+ 2,044
New Cape Central	35 weeks	July 1	205	2,290	+ 36	70,011	+ 2,044
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	Apr. 30	1,397	130,995	+ 12,516	—	—

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine . . .	29 weeks	July 22	323	\$82,108	+ 6,141	2,115,505	+ 116,911
Burnley Corporation .	1 week	July 22	12	\$3,334	+ 16	—	—
Calcutta Tramways . .	28 weeks	July 22	35	\$117,828	+ 21,038	—	—
Chatham & District . .	28 weeks	July 22	13	\$1,816	+ 77	45,024	+ 891,502
Egyptian Markets . . .	29 weeks	July 22	..	\$1,613	33	51,044	373
Glasgow Corporation . .	29 weeks	July 22	..	\$1,613	33	51,044	9,794
Isle of Man	7 weeks	July 22	21	\$31,155	+ 2,290	314,585	+ 33,760
Lancashire United . . .	12 weeks	July 19	19	\$1,838	—	34,776	+ 317
Liverpool Corporation .	29 weeks	July 18	33	\$2,860	601	87,738	+ 10,555
Tramways	29 weeks	July 22	124	\$29,428	+ 2,498	1,580,442	+ 30,100
L.C.C. Tramways . . .	17 weeks	July 26	160	\$93,787	+ 8,850	1,854,817	+ 146,708
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	28 weeks	July 25	..	Rasod 91.5	+ 150	637,317	+ 116,585
Pernambuco Trams . . .	29 weeks	July 23	..	\$3,534	+ 503	99,644	—
Singapore Electric . . .	29 weeks	July 22	..	—	—	—	—

Pages 72 :: :: ONE SHILLING.
Post free from Guardian Building, Manchester.

Bovril
prevents that
sinking feeling



LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS.		INDIA RUBBER.—lb.		PROVISIONS.—		SPICES.—Pepper, per lb.	
0000A—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d.	Aloua, fine E.I., p. cwt	120 0	150 0	Paria, fine, hard, spot	8 1/4	Butter—per cwt.	192 0	136 0
23s. 4d. foreign 28s. cwt.	3 0	Cape, good to fine	20 0	27 6	Plantation crop	8 1/4	Irish creamer	192 0	136 0
23s. 4d. 73 0	0	Madras, Peru	10 0	8 0		8 1/4	Do factory	192 0	136 0
Granada	50 6	Capivi	1 0	0		8 1/4	Australian	188 0	200 0
Oeylon, plantation	75 0	Camphor	1 0	0		8 1/4	Argentine	200 0	214 0
Guaymas	68 0	Japan, refined	3 5	3 7		8 1/4	Dutch	200 0	214 0
Guaymas, finest	65 0	Cardamoms, Ceylon	1 5	5 0		8 1/4	New Zealand	200 0	214 0
COFFEE.—British grown	23s. 4d.	Canthrids, China per lb.	65 0	95 0		8 1/4	Bacon	236 0	228 0
E. India, fine good, mid. 8	103 8	Estoril, do	65 0	95 0		8 1/4	Do, Engd.—Irish	140 0	167 0
Do do do do do do do do	103 8	Gum Benjm, Sun, cwt 5/6	12/0	12/0		8 1/4	Danish	125 0	140 0
Oeste Rica, ord. to mid 66	103 8	Olibanum, drops	80 0	110 0		8 1/4	Canadian	125 0	140 0
Good to fine	106 0	Ipescacuan, root	2 0	0 0		8 1/4	American	125 0	140 0
Central American, ord.	70 0	Jalap	2 0	0 0		8 1/4	Hams	125 0	140 0
Do do do do do do do do	88 0	Musk pod, China	85 0	95 0		8 1/4	Canadian	125 0	140 0
Columbian, ordinary	67 0	Oil, sweet	1 0	0 0		8 1/4	American	125 0	140 0
Do good to low mid 66	63 0	Al. nised	1 0	0 0		8 1/4	Bladders	70 0	80 0
Do do do do do do do do	85 0	Peppermint, H.G.H. 22	65 0	25 0		8 1/4	Pork—per lb	6 71 0	0
		Bhrbr, China, fine per lb	4 0	5 8		8 1/4	Do frozen, per 8 lb	11 8 0	0
		Do do do do do do do do	4 0	5 8		8 1/4	Scottish	7 8 0	8 0
		Galls, China, per cwt	75 0	0 0		8 1/4	Cheese—cut—Canadian	8 0 0	9 0 0
		Turmeric, Bengal	nom	0 0		8 1/4	New Zealand	8 0 0	9 0 0
		Madras, finger	32 0	35 0		8 1/4	Eng, Cheddars	9 1 0	10 0 0
		Camb, blood	32 0	35 0		8 1/4	Do	9 1 0	10 0 0
		Qutah, ord. to fair	35 0	0 0		8 1/4	Dutch	16 0 0	17 0 0
		DRYWOODS.—	1 0	0 0		8 1/4	Eggs, per 12—English	16 0 0	17 0 0
		Brazil—per ton	18 0	0 0		8 1/4	FLOR—200 lbs	13 0 0	15 0 0
		Ammonia, carb. p.	10 0	0 0		8 1/4	Eng, strait—per cwt	13 0 0	15 0 0
		Mariate, White, ton	60 0	65 0		8 1/4	RICE—per cwt	14 0 0	15 0 0
		Sulphate	218 0	20 0		8 1/4	Bangoon No. 2	14 0 0	15 0 0
		Arsenic, lump, per ton	65 0	70 0		8 1/4	Broken 1s.	12 0 0	13 0 0
		Do do do do do do do do	65 0	70 0		8 1/4	ROBIN—per ton	12 0 0	13 0 0
		Powder	70 0	80 0		8 1/4	American	14 0 0	15 0 0
		Ashes, pot.	70 0	80 0		8 1/4	French	14 0 0	15 0 0
		Do do do do do do do do	70 0	80 0		8 1/4	SAGO—Pearl, per cwt	25 0 0	26 0 0
		Bleaching p.wdr. ptn 3/10	14 0 0	14 0 0		8 1/4	SHELLAC—per cwt	20 0 0	21 0 0
		Borax, crystals	30 0	30 0		8 1/4	SHRILLAC—per cwt	20 0 0	21 0 0
		Do powder	30 0	30 0		8 1/4	Second, first marks	42 0 0	45 0 0
		80% powder	114 0	115 0		8 1/4	TN Orange	42 0 0	45 0 0
		Calomel	per lb	4 11 0	5 0	8 1/4	Garnet, Lac, A.C.	335 0	360 0
		Iodine, dry	per oz	15 0 0	15 0 0	8 1/4	Banana	42 0 0	45 0 0
		Witrat of Soda, ptn 15/0	15 0 0	15 0 0		8 1/4	Blocky (TN)	350 0	380 0
		Potash	per lb	4 11 0	5 0	8 1/4	SILK—per lb	350 0	380 0
		Chlorate, net	0 44 0	44 0		8 1/4	China—Blue Elephant	32 0 0	33 0 0
	</								

This week's experience has once more shown how narrow is the market's surplus, except at times when the Bank of England is lending either to it or to the Government on Ways and Means advances. On Monday the turn of the month brought a sufficient demand to drive borrowers to the Bank for a considerable amount—reflected in an increase of 4½ millions in the Bank's holding of "Other" securities—and on Thursday this unprofitable proceeding had to be repeated, the pressure being increased by the payments and withdrawals of cash for holiday purposes.

That is misleading. Had we been unable to obtain dollar credits our food situation would have become serious and our munitions effort would have been substantially curtailed. In this respect, also, the Note apparently overlooks credits given for the purpose of supporting the exchange. Secondly, it would lead the uninitiated to suppose that America refused to lend to France and Italy without our guarantee. Such a meaning cannot of course be intended by those who framed the Note, because, as everyone knows, America made huge loans direct to our Continental Allies. In the general consideration of the whole position of international debt and credit, the position of Great Britain is strong enough to have no need of the support of inexact statements, which, we fear, will serve only to increase the disfavour with which the Note has been received in America. We can only hope that Sir Robert Horne has succeeded in modifying that disfavour by stating in the House of Commons on Thursday: "I wish to make it clear beyond all possibility of misapprehension that we realise and recognise to the full our obligation to pay our debt to the United States of America."

The Note urges as the reason for the Government's "reluctant change of policy" towards allied debts, the burdened position of the British taxpayer, and this, indeed, was the foundation of the Prime Minister's defence of the Note in the House of Commons. Of the heavy weight of taxation pressing upon this country we are as fully aware as the Prime Minister, and we agree that it is the duty of the Government to give that aspect of the question its fullest consideration. But with the official argument that a bold remission of debt, without relation to American policy, is contrary to the interests of the British taxpayer, we join issue. What is most directly against the British taxpayer's interests is that the present financial tangle, with its potent and deplorable restraints on production, trade, and employment, should remain unravelled. If, on the other hand, in return for surrendering credits whose value is a great deal more than dubious, the British taxpayer could obtain a sound Reparations settlement, the rebirth of confidence, and the revival of world trade, then he would be greatly the gainer by the bargain.

But, although the Note is marred by misleading method of exposition as well as by its basic policy, it contains statements of great importance from which far-reaching results may conceivably arise. The door is left open, as we have shown, for an offer to cancel 15s in the £ of our claims on the Continental nations. If this means that we are to demand the remaining 5s, or £850 millions or so, from our most solvent debtors (viz., France and Italy), the deadlock is complete. But if this statement is to be regarded as purposely ambiguous, and is to be made the subject of sympathetic and broad discussion at next week's conferences in Downing Street, we may yet see some step forward, and this will become the less impossible if any accuracy is possessed by the French rumours of the plans which M. Poincaré will bring to London. Hopeful, too, is the offer (albeit conditional at present on general cancellation) to forego our share of German reparations. This represents a distinct advance on past statements of British policy. If it is in these passages which open the way to a 75 per cent. remission that the real significance of the Note lies, then the position created is less hopeless than a first perusal suggested. A great opportunity has been missed, but a lesser opportunity is still open for concerting the beginnings of a policy that would meet French needs, check Germany's plunge, and redound to the material advantage also of Great Britain and the world.

THE GERMAN BANK RATE.

It was announced last week that the official discount rate of the German Reichsbank, which had remained at 5 per cent. since December, 1914, had been raised to 6 per cent. This movement attracted the more interest because it was contrary to the general movement of money rates in the various centres of the world, which, as our readers well know, has lately been downward, and also because it called attention to what may perhaps be the last phase of the inflationary process as carried on in Germany. It was accounted for, according to a telegram published in the *Times* of July 29th, by the *Börsen Zeitung*, on the ground

that ever since 1921 the Reichsbank has been experiencing difficulty in placing Treasury bills upon the market, and that this difficulty has grown steadily in the current year, and especially of late. "An ever-increasing quantity of these bills has remained on the Reichsbank's hands, and the present developments indicate that the Bank's holding of these bills at the end of the month will be extraordinarily high." It thus appears that, in spite of the astonishing rapidity with which money has been multiplied in Germany by the use of the printing press, it nevertheless remains too scarce for the convenience of the Treasury as a borrower; and this development is an extraordinarily interesting example of the manner in which the process of inflation tends at a point to defeat itself by depreciating the value of the currency more rapidly than it can be turned out, and so making its total value less with each increase in its volume and producing a paradoxical scarcity in the midst of, and due to, a superabundant plenty. In Section V. of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial's* "Reconstruction in Europe," dealing with national finances, tariffs and cost of living, Mr J. M. Keynes has a lucid and interesting article on "Inflation as a Method of Taxation," in which he explains the self-defeating working of inflation when it reaches this point. "In the last stages of inflation," he says, "the prodigious increase in the velocity of circulation may have more effect in raising prices and depreciating the exchanges than the increase in the volume of notes, and the note-issuing authorities cry out against what they regard as the unfair phenomenon of the value of the notes falling more than in proportion to their increased volume. In Moscow the unwillingness to hold money, except for the shortest possible time, reaches a fantastic intensity. If you buy a pound of cheese in a grocer's shop the grocer runs off with the roubles as fast as his legs will carry him to a central market to replenish his stocks by changing them into cheese again lest they lose their value before he gets there. This is what keeps economists in naming the phenomenon 'velocity of circulation.' In Vienna mushroom exchange banks have sprung up at every street corner, where you can change your krone into Zurich francs within a few minutes of receiving them, and so avoid the risk of loss during the time it will take you to reach your usual bank. A prudent man at a café, ordering a bock of beer, will order a second bock at the same time, at the expense of drinking it tepid, lest the price rise meanwhile."

This tendency of notes to fall in value at a greater rate than the inflation is not, in Mr Keynes's view, an anomalous and temporary phenomenon, but merely "the burden." Presumably Mr Keynes does not mean that the public deliberately works the matter out in its own mind, and decides to adopt this method of defeating the attempts of its impecunious rulers to extract services from it for confidence in the value of the currency, except confidence in its money is to turn it into goods or other more reliable currencies, or into anything else into which it can be converted in preference to holding tokens which are certain to decline in value. Thus a wholly artificial demand for commodities is stimulated which puts equally artificial profits into the pockets of producers and holders of goods, turns the ordinary household into a sort of general warehouse, stuffed with articles that are not needed but are preferred to money as a means of hoarding, stimulates employment, and gives a pleasant appearance of industrial prosperity and activity to any country that is afflicted by the disease. In the case of Germany the process is complicated and accentuated by two influences: the eagerness of Germans to put their funds out of the reach of their Government's desire to take hold of them for reparation purposes, and for other objects which a Government finds it necessary to take its subjects' money, and also by the tendency of the citizens of other countries to act on the belief that a holding of German marks was bound to a point to be a profitable speculation. These two influences to a certain extent counteracted one another. In their effect, for example, on rates of exchange, the exigencies of the German to buy foreign currencies or commodities in foreign countries turned the exchanges of the world against Germany while they were moved in her favour by the purchases of marks by foreign

speculators. In each case, however, there was a tendency for these influences to freeze and immobilise a certain amount of German money, and so to assist, by a contrary method, the process of velocity of circulation in making the total value of available money less, in spite of the rapidity in its increase. In the article already referred to Mr Keynes gives tables showing that the German note issue had a volume of 81 milliard paper marks in December, 1920, its volume had increased to 178 milliards in June, 1922, but since the number of paper marks needed to purchase one gold mark had risen from 17 to 90, value of the note issue in milliard gold marks had fallen from 4.8 to 1.9. Thus, while the note issue has been a little more than doubled, the value of the note has been divided by more than 5, and the depreciation has been more than twice as rapid as the inflation, "and instead of having to issue twice as many notes to provide a given sum in gold, the German Government has to issue more than five times as many." It need hardly be said that if similar calculations were made, based on current quotations, they would produce still more striking results. As applied to Russia, the same process is shown by Mr Keynes to have reduced, in spite of the gargantuan activity of the printing press, the value of the total note issue to less than four millions sterling, a figure which evidently cannot be sufficient for carrying through Russian business even in its present attenuated condition. Russia thus points the way to the goal towards which German inflation is conveying her currency—namely, a state of affairs in which "the real value of note printing begins to diminish at a great pace." These alarming symptoms are doubtless evident enough to the careful German authorities, and they are apparently trying to remedy them by raising the Reichsbank's rate. To disinterested observers there seems much reason to doubt whether such a remedy can have any appreciable effect unless it is applied in doses so heavy that they would be likely to increase chaos instead of checking it. When currency is once sufficiently discredited, a Treasury bill or other form of gilt-edged promise to pay is the last form of investment that a far-seeing capitalist would desire. If he buys securities at all he would naturally put money into ordinary shares and stocks the value of which will tend to rise as the real assets of the owning company are pushed up in value by the process of currency depreciation. The claims of industry are always a keen competitor with governments that come into the market as borrowers, and under present conditions in Germany it seems likely that industry's claim will easily prove to be the stronger. Normally a Government by bidding a high enough price can supply its needs, but the German position seems to need much more drastic measures.

SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, AND THE GOLD STANDARD.—II.

In our previous article under the above heading, we suggested that the apparent exchange stability under post-war conditions between the currencies of South Africa, Australia, and Great Britain would repay close examination. In the case of Australia (and also New Zealand) this stability has at times existed in appearance rather than reality. The Australasian banks have throughout stubbornly refused to make any appreciable alteration in their official exchange rates, but they have not always been willing to do business at these rates, or, indeed, at any rates at all. For a considerable period during 1920-21, while quoting London money at a premium of only 2½ per cent., they restricted remittance to Great Britain by a rough-and-ready rationing process, which greatly embarrassed Australasian importers who had obligations to meet in this country. These restrictions, however, were only temporary, and it was not very long before the banks had resumed their normal practice of remitting money freely in either direction at rates very close to parity. The South African banks displayed at first a similar reluctance to alter their exchange quotations, and were at one time in much difficulty over the remittance of money to South Africa. But they were quicker to learn the lesson of this experience, and for the past two and a half years they have altered their rates as economic conditions indicated, and have made it clear that they will continue to pursue that policy.

The South African quotations thus represent the actual course of exchange. They show a premium on South African money in the spring of 1920, reaching a maximum of 8 per cent., followed by a discount in the latter part of the year, reaching a maximum of 4½ per cent.; finally, a return to parity early in 1921, with no subsequent deviation of any magnitude. This may fairly be accounted a stable record in these days, especially when account is taken of the violent fluctuations, indicated in the following table, in the course of overseas trade.

(Million £'s.)

	Australia.			New Zealand.			South Africa.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)
1913.	80	79	- 1	22	23	+ 1	43	67	+ 24
July 1919-June '20	99	150	+ 51	39	47	+ 8	73	94	+ 21
July 1920-June '21	164	132	- 32	66	51	- 15	91	62	- 29
July 1921-Mar. '22 (9 months).	71	95	+ 24	22	33	+ 11	38	46	+ 8

Under such conditions, the comparatively small fluctuations of the South African exchange and even the devious devices of the Australasian banks might well seem no more than the momentary bowing beneath the storm of a securely-rooted system. The effective maintenance in both cases of parity throughout the past year strengthens this impression of fundamental stability. It is, therefore, not surprising that the business man, who would hesitate to predict the exchange-rate two years hence of the franc or the lira, the mark, or even the dollar, assumes as a matter of course that the pound sterling will mean the same thing in Cape Town and Sydney as in London.

This confidence, however, is not well founded. The truth is that the present maintenance of the pre-war rates of exchange is due to the conjuncture of a number of essentially fortuitous circumstances. It so happened that the inflation of currency and credit during the war and immediately afterwards reached fairly similar proportions in the Dominions and at home. The subsequent contraction, being due more to world-wide trade depression than to domestic monetary policy, has likewise affected each country in similar degree. Thus the actual trend of monetary events has so far been quite compatible with exchange-rates in the neighbourhood of parity. The great fluctuations in the balance of overseas trade, though they have greatly embarrassed the banks in their endeavours to keep their rates from varying from month to month, are yet far less serious obstacles to long-period stability than would be a trade balance of more moderate dimensions, which continued steadily in the same direction. Had it not been, indeed, for the fact that the balance of trade turning round as it did in 1920, and again in 1921, the pre-war parities must have broken down completely, and beyond the possibility of concealment. On the first occasion the balances of the Colonial banks had become so unduly concentrated in London that they could not have continued to provide facilities for remittance to the Dominions, but for the relief which was accorded them by the heavy import surplus that ensued. On the second occasion, when the converse difficulty arose, the Australasian banks, as we have seen, did in fact refuse to remit money to this country; and, had the balance of trade not turned once more in favour of Australia, they must either have raised their rates for London money or continued to this day refusing to remit.

To some extent, of course, these reactions in overseas trade were the logical consequence of the alterations in the rates of exchange, or the curtailment of the volume of remittance; and, if they could be attributed entirely to these causes, there would be no reason to cast doubts upon the fundamental stability of the exchange. After all, it is in this manner, by correcting rather than preventing an undue balance of trade, that the most unimpeachable gold standards do their work. But at this point it becomes important to think quite clearly. The premium of 8 per cent. on the South African pound in 1920 tended it is true, to check exports from South Africa and to stimulate imports; and certainly it would be possible at any time to bring to an end an undue trade balance in either direction by a sufficient movement in the exchange. But this does not entitle us to conclude that the exchange

[August 5, 1922.]

must ultimately revert to the old parity. On the contrary, precisely the same reactions hold true of the movements in the exchange value of any inconvertible paper currency. A fall in the franc, for instance, serves *pro tanto* to check the imports and to stimulate the exports of France. But the franc does not return to its pre-war value; nor can any stable parity be safely predicted for it in the future. The actual restoration of the pre-war rates for Australasian and South African money must thus be attributed in part to the other forces which have influenced the trend of overseas trade, and, for the rest, to the correspondence between their currency and credit conditions and our own. In the long run, it is upon this last factor that exchange stability must depend. Let us test, then, for a moment the soundness of this foundation.

The direct effect of an exchange movement upon the volume of credit is entirely different under present conditions to what it was when gold standards were working. Before the war, a movement of the exchanges in favour of Britain would have led to an outflow of gold from South Africa and Australia and to a consequent contraction of the credit basis there. To-day, it merely means that the reserves of the banks accumulate in the Dominions rather than in London, and credit conditions become easier. The ordinary credit reaction, which is the first line of defence of a stable exchange system, is thus entirely lacking. In order to secure it, it would be necessary for the banks to act, not merely without regard to, but in actual defiance of normal considerations as to the adequacy of their cash reserves, and to base their credit policies directly on exchange movements. Such a course would be novel and dangerous, and the banks, in fact, do nothing of the kind. In the long run, the volume of credit is governed by the volume of currency. There is no reason to expect that the issue of currency will pursue widely divergent courses in South Africa, Australia, and Great Britain. But there is equally little reason to assume any accurate correlation. The currency of Australia consists for the most part of the Australian notes, issued now by the Commonwealth Bank subject to the limitation of a minimum gold cover of 25 per cent. In South Africa, where hitherto each bank has issued its own notes, subject to the varying regulations of the different provinces, a monopoly of note-issue is now to be entrusted to the new Reserve Bank. These notes must be covered to the extent of 40 per cent. by gold, and the remainder must be secured by certain specified classes of commercial bills. There is nothing in these regulations to link these currencies with the Bradbury. There is nothing, moreover, to secure a contraction of currency when the exchange moves in favour of Britain, or a contraction when it moves the other way. It is, of course, conceivable that the South African Reserve Bank may eventually adopt the deliberate policy of adjusting its note-issue in this manner. But no such policy has been laid down as yet; nor, indeed, would it be practicable, until the Reserve Bank had obtained an effective control over the volume of credit. This they can hardly obtain for some years to come, as an organised discount market has still to be created. Thus, for the time being, both the currency and the credit reactions, which are essential conditions of a fundamentally stable exchange, are absent in both Dominions.

The present equilibrium of the exchanges with Australia and South Africa must, therefore, be deemed precarious. Really wide departures are improbable, unless foolish policies are pursued; but nothing would be a more astonishing coincidence than the successful maintenance of exchange, over an indefinite future, exactly or virtually at par. This conclusion has an important moral, bearing more particularly upon the policy of the Australasian banks. It is earnestly to be hoped that they, too, will in future move their exchange-rates freely and openly, as economic conditions indicate. Their reluctance to do so is intelligible in the light of their past traditions. The export trade of Australia and New Zealand is so predominantly seasonal in character that disturbing oscillations in the exchanges would have been of regular occurrence, if the banks had not been willing to see their balances accumulate, now on the one side and now on the other, without varying their rates. But methods, which are appropriate and laudable for dealing with seasonal or purely temporary fluctuations of trade, are entirely out of place for meeting a prevailing trend of

forces in one direction. The attempt to apply them in such circumstances can only lead to the ultimate inevitability of a more drastic exchange movement than would otherwise have been necessary, if not to a repetition of the preposterous conditions of a year and a half ago. The matter is one which presses for immediate attention. Owing to the recovery of Australia's export trade, coupled with the floating of large loans in the London market, the balances of the Australian banks have already accumulated on this side to an excessive degree. There is real danger that the remittance of money to Australia may become exceedingly difficult in the near future. It is urgently desirable that the Australian banks should meet the situation squarely, by quoting the Australian pound at a really substantial premium.

THE CONDITION OF CENTRAL EUROPE—II.—CZECHOSLOVAKIA—VIEWS OF DR. BENES.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Of the new States of Central Europe, Czechoslovakia is certainly the most advanced in economic development, and perhaps also the nearest to our Western world in everything—save the name. This little State, of some 13½ million inhabitants, has a series of problems of its own, and Dr. Benes, a keen, hard-working little man whose fame has by this time spread far beyond the borders of his own republic, was kind enough to help me in their elucidation.

In the first place, the dominant people here are represented by two branches of a West Slav race, the Czechs of Bohemia and Moravia, and the Slovaks, of what was formerly North-West Hungary. From time to time one hears talk of Slovak autonomy, and this was the burden of my first question. "There are three points to be noted in this connection," said Dr. Benes. "(1) The people of Slovakia are quite uninformed on the point. Further, have nothing to do with the question. Only one party, the so-called 'Popular party,' is in favour of the principle: and this is largely a personal question affecting the views and ambitions of its leader, Deputy Hlinka. (2) I personally have nothing to say against an autonomous Slovakia. It is a question which the Slovaks must decide for themselves. But one point should be emphasised. An autonomous Slovakia must be self-supporting. It must provide its own political and administrative officials, and these, having regard to the neglect of education under the old régime, are not at present available. More important still, it must pay the cost of its own administration, and this, under present conditions, means sacrificing what is in effect an annual subsidy of nearly £5,000,000 from Prague. Regarded from this point of view," continued Dr. Benes, "you will find that the enthusiasm for Slovak autonomy manifested in certain circles will be somewhat damped. (3) The Hlinka party must be admitted that some of the Czech officials who were sent to Slovakia in the first year of the Republic showed considerable lack of tact in dealing with a very religious people. But this has now been changed, and strict orders have long since been issued that all respect must be shown on the part of the school teachers and officials for the religious feelings of the Slovak people. But if political autonomy is not at present a question of practical politics, a scheme for what we might call administrative autonomy for Slovakia is now under discussion. This will provide a sort of super-county organisation (counties) into closer co-operation with the various *zupas* strengthening the bases of local government."

The next question referred to the possibility of a Customs Union between the various succession States. "I am most certainly of the opinion," said Dr. Benes, "that the old Austria-Hungary must be replaced by a new system. At the same time, I do not think that the formation of a permanent institution is now possible. Proposals for a Customs Union which, for various reasons, seem very popular in England and France, seem to me to

August 5, 1922.]

be somewhat doctrinaire, for they ignore the one fundamental fact in Central Europe to-day. The peoples of the old Austria-Hungary are disgusted at the very thought of life in common. The economic difficulties in the way of a 'Zollverein' are great, but these could be overcome. The psychological heritage of centuries, however, is not lightly to be ignored. Accordingly, the new system must be elaborated step by step. Any attempt to rush forward a scheme of reform would have the contrary effect to that desired. As a first principle, the political sovereignty of the various States must remain intact. In the second place, the Little Entente, which is the one stable element in the political life of Central Europe to-day, must be elaborated on the economic side. Temporary agreements must be replaced by normal commercial treaties. Thus the sovereign rights of all parties will be respected. From a realistic point of view, this alone should be our objective, because this alone is possible. On the other hand, this system of commercial treaties should not be solely confined to the States of the Little Entente. In fact," said Dr. Benes, "I have tried three times already to come to an economic understanding with Hungary, and each time I have failed. A similar fate has met my proposals to bring Austria into the orbit of this policy. Nevertheless, I shall continue along this line in the conviction that it is bound eventually to lead to success because it is in accordance with the economic needs of all the States concerned, without exception."

I then asked to what extent the Little Entente might be enlarged on the political side. Dr. Benes replied: "I am opposed, both in principle and in practice, to the old system of alliances based on a *quid pro quo*. In no case am I prepared to guarantee a point that is of no interest to my country in return for a like guarantee from another country on a question of no interest to it. Accordingly, identity of interest is to me the only possible basis for an alliance. The Little Entente, as a political agreement, is based upon the fact that all three countries would be equally threatened in their vital interests by an attempted Habsburg restoration, or by an active irredentist policy on the part of the Magyars. This is the only *casus fœderis*! Thus if the Hungarian Government should receive Otto Habsburg and designate him as future King of Hungary"—(rumours to this effect having appeared in certain newspapers, to which I called Dr. Benes' attention)—"the *casus fœderis* would at once arise, because all three States would feel themselves threatened. If, on the other hand, any of the States of the Little Entente should become involved with any other Power, the other two would be pledged to friendly neutrality but not to active assistance *manu militari*. This is the only principle consistent with Czechoslovakia's desire for peace and economic progress. But it none the less follows that the Little Entente—an agreement *ad hoc*—could not be extended to include other States unless and only in so far as identity of interest existed between all parties. In a recent Treaty with Poland, for example, Czechoslovakia pledged herself to neutrality in the event of a war between Poland and a third Power. But she is not prepared under any circumstance to guarantee a principle that does not affect her own interests."

As a last point, I referred to the question of the German and Magyar minorities in the Republic. Dr. Benes replied: "A change in the attitude of the minority leaders themselves is already observable. In all probability, the Germans will shortly settle down into two main divisions: (a) the party of opposition, an extreme party opposed, in theory at least, to the very idea of the Czechoslovak State; and (b) the party of participation, which will seek to achieve its ends by co-operation with the Czech parties. These two parties will both pursue as their objective the obtaining of the maximum possible of concessions in favour of their German fellow-citizens: they will differ only as to the means that should be pursued to attain that end. In any case, there are only very few irredentists amongst the Germans, and these are found mostly in academic circles. As to the Magyars in Slovakia, the great mass live in a fairly well-defined national block in the South-East, and these are ideal citizens, as the mobilisation last year showed. The Magyar intelligentsia in North and East Slovakia, on the other hand, distributed as it is through regions that are preponderantly Slovak, is dissatisfied

with the present régime and irredentist. In all cases, however, the need for co-operation, based on economic necessity, is bound to make itself felt in course of time, and it is my policy to grant to all minorities in the Republic who will recognise the present *status quo* the maximum of concessions consistent with the existence of the Czechoslovakia Republic itself."

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

ANOTHER very slight increase took place in July in our Index Number of wholesale commodity prices, the figure rising by a meagre seven points, from 4389 to 4396. This is 137 points above the lowest figure of the present year, which was reached at the end of February. For the past two months the aggregate movement has only been 17 points, and although it would be over-bold to suggest that the apparent stabilisation is necessarily more than temporary, recent months have certainly shown an increasing tendency to steadiness. The total figure at the end of July is 39 points above that recorded at the close of last year. But, as the following table shows, the narrow aggregate movement on the seven months is the net result of widely different tendencies in various groups of commodities:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tin, Ber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	Percentage Change.
Basis (avg. 1901-5)...	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100
End July, 1914....	579	352	616½	464½	553	2568	116½
" Dec., 1915....	897	446	731	711½	848½	3634	165
" Dec., 1917....	1286½	686	1684½	839½	1348½	5845	263
" Nov., 1918....	1289	782½	1848	903	1389½	6212	282
" Dec., 1918....	1303	782½	1805½	866	1337	6094	277
" Dec., 1919....	1441½	814	2442½	1145	1453½	7364	334½
" Mar., 1920....	1508	914	2974½	1246	1709½	8352	379½
" Dec., 1920....	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269½
" Dec., 1921....	921½	636	1106	762	931½	4357	198½
" Jan., 1922....	907½	654½	1066½	730	925½	4284	194½
" Feb., 1922....	948	640½	1037½	696½	936½	4259	193½
" Mar., 1922....	980	687	1038	700	892	4297	195½
" April, 1922....	1008½	667	1010	709½	890	4285	194½
" May, 1922....	1040½	657	1079	710½	885	4372	198½
" June, 1922....	1000½	676½	1135	690	887	4389	199½
" July, 1922....	994½	669	1120	712½	900	4396	199½

From a glance at the movement in the group totals, it will be seen that the small increase in the July total was produced by narrow conflicting movements in various groups. The decline in the main food group is due to the cheapening of potatoes and barley, which was more than sufficient to compensate for slightly dearer quotations for wheat, flour, oats, mutton, and rice. Among subsidiary foods a relapse in the price of butter, after its substantial advance in June, more than offset a trifling rise in tea. In the textile group, hemp, jute, and silk were all lower on the month, while flax and home-grown wool hardened. On the month American raw cotton, after fluctuations, was nearly stationary, but the Egyptian raw material became cheaper, and the quotations of yarn and cloth also moved downwards. Attention in the Lancashire industry—so far as it was not concerned with the fabric glove controversy—was focussed on reports of the American crop, the latest forecast of which is discussed in a later column by our Manchester correspondent. In their monthly report Messrs Robert Barbour and Brother, Limited, write:—

July and August are the most critical months in regard to the season's crop, but those who pin their faith on an ultimate shortage do not appear to be over-anxious to back their opinion by operations of any magnitude, and speculation, for the time being, at any rate, is at a discount. So far as business generally is concerned, it cannot, unfortunately, be questioned that there has been a marked shrinkage in inquiry, and a still larger diminution in actual bookings. No lasting improvement in the export of cotton goods can really be looked for until Europe is able to absorb to a much greater extent than at present the productions of overseas countries, and the recent renewed fall in the German and French exchange rates has further prejudiced the unsettled outlook in regard to international financial problems as a whole. On the other hand, a return to the pre-war figure of 3 per cent. in the Bank rate is all to the good, whilst news of the monsoon is so far satisfactory that something better might have been expected as India's contribu-

tion to the month's trading than the scattered transactions which are all that can be reported. Quite a hopeful view is taken of the possibilities in respect to China, but so far results have been disappointing in the extreme. As the month closes no relief has yet appeared to quicken into renewed life a dull and listless market, nor have the opportunities increased for really testing how far spinners and manufacturers are prepared to come down from the high rates recently current.

The minerals group shows the largest individual rise, chiefly attributable to steam coal, activity in which has been quickened by export demand, especially for the United States. Copper, lead, and tin also gained a little on the month, while pig-iron eased a little. In the miscellaneous group, the chief feature is a sharp advance in tallow. In the next table we show the movement of each commodity's index number as compared with the level at the end of June, the figure 50 in each case representing the average price during the base period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	104	+ 14	Cotton A	120	— 4	Copper	53½	+ 2
English	95½	+ 14	Cotton E	124	— 12	Minerals	712½	+ 22½
Flour	91	+ 2	Yarn	119½	— 4½			
Barley	85½	— 7	Cloth	113	+ 13	Baltic timber	101½	..
Oats	81	+ 3	Wool	97½	— 6	Leather	89	..
Potatoes	112	+ 7½	Aus. Wool	132	+ 34	Petroleum	73½	..
Rice	106	..	Silk	132	+ 12	Oilseed	85	+ 12
Beef	111½	+ 4	Flax	108½	— 9½	Tallow	127	..
Mutton	113	..	Hemp	125	— 24	Crystals	125	..
Pork	113	..	Jute	108½	+ 16	Rubber	11	+ ½
Cereals & Meat	99½	— 6	Textiles	1,120	— 15	Miscellaneous	900	+ 13
Tea	100	+ 2	Pig-iron	94½	— 24	Total	4,396	+ 7
Coffee	94	..	Steel rails	79	..			
Sugar cane	157	..	Iron bars	125	+ 16			
Sugar beet	106	..	Coal, steam	97	..			
Butter	95½	..	House coal	108	+ 3			
Tobacco	116½	..	Lead	63½	+ 4			
Other foods	669	— 7½	Tin	63½	+ 4			

The net result of these changes is so slight that the total remains, as at the end of June, roughly 171 per cent above the figure recorded at the outbreak of war. Taking the indices of each of the groups and of the total as at July, 1914, as 100, we trace the following movements:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	236
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287
March, 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325
June, 1920	261	263	415	278	281	305
Dec., 1920	233	229	209	261	230	231
June, 1921	203	188	158	210	185	188
Dec., 1921	159	180	180	164	168	170
Jan., 1922	157	186	173	158	167	167
Feb., 1922	164	182	168	150	169	166
March, 1922	169	195	168	151	161	167
April, 1922	174	189	164	152	160	167
May, 1922	180	186	175	153	159	170
June, 1922	174	192	184	149	160	171
July, 1922	172	190	181	153	163	171

The minerals group, in spite of the July advance, remains nearest to the pre-war level, while subsidiary foodstuffs show the greatest rise. Taking a comparison with this time last year, primary foodstuffs, minerals, and miscellaneous commodities reveal a heavy fall, while textiles and subsidiary foodstuffs are higher.

In a final table we show percentage changes on the pre-war level for the commodity price index numbers of several important foreign countries:—

	United States.	France.	Italy.	Germany.	Switz'r-land.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Japan.
Nov., 1918	205	358	438	6,809	325	367	292	214
Highest, 1920	227	591	679	3,955	401	366	403	328
End 1921	123	326	594	3,955	171	172	178	209
End Jan., 1922	131	314	577	4,888	170	166	182	205
Feb., 1922	133	307	562	5,899	163	164	178	200
Mar., 1922	132	308	527	6,572	161	165	177	197
Apr., 1922	134	315	524	7,841*	160	164	179	194
May, 1922	137	318	524	9,140*	160	164	179	194
June, 1922	139	326	524	9,140*	160	164	179	194

* Altered to include 16 finished industrial products.

Bradstreet's index number for the United States showed during June the eleventh rise recorded in the past twelve months. The end of June figure is 39 per cent. above the pre-war level, but 41.9 per cent. below the high record of February 1, 1920. Prices in France and Japan also recorded a rise, while the advance in Germany was again very large.

THE FALL IN WAGES.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MR FRANK HODGES, when dealing with the wage fall in the mining industry, has declared that it is the beginning of the British famine. And certainly in no industry have wages fallen so heavily. The wages of day workers in Scotland, Durham, South Wales, North Wales, South Staffordshire, Cumberland, Kent, Bristol, and the Forest of Dean are only 20 per cent. above the pre-war level. In the most fortunate districts—Yorkshire, Nottingham, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase, and Warwick—the day workers are earning only 50 per cent. above the 1914 level. In Scotland day wage colliers who in March, 1921, were receiving 17s per shift are now obtaining 8s 5d. In the Bristol area the wage in March, 1921, was 14s 11d per shift, and is now 7s 2d per shift. The underground labourers all have sufficient reductions on a similar scale, wages being about a half what they were before the coal stoppage last year. The wages of the underground workers vary from 5s 11d per day in the Forest of Dean to 9s 11d in Derbyshire. Surface labourers' wages range from 5s 3d per day in Bristol to 9s 7d in Yorkshire. Many thousands of mine workers are to-day earning less than agricultural workers, and dreadful stories of hardship are being told of the South Wales and other coalfields. The position is so desperate that the Miners' Federation asked for a meeting of the National Wages Board to discuss the general situation with the mineowners. A meeting has been held, and further meetings are to take place.

The victory of the Engineering Employers' Federation has been speedily followed by a demand for a reduction of wages in the industry. It was anticipated that this demand would be made. The shipyard workers have already accepted a reduction of 16s 6d, and a similar demand has been put forward by the engineering employers. It is proposed that the war bonus of 16s 6d should be withdrawn in three stages by reductions of 5s 6d on July 31st, August 28th, and September 25th. The unions balloted their members on the employers' terms. The employers' terms were rejected by a substantial majority on a pooled vote. The officials and executive members, however, have recommended the acceptance of the reductions on the grounds that the unions are unable to put up a successful resistance, owing to the depletion of their funds, and that unemployment is still severe in the engineering industry. It is expected that the reductions will be accepted under protest.

The wages dispute in the printing industry led to the reference of the dispute to the Industrial Court, so far as the Typographical Association was concerned. The Court decided that the existing wages should be reduced "by 3s a week as from the beginning of the first pay week following July 11, 1922; by a further 3s as from the beginning of the first complete pay week in September, 1922; by a further 3s as from the beginning of the first complete pay week in November, 1922, and by 3s 6d as from the beginning of the first complete pay week in January, 1923." The total reduction proposed was 12s 6d per week in the case of men and 6s for women, in four instalments spread over the next 12 months, on the understanding that no further reductions should take place during 1923. The proposal has been accepted by the various unions concerned, with the exception of the Typographical Association. This union claimed that under its rules the executive must submit an agreement to the members before it can be adopted. The Typographical Association accordingly took a ballot of its membership, and, as a result, declined the award of the Court by 14,039 to 8,199 votes. There appears to have been a misunderstanding on the matter. The union Court was a court of enquiry and not an arbitration court. However that may be, an impossible situation has been created. There is a partial stoppage in the provinces. London has separate agreements, and is therefore unaffected. But in the country a number of newspaper and printing offices are either closed or are working under difficulties. In some places the lower wages have been accepted, and there is no likelihood of

the Typographical Association being able to secure better terms than those given in the award of the Court.

In certain smaller industries reductions have lately taken place. In the cocoa and chocolate trade, for example, a half-crown reduction was made on July 3rd in the wages of men and 2s in the wages of women, and on July 4th the London bus men lost 2s per week, the conductors and other outside grades 1s 6d per week. Notwithstanding Mr J. H. Thomas's optimism, there is some apprehension regarding the possibility of an attack on the wages of railway workers, and the dock employers have suggested a further reduction of 2s a day in the wages of the dockers. The union is striving to soften the blow, but up to the present no agreement has been reached.

It does not appear that there can be any further substantial reductions in wages, though no doubt attempts will be made here and there to bring them down still lower, and automatic reductions will take place in those industries governed by sliding scale arrangements, but these will not be considerable, as the cost of living seems to be stabilising about the present level. The greater part—probably three-quarters—of the increases in money wages obtained in industry since the outbreak of the war have now disappeared. It is difficult to see how the general wage level can be forced much lower. The workers are now waiting for the trade revival which was to follow upon wages reductions.

THE QUESTION OF OPTIONS.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

In a recent number of the *Economist* (June 3rd, page 1146), occasion was taken to touch upon a few of the more elementary points which arise in connection with option dealing. The freeing of the Stock Exchange, on June 1st, from the war-time prohibition that forbade options, led to a somewhat remarkable increase of attention being paid to operations of this kind. The interest was kindled, and is being vigorously fanned, by a number of outside stockbroking firms, of which a small percentage honourably meet their obligations as these fall due. The greater number, however, judging by the letters which reach us on the subject, do all they can to evade payment, except in the case of small amounts, and even these latter are not always paid. The would-be speculator who sends money for the call option on shares which he sells at a substantial profit, and who demands a settlement of his difference, is told with veiled directness that if he takes the case into the law courts, he will stand no chance of winning a claim which the "bucket shop" can successfully resist by pleading the Gaming Act. This is generally sufficient to stop any troublesome client from pressing his demand for money which certainly belongs to him, but which he is willing to believe (on the strength of the bucket shop's statement) that he cannot possibly expect to get by resort to law. The happy position of the "bucket shop" is, therefore, that if the man loses the money which he is asked to send in the first place, the outsiders keep it; while, if he should happen to win, these so-called brokers can evade payment by pleading that the whole transaction is nothing more nor less than gambling, and accordingly they are under no legal obligation to pay. In other words, the impression is created that an option is nothing more nor less than a bet, from which, if the client wins, he stands a very good chance of receiving no profit. It is not necessary to labour the point that the ordinary man, concerned with the affairs of the general business, fails to understand, or to appreciate, the true nature of an option. This is abundantly manifested by the almost unanimous impression that, if a man gives money for the call of shares over a named period, and if he sells those shares at a profit on the following day, this sale automatically closes the option, and he is entitled to receive, then and there, the difference due to him. Such a view is to miss altogether the function and the possibilities which an option affords. In point of fact, it is very doubtful whether option dealing offers a suitable method of speculation for the man who is not in constant and close touch with Stock Exchange

markets, able to take prompt advantage of sharp movements, and to exercise the various opportunities which it permits. The Stock Exchange man knows well enough that an option, properly considered, is an intricate operation, to make the best of which it is essential that the speculator should realise its scientific character. To consider it as a bet is to miss not only the proper appreciation of what an option is, but also to run the risk of wasting the money, or part of it, given for the call of shares. We take the call as being the more easily explainable part of the business, though money can also be given, of course, for the put of shares, or for the double option, the put and call alike. Those books which deal with the subject, and which purport to explain the matter in a popular manner, are not always happy in carrying out the latter intention. Nor is it possible in the compass of a short article to explore the ramifications of this specialised form of dealing, the great attraction of which is that it limits the loss on a particular transaction. The man who thinks that certain shares are going to rise, but who wants to ensure against losing more than a certain amount of money, is able to support his theory by giving money for the call of the shares over a certain time, knowing that his loss is limited to the amount he stakes, and that, should there be a general catastrophe, he cannot be called upon to pay more than the specific amount of the option money. Whereas, with the purchase of shares, the price might slump heavily, and the loss become substantial.

The majority of options are done for three months, though this is by no means an arbitrary time; Stock Exchange dealers often give money for the call, or the put of shares for a single day. Assuming, however, that a speculator thinks well of the prospects of Chartered, and elects to give 1s 6d for the call of the shares over a period of three months, to the present price of 14s 6d is added about 3d for the value of contingencies throughout the period, and there is also the 1½d commission charged by the broker. This makes a total of 1s 7½d for the option money and expenses, over and above the 14s 9d, the price at which the option is done. If Chartered rise to anything over 16s 4½d, the buyer can sell his shares without loss. Assuming, however, that the price should advance so that he could sell the shares at 16s, it would probably pay him to do so, provided he felt pretty certain of being able to contango the shares until the option matured, because he would always have the chance of buying them back at a profit on any spasm of weakness, thereby lessening the amount of his full liability, viz., the 1s 7½d paid for the option. He might, however, become nervous if the market showed a strong tendency, and repurchase them at 16s 6d, which would add nominally to the loss, or, on the other hand, if the price gave way, this might give him the opportunity of repurchasing at a shilling or so cheaper. What we desire to make clear is the necessity for a man, wishing to make the most of his option, to be constantly on the *qui vive* for opportunities of snatching quick profits in either direction. The option itself runs to its full term. The operator has paid so much for the express purpose of keeping it alive during that period, and if he terminated his option before the latter expired, it would be tantamount to giving away more than was necessary. It will be obvious from even these brief notes that a man must be prepared to carry over his stock if necessary either as a bull or a bear, and therefore he has to be in the position of a principal, for the Stock Exchange rules do not allow contangoes to be undertaken for anyone who is an employee unless his employers provide written consent. Doubtless this short exposition of the nature of an option will not prevent the sending-off of fivers and larger sums to bucket shops by innocent people who are out simply for a "flutter," and who are prepared to treat the whole thing as a bet. At the same time, to those who go a little more deeply into what is a fascinating and a scientific side of speculation, it may be of service to correct some of the popular misapprehensions. Amongst these the chief is that the selling of shares, for which call money has been paid, before that call-money becomes due through the maturity of the option, by no means closes the transaction, nor extinguishes the possibilities of further profits, or losses, to be made through intermediate dealings.

Meetings" later in this issue, is a candid and concise statement of the position of affairs, and a definite assurance is given that the bank's methods have been thoroughly overhauled, and its executive officers given definitely to understand that under no circumstances whatever may they "undertake business which does not satisfy the ordinary and well-understood tests of sound banking practice." The New York Agency has been brought under effective control, and the chairman considered that having regard to the bank's very valuable business connection, and given a period of reasonably stable conditions, "it should not take long to re-establish ourselves on a dividend-distributing basis."

Guinness's Year.—A substantial decline from the big profits obtained by Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co., Limited, during the previous two years is recorded in accounts of this undertaking just published for the year ended June 30th last. Brewing profits fell from £18,184,545 to £14,567,344. The directors, however, succeeded in reducing expenses from £14,558,324 to £11,691,967, and were able to show a profit of £2,878,353, which compares with £3,629,190 a year ago. Results since 1908-9 are set out below:—

	Gross Profit.	Ex-penses.	Net Profit.	Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Ordinary Dividend.	Rate %
	£	£	£	£	£	
1908-9	2,218,160	1,096,522	1,121,638	280,000	700,000	14
1909-10	2,465,713	1,195,090	1,270,623	325,000	775,000	15½
1910-11	2,629,180	1,301,511	1,327,669	335,000	825,000	16½
1911-12	2,541,030	1,328,241	1,212,789	255,000	825,000	16½
1912-13	2,527,237	1,443,119	1,084,118	185,000	825,000	16½
1913-14	2,752,974	1,514,726	1,238,248	235,000	700,000	14
1914-15	4,181,655	2,721,206	1,460,449	585,000	700,000	14
1915-16	5,472,922	3,962,122	1,510,800	531,000	800,000	16
1916-17	4,920,287	3,014,157	1,906,129	235,000	800,000	16
1917-18	4,105,393	2,083,307	2,022,086	235,000	800,000	16
1918-19	5,858,854	3,808,174	2,050,680	285,000	800,000	16
1919-20	12,941,420	9,677,513	3,263,907	735,000	1,000,000	20
1920-21	18,187,514	14,558,324	3,629,190	519,407	1,250,000	25
1921-22	14,570,320	11,691,967	2,878,353	235,000	1,450,000	29

To the reserve £200,000 has been added, bringing this item up to a total of £3,200,000, and £35,000 has been allocated to depreciation account. The balance-sheet, which will be found fully analysed on a later page, shows total assets valued at £17,139,789, as against £17,582,675 a year ago. The most significant change perhaps is "Stocks on hand," which are now down to £7,123,774, as compared with £8,186,431 recorded in the previous accounts. On the other hand, cash at bankers and in hand has increased from £902,843 to £1,609,744. Book debts are less at £1,187,248, previous figures being £1,371,299. On the whole, a very satisfactory and informative report, when regard is paid to the industrial and political situation.

Watney, Combe's Bonus.—For a brewery undertaking the annual accounts just published of Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., Limited, are exceptionally informative, even if the directors are somewhat laconic over the sudden and huge increase of profits during what is generally regarded as a period of acute industrial depression. Profits for the twelve months ended June 30, 1922, are £614,614, as against a comparable figure of £281,524 for the previous twelve months, gross profits on trading having increased from £1,057,000 in 1920-21 to £1,412,961 in 1921-22. This enables the company to make a distribution of 32 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares, as against 24 last year, and in addition £100,000 is allocated for proposed capitalisation purposes. While profits have increased, it is interesting to find that expenditure in many cases is lower. Thus, for trade, office, advertising, and miscellaneous expenses, in the new accounts we find £111,999, as against £142,034 a year ago, while carriage and delivery has fallen from £145,023 to £126,935. Cooperage at £62,969 compares with £64,128 and salaries are down from £87,476 to £79,340. Repairs show little change in amount, but it should be remembered that it is probable that the company were able to effect a greater volume of repairs on account of fallen values. Total assets

are now valued at £13,180,074, of which £855,368 represents cash in hand and £371,144 high-class securities. Reserves amount to £626,731, yet the company, in spite of its experience in 1906 of writing down deferred ordinary capital by 75 per cent., propose now to capitalise reserves, and with the aid of the £100,000 already referred to taken from the year's profits, increase the deferred ordinary stock from £796,353 to £1,592,706. What the future of the brewery industry may be it is difficult to say, but it is surely reasonable to consider that these are abnormal profits, and that substantial reserves should be laid by for possibly lean years.

The Rise in Spelter.—A correspondent writes:—It may be pure coincidence, of course, that zinc or commercial spelter showed a very pronounced tendency to rise almost immediately after the Board of Trade had completed arrangements with the British zinc smelters to take a further supply of the Australian concentrates. It is understood that the selling price of this raw material is 82s per ton of concentrates, based on zinc at £28 per ton, with a sliding scale of 4s per ton for every £1 movement in the metal either up or down. This material costs the Government something like £8 per ton delivered at Swansea, but probably it can now be brought over a little cheaper seeing that the freight from Australia is lower at 35s per ton. If the selling price of the concentrates is 80s per ton, with spelter selling at £27 10s per ton, the Government would be giving the British smelters a bonus of about £12 per ton of zinc, but this would naturally be reduced if the price went up over £31, as it did early this week. The British zinc smelters cannot take all the output of concentrates; thus no doubt the improvement in the selling price of the metal has paved the way for further contracts with Continental buyers of this raw material. Belgian spelter makers have been complaining for some time past that they have been kept short of concentrates, but they have now an opportunity of securing what they need, as the home smelters at present are not prepared to handle more than 50,000 to 60,000 tons per annum of the Australian supplies. The London spelter market was very active early this week, and prices for G.O.B.'s jumped to over £31 per ton, which is the highest figure touched for a long time. The buying was chiefly speculative in character, but galvanisers are understood to have been interested in the purchases made. This rise owes something to the extreme firmness of the American position. The stocks on hand in the United States on July 1st amounted to the small total of 29,576 tons, as compared with 40,409 tons in the previous month. The June production in the States was only 28,547 tons, notwithstanding the fact that 52,677 retorts were working against 35,789 at the end of June, 1921. The smelters' stocks are thus extremely small, and the coal strike on the other side, coupled with the delays on the railways, has created a very bullish undertone, sentiment in the American zinc market being strong. The stock on hand would not be sufficient for a full month's supplies, based on recent takings; thus if the output has to be further curtailed owing to the fuel shortages, &c., there may be a scarcity. All stocks in the United Kingdom are problematical. The Belgian output for June was 8,310 tons, making 50,600 tons for the half-year, but what quantity the Belgian smelters have on hand is unknown. It will thus be seen that the statistical position of the metal is good, and any urgent demand from needy consumers would tend to make the tension severer. The higher prices will eventually stimulate output, but at the moment the market lends itself to manipulation, and this probably more than anything else explains the recent display of strength.

The Tanganyika Territory.—The judicious tutelage of the native population and its protection from domestic or foreign oppression are the specific duties of the mandates under the covenant of the League of Nations who have charge of territory in tropical Africa, and the Report (Cmd. 1,732) on the British administration of the region which is now the Tanganyika territory, and was formerly the chief part of German East Africa, shows that the duties of the mandatory Power are being faith-

fully performed. Slavery is non-existent in the interior; it survives in the coastal districts in the form of domestic servitude, but it will shortly be abolished by law. Forced labour is forbidden, except for essential public works and services, and is only exacted when the taxes due are unobtainable in cash or in kind. Recruiting for employment outside the territory is permitted provisionally, but solely for public works in the adjoining regions, and under stringent safeguards for the welfare of the workers. The importation of intoxicants is carefully restricted, and that of trade spirits forbidden; and the land which the German administration took from the natives to increase its productiveness is being repurchased from the ex-enemy holders, and certain plantations are being restored. Government in the coast districts, where the tribal system is weakened, is conducted partly through native officials, in the interior through headmen chosen by the people, and minor cases, civil and criminal, are relegated to native courts under strict supervision. Remote districts have been visited, some of them for the first time, by the European officials, and the natives no longer bolt into the bush at their approach, as they used to do under German rule. Education—primary (in Swahili, and including English), agricultural, and technical—is progressing, and natives are being trained as sanitary inspectors and telegraphists, and in the elements of veterinary knowledge and to some extent in weaving and pottery. Ex-enemy missionaries are still excluded, but Anglicans, Nonconformists, and Roman Catholics—twelve missions in all—are at work, and are conducting schools unsubsidised, but inspected, by the Government; they may not set up schools without native consent. Since 1913, owing to the expatriation of German residents, the European population has decreased from 5,336 to 2,447, of whom 1,598 are British subjects. The Asiatic population has increased from 13,541 to 14,991, of whom 9,411 are British Indians, 798 Goanese, and the rest chiefly Arabs and Baluchis. The two former classes (mainly clerks and traders) are mostly in the sea-ports, in the lake port of Mwanza, and the great inland town of Tabora, a centre of caravan trade. The native population (mainly of Bantu stock), in 1913 4,145,000, is now estimated at 4,107,000, owing mainly to a famine in 1917 in two inland districts and the spread of venereal disease on the coast. Public health is carefully supervised. Trade has declined through the world-wide depression and the fluctuation of exchange, as well as through the substitution of the florin for the rupee. The country can produce coffee, sisal, cotton (possibly), ground nuts, hides, rock salt, and many valuable and little-known sorts of timber. There has been prospecting for mines, and there are signs of petroleum. Only small districts near Kilimanjaro are fit for European settlement, and there seems every reason to hope that with British aid and supervision the country will become a prosperous and well-ordered native State.

Effects of the Eastern Grouping Scheme.—Publication of the North-Eastern grouping terms, writes our Stock Exchange correspondent, lashed the Stock Exchange Home Railway market into a state of excitement strangely at variance with the ordinary calmness that prevails on the eve of the August Bank Holiday. Prices of the stocks affected were promptly hoisted. The figures, so far as they have been hastily digested, are regarded as being quite as favourable as anyone had expected. In the prior-charge stocks, no particular changes occurred. Dealers were deluged with inquiries, but the resultant effect in bargains has been rather barren. In Great Central 1894 preference, where speculation has run high, the price of 72 compares with 70½ on the previous evening. But the great rush, accompanied by selling orders after the first flush of buoyancy, came in the market for the ordinary and deferred stocks. To set out a few examples of the movements, this table was taken from the market at noon yesterday:—

Stock.	Thursday.	Friday.	Rise.
North-Eastern	124	125½	1½
Great Northern, def.	44	45½	1½
Do pref.	68½	71½	3
Do "A"	42	44	2
North British	18½	19	½
Do pref.	47	47	0
Great Eastern	41	42	1
Great Central	9½	9½	0
Do pref.	23½	24½	1

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On **Current Accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

At the opening of the market, some people called North British 21 and Great Central deferred 11; but these guesses were quickly corrected by would-be sellers. The general first idea is that the terms are fair and likely to have a favourable influence over prices. Other Home Railway stocks are altered but little. Conservative estimate puts the value of the new North-Eastern 5 per cent. preferred ordinary stock at 75 as the probable price when a market is started in the stock.

Public Authorities and Co-operation.—A company has been registered, writes our Labour correspondent, for the purpose of enabling public authorities to obtain the various goods and materials they need on a co-operative basis. The company, which is limited by guarantee, has taken powers to buy, sell, and manufacture the things required by public bodies. The members of the company will be persons appointed by local and other public authorities, and the concern will be conducted on much the same plan as the Municipal Mutual Insurance, Limited, which appears to have been the precedent for Public Authorities Mutual Supplies, Limited. The company owes its inspiration largely to the London boroughs with Labour majorities, and is meeting with support largely because of the desire for economy. This experiment in the development of "municipal enterprise" will be watched with interest.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—RAILWAY, COAL, AND TEXTILE STRIKES — COAL OUTLOOK SERIOUS — AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION — INCREASE IN BOND VALUES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 24.

WITH no prospects at present of an early settlement of the railway and coal strikes, increasing concern is felt here over the effect upon trade and industry generally. The railway strike, which thus far has not spread to any extent beyond the shopcrafts' unions, has nevertheless caused the cancellation of many trains and more or less delay in service throughout the country. Despite early promises that they would not strike pending further conferences, the 400,000 maintenance of way employees lately threatened to join the walkout. That possibility, however, seems to have been greatly lessened, if not entirely removed by the Railroad Labour Board's action in granting the maintenance of way men a re-hearing on the wage dispute. But so far as the striking shopmen are concerned, the board announced that it would take no further steps to bring about a settlement of the present dispute, owing to the improbability "of reconciling the antipodal views of the carriers and the men on the question at issue." The latter, it is understood, refers to the restoration of full seniority rights of the striking shopmen. The Federated Shop Crafts' unions insist that any settlement of the controversy must take into consideration the restoration of the men involved to their previous status as employees. The railroad executive

take the position that not only justice but the public interest demands that the seniority rights of men who are now working in places vacated by the strikers must be recognised. The only hope at present of ending the strike appears to be through separate settlements on individual railroads. In fact, several carriers have already started negotiations to that end, and have made some progress.

The situation brought about by the coal strike is even more serious. An actual scarcity of coal has already developed in many places, and, together with the tie-up of transportation, to some extent has caused a slowing down of operations in iron and steel and other industries. Generally speaking, reserve supplies of coal have been greatly depleted. In March of this year the output of anthracite amounted to 8,757,000 net tons. In April it fell to 26,000 net tons; in May it was only 35,000 tons; and in June 84,000 tons. For the first six months of this year the total was 21,900,000 approximately, as against 45,485,000 in the like period of 1921. There has also been a marked decrease in the production of bituminous. In March the output was 50,167,000 net tons; in April, 15,797,000 tons; in May about 15,802,000 tons; and last month showed only a slight increase over May. Owing to the increased production of soft coal in the first three months of the year, the total for the half-year makes a better showing than in the case of anthracite. For the first six months 187,129,000 tons of bituminous were mined, as compared with 196,173,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1921. Even should the coal strike be terminated in the near future, it would be many weeks before production could be brought back to normal. With reserve supplies already at a low point, the situation and outlook are admittedly serious. There is now talk of rationing supplies. Indications at the moment therefore point to a further slackening of industry. Our export coal trade has suffered severely as a result of the strike, although the foreign exchange situation and competition from English exporters have been contributory factors. During the first two months of the strike, April and May, there was a heavy falling off in coal shipments from this country. In April only 828,285 tons were exported, and in May 460,421 tons, as against 1,811,625 and 2,934,682 tons in the corresponding months of last year. For the first five months of this year the United States exported only 3,927,217 tons of coal, as compared with 10,294,495 tons in the like period of 1921.

The textile strike in New England, which has been in progress for more than six months, is gradually being broken. In practically all the leading centres operatives are drifting back to work. The manufacturers have made more rapid progress in resuming operations in Rhode Island, where the strike originated, than in other sections. Of the 40 mills in that State which were affected, virtually all are now running, many on full time. Cotton mills in New Hampshire are also showing substantial gains each week. All mills in Lawrence, Mass., are running, with the exception of two plants, one of which closed, owing to lack of forward business. Good progress is likewise being made by most mills at Lowell in resuming operations.

One industry which continues to show increasing activity is the automobile industry. According to the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the June production of motor vehicles was slightly in excess of 288,000 cars, including both passenger cars and trucks. That is about 12 per cent. higher than the May output, and establishes a new high monthly record in this American industry. The figures point to a total production for 1922 of more than 2,000,000 motor vehicles. For the second quarter of this year the output was 763,000 cars, and for the first six months, 1,137,000. In 1921 the production, according to the authority mentioned, was 1,668,000 cars, and in 1920, the record year, 2,205,197.

There has been no abatement in the investment demand for both old and new bonds. Prominent bonds continue to be purchased at rising prices, especially the Liberty loan issues, some of which established new high records during the past week. The rise in the price of Liberty bonds in recent months is one of the most noteworthy features of the financial markets. As compared with the

low level of last year, their value has increased by approximately \$2,311,187,397, according to figures compiled by the *Wall Street Journal*. The same authority points out that the average price of all classes of corporation bonds listed on the New York Stock Exchange has advanced more than 15 per cent. from the low point of last year, representing a credit expansion of about \$1,487,000,000. Furthermore, the uniform increase of billions of dollars in the price of municipal bonds and investment stocks has greatly increased the borrowing power of banks and investors. In the opinion of representative bankers, this remarkable improvement in our credit situation foreshadows a long period of low money rates; it is likely to have a far-reaching effect in promoting prosperity in the United States, and will make possible the granting of large foreign loans without undue strain upon our credit position.

FRANCE.—REPARATIONS AND INTER-ALLIED DEBTS —FRENCH OPINION AND POLICY—THE BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 2.

It is now becoming fairly certain that M. Poincaré's forthcoming meeting with Mr Lloyd George in London will be devoted largely to the consideration of the reparations question. That a strong effort will be made by the British representatives at the conference to discuss at the same time the question of the settlement of the various inter-Allied debts is clear from the fact that Lord Balfour has chosen the eve of the conference as the moment for sending out his circular Note on the subject to the rest of the Allied Powers. It is shrewdly suspected here that, no matter what the addresses on the copies of the Note may have been, it is really intended much more for the edification of the Washington Government than for those of the Allies, and to this extent the Acting Foreign Secretary's step meets with distinct approval here. At the same time, French opinion entirely fails to see what object is to be gained by discussing the settlement of the inter-Allied debts if it is proposed that, in consideration of Great Britain consenting to cancel the debt owing to her by France, the latter shall agree to write off an equivalent amount of the reparation debt owing to her by Germany. The French view, at bottom, is that the wit of Allied mankind can find the means to make Germany pay if the Allies really make up their minds that she shall do so, and that if Germany is compelled to meet her treaty obligations, it will be comparatively easy to bring about a settlement of the inter-Allied debts.

Nevertheless, so far as this latter question is concerned, there is another aspect of the matter which is perhaps generally overlooked in England, and which is only occasionally referred to here, but which is regarded by Frenchmen as a distinctly valid argument. Why, it is asked, should Great Britain and America insist so strongly that France should pay her debts when they have made no real effort to compel Germany to compensate her victim? Further, why should England and America make such a marked distinction between the sacrifices in human lives that were made in the common cause, and the sacrifices in cash that were made in the same cause? France, in addition to being brought to the brink of financial ruin through Germany's aggression, lost 1,700,000 killed, and suffered the devastation of ten of her departments; while America, which lost only 77,000 killed, enormously enriched herself by the war, and accumulated a gold reserve which is now thirteen times what it was in 1913! Would it be regarded as "greedy" and "imperialistic" if France suggested that America's money France owes to her as part of America's contribution to the common cause? Or even as a thankoffering for the fact that she lost only one man killed for every 220 lost by France? It may be taken for granted that no such proposition will ever be made by France, if only from a sense of correctness, and because she has every intention of meeting her engagements so far as in her lies; nevertheless, it would be

and in French opinion, possible to put forward many suggestions that would be far less reasonable.

In view of the important rôle the reparations question will play in the London conference, the French Ministry held an important Cabinet Council meeting at the Presidential summer residence at Rambouillet last Thursday, when it is understood this question was discussed in all its details. Two long sittings were devoted to the subject. Little has been allowed to transpire as to the nature of the decisions arrived at, but it is understood that the bases of the future French policy in regard to reparations were laid down. The general lines of this new policy, as it may be called, will be made known to the rest of the Allies in the very near future—in the course of the London conference. In any case, it may be taken for granted French public opinion has come largely to the end of its patience, and that some kind of settlement of what is for France the most vital problem of the moment will be insistently called for. The French Government, in drawing up its new programme, has undoubtedly been considerably influenced by the disclosures that will be found embodied in the as yet unpublished report of the Committee of Guarantees that has been sitting in Berlin for some weeks past, and that has made a thorough investigation into Germany's real financial position.

The guiding principle of the new reparations programme, I understand, is that in order to secure speedy payments of a really practical character, France will be prepared to make much more substantial concessions to the international financial market than many people expect she will offer. French opinion will undoubtedly insist, however, that Germany shall give further—and substantial—guarantees, which may or may not meet with the approval of the other Allied Powers. "Conciliation and firmness" would, perhaps, best sum up the new programme. With this may be expected a fixed determination on the part of France to make it clearly understood that, if she again fails to secure satisfaction in co-operation with her Allies, she will be prepared to take definite action on her own account.

The Bourse has been firm, and well supported to some extent, because of the absence recently of new issues of capital, and also because of a growing feeling of confidence on the part of the public. French funds have again improved, on the whole, though the 1914 Three per Cents lost a point at 82. The 1915 Five per Cents improved from 76.25 to 77.35, the 1918 Four per Cents from 61.95 to 62.50, and the 1920 Six per Cents from 89 to 90.65. Banks have been on the whole in decline, Banque de France dropping from 5,840 to 5,705, and Banque de L'Union Parisienne from 599 to 585, but otherwise falls in value have been very slight. Railways have been well in demand, Metropolitan advancing from 404 to 410, Orléans from 910 to 965, and P.L.M. from 905 to 935. Est, however, dropped 5 points at 790, and Nord 15 points at 1,230. Shipping, owing to the increased demand for freight, as a result of the American coal strike, marked a brisk advance, Chargeurs Français moving up from 529 to 582, Chargeurs Réunis from 330 to 380, and Messageries from 167 to 179. Electrical undertakings have done little more than hold their own, though Electricité et Gaz du Nord, under the prospect of good receipts, advanced from 316 to 330. Metallurgical undertakings have remained almost stationary. Tintos improved from 1,487, and reached 1,512, but fell back later to 1,592. Penarroya, starting at 810, touched 830, but closed at 815. Mexican Eagles declined from 162.50 to 153.50 on the report that there had been salt water flooding. Royal Dutch also lost value, declining from 199.50 to 195.00. Shell, after paying a dividend, moved from 242 to 231, and Steaua Romana from 449 to 447.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—REPARATIONS—FINANCES —EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—TRADE—IRON PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 29.

At the time of writing, the conflict between Bavaria and the Republic, caused by the former's refusal to put in force certain provisions of the Law for the Defence of the Republic, has not been settled. The Federal Cabinet

has repudiated the constitutional contentions upon which Bavaria bases its action, and has further denied the Bavarian objection that the law is anti-democratic. The controversy has caused a lot of bad blood, and though it is not likely to develop to extremes, will not strengthen the bonds between Bavaria and the rest of the Republic. Views about reparations at the close of the week were not optimistic, and a new fall of the mark yesterday in New York and here to-day apparently reflects this sentiment. The pessimism is based on indications of delay, and of a policy of half-measures, which would repeat the history of last winter. A mark collapse panic both here and abroad never lasts long, and only while it lasts is the resolution to find a remedy convincing. This is natural enough, because the mark-exchange panics, like the intervening indifference, are usually overdone, especially through the mistaken conclusion that something sudden and dreadful will happen if a remedy is not immediately found. This time, as after former rapid mark exchange falls, there is no prospect of anything sudden and dreadful happening. The prospect is for further marks falls, followed by a retarded and imperfect readjustment of values, which, owing to the retardation, damages the State finances seriously, if not so seriously as is supposed. This can produce no crash, and does not even make absolutely impossible the continuation of Reparations payments. The State's problem with Reparations is therefore in principle the same as the importer's problem. Immediately after each exchange deterioration the importer finds difficulty in financing his foreign purchases out of the depreciated yield of former home sales and has recourse to credit for a short time, but during the long ensuing intervals of relative mark stability, or temporary recovery, his home mark intakings rise greatly, and his difficulty in buying foreign bills for import payments ceases. The State revenue is governed by the same process. The estimated revenue from taxation for 1922 was 108 milliards, or nine milliards a month; and, were only this estimate realised, the State expenditure, including Reparations, at the new levels of salaries, prices, and exchanges, would be hopelessly higher than revenue. But taxation receipts in April (the first months of the financial year) were not nine milliards, but 13 milliards, in May 17 milliards, and in June 18 milliards, so that the year's revenue on the June basis would be double the estimated, and, owing to the new rapid upward movement in values, it will probably be very much more. The following, showing a month's receipts, at half-yearly intervals, from all sources (including State undertakings), demonstrates this point. The failure of revenue to increase in the first half of 1921 emphasises the point, because this was a period of relatively stable exchanges, and of (owing to the simultaneous decline in the world-market price-level) falling German prices:—

1920.	Milliards of Marks.	1922.	Milliards of Marks.
January	1,014.7	January	14,619.5
July	3,749.2	February	15,374.3
1921.		March	23,414.0
January	8,721.1	April	23,517.6
July	8,531.9	May	30,040.7

Only a very small part of this vast increase came from new taxes; part is due to more efficient collection, but most is due to the saving fact that currency depreciation cuts both ways. Taking into account both exchange levels and revenue levels, it appears that it would have been harder for Germany to acquire Reparations currency in January, 1920, than it is to-day. In pointing this fact out I do not aim at disproving the current view of the gravity of the Reparations problem. But the problem does not lie so much in the technical side of buying currency, as in the fact that Reparations are at present mainly being paid by automatic expropriation of the classes, which suffer from the currency depreciation, that the gold value of what is now left to these classes has shrunk to very little, and that when this resource is altogether exhausted, the difficulty of paying will be greater than now. That, however, is no reason for proclaiming that every new mark exchange drop means a crisis, and, if no remedy is found, a sudden collapse.

The Bill reducing income-tax rates, owing to the fall in the buying power of money, has become law. For the same reason the Succession and Legacy Duties law has

been amended. The estate duty therewith connected has been abandoned. The new succession and legacy duty rates are fixable on a treble scale, according to the degree of relationship, the absolute amount falling to the beneficiary, and the beneficiary's own wealth. The maximum tax under the least favourable conditions is 80 per cent. The exempted sum has been raised tenfold, and for nearest relatives is 50,000 marks. The gold supplement on Customs duties has been raised to 11,400 per cent. (115 times the nominal) for the week August 1st-8th. The supplement in August, 1919, was 240 per cent.; January, 1920, 900 per cent.; October, 1920, 1,900 per cent.; March, 1922, 4,400 per cent.; June, 6,400 per cent. The supplement is now being fixed from week to week, according to the mark's gold exchange. The floating debt of discounted Treasury bills increased in the second July decade by 4,826,650,000 marks, and on July 20th was 300,294,635,000 marks. Since the beginning of the financial year the increase has been 28,359,470,000 marks, of which 24,503,431,000 marks went on fulfilment of the Peace Treaty. The deficit on Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones in the financial year, 1921, was 2,965,000,000 marks, considerably less than the estimated deficit, 3,858,000,000 marks. A Berlin newspaper ascribes to official authority the statement that on the basis of the new price-level and increased salaries the Posts deficit this year will be over 20 milliards; but the Government will probably reply with a new increase of charges. The deficit on State Railways in the financial year 1921 was 6.9 milliards. Receipts were 45.1 milliards, expenditure 52 milliards. The estimated deficit for 1921 was 10.8 milliards, and the realised deficit in 1920 15.6 milliards. The greatness of this improvement lies in the fact that the mark of 1920 was a much more valuable unit than the mark of 1921, as shown by the above figures of increasing revenue. Railway receipts in the first quarter of the present financial year were 32,892 millions, against 5,696 millions in the same months of 1921, the increase being 477 per cent. These figures show how badly mistaken is the foreign belief that the currency depreciation, expressing itself in greatly increased nominal earnings and wages, does not also express itself in a corresponding increase of nominal burdens on the citizen. Railway expenditure in the three months was 30,400 millions, so that there is a surplus of 2½ milliards, more than confirming the Budget estimate of an even balance. The railways will now be faced with a new heavy increase of outlay, and still higher rates are inevitable. Business men complain, showing that for certain distances and classes of goods, rates are more than 300-fold higher than in 1914; but business has so far managed to transfer the burden to the home public, and competitive ability abroad has been saved by new falls in the mark.

The Reichsbank has raised its discount rate from 5 to 6 per cent. The reason stated by the bank is the increasing difficulty of placing Treasury Bills with the public, owing to the shortage of money. The Bourse early this week was without any clear tendency; but yesterday, under influence of the rise in the exchanges, most stocks rose moderately. Mining and metal stocks suffered a reaction later in the day.

Bond prices yesterday were: War Loan, 77.50; Federal 4 per cents., 117; 3½ per cents., 91; 3 per cents., 207; Colonial 4 per cents., 149; Savings and Premium, 79.30.

Foreign trade in June (details not yet published) was: Imports 4,030,000 metric tons, of value 34 milliard marks; exports 1,880,000 tons, value 30.3 milliards. Coal imports show a large increase. Trade in the first half of 1922 was: Imports 17,160,000 metric tons, value 142,900,000,000 m; exports 12,080,000 tons, value 130,800,000,000 m. There are signs of a new "Catastrophe Boom" in the form of crowding of shops by buyers. Unemployment remains low. The last report shows 16,029 publicly supported unemployed in 354 centres of over 10,000 inhabitants, against 19,108 on June 10. Coal prices have again been raised, by from August 1, 205.40 m per metric ton, or 305 m, including tax, for standard Ruhr (*Fettfoederkohle*); other qualities in proportion. The Iron Industry Union has raised pig-iron prices as follows (in marks per metric ton) from August 1: Hematite, 10,760 August, 8,265 July; Foundry Iron I., 9,868 August, 7,915 July; Foundry Iron III., 9,798

August, 7,845 July; Siegerland steel-iron, 10,092 August, 7,845 July; Spiegeleisen, 11,116 August, 8,869 July; Ferromanganese 80 per cent., 18,580 August, 17,855 July; Ferromanganese 50 per cent., 17,380 August, 16,698 July; Ferrosilicium, 12,620 August, 10,120 July. These prices were declared good until the end of August unless coal prices were raised; and as the above coal price increase was decided on after the raising of iron prices, new supplements will immediately be imposed.

SOUTH AFRICA.—MINING COSTS—COST OF LIVING—JOHANNESBURG BUDGET—MONEY AND MARKETS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, July 5.

As from the end of June the special cost of living allowances introduced during the war will fall away, as far as the rank and file of mine employees are concerned; but in the case of officials the allowances, which already have been reduced, will not finally disappear until the end of September. They were granted much later than in the case of the men. The average working costs for the Rand last month figured at 22s 8d per ton, compared with 24s 11d in the pre-strike December. The tonnage was rather over 1½ millions compared with the usual two millions. Mine development was about 60 per cent. of the normal, and there is reason to expect that the wider "spread" of administrative costs, coupled with lower wages, when the mills are crushing full time, should pretty well neutralise the cost of the balance of the 40 per cent. of development.

As regards working costs, as well as profit (£159,500), the most noteworthy achievement was that of the great "Barnato" group mine Government Areas, which crushed within a thousand tons of recent averages and within 6,000 of the record of August. Before the strike the average cost was 21s 6d, for May the figure was only 17s 5d, a drop of 4s per ton. It is probable that a similar amount of development was not accomplished on this occasion. At this mine the cost of development last year was 2s 3d per ton, so even if only half the normal development were accomplished the comparative figure would still be only 18s 6d. The operation of the royalty scale is such that the company benefits greatly from economy in working, whereas, conversely, the Government gets the larger proportion of profit derived from increased grade. Indeed, broadly, the Union Treasury received about 10d out of every shilling extra profit attributable to the gold premium. In the case of three other important mines of the Far East Rand costs were reduced by 2s or 2s 6d per ton, the figures being brought below the level sovereign both at New Modder and Modder Deep.

Whether the Rand is operated at 25s per ton, as before the strike, or at 20s per ton, which may be recorded in a month or two, makes all the difference to its future. Sir Evelyn Wallers, who is again acting as President of the Chamber of Mines during the absence on vacation of Mr H. O. Buckle, the official President, gave some instructive figures at the quarterly meeting of the Chamber a few days back. At the rate of costs prevailing last year (25s 8d per ton) there would have been only 316 million tons exploitable to profit in the mines at present producing. As the Rand crushes about 24 million tons a year, this would have meant a duration of only 13 years. But with working costs at the pre-war figure of 17s per ton the aggregate would be increased to 544 millions, implying a "life" of 22½ years. In areas other than those of mines at present producing there are a further 300 million tons on the lower basis of costs, extending the period to 35 years. As the finance of the Union Government is very largely based on the mines, both gold and diamond, and the whole commercial fabric largely depends on their prosperity, the significance of the foregoing figures is almost self-evident. The farming industry is in the doldrums owing to low prices for produce and heavy railway rates enhancing the cost of marketing, many areas have suffered from drought, while there has been a veritable slump in prices of cattle. Sir Evelyn was careful to explain that he did not suggest

that "an immediate reduction to 17s per ton was possible, but the basis on which we are now working has gone a great way towards the necessary reduction, and holds out the promise of its achievement in the not too distant future." I think if we get down to an average of 20s it will be as much as can be expected.

The finances of the town of Johannesburg have been brought into a far more healthy condition owing to the abandonment of excessive pay to its army of servants; the tramways, lighting, and gas services are operated by the Municipality. Rates, which are based on the capital value, instead of on the rentals, are being reduced from 10d to 7d; the price of water is being reduced to large consumers to assist industries, and tram fares when paid by coupon are from October to be only 1d per stage (averaging about a mile). The last Estimates budgeted for a revenue of £2,675,500 and an expenditure of £2,598,500, revenue and expenditure of the trading departments being included on both sides of the account.

The share market has been active during the past few weeks, the rise having started from the settlement of the ex-enemy share question. Money may be cheap in London, but it is neither cheap nor abundant here. In fact, it is very "tight." I hear of 12 per cent., and even more, being paid for Stock Exchange accommodation.

NEW ZEALAND.—BANK OF NEW ZEALAND—MONEY RATES—LAND VALUES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, June 20.

The address of the chairman of the Bank of New Zealand, at the annual meeting of the shareholders, is always an important summary of the financial situation of the Dominion. The bank holds a very important and rather unique position in the Dominion. Not only is it by far the largest financial institution, but it discharges important functions which partake of the nature of those of a central bank of issue. It is the Government's banker, and the main channel of communication which New Zealand has with the London Money market. The other banks operating in the Dominion are much smaller, and are, in fact, branches of Australian or London institutions. The bank's relation to the Government is very close, since the Government is a large shareholder, and appoints the chairman and a majority of the directors.

The main interest in the address delivered by the present chairman, Mr George Elliott, at the annual meeting in Wellington on June 16th, concerns the relation between deposits and advances, and the rate of interest on overdrafts. The table given below from the chairman's address indicates the rapid and great change that took place as soon as the fall in prices in 1920 brought the after-war boom to an end in New Zealand.

	Minimum Overdraft Rate.	Advances.	Deposits.
	%	£m.	£m.
June, 1920	5½	34.8	54.6
September, 1920	6	39.0	53.1
December, 1920	6	47.1	49.5
March, 1921	7	52.4	47.2
June, 1921	7	54.4	45.5
September, 1921	7	48.0	43.4
December, 1921	7	47.6	40.9
March, 1922	7	46.5	40.4

Such figures as these disclose a very good reason for the financial stringency that has prevailed in New Zealand since the season 1920-1 opened with such disastrous prices to primary producers. On the Bank of New Zealand fell most of the burden, and much of the chairman's address is taken up with a recital of the methods adopted to provide liquid resources in order to tide clients over the crisis.

Though there has obviously been a considerable degree of improvement, there is room for a great deal of caution even yet. The disproportion of advances to deposits is indicative of difficulties that have yet to be surmounted. Under these circumstances the bank has to remember that the first duty of a banker is always to his customers, and his first line of defence must always be liquid assets. Australian and New Zealand banks should have learned that lesson well from their troubles in the last period of falling prices, and the Bank of New Zealand in particular will

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

PARIS OFFICE

3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME

CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

remember that it was having its resources tied up in long period advances that forced it to the Government for assistance in 1893.

The root of the difficulty is, of course, the greatly inflated land values which will in many cases have to be readjusted before there can be any financial stability in the Dominion. The total registered mortgages amount at latest returns to £236 m., 98.7 per cent. of the freehold land of the Dominion being subject to mortgage. These figures represent a burden of overhead expenses, which, when added to the taxation necessary to pay interest on the Public Debt (also over £200 m.), may well give pause to those who control the finances of the country. With the recovery that seems to be heralded by the movements of prices and interest rates in the Old World, the Dominion will have a breathing space to put its financial house in order. But the general trend of falling prices cannot but strain the resources of a producing country which has such heavy overhead charges.

NORWAY.—COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN—THE WINE QUESTION—TRADE OUTLOOK—NEW ISSUES—EXCHANGES—CROP PROSPECTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, July 29.

THE negotiations with Spain for a renewal of the commercial treaty which have been going on for a year or two now seem to have reached a crisis. About the end of the Great War a provisional prohibition Act was introduced after a referendum. The consequence was a tariff war with Spain, who demanded free importation, or permission to export to Norway a fixed minimum quantity of 500,000 litres of specified wines per annum. The Conservative Government was unable to obtain agreement to any reduction in this quantity which is considered much larger than normal, and the Radicals, who succeeded them, have worked strenuously, but with the same negative result. There is a considerable diversity of opinion in the country which is worse of two alternatives, either to suffer disadvantageous terms in regard to trade with Spain, especially in respect of our sale of dry cod fish in that country, and in respect of our shipping, or to open the door to the free or excessive importation of alcoholic liquors. The country is greatly agitated, especially as smuggling and secret distillation of brandies have increased, and made the position very difficult. At the time of writing the issue is uncertain, but the reinstatement of a Conservative Government is not impossible, and in that case the prohibition would most likely be repealed, and negotiations be resumed on a free basis.

There seems to be a little brighter outlook in the trade circles, especially when one takes into consideration that the holiday season has begun. There is more inquiry and better prices for wood pulp, and a better inquiry also for paper and boards, though the buyers want low prices. During the second quarter of the present year new issues were put on the market to the amount of well over 56½ million kroner. This represents a considerable increase

over the figure of 36½ millions for the first quarter. It represents, however, a considerable decrease as compared with 1920, when the second quarter saw new capital issues to the amount of about 111 millions.

The exchange market has been particularly unstable, but on the whole foreign money stands about where it stood a month ago, though in the interval there have been violent fluctuations. To-day sterling is 26.05 kr, French francs 48.25 kr, dollars 5.85 kr, and Reichsmark 1 kr; all these figures are somewhat lower than the next preceding days.

After very copious rains, the crops of every description look very promising. Haymaking has begun everywhere, and if dry weather sets in in earnest everything points to excellent crops.

ROUMANIA.—EXCHANGE RATES AND INLAND PRICES —SCARCITY OF MONEY—FOREIGN TRADE SITUATION—PROSPECTS FOR BRITISH EX- PORTERS—INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL —EXTERNAL DEBTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRASOV, July 25.

THE temporary depreciation of the Roumanian exchange rate that took place during the first half of July gave rise to the most contradictory Press comments. But in reality, it is evident that the fall of the lei during the first fortnight of July, as well as its recovery during the second fortnight, was merely the consequence of the corresponding fluctuation of other Continental currencies, especially of the German mark. As regards international affairs, the situation of the country is neither better nor worse than it has been during the last year or two. In spite of the failure of the Hague Conference and of the sabre rattling of Trotsky, a Russian attack against Roumania in the near future is most improbable. The unrest caused by the activities of Bulgarian irregular troops at the Southern frontier is not important enough to influence exchanges. As far as the internal political situation is concerned, the Government possesses a great majority in both houses of Parliament, and its position may be regarded as consolidated.

There are no economic reasons, either, for a depreciation of the lei. The trade balance is slowly but steadily improving, in spite of transport difficulties, export duties, and prohibitions. The state of public finance enabled the Government to check further inflation more than half a year ago. In spite of this, the inland price level is slowly but steadily increasing; however, this is not a cause, but an effect, of the depreciation of lei exchange.

Since the autumn of 1919, the lei exchange is permanently below its purchasing power parities with the currencies of Western countries—i.e., the home value of the lei is much higher than its value in the United Kingdom or France. Thus, the situation of the lei is similar to that of the German mark, as both are under-estimated abroad, as compared with their home purchasing power. The tendency to a readjustment of home price level to the international price level is much weaker in the case of Roumania than in the case of Germany. As is well known, Germany has to purchase from abroad the greater part of her food and raw material requirements, and consequently a depreciation of the mark exchange provokes an immediate rise of the price of most commodities. On the other hand, Roumania is completely self-supporting in agricultural products, and a fall of the lei does not affect directly the prices of most foodstuffs and raw materials. It is of particular importance that the manufactured articles required by the working classes are produced by the home industries out of home raw materials; thus the cost of living of these classes is not immediately enhanced by a depreciation of the lei. Yet manufactures required by the middle classes, as well as all sorts of machinery, are largely affected by the fall of the external value of the lei, as they are mostly imported from abroad.

The increase of prices of imported commodities brings with it a slow but steady increase of the general price level. As there is no simultaneous increase in the note circulation, money has become scarce and the rates of interest are rising. The rate charged by the big banks for advances is as high as 15 to 20 per cent., while for

certain branches of trade, involving greater risks, it reaches even 25 to 30 per cent. Still, it ought not to be overlooked that earning possibilities are also much greater in Roumania than in Western Europe. Profits of industrial and commercial enterprises of 50 to 100 per cent. are not exceptional.

In industrial circles there is no particular desire for the improvement of the lei exchange, because this would facilitate imports and handicap exports. The timber trade, in particular, is well satisfied with the present situation, which enables it to conquer Czechoslovak competition on the Hungarian market. But for the improvement of her exchange rate, Czechoslovakia would be able to secure a monopoly in the Hungarian timber market on account of the cheap waterways connecting the Slovak forests with the Danube and Budapest.

On the other hand, an improvement of the lei would be much welcomed by importers who are anxious to extend their connection with British and French manufacturers. They are greatly dissatisfied with German, Hungarian, and Austrian exporters, who often refuse to deliver the merchandise purchased and paid in advance by Roumanian importers, because of the increase of prices taking place in the meantime, or, if they are compelled to carry out the delivery, they give goods of inferior quality. Taking into account this, as well as the sympathy of Roumania towards the Western countries and her antipathy towards the Central Powers, it is not at all surprising that, in spite of the huge difference of exchange rate, the quantity of goods imported from the United Kingdom was not less in 1921 than in 1913. In consequence of the recent appreciation of the Czechoslovak exchange, it is to be expected that Roumanian importers will place important orders for textile and steel goods in England, which they would otherwise have placed in Czechoslovakia.

Foreign capitalists are active, and important enterprises have been established or acquired by foreigners. It was reported recently that several big blocks of oil shares have been purchased on the Bucharest Bourse for the accounts of English investors. Several well-known Swiss, Austrian, and French industrial enterprises are establishing branch factories in Roumania, so as to avoid the high Customs duties and to take advantage of the low cost of production prevailing in Roumania. Even in the domains of banking an expansion of foreign capital is noticeable. The Banque Belge Pour l'Etranger is carrying on negotiations with the view of acquiring a local bank in Cluj, the capital of Transylvania, and Italian banks are endeavouring to intensify their control over some Roumanian banks.

Though the terms of the loan concluded by M. Bratiano in London are considered as rather unfavourable, still, its conclusion caused general satisfaction in business circles, for it facilitates the repayment of overdue foreign debts, and thus contributes to the re-establishment of the external credit of the country.

Books and Publications.

RECENT ECONOMIC LITERATURE: A MONTH'S SURVEY.

ONE swallow does not make a summer, but this month has seen the publication, after a very long period, when there has been nothing of the kind to record, of a book which can be placed in the category of pure economics. This is the work of that distinguished veteran, Professor Achille Loria, one of the small band of economic writers who has an international reputation. Unfortunately, the *Fondamenti Scientifici Della Riforma Economica* (Turin, Bocca, 60 lire) is at present only available in Italian.

With this exception, of economic books in the strict sense, the past month has, like its predecessors, been barren; there are no other works of a purely theoretic kind, whether intended for the outsider or for the expert. There is, on the other hand, a considerable number of publications, notably in French, in which what is dealt with is not so much any theoretic point or general principle, but the more or less illustrative practice and

experience of the last few years. This is notably the case in the numerous volumes handling aspects of monetary and exchange problems, and indicating, from what has actually happened, what should be avoided. It is with the lessons of experience that the economic writer of to-day is mainly occupied. In view of this, to draw a hard and fast line between more or less technical works and such as must be called descriptive is hardly practicable. Such a work, for example, as that of Dr. André Pailhas, *L'Argent Métal: La Hausse des Cours de 1914-1920* (Paris, Librairie Générale de Droit et de Jurisprudence, 15f) is largely descriptive, containing, as it does, a history of the fluctuations and remarkable upward movement in the price of silver in the war period. It also contains much acute discussion of the function of the secondary metal, and the problem of the relative regulation of its price. Side by side with this may be read M. Adolphe Delemer's very acute *Le Bilan de l'Etatisme* (Paris, Payot, 10f). It again is largely descriptive; much of its space is occupied by a lucid exposition of the profit and loss (unfortunately mainly loss) accounts of the various French Government controls and monopolies. But all the facts are strictly related to an argument. "Etatism" in France is bankrupt, in M. Delemer's view (the condemnation of Professor Bardoux, who contributes an introduction, is even more outspoken and trenchant), and he has some admirable chapters of argument as to why this is, and on what is to take its place. A very interesting little volume is that by M. Levainville on the French iron industry, *L'Industrie du Fer en France*, in the excellent series published by Armand Cohn (5f). The author believes that, once war devastation has been made good, France's iron ore output will be second only to that of the United States; that of cast-iron only a little behind Germany. If France's North African possessions be included, it can claim to contain 57 per cent. of the iron resources of Europe. The economic picture of France may be completed by a volume on social insurance, in so far as it is developed there, *Le Problème des Assurances Sociales en France* (Paris, La Société des Etudes et d'Informations Economiques, 7f).

An important volume is the report prepared for the League of Nations by Professor Gini on *The Problem of Raw Materials and Foodstuffs*, published for the League by Constable and Co. (10s). The annexes, prepared under Professor Gini's direction, contain a mass of valuable statistical material. On the other hand, Professor Sargent's illuminating discussion of *Coal in International Trade* (P. S. King, 2s 6d) is concerned with general principles rather than facts, with the sort of considerations that must be kept in mind in arguing about any international trade question.

Mr W. F. Spalding is an experienced writer, and his former books are well known and *The London Money Market* (Pitman, 10s 6d) is a useful handbook. *The Elements of Actuarial Science* (Pitman, 5s), by R. E. Underwood will attract the notice of actuaries.

In *Labour and Social Credit* (the Labour Party, 3d) the fallacies of the so-called "Douglas" system are exposed in a manner that should prevent members of the party from fondly imagining that they have found a panacea; another pamphlet, *Labour and the War Debt* (2d) sets out the official view on the capital levy. We are here in the category of *Political and Propagandist*. No one writing on the Near East can be entirely clear of preconceptions, but Professor Toynbee, whether or no as impartial as he tries to be, has, in *The Western Question in Turkey and Greece*, (Constable, 18s), produced a volume of extreme interest. This question of the Near East is by no means without its economic relevance.

ABSTRACT ECONOMICS.*

A DEFECT of the English school of economists in the past has been a slight tendency towards a somewhat haughty insularity, which has expressed itself in neglect of many of the important ideas and conceptions introduced by Continental writers—for instance, those of the Austrian school. Dr Birkbeck has remedied this defect in a recent work of synthesis. Being Professor of Economics at

* "The Marginal Theory of Value." By Dr L. V. Birkbeck. George Routledge and Sons. 14s net.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve Funds - - - £1,350,000

Head Office: EDINBURGH.

R. G. THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.

Over 150 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.

JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAWE, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

Copenhagen University, he has come more closely in touch with German, Austrian, and Scandinavian economists than do most English writers, and he has given us an important work on the Marginal Theory of Value, in which he combines the valuable features of the numerous variations of this marginal theory as expounded by Marshall, Pigou, Böhm-Bawerk, Scharling, Simon Patten, Roscher, Wieser, Westergaard, Schoenheyder, and others.

A principal part of Dr Birkbeck's work consists in a detailed analysis of the differences between short-period and long-period value. He considers that "many incorrect statements in economics are due to the fact that a distinction has not been drawn between Dynamics and Statics. In the static community there will be no difference between the short and the long market price; in the dynamic community there will be different rules affecting these two prices." In the static examination "we certainly start from a movement, but one which continually repeats itself, because the forces affecting it are unchanged." But in the dynamic view, "in the long market we not only see the action, the cause, of a certain effect, but also the reaction, the effect as the cause of its own cause altering this cause and rendering ineffective the forces affecting itself."

There are many original and stimulating ideas in this work as well as a patient restatement of existing theories. Dr Birkbeck's criticism of the orthodox denial of the possibility of over-production is worthy of notice; but it is marred by the fact that he appears to associate a perfectly sound criticism with the very doubtful theory of under-consumption. What is sound in criticism may be summed up in the statement, that although in the static view over-production is impossible, in the dynamic view it is possible. His treatment of wages and distribution is good. In dealing with the question of risk, he observes that in wages frequently risk-premium will not be included, "because the most dangerous labour often comes within the group 'unskilled labour,' where the number of persons seeking employment will keep wages low." His discussion of protectionist claims is original and interesting.

The argument of the book is conducted on purely deductive lines, and no practical social conclusions are drawn by the author. But there is a pleasing freshness about Dr Birkbeck's method and an easy lucidity about his style, and from an academic point of view his work has considerable value. An index would have improved the book considerably.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Hungary of To-day. Memorandum Concerning the Economic Situation of the Country. (Budapest) Maria Valeria Str.

The Shareholders' Manual. By Herbert H. Bassett. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited. 3s 6d net.

Statistics of British India. Vol. I. Commercial Statistics. (Calcutta) Department of Statistics. 2 rupees 4 annas.

Happy India. As It Might Be If Guided By Modern Science. By Arnold Lupton. (London) Geo. Allen and Unwin, Limited.

MOUNT MOROGAN.—Cable.—"For four weeks ended July 25th treated 8,255 tons of concentrates and 19 tons of purchased ore. Produced 465 tons blister copper, containing 460 tons copper and 4,122 ozs gold; also 4 tons of copper and 18 ozs gold from purchased and secondary products. Concentrator treated 17,034 tons ore for a production of 6,437 tons of concentrates, containing 370 tons copper and 4,064 ozs gold. In addition to above production have matte on hand containing 80 tons copper and 1,000 ozs gold. Period covers extra two days on account of periods now en Tuesday."

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL).

CAUSES OF ADVERSE RESULTS.

RESERVE BANK AND ITS EFFECTS ON OTHER BANKS.

BANK'S SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION.

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the bank was held in the Bank Building, Pretoria, on Friday, June 30, 1922.

Mr. James R. Leisk, C.M.G., chairman of the board and managing director, presided, and there were also present the following directors:—Messrs J. Emrys Evans, C.M.G. (vice-chairman), Charles Maggs, J. B. Taylor, Walter S. Webber, M.L.A.; also Mr. W. Dunlop (general manager), Mr. A. C. Duff (assistant general manager), and Mr. C. P. Mathews (secretary). Shareholders present were:—Sir Evelyn Wallers, K.B.E., Sir Harry Ross Skinner, Messrs D. H. Barnett, A. T. Brook, E. Davidson, T. N. de Villiers, Dr. F. V. Engelenberg, Messrs F. Hamilton, Robt. Hamilton, E. Haines, Fred Heys, E. H. Johnston, H. Katzenellenbogen, G. R. Matrauers, F. W. Meadley, J. G. Munro, F. Price, A. H. Rennie, R. A. H. Smith, and A. Sutherland.

By invitation of the board, the following were present:—Messrs W. H. Clegg, governor, S.A. Reserve Bank; H. C. Jorissen, deputy-governor, S.A. Reserve Bank; J. J. I. Middleton, Under-Secretary for Finance; H. L. Malherbe (of Messrs. Rooth and Wessels, the bank's solicitors), Robert Baikie and John Dougall (of Messrs. Dougall, Lance and Hewitt), the bank's auditors, J. C. H. Beynon, J. S. Burt, W. H. Everitt, and A. C. Turner.

The notice convening the meeting was read by the secretary, and the minutes of the previous ordinary general meeting, held on June 20, 1921, were confirmed.

The directors' report and statements of account having been taken as read, and the auditors' report read, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—This being the first opportunity that I have had since assuming the chairmanship of the board in January last of addressing shareholders in general meeting, I should like to preface my remarks this morning by expressing my appreciation of the compliment paid me by my colleagues in electing me to this important office. It will be my constant endeavour, by close attention to the bank's interests, to justify the confidence which my colleagues have reposed in me.

Naturally, I regret very much that on the occasion of my first address to shareholders it is not my lot to review a more satisfactory position than is reflected in the accounts and directors' report for the year ended March 31st last.

BOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

On the 16th of last month the board issued to the Press here and in London an official announcement, giving the substance of the results of our working for the financial year. It is desirable, I think, that I should quote to you in full the terms of this official announcement, so that they may be on record in a form readily available to all shareholders. They are as follows:—

"The National Bank of South Africa, Limited, announces that the balance at credit of its profit and loss account for the financial year ended March 31, 1922, amounts to £193,000. This figure is arrived at after taking into account (a) the balance of £34,000 brought forward from the previous financial year; (b) a transfer of £300,000 from reserve fund; and (c) a transfer of £25,000 to bank premises account.

"All bad and doubtful debts have been fully provided for, and the bank's investments have been taken at or below present market prices.

"At the general meeting of shareholders to be held in Pretoria on Friday, June 30th, next, the directors will recommend that the profit and loss balance of £193,000 be allocated as follows:—

	£	s	d
Interim dividend for the half-year ended September 30, 1921, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, which absorbed	118,000	0	0
Pension fund	50,000	0	0
Balance to be carried forward	25,000	0	0
	£193,000	0	0

"The bank has not escaped the effects of the grave disturbances that have characterised the financial world for a considerable time past, and in the result some specific losses of substantial amount have been sustained—notably, in New York. It should be explained

that certain of these losses have come to light since the declaration of the interim dividend as at September 30th last. The directors have considered it prudent, and in the best interests of the bank, that in the accounts of the year ended March 31st last the fullest provision should be made not alone for the specific losses above referred to and for all accounts of a doubtful character, but also for any unforeseen items that may come to light. After withdrawing from the reserve fund for this purpose the sum of £300,000 already mentioned, there still remains intact in reserve the substantial sum of £1,000,000; but the directors, being desirous of maintaining the bank in a position of undoubted strength and ability to meet all the requirements of its clients, think it desirable to withhold any recommendation as to payment of dividend for the half-year ended March 31st last.

"The circumstances under which the bank's losses were possible have formed the subject of close investigation by the directors, who are satisfied that the dispositions which they have made in this regard will avoid risk of recurrence of such losses, and will preserve unimpaired for the future the very valuable business which the bank possesses.

"The capital of the bank remains, as before, at £2,965,000, while the reserve fund, as above mentioned, now stands at £1,000,000—
together, £3,965,000."

SUPPORT FOR BOARD'S POLICY.

I need hardly say that it was most unpleasant for the directors to have to issue this announcement. But they recognised that their duty towards shareholders and the public generally was to publish without delay a clear statement of the position, and of their intention to recommend to shareholders that there should be no dividend distribution for the second half of the past financial year. In the result, I am glad to be able to say that this policy has received general commendation, not alone in South Africa, but also in London; and, while shareholders are naturally disappointed at the withholding of the half-year's dividend, they acknowledge that, in the circumstances, this is the sound and prudent course in order to preserve the bank's resources in a position of undoubted strength to meet all the requirements of our clients. The only criticism that has been offered on the board's announcement is that, having regard to the fact that our reserve fund remains intact at the substantial figure of £1,000,000, and that full provision has been made for bad and doubtful debts, the directors might have withdrawn from reserve an additional sum sufficient to meet the dividend for the past half-year. These critics argue that a reserve fund is designed to provide for just such a set of circumstances as we are faced with to-day, and that we have displayed over-caution in refraining from recommending payment of this dividend. I would only observe, in this connection, that the directors did not overlook this alternative, but they were unanimous that the best interests of shareholders, as well as of the bank's clients, lay along the lines announced.

ANALYSIS OF ANNOUNCEMENT.

I think we might devote a few minutes to an analysis of the contents of the announcement. It opens with a statement indicating, in round figures, what was the position on profit and loss account arrived at. The audited figures can now be observed from the printed accounts, which are in your hands, and you will have seen that there is so little difference between the two sets of figures that we can adhere, for the purposes of this analysis, to the globular balance of £193,000 on last year's profit and loss account had been undivided at after taking into account (a) the balance of £34,000 £300,000 from reserve fund; and (c) a transfer of £25,000 to premises account. It is the transfer of £300,000 from reserve fund and shareholders will have realised that if we had not drawn upon the reserve fund, the profit and loss account would have exhibited a loss of £107,000 on the year's operations. I need hardly say that when the September dividend was declared the board were unaware of the trouble that was in store for them in New York. Otherwise

they would have stayed their hand in the matter of distributing that dividend.

LOSSES EXPLAINED.

Now, as to the losses themselves, it would be most unusual and contrary to the bank's interests to give specific details regarding the various accounts involved. But in view of the circumstances under which we are met together to-day, the directors wish to afford to shareholders every bit of information that may be disclosed without prejudice to the bank's business. Accordingly, I would explain that, speaking generally, the losses in question may be grouped in three fairly well-defined categories. In the first place there are the losses arising out of the normal trading risks inseparable from the conduct of banking even on the most prudent and conservative lines. Secondly, there are the losses due to the well-established principles and traditions of sound banking practice being overmastered by the desire to retain or expand business connections. Finally, there are the losses attributable to lack of judgment, disregard of instructions, or neglect.

LOSSES FROM NORMAL TRADING RISKS.

As regards the first-mentioned category, it is common knowledge that the past year has been one of grave disturbance in the financial world, and it would have been an unique achievement, amounting almost to a confession of lack of courage and enterprize, if your bank had entirely escaped the consequences of these disturbances. The rapid break in prices and values, a break without parallel in the history of South African commerce and industry, was inevitably reflected in the banking returns, and imposed a very serious strain upon all concerned. In this respect, of course, our experience was no different from that of other banks. Even the great banking institutions in England have had to acknowledge the severity of the strain, as some of you, no doubt, will have noticed from the recently published reports of their operations for the past year. In consequence of this unprecedented break in prices and values, we have suffered losses which could not well have been avoided. They were sustained notwithstanding all the care and prudence that banking tradition and practice enjoin; and, in the aggregate, and having regard to the exceptional circumstances, the amount which has had to be provided under this category is not disproportionate to the volume of business transacted or to the profits earned.

LOSSES FROM COMPETITIVE ZEAL.

For losses falling within the second category there cannot, in my opinion, be any real or substantial justification. It is well known, of course, that sometimes, possibly in the frenzy of competition, bankers have been tempted to depart from the established and conservative principles of their profession. As a rule they have had cause to regret having succumbed to the temptation, and our experience in this respect is no different to that of the majority. It has been the subject of a good deal of comment that in the past few years the speculative class of merchant and trader in this country has been able to obtain facilities of unusual magnitude and against security wholly disproportionate to the risks involved. Unfortunately, there is a good deal of justification for this comment, and a direct result is that in the accounts now in your hands we have had to make considerable allowance for bad and doubtful debts. The indirect results are not capable of accurate estimation, but that they are substantial must be acknowledged when we reflect upon the dislocation caused to legitimate trade by this fostering of an artificial and speculative atmosphere.

Having made this admission as to the questionable character of some of the business undertaken by this institution in the past few years, I wish now to give you the assurance that our methods have been thoroughly overhauled and our executive officers given definitely to understand that under no circumstances whatever may they undertake business which does not satisfy the ordinary and well-understood tests of sound banking practice. The more effectively to enforce the board's determination in this respect, our advance and inspection departments are in process of being reorganised and strengthened, and we have not the slightest doubt that these dispositions will have the desired result. It is impossible, of course, to avoid a certain degree of generalisation in treating a subject such as this, and my remarks may have conveyed the impression that there was need in every case to improve upon our executive officers the importance of exercising greater prudence. I hasten, therefore, to remove any such impression, and to express the board's grateful acknowledgments to the large number of our executive officers who have resisted all temptation to entertain unsound business, and, by their prudence and foresight, no less than their energy and natural ability, have successfully guarded the bank's interests during these years of trial and strain.

LOSSES FROM LACK OF JUDGMENT.

I now come to a consideration of those of our losses which fall within the third and final category already indicated to you. I

refer to the losses attributable to lack of judgment, disregard of instructions, or neglect. I regret to say that the bank's losses under this heading have been severe. They arose mainly in New York, and, if the most ordinary judgment had been displayed by our branch at that point, they could not possibly have reached such noticeable dimensions.

NEW YORK MANAGEMENT CHANGED.

So soon as the board became aware of the situation, they took prompt steps to change the management, and an experienced senior officer from the London office was appointed in temporary charge at New York. His task was not an easy one, but he has succeeded to a most commendable extent in placing matters upon a more satisfactory basis, and has thus simplified very greatly the work of the specially selected officer recently transferred from South Africa to take substantive charge of the branch.

You will want to know, of course, why it was that head office did not take earlier steps to change the management at New York. The answer is that a degree of confidence that subsequently proved to be wholly unjustified was reposed in our New York manager. Moreover, owing to the delays in postal communication at that time, and other difficulties in the way of exercising effective control, some considerable time elapsed before head office became aware that the bank's interests were in jeopardy. The agencies of communication are now more regular, and in addition we have as our representative in New York a trained and experienced banker of proved ability, in whose judgment we have complete confidence. These factors, taken in conjunction with an effective scheme of control, in which London office participates with head office, encourage us to believe that henceforward our business in New York, which is now being confined mainly to South African exchange, will be conducted on sound lines and with credit and profit to the bank.

Now, gentlemen, I have endeavoured to give you the fullest information regarding the circumstances under which we show a loss on our banking operations during the past financial year. I have also indicated the measures which have been adopted to prevent a recurrence of these unpleasant experiences. It remains for me to add that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the accounts now before you reflect full provision for our bad and doubtful accounts. All accounts which in any degree cause us apprehension have been most carefully scrutinised, and, wherever there was a doubt respecting full recovery, the necessary provision has been made. Having regard, therefore, to our very valuable business connection, and given a period of reasonably stable conditions, it should not take long to re-establish ourselves on a dividend-distributing basis. It must not be forgotten, however, that our earning capacity under prevailing conditions is materially affected by two most important factors, viz., the disappearance of our note issue, which from to-morrow will be replaced by notes of the South African Reserve Bank, and the low rates of interest earned on our surplus cash balances in London. The latter, it is to be hoped, is only a temporary disability. As regards our note issue, however, there is nothing temporary about its disappearance, and I shall deal more fully with this point later on.

INCREASE IN SALARY CHARGES.

Simultaneously with this era of diminished earning capacity we are carrying a burden in the shape of salaries that is altogether disproportionate to our revenues. It is necessary, therefore, that measures be taken to reduce the aggregate of our salaries bill, and in this respect we are in precisely the same position as all large employers, not excluding governments, the world over. At the end of December our staff in South Africa ceased to draw cost-of-living allowances. This, of course, involved a serious dislocation in their domestic budgets, but the factor of inevitable necessity was loyally acknowledged by our officers, who accepted the deduction with the best possible grace. It would involve great hardship therefore if, on top of the disappearance of those allowances, any reduction were to take place in substantive salaries; and, in any case, there are strong objections of principle to the adoption of such a course. We are accordingly thrown back upon the only other alternative, viz., a substantial reduction in personnel to be achieved by means of reorganisation of staffs on more efficient lines and the elimination of non-essential services. This, of course, will take time, and must be so devised as to inflict as little hardship as possible upon the individuals affected.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Before closing my remarks concerning our difficulties at the present juncture, I should mention the very difficult and onerous conditions under which the South African banks are carrying on business in Portuguese East Africa. I allude, of course, to the currency situation in that territory, in consequence of which the South African banks have been obliged to restrict their operations to a material extent so as to guard themselves against risk of loss. For some considerable time past our Portuguese neighbours have been exploring various avenues of possible relief,

but so far without any apparent success. On the contrary, the situation seems to be getting steadily worse, and the Union banks and merchants carrying on business in the territory are going through a most anxious and trying time. Discussions have recently been taking place at Capetown between the Union Government, on the one hand, and Portuguese representatives from Lisbon and Mozambique on the other, on subjects of vital interest to the Union and her Eastern neighbour. It was intended that these discussions should include consideration of the currency situation in Mozambique Province, and hopes were entertained that some remedy would thus be found for a situation that offers an effectual bar to the development of trade relationships between the territory and the Union. It was a great disappointment, therefore, when we heard last week that the negotiations had broken down for the time being, and I venture to hope that the two parties will come together again before long. Incidentally, I may mention that we have recently closed down three of our branches in this territory—viz., those at Inhambane, Mozambique, and Quelimane—in consequence of the very discouraging conditions to which I have alluded.

THE BRIGHTER SIDE.

Now, gentlemen, I think we might turn our attention to the brighter and more encouraging features in our position and outlook. Take, first of all, our gross revenue for the last financial year. As is shown in the profit and loss account, it aggregated over £1,653,000, excluding, that is, the balance brought in from the preceding year. It is not necessary for me to point out the evidence which this large figure affords of the value and earning capacity of our business. In comparison with the similar figure of 1920-21, it exhibits a shrinkage of only some £30,000, which must be regarded as exceedingly satisfactory when it is remembered how trying have been the general trade conditions during the twelve months ended March 31st last.

Now I would point to other items in our published figures which testify to the soundness of our position. You will notice from the balance-sheet that we show a marked and gratifying improvement in our cash position as compared with the preceding year. At March 31st last we had cash on hand and with bankers totalling £8,842,000, whereas the corresponding figure for the previous year was £7,407,000—an improvement of no less than £1,435,000. In the same period the amount of money which we had at call and short notice increased from £2,254,000 to £3,109,000, showing an improvement of £855,000. These, gentlemen, are large figures, and afford striking evidence of our progress along the path of liquidity.

Then, if you consider what are termed the bank's resources or quick assets—viz., our cash, remittances in transit, native gold, money at call and short notice, investments, and bills of exchange purchased, together aggregating £24,283,000, you will find by a simple arithmetical calculation that they represent over 58½ per cent. of our deposits, whereas the corresponding figure at March 31, 1921, was under 52½ per cent. I think, therefore, that there is every reason for taking a most confident view of the future.

SOUTH AFRICA'S POWERS OF RECUPERATION.

Moreover, our observation of business conditions generally throughout the different countries in which we are represented is, most distinctly, that the corner of depression and stagnation has been rounded, and that a tendency towards a slow but steady return to better conditions is manifesting itself. The banks, naturally, must benefit directly and indirectly through the restoration of normal conditions, and this affords an added measure of confidence in the future. A factor in South African economics that is often lost sight of is that, in comparison with most other countries, the Union has a relatively small proportion of unproductive public debts. Thus our system of public finance possesses in corresponding degree a greater measure of flexibility than is enjoyed by these other countries, with the result that our powers of recuperation from financial crises are proportionately stronger. So soon, therefore, as world conditions begin to mend, South Africa's relative economic advantage, upon which I have just touched, should prove a powerful factor in securing for her a more rapid return to prosperity than can be hoped for by countries less fortunately situated in this respect. Of course, the recent disastrous strike on the Rand has occasioned serious loss, not alone to those immediately concerned, whether as employer or employee, but also to that very large section of our community throughout the length and breadth of this land that is directly or indirectly dependent upon the active conduct of gold-mining operations. Nevertheless, it would seem that there is a substantial prospect of the country being compensated for these losses owing to the industry being now established upon a basis more in keeping with the economic necessities of present-day conditions. This is another favourable point in our outlook, and, taken in conjunction with the recent removal of the enemy share menace, it should stimulate a revival of interest in the mining industry and the flow of capital from outside for the development of our untouched mineral resources.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unfortunately, unemployment is still a problem, and must continue for a considerable time to be a matter of concern and embarrassment. But the Government are grappling with the subject in admirable fashion, and, by means of a substantial programme of useful new capital services—as witness the recently announced programme of new railway construction—will not alone provide work for a considerable number of unemployed, but, by this evidence of their faith in South Africa, will encourage private capitalists to undertake development services which must increase the field of employment. In addition to this, the Prime Minister recently announced in Parliament the Government's policy in the matter of fostering local industries, and his utterance has given fresh hope to those who, by bitter and costly practical experience, have come to realise the difficulties of establishing industries in a young country exposed to vigorous competition from the intensive production of the older States. If the Government persevere in this policy we shall, in my opinion, be preserved from the constant recurrence of periods of acute industrial unemployment, the basis of taxation will be broadened, and a larger local market will be provided for our agricultural produce.

But cost of production in this country has still to fall considerably before the full benefit of the Government's policy can be realised. In the words of a prominent American economist, which cannot be too frequently quoted, there is plenty of work awaiting completion, but it is peace-time work, and cannot be attempted on war-time wages.

REVIEW OF BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

I would ask you now to accompany me in a review of the figures appearing in our balance-sheet for the year ended March 31st last. Taking first the liabilities side, we find that the capital remains unaltered at £2,965,000, while the reserve fund stands at £1,000,000, after withdrawing the £300,000 with which I have already dealt at some length. At £4,426,000 our note circulation on March 31st last was £100,000 less than on the corresponding date of the previous year—a variation so inconsiderable as to call for no remark. When, however, we come to the heading "deposits, current and other accounts," we notice a considerable drop as compared with the preceding balance-sheet. The comparison is £41,502,000 at March, 1922, and £48,045,000 at March, 1921, a fall of 6½ millions. This, however, is but the outward and visible expression of the acute stringency that has prevailed throughout the past financial year and of the continuation of the process of paying for the over-importation of goods which has been a feature of our trade situation in recent years. As times improve, there is no doubt that bank deposits will similarly reflect the altered conditions.

BILLS DISCOUNTED, ADVANCES, ETC.

While on this head of the balance-sheet, it is convenient to consider also the item "bills discounted, advances, &c.," on the other side of the account, which stands at £25,909,000, as compared with £33,332,000 at the close of March, 1921—a fall of some £7,423,000. You will observe that while the bank's advances have been reduced in the twelve months by close on 7½ millions, our deposits have only fallen by 6½ millions in the same period, which shows a substantial margin in our favour. Naturally, too, the reduction in the amount of our advances has had a contracting influence on the amount of our deposits, since deposits respond at once, downwards or upwards, according as advances decrease or increase. As illustrating how the same stringent influences have affected the great London clearing banks, I may mention—quoting from a recent issue of the *Statist*—that the aggregate returns of the ten banks concerned exhibit a fall in deposits from £1,872,000,000 in January of this year to £1,782,000,000 in April—a shrinkage of £90,000,000. On the other hand, under the heading of discounts, acceptances, and advances, these banks recorded a contraction in the same period of £133,000,000.

CASH ON HAND AND WITH BANKERS.

On the assets side of the balance-sheet, the striking feature, as I have already had occasion to point out, is that in the twelve months' period our cash on hand and with bankers had increased by £1,435,000 over the corresponding figure of 1921, and our directed your attention to the fact that the bank's resources, or our deposits as compared with a percentage of less than 52½ at March, 1921. You will acknowledge that these figures indicate a striking improvement, and afford a valuable indication of the strength of our present position.

BRITISH AND COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Looking now at the item "British and Colonial Government and other securities," you may have noticed that, at £4,387,000, an increase is exhibited of some £630,000 over the corresponding figure of 1921. This increase is mainly due to investments in South African Treasury bills and in stock of the South African Reserve Bank. As is stated in the accounts, our investments appear

t or below the market prices prevailing at March 31st last, and, of course, since that date many of our holdings have appreciated considerably in value.

While on the subject of our investments I should mention that we have taken advantage of the opportunity recently afforded to all South African companies by the Custodian of Enemy Property of acquiring by purchase the parcel of 445 of our own shares hitherto held by his department. These shares, which were obtained at a reasonable figure, have been registered in the name of the bank's nominees in accordance with the authority conferred by the existing legislation on the subject of enemy shareholdings. With regard to the heading "bills of exchange," here again we have direct evidence of the trade contraction during last financial year. At March 31, 1922, we held bills purchased and current at that date aggregating £5,780,000—a fall of £3,200,000, in comparison with March, 1921. This variation coincides with the contraction in the country's trade during the period under review, the supply of commercial bills on the market naturally following the same course. The item "bank premises" exhibits a relatively small increase of some £40,000 over the corresponding figure of 1921, and does not, therefore, call for special remark.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning now to the profit and loss account, I touched, at an earlier stage in this address, upon the encouraging showing, under the heading of "gross revenue," as compared with the year ended March, 1921. Notwithstanding the abnormal conditions, our gross revenue last year was only some £30,000 less than for the preceding 12 months. On the other hand, our expenditure has considerably increased owing, mainly, to the additional staff charges which we had had to assume in consequence of the introduction a year ago of the bank officials' grading scheme. As already indicated, the board are alive to the need for reducing the heavy burden thus imposed upon the bank.

EDUCATIONAL DONATIONS.

Mention of our expenditure reminds me that there was recently published in the Press a list of donations to the Witwatersrand University, in which the National Bank figured as the donor of the very munificent sum of £10,000, and, while not questioning the claims of this deserving institution, shareholders might very properly inquire how it came about that we could act with so much generosity at a time when we are faced with the need for passing a half-year's dividend. The answer is that the publication of that subscription list is a belated event. In point of fact, our contribution was promised so far back as the year 1919, and was immediately written out of the profits of that year, which, as you will remember, were sufficiently substantial to justify the board in concluding that shareholders would endorse their action in giving this degree of support from your bank. Thus the profit and loss account of the year now under review is not affected by the donation. And, in case there be any shareholders who may infer from these remarks that the board has been unmindful of the claims of the sister universities, I may explain that, about the same time as the Witwatersrand University payment was sanctioned, donations were promised to the University of Capetown, to the Transvaal University College in Pretoria, and to the University of Stellenbosch. These donations also were immediately written out of that year's profits.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

As to the appropriation account, the only item that calls for remark at the present stage is the proposed allocation of £50,000 to our staff pension fund. It is essential, of course, as I am sure you will all agree that, in bad times as well as in good, the pension fund should be adequately protected. In order, however, that we may know with a reasonable degree of accuracy whether it will be necessary in future years to make such substantial provision as is reflected in the accounts of 1921-22 and of the years immediately preceding, we have decided to have an actuarial valuation of our pension obligations so soon as certain preliminaries have been completed.

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

Let us turn now to an examination of the effect upon our operations of the establishment of the South African Reserve Bank. Some of you may not have realised that this June 30, 1922, is destined to become an historical date in the annals of South African banking, inasmuch as at midnight the commercial banks operating in the Union lose the privilege of issuing their own notes. From to-morrow onwards the notes of the Reserve Bank will gradually replace the commercial banks' circulation, in terms of the Currency and Banking Act, 1920. The provisions of that Act have come in for a good deal of criticism, and the contention has been urged that in the application of certain of its provisions the measure imposes upon our banking system, and, through it, upon our commerce and industry, a restriction that is not essential, and that accentuates financial stringency just at the time when elasticity and enterprise should be stimulated in order to assist the country through a period of unparalleled depression.

OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED BY THE ACT.

Let us consider for a moment what are the obligations imposed upon us by the Act. In the first place, we have had to deposit with the Reserve Bank 10 per cent. of our demand liabilities to the public and 3 per cent. of our time liabilities, which include interest-bearing deposits. Expressed in figures, this means that we have at present lodged with the Reserve Bank, in respect of these specific liabilities to the public (which do not, of course, include banknotes) actual cash to the extent of close on two and a-half million pounds. Now, in order to substantiate the contention that this requirement of the Reserve Bank scheme makes for stringency, it would have to be established that we could utilise these two and a-half millions of money, or a substantial portion of it, in making advances to our clients. But, in point of fact, and as a matter of prudent banking, it would have been incumbent upon us, even without a Reserve Bank, to keep at least this proportion of our resources in absolutely liquid form, so as to be in a position to meet all claims that might reasonably be expected to arise. Nor are there as yet any opportunities in this country of profitably employing such large sums, e.g., by means of short loans affording the necessary degree of liquidity and security. So that, from the point of view of our own financial elasticity, it really does not matter very much whether these balances are preserved in our own treasury or in the Reserve Bank; and, if we consider, on the other hand, that the concentration in the Reserve Bank of all balances of this nature derived from the commercial banks provides a basis for the creation of a considerable amount of fresh credit, of which the commercial banks may make use for their own profit and the country's benefit, then I think it must be acknowledged that, far from being regarded as an evil, this provision in the recent legislation should be welcomed by all who are interested in the country's financial development along sound and, at the same time, flexible lines.

Thus far I have been dealing only with the provisions of the Act, which prescribe what shall be the commercial banks' reserves against demand and time liabilities to the public; but mention has still to be made of the terms of the statute in relation to notes. As I have already indicated, from to-morrow the commercial banks may not issue any of their own notes, which will gradually be replaced by Reserve Bank notes, until finally the only paper currency circulating in the Union is that bearing the Van Riebeeck watermark.

EFFECT ON THE COMMERCIAL BANKS.

Now, how does this affect the commercial banks? Well, to take our own case, our note circulation at March 31st last, as you will see from the published prints, was over £4,400,000. Against this circulation the law obliges us to hold gold to an amount equal to at least 40 per cent. But to-morrow there begins the replacement to which I have just referred, and, for the wherewithal to effect this replacement, i.e., for Reserve Bank notes which will gradually take the place of our own, we must hand over to that institution a corresponding amount of gold, or arrange the matter in such a way that the Reserve Bank's reserves against their circulation consist of at least 40 per cent. of gold and the balance in commercial paper. Moreover, it should not be forgotten that so long as our own notes remain in circulation we must continue to hold gold cover to the extent of 40 per cent. of such remaining circulation.

Nor is this the whole extent of the disability which we suffer under this head, because we have similarly to put down pound for pound in respect of Reserve Bank notes required as "till money," whereas, up to now, "till money" has not even been subject to the 40 per cent. gold cover applicable to our notes in circulation. It will therefore be appreciated what a very considerable drain upon our resources is involved in this change over from our own note circulation, plus "till money," to Reserve Bank notes. I am glad to say, however, that we have satisfactorily completed all our arrangements for meeting these obligations as they mature; and I may add that this has been accomplished without any inconvenience to our clients.

Now, while the loss of our note issue, as I have indicated, necessarily affects the commercial banks adversely and to no inconsiderable extent, yet I must admit that there are compensations in the scheme which may not be observable at first sight. For the instance, since Reserve Bank notes can only be acquired by the commercial banks against an equivalent amount of gold or of gold plus commercial paper, it follows that, in addition to securing a full backing for the Union's paper currency, an automatic check is applied upon the quantity of notes in circulation, which will henceforward be regulated by the amount of gold and commercial paper available in the country. This check must make for a greater degree of stability in our monetary system, and the advantage thus secured will benefit the commercial banks as well as the community in general. Moreover, the pressure which the system will exert towards the financing of a larger portion of the country's trade on a bill basis cannot fail, in the long run, to react to our direct benefit.

It will be seen, therefore, that I do not ally myself with the critics of the Reserve Bank system. On the contrary, it is my firm belief that the provisions of the Currency and Banking Act, 1920, are sound and well conceived, and that they are destined to contribute very largely to the welfare of the community, not excluding the commercial banks. Moreover, I am glad to have this opportunity of giving public expression to these views in the hearing of the distinguished banker who so skilfully controls the affairs of the Reserve Bank, and who has paid us the compliment of responding to our invitation to attend our meeting this morning. I would assure him that we will do our best, by observing the spirit as well as the letter of the 1920 statute, to assist him in the responsible and complex work which he has undertaken.

REMOVAL OF EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF GOLD.

I have stated that this 30th of June, 1922, is destined to have an historical interest for the South African banks, owing to the loss which they sustain to-day of their privilege of issuing notes. In addition, it will go down in our financial history as the last day of the statutory embargo on the export of gold bullion and coin imposed by the Public Welfare and Moratorium Act, 1914, and amendments. In refraining from submitting to Parliament proposals for continuing this embargo after to-day, the Government have been guided by the advice of the Currency Conference which met in Pretoria in October of last year. The report of that conference has been published, and, accordingly, I need not weary you with the text of it. But it is appropriate that I should invite your attention to the important developments that may flow from the Government's decision. The gold-mining industry continues to be the mainstay of South Africa's economic life, and, accordingly, the earliest possible resumption of the gold standard, with a free and unfettered gold circulation, in this as well as other countries, is of paramount importance to us. However, circumstances are still such that we must maintain the inconvertibility of our paper currency, which was established by the Currency and Banking Act, 1920—and inconvertible the paper currency should remain until sterling reaches parity with gold. For this reason I am sorry that the Government have found themselves unable to adopt the recommendation of the Currency Conference that the period of such convertibility should be extended from June, 1923, to June, 1925.

It is true that recent indications point to the return of sterling to gold parity much sooner than was anticipated when the conference deliberated. Still, we are not yet out of the wood, and, as no one can accurately foretell the course of sterling exchange within the next 12 months, it would have been a relief to the banking community to know that any adverse tendency that may be met with had been guarded against for a longer period than a year, as is the position to-day. As matters stand, the embargo on the export of gold as bullion or coin ceases to-day, but we retain for another 12 months the inconvertibility of our paper currency, unless within that period the market price of gold in the Union recedes to £3 17s 10½d per standard ounce. So that, although, for our internal trade, we remain meantime on an inconvertible paper basis, gold will now be available for the settlement of our external debts, and can be obtained for this purpose, as well as to supply the needs of purchasers from abroad, at the recently completed refinery on the Rand. Bankers will watch with the greatest interest the results of this, our first steps towards getting back to a free market in gold, and I am sanguine that it will have a most beneficial influence on the restoration of stability and confidence in this country.

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION.

Of course, any benefit that may be derived from the removal of the embargo on gold exportations may be nullified if the country is to be constantly exposed to risks of additional taxation. I refer to the tendency of the provincial councils to increase the burden on the taxpayers. The Union Government have appreciated that in times like the present the only salvation lies in the reduction of their administrative expenditure, which has been vigorously attacked; and the country heaved a sigh of relief when the Minister of Finance announced recently that by such means he hoped to balance his accounts for the current year without having recourse to additional taxation. I venture to hope that the Provincial Councils will take a leaf out of the Finance Minister's book, and will look for the solution of their financial problems along the lines of reduced expenditure rather than of increased taxation, since any other policy must do serious injury to the country just at the time when there are substantial indications of a return to more prosperous conditions. The views of the community, as recently expressed in many quarters, furnish ample evidence that there is rapidly growing a volume of public feeling on this subject, the force and import of which should not be disregarded by our provincial legislators.

SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

So much of your time have I already occupied that I am reluctant to delay getting to grips with the resolutions on the agenda; but perhaps you will bear with me a little longer while I offer some brief observations on the industrial situation in South Africa, which so closely affects our welfare and prosperity. The gold-mining industry is still, of course, suffering from the effects of the disastrous upheaval which recently afflicted the Witwatersrand. It seems certain, however, that the sacrifices of these unhappy days will not have been in vain, since the resultant reduction in working costs and restoration of managerial control have saved the industry from the rapid decline which threatened, not alone the welfare of employer and employee, but also the economic future of the whole country. South Africa depends upon the gold industry to an extent which was not fully appreciated by certain sections until the recent enforced stoppage gave them unpleasant evidence of their community of interest in the premier industry of South Africa. As a prominent merchant friend remarked to me, on arriving from Capetown in the latter days of the strike, this was the first occasion on which the Witwatersrand gold mines had intruded in Adderley street. The outlook to-day for the mining industry is distinctly hopeful, and I am sanguine that its rejuvenation will assist materially in the restoration of more prosperous conditions throughout the Union.

The coal trade is still a disappointment. We had great hopes at one time of developing a large export business in this commodity, but circumstances with which you are all familiar have destroyed these expectations, for the time being at any rate; nor are there any very encouraging signs of a substantial improvement in the near future.

The diamond market, while showing a reviving tendency, is still far from the position which would justify us in looking for an early resumption of more active local mining, and the same remarks apply to most of the remaining mining interests in this country.

On the other hand, the overseas demand for our staple agricultural products seems to be improving. Particularly is this the case in regard to wool, which has had a sharp and welcome recovery, with every prospect of a continuance of these more encouraging conditions.

There is still some uncertainty in regard to the present season's sugar yield, but I gather from a well-informed source that if the acreage to be cut is not greater than that of last season the yield will be considerably less owing to the unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing in the early months of this year. On the whole, however, there is a confident belief in the sugar industry that, while the experience of this season may show a set-back both in price and yield, the application of more economical methods of production, manufacture and distribution will counterbalance these adverse factors to a considerable extent.

By the courtesy of the Department of Mines and Industries, and of other friends, I have been supplied with a mass of valuable and interesting statistics regarding the general industrial production of the Union, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of these welcome services. Unfortunately, however, I have had so much to say to you this morning that I am deprived of the opportunity of dealing further with this subject at the present time. On the whole, however, these reports confirm the opinion which I expressed to you earlier in the day—that the Union has turned the corner and is progressing steadily, if slowly, towards better and more stable conditions. We are justified, therefore, in taking a hopeful view of the future, and it must be a source of satisfaction to you to learn, from the figures which I have given you this morning, that, notwithstanding the abnormal conditions through which we have passed, the National Bank is so well able to contribute its share in the restoration of the Union's prosperity.

BRANCHES.

As you will see from the directors' report, there have been closed during the year under review nine of our branches, while 11 other branches have been converted into agencies. This list has been increased since the end of March by the closing of our branches at Bizana (in the Cape Province), at St Helena and, as mentioned at an earlier stage of my address, at Inhambane, Mozambique, and Quelimane in Portuguese East Africa. Since March, too, we have converted into agencies our sub-branches at Hankey (Cape), Tongaat (Natal), and Hartebeestfontein (Transvaal).

The foregoing comprises a fairly extensive list, but I venture to think that shareholders will readily affirm this policy of the board. It has to be admitted that during the boom period that followed the war our sense of proportion was upset, and we proceeded too rapidly in the matter of extending the field of our operations. In the light of experience it is clear that, under normal conditions, it will take years to develop a profitable business at many of these points, and while the directors regret the inconvenience that may here and there be suffered by valued

clients, they can justify to shareholders neither the retention of branches in areas which show no prospect of profitable banking for years to come, nor the preservation of branch representation at points where the business only merits an agency. With this policy before us, we are continuing to review carefully the conditions obtaining at all backward offices, and there is little doubt that at the next annual general meeting the list I have given you will reflect a number of additions. Perhaps I should add that as our principal competitor is also curtailing district representation, we have come together on the subject, and are endeavouring, by concerted and reciprocal action, to arrange that districts are not left altogether without banking facilities. In this way the public inconvenience at these points will be considerably reduced.

Before passing from this subject, a word is necessary regarding the disposal of the staffs released by the closing policy. We are under obligation to do the best we can for these officers by absorption, or otherwise, and the good and efficient men need have little apprehension regarding any interruption in their service.

DIRECTORATE.

Certain changes in the personnel of the board occurred during the year. The Hon. Hugh Crawford, who for so many years has held the chairmanship of the bank, relinquished that office and his seat on the board at the end of December last. A few months previously Mr E. C. Reynolds, who held the joint post of managing director and general manager, having completed 30 years' official service with the bank, intimated his desire to retire on pension. These two gentlemen are old and valued friends of many of you present here to-day, and I know that your good wishes go out to them for their happiness and welfare in the greater leisure that they are now enjoying. On the other hand, I have to record the appointment as directors of Mr Charles Maggs and Mr Walter Webber, M.L.A. Both these gentlemen are so well known and respected throughout South Africa that there is no need for me to dilate upon their unique qualifications for guiding the destinies of this large institution. Their colleagues on the board rejoice to have the benefit of their ripe judgment and wise counsels, and I am sure that you will most willingly confirm their appointments. I regret very much that our old and esteemed colleague, Mr Oliff, is not with us to-day. His health has been giving him and us considerable anxiety of late, but I am glad to say that he is now reported to be making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

In the composition also of our London Committee there have been certain recent changes. We deeply regret the death of Mr James Macalister, which occurred in February last. He had served as a member of our London Committee since its inception 31 years ago, and throughout this long period was unfailing in the interest which he took in the bank's affairs. Further, I have to record that Mr Henry Lewis has recently tendered his resignation from the London Committee. Extending over a very long period of years, his services have always been at the bank's disposal, and he carries with him the best wishes of his colleagues.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

On October 1st last Mr William Dunlop succeeded to the post of general manager, rendered vacant by Mr Reynolds' resignation. It is unnecessary to emphasise the heavy and arduous character of the responsibilities of this high office, and I am confident that I am echoing your views when I say that it is a matter of congratulation to the bank that the executive control of its business is in such very capable hands. I should state, too, that certain changes are pending in our senior head office personnel. In this connection I must mention that within the next few months we shall be losing the assistance of two valued officers of the bank, both of whom have to their credit a long record of faithful and successful banking service in this country. I refer to Mr D. H. Swart and Mr W. Fitzgerald, who have been discharging the duties of assistant general managers, and are shortly retiring on pension. I am sure you will join with me in conveying best wishes for their success in whatever sphere they may elect to employ their energies and manifold abilities after retirement. One of the vacancies thus created will be filled by the appointment of Mr G. R. Paterson, our senior branch manager at Capetown, whose record in our service leaves no doubt that he will prove a valuable addition to our administrative personnel. The second vacancy does not occur until some months later, so it has not been necessary as yet to decide upon the new incumbent for that post.

STAFF.

I am happy to say that the differences that have manifested themselves in recent years between the banking managements and the S.A. Society of Bank Officials seem, in the main, to have been overcome. Certainly in recent months no material issue has arisen which has been impossible of solution in an amicable spirit of give and take. A Conciliation Board, representative of all parties, assembled at Pretoria in January last, when the various out-

standing questions came under review and an agreement was arrived at upon all vital issues. So successful was this conference that, before it broke up, a scheme was agreed upon whereby similar conferences would be held at stated intervals to discuss any new difficulties that may come to light.

As regards our own staff, I must not omit to mention that within the last few months we have created a new post at head office styled "staff manager." The officer appointed in this capacity has been specially selected because of his peculiar qualifications for dealing with establishment problems, and he devotes his whole time to this work. Notwithstanding our short experience, good results from the appointment are already manifest, and I am satisfied that it will assist materially in avoiding staff grievances, since the staff manager's duties comprise, not alone the upholding of the bank's interests, but also the protection of the individual interests of our officers.

The financial year through which we have just passed has been a most trying one for the staff, particularly for the senior officials, and the board are glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging the difficulties under which they have laboured. In these days of stress and strain, bank managers have a difficult task to perform, and it is a marvel that their reserves of cheerfulness and patience have not long since been exhausted.

In past years it was the practice to grant the staff an annual bonus of a percentage on salary. This practice was interrupted in the year 1920-21, and for obvious reasons has not been revived in 1921-22. Nor am I in a position to venture any opinion as to when the practice may be resumed. I have already indicated that in recent years the bank's salary lists have been greatly augmented, and now amount to a most formidable figure, the increase being largely attributed to the application of what is known as the "grading award," which raised the emoluments of the great majority of bank officials in this country to a point which, under existing conditions, compares most favourably with the remuneration accorded by non-banking employers for the discharge of equivalent responsibilities. Nor may the fact be overlooked that these increased emoluments have a material effect upon the Pension Fund. It is true that during the period in question our staff has been very materially added to, but, making full allowance for this in addition, there is still observable a very large increase in the aggregate pay roll as compared with 1913. The factors which I have just mentioned cannot fail to affect the attitude of the management towards the bonus question, and, unless an avenue of relief be found—as, for instance, along the lines of more effective organisation and consequent reduction of personnel to which I have already alluded—it is hardly to be expected that the case for the resumption of bonus distribution will receive a very enthusiastic hearing.

That, gentlemen, completes my remarks this morning, and I thank you for your very patient hearing, and now beg to move the adoption of the report, balance-sheet, profit and loss statement, and the recommendation of your board.

MR J. EMRYS EVANS'S SPEECH.

Mr J. Emrys Evans, C.M.G., said: Mr Chairman, I rise to second the adoption of the report, and in doing so I would like to say I feel sure the shareholders, clients of the bank and the public generally will greatly appreciate the frankness which has characterised the speech to which we have just listened from the chair. No one can regret more than I do the necessity for acknowledging that during these past years of rising prices and extraordinary trade activity, when prudence and caution were especially necessary, transactions have been entered into—particularly in New York—containing elements of risk which should have been a deciding factor against the acceptance of such business.

The chairman has referred to the grave disturbance in the financial world, and in a business such as ours it is in the natural course of things that losses should be sustained through the extraordinary of things that losses should be sustained through the extraordinary break in prices and values which has taken place, but the regrettable thing is that, owing to excessive eagerness to do business, and faulty judgment, other losses in a quite different category have had to be faced. However, I have no doubt what interests you most is the future conduct of the business, and the chairman has referred to certain dispositions made by the board, which I am confident will ensure that proper regard will be paid to the fundamental and well-tried principles of banking.

Here I should like particularly to draw attention to a principle which, as an old banker, I desire to say must not only be kept well in view by the banks, but should also be impressed on clients, and in view of the true function of commercial banking institutions that is that the true function of commercial banking institutions is to assist capital, and not to furnish capital. This principle has been observed in recent years as closely as it should have been, and the sooner clients recognise that this is a principle of banking which for the future must be strictly adhered to, the better it will be for all concerned.

We have experienced a period of very severe depression, but I think we have every reason to believe, as the chairman has said, that

we have rounded the corner, and that we may look out for better times, although the process may be slow, and it is, perhaps, desirable that it should be gradual.

The troubles with which we in this country, as well as in other countries, have been confronted are primarily due to the inflation that occurred as a result of war conditions, and the process of deflation was something from which it was impossible to escape. As a consequence, whether we like it or not, the necessity for economy in both national and industrial life is brought home to us. In this connection, we are all aware that farmers are getting greatly reduced prices for their produce, and that, generally speaking, prices for livestock have not been so low for many years. Naturally, the cost of production should fall in sympathy, and this is what is taking place in other countries. Here in South Africa industries were started during the war period, many of which can only be continued successfully by coming on to a lower basis of production costs, and this emphasises the need for all sections of the community working together to this end.

While I have felt it necessary to refer to the difficulties with which the country is still confronted, I look forward with the utmost confidence to seeing these difficulties surmounted, and to a steady return to prosperity.

The Government proposes to spend a large sum on railway extension—a most commendable policy indeed—which will be of great assistance in the development of the resources of South Africa, and in helping forward that return to prosperity which we all hope for.

In the development to which I have referred, opportunities will be afforded the banks to render service, and I feel sure that the National Bank can be relied on to do its part in this respect, and that it will share in the resulting prosperity.

I formally second the adoption of the report, accounts, and the recommendation of the board.

SHAREHOLDER'S SUPPORT.

Mr A. H. Rennie, in supporting the motion, said: Mr Chairman, I think I am voicing the feelings of all the shareholders present when I take this opportunity of thanking you for the very clear, full, and frank statement made regarding the position of the bank. You have taken us into your confidence, and I feel sure that you have done the right thing, because a strong institution like yours can afford to own up to its mistakes, while the policy you have adopted is much better than trying to hide unpleasant facts. There can be no question that during the last few years many cases have occurred of the commercial community throughout the whole world departing from the safe and sure methods of their forefathers, and being carried away by a wave of gambling. Wherever one looked it would be found that some even of the biggest and best institutions had suffered in a manner similar to your own. We can but hope that the lesson has been learnt, and that a more careful policy will be followed in the future, in which case real prosperity will come, in which the National Bank will get its share. In your report, Mr Chairman, reference has been made to the disappointment regarding the failure of the coal mining industry, which at one time had hopes of developing a large export trade. That disappointment is entirely due to the attitude adopted by the Government, which would not face the fact that the industry must be enabled to meet overseas competition if success was to be obtained. The two great disabilities with which the coal industry has to contend are, first, the high railway rates and the uncertainty of truck supply; and, second, the lack of proper facilities at the ports. If these disabilities are not removed, the industry cannot cope with the overseas competition. It is imperative that large stocks of coal should always be kept on hand at the ports, as the requirements of the shipping trade call for prompt despatch, and unless ships can be supplied with coal and got away within 24 hours, the trade will not come our way. It is desirable that pressure should be brought to bear upon the Government in this matter, in order that proper facilities may be arranged. Amongst the shipping companies there is a distinct feeling of irritation against the South African coaling trade, and it is in the interests of the whole country that the grievances should be removed.

With regard to the report which you, Mr Chairman, have just delivered, I also am of the opinion that the corner has been turned, and that prosperity is in sight. The people of South Africa, however, should realise that if we as a country are to succeed, each one of us has got to put forward his best efforts. Hitherto there has been an idea that "anything will do." But if we are to hold our own in competition with the world's markets, our only hope of success lies in our realising that our best efforts are needed.

I congratulate you, sir, on the very frank and full statement you have made, and I am sure that the shareholders will all feel similarly.

HEAD OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

Sir Evelyn Wallers, K.B.E., followed by saying: As representing

an industry which is vitally concerned in the maintenance of sound banking principles, I have listened with great interest to your admirable statement. The directness, the simplicity, and the extreme thoroughness with which you have explained the situation to us will, I am sure, be immensely appreciated by the shareholders and by the public alike, and will maintain among them the confidence which they hold (and rightly hold) in your institution. The dropping of a dividend is, naturally, some disappointment; but I am sure that no one will doubt the wisdom of the course which you and your colleagues have taken. You have candidly indicated the nature of the transactions in which your losses were sustained; you have shown the reserves and the value of your business, and have also indicated the weak spots and their remedies. In connection with the reorganisations to which you have alluded, it appears to me that the question of the provision of proper accommodation for the head office staff should receive attention. In other towns throughout the country the bank possesses buildings both of great attractiveness and convenience. It seems wrong to me, however, that for the head office of the bank, here in Pretoria, you should possess merely a collection of rooms, some in the main building and others in an adjoining building, with a communicating link in the form of a passage over a courtyard. Quite apart from the fact that the housing accommodation for the head office is by no means a credit to the institution, the inconvenience caused must necessarily militate against efficiency. The ramifications of the building are perplexing, and clients must have great difficulty in finding their way to the higher officials of the bank. In the interests both of the efficiency and of the health of the staff, therefore, I think it is advisable that the board should seriously consider the question of erecting new offices. I understand that a convenient site is obtainable, and I trust that the matter will receive due attention. It may be said that the present is not a suitable time for the expenditure of capital for such a purpose, but I feel sure that the outlay will be amply compensated by the considerably increased efficiency which will be derived, and will really constitute a very sound investment.

In conclusion, I would add a word of appreciation of what has been said regarding the South African Reserve Bank, because, notwithstanding the informative statement issued by the governor of that institution, one hears and reads a considerable amount of somewhat loose and uninformed criticism regarding the Reserve Bank, and of the disabilities which the commercial banks will suffer in this change-over which takes place to-night. The change is considerable, but I feel sure that the disabilities will be much more than outweighed by the advantages which will accrue, both to the commercial banks and to the community in general as the Reserve Bank grows in strength and influence.

Mr John Dougall said: As one of the bank's auditors, I would say that for three or four years we have had to perform our responsible audit duties at the end of a passage. The existing accommodation for the head office is most unsuitable, and I think it is most desirable and necessary that more suitable premises should be obtained, in order that the bank's business may be more efficiently attended to.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman, in replying, expressed appreciation of the remarks made by Mr Rennie in connection with the report presented, and also for the statement regarding the coal industry. He (the chairman) trusted that Mr Rennie's views on the subject would receive in the proper quarter the attention they deserved, and that the question of shipping facilities, railway rates, &c., would be duly dealt with. The coal mines of this country were an asset of enormous value, but it was obvious that no one would buy our coal if supplies of equal quality could be obtained cheaper elsewhere. It behoved all who had the interests of the country at heart to do what they could to educate and strengthen public opinion regarding the Government's policy towards the coal mines.

Referring to the remarks of Sir Evelyn Wallers regarding the accommodation for the head office, the Chairman said that the matter had not been overlooked by the board, but, owing to the existing conditions, they had not come forward with a proposal for the erection of a new building. What had been said at the meeting, however, was perfectly correct, and it was certainly bad for efficiency that the head office staff should have to work under the conditions at present prevailing. In view of the remarks now made, however, he took it that it was the wish of the meeting that the board should regard themselves as armed with a mandate to consider what could be done with a view to improving the position. Naturally, strict economy must be observed, but he agreed with Sir Evelyn Wallers that it would be a good investment to provide adequate head office accommodation.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. Sir Harry Ross Skinner moved that the appointments by the board of Mr Walter S. Webber, M.L.A., and Mr Charles Maggs as directors of the bank be confirmed.

Mr Robt. Hamilton seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring directors, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, Mr J. B. Taylor, and Mr J. Emrys Evans, were re-elected.

On the motion of Mr A. H. Rennie, seconded by Mr E. H. Johnston, the remuneration for the past audit was fixed at six hundred guineas, and Mr Robert Baikie and Messrs Dougall, Lance and Hewitt were appointed auditors for the current year.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF.

Mr J. B. Taylor, in proposing a vote of thanks to the general manager and staff, said: I would like to propose a vote of thanks to the general manager and to the staff. At this time last year the relations between the staff and the bank were not very satisfactory. Since then, however, we have heard from you, Mr Chairman, and from the report delivered this morning, that the relationship has improved. We are hopeful that it will continue to improve, and that any future differences which may arise between the staff and the bank will always be settled in a reasonable and amicable way.

Since we last met, Mr Dunlop has been appointed general manager, and he has given us the greatest satisfaction. We feel that we have been fully justified in making the appointment, as he has proved himself fully capable of handling all the manifold difficulties which have confronted him.

For those in and near Johannesburg the strike period was a very trying one, and we ought to congratulate ourselves on the excellent bearing maintained by the staff throughout the strike.

It is also a matter of congratulation for us to have Mr Leisk as our chairman and managing director. His brilliant career needs no eulogies from me. We are very fortunate, indeed, in having secured Mr Leisk's services, and we hope he will long be able to continue to direct the bank's affairs. I feel that we may rest assured that with our affairs in the hands of Mr Leisk and Mr Dunlop we may be well satisfied.

The General Manager briefly acknowledged the compliment, whereupon the proceedings terminated.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY. NEW SCHEME UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

A special general meeting of the proprietors and debenture stockholders of the South-Eastern Railway Company was held, on the 1st instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, for the purpose of considering, and, if so determined, of approving the preliminary scheme for the amalgamation of the South-Eastern Railway Company, the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company, and the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee, as outlined in the circular letter to the shareholders and debenture stockholders of June 27th last.

Mr H. Cosmo O. Bonsor (the chairman of the company) presided, and, in moving the resolution, outlined the course of the negotiations with the Chatham Company and the difficulties which had arisen.

Consequently, they came to the conclusion that absorption was impossible, and he deprecated the suggestions that this company was by Mr Rodocanachi and other gentlemen that this company was absorbing the Chatham. They had come to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary to form a new company under the Railways Act to take over the two companies, and it was a new company that they were asking the stockholders to form that day. It was also the unanimous decision of the two boards that neither company was to gain advantage or to suffer disadvantage, and it was further agreed that the basis of amalgamation should be the net revenue of each company on the published figures of 1920. As a fact, when the 1921 figures came into existence, it so happened that

there was a fractional difference in favour of the Chatham shareholders if they accepted the 1920 figures. However, they, the South-Eastern board, said that the Chatham were welcome to that advantage. They had also come to an understanding that when the Southern Group was formed there should be five directors nominated by the South-Eastern Company and three directors nominated by the Chatham Company to serve on the new board.

ALLOCATION OF THE NEW CAPITAL.

The figures of the net revenue of the two companies having been ascertained and checked, the experts agreed that to produce the same joint income and not to interfere with the priority of any existing stocks the capital of the new company should, in rough figures, be as follows:—Debentures and annuities, £16,000,000; preference stocks, £21,500,000; preference stock (1922)—a new stock to cover some of the Chatham preference stock—£5,715,170; ordinary stock, £10,000,000; and then a contingent ordinary stock of £5,900,000. There was no possible dispute as to the accuracy of those figures. To the South-Eastern Company were allotted £9,900,000 of annuities and debentures, £14,100,000 of preference, and £10,000,000 of ordinary; to the Chatham were allotted £6,100,000 of debentures, £7,400,000 of preference, and £11,600,000 preference (1922) stock and contingent ordinary. That allocation was mathematically correct, and carried out the agreement that there was to be no advantage or disadvantage to any stockholder. So far as the board were aware, the South-Eastern shareholders had accepted the arrangement, and he would now deal with the Chatham position and the criticisms which it had aroused. He claimed that those criticisms were based on an absolute misunderstanding. The point was that the Act of Parliament made amalgamation compulsory, and the only fair way of achieving that was to arrive at the net revenue of the two companies, to capitalise those revenues, and to allocate to each company the total amount of debenture, preference and ordinary stock so as to facilitate eventually the amalgamation with the other constituent companies in the Southern Group. The Stock Exchange value of securities was often based on dividends without taking other considerations into account.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVIDEND.

The South-Eastern board for the years 1920 and 1921 could have recommended the payment of an increased dividend beyond the 4½ per cent. on their undivided ordinary stock, but there was an understanding with the other large companies that they would not suggest an increase of dividend so long as they were drawing upon the Government compensation fund to make up loss of traffic. That the Chatham board did increase their dividend for 1921 was mainly due to an augmentation in the revenue of that company's separate estate. Criticisms on the treatment of the Chatham Arbitration preference stock had all been based on the fact that the South-Eastern Company paid 4½ per cent. on their ordinary stock. That was absolutely fallacious. It was 4½ per cent. on the ordinary stock of the new company that had to be taken into consideration in discussing the position of the Chatham Arbitration preference stock. The figures could not be disputed.

As regarded the opposition, they had the power to postpone the inevitable to a hearing before the Tribunal, but he respectfully suggested to the Chatham shareholders that they should consider the position they would be in under such conditions. There would be the South-Western, the Brighton, the South-Eastern, the managing committee, and, he presumed, the Chatham Board putting forward one scheme and a small body of Chatham shareholders putting forward another. That, too, was not the worst. They must amalgamate before January 1st or there would be absolute chaos. The risk and danger would be very great if the small number of opposition shareholders had their way.

Sir Alfred W. Smithers seconded the motion, which, after some discussion, was carried unanimously.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED. (INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.) **REDUCTION OF GOLD PREMIUM.**

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in the board room, second floor, "The Corner House," Johannesburg, on Monday, May 29, 1922, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr F. R. Lynch, the chairman of the company, presided.

The Chairman said: In Brakpan Mines we have a large property, the major portion of which is unexplored, and it is desirable to push development forward as rapidly as possible. During the past year the development footage accomplished totalled some 22,555 feet, of which 1,024 feet were driven from the new No. 3 and No. 4 shafts. At December 31st last the payable ore reserve was calculated at 2,423,230 tons, averaging 8.61 dwt over 68.13 inches, or 587 inch-dwt, as compared with 2,526,517 tons, averaging 8.88 dwt over 70.08 inches, or 622 inch-dwt a year earlier. This is a reduction of 103,287 tons in the reserve of payable ore, while the value is slightly decreased.

The tonnage crushed during the year totalled 659,800 tons, which is an increase of 63,300 tons over the previous year. The yield was declared at 345 0.17d per ton milled, a fall of 2s 5.43d per ton, but as a set-off against this the working costs show a reduction of 2s 4.26d at 27s 2.36d per ton. The welcome reduction in working costs was mainly due to improved efficiency in breaking rock, although some improvements were made in other directions. For the current year a yield of between 33s and 34s per ton is expected.

Although the declared yield is returned at 34s 0.17d per ton, the actual yield for the year averaged 36s 5.53d. Your directors, having in mind that heavy capital expenditure would have to be incurred in connection with the equipment of the lease area, and also that there were no capital funds to draw upon, decided to overmine for a short period in order that a sum of £100,000 in excess of the average yield of the mine should be accumulated. In all 19,116 ounces of fine gold were placed to gold reserve, the standard value being £80,723. The overmining enabled us to take advantage of the premium on gold, and the actual value of the gold won was £100,619, or £20,000 in excess of its standard value. Difficult times call for extreme measures, and in this case the average value of the areas mined from was only .42 of a dwt above the average value of the payable ore reserve; therefore it had little influence on the value of the present ore reserve.

The total working profit for the year, exclusive of the value of the gold in reserve, amounted to £490,246, or £52,000 less than in 1920, but this is more than accounted for by a reduction of £71,000 in the amount received from premium on gold. The amount to the credit of appropriation account was £630,254, made up of £34,089 carried forward from 1920, £495,545 working profit, and £100,620 from gold in reserve. This sum has been dealt with as follows: £71,820 was appropriated for Government taxes; £24,169 was paid to the Government as its participation in profits, and £5,395 in respect of the Schapenrust claims; £49,493 was credited to development suspense; £180,000 was appropriated for capital expenditure, and £255,000 was absorbed in the payment of two dividends, each of 15 per cent. The balance of £44,467 was carried forward.

In order to meet the cost of development, a charge of 5s per ton milled is made to working costs, but the footage driven last year called for a larger amount than the fixed working cost charge, and it was necessary to appropriate the balance out of profits. Our capital commitments required £180,000, therefore we had to raise £80,000 over and above the amount provided through the gold in reserve, and this was done from the revenue for the year.

The report and accounts were adopted.

SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED. (INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.) **INCREASE IN ORE RESERVES.**

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in the Board Room, 2nd Floor, "The Corner House," Johannesburg, on Monday, May 29, 1922, at 12 o'clock noon. Mr F. R. Lynch, the chairman of the company, presided.

The Chairman said:—Under the provisions of the Lease Agreement the Consolidated Mines Selection Company was called upon during the year to take up 60,000 ordinary shares in the capital of your company at £3 per share, and the issued capital was thereby increased to £1,327,236. Of the 60,000 shares called up, the proceeds of 57,000 shares were applied to shaft sinking and equipment, and the balance to the redemption of the debenture debt. There still remains 172,764 shares, of a nominal value of 20s. each, to be taken up in terms of the Lease Agreement at £3 per share. As is pointed out in the directors' report, debentures to the nominal value of £11,135 were purchased, and these, together with the surplus purchases from the previous year, exceeded the amount

required to fulfil the obligation under the debenture trust deed to redeem £17,110 debentures during the year. No drawing of debentures, therefore, took place. The amount of debentures outstanding at the end of the year was £86,945.

The profit for the year, including the gold premium, amounted to £397,803, which is some £40,000 less than the profit for the previous year. The revenue per ton milled was 37s 2.50d, against 37s 10.15d, but on the other hand working costs show a welcome reduction from 30s 8.11d to 29s 8.36d; thus the fall in value is more than counter-balanced for the reduction in costs. The reduced price realised for our gold is solely responsible for the fall in the profit.

The amount credited to appropriation account, including the £59,284 carried forward from the previous year, was £452,826, which sum was dealt with as follows: Taxation absorbed £38,929, Government participation in profits £15,641, development suspense account £127,239, and dividend account—two dividends of 7½ per cent. each—£197,585. This leaves £73,430 to be carried forward to the next account. I am pleased to say that the provincial gold profits tax was repealed during the year, and that the Provincial Government no longer has the power to tax the mining industry.

Development was pushed forward with all despatch during the period under review, as is shown by the fact that the total footage accomplished amounted to 22,969 feet, which is an increase of 4,561 feet over the previous year. Of this footage, 16,221 feet were on reef and 16,055 feet were sampled, the average value being 23.54 dwt over 17.25 inches. The payable footage totalled 8,630 feet, equal to 53.8 per cent. of the footage sampled, giving an average value of 30.74 dwt over 22.10 inches, or 679 inch-dwt. This result is the highest obtained since crushing was started.

The recalculation of the ore reserve at the end of the year showed an increase for the year of 330,053 tons, the total reserve being 3,056,231 tons, assaying 8.92 dwt over 61.54 inches, or 549 inch-dwt. In certain sections of the mine areas of considerable promise were opened up. I would specially refer to the eastern section off the East Haulage, where a shoot was encountered containing 674,000 tons—as far as it has been opened up—averaging 10.77 dwt over 60.12 inches. The limits of the shoot have not been reached, and there is a good prospect that this year's operations will result in a considerable additional tonnage of payable ore being added to the reserve from this ore body. Generally speaking, I may say that the development results for the past year were excellent, and there is every promise that the results for the present year will be equally satisfactory.

The report and accounts were adopted.

RIO DE JANEIRO FLOUR MILLS AND GRANARIES, LIMITED. **BONUS DISTRIBUTION.**

An extraordinary general meeting of the Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries, Limited, was held, on the 1st instant, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Great Swan alley, Moorgate, London, to consider resolutions providing for an increase in the nominal capital to £1,500,000 by the creation of 500,000 additional shares of £1 each, and the distribution of a special bonus of 5s per share, free of income-tax.

Mr Richard Foster, who presided, said: Since our last increase in capital in August, 1919, we have more than doubled the reed space of the looms of the cotton mill; we have acquired more land round our factory; we have taken an interest in a biscuit factory which shapes well to be a paying concern; and, also, we have an interest in a small flour mill in Bahia, which, although not yet working—in fact, at present all the capital is not called up—we have little doubt should also be a paying business from the start, which, it is hoped, will be early next year. Beyond this we have made, and are making, many alterations to our flour mill buildings and machinery, which should not only materially increase the output and quality of our flour, but also reduce the cost of manufacture, not least of these being the improved facilities for discharging wheat cargoes.

Mr Richard Foster, who presided, said: Since our last increase in capital in August, 1919, we have more than doubled the reed space of the looms of the cotton mill; we have acquired more land round our factory; we have taken an interest in a biscuit factory which shapes well to be a paying concern; and, also, we have an interest in a small flour mill in Bahia, which, although not yet working—in fact, at present all the capital is not called up—we have little doubt should also be a paying business from the start, which, it is hoped, will be early next year. Beyond this we have made, and are making, many alterations to our flour mill buildings and machinery, which should not only materially increase the output and quality of our flour, but also reduce the cost of manufacture, not least of these being the improved facilities for discharging wheat cargoes.

All of these are essentially capital items, and the cost more equals the amount proposed for issued capital. It is, I think, needless for me to say that we have gone very carefully into things from every point of view before asking you to sanction an increase of capital, and the distribution of a bonus, to be taken, if you wish it, in the humanly possible that the company should be in a position to pay good dividends on the issued capital that we now recommend. The resolutions were carried unanimously.

The Chairman then stated that in view of the present market for shareholders to take the bonus in the form of new shares rather than in cash. The rights to the new shares could be sold on the Stock Exchange, through bankers or brokers, for considerably more than the cash value of the bonus. The allotment letters would be posted, they hoped, on the 17th instant.

THRELFALL'S BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED. **ACQUISITION OF NEW PROPERTIES.**

The thirty-fifth annual general meeting of Threlfall's Brewery Company, Limited, was held, on the 2nd inst., at the Cannon street Hotel, London.

Major C. M. Threlfall (the chairman) presided, and, in the course of his address, after paying tribute to the late chairman, Mr Charles Threlfall, the late Mr M. C. Buszard, K.C., who was trustee for the debenture-holders, and Mr P. J. Feeny, who was the managing director, said: In the first place, I would like to state what a difficult year we have had to contend with—what with the tremendous amount of unemployment and the high beer duty imposed, it has become almost impossible for the working man to afford his national beverage, and as only the Government can alter this, it is time, I think, they reduced their expenditure so as to enable the working man to obtain his refreshment at a reasonable charge. The item "investments" is increased, as compared with last year, by the sum of £73,454; and the number of issued preference shares is increased by 16,965 shares. These increases are due to our having acquired practically the whole of the share capital of Messrs Thoroughgood's Breweries, Limited, of Waterloo, an old-established and renowned brewery concern on the outskirts of Liverpool. In addition, a number of valuable licensed properties have been purchased during the year, both in the Liverpool and Manchester areas.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

The net trading profit amounts to £338,340. After deducting interest on debenture stock, interest on deposits, directors' fees, and compensation levy, and adding transfer fees and bank interest, there is a net profit of £278,874 for the year, which, together with the carry forward from last year, makes a total of £502,821 to be dealt with. We are again paying a bonus to our employees in recognition of their good services throughout the past year. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts, and that a dividend be paid at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, 1922, which, with the interim dividends, make 6 per cent. on the preference and 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year; the amount carried forward to next year being £232,553.

Mr W. G. West seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.						
			Bankers	Savings Banks.	Gold and Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Other.	Balance Bank of England.	£
1914.	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	..	9,294	9,286	11,423	
Aug. 26.	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	48.1	9,294	9,286	11,423	
1915.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536	20,536	
Dec. 29.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868	6,868	
1916.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868	6,868	
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868	6,868	
1917.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486	5,486	
1918.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566	4,566	
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802	2,802	
1920.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134	134	
Dec. 31.	343,826	15,599	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141	141	
Mar. 30.	323,884	14,965	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150	150	
June 29.	314,382	14,830	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143	143	
Sept. 28.	325,584	14,658	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161	161	
Dec. 28.	300,351	14,255	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	177	
Mar. 30.	295,374	13,338	..	..	28,500	19,450	16.3	254,312	250	250	
June 29.	298,635	13,068	..	..	27,500	20,650	16.1	257,411	142	142	
July 13.	297,611	13,194	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.2	255,488	167	167	
July 20.	296,447	12,883	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.3	253,995	185	185	
July 27.	299,730	12,915	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.0	257,343	152	152	
Aug. 3.	299,730	12,915	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.0	257,343	152	152	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £50,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Tuesday to Saturday, August 8-August 12, were opened on August 4, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £71,675,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £100½ will receive about 87 per cent., above in full. Tenders for Tuesday to Friday bills at £99 9s od will receive about 25 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 9s 2d. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 2s 10.76d.

The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £6,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £44,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
1922.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
June 30.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11.55	98 4 4.8
July 7.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 18 4.65	98 5 10.8
July 14.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10.06	99 0 5.16
July 21.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10.8	100 4 11.4
July 28.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6.41	100 14 0
Aug. 4.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10.76	100 6 5.42

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, August 11, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to July 29, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to July 30, 1921.	Week Ended July 29, 1922.	Week Ended July 30, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of England....	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
..	..	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	112,250,000	42,016,000	40,743,000	3,356,000	2,420,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	48,203,000	60,335,000	621,000	1,300,000
Motor Vehicle Duties..	10,600,000	2,147,000	1,851,000	..	..
Stamps.....	48,000,000	21,531,000	14,691,000	730,000	766,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	18,250,000	4,892,000	4,315,000	410,000	283,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax)..	3,000,000	520,000	420,000	10,000	10,000
Excise Profits Tax.....	329,000,000	86,795,000	93,142,000	5,915,000	5,812,000
Corporation Profits Tax	27,800,000	954,000	22,624,000	260,000	510,000
Post Office.....	19,750,000	4,917,000	3,506,000	240,000	240,000
Crown Lands.....	54,625,000	16,050,000	14,250,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	750,000	280,000	210,000	60,000	80,000
Miscellaneous.....	14,000,000	3,344,146	4,095,325	..	..
Ordinary Receipts..	22,000,000	14,464,735	7,520,849	150,450	1,350
Special Receipts....	90,000,000	20,027,020	31,592,070	1,106,252	4,235,544
Revenue.....	910,775,000	266,141,201	299,289,244	13,618,702	16,577,894
Total, inc. Balance ..	..	277,731,731	302,363,750	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	800,000	2,550,000	..	303,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	2,240,000	..	350,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921 ..	..	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	..	13,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	..	..	25,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	1,450,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	..	992,851,000	1,534,063,000	46,408,000	60,539,000
By National Savings Certificates	..	30,948,000	11,830,000	800,000	700,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	..	20	..	20	..
By Treasury Bonds:—					
5-15 year, 1925-35 ..	..	121,708	8,130,000	..	4,430,000
5½% 1927 ..	..	61,422,074	..	..	..
4½% 1932 ..	..	34,050,915	..	10,024,790	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	..	11,869	4,926,776	..	1,212,936
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	..	308,699,500	433,474,000	1,750,000	26,700,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired	..	243,012	..	..	..
Repayments:—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	..	19,018	9,186	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	..	265,460	1,650,250	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	..	87,358	85,532	..	..
Total.....	..	1,712,178,665	2,302,159,983	72,951,512	110,539,830

###

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to July 29, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to July 30, 1921.	Week Ended July 29, 1922.	Week Ended July 30, 1921.
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	2,550,000	200,000		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	84,909		
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,600,000	2,345,000	650,000	
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	2,000,000	2,000,000		
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	13,000	27,500		
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	25,000			
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..	650,000			
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	1,120,254,000	1,451,986,000	57,160,000	65,795,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919	4,671,347	14,501,276	700,538	
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	2,750,000			
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	9,150,000	4,800,000	400,000	1,250,000
(b) Repaid otherwise		5,600,000		
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5% 1922, £20,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000 ..	19,612,188			
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	9,441,601	20,907,943	1,116,396	2,527,534
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	296,753,500	434,239,000	4,150,000	18,450,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	9,080,067		100,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012			
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4) ..		5,740,000		575,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 15 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200		
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	1,708,503,529	2,299,270,787	73,305,905	110,789,833
Bank of Ireland	2,039,747	1,955,934	48,968	20,087
Bank of Scotland	1,635,389	933,262	403,361	270,140
Total	3,675,136	2,889,196	354,393	250,953

Note—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

Treasury, August 1, 1922.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 2, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	144,028,590
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion	125,578,590

144,028,590 144,028,590

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Capital	14,553,000
Reserve	3,440,628
Public deposits	15,355,592
Other deposits	107,969,763
Seven-day & other bills	16,642
Government securities	44,279,881
Other securities	76,980,414
Notes	18,254,400
Gold and silver coin	1,820,930
141,335,625	141,335,625

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Aug. 2, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,440,628	+ 39,063	+ 17,241
Public deposits	15,355,592	+ 1,058,958	+ 961,988
Other deposits	107,969,763	+ 393,291	+ 740,369
Government securities	44,279,881	+ 2,224,972	+ 3,317,074
Other securities	76,980,414	+ 4,737,117	+ 301,055
Notes	1,020,970	+ 1,992,044	+ 2,924,985
Reserve	125,774,190	+ 1,016,560	+ 982,941
Gold and silver coin	127,399,520	+ 4,410	+ 14
% of reserve to liabilities	164%	— 1%	+ 14%

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS £7,657,433
CLAIMS PAID £27,500,000

Employers' Liability, Motor Cars, Fidelity Guarantees, Fire and Burglary, Public Liability, Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts, Executorships and Trusteeships.

Head Office: 38-44 MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
May 10, 1922.	128,887,939	121,591,685	142,438,187	134,402,217	25,746,254	18%	4%
June 10, 1922.	128,875,247	121,070,755	139,061,838	130,549,595	25,258,472	18%	4%
July 10, 1922.	128,881,009	122,715,860	132,436,975	123,780,787	26,440,867	18%	4%
Aug. 10, 1922.	128,886,129	122,513,410	132,556,836	123,615,149	25,376,531	17%	4%
May 10, 1921.	128,884,081	121,572,810	141,479,390	134,418,206	24,822,719	17%	4%
June 10, 1921.	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	120,304,710	25,376,531	19%	4%
July 10, 1921.	128,946,693	123,048,010	131,435,226	124,946,319	25,960,416	20%	4%
Aug. 10, 1921.	128,458,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	145,807,495	24,348,683	18%	4%
May 10, 1920.	127,900,698	124,248,705	124,987,104	125,766,661	22,101,993	17%	4%
June 10, 1920.	127,402,138	124,255,265	126,641,810	122,955,489	21,595,893	17%	4%
July 10, 1920.	127,403,930	124,757,630	121,873,106	118,748,150	21,096,300	17%	4%
Aug. 10, 1920.	127,399,520	125,774,190	123,325,355	121,260,295	20,075,330	16%	4%

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	July 31, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Aug. 4, 1920.	Aug. 3, 1921.	Aug. 2, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	30,083,930	28,933,380	126,489,075	128,699,175	125,774,190
Public deposits	17,973,473	19,014,809	17,462,454	16,317,580	15,355,592
Other deposits	41,802,409	41,248,964	130,685,798	108,710,132	107,969,763
Government securities	13,982,472	11,046,570	76,265,940	47,596,955	44,279,881
Other securities	34,757,797	41,461,280	74,788,565	77,281,469	76,980,414
Reserve of notes and coin	29,088,909	25,463,980	15,069,100	18,133,285	20,075,330
Coin and bullion	40,722,839	35,947,360	123,108,175	128,382,461	127,399,520
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	48%	42%	10%	14%	16%
Bank rate of discount	3%	3%	7%	5%	4%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	3%	3%	7%	5%	4%
Price of Consols	74½	74½	68½	74½	74½
Price of silver per oz.	27½d	26½d	57½d	49½d	59
Average price of wheat	38s 9d	33s 0d	84s 11d	75s 8d	55s 10d
Exchanges					
Paris	25 23/64	25 17/8	49 80/100	46 75/8	53 75/8
New York	84 3/4	84 7/8	83 56/64	83 56/64	84 43/64
Amsterdam	12 1/4	12 1/8	10 85/91	11 65/68	11 49/64
Berlin	20 48/100	20 49/100	163 1/71	295 2/96	3100 3800
Clearing house return	326,853,300	199,913,000	688,298,000	637,551,000	750,007,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—July 26	20,592,349,000	1,633,916,000	22,226,265,000
August 2	699,732,000	50,275,000	750,007,000
Total to date 1922	21,292,081,000	1,684,191,000	22,976,272,000
Do 1921	18,929,813,000	1,837,739,000	20,767,552,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,362,268,000	+ 153,552,000	+ 2,515,820,000
%	12%	8%	10%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
%	8%	26%	10%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Aggregate Totals to July 29.	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
BIRMINGHAM	79,655,000	66,894,900	- 12,760,100
BRISTOL	45,025,000	43,734,000	- 1,291,000
DUBLIN	212,556,400	188,519,200	- 24,037,200
LIVERPOOL	34,708,300	33,187,400	- 1,520,900
MANCHESTER	23,699,500	24,554,800	+ 855,300
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	258,441,600	250,225,900	- 8,215,700
NOTTINGHAM	425,244,700	447,451,000	+ 22,206,300
SHEFFIELD	56,697,500	56,402,600	- 294,900
Other towns	21,935,600	20,012,300	- 1,923,300
Total	36,410,300	27,662,500	- 8,747,800

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	July 28, 1922.	July 21, 1922.	July 14, 1922.	July 29, 1921.
Resources.				
Total gold reserve	3,054,530	3,045,340	3,045,340	2,531,230
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	126,970	123,990	123,990	1,210,120
Bills discounted for member banks	379,980	443,460	429,940	1,650,500
Bills bought in open market	156,140	148,970	157,680	19,420
Government obligations owned	540,800	541,850	556,770	249,480
All other resources	66,300	66,100	65,710	50,560
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	46,460	49,380	20,840	31,710
Other deposits	1,841,660	1,893,160	1,904,120	1,281,100
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,126,810	2,132,850	2,158,120	2,537,620
All other liabilities	63,620	66,050	67,380	125,140
Capital and surplus	21,280	20,720	21,450	17,550
Ratio of total reserve to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	79.2%	77.8%	77.3%	63.4%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.				
Cash and bank balances	439,802	460,869	447,024	496,566
Bank balances abroad	136,159	127,358	64,314	67,843
Call and short loans	287,786	278,175	267,419	269,187
Securities	313,490	342,989	353,663	394,062
Loans in Canada	1,236,934	1,259,799	1,239,496	1,377,093
Loans abroad	144,896	150,715	151,970	159,087
Other assets	101,906	98,919	98,870	107,976
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation	155,652	164,724	162,651	193,053
Deposits—				
Government	96,412	145,753	124,699	154,499
Public in Canada	1,691,975	1,720,566	1,714,862	1,868,150
Foreign	367,434	275,525	265,748	269,074
Bank balances—				
Canadian	8,793	9,714	8,828	11,563
Foreign	37,171	45,612	45,775	38,956
Bills payable, &c.	25,758	22,648	23,561	45,785
Other liabilities	4,182	3,012	2,546	3,870
Capital and rest	254,291	254,248	254,242	264,202

BANK OF FRANCE.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 3, 1922.	July 27, 1922.	July 20, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,530,360	5,530,149	5,529,780	5,521,285	5,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	632,650
Silver coin and bullion	285,355	285,225	285,225	285,225	2,327,775
Discount and advances	4,691,407	4,293,217	4,293,708	5,221,205	5,811,875
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	36,399,294	36,049,939	36,369,763	37,364,595	5,811,875
Government deposits	25,415	79,990	42,853	36,285	183,770
Private deposits	2,357,561	2,352,183	2,379,916	2,788,875	845,560

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	June 24, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

[August 5, 1922.]

BANK OF NORWAY.
(000's omitted.)

	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	July 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Join and bullion—Gold	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,291	44,294
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,791	38,569	39,027	30,945	28,533
Foreign and Foreign Government securities	9,814	9,814	9,814	8,507	8,816
Discounts and loans	439,007	440,833	438,479	430,907	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	379,447	381,555	385,501	423,108	113,484
Deposits at notice	134,639	134,480	126,732	85,887	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 his day included.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.
(000's omitted.)

	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	June 16, 1922.	July 8, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Govt. securities	15,26.83	7,72.38	7,97.65	7,96.41	15,24.89
Other securities	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,35.24
Loans	14,35.16	14,20.91	14,82.45	15,63.70	13,45.22
Cash credits	25,82.78	26,23.93	25,77.32	26,48.29	21,41.81
Indian bills	4,51.99	4,65.08	4,77.52	4,85.21	11,88.38
Foreign bills	5.17	4.18	3.58	3.71	6.4
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	2,42.39	2,47.26	2,48.35	2,48.22	2,09.70
Dead stock	34.08	92.44	66.74	63.72	33.51
Surpluses	15.75	6.03	6.27	6.38	19.29
Balances with other banks	33,92.06	33,91.85	29,41.82	25,06.60	33,69.16
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24.52	11,24.40	11,24.40	11,24.40	10,67.72
Capital paid up	5,62.38	5,62.35	5,62.35	5,62.35	5,48.18
Reserve	4,01.83	4,01.83	4,01.83	4,01.83	3,71.34
Public deposits	26,80.61	16,69.94	15,24.55	14,55.53	16,26.39
Other deposits	60,41.43	62,96.84	60,32.62	58,26.31	72,40.09
Loans against securities	50.03	49.83	50.43	50.53	76.01
Loans from Govt. of India	78.24	1,71.58	1,58.23	1,54.00	1,06.48
Surpluses	122	60	61	61	25
Deposits in London	356	351	358	359	510
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	100	35	37	37	116

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.
(000's omitted.)

	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	May 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	3,362	3,358	3,357	3,360	1,571
Government securities	38,779	39,150	39,434	38,966	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	30,322	33,692	31,112	32,855	2,400
Government deposits	3,069	3,668	3,598	2,415	2,315
Other deposits	12,401	12,240	11,431	13,656	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.
(000's omitted.)

	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,626	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	122,978	123,766	113,775	384,719	90,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities	718,554	718,554	718,554	915,761	81,826
Discounts and loans	800,772	810,512	821,828	346,200	106,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,320,865	1,342,580	1,363,612	1,330,516	123,941
Deposits at notice	123,351	121,177	90,925	130,909	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.
(000's omitted.)

	June 21, 1922.	June 14, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	June 22, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion	26,714	26,744	26,757	26,902	27,719
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	2,583	3,544	3,894	4,092	2,865
Discounts	135,132	135,774	139,955	141,724	119,300
Government loans	700,099	700,099	700,099	680,099	588,111
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	808,413	811,724	807,020	796,627	648,037
Deposits	47,129	45,454	51,906	52,498	53,167

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.
(000's omitted.)

	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Sept. 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	38,101	38,044	38,006	37,953	37,891	37,883
Silver	20,252	20,583	20,866	21,081	21,415	21,910
Treasury notes	107,613	111,535	117,032	119,355	158,135	161,327
Bills discounted	17,292	9,041	10,427	9,330	8,128	5,656
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,602,489	3,587,627	3,615,440	3,629,035	3,517,516	3,414,597
Deposits	1,325,322	1,442,811	1,277,157	1,159,580	1,129,340	1,241,428

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.
(000's omitted.)

	June 20, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 10, 1922.	June 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	30,824	30,121	28,879	29,649	14,300
Silver	44,058	44,015	43,916	43,894	39,700
Foreign banks	153,658	130,179	159,222	146,302	39,200
Advances to the Govt.	19,176,513	23,492,096	1,392,263	220,000,000	130,625,000
Private loans and discounts	64,934,972	60,822,650	58,746,277	56,227,555	6,863,800
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	285,677,146	276,001,108	267,096,561	266,547,602	102,697,300
Deposits	30,056,676	51,649,766	53,636,427	54,503,177	33,969,000

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.
(000's omitted.)

	July 1, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	March 31, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Total cash	Lat. Rbls. 281,851	Lat. Rbls. 244,836	Lat. Rbls. 242,320	Lat. Rbls. 189,191
Foreign bank	467,879	494,194	363,976	103,071
Discounts and loans	293,500	449,631	379,011	404,266
Other assets	762,121	422,266	278,806	62,276
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	300,000	304,929	304,929	304,929
Reserve	4,929	857,182	423,518	397,582
Deposits	565,430	934,993	448,816	535,666
Other liabilities				56,294

BANK OF ESTHONIA.
(000's omitted.)

	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.
ASSETS.			
Gold and foreign coin	E. Marks. 217,670	E. Marks. 192,212	E. Marks. 81,944
Total cash	315,451	291,096	158,657
Foreign banks	1,187,923	869,984	207,555
Discounts and loans	2,305,754	2,305,864	1,399,774
LIABILITIES.			
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,771	10,674
Notes in circulation	700,000	700,000	350,000
Deposits	2,997,241	2,621,064	1,103,823

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.
(000's omitted.)

	July 23, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 23, 1921.
ASSETS.					
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,096,710	10,096,710	10,096,710	10,096,710	9,528,671
Discounts and advances	2,043,004	2,034,516	2,057,840	2,074,104	3,471,216
Gold and silver holdings	693,340	687,952	682,562	670,579	..
Foreign bills & balances abrd	802,997	860,708	589,419	583,711	..
Other assets	1,116,042	1,103,202	1,093,580	1,032,827	2,447,166
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circulation	9,368,597	9,509,259	9,729,784	9,838,205	10,660,319
Deposits	3,111,251	2,962,411	2,502,859	2,347,288	2,275,279
Other liabilities	2,270,245	2,311,418	2,287,468	2,323,438	2,511,455

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENE.
(000's omitted.)

	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	July 22, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	63,672	63,672	63,668	63,268	75,127
Other coin and notes	16,874	16,885	16,873	17,459	23,089
Foreign credits	280,780	275,120	275,948	283,465	344,369
Bills	871,169	859,050	853,709	843,060	179,996
Govt. advances	4,523,160	4,543,161	4,583,157	4,498,273	4,072,205
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	4,803,275	4,844,366	4,853,558	4,741,466	3,841,029
State credits	333,887	333,887	333,883	333,982	375,645
Deposits	616,738	577,789	620,827	636,072	422,036

LONDON RATES.

	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	June 22, 1922.	July 22, 1921.
Bank rate (reduced from 3½% July 13, 1922)	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Market rates of discount—					
60 days' bankers' drafts	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
3 months' do.	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
4 months' do.	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
6 months' do.	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
Discount (Treasury Bills):—					
3 months'	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
Loans—Day to day	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
60 days'	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
Deposit allowances: Banks	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	2
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	2

† Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks:—

		BANK BILLS.						TRADE BILLS.					
		3 Months.		4 Months.		6 Months.		3 Months.		4 Months.		6 Months.	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
May	1922.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	19	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	26	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
June	2	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	9	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	16	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	23	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	30	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
July	7	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	14	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	21	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
	28	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4
Aug.	4	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4	4

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

	Present Rate.	Date Changed.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.
Discount	1½	July 13, 1922	2	June 15, 1922.
Deposit	1½	June 15, 1922	2	Feb. 16, 1922.

August 5, 1922.]

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Amsterdam	Changed.
Athens	July 18, 1922 .. 5½
Berlin	May 11, 1922 .. 5½
Brussels	Apr. 27, 1922 .. 5
Bucharest	July 11, 1922 .. 5½
Calcutta	June 14, 1919 .. 64
Christiana	July 1, 1922 .. 4½
Copenhagen	May 16, 1922 .. 5½
Helsingfors	Apr. 25, 1922 .. 5
Lisbon	Nov. 8, 1920 .. 8
New York Federal Reserve ..	Sept. 3, 1920 .. 7
Paris	June 21, 1922 .. 4
Riga	July 1, 1922 .. 5½
Rome	Apr. 27, 1922 .. 5
Sofia	June 14, 1919 .. 64
Stockholm	July 1, 1922 .. 4½
Swiss Bank	Mar. 2, 1922 .. 3½
Tokyo	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Vienna	Nov. 23, 1921 .. 7
Warsaw	Sep., 1921 .. 7

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 28, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25.224	46.48.51	53.85.90
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20.43	290-293	2475-2485
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	3100-3300	14000-15500
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	282-287	192-195
Warsaw	zlotys to £1	T.T.	20.43	6850	25000-28000
Bucharest	lei to £1	T.T.	25.224	280-285	680-710
Budapest	forint to £1	T.T.	24.02	6500-6700	10000

Sir David Yule, Bart., has accepted the chairmanship of the Alliance Bank of Simla, Limited.

LIABILITIES.		June 30, 1922.	ASSETS.		June 30, 1922.
Amount.	£	Compared with June 30, 1921.	Amount.	£	Compared with June 30, 1921.
Pref. stock	2,000,000	..	Purchase money,	5,876,157	+ 64,83
Ord. shares	300,000	..	&c.....	750,220	+ 32,08
Creditors	4,738,699	- 300,506	Casks	1,187,248	- 184,05
Pref. dividend	68,683	- 699	Books debts	7,123,774	- 1,062,65
Exc. prop. res.			Stock	592,646	
account	430,122	- 989,157	Investments	1,609,744	+ 706,90
Reserve	3,200,000	+ 200,000			
Profit and loss	1,702,288	+ 647,476			
Total	17,139,789	- 442,886	Total	17,139,789	- 442,886

SALVADOR RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, 7 PER CENT. 10-YEAR DEFERRED INTEREST CERTIFICATES.—Interest at 7 per cent. per annum for the six months to August 15th will be paid, together with coupon No. 46 of the 5 per cent. mortgage debentures also due August 15th, in cash on and after that date at the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, 62 Old Broad street, E.C.

ANGLO-DUTCH PLANTATIONS OF JAVA.—We are informed that the directors of the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, Limited, have concluded an agreement with the General Rubber Company of New York, whereby the latter agree to take the entire output of standard rubber of the former company from October 1st of the current year to the end of 1924, after providing for existing contracts. The rubber is deliverable, ex godowna, on the estate, and the price to be the average of the daily quotations for London, spot standard quality, calculated monthly, with a minimum of 8d per lb, and a maximum of rs 4d per lb, the maximum and minimum to be increased by the amount of any export tax in existence at the time the price is calculated. This contract is automatically renewable for further periods of two years unless same is terminated by six months' notice by either party. The directors of the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, Limited, are satisfied with this agreement, as in their opinion methods of preparation will undergo drastic changes during the next few years, and to be working in co-operation with so important a manufacturing concern in America is, they consider, a very desirable position for the company to occupy.

266

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended July 29, 1922.			Aggregate 30 Weeks 1922.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Central (c) ...	676½	63,100	136,500	199,600	1,442,300	3,908,900	5,351,200
Do Joint Lines ...	161½	...	...	...	...	...	1,032,100
Great Eastern (c) ...	1,207½	157,900	94,800	252,700	3,315,700	2,824,300	6,140,000
Great Northern (c) ...	1,050	128,700	143,500	272,200	2,852,400	4,241,200	7,093,600
Great Western (d) ...	3,657	386,000	371,000	757,000	7,707,000	11,230,000	19,537,000
London & N. Western (d) ...	2,633	476,000	410,000	886,000	10,749,000	12,786,000	23,535,000
Lon. & South Western (d) ...	2,633	476,000	410,000	886,000	10,749,000	12,786,000	23,535,000
Lon. Brighton & S. C. (c) ...	487	131,339	28,390	160,229	2,695,278	861,811	3,557,089
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ...	423	1,437	1,884	3,321	35,196	55,467	90,662
Metropolitan (c) ...	79½	34,268	3,168	37,436	514,000	9,651,000	14,796,000
Midland (c) ...	1,585½	240,000	326,000	566,000	6,906,000	10,771,000	17,677,000
Midland & N. W. Jnc. (c) ...	63	1,745	2,026	3,771	41,098	43,736	84,834
North Eastern (c) ...	1,850	175,500	254,200	429,700	3,725,500	7,373,600	11,099,100
North London (c) ...	16	4,807	9,657	14,464	145,502	298,973	444,475
South-E. & Chatham (c) ...	654	193,800	45,500	239,300	3,826,900	1,272,500	5,099,400
Underground E.R. (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,761,874
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,474,895
Caledonian (c) ...	1,097	88,000	84,700	172,700	2,094,900	2,920,500	5,015,400
Glasgow and S. W. (c) ...	476	41,100	36,000	77,100	921,300	1,080,700	2,002,000
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ...	336½	13,400	7,650	21,050	270,520	280,510	550,830
Highland (c) ...	492 (a)	18,033	8,222	26,255	329,658	309,702	639,360
North British (c) ...	1,377½	95,500	101,400	196,900	1,898,300	3,487,500	5,385,800
Belfast and County Down (b) ...	80	7,259	1,247	8,506	154,890	41,269	196,159
Dublin and S. (b) ...	160	7,494	3,067	10,561	162,969	105,001	267,970
Midland & S. West. (b) ...	538	6,607	12,924	19,531	281,309	419,611	700,920

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended July 28, 1922.
(c) Week ended July 29, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal ...	13 weeks	July 1	1,043	Rs. 2,35,454	+ 1,55,175	Rs. 30,13,924	+ 12,98,757
Bahar L. Ry. ...	14 weeks	8	118	1,00,600	+ 76,100	87,730	+ 2,94,000
Bengal & N. Western ...	13 weeks	1	2,703	14,18,000	+ 81,468	87,730	+ 2,94,000
Bombay, Bar. & C. ...	17 weeks	29	2,871	18,92,000	+ 82,000	3,97,84,000	+ 46,85,300
Burnley Corporation ...	13 weeks	1	1,342	5,96,437	- 88	96,16,081	+ 20,73,406
Delhi, Umballa & Kalke ...	17 weeks	29	2,339	1,01,000	+ 5,257	16,62,239	+ 1,84,036
East Indian ...	17 weeks	29	2,772	29,02,000	+ 95,000	4,97,87,000	+ 15,66,000
G. Indian Peninsula ...	16 weeks	23	3,721	21,39,700	+ 2,000	4,46,51,230	+ 21,88,225
Madras & S. Mahr. ...	13 weeks	1	3,023	14,69,000	+ 1,08,183	1,35,38,611	+ 18,36,990
North India & Kashmir ...	13 weeks	1	259	6,439	+ 6,439	8,32,632	+ 1,16,36,990
Do Lucknow-Breilly ...	13 weeks	1	302	75,418	+ 11,516	11,02,050	+ 54,000
South Indian ...	14 weeks	8	1,852	9,92,972	+ 57,192	1,33,69,766	+ 17,25,264
Sikh. Punjab (month) ...	6 mths	Mar. 31	717	8,65,541	+ 23,696	46,77,799	+ 2,32,763
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E. ...	4 weeks	July 29	752	10,500	+ 2,100	40,200	+ 6,000
Argentine Trans. ...	4 weeks	29	111	1,070	+ 517	4,640	+ 2,482
B. A. and Pacific ...	4 weeks	29	3,428	126,000	+ 13,000	50,000	+ 5,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ...	4 weeks	30	3,947	150,000	+ 3,000	594,000	+ 50,000
B. A. Western ...	4 weeks	30	1,882	73,000	+ 17,000	295,000	+ 49,000
Buenos Ayres Cent. ...	11 mths	May 31	190	43,572	+ 3,265	497,759	+ 10,505
Central Argentine ...	4 weeks	July 29	3,305	192,000	+ 3,000	780,000	+ 8,000
Cordoba Central ...	4 weeks	29	1,205	68,060	+ 1,500	265,400	+ 30,600
Entre Rios ...	4 weeks	29	611	16,800	+ 4,100	65,800	+ 19,300
Brazil (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern ...	6 mths	June 30	52	Me 39,000	+ 14,500	245,750	+ 26,150
Gt. West. of Brazil ...	30 weeks	July 29	1,005	10,100	+ 1,400	390,500	+ 16,700
Leopoldina ...	30 weeks	29	1,831	35,062	+ 297	804,504	+ 165,059
San Paulo ...	30 weeks	30	1,554	28,563	+ 1,811	858,057	+ 34,227
State of Bahia, S.W. ...	2 mths	June 30	52	Me 90,000	+ 42,000	158,000	+ 69,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta ...	30 weeks	July 30	838	28,185	+ 14,245	594,335	+ 125,445
Arauco ...	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	+ 500	...	...
Nitrato (2 weeks) ...	30 weeks	July 31	366	22,702	+ 11,128	...	...
Peruvian Corp. ...	11 mths	May 31	1,059	81,342,500	+ 105,750	14,136,830	+ 1,066,720
Taitai ...	12 mths	June 30	172	11,010	+ 63	113,110	+ 168,050
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad ...	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$110,974	- 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,80,221
Havana Central ...	3 weeks	July 22	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana ...	4 weeks	30	1,210	8,984	+ 2,210	28,864	+ 7,773
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay ...	4 weeks	30	273	20,459	+ 630	85,834	+ 7,951
O. Urug. (East Ext.) ...	4 weeks	30	311	5,398	+ 64	17,512	+ 1,597
O. Urug. (North Ext.) ...	4 weeks	30	185	2,624	+ 293	7,112	+ 1,351
O. Urug. (West Ext.) ...	4 weeks	30	211	1,577	+ 538	7,112	+ 1,351
Midland Uruguay ...	12 mths	June 30	319	12,979	+ 224	168,877	+ 36,777
North-West Uruguay ...	11 mths	May 31	113	5,319	+ 142	69,844	+ 2,331
Uruguay North ...	12 mths	June 30	73	1,957	+ 555	24,850	+ 1,327
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia ...	30 weeks	July 29	33	Pe 21,000	+ 5,000	596,300	+ 107,400
Bilbao ...	6 mths	June 30	15	291	+ 1,171	7,212	+ 5,105
Bolivar ...	6 mths	June 30	136	8,000	+ 3,869	57,180	+ 5,447
Colombian Nat. Ry. ...	10 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	+ 1,340	193,391	+ 3,531
Costa Rica ...	11 mths	May 31	190	27,975	+ 8,679	236,221	+ 33,596
Dorado Ropewy, Ext. ...	5 mths	July 31	70	13,000	+ 5,500	62,750	+ 45,000
Dorado Ropewy, Ext. ...	5 mths	July 31	45	4,750	+ 412	28,750	+ 5,000
Egyptian Delta ...	14 weeks	July 10	659½	8,743	+ 18,715	80,605	+ 10,746
Gt. South. of Spain ...	29 weeks	22	104	Pe 63,559	+ 18,715	2,261,207	+ 76,416
International of ...	6 mths	June 30	Net	19,943	+ 9,042	190,819	+ 18,923
Central America ...	6 mths	June 30	Net	11,650	+ 1,050	71,150	+ 1,920
La Guaira & Caracas ...	7 mths	July 31	21	\$233,000	+ 62,500	724,000	+ 229,000
Mexican Railway ...	2 weeks	21	403	\$108,900	+ 193,100	1,274,600	+ 505,400
Do ...	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$161,600	+ 10,600	1,522,000	+ 503,200
Nasaj Ocarehamn ...	4 mths	Apr. 30	...	11,669	+ 2,105	41,369	+ 11,240
Ottoman Railway ...	1 week	July 29	193	5,854	+ 850	165,470	+ 43,780
Paraguay Central ...	47 weeks	May 27	274	Pe 311,374	+ 414,841	16,380,765	+ 5,299,660
Plaza Athens, &c. ...	9 mths	Feb. 28	35	4,500	+ 600	18,500	+ 250
Puerto Cabello, &c. ...	4 mths	Apr. 30	100	2,796	+ 159	15,996	+ 5,579
Salvador ...	4 weeks	July 29	...	127,600	+ 9,865	51,240	+ 8,809
Santa Fe Province ...	1 mth	June 30	...	13,320	+ 1,913	68,999	+ 16,646
Yamama & Santiago ...	6 mths	June 30	...	10,941	+ 1,689	...	...
Zaira and Huella ...	6 mths	June 30	...	...	...	...	...

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	234,202	236,625	400,430,580	+ 4,772,834	76,706,840	+ 54,882,820
Mar.	234,338	234,986	473,413,886	+ 16,059,426	113,468,943	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	235,333	234,931	416,240,237	- 15,866,410	80,514,981	+ 23,040,083
May	...	...	447,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,565	+ 28,004,928

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	
					1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	11 mths	May 31	Gross \$151,085	- 45,804	1,555,520	- 971,040
Canadian N.W.	28 weeks	July 21	Gross \$1,014,600	- 166,927	29,168,382	- 6,127,379
Canadian N.W.	5 mths	May 31	Gross \$4,870,500	+ 428,177	21,604,034	- 5,684,182
Canadian Pac.	30 weeks	July 31	Gross \$4,596,000	- 467,000	90,435,000	- 5,684,000
Canadian Pac.	6 mths	June 30	Gross \$15,810,000	- 651,000	76,295,000	- 7,761,000
Grand Trunk	28 weeks	July 21	Gross \$2,382,000	- 742,000	9,814,000	- 3,136,000
Pemiconia	1 mth	June 30	Gross \$244,193	+ 53,898	11,007,802	- 4,591,9

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	May 31	810	95,170	- 11,606	...	...
Mid. of W. Aust.	11 mths	31	277	10,096	+ 1,157	120,378	- 2,044
New Cape Central	36 weeks	July 8	205	2,223	- 17	72,264	+ 1,201
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	May 31	1,397	136,329	- 4,334	...	...

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	30 weeks	July 29	329	\$85,627	+ 11,261	2,501,132	+ 128,172
Burnley Corporation	2 weeks	29	12	\$3,228	- 333	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	30 weeks	29	354	\$111,400	+ 20,103	...	...
Chatham & District	29 weeks	20	15	\$1,841	+ 145	46,965	+ 911,610
Egyptian Markets	30 weeks	29	...	\$1,691	+ 45	52,738	- 2,728

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD.

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Aug. 3, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13.45	d 8.78	d 28.15	d 19.64	d 22.28	d 19.95
Bakellardis Fully Good Fair . . . per lb	18.00	16.00	68.00	31.00	30.19	30.75
Yarns—32's twist per lb	19.4	17.1	55	42.1	52	25.4
— 40's twist per lb	18.2	16.1	50.1	41.4	52	25.4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	28.3	31	58	60	65	44.4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's . . .	32	0	31	6	36	6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's . . .	31	6	31	0	31	6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	18	0	18	3	18	6
39-in. ditto, 39 yds, 16 by 16, 8 lbs	16	9	16	9	12	0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The wool sales closed in Coleman street to-day with values at the highest point of the series, and the weakness which developed during the June auctions has entirely disappeared. It must be confessed that the raw material market is much stronger than actual conditions in the consuming centres would seem to warrant, but it is manifest that traders have the fullest confidence in the future of merinos, and the withdrawal of New Zealand crossbreds by B.A.W.R.A. has undoubtedly helped to place these qualities on a firmer footing. At the moment the fly in the ointment is the uncertainty caused by the continued slump in the German mark. Traders express the hope that a financial collapse, with its attendant demoralising effects on trade generally, will be avoided, but many are beginning to get very anxious. This need occasion no surprise, when it is remembered that Germany is normally one of the strongest props of the wool market. However, apart from this disturbing element, there is little for traders to worry about. The firmness in the raw material market is having a hardening effect on tops, and quotations are being advanced wherever possible in keeping with the cost of wool in London. A good 64's top is now worth about 4s 7d for delivery in October and later months, and at least 4s 6d is wanted for an average top. A fair amount of business is being done, though topmakers are adopting a more independent attitude in consequence of being so well sold ahead. Crossbreds are on the slow side, and while quotations are nominally unchanged, some firms are hoping to make rather more money as a result of the stronger tone in the raw material market. Spinners report a fair amount of new business in botanics and fine crossbreds, but thick counts out of low qualities are slow of sale. In the piece goods trade there is a moderate amount of business, and more activity is expected in the course of a few weeks.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The sales finished on Thursday in fine style, the competition seen throughout the whole series being of the best. It has surprised both sellers and buyers to find prices so very firm, with an undiminished demand for the raw material, and at the close there was not the slightest evidence of the trade being satisfied. At the same time, buyers confess to having had enough, and the majority can now well afford to cease operations for a considerable time. A month is to elapse before another series of sales takes place, and this will be the first month of the year when no auctions are taking place anywhere throughout the world. After the great quantity of raw material which has been lifted during the past 12 months, the trade can afford to remain quiet, and a chance will now be given to topmakers and spinners to work up a portion of their stocks, and prepare for the future. Practically speaking, there has been a good 5 per cent. advance for all descriptions of raw material, and even medium and low crossbreds are better at the finish than they were at the opening of the series.

The outstanding feature of the auctions has certainly been the widespread demand for merinos, and these occupy to-day a very strong position. Naturally, the situation has been somewhat disturbed by the renewed slump in German marks, and buyers from that quarter have certainly been less active than they otherwise would have been. Political considerations have given rise to some concern regarding the future, and an absolute breakdown in Germany is certain to be attended by disturbance in the commercial world in both France and Belgium. So far as her textile trade is concerned, the vast majority are of the opinion that some relief should be given to Germany in regard to future payment of reparations, and that time should be allowed in which to recover her lost ground. Germany is a mighty factor in the textile world, and, by her large purchases of raw wool during the past 18 months, she has taken off the market some huge weights of crossbreds. There has also been a marked improvement in our overseas trade with Germany in semi-manufactured goods (tops and yarns), and if further advancement is to be recorded, the co-operation of the Continent is essential.

Wool buyers went home on Thursday well deserving a good holiday, and the quiet month of the year is upon the trade with practically the whole output of mills sold to the end of September. We see no reason for merino prices to decline unless a determined "bear" effort is made to force values down, with a view to the opening of a new season in Australia in the middle of September. Trade is good generally, more machinery is running than at any time since the slump of two years ago, and we regard the outlook as favourable.

The next series of sales are due to begin on September 5th, the list of arrivals being closed on May 26th last. There will be avail-

able about 16,700 bales of free Australian wools and 37,000 bales of free New Zealand, totalling 53,700 bales, in addition to which B.A.W.R.A. will offer about 20,000 bales merino and 30,000 bales crossbred, giving a total of 103,700 bales, to which there should be added, say, 10,000 bales of Puntas.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The opinion expressed here by the writer a few weeks ago that hides values had reached their maximum seems to have justified itself, as prices again showed a decline at the Bermondsey auctions on Thursday. Best ox sold from 6½d to 9½d, prices showing a decline of ½d to ¾d down, as against last week's rates. Cows remained steady, but calf fell ¼d to ¾d, best light selling at 12d. Lambs at 2s to 4s 10d were 2d up, whilst pelts at 2s 5d to 3s 10d were 1d up. Tanners are buying imported hides very sparingly, as prices are regarded as too high, in view of the price obtainable for leather. Dry B.A.'s have been sold at about 10½d. Africans are quiet, except for cheap low-grade parcels. Cables from New York report the Chicago hide position as strong, with best packers selling at 20 cents.

The sale of sole leather has been of a limited character this week, and buyers cannot be tempted to speculate at present prices. Tanners remain firm as far as prices are concerned, but seem inclined to shade quotations if a big parcel of bends can be cleared. The repairers have been dealing a little in medium-class bends, but the demand from manufacturers still remains constant for dry hide bends at a low price.

The upper section is dull, but improving. Glacé kid is selling better for women's wear, whilst black box and willow are being sampled freely. Carriers report the outlook as better, and those who cater from the suit and attaché case trade have been agreeably surprised at the orders which have come in of late.

Shoe manufacturers report a falling off in business, but are still moving off sports and holiday goods. There is also a fair export trade passing, especially for the better grade of women's shoes of the Leicester and Norwich type. Most factories will close the whole of next week.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Rather an easier tone prevails in the market for vegetable oils. Raw linseed oil, after a spurt of speculative interest, is lower. While "spot" oil is held for £43 10s ex Hull mill, August oil is quoted £42 15s, and September-December £39, the last named being 30s below the highest. Both home and export demand is very modest lines. Owing to this, trade in linseed has been slow and values have declined somewhat on better shipments from the Plate and lower options, down to £19 12s 6d having been accepted for August-September to Hull, with sellers now asking slightly in excess of this for shipment and £20 for spot. Calcutta Cotton oils have been neglected, and prices are again lower, £41 10s ex Hull mill. Egyptian cottonseed has continued cheap in sympathy with a fall in cotton, Sakellardis changing hands at £10 15s August, while about £8 17s 6d (paid) represents current value of Bombay for shipment.

Rapeseed continues steady, but the principal business is for account of the Continent, Antwerp paying £19 for Toria and shippers asking £12 5s for November-December. Palm kernels are without material change. Rape oil offers freely at the lower range of values—viz., £41 spot and £40 forward, ex Hull mill. Linseed (Plate and Indian) on passage to the United Kingdom has increased to 36,200 tons, and that to the Continent to 94,900 tons, together 131,100 tons against 123,000 tons a week ago. Shipments of Plate linseed, January-July, are: to the United Kingdom, 140,300 tons, Continent 267,000 tons, and North America 168,000 tons—together 575,300 tons, against 811,000 tons at same date last year. Those from India are:—To the United Kingdom 102,175 tons, and to the Continent 77,450 tons. Aggregate shipments to the United Kingdom to date are 242,475 tons, against 336,725 tons, and to the Continent 344,450 tons, against 362,600 tons. The estimated balances remaining for export are: Argon-

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1899)

Capital Subscribed	Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Y52,500,000
Reserve	Y11,780,000

Head Office : - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office : - 25 OLD BROAD STREET
(Gresham House), E.C.2.

BRANCHES: Amoy, Batavia, Bangkok, Bombay, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Kinkiang, Keelung, Kobe, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c., &c., and Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

The Bank is incorporated by Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue note in Formosa, conduct general Banking Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business, and acts as Business Agents for other Banks. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

tina 179,000 tons (or possibly more), and India 171,000 tons—total, 350,000 tons, against 578,000 tons a year ago.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, August 4.

Business in most kinds of raw material proceeded very quietly, export trade being hampered by the position of various rates of exchange, but a steady offtake was again observable with regard to foodstuffs.

SUGAR.—This market evinced increased firmness during the week, steady inquiries both on grocery and manufacturing account, combined with reserved offers from producing countries, being the chief factors for the upward move. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes sold, 59s to 60s; crushed, 57s 6d; fine granulated, 52s 9d; coarse, 52s 9d, London; and No. 2, 52s 3d; caster, 55s 3d to 56s 3d; yellow crystals, 46s 9d; pieces, 36s to 37s 6d; fine white, 47s 6d; granulated, September, 52s 9d; October, 52s 6d; and November-December delivery, 51s 9d. Crystallised West India met with moderate support at prices ranging from 43s 6d to 46s 6d as to quality. White Mauritius, spot, 49s to 49s 6d; white Trinidad, 49s 6d; white Brazilian, 48s 6d to 49s. American granulated, spot, sold, 50s 9d to 51s 3d; shipped parcels, 24s to 24s 3d; July, 24s to 24s 3d; August, 24s 9d to 24s 10½d. White Java, July, sold, 22s to 21s 10½d, and 22s 1½d; August, 21s 9d to 21s 10½d, c.f. and i., London. Czecho granulated, November-December, 22s 3d; cubes, 25s 3d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch cubes, prompt, 29s 9d; granulated, 25s 10½d, f.o.b., Amsterdam. Belgian crystals, October-December, 21s 3d; granulated sold, 21s to 21s 6d, f.o.b., Antwerp. White Brazilian, September-October shipment, sold, 21s 3d to 21s 9d, c.f. and i., London. Cuban basis 96 per cent., August, quoted 19s 6d; Java basis 98 per cent., ditto, 20s; and Brazilian basis 80 per cent., August-September, 9s 3d, all c.f. and i. terms, U.K. Terminal market ruled quieter. White, August, sold, 24s to 23s 7½d and 24s 3d; September, 23s 3d to 23s, and 23s 6d; December, 22s 6d to 22s, and 22s 7½d. Cuban stocks stand at 640,500 tons, against 1,410,800 same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s per cwt.

COFFEE.—A fair demand continued for the better qualities, and prices on balance show no material alteration. Nairobi, bold, sold, 95s to 104s; Uganda Robusta, 64s 6d to 67s; Costa Rica, 107s 6d to 110s. Futures remain quite idle.

COCOA.—No auctions held this week, and by private treaty only a small business transpired at about previous rates. Butter quiet at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—Indian auctions of 39,000 packages elicited active and well distributed competition, and prices on balance ruled firm. Quantity of Ceylon amounted to 27,400 packages. Good competition was generally experienced, but prices on balance disclosed some irregu-

larity. Finest kinds in some cases were dearer, medium ruling firm, but common and plain liquoring parcels tended in buyers' favour.

RICE.—Market steady, but with only a moderate trade doing. Two stars, spot, quoted 15s 3d to 15s 6d; ditto, afloat Antwerp, sold, 14s 6d; and August-September held for 14s 4½d. Broken descriptions slow at recent level of values. Beans firm, and Rangoon hand-picked, spot, sold, 7s 3d. Japanese peas quiet. September-November quoted 31s 6d.

SPICE.—Pepper steady in value, but buyers were not frequent. Fair black Singapore, spot, quoted 4d; ditto, August-October sellers, 3½d; Aleppy, spot, quoted 4½d; Tellicherry, 4½d; white Singapore, 6½d; ditto, August-October, 6½d; white Muntok, spot, 7½d; ditto, August-October, sold, 6½d-6¾d. Zanzibar cloves firm. Fair quality, spot, sold at 1s 2½d on further purchases on American account; and October-December, steamer, 7½d to 7½d. Pimento, spot, 2½d. Tapioca quiet. Fair flake, spot, 2½d per lb; ditto, August-September, steamer, London, 24s; fair Penang seed, spot, 20s 6d; ditto, August-October, London, 21s. Sago flour, August-September, 14s 7½d; September-October, 14s 3d; October-December, 14s 1½d. Desiccated coconut quiet. Spot parcels, sold, 36s 6d; afloat, 34s; and August-September, 35s. Ginger steady at late values. Cinnamon: Ceylon fourths, spot, sold, 8d per lb.

FRUIT.—Market still quiet, with actual dealings more or less of a retail character, with prices showing no appreciable alteration.

JUTE.—A dull and easier tone pervaded this market, demand from spinners being on limited scale. First grade, July-August, Continent, sold, £33 to £32; new crop, ditto, August-October, £35 to £34; lightning grade, afloat, £29 12s 6d; July-August, £30 to £29 10s; new crop, August-October, £30 10s. Hessians quietly steady. 10 oz, spot, 36s 6d; 8 oz, 27s. A twills, 75s; B, 65s; salts, 60s; sugars, 78s 6d; flour, 80s.

HEMP.—Manila received better patronage, and market ruled slightly firmer. G grade, September-November, sold, £34; J, £31 12s 6d to £31 15s; K, afloat, £31 15s; September-November, £30 12s 6d to £30 15s; L, £29 12s 6d to £29 15s; M, £28 10s to £28 12s 6d. New Zealand firm, quiet. H.P.F., spot, £33 10s; fair, £32. African Sisal, September-November, sellers, £37 for No. 1 G.E.A., and £36 value B.E.A.

SHELLAC quiet, and prices lower all-round. T.N., spot, 345s; August, sold, 315s; October, 315s.

COPRA.—Slightly irregular at times, and business proceeded slowly. F.M.S. Straits, May-July, Rotterdam, sold, £25 10s; July-September, £25 8s 9d to £25 5s; Ceylon ditto quoted, £26 10s; Java, £25 10s; Cebu, £25; South Sea, £24 8s 9d; mixed, excluding Padang, £24 5s. Palm kernels, July-September, Liverpool, sold, £17 12s 6d to £17 13s 9d; and September-November, £17 16s 3d.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market quiet, but generally steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot, 110s per cwt. Albumen, spot, sold, 3s 3d per lb.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 24s; forward, 23s. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 5s 3d; forward, 4s 10d. Aniseed, spot, 2s 3d; forward, 2s 4½d.

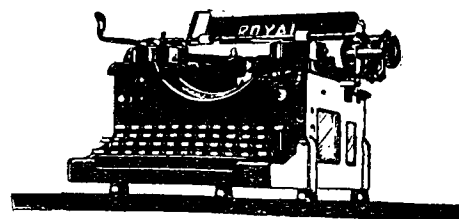
SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD
PRIVATBANK,
Fredriksstad.

Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21.000.000.

Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.



INVEST IN A
ROYAL TYPEWRITER
It Pays for Itself.

TYPING, copying and duplicating work can invariably be found by those who are anxious to earn money in their spare time.

The "Royal" Typewriter has a well-deserved reputation for producing the finest work. The clean-cut lettering, the ease of operation, and the adaptability for every class of work make it an ideal machine for home or office work—and it pays its own instalments.

If you think of hiring a typewriter or obtaining one on easy purchase terms, ask us to call, or call on us. Our terms are most reasonable. Please write for them.

Skilled operators provided at any time for special or temporary work.

Portable Typewriters Supplied.

Send your enquiries to:—
ROYAL STANDARD TYPEWRITERS
Dept.E,Royal House, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4
'Phone: City 7891.

ROYAL

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 4,120

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 0d; Yearly, £2 18s. 0d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 0d per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.
Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.
 Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at
 Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leatherait and Simmonds,
 5 Birchinn lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar
 Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street;
 Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 53 Finsbury
 pavement.
 Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's
 37 Avenue de L'Opera. New York: *Economist* Office, 20 Broad
 street (Room 1,709).

WITH some difficulty the market repaid the Bank on Tuesday, and on Thursday succeeded, with an effort, in continuing the process of repayment, which was finally completed yesterday. It had been in the meantime assisted by the withdrawal of Treasury bills from offer on tap, a proceeding which caused much discussion and surprise. It seems, however, to have been the natural consequence of considerable sales of bills on tap to buyers who missed them at last Friday's tender, and also of a desire to enable the market to g

[illegible]

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

Every description of Banking business transacted.

clear of indebtedness to the Bank by having no Treasuries to pay for on Thursday, when it had a large sum to meet, and when tax-gathering is usually an influence towards stringency. Discount rates, which had stiffened owing to the scarcity of short money, slackened again when the tap Treasuries were withdrawn, and then hardened once more when the result of yesterday's tender was announced.

	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	July 28, 1922.	July 21, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	5%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1% (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	1% (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	1½	1½	1½

The Bank return showed decreases of £233,000 in the note circulation and £1,000 in the stock of gold, and an increase of £232,000 in the Reserve. Borrowings and repayments were reflected in decreases of £1½ millions and £1½ millions in the Government and Other securities, and there was thus a decline of £3½ millions in the private deposits, Public being nearly a million higher. There was an increase of £2,364,800 to £302,094,400 in currency notes outstanding in the return dated August 10, 1922, which includes £1,580,000 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £252,364,400, or £57,624,000 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The stock markets have been comparatively little affected by international politics, and have been more influenced by other factors, which are favourable. Gilt-edged stocks have been firm, though business in the longer-dated stocks is not on a large scale, but buying of short-dated bonds was stimulated by the withdrawal of three months' "tap" Treasury bills. Among foreign stocks, Mexicans were prominent with a sharp rise on the news that President Obregon had signed the debt agreement. The animation in the Home Railway market has not ceased, stocks in the Eastern group being well supported on the strength of the amalgamation terms. In the foreign and colonial railway market the feature was a sharp advance in Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debentures. Oil shares received a little better support; rubber shares marked time, and in the industrial market there has been little feature. South African mining shares have been active on support from the Cape and from Paris.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

The uncertain European political situation and the holiday season have, in combination, caused considerable dullness in markets. Conditions generally in the Manchester cotton trade have been unsettled. Fully middling American cotton is now quoted at 12.25d per lb, as against 13.45d a week ago, and yarn prices have given way in sympathy. Prices remain firm all round in the wool trade, and merinos are inclined to improve slightly; business, however, is quiet, but it is expected to improve after the holidays. Some inquiries for foundry iron have been received from America, but dealings generally in pig-iron have been on a very limited scale. Our Middlesbrough correspondent reports that steel prices are expected to fall shortly, as makers are free from control and orders are scarce, and our Glasgow correspondent reports cuts in steel prices North of the Tweed as from Saturday last. Coal prices have retained their recent rise, America appearing to be still buying. Wheat prices fell by from 6d to 9d, owing to the ample supply and dull exchange. Raw linseed oil for August delivery has eased off appreciably, and there is little demand. Hide prices are steady at the lower range of values, and the boot trade is on holiday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Operations in the foreign exchange market are still awaiting the outcome of the London Conference, and business has in consequence been very quiet. Rates, which have nervously responded to varying rumours, as might be expected, have at times fluctuated wildly, and have frequently not represented the prices at which actual business could be done. The New York rate remained steady all the week, and closed at 4.45½-4.46, forward being 1½ over spot. A record of the week's fluctuations in the principal European exchanges merely reflects the hopes and fears entertained as to a settlement being reached by the politicians. Berlin, which opened the week with a firmer quotation of 3.375, relapsed on the 10th to almost 4,000, but is again better at 3,760, showing a rise in the week of almost 400 marks. Paris and Brussels have been equally sensitive, the quotation for francs being at one time over 56, from which point it has now recovered to round 55. Forward Paris remains practically unchanged at seven points per month over spot. Brussels, after fluctuating in accordance with the Paris franc, is now quoted at 58.10, with the forward price round spot quotations. Italian lire have been more inclined to firmness, and they are now 97.50. Swiss francs have remained steady during the week round 23.42, but Holland has moved against this country, the present quotation of 11.49 comparing with 11.51 a week ago. Spain, on the other hand, has moved fractionally in our favour, and is now quoted 28.83. Denmark, which opened on Monday with a weak tendency at 20.72, has since recovered the 20.68. Norway and Sweden have both moved slightly against us, and are now 25.90 and 17.02. Austria, which showed distinct improvement at the end of last week, has again relapsed to 233,000, while Warsaw has further slipped back, and is now at the new record figure of 30,000. Helsingfors, after fluctuating within narrow limits, is practically unchanged on the week, while as low as 425, has lost the improvement at 520 at the time of writing. In the Eastern exchanges, rupees, which were inclined to harden at one time, are practically unchanged at 1s 3½d, but the silver exchanges have declined fractionally, Shanghai being now 3s 4½d and Hong Kong 2s 6½d. South Americans have all been inclined to move in our favour, Buenos Aires being quoted 44, while Monte Video and Valparaiso are 43½ and 32.80 respectively.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 5, 1922:—

REVENUE.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	15,243	Supply Services	7,460
Amount borrowed	335	Interest on Debt	7,794
		Sundries	219
		Added to Exchequer Balances ..	15,578

The total revenue during the week ended August 5, 1922, amounted to £15,243,063, as against £14,845,817 during the corresponding week a year ago. The total expenditure during the same period was £15,358,927, against £24,161,388 a year ago. Customs produced £2,301,000 during the week, against £2,526,000. The yield from Property and Income-tax is £570,000 higher than a year ago at £7,715,000. Excise yielded £1,273,000, against £1,085,000 last year, while the yield from Estate duties at £1,550,000 compares with £1,035,000. The week's operations increased the National Debt by the sum of £334,985, and caused the

	Min. £		Min. £
Public Department Advances ..	+ 5,207	Unemployment Insurance ..	- 1,440
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 10,074	Other Debt	- 203
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 150	Treasury Bills	- 14,143
Sundries	+ 489		
	+ 15,920		- 15,586

The floating debt was reduced by £8,898,000 to £905,000,500 during the week ended August 5, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to August 5, 1922).	
Total spent	256,183,722
Dec. in balances	7,279,273
Total	248,904,449
Raised by revenue ..	281,384,264
Net repayments	32,479,815
Total	248,904,449

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

£	£
Ordinary Expenditure 823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts .. 820,775,000
Special Expenditure .. 61,223,000	Special Receipts .. 90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000
Total	910,069,000
	Total
	Surplus
	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds ..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,973	1,973
4½% Funding Loan ..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,090
4½% Victory Bonds ..	...	...	409	409	405	405	405	405	405
4½% Conversion Loan ..	...	...	360	357	348	346	346	346	346
5½% Treasury Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	266	266	266	266
5½% Treasury Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	273	380	310	310
Do by tender 4½% ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	40	40
Do by tender 5½% ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	53
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,050	882	740
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Nat'l. Savings Certs. ..	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	345
War Expend. Certs. ..	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Debt	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,081
American Loan	...	51	51	51	51	...	...	...	...
Temporary Advances ..	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	164
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,686
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,737

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 6, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Aug. 5, '22.	Aug. 5, '22.
Temporary Advances Out- standing	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England ..	23,500,000..	147,201,500..	164,445,500..	5,207,000
Advances by Public Deptms ..	138,424,000..	882,219,000..	740,555,000..	14,105,000
Treasury Bills outstanding ..	1,201,912,000..	882,219,000..	740,555,000..	14,105,000
Total Floating Debt	1,363,836,000..	1,029,520,500..	905,000,500..	8,898,000

BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH.

THE trend of events at the Allied Conference in Downing Street this week confirms our worst fears of the effects of the Balfour Note. The assembled statesmen have apparently not been able even to approach the consideration of broad solutions of the problems of reparations and inter-Allied debts. Discussion, instead, has centred upon the subsidiary question of "productive guarantees," or, in other words, of ways and means of making Germany pay; and even over this subsidiary point a deadlock has arisen, which has brought Cabinet Ministers post haste to London, and, according to rumour, threatens the very foundations of the Entente. To appreciate the tragedy of disappointment which these facts represent, it is only necessary to cast one's mind back a few weeks. In the middle of July a new plunge of the German mark heralded a fresh crisis in international finance. An immediate meeting of the British and French Premiers was mooted, then mysteriously delayed, and then announced for August Bank Holiday. Then, when hopes were growing that Great Britain would go to that Conference with the bold and generous proposals that alone promised a cure of Europe's financial fever, came the Balfour Note, and with it the knowledge that the Prime Minister had renounced his great opportunity. The Note, as we showed last week, appeared still to leave a loophole for effective British initiative. But even that appearance seems to have been deceptive. A week or two ago we were hoping that at last the British Government would use its powerful creditor position in Europe with a generosity that would procure a sane economic settlement of reparations and at the same time revolutionise American opinion. To-day we face, as the firstfruits of the Balfour Note, an irritated America and an aggravated edition of the old Anglo-French squabble over methods of coercing Germany. The nations of Europe are vainly hammering at the door which shuts them off from the path of recovery and well-being. Mr Lloyd George has the key, and has put it in his pocket. It is, presumably, vain to hope that the Government can quickly retreat from their new policy, or that M. Poincaré will withdraw his "productive guarantee" proposals in favour of the broader and more statesmanlike plans with which rumour credited him before the bombshell of the

Balfour Note. Even the Paris Press, which is certainly not in advance of public opinion on these questions, recognises the futility of his present proposals, and only clings to them for fear that unless something is done Germany will be tempted to doubt the will of the Allies to extract any reparations at all. But unless M. Poincaré returns to his original brief, the best that can be hoped of the Downing Street Conference is that it will evade the crowning disaster of wrecking the Entente, and produce an unsatisfactory compromise. It may be that once again, as in May last, the experts will help the politicians round a dangerous corner. Once round it, the politicians may enjoy another breathing space during which time may obliterate the worst effects of the latest blunder, and enable us to work back to the position that prevailed before the Balfour Note appeared. Next month Treasury representatives are to visit Washington to discuss arrangements for funding the Anglo-American debt. These discussions cannot now be as amicable as they should have been; nor can the effect of the arrangements agreed upon be as fruitful in their effect upon American opinion. But when once this debt to America has been placed on a definite footing and is beyond the pale of diplomatic discussion, a new chance for a British initiative may arrive. What line this should take was clearly set out this week by Viscount Grey in his Oxford speech. Viscount Grey, starting from the concessions in the latter part of the Balfour Note, says:—"If we used our right to that £900,000,000 to get a real settlement of the question (i.e., reparations) it would be the very best investment we could make of the money." In return for such remission of these remaining debts, he would insist on four points:—

- (1) German reparations must be reduced to a manageable and practicable amount.
 - (2) There must be a moratorium of adequate duration for the payment of reparations.
 - (3) All that is possible must be done to put Germany on her feet.
 - (4) When all that is arranged, and provided that Germany fulfils her Treaty obligations, Germany should be admitted to the League of Nations.
- These points are, of course, features of the Government programme; but the Government has stultified itself by its conditions with regard to the American debt. Lord Grey, however, very clearly exposes the fallacy that the British taxpayer cannot afford to remit paper debts. In our opinion he cannot afford to do otherwise. "The British taxpayer," says Lord Grey, "the British workman, the whole country would gain far more, financially and economically, by a general settlement of the question of reparations and inter-Allied debts leading to a recovery in Europe than they will by the preservation of their paper right to the £900,000,000." That is surely the beginning of wisdom in this vital matter.

It is, of course, by no means certain that the Government could have put through Lord Grey's plan on the present occasion. Indeed, Mr Keynes suggested a week ago at Oxford that the French and British ideas as to how far the Reparation claim must ultimately be cut in any general settlement are so wide apart that there does not exist as yet any real basis of agreement on the most fundamental question of all. Moreover, the amount of money that could be raised by an international loan is so small that when the possibilities were realised by France she would have a shock of disappointment which might make an immediate settlement impossible. Those who read the French situation in this way are driven to the depressing conclusion that until France herself begins to slide down the slippery slope of exchange depreciation she will not be really ready to face facts. This view, in our opinion, is unduly gloomy, though in a matter of this kind it is extremely hard to read a nation's psychology aright. But, even if it is true, the offer that we have repeatedly urged upon the Government would still have been of the utmost importance, for it would have cleared us from any responsibility for the further deterioration of the state of Europe, and would have brought clearly into the open the real issue. After all, the crux of the question is whether France is willing—provided the Allied debt question is settled—to write down her Reparation demand to a figure which the world believes Germany can pay? Is she, in fact, prepared to

accept the estimate—however disappointing it may be—of a neutral bankers' committee as to the maximum annuity which Germany should be compelled to pay during the currency of an international loan? If so, the problem can be settled on Lord Grey's terms. If not, there is nothing to be done but to wait till the pressure of events brings France to reason. The blunder of our Government has been that it has lost the opportunity of putting this question to the issue. So long as it remains unanswered, there is nothing before us but a succession of exchange slumps, renewed crises, futile conferences, and constant friction between France and England, whose co-operation and good understanding are so vital to the rest of Europe.

FINANCIAL POLICY IN SOVIET RUSSIA—OLD AND NEW.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT LATELY IN RUSSIA.)

THE 8th Congress of Soviets held on December 8, 1920, may be considered as a turning-point in the history of the Bolshevik régime. It marked a radical change in Soviet economic policy. The decrees no longer aim at the destruction of capitalism; on the contrary, they are characterised by a marked tendency towards re-establishing private initiative and economic liberty. To understand the revolutionary change which is noticeable since the end of 1920, it is necessary to have a clear conception of the economic policy pursued during the first three years of Soviet rule. This may be summarised under the following points:—(1) Gratuity of all public services. According to the decree of October 11, 1920, all services and products were delivered by the authorities to co-operatives, trade unions, and to the working population free of charge. This was done with the purpose of abolishing completely the monetary system, and preparations were made for the introduction of a labour unit as a measure of value. (2) All taxes in money ceased to be collected. (3) All credit institutions were closed. (4) The whole finance of the country was merged into one budget. Co-operatives, municipalities, rural councils, &c., were all provided with the necessary funds by the central authorities. (5) The principal and practically the only source from which the whole country drew the resources for maintaining the public administration was the printing press. A steadily increasing stream of paper money was poured into the market.

Not theoretical reasons, but hard necessity forced the Soviet Government to break radically with this policy. Experience convinced them that the system inaugurated by them contained the germs of its own destruction. The greater the mass of paper money issued the smaller became its value. The report of the National Commissariat of Finances for 1921 presented to the 9th Congress of Soviets, dwells on the fact that the printing press after 1917 was not able to keep pace with the depreciation of the rouble, as shown below:—

	Increase of Circulation.	Depreciation of the Rouble.
1917 as compared with 1916	3.3 times	7½ times.
1918 " " 1917	1.9 " "	6 " "
1919 " " 1918	4.8 " "	16 " "
1920 " " 1919	6.0 " "	8 " "

In the budget for 1922 (January-September) it is pointed out (p. 13) that the value of the paper roubles issued, expressed in gold, has been as follows:—

	Millions.
1918	525
1919	380
1920	186
1921	140.2

The printing of trillions of paper roubles could not prevent the monetary source from becoming every day more arid. There was no escape out of this dilemma but a radical reconstruction of the financial system on a quite new basis. The authorities responsible for the financial administration of the country are decidedly going in that direction. In reading the reports issued by the National Commissariat of Finances, one has often the impression of hearing a representative not of a Bolshevik but of a bourgeois Government. Economy and taxation, the panacea so often preached by Ministers of Finance in

Western Europe, are the two most important points in the new financial programme of the Bolsheviks.

The system of merging all finances into one budget has proved unsound. In consequence, the financial administration of local authorities has been severed from that of the Central Government by a decree of August 22, 1921. All local authorities now have their own budget, and they are authorised to levy special taxes in addition to those collected for the State.

The principle of monetary taxes has been re-established by a decree of July 26, 1921, introducing a tax payable by all industrial and commercial undertakings. As the financial administration is not yet sufficiently organised, the assessment to this tax is effected on a very primitive basis, on what is called "external appearances." The amount of the tax is levied according to the size of the undertaking, the stock of goods, &c. During the first four months (July to November, 1921,) 15 milliards were collected in Moscow alone, and it is expected that by the end of the year 30 milliards will be obtained from this source. In the provinces the results were much less favourable.

The Soviet Government is also resorting to indirect taxes. The principal articles subject to such taxes are tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, matches, beer, mineral waters, tea, coffee, drugs, perfumes, soap and candles, sugar, salt, petroleum, textiles.

The number of officials has been reduced, and a special committee has been appointed for introducing a more economical system into the public administration. The most sweeping change here is the abolition of the principle of a gratuitous supply of services and products to an important section of the population. All State and municipal undertakings are to be so administered as to produce a revenue. The State subsidy is withdrawn; they have become self-supporting. The principle of business administration is to be applied in all these undertakings. Their products are to be sold not at maximum prices, which during a long period were below the cost of production, but at free market prices (decree of October 11, 1920, and August 5, 1921).

Once the idea of providing the population with food and necessities by the State was abandoned and free trade introduced, the necessity of a sound monetary system arose. Here, too, an abyss divides the old policy from the new. For three years the Bolshevik decrees tried to destroy the monetary system, considered as the outcome of the capitalist régime. The cause of the debauch of the currency was not merely the financial embarrassment of the Government; the authorities hoped that by reducing the value of money to naught they would demonstrate the absurdity of the system. All possible difficulties were put in the way of monetary circulation in order to hasten this process. All money found in the possession of private persons was confiscated.

Recent official reports show a complete change. Russians are faced with the same problems as every other Government—how to stabilise the value of the rouble, how to facilitate its circulation. Two decrees issued with this aim may be mentioned. The gold rouble has been introduced by a decree of October, 1921, as the measure of value. All payments are made in paper roubles, but according to the rate of exchange fixed by the market quotation. To facilitate transactions, a new rouble, equal to 10,000 old, has been issued.

The break with the old economic policy also made the reorganisation of the whole credit system unavoidable. Credit institutions were unnecessary as long as the State was putting at the disposal of all undertakings the money they needed. Once, however, they were left without the financial assistance of the Government some other source of credit had to be created. With this purpose the old State Bank (Gosbank) was reopened on October 15, 1921. Its status, however, has been modified. The Gosbank is not a simple bank of issue: it has been created with the aim of putting at the disposal of industrial and commercial undertakings credits, enabling them to continue their work. This financial assistance is to be given in the first instance to Government undertakings. Co-operatives, however, and private firms can equally avail themselves of these credit facilities. The Gosbank is the cashier of the State. The capital of the bank has been fixed at 2,000 milliards, and the bank rate at 8—12 per cent. a month,

or 96—144 per cent. a year. Under present conditions the Gosbank cannot give any real assistance to industry as it does not possess any real assets. The 200 milliard paper roubles which have been put at its disposal by the central authorities are not sufficient for any serious credit operations.

The National Commissariat of Finances has published the Budget estimates for the first nine months of 1922. It is the seventh budget prepared by the Bolshevik Government, but in many respects it is different from the previous ones. The estimates are not based on the paper rouble, but on the gold rouble. For the first time also local finances are not included.

Expenditures and revenues are classified under two heads, "prjamye" and "oborotnye." The first group contains all transactions between the State and private individuals, co-operatives, &c., the second all payments between departments of the State. We may call the two groups external and internal. The Bolshevik Budget gives the following general items:—

	External.	Internal.	Total.
	—Million Gold Roubles.		
Revenues	177.4	1,394.6	1,572.0
Expenditures	407.4	1,469.8	1,877.2
Deficit	230.0	75.2	305.2

The revenues, in order of importance, are estimated as follows:—

	Million Gold Roubles.	%
Nationalised industry	899.4	57.2
Supply of food and other necessities	425.6	27.1
Transport	98.5	6.3
Government estates	70.0	4.4
Direct taxes	37.5	2.4
Indirect taxes	29.6	1.9
Customs duties	9.5	0.6
Other revenues	1.9	0.1
	1,572.0	100

The expenditure of 1,877.2 millions comprises the following items:—

	Million Gold Roubles.	%
National Commissariat of War	556.0	29.6
Transport	277.5	14.8
Council of National Economy	153.6	8.2
National Commissariat of Food Supply	139.9	7.4
" " Foreign Trade	141.7	7.5
" " Education	122.8	6.5
" " Health	117.2	6.0
" " Marine	71.8	3.9
" " the Interior	59.7	3.2
" " Agriculture	52.3	3.0
" " Social Insurance	48.3	2.6
" " Finances	39.9	2.1
" " Posts and Telegraphs	25.8	1.4
" " Justice	23.2	1.2

It can be hardly expected that the final accounts will correspond to these estimates. They are, nevertheless, interesting, as showing the direction of Russian financial policy. The figures extracted from the Russian official returns reveal a very strong desire to put the finances on a sound basis, similar to that existing in other countries. If Russia is still very far off from that aim, the rupture with the old financial policy, which was plunging the country into a steadily increasing chaos, must at least be considered as a great step forward.

SOUTH WALES COAL SINCE THE STRIKE.

(BY OUR CARDIFF CORRESPONDENT.)

THE coal mining industry of the United Kingdom has just completed the first year under the national wages agreement entered into on the termination of the coal strike of March-June, 1921. The year has been notable for a heavy fall in the price of coal, and a considerable expansion in the foreign demand. The increase in the volume of the export trade, however, has not balanced the loss in revenue from the fall in price. The result is that the profits have been reduced to a figure enormously less than that of the £28 millions which were guaranteed dur-

ing the period of control. It was originally intended under the national agreement that the employers should receive in profits an amount calculated over a district unit equal to 17 per cent. of the amount paid out as standard wages in such district. The assumption voluntarily by the coal-owners to pay a minimum wage 20 per cent. in excess of the average earnings of July, 1914, has, under such trading conditions as those which have existed during the twelve months, rendered the retention of those standard profits a financial impossibility. In some of the coalfields and particularly in those dependent on the export trade, the proceeds have fallen appreciably below the amount required to pay the minimum wage and the standard profits, and the consequence has been that the coalowners have been called upon to surrender not only their 17 per cent. share of the surplus proceeds in excess of those required to pay the standard wages and the standard profits, but also large proportions even of the standard profits. In South Wales, for instance, the standard profits surrendered in this way have amounted to nearly £2 millions in the eight months ending June 30th last. The fact, however, remains that the South Wales industry as a whole has been working at a profit in the twelve months ended June. The costs, proceeds, and net profits or net loss per month have been as follows:—

Month.	Costs.	Proceeds.	Net Profits (+) and Net Loss (—).
	£	£	£
1921.			
July	2,882,000	3,393,000	+ 511,000
August	3,335,000	4,111,000	+ 776,000
September	4,148,000	3,870,000	— 278,000
October	4,193,000	3,739,000	— 454,000
November	3,502,000	3,543,000	+ 41,000
December	3,580,000	3,533,000	— 47,000
1922.			
January	3,629,000	3,662,000	+ 33,000
February	3,327,000	3,331,000	+ 4,000
March	3,789,000	3,957,000	+ 168,000
April	3,228,000	3,265,000	+ 37,000
May	3,771,000	4,089,000	+ 318,000
June	3,246,000	3,136,000	— 110,000
Totals	42,630,000	43,629,000	+ 999,000

These net profits of just under £1 million are approximately one-fifth of the profits guaranteed under the Coal Mines Agreement Acts. The amount received by labour, however, amounts to roughly £26,500,000, so that capital has obtained in net profits only 4 per cent. that paid out in wages.

The collieries have shared very unequally in these reduced profits. What has determined the profits of each separate company has been chiefly the costs of working. These vary very considerably, and in some cases they have meant heavy losses, and in others substantial and even increased profits. Typical illustrations of the inequalities in the incidence of the depression during the past twelve months are given by the reports which have just been published of the Insoles, Limited, and the Windsor Steam Coal Company (1901), Limited. These two properties are under the same management, and are situated very near to each other. The approximate output of Insoles, Limited, is between 450,000 and 500,000 tons per annum, and that of the Windsor Company roughly 300,000 tons per annum. The capital expenditure on the property of the latter has been more than 50 per cent. that on the property of Insoles, Limited, but whereas Insoles has been paying a dividend of 20 per cent. on its ordinary share capital for many years, not a penny piece has been paid in ordinary dividend to the shareholders of the Windsor Company, and even the preference dividends are some years in arrear. In the year ended June 30th last Insoles, Limited, increased its profits from £43,124 to £78,594, and the Windsor Steam Coal Company suffered a loss of £24,049 compared with a profit in the previous year of £35,724. Similar inequalities in trading results will be shown by other companies, and as more than half the total profits of just under a million pounds have been made by two or three concerns, the overwhelming majority of the undertakings in the South Wales coalfield during the past twelve months will show losses.

RAILWAY RATES AND WAGES.

So long as the railway companies refuse to publish any statement of their net receipts, they cannot be surprised if the demand for reductions in railway rates and fares is conducted in a spirit that seems to them unreasonable. It may be that they have a strong case, but as it is, it is known only to themselves, and the average man is inclined to feel as more forcible the argument that cheap transport is an indispensable preliminary to trade and business revival than the reverse position taken up by the companies, that they can only afford to reduce rates substantially when trade has revived.

The reductions actually made in the railway freight index from 200 to 175 (except in a few special cases such as iron and steel, where the reduction is to 150) is only half what was asked for, and though half a loaf is better than no bread, it is inevitably not accepted with the same enthusiasm, and is felt as insufficient to help substantially.

At one time it was pretty generally said, unofficially, that no substantial cut in rates could be made without further reductions in wages. The position of railway wages is an interesting one, and, from some points of view, more hopeful than that of any other industry. The March, 1920, settlement, whatever it failed to do, has provided an instrument which has enabled substantial reductions to be carried out without friction. The biggest grade of railway workers—the operating staff—have, taking them all over, lost 17s per head per week in money wages, without counting the withdrawals on the advances given under the National Wages Board award of June, 1920, which brings the average loss per head up to 21s.

To make any general statement or give any general figures covering the vast complexity of grades in the railway service is very difficult. In a valuable article in the *Railway Gazette* for July 21st, a broad classification is adopted, under which the service is divided into (a) clerical or supervisory; (b) operative; and (c) shop. The other day the Industrial Court promulgated an award, to come into force on October 1st, covering the rates of pay, &c., of the shopmen employed by sixteen railway companies; they had to review, for this purpose, the conditions of about 110,000 employees in no less than 1,500 classes. In the discussions preliminary to this award, the whole issue of industrial and craft unionism was involved. It is only mentioned, here, however, as illustrating the complexity of the problem of railway wages, and the caution with which any broad generalisation about them must be read.

Before the war, in consequence largely of the regularity and permanence of their occupation, railwaymen as a group were among the lowest paid of industrial workers. In December, 1913, the average earnings of all men employed by railway companies was 27s 11d, according to the *Labour Gazette*; this figure includes payment for overtime and also men in shops. According to Professor Bowley, the average for a normal week in 1914 was about 26s 6d. Taking July, 1914, as 100, he estimates that by July, 1920 (after the strike settlement), the railway wage index stood at 280, a more rapid increase than the average of wages, which, according to the same authority, had risen to 264 at that date.

December, 1920, when the cost of living percentage increase over pre-war stood at 169, represents the peak of railway wages. Since then they have steadily come down. But the system is not quite the same for all classes. In the case of the clerical and supervising staff, the standard rates of the various grades of employment were fixed on a cost of living figure of 125 per cent. over pre-war; generally speaking they absorb the war bonus, or, since it had been paid in full to lads of 18, and the new rates were based upon age for the lowest class, more than the war bonus. Broadly, staff in this class have lost £40 per annum since the December, 1920, peak; but since the 125 per cent. line was passed the drop in the cost of living to 80 represents a rise on real (pre-war) earnings of about £45 per annum. In the case of the operating staff there are, in relation to every grade, two rates: the "B," or standard rate, which is fixed, and the "A," or current rate, subject to rise and fall according to the cost of living—is for every rise or fall of full 5 points. The rates are reviewed and adjusted quarterly by the National Wages Board. The "A" rates represent

the average pre-war rates, plus war bonus, &c. Since the flat rate war bonus gave the lower grades a higher proportionate increase than the better-paid, the "B" rates (representing an average all-round increase of 100 per cent. on pre-war) are not all reached by the sliding scale at the same cost of living level. Some grades are already on "B"; others will not reach it till the index has fallen very much further. The following table of current or "A" rates, given in the *Railway Gazette*, shows what has happened to typical operating groups:—

	Cost of Living Index—Percentage over July, 1914.	Porter (Grade 1) "A" Rate in London, Industrial and Rural Districts.		Parcel Postman (Grade 1) "A" Rate in London, Industrial and Rural Districts.		Porter (Grade 2) "B" Rate in London, 42s; Industrial and Rural, 40s.	
		Per Cent.	s d	s d	s d	London.	Industrial.
December, 1920 ..	169	72	6	89	6	70	68
March, 1921	141	68	6	85	6	66	64
June, 1921	119	63	6	80	6	61	59
December, 1921 ..	99	58	6	76	6	57	55
March, 1922	86	55	6	72	6	53	51
June, 1922	80	51	6	68	6	49	47

* Includes reduction of 2s under National Wages Board award.

It is obvious that if the cost of living falls much further, the "B," or minimum rates, which were fixed when very erroneous ideas were prevalent as to the future of prices, will have to be revised. In the case of shopmen the rates have not, and are not, by the Industrial Court's award, to be adjusted by any sliding scale, but by separate agreements. The reductions are those effected in the engineering trades generally, though with variable results in different places and trades, owing to differing systems of work and pay. Since 1920 the reduction, e.g., for a fitter, is at least 14s 8d per week, and in many cases 20s or more.

The main argument for the whole sliding scale system is that it is an attempt to establish something like a system of real wages, with a living minimum behind it. It ought to act, and so far on the railways it has acted, as a principle of stabilisation. But an impoverished country cannot afford to level up the wages of its railway workers unless it can secure from them at least as much work as before the war. Hitherto this has not been the case. There may be much room for a better organisation of work, and more elasticity in the arrangements as to hours, such as would effect working economies. These should be fully explored before any attempt is made to modify the basis of the sliding scale.

THE STOCK EXCHANGES OF LONDON & NEW YORK.

REFERENCES in American papers show that the return of the London Stock Exchange to the pre-war system of dealing, whereby introduction of contangoes, fortnightly settlements, &c., is established, arouses keen interest in New York, where the members of the Stock Exchange are watching developments on this side with close attention. In New York Stock Exchange business is carried on, as everybody knows, on a cash basis. This, at any rate, is the principle, though in fact it works out to shares being bought for cash, but paid for through the borrowing of money from day to day. In American eyes the contango system in vogue in this country seems to be cumbersome and antiquated. London brokers are told that they ought to "cut it out," in order to substitute the greater facilities offered by the New York system. Incidentally, of course, it is worth mentioning that the American plan of borrowing money introduces a variety of undesirable elements which do not enter into the London Stock Exchange markets, and it is doubtless owing to this fact that a kind of inquisition is being suggested in New York which shall inquire into the financial standing, &c., of Stock Exchange firms, which would certainly not be tolerated for a minute in Throgmorton street. Where the American theorist fails to grasp the essential difference between the dealings in London and New York lies in the fact that in London the bulk of the stocks and shares dealt in are registered, whereas in America they are bearer securities. This makes literally all the difference in the world. Anybody can deal in bearer stocks for money, because it is merely a matter of putting the certificates into a bank over-night, and borrowing money against them, without any further formality than that of filling up a loan-sheet. With

registered stocks, however, the case is totally different. It may, and usually does, take several days, sometimes several weeks, before stock which is purchased can be put into the name of the new buyer, and to attempt cash dealings on the principle of day-to-day money in registered stocks and shares from the speculative point of view would be impossible. This vital distinction between the two classes of business does not seem to have been grasped by the American critics, who are probably so familiar with the bearer stocks in which practically all their dealings are done, that they are tempted to assume equal facility of dealing with registered stocks and shares. The British habit of mind is so firmly ingrained in favour of registered securities that it would require a generation or two for this to alter. The Continental bourses, like the New York Stock Exchange, prefer stocks to bearer; to meet this predilection, a certain number of British companies whose shares enjoy interbourse popularity have made arrangements whereby registered shares can be made into bearer certificates and *vice versa*.

The New York Stock Exchange is a progressive and go-ahead institution, as is shown, to give one example, by the industrious manner in which the committee of that exchange collects information by way of lectures, &c., which they place before their members through the medium of printed pamphlets. We have in front of us at the present time five of these reprinted addresses, &c., which have been issued by the Committee on Library, New York Stock Exchange, and the titles of which give an idea of the general scope. The president of the New York Stock Exchange, Mr Seymour L. Cromwell, delivered one of these addresses at a luncheon of the New York Electric League in New York City on June 21st, when he dealt with conditions under which dealings in securities are warranted, with supplementary remarks on the question of contract between brokers and clients, and an explanation of the necessity for such contracts. Another pamphlet is a reprint of an interview with Mr Cromwell, in which he criticises the "politicians who would make it appear that the Stock Exchange is the barracks which houses the men of get-rich-quick brigade." "How to Maintain the Confidence of the Public" is the title of an address by Mr H. S. Houston, delivered before the members of the New York Stock Exchange and their partners on April 7th this year. On the same date, curiously enough, the same audience was invited to an address by Mr G. P. Mellick, who dealt with the interesting problem of handling O'd Lots. This latter is defined as a subject of greater interest to-day than ever before, and to the British mind it would appear as though the New York Stock Exchange were anxious to encourage the business of what we should call the small man, as distinct from the investor or speculator who deals in lines of stock. The New York Stock Exchange also invited Mr Jerome Simmons, general counsel to the vigilance committee of the Social Advertising Clubs of the world, to address its members. He led off by assuring his hearers that, so far from being there as a propagandist, his real object was to represent an organisation which seeks to serve industry in acquiring sinews of war, seeks to serve the people of New York, who are charged with the obligation of distributing securities, and in so doing to stop the "frightful economic waste that is going on to-day." The intention of his society is to "divert into legitimate channels the millions of dollars that are going into the pockets of the men—if I may use the expression—of the fakers and the false promoters of the United States." As already mentioned, these lectures are printed by the New York Stock Exchange Library Committee, and issued to its members. They contain a good deal of useful information and illuminating views in regard to Stock Exchange business carried on under whatever system. They are aimed at the maintenance of a high standard of honour in Stock Exchange dealings, and they speak in biting terms of the losses sustained by people who persist in dealing with bucket shops. In regard to this latter one sentence may be quoted in conclusion. Mr Simmons in his lecture remarks that a broker is not a salesman; he is a trustee. The client looks to the integrity and honesty of a stockbroker, and Mr Simmons reminds us that one circumstance which must be taken into consideration is the fact that ignorance is the handmaiden of gullibility.

LABOUR AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

(BY A LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AN important document on unemployment insurance by industry has just been published under the authority of the National Joint Council, representing the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Labour Party. It may be remembered that the Geddes Committee referred to the possibility of industries looking after their own unemployed. The Minister of Labour seized the opportunity to approach employers' associations and trades unions on the question, not because of the merits of the case, but solely in the interests of "economy."

The industrial and political Labour movements felt that the problem should be considered in its wider bearings and the trades unions were consulted on the subject. The Report on Unemployment Insurance by Industry (price 6d) traces the history and present position of unemployment insurance, sets forth the case for and the arguments against unemployment insurance on an industrial basis, analyses the returns received from the unions, and submits the outlines of a scheme designed to meet the needs of the various groups of industries.

The unions of cotton and woollen operatives support insurance by industry, as do also the clothing trades unions and the printers. The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers are other important unions favouring this method. In the building trades the predominant feeling is against insurance by industry. The Miners' Federation and the National Union of Railwaymen oppose the principle, as do the Workers' Union and the National Union of General Workers. It will be seen, therefore, that there is a real cleavage of opinion within the trade union movement on the question. On the whole, however, the returns show a majority of two to one against the proposal, measured by the membership of the unions. The returns are not complete, but it is unlikely that a complete census would vary the general result. The figures are as follows:—

	No.	Membership.
Unions opposed.....	21	2,670,900
Unions approving.....	43	1,252,600

Though the number of unions disapproving of insurance by industry is smaller than the number favourable to it, the total membership of the opposing unions is much greater, as it includes the membership of the two great general Labour unions, the miners and the railwaymen. It can readily be understood that the organisations of general workers with members in almost every industry will prefer co-operating in a single state scheme to becoming involved in a number of separate industrial schemes. The miners and the railwaymen regard unemployment as a national problem to be dealt with on national lines.

It will be obvious from the difference of opinion which exists regarding the wisdom of unemployment insurance by industry that a simple declaration by the Labour movement in favour of this policy is out of the question. On the other hand, in view of the strong support given to the policy by some unions, it is clear that Labour cannot pronounce against it.

The National Joint Council has, therefore, put forward a policy combining a State scheme with provision for insurance by industry. In effect what is suggested is a revision of the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1920, which provides for industries contracting out and establishing their own schemes. The National Joint Council lays down two principles which it seeks to embody in its proposals—first, that for the industries covered by the general scheme the State assumes the main responsibility, and secondly, that under special schemes unemployment is made a first charge on the industry.

As regards the general scheme, it is suggested that the necessary funds should be raised by contributions from the State, employers, and, if this cannot be avoided, the workers. It is realised that industries where unemployment is relatively small will probably press for schemes of their own, with the result that the State scheme will be called upon to provide for industries where unemployment is above the average. To ensure the sol-

vency of the fund, therefore, it will be necessary to obtain increased contributions. In the opinion of the National Joint Council, "such increased contributions ought to come from the State, which should be required to face its responsibilities as regards unemployment." Whilst, however, the State would be called upon to pay more generously to the general fund than at present, the additional expenditure would be at least to some extent offset by the smaller State contribution paid in respect of workers insured under industrial schemes.

It is thought that the proportion paid by the workers themselves should be reduced. As the Report points out "the present State scheme, plus the total expenditure of trade unions on out-of-work pay, represents in the aggregate a very considerable drain on working class resources to meet an evil for which Labour is not responsible, and which is largely the result of defective industrial organisation and lack of policy." It is not anticipated in the Report that the Government will accept the principle of a non-contributory scheme. What is aimed at is, if possible, a reduction of workers' contributions and, failing that, the acceptance by the State of the whole of the net additional cost which may be necessary.

In the case of special schemes undertaken by particular industries, it is suggested that the question of workpeople's contributions need not arise, as the expenditure involved in a scheme of insurance by industry would become part of the art of production. In existing circumstances and under the present scheme it is true of employers' contributions. In the Guild of Builders, the "consumer" pays a charge above cost for the industrial maintenance of the workers in the guild when they are unemployed. In other words, industrial maintenance in this experiment is part of the cost of production. It is suggested that in industrial schemes this course could be followed. It is hoped that a heavier State burden with respect to the State scheme would compel measures for minimising unemployment, and it is suggested that, as regards special schemes, it should be a condition that approved measures be taken for the reduction of unemployment.

In order that the possibilities of special schemes may be considered the Report gives a number of schemes, actual and proposed, for dealing with unemployment insurance by industry. The only special scheme which is in operation under the Unemployment Insurance Act is that relating to the insurance industry. This scheme is more favourable to the workers than the State provision. In spite of the reduction of the State's contribution, it has been found possible to provide benefits at rates higher than those payable under the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, without at the outset levying any contributions on the worker at all. The employers are thus responsible for seven-tenths of all the cost of the scheme. A scheme was prepared for the wool textile industry, but was not carried into effect owing to the suspension by the Government of special schemes. The chief feature of interest is the provision for the special needs of the industry contained in the arrangement for under-employment benefit, and the adjustment of this in accordance with the cost of living. The scheme for the printing industry arranges for the payment of benefit through trade union branch offices and the establishment of a special system of employment exchanges for the industry. The benefits proposed are much higher than the State benefit and under-employment benefit is provided for, though this would not, as in the wool textile scheme, vary with the cost of living. The Cotton Control Board's scheme is outlined, though no longer in operation. It is interesting because the whole of the necessary funds were obtained from employers without assistance from the State or from workpeople's contributions, and the administration of the scheme was very largely left to the trade unions. There is in the match industry a voluntary scheme additional to the State scheme. It is non-contributory so far as the workers are concerned, and benefits are payable on the basis of a percentage of wages, and are thus adjusted to the varying standards of life of the employees.

These schemes will be scrutinised by trade unions favourable to the industrial basis for insurance, and when opportunity occurs efforts will no doubt be made to strengthen the present Act in the directions suggested in the National Joint Council's report.

Notes of the Week.

Holes in the Public Purse.—The work of the Select Committee on Public Accounts is sometimes regarded as merely closing the stable door after the horse has been stolen. This is an underestimate of its importance. The reports of this committee are of great value, in that they bring financial irregularities and leakages into the sunlight of publicity and tend to prevent future leakages. The latest report (No. 167, price 6d net) shows that the laxity and waste which are sometimes regarded by the easygoing as the inevitable aftermath of war muddles, have by no means been banished. Nor does such banishment appear likely so long as small irregularities are encouraged by Cabinet Ministers, as in a case which the report mentions. It is the case of the visit of Mr Churchill to Cairo. A scale of allowed expenses was pre-arranged by the Treasury, "but in response to a telegram from the Secretary of State from Cairo they waived this regular practice and agreed to allow actual expenses in lieu of the allowances, i.e., not to impose a limit. In reply to our questions we were told by the Treasury representative that this would have been unusual before the war, certainly; 'I cannot say that it is unusual now.' We are glad to see that the committee's comment is emphatic: 'It seems to us that it is very undesirable for unlimited power of spending to be given to any mission, and equally undesirable for a Cabinet Minister to set the example of asking it.' There are other points in the report that will make the taxpayer uneasy. In the words of the Accounts Officer 'the history of accountancy in Mesopotamia is a very black chapter indeed,' and the latest illustration mentioned in the report is the expenditure of £135,000 on a residence for the High Commissioner at Bagdad, of which neither the War Office nor any Home department was aware until the war was far advanced. The report tells also of gifts of public property unsanctioned by Parliament, of an ordnance factories scheme under which "money voted by Parliament was irregularly used to finance a commercial undertaking for which no vote had been taken." The committee agreed with the Treasury view that an estimate should have been presented to Parliament, but also hold that "the Treasury themselves should have called the Ministry's attention to this course at the time." An instance is also brought to light of "irregular use of Navy funds" in connection with running fishing vessels, while the Admiralty are also taken to task for expending £7,797 on a drifter which was sold for £750. There are still, apparently, plenty of holes in the public purse, which, we trust, will be mended by the closer application of Treasury vigilance.

Another Lesson in Protection.—The Board of Trade have made the following announcement:—"In exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 5 of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, the Board of Trade have directed that certificates of origin shall be required, so far as concerns the classes or descriptions of goods covered by the Schedule to the Safeguarding of Industries (No. 1) Order, 1922, in the case of goods consigned from all foreign countries in Europe. The necessary instructions have been issued to H.M. Consular Officers in the countries concerned, and the form of certificate of origin prescribed by the Board of Trade can be seen on application to any Customs and Excise Office." This is a perfectly logical step, and in taking it the President of the Board of Trade is merely carrying out the intentions of the Safeguarding of Industries Act. But of the difficulties and hindrances that it will impose upon traders every practical business man will be aware.

German Contracts.—Our Berlin correspondent, to whom we referred several inquiries concerning his report (*Economist*, June 17) of a decision of the Leipzig Court merely because of a fall in the value of money before the delivery date, writes as follows:—"A full report of this decision appears in the *Juristische Wochenschrift* of May 15th, page 702. The case is important, because earlier

Reichsgericht decisions in the same sense were mostly based upon an emergency law freeing from delivery contracts when in consequence of the war or revolution delivery was impossible. Earlier decisions held that the currency depreciation (rise in production cost) was such a consequence of the war or revolution; and conflicts arose with foreign buyers (mostly former neutrals) who could not get delivery of goods which Germans had contracted to sell at a fixed price. The new decision is based exclusively upon the *clausula rebus sic stantibus*. In general, German law recognises this qualification to the inviolability of a contract only when the contract so specifically provides. In the case in question, the defendant contracted to sell a spinnery at a fixed price, but withdrew, giving various grounds, of which only the ground that circumstances had altered remained to be ruled on by the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal pronounced untenable the ruling of a lower court that recognition of the right to repudiate contracts merely "because of the change in economic conditions" must lead to complete chaos in the domain of contract law. This apprehension, said the Court of Appeal, is unfounded; all that is necessary is to lay down the limits within which the objection holds good. A revolution in values, proceeds the judgment, may justify contract repudiation even when it is not accompanied by a difficulty in fulfilling the contract. A contract may be repudiated when "the continuation of the equivalence of consideration and delivery was assumed at date of the conclusion of the contract." The Court of Appeal added that a seller, before repudiating his contract on the ground of the disappearance of the expected equivalence between consideration and delivery, ought to demand an increase of the consideration. "If this is refused, he (the selling party) is free." This decision is sharply criticised. Prof. Rabel of Munich points out that the buying party also may lose from non-delivery, because he may have kept the contracted payment sum in cash (paper marks) or in German bonds. In fact, in the case in question the selling party had agreed to take part payment in War Loan at a stipulated Bourse quotation; and since then not only had the Bourse quotation fallen by about a quarter, but the gold value of the loan stock had fallen to a small fraction of its value at the date of conclusion of contract. In such cases the whole burden of the changed currency conditions is imposed on one party, the party which formally is in the right. Still more important for ordinary trade than the above decision is a second decision of the Leipzig Court. Here the defendant contracted to deliver iron wire at a fixed price, but withdrew on the ground of the subsequent enormous rise in production cost, which he had not foreseen. In an earlier similar case, the Third Senate of the Court of Appeal declared that such delivery contracts must under all circumstances, and regardless of consequences for the selling party, be kept. The Second Senate's judgment disputes this decision, and substitutes the equivalence test: "It is different when events alter values, in particular the value of money, to such a degree that . . . the equivalent, which was foreseen in the contract, cannot even approximately be attained. The creditor (*Gläubiger*, in this case the buying party) violates faith and honour if under such circumstances he insists upon delivery." The last decision has made a great stir in business circles. The editor of a legal-commercial journal informs your correspondent that business men strongly object to it, seeing in it the destruction of all confidence in contracts as long as the present currency instability continues; and states that the German Trade and Industry Congress is circulating its members in order to obtain opinions as to what should be done. (The second decision may be found in the *Aktenzeichen* of the Leipzig Court, II. 247/1921.)

Mexico's Foreign Debt.—A Reuter telegram from Mexico City, now confirmed officially, announces that the debt settlement arrived at in June between the Finance Minister and the American Bankers' Committee was approved and ratified by President Obregon, on Monday last. It will be dealt with early in the session of Congress which opens in September, and its acceptance should hasten the recognition by Washington of President Obregon's Govern-

ment. Certain New York papers, however, have been prophesying difficulties both in Congress and outside it; it is alleged that many of the election results are disputed, that the owners of oil lands threatened with expropriation under the Carranzist Constitution have not been properly assured that their rights are safeguarded by the decisions of the Supreme Court last year, and that other lands have been taken without proper compensation for that distribution among smallholders which is regarded as the surest provision against revolution. But Mexican news is seldom trustworthy, and is sometimes the more difficult to interpret when it comes through the United States, and these reports are unconfirmed. President Obregon has been ill, but is now recovered, and his illness was grossly exaggerated in certain New York journals. Still, such reports as those mentioned above indicate that even when Congress has confirmed the debt settlement there may be some delay in recognition.

Peace in Brazil.—The failure of the military revolt in July has been followed, according to a letter from Rio Janeiro published in the *Paris Temps* last Wednesday, by the acquiescence of the part of the leaders of the minority in Congress in its confirmation of the election of Senhor Bernardes to the Presidency. They have also undertaken not to oppose Senhor Estacio Coimbra, nominated for the Vice-Presidency *vice* Senhor Urbano Santos, deceased; so he will be elected on August 20th. Their opposition, backed by Rio Janeiro and four Northern States, is said to have been directed against what was virtually an official candidature. The opposition to Senhor Bernardes on the part of the officers, which culminated in the military revolt, was based on a private letter bearing his signature, published during the election and referring in offensive terms to the military chiefs. In spite of his disclaimers, they maintained its genuineness on the evidence of an expert in handwriting. Other experts declared it a forgery, and it has been finally proved to be so by the confession of the instigator of the forgery and the actual forger, who has given other specimens of his skill. So Brazil may now celebrate her centenary in peace.

Coal Output.—The production of coal at the mines of Great Britain made substantial improvement for the week ended July 29th last, when an output of 4,989,100 tons was reached. This output has not been equalled since April last, when for the week ended April 29th a total of 5,160,100 was recorded. In the table given below we show the weekly production since July 30, 1921:—

1921.	Tons.	1922.	Tons.
August 6	3,623,200	February 4	4,803,100
August 13	4,536,600	February 11	4,912,500
August 20	4,327,800	February 18	5,000,800
August 27	4,101,700	February 25	5,046,600
September 3	4,141,900	March 4	5,038,900
September 10	3,939,800	March 11	4,995,900
September 17	4,161,700	March 18	4,956,900
September 24	4,273,100	March 25	4,929,300
October 1	4,118,200	April 1	4,825,400
October 8	4,287,900	April 8	4,961,700
October 15	4,237,200	April 15	4,383,800
October 22	4,236,600	April 22	3,543,900
October 29	4,210,200	April 29	5,160,100
November 5	4,182,400	May 6	4,766,600
November 12	4,372,500	May 13	4,945,200
November 19	4,646,300	May 20	4,804,100
November 26	4,673,600	May 27	4,629,600
December 3	4,693,300	June 3	4,440,900
December 10	4,855,100	June 10	2,681,800
December 17	5,030,700	June 17	4,350,200
December 24	4,965,400	June 24	4,353,900
December 31	3,049,000	July 1	4,530,000
		July 8	4,597,800
		July 15	4,626,700
		July 22	4,390,800
		July 29	4,989,100
		1922.	
January 7	3,674,000		
January 14	4,719,100		
January 21	4,560,500		
January 28	4,738,700		

It will be interesting to observe the effect of the recent American demand for coal on future figures.

The Weather and the Crops.—The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a report on crop conditions in England and Wales at the beginning of August, which may be summarised as follows:—The weather during July was wet and cold, with some high winds. Coming after the previous dry weather, the effect was generally beneficial to

agriculture, although haymaking was much delayed and some hay damaged. Late-sown spring corn, grass, and roots all benefited. Wheat is hardly so promising as a month ago. The heavier crops have in many instances been laid by the strong winds and rains, and in some districts the ear is not filling well. The ears are rather small, and the probable yield, over the whole country, is estimated at about 32.0 bushels per acre. Barley was improved appreciably by the rains, but the straw is still short, and with thin plants, only poor yields can be expected. Spring oats did not benefit to the same extent as barley, and in most parts of the country are poor and thin, as damage by frit-fly and wireworm is frequently evident in these crops. Winter oats are very satisfactory, although they have been damaged to a certain extent by the storms. The yield of barley is forecasted at 29.9 bushels per acre and of oats at 34.4 bushels. Beans did not pod well in many districts, and have been damaged by blight, so that results will not be quite so favourable as was expected a month ago. Spring beans are very unsatisfactory. Peas are very poor in many districts, especially in the east; they did not recover from the drought and suffered considerable damage from fly. Forecasts of the yield indicate an average for the whole country of 27.2 bushels in the case of beans and 21.9 bushels in the case of peas. In the southern half of the country cutting of winter oats and barley was begun towards the end of July, but harvests generally will be rather late. Sun is now needed to ripen the crops. Present estimates of acreage and production compare with the actual figures for 1921 as follows:—

	Area.		Production.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	Forecast, 1922.
	Acres.	Acres.	Quarters.	Quarters.
Wheat	1,976,000	1,969,000	8,722,000	7,880,000
Barley	1,436,000	1,362,000	5,309,000	5,090,000
Oats	2,149,000	2,161,000	10,033,000	9,290,000
Beans	237,200	272,000	778,000	920,000
Peas	105,700	123,000	313,000	340,000

Potatoes improved very considerably during July, and main crops are healthy and vigorous with few exceptions. In the Midlands and South-West yields may be slightly under average, but elsewhere good average crops are expected. Early potatoes lifted before the rains gave light yields, but improved considerably later. The area of potatoes is 561,000 acres, or 3,000 acres more than last year. Mangolds have grown well, but now require more sun. The plant is fairly good on the whole, but there are some patchy fields in practically all parts of the country. In the Eastern Counties good crops should be grown, but elsewhere they are not quite so promising. On the whole, nearly average crops are anticipated. Hay-making has been very much delayed by the wet weather, and is hardly finished even in the earlier parts of the country, whilst in the later districts much still remains to be cut. Most of the seeds hay was got in early in good condition, but a certain proportion of the meadow hay has been damaged. Crops of meadow hay have become heavier, but the delay in cutting has impaired the quality. The yield of meadow hay, on the whole, is estimated to be from 15 to 20 per cent. below average, and of seeds hay about 20 per cent. below. The rains improved the pastures, and during the second half of July there was plenty of grass in all parts of the country. Where the hay was secured early, aftermaths have made good growth. Cattle have done fairly well, but feeding cattle have not put on flesh so quickly as usual. Sheep have made satisfactory progress, but lambs have only partly recovered from their bad start. Some losses among hill sheep after shearing were experienced in Wales owing to the cold winds.

American Railways and Road Transport.—The competition of the automobile with the railway as a common carrier has created a new problem in America as well as here, writes a correspondent. In his latest annual report, Mr E. J. Pearson, President of the New Haven Railroad, called attention to the "extensive inroads" that motor trucks are making on short-haul less-than-carload traffic. These trucks, he points out, generally take only the cream of the traffic, leaving to the railroad the less profitable

business, coupled with the necessity of performing continuous service at all times, of readiness to handle excess traffic, and of operating during unfavourable weather when motor trucks cannot or will not run. They thus sap the revenues of the railroad, which cannot proportionately reduce its costs of operation. This complaint is heard not only from New England, with its dense population and short hauls, but from California, where the chairman of the Southern Pacific has been protesting against motor trucks running competitively on highways that parallel the railways—highways that are provided free to their users by the outlay of Federal and State money. In some cases the railways are trying to meet the difficulty by means of devices to reduce costs, such as the use of self-propelled motor cars and removable bodies on freight cars that will facilitate terminal handling. But no one seriously expects that such expedients will do more than alleviate the situation. The only hope of substantial and permanent improvement is believed to lie in Federal and State regulation of this serious competitor. As yet, this new carrier has not been placed under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and, in so far as its existence has been recognised by the State authorities, it has been subject only to the control of bodies that were created many years ago to regulate other common carriers and public utilities. Little has been done except to ensure that the company proposing to perform the functions of a common carrier is responsible and will run its services in such a way as not to menace the safety and welfare of the public. Several States require the payment of a higher registration fee or licence tax than is imposed on private motors, but this additional charge is quite insignificant when compared with the profits derived from the traffic. In Nebraska an order was issued in 1919 laying down a schedule of maximum rates for commercial motor traffic on the highways, but this was rescinded two years later. In some States there are signs of a movement in the direction of strengthening existing laws and adopting new restrictions, but, on the whole, public support for such measures is not easy to obtain. There seems rather to be an inclination on the part of legislative bodies to encourage the development of highway transport as a competitor of railway transport without a sufficient regard to the handicaps from which the railway suffers or for the ultimate advantage of the community. Perhaps the most remarkable illustration of this tendency is the introduction into Congress of a Bill authorising the Government to lend money at 5 per cent. to assist companies in organising highway transport, the loan to be contingent on whether the business of the proposed company offers a reasonable prospect of success. Against such measures the American railroads are naturally protesting.

The Marconi Report.—Gross profits of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company for 1921 show a slight decline, and expenses at the same time showing a slight increase, profits work out at £275,361, as compared with £267,156 a year ago. In the following summary we show the progress of the company over a number of years:—

	1913.	1915.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Gross profits ..	£ 246,682	£ 486,850	£ 540,185	£ 766,263	£ 1,538,040	£ 564,838	£ 554,515
Expenses	124,359	168,217	156,350	168,325	317,300	267,156	279,154
Net profit	122,323	318,633	383,835	597,938	1,220,740	297,682	275,361
Pref. dividend ..	42,500	30,000	42,500	55,000	117,500	30,000	30,000
Ord. dividend ..	150,000	183,403	244,537	305,912	617,824	391,567	397,088
To reserve	32,470	100,000	150,000	150,000	..	..	..
Balance	Dr 70,177	72,590	Dr 3,808	87,026	491,416	Dr 123,885	Dr 151,787
Brought forward ..	146,726	307,546	380,106	376,760	463,786	944,450	814,567
Carried forward ..	76,549	380,106	376,904	463,786	955,802	820,567	666,830

As a year ago, ordinary shareholders receive a distribution of 15 per cent. and preference shareholders 12 per cent., but the balance carried forward is reduced from £820,567 to £666,830. The directors point out that "the uncertain political conditions, the unstable exchange obtained in almost all countries throughout the world, have not only limited the scope of such a business as ours, so largely dependent in the past on Governments, but has also rendered every transaction difficult and anxious, calling for unusual caution." And shareholders

are informed that "no settlement has been made by any of the Government Departments in respect of any of the company's claims arising out of the war, or the services rendered during the war, and no sum, therefore, in respect of any of these claims figures in the past year's accounts." But it is added that "negotiations are continuing, and your directors would welcome the opportunity of adjusting many matters which must be as irksome and costly to the Government as they are to the company." In the balance-sheet total assets at £8,285,163 are £215,413 lower. There are, however, some important changes. Investments and loans have fallen to £1,318,875. This item alone shows a reduction of £1,164,904. Debtors, on the other hand, have increased by £448,575, while Cash shows a gain of £110,752 at £124,773. The most imposing figure on the asset side is the item "shares in associated and other companies and patents," valued at £3,237,212. This is an increase of £295,696 on the figures recorded a year ago. There is a footnote to the balance-sheet, which states that "shares held in associated and other companies are of a par value of £4,140,581," and this information is further supplemented in the directors' report by the considered opinion of the directors to the effect that the shares and debts of associated and other companies are worth the value placed upon them in the balance-sheet. Incidentally, it is also stated that patents and rights figure in the accounts at £283,691. This information is all to the good, as it enables us to analyse this huge item better. The auditors' report, which should be carefully perused, sheds yet further light on the company's investments. It states that "a large part of the investments and shares in associated companies are held abroad." The auditors are certainly to be commended upon their candour in admitting that—"We are unable to form an opinion as to the value of the shares in associated and other companies and patents." The same candour is displayed in commenting upon amounts due from associated companies taken in the balance-sheet at £1,584,777. However, the general reserve account at £3,986,914 is a substantial item, although slightly lower than a year ago, and if this is offset against these items, and the fact that creditors total only £230,886, the position appears to be quite satisfactory. Indeed, the directors are to be congratulated upon going into items with an evident desire to be informative, and stand out in striking contrast with the directorates of some undertakings which occasionally display unusual reticence in publishing detailed accounts.

Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton.—Although trading profits for the twelve months ended June 30th last of Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton, Limited, improved to £1,205,795, as against £1,158,172 for the previous year, expenses, increasing in larger proportion, reduced net profits to £279,849, as compared with the previous year's figures of £277,401. Rents, rates, taxes, insurance, and compensation fund charges increased from £193,600 to £302,300, being a rise of over £108,500, while an extra £11,000 went for repairs, &c. Salaries and other charges, however, were reduced by approximately £62,000, falling from £535,000 to £473,200, and interest charges at £7,900 show a saving of £14,000. The table below compares results for the past five years and for 1913-14:—

Year ended June 30	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Gross trading profit	£ 749,607	£ 771,896	£ 890,294	£ 1,113,121	£ 1,158,172	£ 1,205,795
Expenses	455,611	463,416	568,151	817,546	880,771	925,946
Sundry revenue ..	293,996	308,480	322,143	295,575	277,401	279,849
Balance forward ..	143,153	207,086	232,693	282,965	236,894	200,528
	64,593	68,120	61,570	60,080	61,970	73,085
Deb. interest	501,742	583,686	616,406	638,620	576,265	553,462
Bad debts and in-vest. deprec. ..	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800
Pref. dividend ..	34,266	65,766	24,646	43,450	29,980	13,514
Ord. dividend ..	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000
Rate	204,000	204,000	217,600	224,400	224,400	224,400
Reserve, &c.	15 %	15 %	16 %	11 %	11 %	11 %
	50,000	103,550	165,280	160,000	100,000	100,000
Carried forward ..	64,676	61,570	60,080	61,970	73,085	66,748

Again bad and doubtful debt charges are reduced, the figure this year falling to £13,514. Reserve allocations at £100,000 are similar to those made a year ago, and the 11 per cent. ordinary distribution is maintained. On turning to the balance-sheet, which will be found fully analysed in our usual column, total assets have been reduced from £9,196,176 to £8,921,522. Stocks are now valued at £2,257,799, being a reduction of over £232,000 when compared with the previous year's figures, and debtors at £1,784,932 show a contraction of over £202,000. Cash in hand and at bankers has increased from £342,148 to £461,908, and creditors have fallen by over £368,000 to £2,471,574, and though goodwill and trade marks are, as before, retained in the balance-sheet at £800,000, the reserve fund has been brought up to exactly this amount. This is the third brewery report in the space of a week or two to show that the industry has been doing remarkably well in a time of great industrial depression.

Kafir Profits and Prices.—Our mining correspondent writes:—On the Stock Exchange favourable events frequently prove to have been discounted in advance, but this month's experience in connection with the Rand provides one of the exceptions. In the concluding portion of July and the commencement of August the share market displayed marked activity, large purchases being made in the expectation that the July returns would show substantial increases in profits due to reduction in costs. This expectation turned out to have been well founded, and publication of the actual figures led to a renewed demand on the part of speculative investors, especially for the shares of those companies whose returns made the best showing. As will be seen from the statistics given in another section of the paper, the great majority of the mines secured larger profits last month than in June. Appended is a comparison of the costs per ton and the working profits for July with those of December—just prior to the outbreak of the labour trouble:—

Company.	Working Costs.		Working Profit.	
	Dec.	July.	Dec.	July.
	Per Ton.	Per Ton.	£	£
	s d	s d		
Aurora West	25 2	23 11	510	1,710
Brakpan	28 5	22 9	30,200	45,300
City Deep	28 6	24 1	42,700	66,700
Consolidated Langlaagte	24 2	20 11	9,240	10,690
Crown Mines	*23 2	20 1	*31,100	67,690
Durban Deep	33 4	26 5	12,410	7,400
East Rand Proprietary	23 5	21 10	560	7,940
Ferreira Deep	*42 1	22 1	15,020	5,400
Geduld Proprietary	21 4	19 4	31,630	30,120
Geldenhuis Deep	26 3	22 1	14,060	3,800
Government Areas	20 11	18 5	140,100	153,900
Langlaagte Estate	24 9	21 0	9,480	14,460
Meyer and Charlton	25 3	21 10	22,400	22,250
Modder B.	27 5	22 4	59,800	86,950
" Deep	21 3	18 9	64,800	66,260
" East	34 2	29 8	7,830	9,050
" New	21 5	17 10	114,200	127,900
Nourse	27 7	24 4	900	8,820
Randfontein Central	27 6	21 10	110	45,030
Robinson Deep	25 7	18 11	9,400	30,080
" Gold	21 3	18 9	170	9,690
Rose Deep	22 1	19 1	3,320	8,500
Springs Mines	28 7	24 11	27,840	35,070
Sub Nigel	44 11	41 7	6,760	5,420
Van Ryn	25 4	20 11	5,020	9,070
" Deep	25 2	21 3	65,600	63,000
Village Deep	30 8	19 1	11,500	15,000
West Rand Consd.	26 3	23 6	1,080	4,210
Witwatersrand Deep	25 4	21 0	3,900	14,270
" Gold	21 7	18 4	5,500	12,260
Wolhuter	20 11	19 3	230	3,670

* Exceptional, owing to strike.

† Loss.

As already pointed out in our columns, the companies, as from the beginning of July, benefit from the entire discontinuance of the war bonus paid to the white miners, and while it cannot be expected that future economies will be on anything like the scale effected during the past half-year, there is reason to believe that the current results will, generally speaking, be maintained, if not improved upon.

New Jagersfontein.—Mining operations on the part of this company during the year ended March 31st last having been confined to the treatment of residues and debris, the yield of diamonds naturally shows a falling off in average as well as in total—the latter figures at 66,000 carats, as against 167,600 in 1920-21. The actual sales only brought in £18,500; thus the diamonds on hand at cost of production have been increased to £284,100. Pursuance of the company's philanthropic policy of providing work for its employees, irrespective of the nature of the return, has had the effect of reducing its liquid resources by £100,000 to £32,000. Obviously, this could not continue, and the shareholders will learn with relief that during the last few months some sales have been made by the Diamond Syndicate, which deals with the output of all the leading companies. A considerable improvement in the demand would, however, be needed to warrant the resumption of production on anything approaching the normal scale; and of this there is little prospect, even in the United States, which is the largest buyer. For 1919-20 the record dividend of 62½ per cent. was paid, this being followed up by an interim distribution of 25 per cent. in October, 1920. Since then the shareholders have had to "go without."

Gold and Silver Production in United States.—From a statement issued by the Bureau of the Mint at Washington we have compiled the following final estimate of refinery production of gold and silver in the United States during 1921:—

GOLD AND SILVER PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

State or Territory.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Ounces.	Value.	Ounces and Value in \$.	
Alaska	386,927	7,998,500	753,999	
Arizona	160,498	3,317,800	2,519,200	
California	728,590	15,061,300	3,606,708	
Colorado	355,459	7,347,800	6,310,694	
Idaho	26,229	542,200	7,200,319	
Michigan	..	..	316,551	
Missouri	..	..	63,470	
Montana	83,476	1,725,600	9,677,020	
Nevada	155,791	3,220,500	6,998,774	
New Mexico	9,824	203,100	579,374	
Oregon	39,454	815,600	53,118	
South Dakota	315,550	6,523,000	111,670	
Tennessee	241	5,000	106,664	
Texas	116	2,400	548,827	
Utah	91,636	1,894,300	14,028,661	
Washington	7,309	151,100	147,584	
Philippines	60,705	1,254,900	26,392	
Total, inc. production of various other States..	2,422,006	50,067,300	53,052,441	

Silver is valued at \$1 per ounce as provided by the Pittman Act for domestic production. Compared with 1920, these estimates indicate reductions of \$1,119,600 in value of gold production, and 2,309,132 ounces of silver production. The country's record production occurred in 1915, the figures being \$101,035,700 gold and 74,961,075 ounces silver.

Japanese Trade and Finance.—Cabled advices from Tokyo state that the money market was quiet during the second half of July. At the end of the month, however, the rate for day-to-day loans rose to 10 per cent., but soon dropped to 7½ per cent. National loans and debenture stocks enjoyed a strong demand from the investing public, and the new 5 per Cent. Exchequer bonds are expected to go off well. The general tendency of bank deposits is to increase while the recent tendency of bankers' loans to rise is now being checked. The commercial markets show little change except for a slump in prices in the rice market on account of the favourable weather for rice plantations. The stock markets have been dull, and the silk trade inactive. Arrangements are under consideration for decreasing the output of silk. The necessity for national retrenchment is becoming more clearly realised, and there is some talk also of regulating prices. The note issue of the Bank of Japan at July 31st was 1,224 million yen, as against 1,142 million yen a year ago, while discounts and advances at that date were 215 million yen, against 68 million yen at this time last year.

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—DEBT REFUNDING—INVESTMENT DEMAND ACTIVE—STEEL CORPORATION'S FIGURES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 31.

THE Treasury Department's action in calling for the redemption on December 15, 1922, of about one-half of the outstanding 4½ per cent. Victory notes, and at the same time offering on the usual terms a new issue of approximately \$300,000,000 four-year 4½ per cent. Treasury notes, with provision for an additional allotment up to a limited amount in exchange for the 4½ per cent. Victory notes, is another important step in the programme for refunding the Government's short-dated debt. Of the latter, about \$4,500,000,000 must be refunded during the current fiscal year, and most of that amount must be taken care of within the next ten months. The \$300,000,000 Treasury notes just offered for subscription, Secretary Mellon says, will provide for the Treasury certificates of indebtedness maturing on August 1, and for the Treasury's remaining cash requirements up to September 15th next. The allotment of additional notes, he explains, should accomplish the refunding of some more of the Victory loan and correspondingly reduce the amount of Victory notes to be provided for upon redemption or maturity. As a result of this operation, it is expected that by January 1, 1923, the outstanding Victory notes will have been reduced to about \$1,000,000,000. The latter is regarded as a "manageable maturity which can be dealt with as opportunity offers, without spectacular refunding operations that would upset the security markets and disturb the course of business and industry."

When this latest refunding is completed, and if the Treasury's expectations, as indicated, are realised, only about one-fifth of the total amount which originally fell due in 1923 will remain outstanding. All of the 3½ per cent. Victory notes have been taken up through short-term loans, most of the 4½'s have been converted into new 4½'s maturing in 1925 and 1926, or into 4½ per cent. notes due in 1925, while the present offering provides for conversion into 4½ per cent. Treasury notes maturing in 1926. Through the skilful handling of the problem by the Treasury Department, aided by a favourable investment market, what is perhaps the largest conversion operation ever undertaken by any Government with respect to its public debt will have been accomplished. The calling for redemption of such a large amount of notes might be expected to cause a sharp decline in their market premium. Instead, however, the 4½ per cent. Victory notes have lately registered a substantial advance. One influence from this fact is that investors look for a long period of easy money rates. There has been no slackening in the demand for Government War bonds and notes, as well as high-grade corporation issues, both old and new. A number of the Liberty bonds went above their previous high levels last week. New bond issues during the past week totalled nearly \$72,000,000, including some \$27,000,000 industrial, about \$15,000,000 state and municipal, \$10,000,000 public utility, and \$15,000,000 insular bonds, the last-mentioned issue consisting of Philippine Government 4½ per cent. gold bonds which were offered on a 4.55 per cent. basis. The only foreign offering was the Province of Nova Scotia \$2,000,000 two-year 5 per cent. bonds, which were sold to investors at 99.80 and accrued interest to yield more than 5.10 per cent. Most of the recent flotations have been disposed of promptly.

The United States Steel Corporation's report for the second quarter of this year shows that net earnings exceeded those of any three months' period since the first quarter of 1921. The total of \$27,286,945 compares with \$19,339,985 for the first quarter and with \$21,892,016 for the corresponding period of last year. After allowances for depreciation, interest and sinking fund charges, the balance available for dividends was \$11,196,355, which after the preferred dividend was equivalent to 96 cents a share on the \$508,302,500 common stock out-

standing. In the first quarter of this year the earnings available for dividends were not sufficient to meet the full preferred dividend, and there was nothing, therefore, for the common stock. During the past quarter the corporation actually earned more than enough to pay both preferred and common regular quarterly disbursements, but it set aside for replacements and sinking fund \$11,067,432, which was about \$2,400,000 greater than the amount similarly appropriated out of earnings during the first quarter of the current year. The result, therefore, after deducting both preferred and common dividends, showed a deficit for the second quarter of \$1,462,345. One of the most favourable features of the report was that monthly earnings steadily increased. In April they amounted to \$7,750,054, in May \$8,824,887, and in June \$10,712,004; net earnings in June were, in fact, the largest since January of 1921. For the first six months of this year net earnings aggregated \$46,626,930, as against \$54,178,734 for the like period of last year. After all charges, the balance available for dividends was \$17,105,587, as compared with \$23,562,637 for the first half of 1921. The amount remaining for the common stock dividends was equivalent to 88 cents a share, whereas for the first six months of last year there was a balance of \$2.15 a share for the common.

FRANCE.—EFFECT OF THE BALFOUR NOTE—REPARATIONS PLANS—CUSTOMS DUTIES AND DELIVERIES IN KIND—THE BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 9.

FURTHER reduction of Germany's total debt is now regarded here as having been rendered impossible by Lord Balfour's Note, since Germany is the only source from which France can hope to secure the necessary means to pay her creditors. At the same time, it is regarded as established by the same Note that Great Britain will claim from her Allies only the amount which she needs to pay off her American creditor, or £850,000,000. As France's debt to Great Britain amounts to only 17½ per cent. of the total sum owing to the latter by the rest of the Allies, it is also regarded as established that the British Government does not intend to claim from France more than the equivalent of this percentage of the total; "otherwise," as it is pointed out here, "it would be equivalent to asking France to pay for Germany, Russia, and others of Great Britain's debtors, for whose debts we can scarcely be held liable!" Lord Balfour's Note is also held as having rendered all question of an international loan on behalf of Germany impossible, while another regrettable effect is that it will be found, in the future, that the Reparations Commission has been divided into camps, instead of being bound by a common interest as creditors of Germany.

All this concerns the future, however, whereas M. Poincaré's demand for productive guarantees, without which no kind of extension of the existing moratorium is to be granted to Germany, is of the immediate present. It may be taken for granted, I think, that the French Government's action on Saturday in notifying its intention to hold up the German banking accounts in Alsace-Lorraine, and in causing it to be understood that all Germans were to be expelled from the recovered provinces, was due to a desire merely to make it clear that on this occasion it means to take definite action—with the rest of the Allies, if the latter decide to co-operate, or without them if they do not so decide.

The proposal to "seize the German customs, railways, and forests" would evidently be much more difficult of accomplishment, particularly if the Allies were divided in their views. Further, it must not be overlooked that sums equivalent to 25 per cent. of the receipts from the German exports have already once been seized, under the provisions of the Peace Treaty, and that, under the Cannes agreement, this "productive guarantee" was reduced to the simple "control" which exists to-day. The weak point in the proposal to seize the revenue from the German customs is that these duties are payable in paper marks, and would produce only an illusory sum—300,000,000 gold marks, it is estimated—for distribution

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000

Surplus \$25,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of business throughout the world bringing it in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE.
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E.C. 2



among Germany's creditors. A similar objection is to be raised in regard to the seizure by the Allies of the German State property. This consists chiefly in the State railways, which belong to the Reich, and in forests and mines, which are the property of the various German States. The profits from the railways (if and when such exist) would also be in paper marks. As to public domains, we may take the case of Prussia, which is especially wealthy in this kind of property. Last year the total revenue from the Prussian State mines was 3,005,000,000 marks, it is true, but the working cost amounted, for undisclosed reasons, to 2,895,000,000 marks, which gives these undertakings the appearance of anything but that of a very attractive asset. The Prussian forests during 1922 brought a gross revenue of 1,406,000,000 marks, for an expenditure of only 436,000,000 marks, but this, with the paper mark at 3.500, would represent only about £280,000, after all.

A mere "taking over of the bankrupt estate," therefore, is obviously insufficient, and the suggestion is now often made here that some at least of the German State property, such as the forests and mines, might be sold outright. Another means that it is believed would prove effective is the participation by the Allies in German industrial enterprises. It was suggested some time ago by the French delegates on the Reparations Commission that the German industrial undertakings should be required to increase their share capital by one-third, and that the new shares, which should enjoy all the rights of the best of the existing scrip, should be handed over to the Reparations Commission, for disposal on behalf of the Allies. This proposal is understood to be among those favoured by Comte de Lasteyrie, and it certainly appears to have the merit of being likely to constitute a means of touching the holders of Germany's undoubted industrial wealth, if—and here is the weak spot of the proposition—foreigners possessing sound money could be found willing to invest in German industrial concerns (which at the moment does not appear to be the case), and if some kind of stabilisation could be lent to the mark. The ideal solution, from

the French point of view, would be the organisation of a huge international loan, to furnish Germany with the money with which to pay her debts, but this, as has often been stated, is regarded here as much less feasible than ever since the dispatch of the Balfour Note.

Theoretically, August 1 marked one of the most important dates in the history of reparations, for on that day it became possible for sufferers from war losses in the devastated regions to open direct negotiations with German firms for the purchase of materials, against the certificates handed to them by the French Government, entitling them to reparation payments. After long consideration, the French Government decided to bring the Wiesbaden and supplementary agreements into operation without waiting for the formal ratification of them by Parliament, and this is the situation in which a *sinistré* finds himself to-day: supposing he possesses a certificate entitling him to reparation for 60,000 of loss to his property, and he requires a wooden house priced at 30,000 and a motor-car valued at 20,000, all he has to do is to write to the prefecture of his department and a credit for 50,000 will be opened for him against his 60,000 certificate. With this credit arranged, he is in a position to order what he wants from any German firm he chooses. Once an agreement has been come to as to price and specification, the purchaser informs his prefecture of the facts, and has then only to await delivery of the goods, it being understood that the Customs duties, cost of transport from the frontier station, and other accessory charges will be added to the bill in due course.

Nothing could be simpler, apparently. Unfortunately, the long struggle that has been going on between the French trading classes and the Government in regard to the Customs duties that should be levied on these reparations payments in kind is by no means ended. As might be expected, however reprehensible the fact may be from the point of view of the sufferers and of national recuperation, the French trading classes have from the first been bitterly opposed to any system of reparation payments in kind that ignored their interests as intermediaries. In plain language, the trading classes have all along claimed that they have a right to a "rake off" in connection with these payments, as compensation for the loss of trading possibilities which they claim has been imposed upon them through the operation of this system. Whether they are justified in assuming this attitude depends, of course, entirely on the point of view assumed by the observer. The controversy is now focussed on the rate of Customs duty that should be levied on goods purchased by *sinistrés*. The trading classes argue that the maximum tariff should be applied to all merchandise entering France under these agreements, and that relief should be given to the purchaser by a subsequent rebate on these rates. The Ministry for the Liberated Regions, on the contrary, insists that such goods shall pay only the minimum rate, plus a supplementary tax based on a co-efficient. When it is recalled that the new French maximum tariff imposes what are intentionally absolutely prohibitive duties on a large number of categories of German exports, the difference that may accrue as a consequence of one or the other thesis being adopted may easily be imagined. The Ministerial Council, in deciding the question, adopted the view of the Ministry for the Liberated Regions, but emphasised its uncertainty by stipulating that the minimum rates should be given a trial for a fortnight only, after which modifications may be made in accordance with the results disclosed in actual working. The general effect of this indefinite arrangement, it is expected, will be that *sinistrés* will hold back their orders until the question of Customs rates has been finally settled.

As last week, the Bourse has been well supported, both *à terme* and *au comptant*. The reason generally attributed for this is that the investing public, in the absence of fresh issues of capital, has begun to return to its old habits. There is still some hesitancy, because clients of the Bourse do not yet know whether Germany will undertake to carry out her engagements or whether she will refuse, and so place French investors in a difficult situation. French rentes have been firm, and almost universally have gained trifling fractions. Banks have been stronger, the Banque de France, after dropping many points, recovering from 5,705 to 5,780, the Banque de

Paris improving from 1,144 to 1,179, and the Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 585 to 595. Railways are again stronger, Est gaining nine points at 799, Métropolitain 20 points at 430, Nord 40 points at 1,270, and P.L.M. 25 points at 960. Electrical undertakings are also in advance. Bréguet has moved from 795 to 830, Electricité et Gaz du Nord from 330 to 340, and Electricité de Paris from 452 to 496. In metallurgy the same general tendency is conspicuous. Micheville at 695 is 23 points up, Longueville at 310 has advanced 49 points, and Basse-Loire at 130 25 points. Mines are also better. Tintos started at 1,490 and soared steadily, reaching 1,546, and being well in demand at that figure. Boléo advanced from 420 to 451, and Penarroya from 815 to 880. In petroleum undertakings there has been little movement, except in Steaua Romana, which improved from 447 to 470.

GERMANY. — REPARATIONS — FINANCES — REICHSBANK DISCOUNT RATE — EXCHANGE AND BOURSE — PRICES — CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 8.

THE opening of the London Conference was accompanied by a slight fall in the foreign exchanges and by active foreign buying of Federal bonds, so repeating the temporary improvement of sentiment which has appeared at the beginning of all former attempts to settle Reparations. In general, sentiment is not optimistic. Lord Balfour's Note made a good impression; but it is considered certain that the United States will cling to her claims, and it is not considered likely that England will abandon her condition as put in the Balfour Note. M. Poincaré's suggestions, as telegraphed here in brief, are not well taken. The elaborate plans for further control of Germany's economic life presuppose the theory, which cannot be reasonably held, that lack of control is the cause of the present trouble. Reparations Settlement negotiations which do not admit that Reparations are the main cause of the trouble are likely to lead to little good. It is very doubtful whether Germany's own complicated control system—of taxation, private banking, capital flight, export and import—does not do more harm than good. The reported Poincaré plan for a foreign share in German industry will, if it gets past the suggestion stage, be resisted here. As there is no reason why one private interest should be confiscated more than another, and as agriculture is probably making more money than industry, a partial confiscation would be possible only if the victims were compensated; and compensation could be paid only by further inflating the currency. Already (apart from other taxes, direct or indirect) 30 per cent. of the profits of industrial companies are taken under the Corporation Tax before anything goes to shareholders. The gold value of industry's profits are small. Thirty per cent. is still counted as a high (though not the highest) dividend; in a paper mark depreciated to 1-200th, it is about one-seventh of 1 per cent. gold; and even if an average increase of capital since 1914 of 300 per cent. is assumed, the effective gold dividend would be about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The causes of such low yields are no mystery. A minor cause is lower efficiency of labour. Another cause is that the selling prices of finished commodities at home have not risen in anything like the measure of the mark exchange's depreciation; and the manufacturer's gross profits, though probably representing a normal percentage of the selling price, and having, therefore, a considerable buying power at home, are very small when reckoned in gold. But the main cause is that the increased burden imposed on Germany by war losses and post-war liabilities has so far been escaped by the industrial employees. The employee has successfully kept up his real wage by using the strike threat, backed by the good argument that, at best, his wage provided only a minimum-standard existence; and as the burden could not be escaped by all classes, it has been borne by the classes drawing income from capital. Technically, plans to expropriate German industry, otherwise than by taxation, for the benefit of Reparations claimants do not seem practicable. They will not solve the foreign-payment balance problem, the cause of the

mark exchange depreciation, which is the particular evil which influences Ally statesmen to reconsider their Reparations measures. The uncompensated export of German industrial profits will have the same bad effects on the marks exchange as the direct payment of an equal value in Reparations instalments. In this connection the London experts might do worse than consider statistically who has been paying for Reparations so far. A competent German shows statistically that foreigners as a whole, including some citizens of Ally countries, have, through the mark exchange fall, "paid" (that is lost) to Germany a very much larger sum than Germany has paid for Reparations. Since 1919, for instance, the interest paid to the very numerous foreign holders of Federal 3 per cents. has fallen to about one-hundredth of its then already reduced gold value.

The floating debt on July 31st is reported at 329,044,566,453 marks, of which 307,810,465,300 marks were discounted Treasury bills. The floating debt increase in the last ten days of July was 7,515,830,000 marks, of which 3,242,581,000 marks went on fulfilment of the Peace Treaty. The revenue receipts in June (State undertakings excluded) were 17,775,951,098 marks, against 5,785,013,656 marks in June, 1921; the gross receipts from Posts and Telegraphs were 1,627,794,734 marks, against 457,318,485 marks, and from railways 12,780,715,000 marks, against 2,028,092,000 marks. The receipts from income-tax were five times as high as in June, 1921, from Customs also about five times, from the Coal Tax about seven times, from the Tobacco Tax four times, and from the Sales Tax about three times. The Government is considering the levying of a special tax upon foreigners. A Government Bill doubling the export duties has been submitted to the Reichswirtschaftsrat. Some weeks back exporters petitioned for a reduction of these duties (which vary from 1 to 10 per cent.), on ground of the increasing difficulty in competing. This the Government refused, replying that the new mark exchange fall has removed any difficulty there had been; and the aim of the proposed doubling is to get for the State some of the extra profits reaped from the larger mark yield from exports invoiced, as is the rule, in high-exchange currencies. Exporters are opposing the plan on the ground that any rigid export duties, which cannot be adopted rapidly to varying exchange rates, will hamper export. A further increase of postal charges from October 1st is announced. The present charges, reckoned in gold, are low, the home standard letter rate being only 3 marks, or about a farthing, the foreign rate 6 marks.

The Reichsbank's increase in its discount rate is not likely to reduce materially the demand for credit. Money is still extremely short. The bank has published the following figures showing the increasing difficulty of placing discounted Treasury bills. At the close of 1921 102.7 milliards of Treasury bills, or 43.7 per cent. of 235 milliards outstanding, were held outside the bank; on July 22nd 93.5 milliards, or only 32.3 per cent. of 298.5 milliards outstanding, were held outside. The demand for credit in the shape of private Bills has also grown greatly, the bank's holding being 7,008,533,000 marks on July 22nd, as against 1,470,787,000 marks at the same date of 1921. The capital market in July, as in June, reflected the money shortage. The total of new capital raised (including bonds) was 2,330,100,000 marks, against 2,761,800,000 marks in June. Capital increases by existing companies were only 952,300,000 marks, against 1,294,900,000 marks in June and 4,490,500,000 marks in March. The Reichsbank's statement for July 31st shows the usual large month-end increase in Treasury bill discounts, by 11,840,534,000 marks to 207,858,232,000 marks; an increase in private Bills by 1,113,533,000 marks to 8,122,066,000 marks, and of note circulation by 12,767,698,000 marks to 189,794,722,000 marks. The bank had difficulty in printing sufficient notes, its reserve having been depleted by the recent printers' strike. The bank's price for the 20 marks gold coin has been raised for the week beginning August 7th to 2,500 marks.

The Bourse last week was moderately active and firm, and was to-day very firm, the leaders being mining and metal stocks, which went up sharply and influenced the rest of the market. Federal loans were very strong,

French American Banking Corporation 67 William Street NEW YORK CITY

Cable Address - FRENAMBANK
Capital, Surplus & Undivided Profits - \$2,845,000

We transact a general foreign and domestic banking business and solicit your inquiries.

Threes to-day jumping from 240 to 265, Fours from 117 to 119, $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. from 89.90 to 90.75, and Colonials Fours from 123 to 133, while War Loan remained at 77.50, and Savings and Premium at 79.20. The stock market has not this time followed the foreign exchanges upwards, with the result that the gold prices of stocks at current quotations are much lower than some months back.

Prices are rising very rapidly. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index (77 commodities and 16 finished products) for August 1st (basis, 100 in 1914) shows 13,935, against 9,140 on July 1st and 4,238 on January 1st. The figure for food is 13,691, against 8,323 on July 1st; textiles and leather 21,910, against 13,938; minerals 18,355, against 12,168; miscellaneous 10,993, against 6,881; and finished articles 8,549, against 6,750. The Federal wholesale index shows, average for July 9,957, against 7,030 for June. The Steel Syndicate's prices have been again raised. The new prices (marks per metric ton) are:—Ingots, 15,670; blooms, 17,140; billets, 17,770; slabs, 18,320; construction forms, 20,770; bars, 21,070; wire rods, 22,700; thick plates, 23,660; medium, 26,880; thin, 28,900; thin under 1 mm., 30,330. These prices are between four and five times as high as those of December last. All associations of manufacturers of finished metal goods have added heavy supplements to their prices. The trade boom is growing; and an increasing number of manufacturers refuse to deliver before the end of the year, and in all cases provide for alteration of their contract prices in case wages or other costing factors increase. Employment continues to improve, and the unsatisfied demand for labour materially exceeds the small number of unemployed. The number of publicly supported unemployed has fallen from 314,475 a year ago to 19,864 on July 1st.

Crops will not be as bad as was feared some weeks ago, but will not be as good as in 1921. Conditions at beginning of August were (2 being good, 3 middling, and 4 bad):—Winter wheat 3.4, against 2.5 in August, 1921; spring wheat 3.1, against 2.8; winter rye 3.2, against 2.6; summer rye 3.4, against 3.2; potatoes 2.6, against 3.5; oats, 3.4, against 3.2; clover, 3.7, against 4.0.

HOLLAND. — GENERAL SITUATION — TRADE BALANCE — RAILWAY RESULTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, August 2.

The general situation is pretty bad in this country. The results of the various joint stock companies are mostly deplorable. Evidently many banks have been too liberal in granting credits. Criticism both as regards the management of commercial enterprises and banks is being heard from all sides. This is quite a natural phenomenon in adverse times, and although in many cases it is a fact that the leaders of our business life have failed, there is also a good deal of injustice in some of the criticisms.

Financial and commercial circles are looking with great anxiety to what is happening in Germany. Although a collapse of that country might to some extent make it possible for our industries to regain the ground lost to German competition, on the other hand the disastrous effect of such a collapse would be such as to far outweigh other advantages. The Balfour memorandum made a most favourable impression on this side, and everybody

incere hopes that your Government will succeed in bringing your French Allies to a reasonable policy and that the United States will understand the critical position of European affairs.

The value of goods imported into this country amounted in the years 1919 to 1921, exclusive of bullion, to 2,826, 3,336 and 2,240 million fls, that of goods exported to 1,411, 1,701 and 1,370 million fls. (Per capita of population the total imports and exports were 25 fls, 737 fls and 526 fls.) The balance of trade consequently shows import excesses of 1,415, 1,635 and 1,470 million fls. The chief imports consisted of machinery and utensils 147,000,000 fls, iron and steel 137,000,000 fls, coals, cokes 127,000,000 fls, wheat and flour 124,000,000 fls, maize 95,000,000 fls, timber 77,000,000 fls, seeds 66,000,000 fls, yarns 64,000,000, vegetable oils 54,000,000 fls, and the chief exports of drapers' wares 108,000,000 fls, vegetable oils 90,000,000 fls, cheese 68,000,000 fls, sugar 63,000,000 fls, milk, condensed milk 51,000,000 fls, margarine 58,000,000 fls, and butter 49,000,000 fls.

The two railway companies lost about 32,000,000 fls in 1921. Since 1913 the receipts have increased from 75,000,000 fls to 194,200,000 fls, i.e., 156 per cent. But expenses have increased in the same period from 50,000,000 fls to 194,100,000 fls, or 288 per cent. While the proportion of working expenses was 66.13 per cent. in 1913, it had risen to 99.95 per cent. in 1921. This increase is for the greater part due to higher wage bill, which amounted to 129,600,000 fls. Owing to the eight hours' working day the staff increased from 36,830 in 1913 to 51,078 in 1921. After wages and salaries, fuel is the most important factor in the increase of the working expenses. Fuel cost required 5,900,000 fls in 1913 and 29,600,000 fls in 1921. As the fares have already been doubled, the only remedy lies in economy, which can only be put into practice, according to the board of directors, by a reduction of the staff and of wages. This will naturally mean fresh labour troubles.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS—THE EFFECT ON INDUSTRY—THE 1921 TRADE BALANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, July 22.

THE curious fluctuations of the Czecho-Slovak crown have come as a surprise. On the 8th inst., after being constant at 230 to the pound sterling for many months, it suddenly rose in Switzerland and London, so that the pound value sank to 185. On the 10th it even relapsed to 175, then rallied to 189, and the next day reached 217. Then again came a fall; from 210 on the 12th it fell to 197 on the 13th, where it remained. The reasons given for these strange variations are many and diverse. Contemplated deals in flour by the Government, foreign speculation, the fall of the mark, the trade returns for 1921, and the prospects of exceptionally good harvests all round are given among others. But at the same time it is a very serious matter for the exporters. It has been pointed out by a sugar expert that that most stable of Bohemian industries stands to lose over 600 million crowns should the crown remain at 13 on the Swiss exchange. The effect of the rise on textile and other industries, such as wood, would be even worse, with the exception possibly of the cotton manufacturers who can buy their raw material from America or England at greatly reduced prices.

The Finance Minister has stated that the crown is now on its own, and rises or falls on its own strength; but he also stated that the fall of the mark was one of the causes of the rise. Now the mark has leapt up, and it remains to be seen whether the crown will fall. So far it shows little sign of so doing.

Following an announcement that, unless help is forthcoming from the Government, the one gold mine at present working in Czecho-Slovakia will be forced to close

down, now comes the somewhat startling news that the hop company "Saazia," of Saaz (Zatec), is about to make a composition with its creditors, the assets amounting to three millions only, against debts of 27 millions. Other reasons than losses on hops are alleged for the failure; but the Saaz hops are claimed to be the best in the world, and to be sought after everywhere. It is true that the yield of hops last year was 58,900 qs, as against anything between 150,000 qs and 350,000 qs before the war, the crop being short owing to long droughts and heat. Of this amount, 50,000 qs were exported. The harvest this year is expected to be much larger, and although a very much reduced export to the United States is to be expected, the excellence of the Saaz hops should render their disposal assured. On the other hand, the fall of the mark and the krone will make any extensive purchases on the part of Germany or Austria impossible. It is worth noting that the acreage under hops in Czecho-Slovakia is not much more than half what it was before the war, while the production of beer is about one-third. In all these matters a dry America has its effect.

The height of the crown should enable British exporters to do business, especially in colonial produce—coffee, tea, cocoa, wool, and raw cotton—and steps should be taken to compete with America, in which country large quantities of raw material have recently been ordered on favourable terms for the buyers.

The trade returns for last year, which are given as a reason for the rise of the crown, are interesting. Imports for the year amounted to 22,435,356,046 kc against exports 27,312,189,300 kc, showing an excess of exports over imports of 4,876,833,254 kc, and it is this balance that has caused the optimistic feeling. On examination it is found that 37 per cent. of these exports were taken by Austria, and what Austria has to pay for these goods, beyond what she has received in loans from other countries, it is not possible to say. Loans have been granted to Austria by the Czecho-Slovak Republic itself, and the inference is obvious. Should, however, the Government see fit to extend the plan of barter to Austria, and, in so doing, allow the entry of Austrian motor-cars, for instance, the public would gain directly, and the Government, so far as one can see, both directly and indirectly.

Another remark to be made about the returns is that it was not until the very end of the year that the crown began its rise. In November it was over 400 to the pound, and this is a very important point which appears not to have been properly appreciated. For instance, owing to the present rise, the latest account of the wool industry is that it is in a desperate condition, and that it goes from one crisis to another. Some other items of the returns are worth notice. The imports of tobacco amounted to 778,836,770 kc, which shows how easy it would be to barter with Jugo-Slavia and Roumania to a greater extent, and causes wonder that none should be permitted from America and England. Probably most of the tobacco imported comes by way of barter with the countries mentioned. Again, the imports of cotton, including raw material, are almost as great as the exports, the difference being a little more than 26 million crowns. Wool and woollen goods are about half the figures, being 2,066,296,558 kc, against 4,134,127,599 kc. Leather and leather goods show an import value of 380,758,042 kc, against an export of 875,605,886 kc. Regarding leather, the regulations are that only leather and leather goods of a type not produced in the Republic can be imported. There is an over-production of almost every kind of boot, gaiters, boxes, bags, &c. Varnish is a thing which is largely imported, and a new company has just been started in Prague for its manufacture. Last year as much as 504,012,983 kc worth was imported and 173,416,254 kc exported. Fats also show an amount of 819,481,795 kc imported, against an export of 160,829,225 kc. Taking of 1921 in the light of to-day, the conclusion is that they have been misconstrued, and that what is triumphantly called the "balance" of exports over imports is an accident unlikely to recur in present conditions.

DENMARK.—BANKING AFFAIRS—THE INDUSTRIAL POSITION—EXTERNAL TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, July 31.

In my last letter I reported on the movements in the balance-sheets of the banks during the month of May. The developments in June have taken a similar direction. The aggregate of the balance-sheets has declined from 5,217,000,000 kr to 5,205,000,000 kr—i.e., by 12,000,000 kr only. Various movements in the separate items indicate a slow improvement in trade. For instance, the decrease in the amounts for permanent loans has been continued, while the item "Current Accounts," in which is also included documentary credits and loans against warehouse receipts, has shown an increase.

It should be pointed out, however, that the movements in a favourable direction are only small, and that the conclusions to be drawn from them must be cautious with no indication as to the stability of the movement. During June the note circulation of Nationalbanken increased by a few million kroner, viz., from 438,700,000 kr to 441,900,000 kr.

A few weeks ago an important agreement was made between Nationalbanken and Landmandsbanken. In spite of the considerable writings off effected by Landmandsbanken at the end of the last financial year the bank has realised that, as a consequence of the continued depression, further writings off to cover future loss would be required during the coming years. At a valuation recently made by the bank itself it proved that the proprietary capital of the bank would be reduced to the approximate value of the shares at the price then current on the Stock Exchange. After complete investigation and consultation with the Minister of Commerce and the Nationalbanken, the Landmandsbank has decided at the end of the present financial year to write off a total amount of 55,750,000 kr, by which the reserves of the bank, including the amount carried over from last year, will be reduced to just over 5,000,000 kr. In order to invest the bank with all requisite strength during the present difficult conditions of trade, the Nationalbanken has decided to undertake to subscribe a new reserve capital of 30,000,000 kr, when the above extraordinary writings off have taken place at the end of the financial year. The reserve capital subscribed by Nationalbanken is repayable successively as new reserves are provided in the ordinary course and in accordance with the articles of the bank. After the end of the financial year the share capital and reserves of the bank will amount to 135,000,000 kr. The news of the arrangement between the two banks has been received with general satisfaction.

Signs of improvement in general trade conditions, apart from those already mentioned in connection with bank statistics, are to be observed. Several of the leading industries, however, are still working under some depression, and during the last few days the Industrial Council has applied to the Government for protection against exceptional exchange dumping competition in order that those industries which are worst situated may obtain support. The Council has especially had its attention directed towards the system of import regulation, combined with exchange duties, which is at present practised in Switzerland.

According to the official unemployment statistics an improvement is traceable at present. The Industrial Council, however, dare not rely on this improvement being permanent. In spite of the improvement there is no doubt that many branches of industry are in a very difficult position, and that exchange dumping and competition from abroad must be reckoned with in future, especially in view of the recent very pronounced fall in the mark.

The wholesale price-index of the *Finanstidende* on July 1st was 180, or one point higher than that of the previous month. The paper states that the indicator is tending upwards, "which, however, ought hardly to be taken as evidence of the coming boom." The trade statistics up to the end of May are now available. During May the value of the imports was 159,000,000 kr, of exports of Danish

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.

1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
EASTERN AND GENERAL MERCHANTS.

BUYING AND SELLING AGENTS IN LONDON AND ABROAD.

DEALERS IN ALL CLASSES OF EASTERN PRODUCE.

(Associated with Harrisons Ramsay Proprietary Ltd., established throughout Australasia.)

goods 103,000,000 kr, and of re-exports 5,000,000 kr. In the period January-May, 1922, the total value of imports was 560,000,000 kr, of Danish exports 417,000,000 kr, and of re-exports 23,000,000 kr.

SOUTH AFRICA.—UNION FINANCE—THE SUPPLY OF CAPITAL—SUBSIDISING IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURERS.

JOHANNESBURG, July 11.

THE growth of public expenditure by the Central, or Union, Government, the Provincial Councils, and the Municipalities in relation to the income-earning capacity of the people of South Africa was severely criticised by Mr W. A. Martin, president of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, at last week's meeting. Professor Lehfeldt, D.Sc., Professor in Economics in the University of the Witwatersrand, estimated that for the year ended June 30, 1918, the total income was £137,000,000 from mining, farming, manufacturing, transport, merchanting, professions, Government service, domestic service, and occupation of houses. He divided this into £107,000,000 as accruing to whites, equal to £74 per head, and £30,000,000 to coloured and natives, representing £5 10s per head. It is not possible to give similar figures for 1921, but Mr Martin thinks that with the exception of the premium on gold, which amounted to £8½ millions, all other income was much less than in 1918, when "farm produce realised good prices, and trade generally was prosperous."

The taxation for 1918-19 was £11,330,000 by the Union Government, as distinct from revenue raised for services rendered, and a further £2 million by Provincial Councils and Municipalities, equivalent to 10 per cent. of the entire national income. In 1921, however, the Union taxation had increased to £18,173,000, and that of the Provincial Councils and Municipalities to £3 million, the combined figure representing an increase of 50 per cent., and constituting 15 per cent. of the national income.

The trouble is that South Africa is industrially very poorly developed. There are important explosives and cement factories, a good deal of printing is done, a fair amount of furniture made; but, beyond that, very little. Even in the recent debate in the House of Assembly, the Minister of Railways said we could certainly build our own railway carriages of sufficiently good quality if the cost was less than for the imported rolling-stock. Mr Jagger apparently looks at the matter from the point of view of the importing merchant. I think he would have refused to grant lower railway rates to inland cement factories, at Pretoria and Slurry in the Transvaal, and Whites at Ventersburg road in the Orange Free State, so as to enable them to compete at the ports with dumped products from Europe sent to South Africa at nominal freights as ballast, had it had been for General Smuts, who, as usual, took the broader national view that with local production the whole of the expenditure in manufacture is retained in the country, whereas the other way the Union retains merely the merchants' profit. One would not think the reblading of a few dozen table-knives a difficult matter, but I applied to two leading firms, and the reply came they would have "to send them to Sheffield to be done." During the war local industries advanced, owing to the difficulty and delay of importing, but, unfortunately, the position then created has not been retained.

Including gold and diamonds, South Africa's exports considerably exceed its imports, but—

We are wholly dependent on our mines and farms for the income of our population, and for the payment of imports and debts. Unlike most other countries, we have no population drawing dividends from investments in other parts of the world, no shipping earning freights elsewhere, and no factories of importance export-

ing their wares to purchasers beyond our borders. Practically the whole of the taxation has, therefore, to be provided at the cost of production and industry, very much to the detriment of the development of the country.

Mr. Martin advocated drastic reduction in expenditure, increased production, and alterations in the incidence of taxation, relieving production of its present unduly heavy burden.

It was a little curious that while Mr. Martin was predicting a drying up of overseas capital, there should be the simultaneous announcement of the raising of £1,000,000 on loan at only 5½ per cent. interest at par, which compares with an issue price of 96 in the recent India loan. The flotation and management are under the auspices of the National Bank of South Africa, which receives a commission of 2 per cent.

The Board of Trade and Industries has been considering the subsidising of the iron and steel industry of the Union, which at present imports over £10 millions worth of iron and steel products. There are three schemes, the Vereeniging, which produces steel from scrap, the Pretoria Iron and Steel Works, still in the embryonic stage, and the Newcastle works in Natal. The resources of the Union are far greater than known some years ago. Though it still remains to be proved that the enormous deposits of titaniferous ore can be profitably worked, the Union possesses ample supplies of good iron ore, fluxes, and coke coal, all within moderate distance of one another in the Transvaal, besides other deposits in other parts of the Union. The inland market is strongly entrenched behind railway rates (Durban is 500 miles and Port Elizabeth and East London some 700 miles from the Rand market), while costs of production promise to be very low. There is no need for bounties for pig iron once the industry is firmly established; cheap railway rates and the establishment of industries are more essential. The real object of bounties is attraction of capital, which appears only half convinced by mere merits of the enterprise, and to require further inducement and the assurance that the Government is prepared to take some part of the risk, and that the nation is prepared, if possible, to see the undertaking through. The Board understands that with a capital of two to two and a half millions, an industry can be established capable of producing yearly at least 50,000 tons of iron and converting into steel. It proposes to grant bounties on the basis of 5 per cent. on the capital for three years during erection, and for the following eight years. An annual output of 150,000 tons is assumed for the whole period, and a bounty of 10s a ton would involve a total expenditure of £1,200,000. Advances should be made against bounties before they are actually earned to an amount not exceeding the estimated total bounties. Consideration of the question of bounties on subsidiary industries would be premature until the basic industry is established.

Letters to the Editor.

DOMINIONS AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—As I read your able and interesting articles on "Africa, Australia, and the Gold Standard," I hoped that you would pursue the question to its logical conclusion if trade within the Empire is to recover that entire freedom of movement which is so essential. You point out very clearly the cause of the disorganisation—that there is nothing in the currency arrangements of the Dominions to link their currencies with the Bradbury. Therefore, is not the real remedy to provide this link? Another part of Africa—viz., Egypt—has done so, with the result that alone amongst the exchanges of the world the Egyptian exchange with Britain has remained absolutely stable, and that in the face of widely fluctuating trade balances and large movements of currency. The reason is that, from the early days of the war, Egypt adopted the British Treasury bill as the basis for its currency.

There may be reasons against the adoption of the

British Treasury Bill as a basis for the currencies of the Dominions, but it is difficult to see what real objection there could be to an issue of Imperial Treasury bills, in which each country in the Empire could share, being used for this purpose. Such an issue, which could be fixed in amount, would, of course, not be in addition to, but in substitution for, existing debt. It would be entirely in keeping with that free co-operative spirit which is the hope for the full development of the British Commonwealth. Each country would be free to join in such an issue, and free to withdraw from it on giving adequate notice. Each country would both receive and confer a benefit—the result being a benefit all round. In effect, each country would say to the other participating countries: "If you will agree to admit a portion of our debt as a basis for your currency, we will agree to admit a portion of your debt as a basis for ours." Such portion of the Empire's debt could be placed in commission—in the hands of Imperial Treasury Bill Commissioners representative of the countries interested. This portion of the debt would be pooled, and the Treasury bills could have marked on them the percentage for which each country is responsible.

Each country would, of course, agree not to issue currency unless Imperial Treasury bills, or gold, or (for India) silver were held as cover. But otherwise there need be no restriction on the issue of currency. Currency, which under present conditions is largely non-interest-bearing debt, would not be preferred to short-dated interest-bearing debt—interest bearing, moreover, at the current rate as determined by the free play of competition.

It would be desirable that a percentage of gold, which, however, need not be large, should be contributed by each participating country and held by the Commissioners as a common reserve. In the event of the competitive rate for Imperial Treasury bills being abnormally high, a portion of the gold reserve could be utilised and paid into the Commissioners' account with the Bank of England, thus increasing the Bank's reserve, and a corresponding gold could be re-transferred to the Imperial Treasury bill reserve and the bills increased. This would form a movement analogous to the import and export of gold of previous days.

With a common basis for the currencies of the Empire, the credit-controlling factor would normally be the rate of interest, and not the rate of exchange, between the different countries of the Empire. The latter would remain at parity. For example, let us assume that in the case of, say, Australia there was a consistent excess of imports. Imports have to be paid for, and it would fall upon the banks in Australia to provide the necessary funds. Conversely, the country or countries exporting in being the clearing-house, the banks there would receive either for British account or for account of the country exporting. The Australian banks could handle the situation for a time by allowing their Treasury bills to mature, up. But if the excess of imports was persistent, the position of the Australian banks would be weakened, not only through a diminution in their holding of Imperial Treasury bills, but in all likelihood by an increase in their advances. Sooner or later, then, the banks in Australia would be compelled to raise the rate of interest and to restrict their advances, and that apart from the Imperial Treasury bill rate, which would be subject to competition from the Empire. Normally, therefore, the credit-control against over-trading in any one part of the Empire would lie in the rate of interest, and not in the rate of exchange between that country and the rest of the Empire. The latter would probably not come into play unless the banks found their holdings of Imperial Treasury bills greatly depleted, and this they would have taken steps to avoid.—I am, yours faithfully,

Aviemore, N.B., August 8th, 1922. J. F. DARLING.

INTER-ALLIED DEBTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—There is one governing fact that seems to be constantly overlooked in the discussion of the Allies' indebtedness to one another. It is that no creditor can force payment from a debtor who is willing to default. It vitiates every argument drawn from the ordinary relations of debtor and creditor, and makes the logic of the Balfour Note meaningless.

We cannot take France to a County Court and get judgment, and America cannot take us to a County Court and get judgment. Our capacity to collect what France owes to us is conditioned entirely by the value that France places on her own credit. If she is prepared to stand before the world as a defaulter, we must write off her debt as bad. In the same way if we are willing to brand ourselves as defaulters, America must write off our debt as bad.

As between France, England, and America, the position seems to be:—(1) America will insist on payment from any debtor who is prepared, however unwillingly, to pay. (2) France is not prepared to pay, and is willing to default. (3) We do not like paying, but we are not willing to default. This being so, what is the good of our finessing with an admittedly bad debt in order to be relieved of another debt which we protest both our ability and our readiness to meet?

If we choose to take the line France takes and repudiate, no one can prevent us. If we are so proud of our credit that we cannot repudiate, let us pay and look as pleasant as may be. The one thing not to do is to combine the pride of the pharisee with the whine of the beggar, which is the Government's present policy. If I were an American, nothing would harden my heart more surely than this manoeuvring to back out of a debt without admitting default.—Yours, &c., D. E. W. GIBB.

Lloyd's, August 9th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

NATIONAL INSURANCE IN FRANCE.*

THIS little book is packed with information and with criticism—the latter largely comment by industrial associations, and therefore often repeated in substance and sometimes in form. Its subject is the "Loi Daniel Vincent," now before the French Chambers, an attempt to solve the problem forced on France by the existence in Alsace and Lorraine of the German system of compulsory social insurance, but going much further than that system, or any other. To summarise this Bill properly in any reasonable space is impossible. It omits unemployment, for want of data, but it provides contributory old-age pensions normally at the age of 60, sickness, disablement, maternity, and death "benefits," and comprises all employees earning 10,000f a year or less. All the risks are covered by one premium, divided equally between employed and employers, but rising progressively with the six classes in which the insured are grouped according to their earnings; it is 10 per cent. of the mean earnings of each class. The benefits rise with the class premiums, and both are far above the British scale; miners and certain classes of public servants are provided for otherwise, but small masters, métayer tenants, independent artisans, and some others may be insured under the scheme if they like. To some extent the higher classes pay for the lower, the compulsorily insured for the "optionals," and the better-managed organisations for the worse. The friendly societies, and the benefit funds of the large establishments or the labour unions may come under the scheme, and even provide additional benefits, but the normal type of administration is by regional and local councils, half elected by the insured, one-fourth by the employers, and one-fourth appointed by the State to represent the public, with a guarantee fund and a central council to adjust the burdens as between the districts, and another to deal with contentious cases.

* "Le Problème des Assurances Sociales en France." Par Montchrestien. (Société d'Etudes et d'Informations Economiques.) Paris, Bernard Grasset, 1922. (Pp. 230. 7 francs.)

Solidarity, self-help instead of State aid, and democratic management are put forward as characteristic of the scheme; but a heavy burden is placed on capital and 300 million francs annually on the public revenue.

These burdens, coupled with the rigidity of the scheme and its bureaucratic features, provide the substance of the chief objections urged; but the most interesting criticisms are those made by the author. France, he maintains, is not ready for compulsion. The French workman means to rise by his own exertions to become a foreman, a small master, a shopkeeper, or, in the rural districts, a peasant proprietor. He resents State aid and compulsion; still more the projected alliance of the State and his employer to tax his wages and so keep him down. "Solidarity" and the needs of public health would justify all-round insurance, but not this class legislation, based as it is on the right of the State to protect the helpless; and the scheme will only encourage the insured to "get their money's worth," as it is said they do in Alsace and Lorraine. The State should go slowly, and educate the public gradually towards accepting compulsion, which should only come when voluntary effort fails. The conditions and the risks vary locally, and the better regions and administrative bodies should not bear the burdens of the worse. The law will never be enforced fully, and the burden on industry will be 2,780 million francs per annum, plus the 300 millions from the State. Superadded to the burdens imposed by the eight-hour day and existing taxation, it will preclude all competition of French industry in foreign markets, and prove altogether unbearable. And then the author outlines his even more modest plan. We hardly suppose the law will pass, in the present financial situation of France. But the book is an admirable compendium of information on national insurance in all its forms.

THE ELEMENTS OF ACTUARIAL SCIENCE.*

THE scope and arrangement of this work are in exact accordance with the course in actuarial science as outlined in the syllabus of the examinations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The subjects included are logarithms, compound interest, life contingencies, and the construction of relative tables, almost too extensive a range to cover in a work of the modest dimensions to which the volume is restricted. The treatment given is designed for students of limited mathematical attainments, but while the author has cleverly overcome some of his difficulties, his desire for simplicity has resulted in many definitions and statements lacking precision and polish; the writer seems almost to be reluctant to make important general principles clear. It may be teaching, but it is not education, to leave these to emerge from examples which, themselves, often extend rather than illustrate the preceding matter. The student is thus rendered incapable of working the examples for himself as a test of his grasp of the reading. Additional examples, with solutions briefly indicated, might have been included with advantage, and some of the lengthy logarithmic portions of the existing solutions curtailed.

The chapters on Life Contingencies are clearly written, although inevitably somewhat crowded. A preliminary note on the elementary theory of probabilities, analogous to that on indices appearing in Chapter 1, would be an improvement. There is also an absence of verbal interpretations of formulæ, which one would have welcomed as attempts to stimulate independence of thought and to counteract the tendency of students to place too much reliance on formulæ as such. The author himself points out the necessity of this, but fails to follow his own good advice. The chapters on the Construction of Tables are among the best in the book.

While the volume will be of service to the students for whose use it is especially designed, its value to actuaries and other advanced readers, as indicated on the wrapper, is quite another matter. It is far more a crammer's book than an intellectual explanation of a science. The student is rushed along at a great pace, conclusions are slapped on to the blackboard, and he is just told that he has got to learn them without worrying himself about the intellectual reasoning by which these are reached.

* "The Elements of Actuarial Science" By R. E. Underwood (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd. Price 5s net.

A SAVINGS' BANK'S CENTENARY.*

JUNE 30th marked the conclusion of a century since the "Christiania Sparebank" (Savings' Bank), one of the largest institutions of its kind in Northern Europe, was founded. To commemorate the occasion the directors of the bank have issued a centenary publication possessing historical interest. Whereas in other countries a multiplicity of works have appeared dealing with the hundred and one problems which the past century has witnessed coming to the fore, very little has hitherto been written by Norwegian pens concerning identical matters in Norway. Herein lies the chief importance of this publication. In the first part of the book the historian, Jacob Worm-Müller, presents an account of Christiania and its economic and social life in the first half of the past century. It was but a semi-independent existence that fell to Norway's lot on the close of the Napoleonic wars, but even that form of freedom was not to be gained and enjoyed without great sacrifices. The re-birth of a nation was not to take place without its accompaniment of agonies. The crisis came to a head in 1820. Wholesale business failures went hand in hand with acute social distress, and to this plight was added the oppressive burden of war liabilities, for the settlement of which the Powers were insistently pressing. That Norway in the end succeeded in regaining her economic equilibrium was in no negligible measure due to considerate treatment at the hands of Britain. The disastrous happenings in and around the year of 1820 unfortunately also did away with the greater part of the material indispensable for a faithful and comprehensive history of the economic life of the country at the time. The research work that Worm-Müller had to perform was therefore an onerous task indeed, but he was happily afforded access to much hitherto unpublished data.

It was purely with the object of serving as a benevolent institution for impecunious people that the "Christiania Sparebank" was eventually started in 1822 with the help of voluntarily subscribed funds. In its original character it was on the same lines as the first savings' banks that were growing up in Western European countries. By and by, however, it became the trusted guardian of savings from the middle and farming classes, and has, as such, experienced a remarkable record of growth. The first million kroner of deposits was reached in 1833; in 1850 these had risen to 3½ millions. By 1917 the 100 million mark had already been well passed, but all previous records were beaten when at the close of 1921 the deposits amounted to 308 million kroner. These figures are sufficiently expressive of the confidence the "Sparebank" has succeeded in cultivating among the middle, and, in more recent years, also the labouring classes in Norway. Through the able pen of Nils Vogt, the editor of the local *Morgenbladet*, a vivid description is given in the second part of this publication of the progress the bank has undergone in the course of its hundred years of existence.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- French Public Finance.* In the Great War and To-day. By Harvey E. Fisk. (New York) Bankers' Trust Company.
- Le Mutualisme. Essai de Synthèse.* Par Arthur Travers-Borgstroem. Traduit de l'Anglais par J. L. Perret. (Paris) Librairie Félix Alcan. 6f.
- Retail Prices, 1913 to December, 1920.* (Washington) Bureau of Labour Statistics.
- New Zealand Official Year-Book, 1921-1922.* (Wellington) Marcus F. Marks. 7s 6d.
- The Irish Economist.* A Quarterly Journal of Co-operative Thought and Progress. (Dublin) The Plunkett House. 2s net.
- Latavia. Actual Conditions and Possibilities in One of the Baltic Republics.* (Riga) Government Printing Office.
- Brazil, 1822-1922.* Trade Report Centenary Supplement. (London) London and Brazilian Bank, Limited.
- Sino-British Trade Gazette.* No. 3, Vol. 1. August 10, 1922. (London) Sino-British Trade Association, China House, Knightsbridge, S.W. 1.

* "The Christiania Sparebank." A Centenary Celebration Volume. Printed by Grondahl and Sons, Christiania.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 188, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1
Liverpool Foreign Branch 42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch Corner York St. & Fountain St., Manchester.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET. August 23. ACCOUNT. August 24.

The Stock Exchange has largely freed itself from political factors by its usual expedient of ignoring them, as is its custom when other factors are favourable. Cheap money is thought still to contain elements making for firm markets, and the politics react mainly upon trade, and trade depression means cheap money, the recurrent evidences of Allied differences over reparation matters are an argument for the prolongation of Treasury Bills on Wednesday, imparted not a little support to the gilt-edged market, for it stimulated buying of the short-cannot afford to leave money unemployed altogether, no matter how small the rate at which it can be invested without risk of securities, business in the gilt-edged market remains rather restricted, because general investors seek higher yields than are obtainable on most securities in the section. Nevertheless there are signs that more people are becoming aware of the absurdity of buying 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds repayable in 1930-32 at a quotation which is under par if the accrued interest be taken off the price, because of its liability to repayment in 1929 threaten the holders of it with definite repayment if they will 5 per cent. War Loan, too, is a favourite with those people who can borrow money cheaply from banks and make a profit on the investment trust companies have been tempted to exchange requirements has kept the price so close to par. In the search for a little more attention towards the end of the week now newspapers.

Foreign bonds have not displayed much activity, the French war issues keeping remarkably steady in spite of the movements of the franc, while German Threes remain at about 1½. The investment boom, seem to be slow in finding permanent homes, and are weak in consequence, but the heaviness of the Czechoslovakian loan at about 85, as compared with its issue price of 60, causes comment. Turkish Unifed have been brought from look there. Mexicans had a sharp rise on the report that President Obregon had signed the Debt Agreement, but the still having to be ratified by the Mexican Cabinet and Congress.

The Eastern group railway stocks have enjoyed a good deal favourably impressed with the scheme. Their buying, in fact, bound to follow the announcement of the merger terms, prospect of an active market in the various issues right up to the time when the merger takes effect, for the reason that the of the uncertainty which must prevail as to its value until its dividend prospects can be estimated within narrower limits.

In the Colonial Railway market there was quite a sensational rise in Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debentures, but nothing was known as to the reasons for it, though it was regarded as a hopeful sign. Foreign railway stocks have been very quiet and rather dull, dividend prospects not being such as to attract the return of investors to the market.

In the more speculative sections, oils have enjoyed more support, the condition of the market being healthier, and the news of good developments on the San Geronimo field by the

Mexican Eagle has helped this particular share. Rubbers remain quiescent, awaiting some move in the direction of co-operation by the Dutch interests, and the Industrial market has been idle. Marconis improved on the annual report as the result of some bear closing, but textiles and iron and steels have been interesting. There has been some fresh buying of tobaccos after an earlier decline, and the nitrate group has revived to some extent. Bank shares are quietly firm, and in the insurance group General Accidents have continued to be swayed by the amalgamation rumours, finishing the week rather better.

The South African Mining market has been doing its best to keep up interest through August, but the public refuses to come in to any extent. The Cape has sent buying orders, and Paris has bought its favourites, "finance" shares being marked up as the consequence of appreciation in their holdings. Speculation in Chartered has somewhat died down, and business in Miscellaneous shares has not been active. Esperanzas have improved slightly, but the other Americans have fallen back.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded	..	498,315,387 ..	..	..
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender August 4, 1922), £4,000,000, at £100 65	..	..	4,013,500 ..	..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED AUGUST 5, 1922.

April 1 to August 5, 1922 ..	£21,948,000 ..	£150,000 ..	£150,000 ..
Offered to Public—			
Ashley Wireless Telephone, 50,000 shares, £1 at par (Aug. 11)	50,000 ..	50,000 ..	6,250 .. 43,750
Total offered for subscription to date ..	..	..	..
Total offered for subscription for the whole year—	..	..	..
1922	£502,528,887 ..	1921	£388,978,203
1921	146,853,761 ..	1920	367,549,656
1920	272,383,547 ..	1919	1,036,059,951
1919	426,553,533 ..	1918	1,393,381,441
1918	874,928,005 ..	1917	1,318,596,010
1917	1,078,634,048 ..	1916	585,436,850
1916	363,763,600 ..	1915	685,236,326
1915	658,668,876 ..	1914	612,522,633

Government of India Rupee Loan, 1922.—Subscriptions up to July 29th amounted to Rs. 29½ crores. The loan is issued in the form of 6 per cent. five and ten year bonds at par, free of Indian income-tax, and the subscription lists in India and at the London office of the Imperial Bank of India (5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3) are open up to August 14th for cash subscriptions and up to September 26th for conversion of Indian War Bonds, 1922. Details will be found in the *Economist* of June 24th, page 1,302.

The Melbourne Electric Supply Company, Limited.—Authorized share capital £1,750,000, of which £1,300,600 has been issued. The debenture capital outstanding amounts to £1,248,999, out of £1,313,700 originally issued. Included in this amount of debenture capital is the present issue of £300,000 6 per cent. "redeemable general mortgage debenture stock." The issue will be secured by a "direct general mortgage upon the company's properties and undertaking." It will rank *pari passu* with a dollar gold bond issue, amounting at par of exchange to £513,700, and after two "redeemable" debenture issues, the first of which is a first mortgage charge with £217,883 outstanding, and the second debenture stock with £217,408 outstanding. It is significant to observe that the company retains the option of redemption on six months' notice, "as a whole but not in part, except for the sinking fund, at 102½ on any interest date after June 1, 1930." Provision is made for an annual cumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum "to be applied in the purchase of stock at or under 102½." These details are taken from an announcement in the Press made to comply with London Stock Exchange regulations. Information, however, taken from other sources shows that the undertaking can show a progressively prosperous record. A well-secured colonial public utility debenture.

The Regent's Canal and Dock Company.—Authorized capital £1,700,000, of which £1,358,100 has been created and issued. The authorised loan capital consists of £983,934, of which £842,284 has been created and £730,634 issued. This is an issue of £111,630 perpetual 5½ debenture stock at par. It ranks *pari passu* with existing debenture stock, and "is secured upon the undertaking of the company." The interest upon the whole of the debenture stock of the company, including that now outstanding and the present issue, will amount to £28,060 a year, while rents at present received amount to approximately £44,000 a year, and about September 1st an additional revenue of £12,290 a year will begin. These particulars are taken from a public announcement made to

comply with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange authorities, but it is stated that a firm "have been authorised to offer the stock for subscription at a minimum price of 100 per cent." It would be interesting to know why the proprietors sanctioned borrowing in the form of *perpetual* 5½ per cent. debentures. The italics are ours. From the subscribers standpoint, the offer at par appears to be attractive.

The Borneo Company, Limited.—The authorised share capital consists of 400,000 7½ per cent. cumulative convertible preference and 600,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. This is an issue to a London financial house of the whole of the preference issue at par, the subscribers taking a commission of 4 per cent. for expenses. Holders of these preference shares have the right to convert into a like amount of ordinary shares at any time within ten years from October 1, 1922, on giving one month's notice. The undertaking was formed in 1856, and now carries on a general trading business with the East. Recent records show that the company has paid substantial dividends during the past few years. No balance-sheet has been published by the company, but we understand that in future annual report and accounts will be published. We cannot advise investors to purchase these shares until they have further information about the accounts of the company. The details mentioned above are given in the Press in connection with an application to the Stock Exchange for leave to deal in the 7½ per cent. preference shares.

Ashley Wireless Telephone Company, Limited.—Authorized capital £50,000, divided into £1 shares. This is an issue of the whole amount at par. The advertised prospectus states that the company has been formed to exploit the commercial side of wireless telephony, "and has acquired an option" to acquire the business of Ashley Radio Company. It is stated that the purchase price is £7,000, and that the amount payable for goodwill is £1,000. There are also stated to be orders in hand for £65,000 of "wireless material," but nothing is revealed in the advertised prospectus about past profits, or the value of assets to be taken over. On the meagre information in front of us, it is impossible to gauge the value of the proposition.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 3½ % 1925-28 .. 95½ .. 95½ .. +			
Canada 4½ % 1925-45 .. 97½ .. 98 .. +			
India 3½ % Stock .. 68½ .. 68½ .. +			
Do 7½ % 1926-31 .. 119½ .. 119½ .. +			
Do 5½ % 1932 .. 93 .. 93 ..			
Funding Loan 4½ % .. 89 .. 89½ .. +			
Victory Bonds 4½ % .. 90½ .. 91 .. +			
Conversion Loan 3½ % .. 76½ .. 76½ .. +			
Consols 2½ % .. 58½ .. 58½ .. +			
Irish Land Stock 2½ % .. 59½ .. 59½ .. +			
Local Loans 3½ % .. 65½ .. 66 .. +			
Anst. 6½ % 1931-41 .. 105½ .. 105 .. -			
Canada 4½ % 1920-25 .. 101 .. 101 ..			
India 3½ % Stock .. 68½ .. 68½ .. +			
Do 7½ % 1926-31 .. 119½ .. 119½ .. +			
Do 5½ % 1932 .. 93 .. 93 ..			
N.S.W. 5½ % 1922-32 .. 101 .. 101 ..			
Nigeria 6½ % 1949-79 .. 112 .. 112 ..			
UofS.A. 6½ % 1930-40 .. 106 .. 106 ..			
Victoria 5½ % 1924-34 .. 102 .. 103 .. +			
W.Aust. 6½ % 1930-40 .. 104 .. 104 ..			

Banks.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) 2½ .. 2½ ..			
Chartered Bk of India 18 .. 18½ .. +			
B. & G. Southern 21½ .. 21½ ..			
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.) 21½ .. 21½ ..			
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2½ paid) .. 8½ .. 8½ ..			
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid) 17½ .. 17½ ..			
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) .. 20 .. 20½ .. +			
Nat. Bank of S. Africa (£10) .. 10½ .. 10½ ..			
Nat. Prov. & Union of England (£20 with £4 paid) .. 10½ .. 10½ .. +			
Standard of S. Africa (£20 with £5 paid) .. 12x .. 12 ..			

Colonial and Foreign Railways.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons. 70½ .. 69½ .. -			
B. & P. Pacific .. 48½ .. 48 .. -			
B. & G. Southern .. 74½ .. 74½ .. +			
Buenos Ayres West. 69½ .. 69½ .. +			
Canadian Pacific .. 158 .. 158 ..			
Central Argentine .. 65½ .. 65½ .. +			
Grand Trunk Ord. 7½ .. 7½ ..			
Grand Trunk 1st Pref. 7 .. 8½ .. +			
Leopoldina .. 28½ .. 30½ .. +			
Mexican Railway .. 14½ .. 14½ ..			
Do 1st Pref. 43 .. 43 ..			
Do 2nd Pref. 28 .. 28 ..			
San Paulo .. 125½ .. 126 .. +			
United Havana .. 65 .. 65½ .. +			

Foreign Government Securities.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
Argentine 5½ % 1886-7 .. 99 .. 99 ..			
Belgian 3½ % .. 71 .. 70 .. -			
Brazil 5½ % Fund, 1914 .. 75 .. 73 .. -			
Chilian 4½ % 1895 .. 78 .. 81 .. +			
Do 7½ % .. 106½ .. 106 .. -			
Chinese 5½ % 1912 .. 76 .. 76 ..			
Egyptian 4½ % .. 70 .. 70 ..			
French 5½ % .. 39½ .. 39 .. -			
Do 4½ % .. 31 .. 30 .. -			
Greek 4½ % 1888 .. 34½ .. 35½ .. +			
Japanese 4½ % .. 117 .. 107 .. -			
Do 4½ % 1910 .. 9 .. 69 .. -			
Mexican Cons. 1899 .. 61 .. 62 .. +			
Peruvian Corp. Pref. .. 25½ .. 26 .. +			
Russian 5½ % 1906 .. 11 .. 10½ .. -			
Spanish 4½ % .. 75½ .. 73 .. -			
Sine (Dep't) 7½ % .. 100½ .. 98½ .. -			
Siamese 7½ % .. 108 .. 108 ..			

Telegraphs.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A" 23½ .. 23½ ..			
Marconi Canada .. 1½ .. 1½ ..			
Marconi Wireless .. 2½ .. 2½ ..			

British Railways.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
Great Central Pref. .. 24½ .. 24½ .. +			
Great Eastern .. 41 .. 39½ .. -			
Great Northern Def. .. 45½ .. 46½ .. +			
Great Western .. 105½ .. 105 .. -			
London, Brighton, "A" 62 .. 62½ .. +			
London, Chatham .. 8½ .. 8½ ..			
L. & N.W. (New) .. 105½ .. 103½ .. -			
L. & S. Western, Def. 29½ .. 29½ ..			
Metropolitan .. 49½ .. 50x .. +			
Metropolitan District 38 .. 39½ .. +			
Midland Deferred .. 67 .. 68 .. +			
North British Def. .. 19 .. 19½ .. +			
North-Eastern .. 125 .. 121½ .. -			
South-Eastern "A" .. 126 .. 126 ..			
Underground Electric (£10) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..			
Do "A" (10) .. 3 .. 3 ..			
Do Ino. Bds. (£100) 82½ .. 83½ .. +			

American Railroads.			
	Price Last Week.	Latent Price.	Rise or Fall.
Chesapeake & Ohio .. 81 .. 85 .. +			
Erie .. 20 .. 20 ..			
Do 4½ 1st Pref. 29 .. 30 .. +			
Southern .. 28 .. 29 .. +			
Do Non-cum Pref. .. 65 .. 68 .. +			

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Price, Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (£1)	13½	13½	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	5½	5½	..
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) and Co. (£1).....	15½	15½	..
Ass. Portland Cement (£1)	16	16	..
B'ham Small Arms (£1)	99	99	..
Brazil Traction (£100)	50½	49½	..
British-American Tobacco (£1).....	4½	4½	..
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	13	13	..
Burmah Oil (£1).....	5½	5½	..
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)...	3½	3½	..
Courtaulds (£1).....	2½	2½	..
Quard (£1).....	1	1	..
Dorman, Long (£1).....	1	1	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1)...	15	15	..
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1).....	2½	2½	..
Foresteel Land (£1)...	1½	1½	..
Furness, Withy (£1)...	1½	1½	..
Highlands and Low lands Rubber (£1)...	17½	17	..
Johnson's Bay (£1)...	6½	6½	..

Mines.

Braikpan (£1).....	2½	2½	..
Broken Hill Prop. (S)	1½	1½	..
Chartered (£1).....	1½	1½	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	1½	1½	..
Crown Mines (10)...	2½	2½	..
De Beers Def. (£2½)	11½	11½	..
East Rand Prop. (£1)	5½	5½	..
Gold (£1).....	5½	5½	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1)	5½	5½	..

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'st Pre-Year.
Railways.						
Caledonian	4½	Sept. 2	Less tax	..	..	..
Cookermouth, Keswick, &c.	4½	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Glasgow and S. Western	1½	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Great North of Scotland	1½	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Highland	1	Sept. 4	..	..	..	..
Lanarkshire and Ayrshire	10%	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Swansea and Mumbles	9½	Aug. 8	Less tax	..	..	..
Waterford and Tramore	4	..	..	..	..	..
Banks.						
Industrial of Japan	10	..	Now less Japanese tax	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Hope Tea	10½	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Mining.						
Rezende Mines	20%	Aug. 31	..	..	..	..
Talisman Consolidated	11½ p.s.	Sept. 6	(Final distribution)	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Appl. and Barrett	2½ p.s.	Aug. 29	Less tax	..	..	..
Bagoes, Hulton, and Co.	3%	..	..	..	..	..
Bass, Ratcliff, and Grettton	8½	..	Tax free	..	11	11
Bell Spinning	1½ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Benn Brothers	5	..	..	..	17½	15
B. Morris and Sons	1 p.s.	..	Subject to tax	..	..	..
Bradford Dyest.	11½	Sept. 2	Less tax	..	..	..
Brighton and Hove Gas, Ord.	8½	Sept. 2	Less tax	..	..	..
Do A	6	..	..	..	..	..
Cardiff Gas	9 p.s.	Aug. 28	Less tax	..	..	..
City and Westminster Properties	2½	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Clyde Valley Electrical Power	2½	Aug. 24	Tax free	..	..	..
Crowe, Wilson, and Co.	2½	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Derby Gas Light	9½	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Hornsey Gas, Ord.	10	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Do A	1½ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Iris Spinning	1 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Isaac Walton and Co.	1 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
John Anderson's Royal Poly.	6 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Technic	24	..	Less tax	..	18	18
J.P. Restaurants	10	Aug. 28	Tax free	..	..	..
Langham Hotel	4½	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Law Land Co.	4½	..	Less tax	..	10	10
Milner's Safe	6½	..	Less tax	..	10	10
Mitchells and Butlers	4	Aug. 31	Less tax	..	..	..
New York, &c., Mortgage Trust	6	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Plummer Roddis	6	Sept. 5	Less tax	..	..	..
Railway Investment, Def.	6	Sept. 5	Less tax	..	..	..
Do Pref.	5	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Reading Gas	10	..	..	..	..	..
Rylands	10	Aug. 17	Less tax	..	5	..
Salisbury Market House	10	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Scottish Northern Investment	6	Sept. 2	Less tax	..	..	..
South Staffordshire Waterworks	4	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
A and B	11½	Aug. 20	Less tax	..	..	..
Swindon United Gas	9	Aug. 20	Less tax	..	..	..
Tunbridge Wells Gas, A. Ord.	8½	Aug. 20	Less tax	..	..	..
Do B	6	Aug. 23	Less tax	..	..	..
Do C and D	3	Sept. 10	Less tax	..	..	..
United States Investment	12	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	10	13
Western Mansions	12	..	..	..	..	..
William Hancock and Co.	5	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
W. T. Henley's Telegraph	5	..	..	..	..	..

Moss's EMPRES, LIMITED.—Having considered the accounts for the half-year to June 30th last, the directors regret that they do not feel justified in paying a dividend on the ordinary shares of the company. The adverse conditions as to trade and employment which affected the company's business during the last three quarters of 1921 have continued during the past half-year. Since the commencement of the current half-year the results of the business have improved.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00

Deposits and Cheque Accounts (30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

WATNEY, COMBE, REID, AND COMPANY, LIMITED.
SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF YEAR'S TRADE.

The ordinary general meeting of Watney, Combe, Reid and Co., Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at the Charing Cross Hotel, London, Mr H. Cosmo O. Bonsor (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the company had had a satisfactory year's trading. Owing to the decrease in cost of materials and to the maintenance of the company's trade, the directors were able to show a very good return. The decreased cost of materials amounted to over £200,000, and they had had the full benefit of the investments made in 1920 and 1921. Rents showed an increase of something like £40,000—not from any increase of existing tenants' rents, but from investments they had been able to make in buying up leasehold properties, converting them into freeholds, and getting the benefit of the increased rents in that way, and also from additional investments in other ways. They had been able during the year to liquidate the Welch Ale Brewery business, and were quite satisfied with their purchase of the public-houses which they had acquired in this connection. He was glad to say that the company's beer had been uniformly good, and their bottled beer, which was most popular at the moment in London, showed a continuous increase in sales. They had bought the ordinary shares of the Cobham United Breweries, and hoped at a very early date to get that company into liquidation, close the brewery down, and secure the full benefit of the sales of the public-houses thus acquired.

DEMAND FOR CHEAPER BEER.

Brewers had to recognise that there was a public demand for cheaper beer. All brewers sympathised with that demand, but at the moment it was impossible to assist in reducing the price to the consumer. Taxation was too high. In 1914 the taxation was 7s 9d per standard barrel; now it was £5. The company's sales amounted, in round figures, to 900,000 barrels a year, or 250,000,000 pints. The demand was that there should be a reduction of 1d a pint, which would mean something over £1,000,000 a year. Their income was £770,000, out of which they had to pay debenture interest, preference interest, and dividend on their ordinary stock. Under the circumstances, it was absolutely impossible to reduce the price of beer to the consumer until taxation was reduced. The question really was between the public and the Government. Consumption was falling off, and the public demanded a cheaper beer; but it was very noticeable that in the company's trading during the year under review there had been a persistent demand for its better-class beers, showing that the public had endorsed their policy, which was to give the best possible value they could for the money the public had to spend. With the lessened spending power of the public—wages down, unemployment still serious—the demand for those better-class beers was already on the wane, and the cheaper beers were becoming more in vogue. If that continued, and the cheaper beers came into more prominence than the stronger beers, as they probably would until the beer duty was reduced, they could not possibly expect to maintain the good result shown for the period under review.

COMPANY'S RESERVES.

He would now like to refer to their proposal for doubling the deferred stock. Two years ago the demand had come from the

shareholders' side of the table, but at that time the company had not sufficient reserves for that purpose, and the directors did not approve of a revaluation of their assets. Their reserves were now sufficient. The reserves in the balance-sheet showed a total of £588,000. Those included £345,000, which were put aside to meet the demand for excess profits duty and for any other contingencies, and which was no longer required. Again, when they made up their accounts last year there had been a heavy depreciation on their investments in British Government securities, but that had now disappeared. The figure at which their British Government securities stood in their balance-sheet was appreciably lower than their actual market value. Beyond those two, in sundry creditors they had certain reserves which had been accumulating during the last 20 years. To begin with, there was an income-tax reserve which was not now required. Then there was another reserve that they had made owing to a number of their leases getting very short—a reserve against the repairs or dilapidations which they might have had to pay for when they fell out. The reserve had not been called upon, as they had in most cases purchased the freehold. On the other side of the accounts there was trade investments. A good many years ago, when they formed their amalgamation, two of the amalgamated companies had brought in three-quarters of the ordinary shares of Tanqueray Gordon and of the Distillers Company. They had been recently sold to the Distillers Company, of Belfast. They were paid for partly in cash and partly in shares, and the shares had been sold at a considerable profit. Consequently there had been a profit on both transactions. Those reserves were now ample.

In some of the newspapers there had been talk about a bonus distribution of shares. The word "bonus" was inapplicable. Those reserves had been made from time to time out of the undivided profits of the company, and those undivided profits had been invested in the business, and formed part of the capital of the undertaking. Consequently, it was merely a book-keeping entry, and one which he could strongly recommend the shareholders to adopt.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SCARAB OIL BURNING COMPANY, LIMITED.
CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Scarab Oil Burning Company, Limited, was held, on the 10th inst., at the registered

office, 65 Bishopsgate, London, Mr T. M. C. Stuart (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said: The total sales during the period under review amounted to £53,000, showing a gross profit of £24,000. In the early part of the year sales were considerable, and gave every indication of a highly satisfactory year, but unfortunately during the latter part of the period the volume of orders was materially reduced. This was due to the general stagnation, and I think that the result will not be considered altogether unsatisfactory by the shareholders.

During the year we have issued a further 12,000 preference shares, and, so far as our cash is concerned, we had in hand at the date of our balance-sheet over £23,000, as well as stocks of the actual value of over £9,000. With the opening up of oil properties in South America and the rapid developments which are taking place there in the use of fuel oil on the railways and in factories we are giving special attention to this market. We are developing our business in other foreign countries also.

We believe that in the Scarab burner we have the most efficient of all the oil burners at present on the market, and we continue to receive the most satisfactory reports as to its efficiency.

We are also devoting our attention to the question of central heating. We believe this will yield a large field for the employment of oil burners.

We have also completed our new equipment for use by small plants. It can now be fairly said to have passed the experimental stage, and we are taking steps to place it on the market.

Another important branch of our business which has been occupying a good deal of our time has been the calorising process, the British and certain foreign rights of which this company has acquired. The furnaces and works necessary have been erected, and the business is now starting actively.

Negotiations are pending for the acquisition by the company of the British rights on a royalty basis of a very high-class pressure burner for use on ocean-going liners. This burner has given excellent results, and would form a particularly useful adjunct to our business.

I am quite optimistic as regards the future of our company, and hope that we shall have a much more satisfactory report to put before you at our next meeting.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE
ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK,
LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliations:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.				
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Silver Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at end of Week.
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 11,423
Aug. 26.	21,535	6,302	3,810	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	11,423
Dec. 31.	38,478	169	159	249	28,500	28,500	27.6	54,621	20,536
1915.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	28,500	27.6	54,621	20,536
1916.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	28,500	19.0	118,102	6,868
1917.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	28,500	13.4	186,637	5,486
1918.	323,241	15,529	570	28,500	28,500	28,500	8.9	305,133	4,566
1919.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	28,500	4.000	337,537	2,802
1920.	367,626	16,962	245	245	28,500	28,500	13.0	336,504	134
1921.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	28,500	28,500	28,500	13.9	311,334	141
1922.	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	28,500	28,500	14.8	287,750	150
Aug. 26.	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	28,500	28,500	15.2	278,119	143
Dec. 31.	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	28,500	28,500	14.7	289,131	161
1922.	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	28,500	28,500	15.9	261,479	177
Aug. 26.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	28,500	28,500	16.3	254,311	250
July 20.	297,611	13,194	7,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	21.150	255,488	167
July 27.	296,447	12,883	7,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	21.150	253,996	185
Aug. 3.	299,730	12,915	7,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	21.150	257,343	152
Aug. 10.	302,095	13,100	7,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	21.150	259,903	142

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,500,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, August 14-August 19, were opened on August 11, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £55,795,000. Tenders for Treasury Bonds at £100 is. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 9s 3d will receive about 57 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 9s 3d. and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 2s 0.09d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £2,500,000; in bills at 3 months, £38,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
June 30.	£ 50,000,000	£ 42,230,000	£ 8 s d	£ 8 s d
July 7.	50,000,000	71,260,000	1 18 4 65	98 4 5 10 8
July 14.	45,000,000	80,385,000	1 13 10 06	99 0 5 16
July 21.	45,000,000	77,055,000	1 16 10 8	100 4 11 4
Aug. 4.	50,000,000	71,435,000	2 13 6 41	100 14 0
Aug. 11.	50,000,000	71,675,000	2 2 10 76	100 6 5 42
Aug. 18.	45,000,000	55,795,000	2 2 0 09	100 3 1 44

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, August 18, 1922, for Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts.	
			Week Ended Aug. 5, 1922.	Week Ended Aug. 6, 1921.
Bank of England	£ 9,963,424	£ 2,591,001	£ 483,455	£ 483,455
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs	112,250,000	44,317,000	2,301,000	2,526,000
Excise	160,750,000	49,476,000	61,420,000	1,085,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	10,000,000	2,539,000	392,000	354,000
Estate, &c., Duties	48,000,000	23,081,000	15,728,000	1,035,000
Stamps	18,250,000	4,942,000	50,000	80,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	520,000	420,000	..
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax).	329,000,000	94,510,000	100,287,000	7,115,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	23,284,000	7,145,000
Corporation Profits Tax	17,750,000	5,167,000	3,650,000	150,000
Post Office	54,625,000	17,550,000	15,250,000	1,000,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	750,000	280,000	210,000	..
Miscellaneous	14,000,000	3,517,666	4,156,141	173,220
Ordinary Receipts	22,000,000	14,490,931	7,770,856	26,196
Special Receipts	90,000,000	20,039,667	32,092,070	12,647
Revenue	910,775,000	281,384,264	314,135,061	15,243,063
Total, Inc. Balance	..	292,557,794	317,209,567	..

OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Aug. 5, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Aug. 6, 1921.	Week Ended Aug. 5, 1922.	Week Ended Aug. 6, 1921.
Temporary Advances Repaid:—	£ 800,000	£ 2,700,000	£ ..	£ 150,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	2,500,000	..	260,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—	£ 1,650,000	£ 2,000,000	£ ..	£ ..
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	13,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,450,000	..	2,345,000	..
(c) For other issues:—	1,042,559,000	1,609,777,000	49,708,000	75,714,000
By Treasury Bills for Supply	31,748,000	12,480,000	800,000	650,000
By National Savings Certificates	20	5	..	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	121,708	1,024,990	..	..
5½% 1922	61,422,074	12,080,000	..	3,950,000
4½% 1922	44,125,253	..	10,074,338	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,869	4,926,776	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	316,490,500	446,074,000	7,800,000	12,600,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	243,012	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired	..	..	..	..
Repayments	172,628	28,811	153,610	19,631
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	265,460	1,650,250	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	85,532	75,067	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	1,796,292,743	2,412,434,431	84,114,078	110,274,448

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Aug. 5, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Aug. 6, 1921.	Week Ended Aug. 5, 1922.	Week Ended Aug. 6, 1921.
Permanent Charge of Debt	£ 16,000,000	£ 6,421,567	£ 6,302,877	£ ..
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	108,321,747	128,530,760	7,793,946
Road Fund	10,000,000	1,353,999	1,550,000	6,696,625
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,788,000	1,120,000	1,525,992	20,000
Payment to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	547,811	1,288,702	58,849
Land Settlement	3,500,000	497,533	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,051,891	748,475	13,800
Supply Services	529,999,000	136,889,674	229,537,474	17,446,549
Expenditure	893,437,000	256,183,722	369,484,280	24,161,368

OTHER ISSUES.

OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Aug. 5, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Aug. 6, 1921.	Week Ended Aug. 5, 1922.	Week Ended Aug. 6, 1921.
Temporary Advances	£ ..	£ 2,700,000	£ ..	£ 150,000
Bullion	..	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	81,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,600,000	2,575,000	..	230,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	2,000,000	2,600,000	..	600,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,500	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,090,000	..	1,440,000	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed	1,184,104,000	1,527,426,000	63,850,000	75,440,000
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills for Supply	..	..	..	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (5) War Loan Act, 1919	4,671,377	15,241,059	30	739,783
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	2,750,000	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—	..	..	..	..
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	9,800,000	5,800,000	650,000	1,000,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	5,600,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off	19,612,188	..	..	..
5½% 1922, £20,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	4,444,601	23,839,798	3,000	2,931,855
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	299,346,500	438,883,000	2,593,000	4,650,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	399,521	9,180,067	..	400,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	..	5,740,000	..	..
Old Sinking Fund 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—	1,792,398,486	2,409,573,813	83,984,957	110,503,026
Bank of England	1,792,398,486	2,409,573,813	83,984,957	110,503,026
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
Total	1,793,608,592	2,410,057,268	83,984,957	110,503,026

Note.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 9, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
tes issued	144,029,625
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion	125,579,625
144,029,625	144,029,625

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
pital	14,553,000
st.	3,483,082
ublic deposits*	16,238,919
ber deposits	104,500,212
ven-day & other bills	15,352
138,790,565	138,790,565

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Aug. 9, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
at	£ 3,483,082	+ 42,454	+ 7,469
ble deposits	16,238,919	+ 885,327	+ 2,019,706
vernment securities	104,500,212	+ 3,469,551	+ 9,696,335
er securities	75,450,390	+ 1,247,376	+ 7,082,860
erve	20,307,670	+ 232,340	+ 1,041,286
ne circulation	125,542,210	+ 231,980	+ 2,022,060
in and bullion	127,399,880	+ 360	+ 980,774
of reserve to liabilities	16%	+ 8%	+ 2%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date,	Coin and Bullion,	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills),	Deposits,	Securities in Banking Department,	Reserve,	% of Reserve of Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.			£	£	£	%	%
ay 17	128,879,227	121,070,755	139,061,838	130,549,595	26,258,472	18	1
24	128,880,842	120,889,975	132,436,093	131,780,787	26,440,867	20	1
31	128,881,009	122,715,860	132,221,478	132,358,836	24,615,149	18	1
ine 7	128,886,129	122,513,410	141,479,390	134,418,206	24,822,719	17	1
14	128,884,081	121,557,550	127,874,151	120,304,710	25,376,531	19	1
21	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	121,830,727	25,960,416	20	1
28	128,916,633	123,048,010	131,435,226	124,946,319	24,348,683	18	1
ily 5	128,458,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	143,807,498	23,385,822	15	1
12	127,900,698	124,748,705	124,987,104	120,766,651	22,101,933	17	1
19	127,402,158	124,256,265	126,641,810	122,955,489	21,595,135	17	1
26	127,399,590	124,757,620	121,873,106	118,748,764	21,096,300	17	1
ug. 2	127,399,590	125,774,190	125,325,355	121,280,295	20,075,330	16	1
9	127,399,880			118,892,895	20,370,670	16	1

BANK OF JAPAN.
(000's omitted.)

	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	June 24, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	July 9, 1921.	Position June 30, 1921.
ASSETS.							
Cash and bullion	1,281,261	1,280,686	1,281,335	1,281,850	1,279,159	1,275,755	221,320
Discounts	77,248	162,538	108,786	96,265	78,095	34,930	41,740
Advances	167,881	177,259	148,332	133,176	129,547	93,700	70,540
LIABILITIES.							
Notes	1,173,472	1,331,785	1,229,656	1,183,498	1,164,757	1,059,566	362,270
Govt. deposits	706,054	680,034	667,818	695,485	724,513	1,344,013	87,340
Other deposits	58,238	39,617	57,510	60,366	49,352	104,719	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.
(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 30, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	1,004,860	1,004,859	1,004,859	1,091,557	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	14,258	321,920
Silver	13,083,023	9,351,163	10,789,974	5,397,594	943,460
Bills discounted	207,858,232	196,017,698	195,214,961	81,117,496	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	189,794,722	177,027,024	175,437,418	77,390,853	2,013,860
Govt. deposits	39,976,216	35,603,336	36,275,651	15,824,156	842,340

BANK OF ITALY.
(000's omitted.)

	July 10, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 20, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	July 10, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Total cash	1,322,923	1,381,222	1,372,156	1,363,773	1,339,819	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,431,661	4,539,110	4,389,521	4,317,392	3,222,201	418,400
Foreign bills	9,754	9,813	9,858	9,812	19,646	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,149,893	6,147,274	6,002,182	6,044,818	6,407,390	nll
Other advances	2,762,880	2,975,031	2,760,894	2,754,475	2,432,733	79,175
Securities	533,717	533,609	533,658	535,081	392,753	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	14,156,094	13,932,430	13,505,440	13,380,765	13,982,643	1,556,925
Deposits and drafts	1,937,826	2,011,031	2,043,644	1,778,908	1,732,404	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.
(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 24, 1922.	July 17, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	605,954	605,954	605,955	605,955	605,969	163,092
Silver	8,239	8,156	8,020	7,720	10,792	8,436
Govt. & advances	379,504	369,848	399,256	390,267	453,928	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	983,092	990,314	978,576	993,517	1,018,176	316,832
Deposits	36,338	34,957	73,605	48,158	59,514	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.
(000's omitted.)

	July 8, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	July 9, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	510,835	495,483	495,470	495,451	495,458
Silver	665	530	376	427	292
Govt. loan	12,527,698	12,498,215	12,522,553	12,522,810	10,243,384
Other advances	2,798,791	2,641,986	2,666,178	2,771,429	3,125,390
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	14,147,162	14,106,890	14,111,324	14,130,339	11,088,055
Deposits	6,093,950	5,849,509	5,876,052	5,962,173	6,222,987

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.
(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	Aug. 6, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	518,026	519,409	523,667	524,451	544,442	171,175
Silver	115,858	116,282	116,335	116,865	110,711	16,350
Darlehens-Kasse.	12,187	12,138	12,114	12,697	12,938	
Assets & advances	326,532	322,773	311,378	308,688	323,552	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	752,653	769,113	729,121	742,624	913,601	275,925
Deposits	250,772	231,385	263,224	255,660	93,684	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to July 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.20,383,168, of which Fr.12,138,675 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.
(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	Aug. 6, 1921.	Position May 24, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	773,909	773,917	773,930	773,962	285,090	104,918
Balance abt. and foreign bills	78,738	78,590	77,965	78,453	107,987	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	72,840	72,843	72,557	72,463	12,868	32,465
Discount and loans	414,907	408,719	412,792	413,613	442,303	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	545,633	534,996	514,816	533,851	620,516	226,555
Deposits at notice	230,289	237,621	258,411	253,467	174,218	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.
(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 3, 1922.	July 27, 1922.	July 18, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	Aug. 3, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	332,072	332,012	330,763	329,441	325,178	324,565
Securities	462,783	496,353	481,638	478,965	596,306	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,402,678	6,327,881	6,287,335	6,273,528	6,170,097	934,150
Current accounts	614,502	722,249	761,223	777,834	1,016,352	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.
(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	July 23, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	1,371	1,553	1,328	1,087
Silver coin and bullion, bills	21	21	20	20
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	255,116,505	233,398,801	213,779,401	191,577,314
Loans	1,214,972	1,303,381	1,181,152	1,155,467
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	786,225,601	691,770,477	616,861,131	582,879,843
Deposits	36,688,849	58,684,609	40,974,165	38,777,958

HUNGARIAN BANK.
(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	July 23, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 7, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	13,048	12,990	13,150	13,364
Silver coin, &c.	597	597	597	598
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	28,782,928	27,014,151	25,495,627	25,869,248
Loans	1,546,432	1,513,358	1,555,027	1,554,576
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	38,357,359	35,867,485	35,103,483	34,443,271
Deposits	3,923,134	3,731,554	3,880,712	3,450,248

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.
(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin and bullion	228,304	228,310	228,325	227,564	76,644	
Loans & discounts	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	306,152	88,470
Securities	25,939	23,459	16,215	14,830	18,741	24,100
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	432,305	441,940	438,743	451,790	481,581	157,265
Deposits	142,399	119,028	114,766	128,857	75,256	6,695

BANK OF NORWAY.
(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,291	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,592	38,791	38,569	30,060	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,814	9,814	9,814	8,512	8,816
Discounts and loans	445,281	439,007	440,833	451,996	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	382,407	379,447	381,555	428,497	113,484
Deposits at notice	136,940	134,639	134,480	99,983	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922, his day included.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.
(000's omitted.)

	July 14, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 23, 1922.	July 15, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Govt. securities	12,37,70	15,26,83	7,72,38	7,97,65	13,76,19
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,39
Loans	14,71,98	14,35,16	14,20,91	14,82,45	13,65,81
Cash credits	25,82,78	25,82,78	25,82,78	25,77,32	25,50,56
Inland bills	4,38,50	4,51,93	4,65,08	4,77,58	11,51,72
Foreign bills	12,72	5,17	4,18	5,58	1,42
Bullion	2,42,48	2,42,39	2,47,26	2,48,35	2,09,85
Dead stock	32,89	34,08	92,44	66,74	31,35
Sundries	17,67	15,75	6,03	6,27	18,06
Balances with other banks	36,12,84	33,92,06	33,91,85	29,41,82	34,02,91
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,40	10,73,76	10,73,76
Capital paid up	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38
Reserve	4,11,83	4,01,83	4,01,83	4,01,83	3,71,37
Public deposits	27,93,45	26,80,61	16,69,94	15,24,55	16,58,56
Other deposits	58,87,92	60,41,43	62,96,84	50,32,62	71,14,59
Loans against securities	50,33	50,03	49,83	50,43	80,59
Loans from Govt. of India	78,38	78,24	1,71,58	1,58,23	68,59
Sundries	131	122	60	61	54
The above includes—	352	356	351	358	575
Deposits in London	111	100	35	37	113
Advances in London					
Cash, &c., at other banks in London					

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.
(000's omitted.)

	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	May 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	3,362	3,368	3,357	3,360	1,571
Government securities	38,779	39,150	39,343	38,966	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	30,322	33,692	31,112	32,885	2,400
Government deposits	3,069	3,668	3,598	2,415	2,315
Other deposits	12,401	12,240	11,431	13,656	2,560

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.
(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 30, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,626	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	122,309	122,978	123,766	404,820	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	708,553	718,554	718,554	907,260	21,826
Discounts and loans	798,689	800,772	810,512	348,801	106,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,340,382	1,320,865	1,342,580	1,357,741	123,941
Deposits at notice	91,366	123,351	121,177	111,284	21,295

BANK OF PORTUGAL.
(000's omitted.)

	June 21, 1922.	June 14, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	June 25, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion	26,714	26,744	26,757	26,902	27,719
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Aug. 5, 1922.			Aggregate 31 Weeks 1922.		
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Central (c) ...	6763	74,400	123,000	203,400	1,516,700	5,554,600
Do Joint Lines ...	1612	...	...	39,900	...	1,072,000
Great Eastern (c) ...	1,2072	181,700	89,300	271,000	3,497,400	2,913,600
Great Northern (c) ...	1,050	148,600	131,300	279,900	3,001,000	4,372,500
Great Western (c) ...	3,557	463,000	366,000	829,000	8,705,000	11,858,000
London & N. Western (d) ...	2,633	564,000	402,000	966,000	11,313,000	11,880,000
London & South-Western (d) ...	368	200,100	59,600	259,700	4,027,100	1,811,600
Lon. & South-Western (c) ...	487	149,000	28,663	177,672	2,844,287	890,474
London & Southampton (c) ...	423	1,461	1,764	3,225	36,656	57,231
Metropolitan (c) ...	794	34,139	2,777	36,916	1,029,562	110,548
Midland (c) ...	1,5852	290,000	318,000	608,000	5,435,000	9,969,000
Midland & N. W. Jnc. ...	65	3,623	1,352	4,375	44,121	45,088
North-Eastern (c) ...	1,850	207,100	258,300	465,400	3,932,400	7,631,900
North London (c) ...	16	4,713	9,002	13,715	150,215	307,975
South-E. & Chatham (c) ...	654	222,700	45,600	268,300	4,049,600	1,318,100
Underground E.R. (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,367,700
Underground S.R. (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,367,700
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,367,700
Calendonian (c) ...	1,097	112,400	98,600	211,000	2,207,300	3,019,100
Glasgow & S.W. (c) ...	476	50,600	36,300	86,900	971,900	1,127,000
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ...	3362	13,930	7,950	21,880	284,450	288,260
Highland (c) ...	492 (a)	18,376	8,960	27,336	348,034	318,662
North British (c) ...	1,3772	92,700	116,400	209,100	1,991,000	3,603,900
Belmont and County Down (b) ...	80	7,416	1,081	8,497	162,306	42,350
Dublin and S. East. (b) ...	160	9,997	4,137	14,134	172,966	109,138
Dublin and S. West. (b) ...	538	8,615	12,769	21,384	289,924	432,380

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended August 4, 1922.
(c) Week ended August 5, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal ...	14 weeks	July 8	1,043	2,44,146	+ 1,64,867	32,58,070	+ 14,63,624
Barak Lk. Ry. ...	15 weeks	July 1	118	64,000	33,400	6,51,600	+ 2,60,700
Bengal & N. Western ...	13 weeks	July 8	1,467	6,26,590	+ 1,02,386	9,40,354	+ 3,36,841
Bengal Nagpur ...	14 weeks	July 8	8	12,93,000	11,000	1,97,24,205	+ 20,74,632
Bombay, Bar. & C.L. ...	18 weeks	Aug. 5	2,871	19,07,000	+ 1,86,000	41,691,000	+ 48,61,000
Burma ...	13 weeks	July 1	1,342	5,96,437	88	96,16,081	+ 20,73,406
Dalh. Umballa & Kalka ...	17 weeks	Aug. 29	239	1,01,000	+ 5,257	16,62,239	+ 1,84,036
East Indian ...	18 weeks	Aug. 5	2,774	28,98,000	64,000	5,26,82,000	+ 16,30,000
G. Indian Peninsula ...	17 weeks	July 29	3,121	20,44,600	+ 3,04,400	4,70,32,070	+ 23,05,170
Madras & S. Mah. ...	14 weeks	Aug. 8	3,028	14,25,000	+ 64,308	5,09,63,415	+ 19,01,293
Rohilk'd & Kumaon ...	14 weeks	Aug. 8	259	64,000	+ 1,821	9,56,752	+ 30,051
Do Lucknow-Breilly ...	14 weeks	Aug. 15	302	69,975	+ 5,429	11,71,765	+ 60,229
South Indian ...	15 weeks	Aug. 15	1,852	9,56,997	+ 36,768	14,48,062	+ 19,18,331
Sibh. Punjab (month) ...	1 mth	April 30	717	6,46,972	245,885	...	...
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E. ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	752	11,000	1,100	51,200	+ 7,100
Argentine Trans. ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	111	1,200	149	5,840	+ 2,631
B. A. & Pacific ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	5,428	130,000	6,000	630,000	+ 61,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	6,597	147,000	11,000	741,000	+ 61,000
B. A. Western ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	1,884	35,000	14,000	165,000	+ 91,000
Buenos Ayres Cent. ...	12 mths	June 30	190	43,180	6,678	76,000	+ 25,000
Central Argentine ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	5,305	195,000	4,000	975,000	+ 12,000
Cordoba Central ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	1,205	71,000	2,500	336,400	+ 28,100
Entre Rios ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	811	15,900	4,100	81,700	+ 23,400
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern ...	6 mths	June 30	...	Ms 39,000	14,500	245,750	+ 26,150
Gt. West. of Brazil ...	31 weeks	Aug. 6	1,005	9,700	100	400,200	+ 16,800
Leopoldina ...	31 weeks	Aug. 6	1,831	34,477	535	338,951	+ 170,400
San Paulo ...	31 weeks	Aug. 6	1,534	28,699	472	886,756	+ 33,755
State of Bahia, S.W. ...	3 mths	July 31	82	Ms 86,000	30,000	244,000	+ 99,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta ...	31 weeks	Aug. 6	838	25,990	11,880	620,325	+ 113,565
Arauco ...	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	500	...	...
Nitrato (2 weeks) ...	30 weeks	July 31	366	22,702	11,128	...	...
Peruvian Corp. ...	1 mth	July 31	1,059	811,500	1,950	...	...
Talca ...	1 mth	July 31	172	12,090	2,917	...	...
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad ...	8 mths	Feb. 28	...	Gross \$110,974	500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,080,221
Havana Central ...	4 weeks	July 29	...	Net \$474,495	18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	1,210	47,389	11,396	247,497	+ 62,663
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay ...	5 weeks	Aug. 6	973	20,447	1,650	106,281	+ 9,601
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ...	5 weeks	Aug. 6	311	4,200	205	21,712	+ 1,392
C. Urug. (North Ext.) ...	5 weeks	Aug. 6	185	2,149	382	11,257	+ 2,587
C. Urug. (West Ext.) ...	5 weeks	Aug. 6	211	2,131	145	9,243	+ 1,206
Midland Uruguay ...	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	3,084	...	...
North-West Uruguay ...	1 mth	July 31	113	5,368	347	...	...
Uruguay Uruguay ...	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	714	...	...
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia ...	31 weeks	Aug. 5	33	Ps 15,000	4,000	611,300	+ 111,400
Bilbao ...	7 mths	July 31	136	15	932	7,360	+ 6,066
Bolivar ...	10 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	1,340	193,391	+ 3,531
Colombian Nat. Ry. ...	11 mths	May 31	190	27,975	8,679	236,221	+ 33,596
Costa Rica ...	5 mths	July 31	70	13,000	5,500	62,756	+ 45,000
Dorado Extension ...	5 mths	July 31	45	4,750	...	28,750	+ 10,746
Dorado Ropway, Ext. ...	5 mths	July 31	35	8,743	...	80,605	+ 10,746
Egyptian Delta ...	14 weeks	Aug. 10	104	Ps 50,712	18,563	2,311,919	+ 786,979
Gt. Southern of Spain ...	30 weeks	Aug. 29	...	Gross 64,458	7,549	469,091	+ 2,255
International of Central America ...	6 mths	June 30	...	Net 19,943	9,042	190,819	+ 18,923
La Guaira & Caracas ...	7 mths	July 31	232	11,650	1,050	71,150	+ 1,920
Mexican Railway ...	4 weeks	Aug. 31	403	\$365,700	36,400	1,089,700	+ 265,400
Do ...	6 mths	June 30	403	\$1,061,600	10,600	1,522,000	+ 503,200
Do ...	6 mths	June 30	...	Net 11,669	2,105	41,369	+ 11,240
Nasajo Oscarhamn ...	4 mths	Apr. 30	193	5,854	...	165,470	+ 43,780
Ottoman R. W. ...	1 week	July 29	274	3,310	...	165,470	+ 43,780
Paraguay Central ...	47 weeks	May 27	274	3,310	...	165,470	+ 43,780
Piraeus-Athens, &c. ...	9 mths	Feb. 28	...	Net \$2,311,374	414,841	16,380,765	+ 5,299,620
Puerto Cabello, &c. ...	7 mths	July 31	35	4,750	...	31,250	+ 5,007
Salvador ...	5 weeks	Aug. 5	100	2,943	...	18,039	+ 1,520
Santa Fe Province ...	1 mth	June 30	...	Net 127,600	9,865	51,240	+ 8,809
Santiago & ...	6 mths	June 30	...	Net 15,320	1,915	68,999	+ 16,646
Satra and Huella ...	6 mths	June 30	112	10,941	1,689	68,999	+ 16,646

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,64
Feb.	234,202	236,625	400,430,580	+ 4,772,834	76,705,840	+ 54,882,6
Mar.	234,338	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,426	113,468,943	+ 54,637,1
Apr.	235,333	234,955	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,004,0
May	234,931	234,931	447,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,565	+ 28,064,9

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cons. & Hudson Bay	11 mths	May 31	Gross \$151,085	- 45,804	1,555,520	- 971,0
Canadian Ntn.	30 weeks	July 31	Gross \$1,312,700	- 375,195	30,189,794	- 6,791,0
Canadian Ntn.*	5 mths	May 31	Gross \$4,870,500	+ 428,177	21,604,034	- 5,684,1
Canadian Pac.	30 weeks	July 31	Gross \$4,596,000	- 467,000	90,235,000	- 9,594,0
Canadian Pac.*	6 mths	June 30	Gross \$13,810,000	- 651,000	76,285,000	- 7,761,0
Grand Trunk.	30 weeks	July 31	Gross \$2,362,000	- 742,000	9,814,000	- 3,136,0
Temiscouata	1 mth	June 30	Gross \$671,463	+ 98,860	11,679,265	+ 54,9
			Gross \$31,924	...	...	...

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	May 31	810	95,170	- 11,606	...	...
Mid. of W. Aust.	12 mths	June 30	277	7,695	204	128,074	- 2,24
New Cape Central	37 weeks	July 15	205	2,761	+ 165	75,026	+ 1,37
Rhodesia Railways.	1 mth	May 31	1,397	136,329	4,334	...	...

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	31 weeks	Aug. 5	329	\$87,331	+ 9,306	2,588,463	+ 137,47
Burnley Corporation	5 weeks	Aug. 5	12	\$3,483	54		
Calcutta Tramways	31 weeks	Aug. 5	354	\$11,623	+ 15,441		
Chatham & District.	30 weeks	July 27	15	\$1,881	+ 70	46,746	+ 927.05
Egyptian Markets	30 weeks	July 20	20	\$1,691	+ 45	52,738	+ 15
Glasgow Corporation	9 weeks	Aug. 5	99	\$41,861	2,353	391,782	9,74
Isle of Thanet	4 weeks	Aug. 2	2	\$2,527	958	40,607	35,78
Lancashire United	31 weeks	Aug. 1	39	\$2,984	879	40,607	64
Liverpool Corporation	31 weeks	Aug. 5	124	\$30,019	+ 1,436	910,050	+ 26,74
L.C.C. Tramways	19 weeks	Aug. 9	160	\$32,356	+ 4,844	1,710,150	+ 162,32
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	30 weeks	July 31	3	\$49,243	+ 825	686,550	+ 147,21
Pernambuco Trams.	31 weeks	Aug. 6	..	\$4,394	+ 758		
Singapore Electric	30 weeks	July 29	29				

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distri- bution.	Appropriation.						Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.	
					Prefce.	Ordinary.						
						Amount.	Amount.					Rate.
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Bass, Ratcliff, and Grettton	June 30	73,085	386,063	459,148	68,000	224,400	11+	100,000	66,748	403,515	11+	
Clarkson's Old (Barnsley)	June 30	2,749	21,959	24,708	3,900	9,750	15+	7,000	4,058	18,681	14+	
Mitchells and Butlers	June 30	236,735	412,801	649,536	60,000	269,118	10	100,000	220,418	430,089	10	
William Hancock and Co.	May 31	20,153	45,137	65,290	20,700	20,000	10	10,000	14,590	56,116	13	
Gas.												
Portsea Island Gas Light.....	June 30*	13,954	25,278	39,232	..	18,682	..	..	20,550	16,050	..	
Rubber, &c.												
Baru (Java).....	Dec. 31	9,879	2,325	12,204	..	..	..	1,000	11,204	1,094	..	
Tea.												
Borelli	Dec. 31	874	16,082	16,956	383	7,817	10	5,000	3,756	..	..	
Rajmai	Dec. 31	1,307	19,553	20,860	..	16,800	30	1,000	3,060	Dr22,534	10+	
Telegraphs, &c.												
Marconi's Wireless	Dec. 31	818,567	275,361	1,093,928	..	397,098	15Ord. 30,000 12 Prf.	..	666,830	297,682	15 Ord. 12 Prf.	
Textiles.												
Isaac Holden and Sons.....	June 30	2,354	137,837	140,191	7,748	27,459	13+	80,000	24,984	21,192	6+	
Rylands and Sons	June 30*	146,161	111,955	258,116	43,500	72,300	10	..	142,316	Dr1263,316	..	
Other Companies.												
Owen and Robinson	May 31	6,935	3,866	10,801	2,100	2,450	7+	1,000	5,251	6,905	10+	

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

37 cents per 100 lbs, Gulf to Continent paid 3s 9d per qr. North Pacific quoted 3s 5 to U.K.-Continent and 3s 6d per ton to Mediterranean, October shipment. Eastern firmer. Bombay-Karachi paid 19s on deadweight to U.K.-Continent, one port loading, one port discharge, while Australian charters indicate 3s 5 for wheat-flour home. Danube grain quiet, with 17s offering for August loading and 18s September to U.K.-Continent.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21, 1919-20, and 1918-19.

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to August 5	78,727	92,228	5,262	25,461
48 weeks to August 5	16,007,037	12,295,849	10,799,921	13,019,724
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
quarter	54 4	72 2	85 10	73 4
— per cwt	12 6	17 5	19 9	17 2

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	s d	s d	s d
July 29	17,500 2	829 5	4,485 1	53 10	40 4	33 2
Aug. 5	18,369 5	711 7	3,383 6	54 4	37 11	33 1
1918	2,950 2	1,013 2	139 2	74 7	57 7	46 3
1919	5,941 3	1,299 4	1,714 2	73 4	73 8	55 6
1920	1,228 0	409 2	968 4	85 10	85 3	63 2
1921	21,520 6	4,693 7	9,030 7	72 2	45 9	32 2

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated August 10th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Prices are still depressed, and the outlook is by no means reassuring. Business is very limited. There have been some inquiries for foundry iron from America. Current quotations are:—No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. pig-iron, 87s per ton; East Coast mixed numbers hematite, 90s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Steel prices are expected to fall shortly, as makers are now free from control and orders are scarce. Steel ship plates, home, £9; steel ship angles, home, £8 15s; iron bars, home, £11; steel rails, home, £8 15s net. Iron ore: Hematite makers are rather indifferent about buying, as orders for pig-iron are scarce. Bilbao Rubio is inactive, with sellers at 25s and rather lower.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—During the past week some interesting changes have been introduced into the steel and iron trades position. For a number of years back the steelmakers of England and Scotland have worked under an agreement which, amongst other conditions, fixed a common standard of prices for material for both divisions of the United Kingdom. Since the slump of two years ago the arrangement has not given satisfaction, and it became apparent that the bargain would not hold, and last week it was broken or abandoned, and it was determined that producers North and South of the Tweed should have a "free hand" in the disposal of all their manufactures in the home and foreign markets, the associations in both districts remaining as such (combined) in their respective localities. Following thereon, the Scotch steelmakers last Thursday intimated various reductions in quotations—20s on ship plates, 15s on sections, and 20s on boiler plates, at £9, £8 15s, and £12 10s respectively, delivery on the Clyde. These cuts brought

the concessions from the beginning of the year up to £2 10s on boiler plates, £1 10s on ship plates, and £1 10s on sections. Simultaneously, the shipbuilding firm of Messrs. Lithgow, Port Glasgow, approached their hands, and stated that they were prepared to build four large cargo steamers, which would give for the time being, the rate of pay which obtained immediately prior to the war. The Messrs Lithgow took all risks involved in plating that Messrs Lithgow are also makers of hematite and of steel material, and are therefore in an exceptionally strong position for giving effect to their building proposal, which, however, has not as yet been acquiesced in. But the general body of steel-makers felt that they would be at a disadvantage if they continued

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(with which is incorporated the AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	£8,976,660
PAID-UP CAPITAL ...	£2,229,166
RESERVE FUND ...	£2,893,335
UNCALLED CAPITAL ...	£6,687,495
	£11,869,995

Board of Directors.
William Reiersen Arbuthnot, Esq. Solomon B. Joel, Esq., J.P.
Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G. Horace Peel, Esq.
Edward Clifton Brown, Esq. Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq. William Stuart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq. Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.

Senior General Manager in South Africa—J. P. Gibson.
Joint General Managers in South Africa { John Jeffrey,
Asst. Gen. Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. R. Robertson,
London Manager—Francis Shipton. Secretary—Herbert G. Hoey.

Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4
London Wall Branch: 63, LONDON WALL, E.C.2
West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2
(10 post: The Royal Colonial Institute)
NEW YORK AGENCY: 68 WALL STREET.
ROTTERDAM BRANCH: 15 COOLSINGEL.
AMSTERDAM BRANCH: 69 ROKIN.
HAMBURG AGENCY:
Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53 SOHLENBURGER-STRASSE.

Over 370 Branches. Sub-Branches and Agencies in
CAPE PROVINCE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE, TRANSVAAL, RHODESIA,
Nyasaland, BASUTOLAND, KENYA COLONY, KENYA PROTECTORATE,
UGANDA, ZANZIBAR, PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA, SOUTH WEST
AFRICA, TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, BELGIAN CONGO.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION transacted at all
Branches and Agencies.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the usual terms, and DEPOSITS
RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on
application.

SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS opened on terms, particulars of which
may be obtained at Branches.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
DRAFTS issued, MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.

LETTERS OF CREDIT and COMMERCIAL CREDITS established.
TRAVELLERS' LETTRES OF CREDIT issued available in all parts of
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected. [the world.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received and COUPONS COLLECTED.
STRONGROOMS provided for the safe custody of Securities and Valuables
of Customers.

ASSAY DEPARTMENT—Gold, etc., and all Mineral Ores assayed and
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE business undertaken. [realised.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

to observe the combine rate of quotations, and so it has gone by the board. All concerned have now, therefore, a free hand to buy and sell, produce, use, and distribute steel material as they see fit, and in any and every market. How things will work out remains to be seen. It is reported that already there are quite a number of inquiries on circuit relative to the building of new boats, but so far it does not appear that any contracts have been placed on the river. Expert opinion is satisfied that these will come—once those concerned (shipowners, shipbuilders, and steelmakers) find their footing in the new circumstances which have been created.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The last few weeks have furnished indications of further improvement in the conditions of most branches of the steel trade; nevertheless, the recovery is painfully slow, and the position continues unsatisfactory in the extreme. There are still 40,000 persons in the city drawing relief under the National Insurance Act. Engineering and shipbuilding works are buying steel material on a very limited scale, nor have the British railways discontinued their policy of buying on hand-to-mouth lines. Practically no business is coming forward from the South American railways, who have large contracts placed in Germany and Belgium. The heavy steel branches are looking up, and the position of pig-iron has improved a little. The tool steel branch is still in a condition of extreme stagnation. Very little is doing in steel castings, whether light or heavy. Ferro-alloys are steady in price, with buying at the minimum. The light steel trade continues to suffer from the existence of surplus war material in most of the colonies as well as in this country. The dead season in plate and cutlery has now arrived, and there will be little buying by the large home distributors until next month. Overseas demand for such goods is poor. This holiday stoppage has been less than at Whitsuntide. The American demand for coal has led to the re-starting of a number of idle pits, and many are now working full time. Prices of steam coal have hardened, and best South Yorkshire qualities are quoted at 21s or 22s at the pits. The home consumption is increasing somewhat. The increased working of the pits has relieved the scarcity of stocks, which, however, are still none too plentiful. Railway companies are ordering liberally to build up stocks. House coal is quiet, and best South Yorkshires are quoted at from 30s to 34s at pits.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no change this week in the situation on the Cardiff coal market. The docks were idle on Monday and Tuesday, and the collieries until Wednesday, and these holiday stoppages have meant a considerable reduction in the volume both of production and of exports. The resumption of work in the coalfield was complete on Thursday, and since Wednesday the tipping facilities at the docks have been worked up to their maximum capacity within the existing two nine-hour shift systems. The arrival of tonnage since last Saturday has been exceptionally heavy, and the docks are in a state of congestion. The Great Western Railway Company, which is now in complete control of all the South Wales docks, except that of Swansea, is strictly regulating traffic between the pit and the port, in order to minimise the evils of an over-supply of prompt tonnage. Coals are not released from the various junctions, except in those cases where there are vessels either in dock or under tip to receive the coal, and these regulations have already had the effect of increasing the volume of shipments. In the week ending August 5th more coal was shipped at the Cardiff, Penarth, Barry, and Newport docks than in any other week since the war. It amounted to 596,000 tons, representing an increase of nearly 50,000 tons on the shipments in the preceding week. Production in the coalfield has also been stimulated, and the latest Board of Trade returns report an output once more of over one million tons per week. With the collieries fully stemmed, and with tonnage so abundant, there has been very little new business passing, but prices have been very strong at the pre-holiday figures. America is still in the market. Reports are prevalent of the conclusion of additional contracts, but these are not confirmed, although the United States has been directly represented in South Wales this week by a leading American coal merchant, who has been in active negotiation with local firms. The following were the current market prices on Thursday:—Best Admiralty large, 30s to 32s 6d; seconds, 29s to 30s; best drys, 29s to 30s; Black Veins, 29s to 30s; Western Valleys, 28s 6d to 30s; Eastern Valleys, 27s 6d to 30s; best bunker smalls, 21s to 22s 6d; cargo smalls, 19s to 21s; coke for export, chiefly foundry, 40s to 45s; inland blast furnace coke, 25s to 26s, atovens; patent fuel, 27s to 30s; pitwood ex-ship, 40s to 42s 6d.

In the tinplate trade all work has been suspended this week for the usual August week's holiday, but it is reported that most works are booked up well into next month, and favourable conditions are anticipated in the autumn.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market presents a somewhat quieter appearance on account of the will be closed next week, and in the circumstances there is a general disposition to mark time. There is, however, no indication of any weakness; indeed, prices are firm all round, with, if anything, a hardening tendency in merinos. Toprakers are so few are anxious to consider new business where delivery is required at about 4s 7d per lb, and some firms are not prepared to sell big weights even at that figure. In crossbreds, also, there is a

somewhat better feeling, especially in the finer sorts. The strength of the raw material market is helping topmakers to stand out for prices more in keeping with wool values, though in medium and low sorts it is still possible to buy from stock at about late rates. Spinners are well employed, and a fair amount of new business has been booked in botanies during the past week or two. Prices are firm, especially in botanies and fine crossbreds. A reduction in dyeing and finishing charges has been announced by the B.D.A., and this is expected to help both manufacturers and merchants, many of whom have complained of the high charges in this section of the industry. Meanwhile there is just a steady trade passing in piece goods, but improvement is expected after the holidays. There is not much activity in home-grown wools, but the finer sorts are selling moderately well, and lustre hogs are wanted. Some improvement is noted in the demand for Cheviots, but blackface wool is less active than was the case a few weeks ago. Prices of practically all descriptions are firm.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

After the stirring times in the recent sales in Coleman street buyers are glad to have a month respite from sales. The next series is to begin on September 4th, a day earlier than originally decided upon, and there will be ten selling days, with a total offering of 113,700 bales, including Puntas. It seems to many that another full week might have been added to dispose of surplus crossbreds and also help forward the merinos which are available both from importers and B.A.W.R.A. It certainly is surprising to the majority why the list of arrivals is being closed so early, and we think that selling brokers have little knowledge of the grumblings which shippers constantly make about the early closing of the list of arrivals. In pre-war days the lists were closed at 4 p.m., eight days before a series was to commence, whereas the list was closed last May 28th for the series beginning on September 4th, while for the series opening on October 10th the list was closed on July 6th. If this is not playing into the hands of Colonial selling centres, one wonders what is. There is no encouragement to-day to send wool to London when a grower has to wait from May 28th until the end of September before his cheque can be paid into the bank for the sale of his clip. We know that advances can always be obtained against consignments, but not everyone cares for that operation, while importers are having to wait an unreasonable length of time before they can realise anything on the London market. The sooner this state of affairs can be remedied the better, for London selling brokers have lost business on account of such an inordinate length of time having to elapse before imported wools can be offered.

The sales last week finished remarkably well, and we think that merinos occupy an unusually sound position. The fact is now generally conceded that there is going to be no reduction on current values for a considerable time; in fact, the universal demand seems to be for fine classes, and crossbreds are not moving into consumption on anything like the same big scale as merinos. A clean combing merino wool is selling all round on a basis of about 48d to 50d clean, which compares very badly with 9d to 10d for 40's to 44's crossbreds, the gap being extraordinary. Neither can we see any reasonable possibility of that difference being lessened; in fact, a settlement of the American Tariff should lead to a bigger demand for merino wool, for all over the world fine goods seem to be fashionable. This month should see a considerable business done by West Riding manufacturers for next spring, and August, although usually a quiet month, has at times been a busy time on account of manufacturers purchasing yarns by way of covering their spring sales of goods. We certainly think that wholesale

The First National Bank of Boston

The leading financial institution of
New England

Foreign and domestic commercial
banking of every nature

Correspondence solicited.

piece merchants and clothiers will do a bigger winter trade than last season, and this should pave the way for a decent business for next spring.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—July 28, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
							Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	a	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do.....	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml
Georgia do.....	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml
American.....	Ord G O L M	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	Mid G M F	G O L M	G M F	G O L M	G M F	G O L M	G M F
Brazilian.....	1139 1189 1274	1319 1349 1454	644	759 934	2010 2330 2385							
Peruam.....	Mid M F Fr.	G F Gd. Fne.	M F Fr.	Gd. Fne.	M F Fr.	Gd. Fne.						
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1129 1279 1409	1409	569 819	2260 2910								
Maceio, &c.	1129 1279 1409	1409	569 819	2260 2910								
Mossoro, &c.	1129 1279 1409	1409	569 819	2260 2910								
Ceara.....	1129 1279 1409	1409	569 819	2260 2910								
Maranhão, &c.	1129 1279 1409	1409	569 819	2260 2910								
São Paulo.....	1179 1259 1304											
Egyptian.....	Fr. G. F. for Gd. Fne.											
Upper.....	1250 1325 1400 1450 1550		950 1250	nml	4850							
Sakellariadis.....	1500 1725 1800 2025 2275		950 1350	nml	6050							
Brown.....	1300 1425 1550 1625 1800											
Peruvian.....	MF Fr.	G. F. Gd. Fne.										
Rough.....	1275 1350 1400		1000	4400								
Moderately Rough.....	1254 1429 1529 1579 1679		700 950	3100 4000								
Smooth.....	1279 1429 1529 1579 1729											
Tanguis.....	1150 1350 1500 1600											
Mitafi.....	1200 1300 1400											
West Indian, &c.	2300 2500 2900 3000		2300 2500	8000 9000								
Do Sea Island.....	975 1075 1250 1350 1450 1550		625 825 1025 2950 3250 4650									
African, East, &c.	Mid G M F	for MF										
Do West.....	1154 1204 1223 nml											
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	G F for Gd. F G Fne 8 1/2 n		for Gd. Fne for Gd. Fne	2160								
Machine Ginned Branch.....	1050 1100 1140 1180 1220		705 730 780 1910 1960 2050									
Machine Ginned Brownnagar.....	900 950 1000 1040 1080 1120		544 594 669 1444 1544 1704									
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 1.....	910 960 1010 1050 1090 1130		550 600 675 1450 1550 1710									
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 2.....	910 960 1010 1050 1090 1130											
Machine Ginned Khandeshi.....	910 960 1010 1050 1090 1130		475 525 600 1275 1375 1535									
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	1030		570	1785								
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	750 800 840 880 920 960		465 515 590 875 930 1075									
Machine Ginned Scinde.....	750 790 830 870 910 950		453 503 578 857 932 1057									
Tinnivelly.....	1190 1230 1270		805 830	2135 2185								
Madras, Western.....	965 1005 1045 1085		670 695	1810 1860								
Madras, Northern.....	1070		845	1525								
M.G. Cocanada, Red.....	Fr. 1030		670	1550								
China, Smyrna, &c.												

MANCHESTER, August 10.

Although towards the close of the week rather more inquiry has been experienced in the market, the trade done has been on a limited scale. Conditions generally have been too unsettled for active operations. The falling tendency in prices and the uncertain political situation in Europe have resulted in merchants being cautious. A few more transactions have occurred in piece goods for India when makers have been prepared to meet buyers in price. Only occasional contracts have been mentioned for China. Shippers to the Near East have given out gloomy reports, and goods are being sold in Egypt at below replacement values. Standard makes have attracted some attention for the home trade. Manufacturers as a body are passing through a trying time, and in certain sections engagements are running down rather rapidly. Yarn prices have given way in sympathy with the further decline in the raw material. Home users and exporters have purchased sparingly. Spinners have again tended to lose ground.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, Aug. 10, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Price, Aug. 3.	Price, July 27.	Price, July 20.	Price, July 13.	Price, July 6.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....per lb	12.25	13.45	13.29	13.70	13.65	13.77
—Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair.....per lb	16.75	18.00	18.00	19.75	19.75	20.25
—Egyptian.....per lb	19	19.2	19.2	20.3	20.3	20.2
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	18	18.1	18.1	19.2	19.2	20.2
—40's twist.....per lb	17	17.1	17.1	18.2	18.2	19.2
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	27.4	28.4	28.4	30	30	30.4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	30	31	31	32	32	33
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	30	31	31	32	32	33
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	17	17	17	18	18	19
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.....	16	16	16	17	17	18
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs.....	16	16	16	17	17	18

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, Aug. 10, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....per lb	12.25	8.95	28.43	19.73	23.63	19.90
—Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair.....per lb	16.75	16.00	70.00	30.50	30.19	30.00
—Egyptian.....per lb	19	17	55	42	53	26
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	18	15.1	59	41	52	25
—40's twist.....per lb	17	14	58	41	52	25
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	27.4	30	98	61	65	45
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	30	31	85	60	64	33
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	30	30	81	60	62	32
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	17	17	48	35	36	19
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.....	16	16	42	31	32	17
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs.....	16	16	42	31	32	17

CHEMICALS.

The report of Sir S. W. Royle and Co., Limited, dated August 2nd, reads as follows:—During last month the home demand fell away somewhat, influenced no doubt by the holiday season, but prices on the whole have remained steady. The reduction of 25 per cent. of the increase in rates of railway carriage came into force yesterday, and should assist business. The export inquiry has been only moderate, and the erratic courses of exchange continue to hinder overseas trade generally. Sulphate of copper has been in regular request for both home and export account, but there is little change in values. Green copperas has been in better demand, but competition continues keen. Acetates of lime have been quiet, and prices have a lower tendency. Acetic acid has been freely offered from recent arrivals at low prices. Acetate of soda is in short supply with values well maintained. Acetates of lead and nitrate of lead are firmer with the advance in the metal, which has also affected the values of litharge and red lead. Carbonate of potash has an improved inquiry, and prices are well maintained. Caustic potash is in only moderate request. There is nothing doing in Montreal potashes. Yellow Prussiate of potash is in short supply, and again dearer; soda is more plentiful, but values are unchanged. White powdered arsenic has been moving freely, but in the demand for tartaric acid and cream of tartar, and holders of stocks have been realising at lower prices, but the raw material position is very firm. Makers of citric acid are well booked ahead. American bichromates are still offered freely, and British makers have reduced their prices, but the consuming demand is only moderate. Chlorates of potash and soda have been in only limited request. There is no change to record in borax and boracic acid. Phosphate of soda is quiet. Continental supplies of alum and sulphate of alumina are still offered at low rates, but makers here have been meeting the position. Oxalic acid is scarce, but values are unchanged. A steady export inquiry has been ruling for alkali for the home trade has been again reduced, and there is a fair inquiry. White caustic soda continues in good demand for to report in the tar products market, but it is interesting to note that several large coke ovens have actually restarted, and that others contemplate working at an early date. Benzole and toluole moment, but consumers are well covered, and new business is scarce and competed for. Creosote oil remains unchanged, but with the bulk of the season's requirements in dehydrated tar covered, larger supplies are anticipated. Very little is doing in carbolic acid. Naphthalenes are again easier, with no demand. There is little change in the position of pitch for next season's delivery. There has been a certain amount of Continental business, which has been readily taken up, but, in general, foreign consumers, by reason of their position, are not disposed to pay prices now being indicated. In South Wales consumers appear well covered, and deliveries are no longer being pressed forward, and briquettes having fallen off. The anticipation in some quarters of a considerable advance resulting from the American coal strike has not so far been realised. Sulphate of ammonia remains unchanged.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The imports of building and furniture woods have been of good volume over the month, and considerably larger than the imports a twelvemonth ago. The demand on the spot, however, has shown but little improvement, though a change is anticipated as soon as the holiday season is over and business is set going. As regards here and there for certain sizes and qualities, but this is not the result of any active demand, as already intimated, but from the fact that the shippers have been able to effect a considerable amount of their holdings have increased their quotations, which has restricted forward business. This latter cautious policy on the

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd., 24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1832 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £800,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,100,000 RESERVE FUND - £320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

part of importers seems to be well justified, inasmuch as in the Port of London, for a good example, the smaller stocks in the docks than last year are estimated at present rates of demand to last longer than those held in August, 1921. This accounts for the keen competition for orders and the difficulty of holders on the spot to educate consumers to the higher f.o.b. quotations of Swedish and Finnish shippers. By the end of July the Swedish sawn wood manufacturers had disposed of about 600,000 standards, about 60,000 standards more than they shipped during the whole of 1921, and roughly about two-thirds of their this year's estimated stocks. The unsold balance, however, is still a cause of anxiety to importers, although it must be admitted on behalf of the shippers of Sweden and Finland that the demand is much better and wider than in 1921, which facts their financiers are well aware, and that any rush at the near close of the season to realise their remaining stocks by consignments to this country would be disastrous to the trade here and to themselves. Importers would like to renew business, and if the shippers were a little more amenable to the present timber trade conditions in the United Kingdom, and priced their goods accordingly, further large business should immediately result. Like the building woods market, the furniture wood section is waiting for larger housebuilding operations, which are already showing stronger signs of revivification. Mahogany, both in log and lumber, is still maintaining a fair price, as prices go nowadays, and the demand has been considerably better than last year. For cedar the market is quieter, and stocks are sufficient. The American furniture woods are not meeting with a large call at present; imports have been heavy, but hopes are engendered that the demand will improve within a few weeks. Prices for these woods have weakened. Timber for the ship-builder, generally speaking, is on the quiet side, but promises improvement. Prices for same are easier, owing to this lack of demand. For teak timber and converted wood there is little inquiry, and the call for Canadian spruce and American pitch-pine is only fair. Long prime cedar is in request for small boat building. To sum up the position, the demand all round is so unsatisfactory that consumers are unable to respond to f.o.b. and c.i.f. prices.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The easier feeling in vegetable oils and oilseeds has been accentuated, and following the holiday markets are slow in recovering momentum. Raw linseed oil, though held for £43 5s for prompt delivery, ex Hull mill, has receded to £41 for August and £37 for September-December, whereat demand is only slow. Inquiry for export is limited, the American demand being largely governed by the new tariff and the approach of the domestic crops. Cotton oils are again lower, crude Egyptian offering at £37 and ordinary refined (soap-maker's grade) at £41, ex Hull mill. Most other crude oil are quiet and prices without material change, with ground nut oil quieter and selling at £45 spot.

In the oilseed section Plate linseed has sharply declined, both on spot and for shipment, seed on passage and July-August now offering at £18 ros. A fair business has been done in Calcutta, £20 17s 6d having been paid for "on passage" to London and £20 15s to Hull, since when value has declined to £19 15s for shipment to Hull. Cottonseed quiet and lower. Black Egyptian quoted £11 5s, and for Sakellariadis £10 5s has been accepted. Rapeseed continues in most demand for the Continent round £18 paid for bold Feropore.

According to advices from Washington the Senate has accepted an increase from 25 cents to 40 cents per bushel in the tariff on imported linseed, and an increase from 10 cents to 20 cents on linseed oil. The proposed rate on castor oil has been reduced from 4 1/2 cents to 3 cents per pound, and on rape oil the rate has been posed rate of 2 cents per pound to 6 cents per gallon. The pro-oils, also that of 2 1/2 cents per pound on ground nut oil, have been struck out. From this it is inferred that these crude oils will be admitted free of duty, but subject to a certain quantity to be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and under such regulations as he shall authorise.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market remains steady at the slightly lower range of values recently established, as best ox made from 6 1/2d to 9 3/4d at the Bernandsey auction this week. Changes generally were devoutly hoped the raw material market will remain stabilised for a time.

The imported hide market seems improving, although little has been done in actual trading during this holiday week. British tanners are buying very cautiously, but news from the River Plate frigorifics at advancing rates. Dry and dry-salted hides are in better request, but there are still parcels of old stock yet to be obtained at a very low price.

This being holiday week the turnover in leather has been small, although the wet weather has driven repairers to replenish their scanty stock of leather. As competition and pressure by the public is forcing repairers to lower their charges, it is not very light bends of a common quality have been in most request. Prices of bends are firm, but tanners are not insisting on full rates if a

big deal is in sight. The export trade remains quiet, but the outlook is slightly better, as South Africa is now wanting certain grades of stock.

Upper leather business has been almost absent this week, and kip carriers are hard put to find work, as there is little demand for wax or semi-chrome stock. Inquiries for light chrome sides and calf are frequent, whilst it looks as if there will be a big winter demand for glacé kid.

The boot trade has not yet opened up, most factories being closed for the week. The retail trade has only been of moderate dimensions, the wet weather curtailing the demand for seaside and sports wear.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, August 11.

A quiet state of affairs was observable in most directions, holiday influence being felt, and auctions in several cases were postponed.

SUGAR.—A good steady inquiry predominated with regard to spot parcels of refined, and prices in most cases are 4 1/2d to 6d per cwt dearer. British in particular accorded support. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubed sold, 59s 6d to 60s 6d; crushed, 58s; nibs, 58s 6d; fine granulated, also coarse, 53s 3d; London and No. 2, 52s 9d; No. 1, 52s 6d; caster, 55s 9d to 56s 9d; yellow crystals, 47s 3d; pieces, 37s to 39s; fine white, 48s; granulated, September, 53s 3d; October, 53s; November-December, 52s 3d. West India crystallised ranges from 44s to 47s, as to quality. White Mauritius, spot, 49s 6d to 49s 9d; white Brazilian, prime dry white, spot, 49s 6d; damp, 48s 6d. American granulated, spot, sold, 51s 6d to 51s 9d; afloat, 24s 3d; August, 25s to 24s 9d. White Java, arrived, steamer, sold, 24s 3d; July, 22s to 22s 1/2d, and 22s; August, 22s to 21s 9d, c.f. and i. terms, London. Belgian crystals, November-December, 21s 3d; granulated, 21s 4 1/2d, f.o.b. Antwerp. Czechoslovakian granulated, November-December, 22s 6d, f.o.b. Hamburg. Cuban, basis 96 per cent., August, 19s 6d. Java, No. 17, Dutch standard, August, 20s. Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., August-September, 9s 1/2d, all c.f. terms, U.K. Terminal market presented quiet features. White, August, sold, 24s; December, 22s 6d to 21s 10 1/2d. Cuban stocks stand at 590,080 tons, against 1,372,600 tons same time last year.

COFFEE.—Spot goods changed hands quietly on about former terms. Little or no interest is shown with respect to forward positions.

COCOA.—Market quiet and without new feature. Butter slow at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—Private contract market steady, quiet, pending resumption of auctions.

RICE in quiet demand, particularly from home-trade buyers. Two Stars, spot, 15s 3d to 15s 6d; August-September, 14s 4 1/2d, c.f. and i. Broken kinds dull of sale. Beans steady, and Rangoon hand-picked, spot, 7s 3d per cwt.

SPICE.—Pepper met with slow patronage. Fair black Singapore, spot, 4d; August-October, sellers, 3 1/2d; Aleppo, spot, 4 1/2d; Tellicherry, 4 1/2d; white Singapore, spot, 6 1/2d; August-October, 6 1/2d; Muntok, spot, 7 1/2d; August-October, 6 1/2d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 3 1/2d; October-December, steamer, 8d. Tapioca remains dull. Fair flake, spot, 2 1/2d, buyers; ditto, August-September, steamer, per cwt, sellers, 22s 9d, London. Fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 20s; August-October, 20s; small sago, spot, 25s; sago flour, September-November, sold 14s; October-December, 13s 9d. Desiccated cocoanut, spot, sold, 35s; afloat, 34s to 32s; August-September, 35s to 34s. Ginger slow.

FRUIT.—There was no new feature to record in this market, business being carried on quietly at easy prices for most descriptions. Of currants, Patras in half bags, on spot, quoted 51s; Amalia, quarter cases, 51s; Gulph, 54s; Vostizza, 57s to 58s. Cape raisins range from 50s to 62s 6d, according to grade; Smyrna from 110s to 125s. Regarding sultanas, Australian three crowns, 103s; Cape cleaned, 95s. Dates quiet. Siar, spot, 27s. Dried plums continue to sell fairly well.

JUTE.—General quietness again pervaded this market with regard to usual groups, and trend of prices ruled easier. There was a moderate inquiry from Dundee spinners, however, for marks. First grade, July-August, usual continental ports, sold, £31 to £29; afloat, down to £28; new crop, August-October, £32 10s; lightning grade, afloat, £26; July-August, £26; new, August-October, £29. Hessians quiet. 10 oz, spot, 35s; August-October, 34s 6d; 8 oz, spot, 26s 6d; August-October, 26s; A twills, spot, 77s 6d; August-October, 76s; B, spot, 65s; August-October, 65s 6d.

HEMP.—Manila qualities were firmer, with sellers reserved, and fair inquiries were in circulation. G grade, August-October, quoted £34 15s; H, £34; J sold, £32; K, £31; L, £30; M, £29. New Zealand firm, though quiet. H.P.F., on spot, £34. African sisal, No. 1, G.E.A., August-October, £37, and B.E.A., £36.

SHELLAC.—Market firm. Fair quality T.N., spot, quoted 330s; August sold, 300s to 315s, and October down to 295s to 315s. COPRA continued very quiet, and prices are easier on the week.

The Sixty Policy

rs 50 per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market lower, but a good business at the decline. Bold Bombay, afloat, £20 15s. Small Bombay, ditto, sold, £19 15s. Calcutta, afloat, £19 15s; July-August, £19 15s to £19 5s and £19 10s; August-September, £19 10s to £19 5s. Plate afloat, sold, £18 15s to £18 10s; July-August, £18 12s 6d to £18 5s; August-September, £18 5s. Rapeseed quiet. Toria, July-August, sellers, £18 7s 6d; real bold Ferozepore, July-August, quoted £17 7s 6d. Cotton-seed easier. Egyptian black, August, sold, £11 10s to £11 5s; and white, sold, £10 7s 6d to £10. Bombay, July-August, sold, £8 15s. Gingly easier. Chinese, August-September Continent, nominally, £25 10s; large Bombay, ditto, £25 5s. Castor, Bombay, August-September, sellers, £18 15s, to Hull. Groundnuts dull. Coromandel, machine-dried, August-September, £21 10s; ordinary, £20 10s; East African, £21 2s 6d; Nigerian, £21 10s; bold Bombay, £21 10s. Soya beans, Manchurian, August-September, £13 per ton.

METALS.—Tin commenced the week with a firmer tendency, but with holiday conditions prevailing only a small turnover resulted. Standard, August, was dealt in at £161 15s; September, £161 15s to £161 17s 6d; and three months, £162 to £161 15s. The improvement, however, was not maintained, and by the middle of the week values showed a decline of about 30s for both cash and forward, though with buyers more attracted at the lower level increased dealings transpired. Cash sold, £160 12s 6d to £160 5s; August, £160 15s; September, £161 to £160 5s; three months, £161 5s to £160 3s. At Thursday's market a substantial decline was registered, but with fair support forthcoming a reaction set in, though lower on balance with the previous day's close. Cash sold at £158, then up to £159 2s 6d; At Friday's market values were again easier, with only moderate dealings. Cash, sold, £158 15s; September, £158 15s to £158 10s; October, £159 to £158 15s; three months, £159 to £158 15s. English ingots, £158 to £158 10s. Copper : Opened quietly, buyers evincing little disposition to operate, but on the other hand sellers were not disposed to press, and values remained steady. Standard, August, sold, £65 3s 9d to £65 5s; September, £65 5s; three months, £65 5s. Subsequently values gave way slightly on freer selling orders, which were fairly well absorbed. Standard, cash, sold at £64 15s; August, £64 17s 6d; September, £64 15s to £64 17s 6d, and finally at £64 16s 3d; and three months, £65 2s 6d to £64 15s. An easier market at Thursday's session, cash being handled at £64 2s 6d; October, £64 6s 3d to £64 8s 9d, while finally registered at £64 7s 6d; and three months, £64 12s 6d to £64 2s 6d to £64 8s 9d. At Friday's market business proceeded quietly, with very little alterations in quotations. Cash sold at £64 3s 9d; August, £64 6s 3d to £64 7s 6d; and finally at £64 6s 3d; three months, £64 8s 9d. Electrode, £70 10s to £71 10s; best selected, £66 10s to £68 10s; strong sheets, £94; wire bars, £71 10s per ton. Lead easier at £24 7s 6d to £23 12s 6d, as to position. Spelter lower, £30 17s 6d to £30, according to position. Antimony : Ordinary, £27 to £29 10s. Aluminium : Home, £100; export, £105.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—AUGUST 10.									
British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.					to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.				
		s	d	s			s	d	s
Beasts—Herefords	8	0	0	to 8	10	10	11	8	0
Shorthorns	7	8	8	10	10	11	8	0	0
Devons	8	4	9	0	10	11	8	0	0
Norfolks	7	8	8	10	10	11	8	0	0
Scottish	nominal				10	11	8	0	0
Irish	nominal				10	11	8	0	0
Fat Cows	nominal				10	11	8	0	0
Sheep—Downs (clipped)	11	8	0	13	0	12	0	13	0
Ewes (clipped)	7	10	8	0	10	11	8	0	0
Crossbred (clipped)	11	0	0	12	0	11	8	0	0
Scottish (clipped)	11	0	0	12	0	11	8	0	0
Lamb—Downs	12	0	0	13	0	11	8	0	0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—AUGUST 10.									
		Per Cwt.						Per Cwt.	
		s	d	s	d			s	d
English	Epicures	3	6	to	4	Sharpe's.....	4	0	to 5 0
"	Eclipse	4	0		5 0				

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS.		INDIA RUBBER.—lb.		PROVISIONS.—		SPICES.—	
0000A.—Duty British grown		Assam, fine R.L., p.cwt/20	150 8	Para, fine, hard, spot	17 4	Butter—per cwt.		Singapore, fair white	
23.4d.—Foreign 23a.cwt.	5	Assam, good to fine.	20 0	Plantation crepe	7 2	Irish creamery	186 0	Black Singapore	0 62
24.4d.—per cwt.	73 0	Balsam Peru	80 0			Do factory	170 0	White Siam	0 60
Granada	50 6	Capivi	1 6	INDIGO—per lb.		Do factory	180 0	Pimento	0 48
Ceylon, plantation	75 0	Japan, refined	5 3	Bengal, good red vilo	9 0	New Zealand	192 0	Do 1st sort	3 11
Sumatra	75 0	Candormas, Ceylon	1 6	do to fine	10 8	Dutch	224 0	Do 3rd	0 10
Bahia, dust	62 8	Oathom's, China prlb	85 8	Mid. ord. to fine	6 6	Bacon	2 2	Do 4th	0 07
COFFEE.—British grown		Castor oil	85 8	Low to rood, ord	5 6	Amoy—Irish	132 0	Cassia lignea	0 72
23a.d.—Foreign 23a.cwt.		Gum Benjin, Sum.cwt/50	12 0	Do low to rood	1 6	Danish	132 0	Gloves—Zanzibar	45 0
India 23a.d.—per cwt.	103 8	Olibanum, drops		Kurradd mid. to	1 6	Amoy—Irish	125 0	Penang	2 8
24a.d.—per cwt.	105 0	Ipecacuanha	80 0	Low to mid.	3 6	Hama—Irian	122 0	Cochin, cut	1 120
Oats, Rica, ord. to mid	65 0	Jalap.	2 0	HEMP—per ton		Canadian	115 0	Do small rough	57 0
Good to fine	105 0	Musk pod, China	85 0	Russian Siretz	48 0	American—bladder	12 0	Do washed	57 0
Cassia—per cwt.	125 0	Aniseed	3 2	Manila "J" Grade	32 0	Do 1st	10 0	Jamaica, small	175 0
Mid. to fine	88 0	Peppermint, H.G.H.	26 25	N. S. afloat, high fair	35 5	Do 2nd	8 0	Do 3rd	22 0
Umbellifer, ordinary	66 0	Shrub, China, fr. to	4 6	JUTE—		Do 4th	7 0	Do 4th	22 0
Do ord. to low mid	85 0	DYESTUFFS.—		Native first marks		Do 5th	6 0	Do 5th	22 0
Do mid. to fine	85 0	Galls, China, per cwt	75 8	July, Aug. 1st grade	29 0	Do 6th	5 0	Do 6th	22 0
CHEMICALS.		Turmeric, Bengal	22 25	LEATHER—per lb.		Do 7th	4 0	Do 7th	22 0
Acid, citric	1 2 3	Gambier, block	31 32	Bole Benda 50 lb.	1 4	Do 8th	3 0	Do 8th	22 0
Nitric	0 24 0	Ord. ord. to fair	35 45	Do 10 lb.	1 10	Do 9th	2 0	Do 9th	22 0
Oxalic	0 8 0	DYEWOODS.		Do 12 lb.	1 10	Do 10th	1 0	Do 10th	22 0
Tartaric, English	1 5 1	Do 14 lb.	1 10	Do 14 lb.	1 10	Do 11th	1 0	Do 11th	22 0
Foreign	1 10 1	Do 16 lb.	1 10	Do 16 lb.	1 10	Do 12th	1 0	Do 12th	22 0
Alum, Indian	215 16 10	Do 18 lb.	1 10	Do 18 lb.	1 10	Do 13th	1 0	Do 13th	22 0
Ammonia, carb., p. lb	4 0 4	Do 20 lb.	1 10	Do 20 lb.	1 10	Do 14th	1 0	Do 14th	22 0
Muriatic, White, ton	20 0	Do 22 lb.	1 10	Do 22 lb.	1 10	Do 15th	1 0	Do 15th	22 0
Sulphur, 218	20 0	Do 24 lb.	1 10	Do 24 lb.	1 10	Do 16th	1 0	Do 16th	22 0
Arsonic, lump, per ton	65 0	Do 26 lb.	1 10	Do 26 lb.	1 10	Do 17th	1 0	Do 17th	22 0
Powder, per cwt.	4 6 0	Do 28 lb.	1 10	Do 28 lb.	1 10	Do 18th	1 0	Do 18th	22 0
Ashe, pot., per cwt.	nom	Do 30 lb.	1 10	Do 30 lb.	1 10	Do 19th	1 0	Do 19th	22 0
Pearl do	nom	Do 32 lb.	1 10	Do 32 lb.	1 10	Do 20th	1 0	Do 20th	22 0
Bleaching pwr., p. 13 10	14 0	Do 34 lb.	1 10	Do 34 lb.	1 10	Do 21th	1 0	Do 21th	22 0
Borax, crystals	cwt 29 0	Do 36 lb.	1 10	Do 36 lb.	1 10	Do 22th	1 0	Do 22th	22 0
Do powder	30 8 0	Do 38 lb.	1 10	Do 38 lb.	1 10	Do 23th	1 0	Do 23th	22 0
Oreum, p.w.	112 0	Do 40 lb.	1 10	Do 40 lb.	1 10	Do 24th	1 0	Do 24th	22 0
Calomel, per lb	4 11 5	Do 42 lb.	1 10	Do 42 lb.	1 10	Do 25th	1 0	Do 25th	22 0
Iodine, dr.	per oz	Do 44 lb.	1 10	Do 44 lb.	1 10	Do 26th	1 0	Do 26th	22 0
Nitrate of Soda, p. 10	14 0	Do 46 lb.	1 10	Do 46 lb.	1 10	Do 27th	1 0	Do 27th	22 0
Chlorate, net	0 4 0	Do 48 lb.	1 10	Do 48 lb.	1 10	Do 28th	1 0	Do 28th	22

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 4,121.

Christiania, Norway,

transacts all kinds of banking business.

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Aalesund	Haugesund
Bergen	Sandefjord
Christianssand S.	Skien
Drammen	Stavanger
Fredrikstad	Trondheim

and all Norwegian places of any importance.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS

1 Jan., 1920... ... **Kr. 69,000,000**

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Fully Paid	...	...	...	...	Lire 300,000,000
Reserve	...	...	...	...	Lire 90,000,000
Deposits and Current Accounts at 31st December, 1921	...	...	...	...	Lire 4,419,768,340

Head Office of the Bank : MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ARCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.

(F. N. SCHILLER,

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having

correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade

between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.
Telegrams: 11541, 11542, 11543.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."
Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	309	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	328
Allied Supervision of		New Issues	329
German Finances	311	Active Securities	329
Dominion Currencies	312	Company Meetings.....	330
The Modern Newspaper....	313	Government Returns—	
Agrarian Reform in Eastern		Public Income and Ex-	
Europe.—I.	314	penditure	332
Publicity and Labour		Currency Notes Account ..	332
Statistics	315	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Our Trade with Russia,		by Public Tender	332
Poland, and the Baltic		Bankers' Gazette—	
States	316	Bank of England	333
Rubber Producing Com-		Clearing Returns	333
panies in 1921	318	Overseas Bank Returns ..	333
Notes of the Week—		Loan and Discount Rates ..	335
Overseas Trade in July	319	Overseas Bank Rates	335
Mr Griffith's Death and the		Rates of Exchange	335
Irish Outlook	319	Bullion	336
The Future Constitution of		Imports and Exports of	
Palestine	320	Gold	336
The Economic Position of		Gold and Silver Prices ...	336
Czecho-Slovakia	320	Company News—	
Iron and Steel Production		Dividend Announcements..	339
Anchor Line Results	321	Analysis of Balance-Sheets	339
General Mining & Finance		Mining Outputs	337
Transvaal Output in July ..	322	Reports and Notices	337
Broken Hill Proprietary ..	322	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	338
Overseas Correspondence—		Railway & Tramway Traffic	339
United States	322	Oil Outputs	340
France	323	Commercial Reports—	
Germany	324	Overseas Trade Returns ..	340
Italy	325	Corn Trade	340
Austria	326	Iron and Coal Trade	341
Books and Publications—		Wool Trade	342
Development of Economics		Cotton Trade	342
Money and the Mechanism		Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	343
of Exchange.....	327	Hide and Leather Trades ..	343
Educating Industrial Ad-		Overseas Produce Markets	343
ministrators.....	327	Price Current	344
The A B C of Stocks & Shares			
Books Received	328		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s. 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 6d per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leatherwait and Simmons, 55 Birchin lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 53 Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de L'Opera. New York: *Economist* Office, 20 Broad street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

ANOTHER week of inconvenient stringency has harassed those who rely on cheap and plentiful money for their comfort and profit. Apparently the market last week paid back to the Bank of England more than it could afford to be without, and consequently found itself borrowing again on Monday and Tuesday, while on Wednesday some borrowers thought it advisable to discount September bills, so as to make themselves comfortable over the turn of the month. Much ingenuity was expended in endeavouring to account for the scarcity of short credit, but the mystery is, perhaps, not really very obscure. The Government has

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."

Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

for some time past been free from indebtedness to the Bank of England on Ways and Means, and recent experience has repeatedly shown that when this is so there is a very narrow margin between the market and penury. The outward movement of cash for holiday and harvesting purposes and the usual temporary lock-up in connection with the railway dividend payments easily ate up the margin, and the market was penurious. The Bank return, however, and the currency note return show that holiday money is coming back to town, and as official support has also been reported in the Consol market, it seems likely that conditions may be rather less uncomfortable next week. Discount rates hardened rapidly under the stimulus of stringency. When the results of Treasury bills were known yesterday, commercial bills were quoted at about 2½.

	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	July 28, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½

The Bank return showed an increase of £6,000 in the stock of gold, a decrease of £1,282,000 in the note circulation, and a consequent increase of £1,288,000 in the Reserve. Borrowing and repayments left the Other securities 4 millions higher, and the Public deposits declined by 2 millions, the Other deposits being increased by 7 millions. There was a reduction of £3,167,800 to £298,926,600 in the circulation of currency notes outstanding, which includes £1,576,400 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £249,200,100, or £60,788,300 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Disappointment over the abortive result of the Downing Street Conference failed to cause any reaction in the stock markets, and fears of heavy Paris selling proved unfounded. On the contrary, support came from Paris for the markets in which Paris is chiefly interested. This relief counterbalanced the effect of monetary stringency in Lombard Street. Gilt-edged quotations have moved within narrow limits, with business quiet. Activity in the Home Railway market has not been great, but, despite profit-taking, quotations are, on the whole, firmer. The foreign bond market has been singularly little disturbed. Among foreign rails, Leopoldinas have risen sharply on the news of tariff concessions, while Argentines have been unsteady. In the industrial markets business has again been restricted, with Calico Printers a feature, the latter rising on dividend expectations. Oil shares have been very irregular, while Kaffirs have strengthened on purchases from Paris and the Cape.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

Although unsettled conditions continue to prevail in most markets, prospects are rather more encouraging than a week ago. In the cotton trade the lower values have been maintained, but yarn quotations remain very irregular; inquiries from India have been received, but trade with China is quiet. The annual holiday in the wool industry has prevented wool prices being seriously tested during the week, but the few dealings effected reveal no weakness in values. In the pig-iron market, quotations for East Coast mixed numbers hematite at 89s per ton are a shilling lower, and although our correspondents refer to more hopeful prospects in the iron and steel trades, it is stated that rolling-mills can only be kept going with difficulty on orders in hand. The recent higher prices are being maintained in the Cardiff coal market, and, in spite of strike settlement rumours, coal shipments for America were more considerable than those for any

other destination. Optimistic views on the new American crops caused further weakness in wheat prices, which had already shown signs of fitfulness during the past week or so.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

After a certain steadiness at the beginning of the week, the foreign exchange market, on the break-up of the Reparations Conference, has become even more demoralised than before, and dealings in the more disturbed currencies have become more and more restricted. The mark, which on the 11th stood at 3,780, and showed considerable recovery on the following day, has fallen away with increasing rapidity, until well over 5,000 was reached during the opening hours of yesterday, while future quotations are now 50 to 100 marks per month over spot. It may be recalled that a month ago the Berlin rate was about 2,000, and two months ago about 1,400. For the time being, there seems no prospect of an escape from the panic movement which has set in in Germany, and the possible results of this currency disturbance not only on economic, but also on political conditions in Germany, are increasingly grave. In Paris the franc, from 54.72½ a week ago, reached 56.37 on the 16th, and although yesterday it was back at 56.20, there is no reason to expect that this recovery is more than temporary. Brussels at 59.20 yesterday shows, as is perhaps only right, a tendency to draw rather nearer to the Paris rate. For forward francs the rate in Paris is 7 to 12 points over spot, in Brussels par to 1 point under. Another striking feature of the week has been the further collapse of the Austrian krone, which at 320,000 is becoming almost unmarketable, while the desperate condition of the Vienna Government makes a political crisis in the near future very probable. Warsaw also, after a slight recovery, shows at 32,500 a further decline. With improved political prospect, the rise in the Italian rate to 98½ from 97½ a week ago has been rather less rapid. Madrid and the three Scandinavian countries have moved slightly against us, but both Amsterdam and Switzerland have gone well in our favour, while the New York rate shows a remarkable improvement in view of general European conditions, from 4.45½ on the 11th to 4.48½, forward rates being ½ to ¾ cent per month above spot. In the absence of any decisive market factors, the only explanation for this movement would seem to be a confidence in British determination to face the facts of the European situation. Among the minor European currencies, Helsingfors at 210 shows little change, Prague at 160 shows further recovery, Budapest is steady at about 6,500, Belgrade at 365, while Bucharest, after its recent recovery, has fallen away rapidly again to about 625. In the East the rupee is fractionally cheaper at 1s 3½d, the yen also at 2s 1½d. Silver rose slightly in the middle of the week on buying from China, but orders were easily satisfied, and a further increase in price for the time being is unlikely. Hong Kong at 3s 5d is unchanged. Shanghai at 2s 7½d is ½d dearer. In South America, Rio is very slightly cheaper, Buenos Ayres about ½d dearer, while Monte Video has moved rather more than ½d in our favour.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 12, 1922:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	13,722	Supply Services	6,850
		Interest on Debt	295
		Sundries	502
		Added to Exchequer Balances	661
		Reduction of Debt	6,014
	13,722		13,722

The total revenue for the week ended August 12, 1922, amounted to £13,722,000, which compares with £17,558,228 in same week last year. The total expenditure at £7,647,720 compares with £8,989,867. The principal revenue-producing item was Property and Income Tax, which amounted to £7,112,000, against £5,877,000 in the same week last year. Customs yielded £2,038,000, against £2,635,000 in the same week last year. Excise produced £1,154,000, against £1,455,000. With regard to expenditure, it is noticeable that interest, &c., on war debt amounted to £287,384 against £1,018,711 in the same week last year. The week's

operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £6,013,645, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
Public Department Advances	+ 1,450	Treasury Bills	— 13,783
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 6,019		
National Savings Certificates	+ 300		
	+ 7,769		— 13,783

The floating debt was reduced by £12,340,000 to £892,660,500 during the week ended August 12, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to August 12, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	263,831,442	Raised by revenue ..	295,106,264
Dec. in balances	7,218,638	Net repayments	38,493,460
Total	256,612,804	Total	256,612,804

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term. Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
34% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,973	1,973
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Funding Loan	...	...	409	409	405	405	405	405	405
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	360	357	348	346	346	346	346
34% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24
5-15% War Treas. Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	273	380	310	310
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	40
Do by tender 4½%	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	8
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	59	59
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	728	728
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	394	323	319	289	218	194	159
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	346
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Debt	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,081
American Loan	...	51	51	51	51	...	...	...	...
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	165
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,680
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,799	7,708	7,731	7,731

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 13, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Aug. 12, '22.	Movement Week ended Aug. 12, '22.
Temporary Advances Out- standing	1,354,046,000	1,029,520,500	892,660,500	— 12,340,000
Advances by Bank of England	30,750,000	147,301,500	165,895,500	+ 1,450,000
Advances by Public Dep'ts	132,524,000	882,219,000	726,765,000	— 13,790,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,190,772,000	...	...	...
Total Floating Debt	1,354,046,000	1,029,520,500	892,660,500	— 12,340,000

ALLIED SUPERVISION OF GERMAN FINANCES.

No eleventh-hour surprise saved the Downing Street Conference from the complete failure which last week was obviously threatening. That agreement was found to be impossible on the subsidiary question of methods of making Germany pay is less serious than the fact that the Conference, in atmosphere created by the Balfour Note, found it impossible even to approach the fundamental problem. If the break-up of the Conference does not mean—as in some quarters has been too rashly predicted—the end of the Entente, it does mean an indefinite continuance of drift in the critical matters of international finance. Apprehensions of what this may mean in terms of aggravated financial chaos in Europe have found their expression in a further great plunge in the exchange value of the German mark and a simultaneous depreciation of French, Italian, and Belgian currencies. Meanwhile, the Reparation Commission, upon whom once again the onus is thrown of stepping in where politicians fear to tread, is debating the question of a moratorium. The Reparation Commission on Monday sent the following letter to the German Government:—"Notwithstanding the hope expressed in its letter of July 13th, the Commission is not in a position to notify to you before August 15th its decision upon your memorandum of July 12th. It will, however, acquaint you of this decision at a very early date, and will at the same time settle the question of the payment due on August 15th, which will be suspended until the decision has been taken." It is, apparently, to hear the German

delegates' exposition of the German position before coming to a decision.

While awaiting this decision students of the problem would do well to study the formidable array of special conditions actually secured by the Committee of Guarantees. Dr Wirth accepted these on July 21st on the understanding, as expressed in his letter of that date, that the provisions of the Committee's Memorandum "form a definitive settlement of the questions dealt with in the letters exchanged (by the Reparation Commission and the German Government) between March 21st and July 14th," and supply a basis on which the Reparation Commission can decide with regard to Germany's letter of July 12th, asking for a moratorium. He has since explained that these conditions represent the extreme limit of what the German Government can accept in the way of internal financial supervision and control, and that the Government had the greatest difficulty in forcing them through the Reichstag. These guarantees are, it should be remembered, the *quid pro quo* agreed to by Germany in return for the revision of the Reparations Bill conceded by the Allies last spring. So far as we are aware, they have never been published in any detail in this country, and we think it worth while therefore, to summarise at some length the official text of the correspondence and memoranda that have led to their adoption.

The guarantees accepted may be summarised under three main heads: (1) Supervision over the Budget and the Floating Debt, (2) the Flight of Capital, and (3) Foreign Trade Statistics. As regards the first, two representatives of the Reparation Commission are to be accredited to the Finance Minister, one to deal specially with receipts, the other with expenditure. Both are to be put by the Finance Minister in touch with all heads of departments; they are to see the draft Budget, estimates for supplementary credits, and the drafts of any fiscal Bills. Any additional grants made to departments, if amounting to more than 500,000 marks, are to be seen by them monthly. They are to receive, at regular intervals, the reports of the new Economy Department and the instructions sent out to the provincial Governments and departments; they are to have power of inquiry into the whole machinery of revenue collection, including access to the reports of the new travelling inspectors (to start work on November 1st), whom they may accompany from time to time, and to whom they may suggest visitations and tests. In making such tests the officers of the Committee of Guarantees "shall bear in mind the necessity of not disturbing the work of administration and of respecting the secrecy of the fortune and of the private affairs of the taxpayers." In all this, as in the other two main departments of their activity, the Reparation Commission's officers will be assisted by, and kept in touch with, the new Department for the Supervision of Accounts and Undertakings (Buch und Betriebs Prüfungs Dienst), which audits all books. As to the Floating Debt, daily and ten-daily statements are to be furnished, in addition to monthly financial reports, on income-tax, turnover tax, corporation tax, &c., yields. Here, again, the whole machinery of collection is to be tightened and supervised from end to end. The German citizen was

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. MCKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital	10,860,852
Reserve Fund	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922)	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,000 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

always more fully docketed and card-indexed than that of any other nation; now all precedents in this direction are to be left behind.

Under the second main category, the flight of capital, a draft bill has been drawn up, after discussion with the Committee of Guarantees, to supplement the laws already in force (December, 1920, and March, 1922), with instructions as to its application. Under this, by Art. i., a visa from the Finance Office is required, save where a transaction is authenticated by a Chamber of Commerce certificate, such certificates being valid only for payments made regularly in the ordinary course of business and requiring to be endorsed by banks. But, according to Art. III. of these instructions:—"If the counter-value of any goods exported is left abroad by an exporter, in whole or in part, to the detriment of German economic life, and intentionally withheld from the national economic system, the competent authorities may prohibit all further exportation of goods by the exporter in question, and he shall not be allowed to export even such goods as are not included in the general prohibited list, without special permission from the departments specified as competent. The granting of this authorisation may be made subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions." "Intention," it is provided, is normally to be presumed, in the case of an inquiry into suspicious transactions, when the exporter has used false invoices, declarations, &c. There are heavy penalties for infringement of Art. I., up to deprivation of civic rights and the confiscation of securities: penalties extending to bankers and their agents. The Department for the Supervision of Accounts is to be specially instructed to exercise watchfulness in this regard, and the Reparation Commission's delegates are to keep in touch with it.

As to statistics, the monthly foreign trade returns are to be supplemented by special tables, showing trade with various countries and distinguishing goods invoiced in foreign currencies from those invoiced in marks. The publication of quarterly statistics of production—e.g., metallurgic—is further to be considered. The fact that all these conditions had been already accepted by the German Government in return for former concessions explain the unsuccessful search at last week's Downing Street Conference for further guarantees that might be demanded in return for a moratorium. It is a testimony to their fulness in the direction of possible supervision that, when seeking to amplify them, M. Poincaré was obliged to turn his eyes in a very different direction, and propose the control of mines and forests, to which other Allied Ministers were unable to agree.

DOMINION CURRENCIES.

In last week's *Economist* a very interesting letter was published from Mr J. F. Darling, advocating what may be called the mutual stabilisation of the currencies of the British Empire by giving them Imperial Treasury bills to serve as their basis. In view of the inconvenience that has in recent years been caused to trade between the different members of the Empire—especially between Great Britain and Australasia—by the breakdown of exchange facilities, it is certainly desirable to explore every avenue by which inter-Imperial monetary arrangements might be improved; and there is an additional reason for doing so in the fact that if any genuine improvement can be arrived at on the system laid down by Mr Darling or anybody else, there is always at least a good chance that the same principle might be applied in a wider sphere, and that inter-Imperial currency conveniences might be ultimately spread out so as to stimulate the exchange of goods between the whole of the economically civilised world. Moreover, as our readers need hardly be told, Mr Darling is a persistent champion of the reform, or experiment, to which his letter refers, and is no armchair theorist rearranging the monetary world in the test-tube of his imagination, but a practical banker who brings years of seasoned experience to bear on his problem. For all these reasons, his letter deserves the most careful scrutiny and consideration.

The peg on which he hung it was the articles that have lately appeared in our pages on the subject of Africa, Australia, and the Gold Standard. Mr Darling had hoped

that this question would be pursued to what he considered to be its logical conclusion if trade within the Empire is to recover that entire freedom of movement which is so essential. He credits us with having pointed out very clearly the cause of the disorganisation—namely, the absence in the currency arrangements of the Dominions of any link between their currencies and the Bradbury note, and he asks whether the real remedy is not to be found by providing this link. He shows, or maintains, that Egypt has done so, "with the result that alone among the exchanges of the world the Egyptian exchange with Britain has remained absolutely stable, and that in the face of widely fluctuating trade balances and large movements of currency. The reason is that from the early days of the war Egypt adopted the British Treasury bill as the basis for its currency." If that were all, it would seem to be a simple remedy for a puzzling problem, and one that is within the reach not only of our prosperous and opulent Dominions, but of any impecunious Power that could beg or borrow a balance in London and then invest it in Treasury bills. But one cannot help feeling that something more is needed. M. Charles Rist, in the pamphlet that he lately published on the Return to Gold, very opportunely observed that for America to lend gold to the problem unless the gold could somehow be persuaded to stay there. So with Egypt, or any other country, and excellently as long as the Treasury bill reserve holds out—sense of the phrase, between Britain and the country in question, enables the latter to meet British claims on it without having to melt its holding of Treasury bills into cash in London. As Mr Darling most truly pointed out, a stable relation between her currency and the Bradbury note in the face of widely fluctuating trade balances and large movements of currency. As long as the trade balance was in Egypt's favour the problem was simple. The Egyptian Government, or the banks that acted for it, only had to purchase drafts on London by the issue of notes printed for this purpose and then invest the proceeds of the drafts in British Treasury bills. So the pressure of a one-sided trade balance could not affect the exchange, because Egypt was, in fact, lending the money to Britain, wherewith to pay for her surplus exports, and borrowing it from her own citizens by the issue of notes in payment of their drafts on London. Thus the Egyptian piastre was most effectively linked to the British Bradbury, and, incidentally, the blessings of inflation, which may have been inevitable in war-battered Britain, were inflicted likewise on Egypt. But if the tide of trade had flowed fast enough and long enough in the other direction, the mere holding by Egypt of Treasury bills as backing to her currency obviously could not have sufficed to keep the exchange value of her currency stable, except as long as the stock of Treasury bills held out. If British exporters had presented enough claims on Egypt to absorb the stock of Treasury bills it seems evident that the system must have broken down, unless Egypt, by borrowing or otherwise, had been able to get a fresh supply. In other words, as far as it goes as a defence against sudden demands, indebtedness that rains continuous blows against a currency system that is based on it.

In fact, it does not seem essentially to differ from the system, commonly called the Gold Exchange Standard, used by India, Brazil, Mexico, and other countries, under which a nation maintains its currency at parity with that of a gold standard country such as England or America by being prepared to exchange the local currency into sterling or dollars at a fixed rate. This system also implies the holding of a reserve fund in London or New York, and it works perfectly well, and provides a duly regulated currency as long as that reserve fund remains no longer. Under this system the rupee and the Brazilian milreis were for many years maintained within a fraction to this day if the war had not come, with its cataclysmal effect on all rates of exchange. As it was, both in the case of India and Brazil, the system broke down—as it

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

did likewise in the case of Mexico under the stress of revolution.

In the light of these experiences, there seems to be some reason to doubt whether Mr Darling's suggestion for an Imperial currency would necessarily have worked in the case of Africa and Australia with the success that he claims for it in Egypt. Moreover, when one comes to examine the details of his scheme, it seems to involve more difficulties and complications than are associated with the ordinary working of the Gold Exchange Standard. For he thinks that there may be reasons against the adoption of British Treasury bills as a basis for Dominions' currencies, but urges that there can be no real objection to the use for this purpose of "an issue of Imperial Treasury bills in which each country in the Empire could share." He says that such an issue, which could be fixed in amount, would, of course, not be in addition to, but in substitution for, existing debt. Each country would be free to join in such an issue, and free to withdraw from it on giving adequate notice. Each country would both receive and confer a benefit, the result being a benefit all round. "In effect, each country would say to the other participating countries: 'If you will agree to admit a portion of our debt as a basis for your currency, we will agree to admit a portion of your debt as a basis for ours.' Such portion of the Empire's debt could be placed in commission in the hands of Imperial Treasury Bill Commissioners representative of the countries interested. This portion of the debt would be pooled, and the Treasury bills could have marked on them the percentage for which each country is responsible." If we could imagine all the obvious initial difficulties involved by the scheme to have been overcome, it is a little hard to follow Mr Darling's argument that, with a common basis for the currencies of the Empire, the credit-controlling factor would normally be the rate of interest, and that the rate of exchange between the different countries of the Empire would remain at parity. For example, he assumes that in the case of Australia there was a consistent excess of imports. "The Australian banks," he says, "could handle the situation for a time by allowing their Treasury bills to mature, which the banks in London would be in a position to take up." If the excess of imports were persistent, the banks in Australia, finding their position weakened by the diminution in their holding of Treasury bills and by a probable increase in their advances, would be compelled to raise the rate of interest and to restrict their advances. The rate of exchange, however, "would probably not come into play unless the banks found their holdings of Imperial Treasury bills greatly depleted, and this they would have taken steps to avoid." But it is rather difficult to see what effective steps the banks in question could take to avoid the depletion of their Treasury bills on the assumption, which Mr Darling has made, of a persistent excess of imports. In other words, the system that he proposes would keep the exchanges stable, just as the Gold Exchange Standard does so, as long as the economic conditions which produce an adverse balance

of trade are not sufficiently powerful and persistent to overcome the rather modest automatic correctives which such systems afford.

THE MODERN NEWSPAPER.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE, whose death is recorded this week, was one of the outstanding figures of contemporary life. In a comparatively short career, which started from nothing, he achieved for himself enormous wealth and a world-wide reputation, and produced a revolution in British journalism with which his name will always be associated. A man of great imagination, foresight, and overpowering energy, he was fortunate in knowing from boyhood the profession that he wanted to follow, and in having a genius perfectly adapted to its pursuit. His technical achievement is best proved by the fact that in his early days with *Answers*, in the middle part of his career with the *Evening News* and the *Daily Mail*, and in the later stages with the *Times*, he managed to adapt each paper to the needs of its particular market. In the whole range of his effort there is, judged by the standards with which he was content, scarcely a single failure, and, despite the strength of his own personality, every one of his papers was encouraged to achieve and retain an individuality of its own which kept the whole group full of life. Moreover, he never tired of work or fighting, but sought the thick of the battle right up to the time of his fatal illness. His papers must never rest on their laurels, but must always lead the way for others to follow. How many of the new ideas and new policies were his own no outsider can say, but the inspiring personality was certainly his, and to him, at least indirectly, we must attribute that constant progressive policy which keeps the rivals of the Northcliffe Press always on the defensive. Lord Northcliffe's success in attaining the objects he sought is beyond challenge by his most severe critics.

But there is another side to the picture. When a weapon as powerful in its influence as the modern Press has been found, its controller must also be judged by the use made of so great a power. It is useless to cavil at modern methods of publicity. A newspaper proprietor who sets out to raise the circulation of his evening paper to 1,000,000 a day must necessarily consider the tastes of the populace and concern himself rather with what they do want than with what they ought to want. Those whose appeal is to the multitude must suit their methods to the multitude, and the less they heed the criticism of the cultured few the more likely are they to be successful. The revivalist whose passion is to save souls in thousands will employ tricks and devices that shock the old-fashioned religious member of society and make the scholar shudder, but a born evangelist, with his eyes on the salvation of the many, is indifferent to the feelings of the few, and will not abate his methods for their convenience. The motives of Lord Northcliffe were not those of an evangelist, but he had in him a passionate

ve of power and success which made him no less indifferent to the chiding of his critics.

To those whose intelligence had been ordinarily well trained, there was more than the mere form that was tasteful. Unless the moulder of public opinion has before him a clear and lofty ideal of public policy, his power may become a most dangerous instrument, and a pursuit of journalistic success it may end by ebauching instead of developing the intelligence of the public. The inconsistency of opinions, the exaggeration of argument, the impression constantly given that whole aspects of a question were being deliberately obscured, left any reader of critical faculty with a feeling that he was being played with, and that wherever truth might be found, it was not in such writings as these. In his more popular papers the appeal to prejudice always overlaid the appeal to reason, and the most effective device was the short, sharp, staccato catchword which struck the eye without making any serious demand on the intelligence. It was in war-time especially that these methods succeeded, for the nervous atmosphere in which a democracy lives while engaged in a life-and-death struggle is peculiarly suitable to an appeal which neglects the intellect and aims straight at the emotions. Of Lord Northcliffe's enthusiasm for the Allied cause there can be no question, but it is still too early to estimate the value of his newspapers' service during and immediately after the war. There were moments at which they certainly did their work in forcing on the public imagination the gravity and uncertainty of the issues, but there were others (notably after the Armistice) when popular passion was stirred up to force the Government on to wrong lines, and some part at least of our present difficulties is due to the furious propaganda of revenge which called for impossible indemnities and demanded such injudicious action as the trial of the Kaiser. It is perhaps their surest condemnation that never at any time in their history had this group of papers such influence over public opinion as when passions ran high and the voice of reason was drowned in the cry for revenge. As passion has subsided the power of this section of the Press has declined, and, in spite of ever-rising circulations, it has probably less direct influence on public policy to-day than at any time since 1914.

The new journalism is essentially unmoral, with no care for consistency and no fixed point of principle from which it can win the respect of its readers. Both its strength and its weakness lie in its adoration for visible material success. To do something bigger than has ever been done before and make your achievement known to the widest possible public—that is the aim of the Press on its own account and the thing that it values most in others. It thinks and deals in records, and trains its readers to do the same—the record circulation, the record fortune, the record number of performances, irrespective of the quality of the work and the means by which the goal of bigness is attained. Success is the only test, and whatever postpones or impedes success must be jettisoned without scruple. Perhaps it is the reader's consciousness that this is not a complete theory of life which prevents the modern newspaper, despite its tremendous circulation, from attaining all the influence that one would expect it to possess. Deep in our common human nature there may be a finer something which instinctively rejects this standard and judges things by values of its own—recognises that the most dazzling success is often not worth while, and that the ordinary decent man who is never successful enough to win publicity, but does as he would be done by and tries to leave the world better than he found it, may be more admirable than the man who tramples his way to fame and fortune. "To fly high is less than to walk orderly" is a doctrine overlooked in the limelight of modern journalism, but still by most of us unconsciously accepted.

AGRARIAN REFORM IN EASTERN EUROPE.—I.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

ALL along the Western border of Bolshevik Russia a peasant proprietary is either established, or in process of establishment, partly to serve as a pillar of the social order as strong as its analogue in France. In Bulgaria

and the former Serbian Kingdom it existed before the war; in Roumania its institution, contemplated in 1914, was enacted by the Parliament in refuge at Jassy during the German occupation as a measure of national defence; and it is now being extended to Transylvania. In Czechoslovakia agrarian reform Bills have been enacted, in Hungary stifled by the Conservative reaction. In Lithuania foreign complications delayed the reform, but its lines are those of the Estonian and Latvian laws. In Latvia, Estonia, and Poland it is being carried out, as the result of laws passed during the Bolshevik invasion of 1920. The hope which has inspired it is partly due to the successful resistance of the Russian peasantry to the Bolshevik efforts to set up a new agricultural Communism. The old Communism of the Russian village, subjected to the disintegrating influences of M. Stolypin's legislation of 1908-1910, permitting the withdrawal of holdings from periodical redistribution, was further weakened by the peasants' seizure of the great estates after the fall of Tsarist rule. Incidentally, no doubt, this seizure destroyed some of the best extant examples of large-scale scientific agriculture, and thus contributed to that decline of production which has caused the most terrible famine in history. But the determination of the peasants to stick to their newly-acquired property has proved too much even for Soviet despotism; and their example has inspired and encouraged the land reforms of the Governments of the States which separate Russia from Western Europe. Two other influences, however, have also been at work; in Latvia, Estonia, Czechoslovakia, and Transylvania the desire to get rid of an alien and hostile landlord class; and the land-hunger of the peasantry everywhere.

In all the countries concerned (with certain local and partial exceptions) the land had been mainly in the hands of large landowners. In Poland and pre-war Roumania they were of the same race as the peasants; in Transylvania largely Magyar, in Estonia and the Livonian section of Latvia German or Swedish by descent, in Czechoslovakia mostly Austro-German; but in all these countries they were practically an exclusive and privileged caste. In Latvia and Estonia they were descended from the Teutonic Knights who had conquered the countries in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, or from Swedish immigrants in the seventeenth and eighteenth, during the period of Swedish rule. From first to last they had treated the Esth and Lettish labouring population as an alien and inferior race. Under the Swedish rule the great majority of their titles were found to be imperfect, but after the Russian conquest their privileges were confirmed. In both the areas which now form Estonia and Latvia there is much land outside the great estates. In Courland, now part of Latvia, there are many large farms of about 500 acres which are left untouched by the reform, and in Latgolia, the Eastern district of Latvia, the land is still held by village communities of the Russian type; so that the problem there is the creation of unified and permanent individual holdings by the re-arrangement of the strips in the common fields. But in Livonia, and in Estonia generally, the bulk of the land (in Estonia nearly 58 per cent.) was held by large landlords. The largest single estate was 60,000 acres in extent, and some families held several at once. All the estates, however, consisted largely of forest land. The peasants, while cultivating their own holdings, were bound to pay certain dues in kind and labour to the landlords; they eked out their own subsistence by renting further land from them, and they seem to have borne the chief burden of the local taxation for roads and schools—though the landlords often held the view, not unknown in other countries, that illiterate peasants are the best. Actual serfage, indeed, was legally abolished in 1816, but its conditions seem to have persisted in fact, and in 1841 and at various times afterwards reasonable reforms had been suggested, but the barons had always met the proposals with furious and effective resistance; they had even managed to increase their own estates by reducing the peasants' lands. Their power as rulers of the countryside was somewhat diminished about the end of the last century by "Russification," i.e., the encroachment on their judicial

and administrative functions by Russian bureaucratic rule. But their economic predominance remained untouched. After sanguinary risings, following the Russian revolution of 1905, fresh attempts were made at agrarian reform; but the influence of the "barons" stifled a Reform Bill in the Duma. Then came the war; German troops occupied the provinces, and plans were made to "colonise" them with 2,500,000 German immigrants, to be settled not only on the untitled portions of the great estates, but on part of the actual peasant land. These plans were cut short by the armistice, but a fresh attempt was made by the German force under Von der Goltz to restore the barons' rule. It failed; but in 1919 and 1920 the Bolshevik army invaded both Provinces and Poland, and appealed to the landless peasants for support. Why, its leaders asked, should you peasants defend countries in which you have no part nor lot? Thereupon the Governments of all three countries promised that all who resisted the invaders should receive land as their reward. The promise was fulfilled last year by the Constituent Assemblies, and the distribution is well on its way to completion.

In Latvia and Estonia its outlines are roughly as follows. Russian Crown lands, corporation and glebe lands, the lands which had been allotted for German colonisation, and the settled estates of the "barons," have been taken over by the Government. Everything seems to have been settled except the question of compensation, but, in any case, those "barons" who aided the Germans, either during the war or in the subsequent occupation by the filibusters under Von der Goltz, will certainly get nothing; nor will those whose titles were found imperfect under Swedish rule. Compensation will be payable for farm buildings, implements, livestock, and all necessary means of cultivation; but the precise terms are as yet unsettled, and the political parties differ as to compensation for the land itself. Probably what is awarded eventually will be paid in bonds redeemable at a date still remote. The land thus acquired is being cut up into holdings, varying in size in the different districts according to its productiveness. In Latvia they range from 37 to 50 acres: the size is limited to that which a peasant family can manage, and they must be cultivated by the owner. In Estonia the tenants are perpetual leaseholders, paying rent to the Government; in Latvia they are freeholders, paying by instalments. In Estonia the holding cannot be permanently alienated, but may be let for a term of years, the new tenant purchasing the livestock and implements of cultivation. In Latvia it can be sold, with the proviso that during the next ten years adjacent holdings cannot be combined. Subdivision—e.g., between a father and a grown-up son—is not actually prohibited in Estonia, but has never been the custom. It is, we believe, prohibited in Latvia, but in both countries the reserve of cultivable land is so large, and the opportunities for industrial development so numerous and so vast, that no fear is entertained of that congestion of the rural population which formerly caused so much suffering in Ireland. In Latvia, moreover, much marsh land and peat-bog awaits reclamation. Ex-soldiers have a preference in the allotment: as a rule, no holding may be retained exceeding 100 hectares (247 acres), a provision which leaves the large farms frequent in Courland untouched. Former "barons" (if not banned for their German sympathies) may take up this amount and a farmhouse; but Latvia has followed Estonia in enacting that the house must not be the ancestral mansion, and the upkeep of this would be beyond the "barons'" present means. These historic mansions, held by the same family for centuries, and full of ancestral relics and memories, will be converted by the Government into hospitals, asylums, and agricultural schools; and the few remaining "barons," from whose class Russia has for two centuries derived many of her ablest generals, diplomats, Ministers, and bureaucrats, will sink to the level of large farmers. The reform has been bitterly assailed in the German Press as confiscation, and with truth. Its defenders reply that the barons' titles rest on conquest, that they have always despised and ground down the real original peoples, that they have invariably refused even the most moderate concessions, and that their presence is now a national danger, owing to

their German sympathies and their affinities with Tsarist Russia.

In Poland, except perhaps in parts of Galicia, Posnania, and the eastern districts, there is no such racial or political difference, and the redistribution is less harsh. The great landlords are left to the last. In principle, individual holdings are limited to 180 hectares (445 acres), in industrial or suburban districts to 50, in Volhynia and Podolia to 400. The land is classified serially in 11 categories, the lands of the Russian Crown or members of the Imperial family coming first, corporation and church lands (subject to an understanding with the Vatican) next, the large estates owned by individuals last; and of these latter, those suffering from neglect or mismanagement are taken before the rest. These lands (except, presumably, the two first categories) are paid for in State bonds at the full pre-war value, and individual landlords, when their estates are reached, will be offered time and inducement for voluntary sale to small holders. Sale of the new holdings is prohibited, but not subdivision; and congestion is not expected. Many of the purchasers are returned emigrants from America. The earlier categories are being distributed, but in the next Parliament the bourgeois parties may probably be stronger, and the Act may be so amended as to be less drastic. It applies to all Poland; but in Galicia the land is for the most part already held in small lots by peasants, some holdings, indeed, being hardly sufficient for a maintenance, while in Posnania the farms are mostly well below the limit of expropriation.

The changes in Czechoslovakia and in the old and new territories of Roumania must be left to a subsequent article.

PUBLICITY AND LABOUR STATISTICS.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

READERS of the *Labour Gazette* will have observed that the Ministry of Labour has discontinued the publication of particulars of employment in the chief industries of the country. These monthly reports have been a regular feature of the *Labour Gazette* for many years, and the announcement that this information is not to find a place in the columns of the *Gazette* in future is due to a desire to save money. In an answer to a question put by Mr Hannon in the House of Commons (July 26th), the Minister of Labour admitted that "the decision to discontinue these reports and statistics was taken, after careful consideration, with the object of reducing expenditure on the Ministry of Labour *Gazette*, and on the statistical work generally of the Ministry." No one to-day will for a moment defend unnecessary expenditure, and there is every reason for a most careful scrutiny of public expenditure. But it is possible that a curtailment of expenditure in some directions may be no saving. The suppression of industrial information falls into this category. We have no means of knowing how much the Government will save by cutting down the *Labour Gazette*, but the sum cannot, however, be large. On the other hand, the real loss resulting from the restriction of industrial information may be considerable, especially if curtailment is to be carried still further. Unfortunately, this is not the only instance of the suppression by the Ministry of Labour of essential information of a kind which it has been the practice of the Government to publish periodically. During the war, of course, the publication of annual and other reports was largely discontinued. Staffs were depleted, and those who were left were absorbed in urgent war work. But since the return of peace the Ministry of Labour has not resumed the publication of some of the most valuable Government publications, notwithstanding that the material is in the possession of the Ministry of Labour.

It is 36 years since the House of Commons resolved that "in the opinion of this House, immediate steps should be taken to ensure in this country the full and accurate collection and publication of Labour statistics." In accordance with this resolution, the Board of Trade undertook the work, and in 1893 a separate Labour Department was created within the Board of Trade to carry on these activities. Within ten years the work of the Labour Department had resolved itself largely into the collection and collation of information necessary for the regular issue of the follow-

ing publications:—(1) The *Labour Gazette* (monthly). (2) An annual Abstract of Labour Statistics. (3) An annual Report on Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour. (4) An annual Report on Strikes and Lock-outs. (5) Periodical Reports on Standard Time Rates of Wages in the principal industries. (6) A triennial Report on Trade Unions. (7) An up-to-date Directory of Industrial Associations. (8) A periodical Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics. In addition to this, special investigations were made from time to time into various industrial questions. The more important of the volumes issued may be conveniently set forth in the following order:—(1) A Report on Agencies and Methods for Dealing with the Unemployed (1893). (2) Two Reports on Alien Immigration. (3) A Report on Profit-Sharing (1894), and one on Gain-Sharing (1895). (4) Two Reports dealing with Standard Piece Rates, one relating to 1893 and the other to 1900. (5) A Report on Contracts given out by Public Authorities to Associations of Workmen (1897). (6) Two Reports on the Employment of Women and Girls. (7) A Report on the Wages of Domestic Servants (1899). (8) A Report on Provision for Old Age Abroad (1899). (9) A Return of Employment of Children on Leaving School (Upper Standards) (1899). (10) A Report dealing with the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers (1900). (11) A Report on Workmen's Co-operative Societies (1901).

But, impressive as the two foregoing lists are, they do not exhaust the activities of the Labour Department before the war. A series of reports on wages in various industries in 1886 and 1891, a report on cost of production, and other special reports were published between 1886 and 1893. More recently, there were published the results of the inquiries into the relative level of the cost of living in the principal industrial towns in 1905 and in 1912; the census of wages in 1886 and in 1906-7, and the volume of collective agreements between employers and work-people (1910). The practical importance and economic value of these various documents are obvious.

During the war, as has already been pointed out, the publication of the regular volumes of the Labour Department was almost entirely suspended. Since the war broke out two editions of the Industrial Directory have appeared (1916 and 1919), one edition of the Report on Standard Time Rates of Wages (1921), and one edition of the Report on Profit Sharing (1920). The rest have not appeared at all, though presumably the collection of the necessary statistics has been continued and all the material which is required is available. When Mr Lloyd George succeeded to the Premiership in 1916 he established a separate Ministry of Labour, into which the Labour Department of the Board of Trade was absorbed, and it is the Ministry of Labour which is now responsible for the non-publication of the reports and documents referred to above. Some of these papers are badly needed. The Industrial Directory, which is of greater economic importance than many year-books which find a ready public, was last issued in 1919, and is now hopelessly out of date and quite useless, and a new volume is required. The "Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics"—one of the most valuable volumes issued by the Ministry of Labour—has not been issued since 1915. The Report on Trade Unions has not been published for the last ten years, notwithstanding the great changes which have taken place. Very many modifications in standard time-rates of wages and hours of labour have been made since 1920, when the last report on this subject was issued. A good deal has happened also since the last report on changes in rates of wages was published in 1914, and the system of collective agreements has been extended and developed out of all recognition since the last report on this subject published 12 years ago. The report on strikes and lock-outs, which was formerly issued annually from 1888 to 1914, has not been published since the beginning of the war. These various volumes would to-day be welcomed by those engaged in industry and by economists and publicists.

The worst fears of economists, employers and Trade Union leaders have now been realised. For some months, according to answers made by Dr Macnamara to questions asked in the House of Commons, the question of re-issuing the periodical reports which were suspended during the war has been "receiving consideration," a euphemism for gradual strangulation or slow starvation.

The Minister of Labour recently announced the decision "to effect a substantial reduction in the statistical branch of the Ministry." In face of this, resumed publication is an impossibility, and it is ridiculous, therefore, for him to make any pretence of continuing to "consider" the question.

The suppression of information on the wide range of questions which the Ministry of Labour has dealt with in the past will be nothing short of a national disaster. The national interest demands the compilation and publication of records of industrial changes and developments, whilst economists, historians, politicians, and those directly concerned with industrial questions—whether as employers or workers' leaders—will be seriously handicapped by lack of knowledge. A good deal, indeed, the greater part, of the information previously published by the Ministry of Labour is of a kind which cannot be collected effectively except through official channels; and, even if it could, it is important that it should be published by an impartial and authoritative organisation such as a Government Department. It is doing an ill-service to the community to substitute conjecture and prejudice for knowledge. Our industrial problems will be multiplied and intensified by the suppression of the knowledge. Force will tend to take the place of reason. Orderly progress must proceed on the basis of tested experience and record of fact, and the need of the age is not less light upon the problems of industry, but more. We could indicate several important pieces of work which might well be put in hand. As soon as more normal economic conditions return, there should be an inquiry into working-class expenditure to serve as a basis for a new cost of living index number, and an inquiry into the relative costs of living in different areas. Further, a new census of wages and hours of labour is overdue; the results of the pre-war inquiries are entirely obsolete, and though at the present time such an investigation would not be desirable, the preparatory work could be undertaken at once.

The general restriction of industrial information is a short-sighted policy. If there must temporarily be any curtailment, it would be well for the Ministry of Labour to take into consultation economists and industrial representatives with a view to the maintenance of the maximum service of labour information, having regard to existing financial considerations. It is possible that ways and means could be devised of providing the necessary information at less cost than in the past. Anyhow, there ought not to be a sweeping reduction of statistical and other work until the question has been more fully explored.

OUR TRADE WITH RUSSIA, POLAND, AND THE BALTIC STATES.

THE area of the Russian Empire before the war was estimated at 7,889,000 square miles, with a population of 175,000,000. By various treaties the area of Russia has been diminished by about one twenty-fourth, and its population by one-fifth, among which fifth may probably be found the most highly industrialised portions of the former Russian Empire. In 1913 Russia stood second only to the United States in the list of countries from which we drew our supplies of raw materials, and was fourth in the value of the combined food supplies and raw materials which we imported. She was the chief source of our supply of imported eggs, and second only to Denmark in supplying us with butter, and second to the United States in supplying us with barley. She stood easily first in supplying us with wood and timber, more than half of our total imports, valued at £13,622,000, coming from Poland, and the Baltic Provinces, which until lately formed part of Russia, has fared of late years is seen from the following table:—

Values in Thousand £.	1913.	% of Total.	1919.	% of Total.	1920.	% of Total.	1921.	% of Total.
U.K. imports from Russia	40,300	5.2	16,400	1.0	33,500	1.7	15,000	1.4
U.K. total exports to Russia	27,700	4.4	17,600	1.8	16,800	1.1	16,500	2.0
Total value of trade	68,000	4.84	33,900	1.31	50,300	1.44	31,500	1.66

Although the reconstituted Poland comprises the greater part of West Prussia and part of Eastern Silesia, the main bulk of it has been shorn from the former Russian Empire. In our trade returns our imports from, and our exports to, Dantzic (which has been neutralised) are included in the values of our trade with Poland. For the purposes of comparison we can most conveniently classify our trade with Poland in connection with that with Russia and with the Baltic States, although a considerable portion of it is probably derived from localities formerly incorporated in the Empire of Germany. The percentages given in the above table are those of the imports of the United Kingdom and of the combined values of our exports and re-exports.

The following table is based upon the figures given in the quarterly volumes of the "Trade and Navigation Returns":—

(000's omitted.)

Value of U.K. Imports from—	Quarter Ended Mar. 31, 1921.	Quarter Ended June 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Dec. 31, 1921.	Whole Year, 1921.	First Quarter, 1922.	Second Quarter, 1922.
Russia.....	£ 251	£ 47	£ 123	£ 2,280	£ 2,701	£ 543	£ 703
Finland.....	1,159	1,174	2,489	2,865	7,728	879	1,879
Estonia.....	129	129	315	133	739	187	343
Latvia.....	388	211	524	497	1,620	478	599
Lithuania.....	68	67	65	144	344	114	309
Poland (incl. Dantzic)	437	362	491	553	1,843	376	609
Value of total imports	2,495	1,990	4,008	6,472	14,965	2,567	4,442

(000's omitted.)

Value of British Exports to—	Quarter Ended Mar. 31, 1921.	Quarter Ended June 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Dec. 31, 1921.	Whole Year, 1921.	First Quarter, 1922.	Second Quarter, 1922.
Russia.....	£ 43	£ 143	£ 617	£ 1,371	£ 2,173	£ 714	£ 1,050
Finland.....	397	626	548	362	1,934	247	993
Estonia.....	2,581	1,032	174	163	3,951	276	363
Latvia.....	130	156	121	113	519	168	325
Lithuania.....	17	5	79	13	113	6	40
Poland (incl. Dantzic)	762	913	742	606	3,024	332	578
Value of Brit. Exports	3,930	2,875	2,221	2,628	11,654	1,743	3,347

(000's omitted.)

Value of Foreign and Colonial Exports to—	Quarter Ended Mar. 31, 1921.	Quarter Ended June 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Dec. 31, 1921.	Whole Year, 1921.	First Quarter, 1922.	Second Quarter, 1922.
Russia.....	£ 14	£ 84	£ 723	£ 389	£ 1,210	£ 123	£ 63
Finland.....	242	334	155	240	970	113	250
Estonia.....	63	155	86	75	379	86	101
Latvia.....	31	214	46	135	426	16	49
Lithuania.....	1	1	1	1	4	1	207
Poland (incl. Dantzic)	1,030	488	267	100	1,886	88	207
Value of re-exports	1,380	1,275	1,278	939	4,872	628	670
Value of Brit. exports	2,495	2,875	2,221	2,628	11,654	1,743	3,347
Value of Brit. imports	2,495	1,990	4,008	6,473	14,966	2,567	4,442
Value of total trade	7,805	6,140	7,507	10,040	31,492	4,738	8,459

The value of our total trade during the first six months of last year was £13,945,000, and in the last six months £17,547,000; and for the first six months of this year was £13,197,000. Our imports from the six countries during the first three months of last year were valued at £2,495,000; in the second quarter the value fell to £1,990,000, but in the third quarter it rose to £4,008,000, and in the last quarter to £6,473,000. There was a steep fall in the first quarter of this year, but a great recovery during the second quarter.

The value of our exports of British produce and manufactures fell last year from £3,930,000 in the first quarter to £2,875,000 in the second quarter and to £2,221,000 in the third quarter, but rose by nearly half a million pounds in the last quarter. This year the value of our exports in the first quarter was only £1,743,000, but rose to £3,347,000 in the second quarter. The relative importance of our trade with Russia, the new Baltic States, and Poland during last year is shown in the next table:—

VALUE OF TOTAL TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1921.
(000's omitted.)

	Quarter Ended Mar. 31, 1921.	Quarter Ended June 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Dec. 31, 1921.	Whole Year, 1921.	First Quarter, 1922.	Second Quarter, 1922.
Finland.....	£ 1,838	£ 2,135	£ 3,192	£ 3,467	£ 10,633	£ 1,238	£ 3,122
Poland.....	2,230	1,773	1,500	1,259	6,762	796	1,394
Russia.....	308	274	1,462	4,041	6,085	1,380	1,816
Estonia.....	2,797	1,315	575	372	5,060	550	807
Latvia.....	548	581	652	744	2,525	664	971
Lithuania.....	85	71	86	156	399	121	349

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital ... 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

Finland—called by its inhabitants the land of lakes, or marshes, and formerly known as the granary of Sweden, having been conquered by the Swedes in the twelfth century—was partly annexed to Russia by Peter the Great in 1721, and the remainder conquered in 1809. It has very extensive forests, and its chief products are timber, potash, pitch, tar, and resin. The value of our trade with Finland last year rose quarter by quarter, and for the whole year exceeded £10½ million, or rather more than one-third of our total trade (£31,492,000) with the six States. Our total trade with Latvia (whose chief cities are Riga, Libau, and Mitau, and whose chief products are flax and timber) also rose each quarter, and exceeded £2½ millions for the year. Our trade with Russia fell in value slightly in the second quarter, but rose by more than a million pounds in the third quarter, and in the last quarter was nearly three times the value of the third quarter. Our trade with Lithuania fell slightly in the second quarter, but rose in the third quarter, and in the last quarter was almost double the value of the first quarter. The value of our trade with Poland fell each quarter, and for the whole year was little more than thrice that of the first quarter. And our trade with Estonia also fell each quarter, and for the whole year was much less than twice the value of the first quarter. For the first six months of this year Finland retains first place in the list, with a total trade value of £4,360,000; Russia stands second, with a value of £3,196,000; Poland is third, with a value of £2,190,000; Latvia has risen to fourth place, her value being £1,635,000; and Estonia is fifth, value £1,357,000; and Lithuania remains last, with a value of £470,000.

TABLE SHOWING THE VALUES OF OUR IMPORTS FROM and of OUR EXPORTS TO the SIX COUNTRIES.
(000's omitted.)

Trade of the United Kingdom With—	Quarter Ended Mar. 31, 1921.	Quarter Ended June 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 1921.	Quarter Ended Dec. 31, 1921.	Whole Year, 1921.	First Quarter, 1922.	Second Quarter, 1922.
FINLAND—Imports from	£ 1,199	£ 1,174	£ 2,489	£ 2,865	£ 7,728	£ 879	£ 1,879
Total exports to	639	960	703	602	2,904	360	1,243
LITHUANIA—Imports from	68	67	66	144	344	114	309
Total exports to	17	5	20	13	55	7	40
LATVIA—Imports from	388	211	524	497	1,620	478	599
Total exports to	161	370	167	247	945	186	372
POLAND—Imports from	437	362	491	553	1,843	376	609
Total exports to	1,793	1,401	1,009	706	4,909	419	785
ESTHONIA—Imports from	152	129	315	133	730	187	343
Total exports to	2,645	1,187	260	238	4,330	363	464
RUSSIA—Imports from	251	47	123	2,280	2,700	543	703
Total exports to	56	227	1,340	1,761	3,384	837	1,113

In the case of Finland our imports exceeded in value our exports in each quarter, and for the year were more than two and a half times as great. Lithuania showed the same result quarter by quarter, and for the whole year the value of our imports was more than six times as great as that of our exports. In the case of Latvia our exports exceeded the value of our imports in the second quarter, but were much less in each of the other quarters, and for the whole year our imports were nearly twice the value of our exports. In the case of the other three countries the values of our exports exceeded the value of our imports. Poland shows an excess each quarter, and for the year the value of our exports was nearly thrice that of the value of our imports. In the third quarter Estonia showed an excess in the value of our imports, but for

the year the value of our exports was about six times as great as that of our imports. Russia shows an excess in the value of our imports in the first and fourth quarters, but for the whole year an excess of more than half-a-million pounds in the value of our exports. For the first half of the current year the same relation between our imports and exports appears to prevail.

TABLE SHOWING OUR PRINCIPAL IMPORTS FROM and EXPORTS TO RUSSIA in 1913 and 1919.

U.K. Imports in £'000's.	1913.	1919.	Exports and Re-exports from U.K.	1913.	1919.
Wood and timber	13,622	11,669	Coal and coke	4,441	561
Eggs	4,745	..	Machinery	4,408	554
Butter	3,831	88	Cotton, raw	3,852	848
Flax	2,807	726	Rubber	2,505	..
Wheat	1,985	..	Herrings	1,988	374
Barley	1,847	..	Manufactures of iron and steel	1,010	350
Petroleum	1,028	60	Woolen and worsted yarn and manufactures	845	2,835
Seeds of all kinds	916	13	Cotton yarn and manufactures	787	2,634
Oats	865	..	Tallow	726	68
Bacon	685	..	Wool	733	30
Hides, raw	580	10	Chemicals and chemical preparations	280	386
Maize	490	..	Implement and tools	253	145
Manganese ore	463	147	Nuts and kernels	328	..
Hemp	432	22	Ships and boats, new	643	..
Paper-making materials	372	226	Grain	94	546
Paper	353	844	Arms, ammunition, &c.	40	1,374
			Value of total exports and re-exports	27,694	17,494
Value of total imports ..	40,271	16,370			

From the first table in this article we see that the value of our imports from Russia, Poland, and the Baltic States rose to £33,500,000 in 1920 and fell last year to £15,000,000, a result largely due to the decline in prices and to the stagnation of our trade resulting from the three months' dispute in the coal industry. The value of our exports and re-exports fell from £17,494,000 in 1919 to £16,800,000 in 1920, and was of almost the same value (£16,500,000) last year.

The statistics set out in the tables are more reassuring as to the future than the reports from Russia proper would lead us to expect, and certainly warrant our hoping that we are slowly progressing in the direction of regaining much of our former comprehensive trade in the import of food and raw materials, and in the export of manufactured goods. The most necessary step in this direction lies in the immediate reduction of the enormous armies maintained in Russia and the adjoining Baltic States, as well as in those of the little Entente Powers.

RUBBER-PRODUCING COMPANIES IN 1921.

In 1920 conditions in the rubber-growing industry became so bad that it was generally thought that matters could not very well be worse. By some it was considered at the close of that year that the end of the depression was at hand, and the prophets were even moved to tell us tales of the good days to come. During 1921, however, the ardour of these prophets was severely damped by watching conditions develop from bad to worse and the financial side of the industry reduced to a position of great difficulty.

The year 1920 finished up with quotations for standard crêpe rubber fairly firm at 11½d per lb, and ribbed smoked sheets close to 10½d per lb. The early part of the new year—1921—saw comparatively high prices, crêpe being marked up to 1s 3½d and sheets 1s 2d per lb. Unfortunately the price, owing to the depression in the motor industry, both here and in America, gradually fell, until in June crêpe sold for 8d and sheet 7d. In July there was a recovery of 2d per lb, but this was partly lost in the following month. An improvement in the motor industry a little later caused a fresh buying impetus, and from September a gradual rise took place, until at the end of the year 11½d per lb was the spot quotation for both crêpe and sheet. These low quotations are the more remarkable when the Continental demand for rubber during 1921 is taken into consideration. It is stated that Germany took as much, or more, rubber in 1921 than before the war, the amount being estimated at 25,000 tons. France absorbed about 14,000, and Italy 6,000 tons, while it is estimated that Japan imported direct 20,000 tons. Restriction of output, as will be seen by studying the statistics given below, is still the main plank in the platform of the various rubber-growing interests, and the policy has been loyally adhered to by the majority

of British undertakings. As far as immediate profits are concerned, however, no great measure of success can be claimed on behalf of this policy if the figures given below represent a fair picture of the state of the industry; indeed, these results may possibly cause interests to arise in the rubber world which will favour a return to the law of natural supply and demand and the liquidation of inefficient interests.

A more detailed story of the year may be gathered from the accounts of a few representative rubber-growing undertakings, and for this purpose we have selected eleven companies, which include some of the most important concerns in the industry. In our first table we set out the production of rubber during the past three years, together with the price per lb at which crops were sold. Figures for 1914 are also appended:—

Company.	Production.				Price per lb.		
	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1914.	1920.	1921.
Anglo-Malay	Lbs. 1,384,382	Lbs. 1,662,991	Lbs. 1,430,807	Lbs. 814,209	s d 2 1½	s d 1 7	s d 0 8½
Chersonese	537,646	665,165	653,267	504,891	2 1½	1 7	1 5
Cons. Malay	684,050	1,002,435	1,070,989	842,805	2 2½	1 5	0 8½
Golden Hope	174,133	376,849	461,824	233,446	2 0½	1 6½	0 7½
Highlands & Lowlands	1,137,858	1,504,374	1,533,919	1,215,779	2 2	1 5	0 11½
Linggi	1,389,290	2,804,960	2,804,217	2,175,728	2 1½	1 8½	1 0½
London Asiatic	1,131,430	1,615,566	1,605,830	1,426,257	2 1½	1 6	0 9
Selangor	614,199	888,830	868,833	656,554	2 2½	1 6	1 9
Shelford	157,130	343,279	360,915	325,525	2 1½	1 7	0 8½
Sungei Kapar	658,616	842,556	905,883	722,467	2 2½	1 4	0 9
United Serdang	1,827,943	3,084,945	3,789,951	2,876,188	2 3½	1 11	0 9½

It is instructive to make a comparison between the prices obtained for rubber and production costs. For this purpose we set out below the cost of production per lb over the past seven years of a few companies:—

COST OF PRODUCTION PER LB.									
	1913.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.		
Anglo-Malay	s d 0 38	s d 0 45	s d 0 21	s d 0 25	s d 0 21	s d 0 17	s d 0 17	s d 0 17	s d 0 17
Consolidated Malay	1 0 61	0 11 93	0 11 52	1 1 17	0 7 70	1 2 63	0 10 78	0 9 24	0 9 24
Golden Hope	1 2 18	0 11 23	0 11 87	1 2 87	0 8 11	1 2 11	0 11 11	0 11 11	0 11 11
Highlands & Lowlands	0 11 53	0 9 29	0 9 42	0 10 83	0 7 52	0 10 95	0 7 20	0 7 20	0 7 20
Linggi	1 0 73	0 9 54	0 10 15	1 2 20	0 11 21	1 0 43	0 8 00	0 8 00	0 8 00
London Asiatic	1 4 76	1 0 83	1 0 36	1 1 64	0 10 12	1 0 14	0 9 33	0 9 33	0 9 33
United Serdang	1 4 56	0 11 84	0 11 64	1 1 88	1 0 86	1 2 22	1 1 97	1 1 97	1 1 97

It may be noticed that, with the help of the companies concerned, we are able to supply in the two above tables statistics which cannot be found in reports. We would suggest, however, that another year this information might be made available to shareholders in the annual accounts. It should not be overlooked that a frank publicity is the best way to keep the confidence of the investor. It is certainly all to the good that directors have in most cases been able to make such striking reduction in production costs, although the figure for Golden Hope may cause some comment, especially when the reduced selling price, as shown in the previous table, is considered. In connection with effecting economies in management, a perusal of the report of the directors of the Consolidated Malay Rubber Estates makes interesting reading. Shareholders are informed that "various schemes for economy have been put into practice," and the visiting agent, in reporting that "though the numbers of both European and subordinate staff have been reduced," refers to "the generally good all-round standard of work to be found in the estates during the year."

The next table shows net trading results over a number of years:—

NET PROFITS after PROVIDING for all EXPENSES.						
	1912.	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Anglo-Malay	£ 123,206	£ 104,583	£ 51,359	£ 92,048	£ 44,617	£ 4,161
Chersonese (F.M.S.)	20,764	29,081	28,668	67,234	29,253	34,207
Consolidated Malay	58,265	34,712	18,472	39,438	75	Dr 16,500
Golden Hope	20,318	12,254	6,857	15,080	9,872	Dr 4,962
Highlands & Lowlands	136,441	79,079	48,168	99,056	37,712	23,187
Linggi	147,814	89,680	36,778	123,607	52,410	17,159
London Asiatic	86,202	61,274	36,368	87,725	35,612	5,761
Selangor	82,300	50,263	33,357	63,661	28,712	36,496
Shelford	22,104	10,363	3,524	15,791	4,986	Dr 5,982
Sungei Kapar	65,867	42,364	24,652	47,700	16,534	2,852
United Serdang	72,596	112,813	76,878	107,726	98,225	Dr 60,607

It would, we venture to think, be difficult to find another raw material industry which reveals such deplorable results. It will be noticed that five companies out of the twelve have made a loss on the year's working. But Chersonese and Selangor stand out prominently with

increased profits, while Highlands and Lowlands has made a brave attempt not to be left behind.

Our final table shows the trend of rubber share prices during the past few years. Quotations in July, 1914, are added for comparison:—

Name.	Prices of 1920.		Prices of 1921.		Price July 27, 1914.	Price July 12, 1921.	Price Aug. 16, 1922.
	H'gst.	L'wst.	H'gst.	L'wst.			
Anglo-Malay (£1)	4/11	2/3	1 1/4	5/2	4	1 1/4	2 1/4
Chersonese (2)	14/7 1/2	5/1 1/2	7/4 1/2	2/4	7/4 1/2	3/	2 1/2
Cons. Malay (2)	85/	30/	36/3	18/6	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Golden Hope (£1)	65/	28/9	38/9	21/7	1 1/2	32/6	1 1/2
Highlands & Lowlands (£1)	94/4 1/2	36/	48/3	26/3	4	1 1/2	1 1/2
Kapar Para (£1)	74/4	27/5	40/3	18/3	13/	3/6	2/10 1/2
Linggi (2)	83/	3/1	5/5	2/3	5/9	3/6	1 1/2
London Asiatic (2)	68	14 1/2	48/9	27/9	3	1 1/2	1 1/2
Malacca (£1)	69/1	22/6	27/6	12/6	3	1 1/2	1 1/2
Rubber Estates of Johore (£1)	30/11 1/2	15/	19/	7/6	8 1/2	4/	4/6
Selangor (2)	10/6	4/4 1/2	6/6	3/2	25/1 1/2	9/9	13/3
Shelford (£1)	45/	20/	24/8 1/2	7/6	12	3 1/2	3 1/2
Sungei Choh (£1)	34/8 1/2	22/	25/	10/	18	3 1/2	3 1/2
Sungei Kapar (2)	10/6	4/4 1/2	6/	2/1 1/2	7/	3/	2/7
United Serdang (2)	17/	3/11	5/3	2/	7/	3/	2/7

A perusal of the above table will probably surprise most people not intimately connected with the industry. That prices in August, 1922, should show such comparative strength when compared with those prevailing just over a year ago, speaks volumes for the ultimate faith in the industry held by shareholders in well-established companies.

For ourselves, we think that this faith in the future is justifiable if carefully tempered with reason. The flutter of hope consequent upon the Dutch meeting has died down, and the prospect of harmonious and complete agreement on restriction of production still appears remote. But it may be contended that, if left alone, it can only be a matter of time before the rubber-growing industry finds its own level, and that any policy which aims at artificially prolonging the life of inefficient producers is not good in the long run for affecting economies in management. If economic forces are permitted to operate, in the absence of adequately wide restriction, obviously, weak and inefficient producers will go under; and the most optimistic followers of the industry should carefully restrict purchases to the shares of the strong and well-managed companies, whose financial position will enable them to weather a prolongation of the present crisis. It must not be overlooked that there is a certain amount of truth in the contention that as the price of rubber falls, and providing there are reasonable prospects of the lower prices being stabilised, fresh outlets will be found for the commodity. But this, we know, is cold comfort for rubber shareholders while producing costs are at the present level and the price of the raw material daily touching new low levels.

Notes of the Week.

Overseas Trade in July.—The official returns of British overseas trade in July afford some grounds for encouragement, though not perhaps to the extent that a casual glance at the figures would suggest. Exports of British produce and manufactures at £60.4 millions were £8.3 millions higher than in June and £17.2 millions higher than in July, 1921. In connection with the comparison with July, 1921, two conflicting influences have to be remembered: first, a year ago trade had scarcely emerged from the clutches of the coal stoppage, and, secondly, prices of British manufactures have been in many instances severely cut this year. When these influences have been weighed up, the comparison may be regarded as moderately satisfactory. The export increase on the June figures is a welcome evidence of progress from the worst of the depression, although it must not be forgotten that July had one more working day than June. In value imports were £2.5 millions lower than in June and £1.2 millions lower than in July, 1921. A comparison of the summary figures for July and the first seven months of 1921 and 1922 reads as follows:—

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

MONTH OF JULY				
	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
Imports	£ 80,501,863	£ 81,783,534	+ 1,281,671	+ 1.6
British exports	43,172,399	60,418,626	+ 17,246,227	+ 39.9
Re-exports	9,361,556	8,316,638	- 1,044,918	- 11.1
Total exports	52,533,955	68,735,264	+ 16,201,309	+ 30.8
Excess of imports over total exports	27,967,908	13,048,270	- 14,919,638	- 53.3

SEVEN MONTHS Ended JULY 31.				
	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
Imports	£ 562,276,868	£ 568,970,159	+ 6,693,291	+ 1.2
British exports	412,067,426	412,180,431	+ 113,005	+ 0.0
Re-exports	59,047,245	63,988,158	+ 4,940,913	+ 8.3
Total exports	471,114,671	476,168,589	+ 5,053,918	+ 1.0
Excess of imports over total exports	181,162,197	92,801,570	- 88,360,627	- 48.8

The movements of the merchandise trade balance are important. The import excess in June was £23.4 millions, in July, 1921, £28 millions, and last month only £13 millions. On the seven months the import excess has been reduced by £88.3 millions, or 48.8 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period of 1921—a comparison that flatters, since the coal stoppage worked havoc with the 1921 figures. Nevertheless, the merchandise balance should now be very well within the covering scope of invisible exports. A welcome feature of the returns is a rise in exports of British manufactures, which is illustrated below:—

	Total Wholly and Partially Manufactured Goods.	Cotton Yarn and Manufactures.	Woolen and Woollen Manufactures.	Iron and Steel ..	Machinery.	Woolens.	Vehicles.
June, 1922..	Mln. £ 40.6	Mln. £ 14.0	Mln. £ 4.9	Mln. £ 4.3	Mln. £ 2.3	Mln. £ 4.9	Mln. £ 2.3
July, 1922..	48.5	18.0	5.4	4.6	3.2	5.4	4.5

The bullion and specie returns for July show imports of £3,292,092, against exports of £10,400,720, gold to the amount of £8,590,941 having gone to the United States. The usual tables analysing imports and exports under a number of classifications will be found towards the end of this issue.

Mr Griffith's Death and the Irish Outlook.—The death of Mr Arthur Griffith, writes our Dublin correspondent, is a factor of much importance in the Irish situation. There is personal tragedy in the premature cutting-off of a vigorous and disinterested career: there is national loss in the sudden elimination of a trusted leader in time of acute crisis. But this is more, and the realisation that it is more has tended to increase the depression which a fortnight ago was beginning to affect the minds of the thoughtful. Mr Griffith was but 50 years of age, yet he represented, almost alone amongst the foremost figures of Sinn Féin, that maturity of judgment which only long study and experience of affairs can bestow. He might almost be said to have belonged to the generation before that of his colleagues and political associates. His presence amongst them contributed the element of continuity to the recent direction of Irish affairs, because as a hostile critic of the Irish Parliamentary Party since the beginning of the century he was fully familiar with the developments of

contemporary politics, and had devoted much time and labour to the economic aspect of Ireland's fortunes. Of his surviving colleagues not one had really trodden the political stage before 1916—not one was known as a serious student of public affairs. In an increased degree, therefore, all eyes are turned upon Mr Collins, who is now left in a position of eminence and responsibility not easily distinguishable from an isolation to be regretted on several grounds. He has shown courage and perspicacity, self-reliance and resource, and he has the gift of leadership. But he is to-day head of a Provisional Government and Commander-in-Chief of an army on active service. For all the multifarious problems that will daily clamour for treatment, what helpers and advisers is he going to summon to his aid? The organised military resistance of the Irregulars has now been practically dissipated by the capture of the City of Cork and of Clonmell, and everywhere the end is not yet. Organised military resistance in the field is giving place to systematic crime, manifesting itself sporadically—to surprise outrages aimed at the community throughout the settled areas and in Dublin itself. But the public is aiding the Government with information, and this parricidal type of disorder will gradually be suppressed. Already the rank and file of the Irregulars are showing a progressive tendency to melt away and even in certain cases amongst genuine if misguided patriots to be converted by what they have seen to saner counsels. But the destruction of property and the dislocation of business are by no means finished yet. It is now clear that the Irish Free State's finances will be crippled for at least a generation, for although the productive power of an essentially agricultural nation may be rapidly restored, the loss of fixed capital, of wealth in the form of buildings, machinery, bridges, roads, railways, piers, and the like, as well as the compensation to all the private victims of civil strife, must necessarily involve a very heavy burden upon the Free State Exchequer—a burden the amount of which no one can foresee, nor even estimate approximately under existing conditions. The long-heralded development of Irish resources is thus handicapped before it is started by this compulsory hypothecation of its revenues in advance to the needs of reconstruction. In addition to these calls upon the public purse, it is clearly realised by most thinkers that it is indispensable for the welfare of the social organism that the general standard of living, particularly in the towns, shall be raised, and a broad policy of social reform, involving housing, public health, and education will mean large annual expenditures for a very long time before the resultant increase in the earning power of the community can bring relief to the Exchequer.

The Future Constitution of Palestine.—Now that the terms of the British Mandate for Palestine have been settled by the League of Nations, the Constitution under which the Mandatory Power will carry out its terms of reference comes up for consideration. If the complicated situation in Palestine is to be understood rightly, these two questions of Mandate and Constitution must be kept as distinct in the public mind as they are in law and fact. The principal parties concerned in the drawing-up of the Mandate were the League of Nations and the prospective Mandatory. But the Mandate, while safeguarding certain interests and laying down the general principles on which Palestine was to be governed, did not, of course, provide for the practical details. These have to be settled by the Mandatory Power, in agreement (so far as possible) with the present and future inhabitants of the country—the purpose of a Mandatory being to give practical expression and executive force to the principles of government which the League of Nations lays down. The publication of a Constitution for Palestine by the British Government is therefore the next stage in the process of settlement and reconstruction. At the moment of writing no official text of this forthcoming document has appeared, or could have appeared, seeing that the text of the Mandate, as approved by the League of Nations, was only published the other day. This does not mean, however, that the Eastern Department of the Colonial Office have not been giving their mind to the matter. As early as February 9th last, an abstract of the Draft

Orders in Council, by which the Constitution was eventually to be promulgated, was communicated to the Press and published the next day; and, since then, the full drafts have been communicated to the Secretariat of the League of Nations (in connection with a letter addressed to the latter by Cardinal Gasparri, on behalf of the Holy See), to the Palestine Arab Delegation which recently visited London, and to the Zionist Organisation (see Cmd. 1708-1922). The correspondence which passed on the subject between the Arab Delegation and the Colonial Office has also been published (Cmd. 1700-1922), and this throws further light upon the points that will create the chief difficulties. The draft Constitution is evidently modelled on that of certain British Crown Colonies—not those of the lowest rank, but such as have a certain number of elected members on their legislative council. The choice of this model is in no sense derogatory to Palestine. Indeed, it is just because Great Britain has had experience in administering every variety of Constitution, from the most paternal to the most democratic, that she is qualified to be a Mandatory Power. The real question is whether the model chosen is best suited to Palestinian conditions, and if once the conferment of the Mandate, and the terms on which this has been done, are taken as existing facts, the British Government's case, on the question of the Constitution, seems a good one. In brief, the Constitution will provide for (i) a High Commissioner with wide powers of appointment to posts and granting of concessions, subject to the Home Government's control; (ii) a legislative council with a maximum of 27 votes, including the vote and casting-vote of the High Commissioner; (iii) a two-storied electoral system under which the primary electors will elect 12 secondary electoral colleges, and each of the latter a single member of the Council. The franchise is to be very wide, every male Palestinian citizen over 25 years of age being qualified to be a secondary elector as well as a primary one; and the religious and national divisions in the population are to be provided for by a proportional allotment of electoral colleges to each religious community. The composition of the Council is the really controversial issue, for the 12 votes of the elected members, plus the one vote of the nominee of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, are outnumbered by the votes of the 10 official members, the High Commissioner's two unofficial nominees, and the two potential votes of the High Commissioner himself. If this were a Constitution for Iraq or Syria, it might be cavilled at. But considering that the Mandate definitely established "bi-nationalism" in Palestine, and that such an arrangement runs counter to the present political tendencies of all communities in the Middle East—not excepting either the Arabs or the Jews—it would be opening the door to deadlock or anarchy if, in the last resort, the representatives of the Mandatory were not given the means of control. One may or may not approve of the Mandate, but it is surely difficult to argue that it could be carried out except under the safeguards and limitations which the Constitution, as now drafted, will provide.

The Economic Position of Czecho-Slovakia.—This State is by far the most prosperous and promising of those created by the Peace treaties, and the Report by the Commercial Secretary to H.B.M. Legation at Prague, Mr Bruce Lockhart, well known for his work as Consul in Bolshevik Moscow, shows that her Government is determined that, even at the cost of considerable sacrifices at present, the hopes entertained of her future shall be fulfilled. She is the one State in Europe who has set her currency in order, and prints no uncovered bank notes; but the consequent rise of nearly 100 per cent. in the crown has seriously hampered her export trade, on which her future depends, and also her industry, which represents some 70 or 80 per cent. of the whole of that of the former Austro-Hungarian dominions. It is hampered also by the increased cost of living, by high taxation, and by the habit of her manufacturers of working on a much higher margin of profit than is customary in England; and it is now faced with the competition of neighbours with a greatly depreciated exchange. Wages, and possibly protective tariffs will have to be lowered, and methods and organisation altered, but Mr Lockhart predicts that the strong common sense of her people will bring her through her economic

and political difficulties, and confirm her in her policy of reducing expenditure, and of stabilising her currency even at the cost of an intermission of the industrial prosperity which she enjoyed in the past three years of her independence. Nor can her unemployed (over 78,000 even last December) be much helped by emigration, for only 17,612 emigrants left the country in 1921. Her Budget deficits were covered for the first two years by internal loans; that of 1921 may be found on the final figures to have been wiped out; for 1922 the estimated deficit exceeds 928,750,000 kronen, or about £37 millions at par; but a considerable reduction in expenditure is expected in 1923. Her national debt was estimated approximately last November at somewhat over 46 million kronen gold, but her first foreign loan, issued last April, was oversubscribed in New York and London, and, like the City of Prague Loan of £3,000,000, is to be spent exclusively on needed public works. The exchange last Christmas was 313 kronen to the pound sterling, now it is 181. Her banks for the last three years have been very prosperous. A State Bank is contemplated, and the new Anglo-Czech Bank will develop her trade with Great Britain. Her foreign trade, hitherto chiefly with Germany, is likely to shift chiefly towards the "Succession States," which have obtained territory from Austria-Hungary. With Great Britain it must be on both sides chiefly in raw or "semi-raw" material; finished products can nearly all be made as cheaply here, and glass, though the sale all round is vigorously pushed, may be kept out by the Protection of Industries Act. But there is great scope for British contractors in the projected public works, and for British capital. The coal and lignite trade is seriously depressed. The railway system is being adjusted to the new orientation of foreign trade, and the rolling stock renewed. The river ports at Bratislava (Pressburg) and Komorn (Komorn), and the navigation of the Elbe and Moldau, are being improved. Czech companies are providing services on the Elbe and Danube with steamers taken over from Germany and Austria, and a quick service will shortly be inaugurated from Hamburg to Prague. A Czech line of seagoing steamers will shortly ply between Rumanian ports and the Black Sea.

Iron and Steel Production.—The National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers has issued the following table, showing the average monthly production of pig-iron and steel ingots and castings in 1913, 1920, and 1921, and in each month since July, 1921:—

		Steel Ingots and Castings.	
		Pig Iron.	Tons.
1913—Average monthly	855,000	638,600	
1920—	669,500	755,600	
1921—	217,600	302,200	
July	10,200	117,200	
August	94,200	434,100	
September	158,300	429,300	
October	235,500	405,400	
November	271,800	443,800	
December	275,000	381,000	
1922—January	288,000	327,500	
February	300,100	418,800	
March	389,800	549,400	
April	394,300	404,200	
May	407,900	462,300	
June	369,200	400,200	
July	399,100	473,100	

The production of pig-iron in July amounted to 399,100 tons, or 30,000 tons more than in June. The furnaces in blast at the end of the month numbered 117, or two more than at the end of June. The production included 111,400 tons of hematite, 147,100 tons of basic, 91,000 tons of foundry, and 21,000 tons of forge pig-iron. The production of steel ingots and castings amounted to 473,100 tons, a figure only once exceeded since the conclusion of the coal stoppage—viz., March, when production was 549,400 tons—but still only 63 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1920.

Anchor Line Results.—It is, perhaps, not surprising to find that the accounts of the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Limited, for the year ended April 30th last show a substantial decrease in profits, and the directors, in contrast with the policy followed in 1919, when a 20

per cent. distribution was made on ordinary shares, have wisely followed the cautious policy of reducing the ordinary dividend to 5 per cent., free of tax. The following table compares results over a number of years:—

Year Ended April 30.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Working profit...	£ 311,573	£ 366,955	£ 309,399	£ 89,193	£ 258,937	£ 205,245	£ 151,738
Debiture int...	19,704	14,243	12,732	11,881	..	..	..
Net profit	291,869	352,712	296,607	77,312	258,937	205,245	151,738
Balance forward	76,143	107,607	146,912	130,113	144,974	141,399	109,132
Available profit.	368,012	460,319	443,519	207,425	403,911	346,644	260,870
Depreciation, &c.	173,517	250,000	250,000	nil	200,000	200,000	100,000
Reserve	50,000	250,000	250,000	12,451	12,512	12,512	12,512
Preference div...	16,832	13,406	13,406	50,000	50,000	25,000	12,500
Ordinary div....	37,500	50,000	50,000	(20 %)	(20 %)	(10 %)	(5 %)
Carry forward ..	86,962	146,912	130,113	144,974	141,399	109,132	135,858

* Deducted before arriving at profits.

It is difficult to follow with any degree of exactness the financial progress of the undertaking from our table on account of profits for the last half-dozen years being shown after depreciation and amounts for "other contingencies" have been deducted. For instance, for the directors to distribute £50,000 to the ordinary shareholders in 1919 out of total profits of £89,193, as against a similar distribution for the previous year, when profits were £309,399, would be a matter for reasonable comment, unless one were acquainted with the handsome past record of the company. But if the profit and loss account is somewhat laconic, the directors are to be commended upon giving us more information in the balance-sheet than that usually vouchsafed in this direction by shipping undertakings. The value of the company's fleet, less depreciation, is only included with payments made on account of new tonnage, interests in various other companies and properties. This item is valued at £6,006,010, as against £4,041,969 for the previous year. Cash and investments are taken at £924,009, as against £1,357,833, and total assets are up by £1,065,826 to £7,328,271. Amongst liabilities, a huge composite item is shown of £5,011,042, and the reserve fund has now increased to £1,500,000. The balance-sheet will be found analysed in our usual column. An interesting sidelight is revealed of the view taken in some quarters of the industrial situation by the statement in the report that "owing to the continued high cost of construction, the directors have deemed it prudent to suspend all work meantime on the.....vessels which have been contracted for."

General Mining and Finance.—Our Mining correspondent writes:—If, as appears to be the case, some of the shareholders in this Kaffir undertaking had expected the report for 1921 to contain interesting items relative to the financing of the dormant subsidiaries, they were disappointed. The directors do, however, make the important announcement that the 800,000 shares acquired from the Union Custodian of Enemy Property are to be utilised in writing down the capital of the company; they add that the difference between the purchase price (2s per share) and the par value (£1) will be available for writing off depreciation of assets. The decline which has taken place in the market value of the company's holdings is, of course, a salient point in the position. On December 31st last investments figuring in the balance-sheet for nearly 1½ millions were really worth not much more than half a million. In some cases the depreciation which has occurred must be regarded as permanent; in others it will be recovered in whole or part when conditions permit the raising of fresh capital for the resumption of operations. In point of fact, the improved outlook for the Rand mining industry has already been reflected to an appreciable extent in the quotations for the shares of some of the dormant companies. In this connection it is interesting to recall that the company also took over from the Union Custodian large blocks of shares in eight of its subsidiaries—including 48,000 Meyer and Charlton, 500,000 Cinderella Consolidated, and 750,000 West Rand Consolidated. If these shares were secured as cheaply as the General Minings themselves, the appreciation which has since occurred should go a long way towards making good the balance of the depreciation. The great bulk of the advances to the Roodepoort United—not very far short of £400,000—must, however,

be regarded as a bad debt, that mine having just shut down. Last year's accounts, which now seem rather belated, show a net profit of £40,350, as against £53,900 for 1920. With the decks being cleared and the crushing companies doing better, shareholders in the General Mining Corporation might even indulge in hopes of a dividend.

Transvaal Output in July.—A further marked improvement is noticeable in the July statistics of gold output and labour in the Transvaal issued by the Chamber of Mines. The July output at 730,635 ounces of fine gold compares with 675,697 ounces produced in June. In July last year the output was 689,555 ounces. The following table shows the production for a number of years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January..	787,467	782,634	714,122	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728
February..	753,594	781,321	699,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	511,338
March ..	796,689	787,094	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	629,786
April	754,672	742,778	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	675,697
May	777,681	779,385	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	675,697
June	761,764	759,724	727,696	702,379	715,257	678,490	675,697
July	761,087	757,839	736,195	725,497	736,099	689,555	730,635
August ..	781,150	756,658	740,219	706,669	702,083	711,526	..
September	771,587	738,231	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	..
October ..	792,339	751,290	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	..
November	783,066	722,839	658,701	677,790	633,737	704,236	..
December	774,462	722,419	641,245	650,191	632,215	681,847	..
Totals ..	9,296,618	9,018,084	8,418,292	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	3,187,185

NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED at the End of Last Eight Months by Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors.

	Oct., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.
Gold mines....	175,331	176,410	177,836	124,169	138,277	155,425	170,464	172,886
Coal mines....	13,936	13,465	13,230	11,155	11,385	11,525	12,117	12,371
Diamond	1,223	1,217	1,224	1,204	1,232	1,219	1,211	1,221
Total	190,490	191,092	192,290	136,528	150,894	168,169	183,792	186,468

The number of natives employed at the gold mines show a further improvement.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—In view of the prospect of a gradual eclipse of this company's original enterprise by its iron and steel undertaking, the shareholders a year or two ago began to look upon the company as an industrial rather than a mining concern. They omitted to take into account, writes our mining correspondent, a further tightening-up of the already onerous labour conditions. The latter, in conjunction with a general decline in trade, exerted so adverse an effect upon the company's affairs that the quarterly dividends were first reduced from 1s to 9d, and then suspended altogether, the last payment being made in August, 1921. In these circumstances it is no matter for surprise that a large portion of the cabled summary of the directors' report for the year ended May 31st is devoted to a strong protest against compulsory arbitration and the enforcement of such conditions as regards hours and wages as to hamper and threaten destruction to industry. All efforts to meet the position having proved unsuccessful, the directors reluctantly decided to suspend operations. The profit made during the first half of 1921-22 was for the most part wiped out by losses during the second, the accounts showing a surplus of only £103,300—a miserable sum to set against a capital of about 2½ millions. For 1920-21 the net profit was £351,000, the bulk being placed to reserve, and for 1919-20 £518,000. Last year's expenditure on plant, &c., exceeded a million, bringing the total up to over £6,000,000. The net liquid assets at the date of the balance-sheet amounted to £1,016,500, irrespective of shares in other companies, so that the position in this respect is satisfactory. There are two issues of debentures totalling nearly 2½ millions, the interest upon which has so far been duly met. In view of the advance which has taken place in the price of lead and zinc, the prospects for a reopening of the company's Broken Hill mine would be favourable—if only labour could be brought to accept reasonable terms. To assist the operation in its works at Newcastle, N.S.W., the company has been endeavouring to secure protection in respect of iron and steel manufactures. A far better solution of the difficulty would be the arrangement of the workers' remuneration upon an economic basis. A cable to hand yesterday stated that the Victorian Government

had accepted the company's tender for 2,700 tons of 60-lb steel rails at £12 per ton. This will lead to the reopening of the steel works. It is significant that a similar quantity has been ordered from a British firm at £11 per ton. Thus the Broken Hill Proprietary Company is, in effect, receiving a bonus.

Obersee Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—GOVERNMENT COTTON REPORT—EXPORT TRADE FOR FISCAL YEAR—PROPOSED TARIFF RATES ON WOOLLEN GOODS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 7.

THE Department of Agriculture's report last week, giving an exceptionally low estimate of the condition and probable yield of this year's cotton crop, was a complete surprise to the trade. The Government placed the condition as 70.8 per cent. of normal on July 25th, against 71.2 on June 25th. The latest figure compares with a condition of 64.7 on July 25th of last year, and 74.1 on that date in 1920. The loss last month compares with a ten-year average depreciation in July of 3.9 points. The great majority of private estimates had previously reported a decided improvement in the condition of the crop during July, many of them ranging as high as 72 or 73 per cent., while few, if any, made a percentage condition so low as the Government's. Based on the condition of 70.8 on July 25th, the Department estimated a total production of 11,449,000 bales. Naturally, such an unexpectedly bullish report by the Government caused a wild buying movement on the cotton exchanges, and prices advanced \$8 or \$9 a bale. During the past week, however, the market has lost more than that advance. Partly because the Department's report was so out of line with private forecasts, and partly because even its latest figure last year fell so far short of the actual yield, its estimate last week has, on maturer thought, been received with a great deal of scepticism. It is realised that the size of the crop will depend largely upon conditions and developments between now and harvest, and there is always the uncertainty as to how extensive the weevil damage may prove to be.

Details, which have just become available, of this country's export trade in June and in the past fiscal year show what products were chiefly responsible for the expansion in such trade during that month, as compared with May, and those in which there was the heaviest decline in the 12 months ended with June. Shipments of foodstuffs in June, including grains and preparations thereof, meats, dairy products, canned vegetables and fruits, were valued at \$60,796,428, representing a gain of \$7,800,000 over the preceding month. Exports of coal, coke, petroleum and products, cotton and cotton cloths, amounted to \$93,801,882, or \$8,348,000 more than in May. The increase in those two groups, therefore, account for \$16,148,000 of the \$27,000,000 gain in all exports in June over May. According to the Department of Commerce figures, the food exports for the fiscal years 1920-21 and 1921-22 were valued as follows:—

	Twelve Months Ended June, 1921.	Twelve Months Ended June, 1922.
Grains and preparations	1,032,270,325	591,295,498
Meats	186,846,799	131,952,791
Dairy products	47,970,030	36,375,122
Canned vegetables	4,634,183	3,719,512
Canned fruits	13,128,053	16,367,874
Total foods	1,334,849,390	779,710,797

The above five classes of exports combined account for \$779,710,797 of the total exports, valued at \$3,770,220,971 in the past fiscal year. In this food group alone, as the figures indicate, there was a decline of \$556,000,000, as compared with the previous year, or approximately one-fifth of the total decrease in all exports. Of the decline in food exports, wheat and wheat flour contributed \$467,000,000, or about 84 per cent. Exports of rye also fell

off heavily, but corn showed a marked increase in both quantity and value. In meats, the outstanding feature was the general decrease in value of beef and hog products, with the exception of hams, from the preceding year. Bacon exports were more than \$50,000,000 below the total for 1920-21, while lard exports showed a big drop in value, but were larger in quantity. Condensed milk increased in quantity, but lost in value. In both respects cottonseed oil declined, but canned salmon increased. The returns of exports of coal and coke, mineral oils, cotton, and cotton cloths for the past two fiscal years compare as follows:—

	Twelve Months Ending June 30, 1921.	Twelve Months Ending June 30, 1922.
Coal and Coke	361,019,247	102,723,425
Petroleum and products ..	555,668,479	329,600,605
Cotton cloths	141,403,000	76,934,000
Cotton, raw	600,000,000	596,000,000
Total	1,658,090,726	1,105,258,030

These four groups of exports combined show a decrease of \$553,000,000 from 1920-21, or approximately one-fifth of the decline in all exports. Exports of foods and of the last-mentioned products combined thus show a loss of \$1,109,000,000, or 40 per cent. of the total decrease of \$2,746,000,000 in all exports from the preceding fiscal year.

The prolonged debate over the wool schedule in the proposed tariff came to an end last week, when the Senate finally adopted the Finance Committee's rates, all efforts by Republican insurgents and Democrats to secure lower rates being defeated. In the schedule as approved by the Senate, the duties on blankets, including automobile robes and steamer rugs, range from 20 cents a pound and 25 per cent. *ad valorem* to 40 cents a pound and 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. The woollen felt trade is given protection by duties ranging from 20 cents a pound and 30 per cent. *ad valorem* to 40 cents per pound and 40 per cent. *ad valorem*, while fabrics from which are manufactured braids, garters, tubings, laces, veils, belts, suspenders, and so on, are to be assessed at the rate of 40 cents a pound and 50 per cent. *ad valorem*. In the knit fabrics schedule, the rates, decided upon by the Senate, on hose, half-hose, gloves, and mittens, are 39 and 49 cents per pound and 35 and 50 per cent. *ad valorem*. The duties on underwear range from 39 to 49 cents a pound and 30 to 50 per cent. *ad valorem*, while on outerwear garments and apparel the specific duties are also 39 to 49 cents a pound, plus 40 to 55 per cent. *ad valorem*. According to one of the framers of the wool schedule, the high duties imposed on clothing are aimed at Americans who purchase their apparel abroad. On clothing not knitted or crocheted, the duties range from 26 cents a pound and 40 per cent. *ad valorem* to 49 cents a pound and 50 per cent. *ad valorem*. Axminster, Oriental, and other carpets and rugs are to be dutiable at 55 per cent. *ad valorem*, while on screens, hassocks, and all other articles composed wholly or in part of carpets or rugs, the duty is 40 per cent. *ad valorem*; on all other manufactured articles not specially provided for, the rate is 55 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The silk schedule was also disposed of by the Senate, the high rates proposed by the Finance Committee all being approved in spite of efforts to reduce them. The duties on silk goods, admittedly designed to make up revenue lost through prohibition, as well as to protect the domestic industry, range from 35 to 60 per cent. *ad valorem*.

FRANCE.—THE LONDON CONFERENCE—FRANCO-GERMAN ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDING—WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBER—TAXATION RETURNS—THE BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 15.

THE failure of the London Conference caused no surprise in Paris, but has been welcomed rather with relief, as it was regarded as impossible, from the outset, that M. Poincaré could make further concessions in regard to reparations. At the same time, the deepest possible satisfaction is felt that, if the two Governments have felt them-

selves compelled to disagree, it was also found possible to bring the conference to an end without any fatal prejudice being caused to the Entente. Whatever opinion may be on this point in England, there can be no possible doubt that any breach in the Entente would be regarded here as disastrous, not only to the two countries concerned, but also to the whole immediate future of Europe. In this connection it is advisable that too much emphasis should not be laid on the supposition that there is a strong desire in this country for France to be free to take independent action against Germany. M. Poincaré is far too wary a statesman to regard any extension of the policy that was adopted a year or two ago, when the French troops occupied Frankfurt, as in the least degree desirable, and there need not be the slightest fear that France will be betrayed into anything like precipitate action.

The whole question of the German payments has now, after the failure of the London Conference, automatically gone back into the hands of the Reparations Commission, and it is too early to predict what line that body is likely to adopt. Quite apart from the general question of having to decide what reply shall be made to Germany's latest request for a moratorium, however, it is probable that the German failure to pay more than £500,000 on account of the £2,000,000 due to-day on account of debts owing in Germany to private creditors in Allied countries, will enable the Reparations Commission to find a way out of the deadlock set up by the failure of the London Conference.

There are renewed reasons for believing that the pourparlers that are known to have been going on for some time with a view to a Franco-German economic and industrial rapprochement are making steady progress. These negotiations, if they may be so termed, are, of course, quite independent of the two Governments, and are being conducted between the leaders of the great industrial interests of the two countries. The basic idea is the co-operation of French capital with German industrial organisation, and of a consequent economic alliance that would cover not only merely local industrial efforts, but also take into its purview the much more grandiose scheme of the industrial reorganisation of Russia and similar matters. Little that is definite can be said about the proposals at present, but there is undoubtedly good reason to foreshadow important developments in this direction in the near future.

The index figures for wholesale prices in France during the month of July, which have just been issued by the Statistique Générale, show that while the prices of foodstuffs fell appreciably, there was a corresponding rise in the cost of industrial materials, the nett result being that the general index figure for the month was for all practical purposes unchanged. The detailed figures for July, together with the corrected numbers for June, are as follows (the base figure of 100 representing the prices that prevailed from 1901 to 1910):—

	June, 1922 (Corrected).	July, 1922 (Provisional).
General index figure (45 categories)	375.7	375.8
Foodstuffs—		
For the whole 20 categories	394.8	381.6
For 8 categories of vegetable foods	381.1	351.2
For 8 categories of animal foods	428.6	423.2
For 4 categories of sugar, coffee, cocoa	354.4	359.4
Industrial materials—		
For the whole 25 categories	360.5	371.1
For 7 categories of minerals and metals	306.2	317.5
For 6 categories of textiles	435.8	459.0
For 12 categories (various)	354.5	358.6

The index figure for the retail prices of 13 categories of foodstuffs in Paris during July last is given as 3,186 (or an increase of 197 per cent. on 1914), as compared with 3,297 for June (which was equivalent to an increase of 207 per cent. on 1914).

The taxation returns for last July have been published and show a yield of 1,471,959,000f, constituting an increase of 20 per cent. on the same month of last year, and falling only 2 per cent. below the Budget estimates. In other words, the improvement that was a marked feature of the last two months' returns has been maintained and accentuated. The figure reached approached more nearly to the Budget estimates than has been the case since August, 1920. Coming to details, the tax on busines

turnover amounted to 196,812,000f, constituting an advance over last July of 50,419,000f. Stamps are 13 per cent. over the Budget estimates, but Customs that have brought in 214,428,000f are 15 per cent. below the estimates. This, however, is a favourable result as compared with the first two quarters, where the deficits were 38 and 24 per cent. Income-tax brought in 116,059,700f, and the war profits tax 169,964,400f.

Despite the alarms of the Conference, the Bourse has remained firm, and there has been generally a rise in the value of securities. This was particularly marked in the early part of the week, but towards the close before the four days' holiday there was a slight tendency towards depression. Though there was an improvement in the value of certain French Rentes, as, for instance, in the 3 per cents., that moved from 58.85 to 58.90, there was for the most part a decline. Thus the 1917 4 per cents. moved back from 63.15 to 62.45, the 1918 4 per cents. from 63 to 62.05, and the 1920 6 per cents. from 91 to 90.65. Banks for the most part remained unchanged, but the Banque de France advanced from 5,780 to 5,818, and the Banque de Paris from 1,179 to 1,210. Railways lost a certain amount of the ground they have been gaining steadily for the last few weeks. Est moved from 799 to 795, Metropolitan from 430 to 428, Midi from 820 to 808, Nord from 1,720 to 1,730, Orléans from 975 to 960, and P.L.M. from 960 to 950.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—REPARATIONS—STATE MEASURES—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—PRICES—EIGHT HOURS DAY—CURRENCY DEPRECIATION AND CONTRACTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 13.

THE quarrel between the Republic and Bavaria has been compromised by a formal signed agreement between the Chancellor and the Bavarian Minister-President. Bavaria had refused to put into force some provisions of the "Law for the Defence of the Republic," and had refused to allow the local execution of other provisions by Federal authorities, as the law provided, but undertaken to execute them herself. She had entirely rejected the new Political Courts for trial of conspirators against, and critics of, Ministers and ex-Ministers; denounced the law as a violation of the spirit of the Constitution; and declared the objectionable clauses suspended on Bavarian soil on the ground that they menaced the public security which they were ostensibly framed to protect. She had also objected to the new Federal Criminal Police. In correspondence with Berlin, she had demanded guarantees against further centralisation. Under the compromise she agrees to put the law in force, but gets a modification of the obnoxious provisions. The Government declares that the Political Courts will be resorted to only in very important cases, and gives (what ought not to have been necessary) an assurance that the laymen—who instead of judges and juries are to try citizens for their lives—will be chosen for impartiality. The Federal Criminal Police will work through the State Police. The Federal Government further guarantees that the centralising tendencies which Bavaria resents will not be pushed further. This guarantee binds only the present Chancellor, as the Constitution gives the States no guarantees against centralisation, which can be carried to any length against the opposition of individual States if only the necessary Reichsrat and Reichstag majorities are found.

The Reparations negotiations in London attract very little interest, and have so far had no visible effect upon business. The suggested measures of control and sequestration of revenue are not considered a good exchange for the short moratorium, which is all that is expected. Some of the English suggestions, as reported from London, seem to have the old academic character. There is no sense in talking of the autonomy of the Reichsbank, which means nothing unless the bank's obligation to finance the State without limit is revoked, and this is impracticable. The reported suggestions that the Guarantee Committee be given authority to reduce the floating debt, and the suggestion of "putting in order of the Budget," are for the same reason meaningless. The hope here, but not the expectation, is for both a pro-

longed moratorium and an international loan. A moratorium alone would not establish a foreign payment balance. With a sufficient loan it would; but, even then, the prospects after the termination of the moratorium would be doubtful. There is a growing feeling here that the worse things get the better, as a crash would at last raise the whole Reparations question in imperative form; but the daily predictions of a crash show no sign of realisation, and the theory upon which they are based seems to be mistaken.

The stock market, which before last week failed to respond to the rise in the foreign exchanges, has had an unexpected and violent boom. It was helped by the slight improvement in the money market, and by numerous reports of fusions of large concerns. The boom, with slight reactions, continued throughout the week, and took on a stormy character on the 9th, when some shares rose 600-700 per cent. Leaders were Harpener, Mannesmann, Hohenlohe, and Riebeck. The first-named stock rose from 749½ on September 7, 1921, to 5,300 on August 11th. There was also a great demand for A.E.G., Siemens and Halske, and other electrical shares, and, as the outcome of a new increase in prices, for potash stocks. The Bourse ended the week firm; but at present quotations and exchange stocks are still far below their gold values, though much above their dividend-capitalisation values. The bond market has moved little.

The price-rise continues. The Eisenwirtschaftsbund raised prices as follows (in marks per metric ton):—Hematite, from 11,317 on August 1st to 13,267 on August 11th and 16,767 on August 21st; foundry iron No. 1, from 10,481 to 11,784 and 13,989; do. No. 3, 10,411 to 11,714 and 13,919; Siegerland steel-iron, from 10,649 to 12,472 and 14,295; Spiegeleisen, from 11,763 to 13,501 and 15,239. Cellulose prices have been raised to nearly double the prices of May, rates now being, according to quality, 2,550 marks to 3,550 marks per 100 kilos. The new potash prices are between about 45 and 60-fold those of June, 1916. Bread prices will be raised to-morrow by about 50 per cent., the price for the 1,350-gramme loaf being 45 marks. The German Agricultural Council and numerous local bodies representing farmers have protested that the prices allowed by the State for that part of the harvest which is requisitioned are much too low. On August 3rd the wheat and rye sold in the open market fetched four to four and a half times as much as the official prices—6,900 marks per ton for rye, 7,400 marks for wheat—of requisitioned grain. In Bavaria the tilled area this year is considerably smaller than in 1921.

Hamburg shipping statistics for January-July, inclusive, show:—Arrivals, 6,100 vessels of 7,268,255 net tons, against 4,716,652 tons in the same months of 1921 and 8,199,312 tons in the same months of 1913; departures, 7,243,295 tons, against 4,698,734 tons and 8,379,248 tons. A Cologne court has given a decision (not the first) that the violation of the Eight Hours Law by employers is not punishable if the employees consent. As it is practically impossible to exceed eight hours without the employees' consent, such decisions seem to make a breach in the law.

It is necessary to return to the subject of the *clausula rebus sic stantibus*, under which the Federal Court of Appeal has decided that a contract may be repudiated if, owing to the fall in the value of the mark currency, the payment agreed upon for a delivery of property or commercial wares has fallen materially below the value of the my purpose was to record a fact of legal-commercial interest and of bearing upon the currency question, and not to express the view that this decision might or might not be applied to international commercial deals. In fact, earlier such decisions were made in international deals, with the difference that not the mere *clausula rebus sic stantibus*, as in the new decisions, was applied, but a special law enacting that contracts might be declared null or the revolution. The report in the *Economist* has attracted a great deal of attention in England, and (again without expressing any judgment as to the applicability of the new decisions to export and import deals) it is, therefore, necessary to warn English business men against taking advice on the matter from unqualified or interested Germans. In one case, an English firm which asked for further information from a German public body, whose

special function it is to deal expertly with such matters, received the reply that the *Economist* report was entirely wrong, and received therewith the public body's own lawyer's judgment that the decision could not be extended to international transactions. The statement that the report in the *Economist* was entirely wrong is untrue, but it is of small importance. Important is the attitude assumed in the two supposedly expert opinions. While rejecting the *Economist* report as either an invention or as a genuine decision which had no general applicability, both authorities wrote in a tone of surprise, plainly implying that the decision, in so far as it was an invention, was something new and exceptional, and a revelation to German legal-commercial circles.

I have since gone further into the matter, of which, owing to the German newspaper practice of not reporting civil lawsuits, I had little general knowledge, and must report (1) that there have been numerous recent decisions either by subordinate courts or by the Court of Appeal in the same sense; (2) that every German business man and commercial lawyer is familiar with these decisions, which are a burning polemical question both in legal and commercial spheres; and (3) that a German commercial organization or legal firm which, professing to advise English business men, expresses surprise at the *Economist's* discovery, is grossly ignorant. The matter has now invaded the daily political Press, which, as a rule, ignores such issues; and if any English reader believes the German story that nothing, or nothing worth mentioning, has happened, he should read the article, "Einen Punkt hinter die Clausula!" published by Herr Erich Pitsch, a lawyer, in the Berlin *Tageblatt* of August 13th. He will find Herr Pitsch discussing a whole series of judicial decisions that contracts may be annulled for no other reason than that the mark's value has fallen, and that the party required by the contract to accept payment in marks did not foresee the fall. He will further find references to other recently published articles on the same question by distinguished jurists.

Herr Pitsch, like most, but not all, of the jurists, condemns the decisions. He notes that whereas the Court of Appeal declared that a party to a contract signed in 1919 could not be expected to foresee the fall in the value of the currency, and should therefore be released from his contract, the present judicial trend is to extend the right of repudiation to recently concluded contracts, contracts concluded, Herr Pitsch points out, years after every business man learned from experience to protect himself against future currency depreciation. (Herr Pitsch aptly asks, What would happen if the currency recovered: would a buyer then be allowed to repudiate his contracts?) "To-day, almost everywhere," writes Herr Pitsch, "interested parties are asserting as obvious, and the courts, in particular the Courts of Arbitration, are admitting, that the price-revolution of the second half of 1921 could not have been foreseen, and that therefore the application of the *clausula*" (i.e., annulment of contract) "is justified." Whether the Court of Appeal will confirm such extended applications of the *clausula* is doubtful, says Herr Pitsch.

This quotation will be sufficient to warn English business men against the assurances of some German Chambers of Commerce that they are surprised to find Englishmen debating a German problem of which Germans themselves have never heard. When some German Chambers of Commerce address the home public they are not so innocent as to pretend they never heard of the decisions. A report of the Chemnitz Chamber giving its interpretation of the decisions appears in the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* of the 9th inst.

ITALY.—CABINET CRISIS—SOCIALISTS AND GOVERNMENT—COMMODITY AND SHARE PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, August 2.

WHILE I write, a general strike is being proclaimed by the Labour organisations as a protest against the assault and burning down of co-operative and Labour houses in Cremona and Ravenna at the hands of Fascisti. The

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

result of the strike may be slight, but the air is full of bad temper and uncertainties. The Cabinet crisis has been patched up, after twelve days of negotiations, by a revision of the Facta Ministry. On the eve of the Genoa Conference, a Government was constituted in a hurry under the presidency of Signor Facta, for the sole purpose of having a Government when the assembly of nations met on Italian soil. Anyone who tried to form a Government was welcome. To-day the same story is being repeated, Signors Orlando, Bonomi, Meda, De Nava, De Nicola being offered the premiership in turn. The political groups of the Chamber are unable to agree. The proportional representation system has split the Chamber into 12 groups, which cannot be moulded into a stable majority. The Liberal-Conservatives are split into three groups (Liberals, Nationalists, and Fascisti), the Democrats into five. Besides them, there are the Communists, the Socialists, and the Catholic Populists. As the Populists number 105 and Socialists 125 out of a total membership of 535, it follows that no Government can be formed in which one of these parties does not participate. Hitherto the Populists alone were willing to go into office. But now a new development has occurred: 70 members out of 125 of the Socialist party have declared themselves willing to take office. Their leader, Signor Turati, after 40 years of fight against monarchy and so-called capitalism, has been received by the King, and istic constitution, has been received by the King, and has officially given him the advice of the Socialist group on the political situation. The Socialist Labour party is transforming itself from a revolutionary into a constitutional party. Signor Giolitti says that the change was prompted, not by a change in ideas, but by the fear of the Fascisti. Socialists hope to use the Government weapons—Royal Constabulary (*guardia regia*) and the army—to repress the aggressions of the Fascisti on Labour organisations. If the accession of the Socialist party to office merely signified better public order, it would be generally welcomed. Many fear, however, that the economic policy of the Socialists in office would be dangerous—public works for unemployed, doles out of public purse to Labour organisations, and a new vast army of followers to be satisfied at public expense.

Professor Bachi's commodity index number (based upon the average price for 1920, equals 100) shows an increase for June:—

	Number of Commodities	Oct. 1921.	Dec. 1921.	Mar. 1922.	April 1922.	May 1922.	June 1922.
Vegetable foods.....	25	116.4	113.7	106.7	104.9	106.3	108.7
Animal foods.....	13	125.1	116.9	95.7	102.5	93.9	97.4
Chemical.....	11	75.0	74.0	71.8	69.5	67.3	67.4
Textiles.....	12	73.2	77.0	64.9	63.3	65.7	73.1
Minerals and metals.....	16	63.0	64.1	59.2	57.6	57.5	57.7
Building materials.....	6	90.3	87.9	84.1	81.5	78.7	75.7
Vegetables.....	5	116.0	112.4	102.8	92.2	96.4	104.7
Miscellaneous.....	12	94.7	93.9	87.2	88.4	87.9	87.7
General index (basis 1920).....	100	95.0	93.9	85.4	84.4	83.3	86.5
General index (basis 1901-1905).....	100	747.2	739.1	672.1	663.8	659.6	677.7

The rise is due partly to the rise in the staple prices in foreign markets, but perhaps more to the rise in Italian exchanges, and it is to be feared that July figures will be worse than those for June.

Figures on the cost of living of a working-man's family of five in Turin show that the improvement reaches a

climax in April. Since April, every month has marked an increase in retail prices:—

	Food.	Cloth- ing.	Rent.	Fuel and Light.	Miscel- laneous.	Total.
First half of 1914.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
June, 1920.....	410	434	100	385	425	374
June, 1921.....	485	433	110	358	538	429
January, 1922..	524	454	120	435	591	465
April, 1922.....	470	433	120	378	587	424
May, 1922.....	473	433	120	351	583	428
June, 1922.....	484	432	120	358	586	435
July, 1922.....	487	433	120	365	584	437

Financial markets are not so bad as they might be; the general index number which Professor Bachi publishes for share prices (price of December, 1918, 100) fell from 63.84 at the end of last year to 56.70 at the end of March, but has since recovered to 60.54 at the end of June. The most favoured group has been the textile, which has been encouraged by the rising prices of the raw materials and by the expanding consumption. Stocks have been reduced to a very low ebb, and want replenishing. Motor cars, chemicals, sugar, and food shares are also better. After the long-drawn-out crisis of the Banca Italiana di Sconto, the leading banking shares show some signs of vitality.

Rent restriction laws keep shares of building companies low. Generally speaking, the most noticeable fact about share prices is that the depreciation of the lira has not resulted in a great rise in share quotations. "Valuta" booms are ignored in Italy. Limitation by decree of dividends during the war, taxation or confiscation of war profits after the war, fear of new taxation and of compulsory registration of shares, are perhaps the most potent causes of this interesting phenomenon.

AUSTRIA.—FINANCIAL POSITION—FORCED LOAN—EXCHANGE DEMORALISATION—ISSUE BANK—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, August 8.

THE seriousness of the political and financial situation can best be described by the words of the Finance Minister used at one of the last sittings of the National Assembly, "The greatest and last efforts must be made in order to prevent the chariot of State whirling headlong into the abyss." It is generally recognised that Austria is now playing her last card. The organisation of the new bank, the placing of an internal loan, and the drastic reduction of officials is intended to carry the Ship of State over the next four or five months in the hope that during that period the scheme for supplying foreign credits will have matured, thus assuring Austria's future for four or five years and giving her breathing time to recoup her strength. If foreign credits are not granted, and the larger scheme has not been completed within the next four or five months, it seems almost certain that Austria must cease to function; there may then follow a further disruption, which must seriously affect the stability of her neighbours and lead to acute political crises until the next stage of so-called self-determination has taken definite shape.

The financial reconstruction programme has now been passed by Parliament. Its essential provisions are for the foundation of a new issue bank, an internal loan, and effective increases in the direct and indirect taxes. The critics of this programme, however, are divided even in Parliamentary circles. The Christian Socialist Party alone considers it a permanent solution. The Socialist Party declares it is the last "bourgeois" reconstruction programme to be tried in Austria; the next one will be a "proletarian" programme. The German Party, on its part, declares that this programme will be of no assistance to Austria, but that it is to be considered a stepping-stone towards the coming union of Austria and Germany. There is little doubt that it is Austria's last trump card. The financial panic has abated for the time being. The Government reckons that after the realisation of the French and Italian credits, and the remainder of the English credit, which represent together a total of about 230,000 million

kronen, and the proceeds of the Internal Loan, another 400,000 to 500,000 million kronen, it will be able to carry on the administration till the beginning of next year. The large foreign credits which are expected, now that the rescission of the general lien has been accorded, ought to have taken effect by then. Should these credits not be granted, and should internal conditions show no change for the better, a very unfavourable situation will recur next January. Even if the most decisive measures for the reduction of the Budget are taken, the deficit may be estimated at at least 300 million gold kronen. As the net national income amounts to 2,000 to 2,400 million gold kronen, the standard of life of the whole population will have to be lowered by another 12 to 15 per cent.

The new Issue Bank is expected to begin operations in the course of the month of August. Since it is clear, however, that the internal loan will only be feasible if the Issue Bank makes large advances to commerce, industry, and the banks, the first result of the financial reconstruction programme will be a further inflation of the currency, because the State will indirectly draw on the new Issue Bank by demanding the Internal Loan from commerce, industry, and the banks. The statutes of the new bank allow credits to be granted to the Government only against deposit of the full value of the credit in foreign currencies, but State enterprises are entitled to lodge bills at the Issue Bank for discount. The banks are being compelled to participate in the foundation of the new Issue Bank by subscribing in foreign currencies to the capital of 100 million Swiss francs. Now the bankers see that they must not merely place at the disposal of this bank a large part of their holdings in foreign currencies, but must also take up the new Internal Loan, and will therefore be still closer bound up with the fate of the country's finances. Another important point is that the customs and liens on real estate, which after the renunciation by the Entente of their claims to these properties ought to become security for a foreign loan, will now be hypothecated for the Issue Bank and for the Internal Loan, so that a valuable guarantee for the expected foreign credits disappears. The Finance Minister hopes by means of a compulsory loan based upon the entire real and personal property in Austria to obtain an influx of cash that will enable him to refrain from making demands upon the Issue Bank for some time, and, secondly, to prevent a further rise in prices. It is doubtful, however, if he will succeed. The compulsory loan is of such a high figure that the money can only be obtained by a still larger circulation of notes. For example, the eight large Viennese banks (amongst which are the Anglo Bank and the Laender Bank, which are respectively English and French concerns) have to take up 9,300 million kronen of the Internal Loan, which represents 175 per cent. of the nominal value of their total capital.

The Bill lately passed for the reduction of the State employees is the only ray of hope seen as a result of the work of Parliament. However, the agreement of the representatives of the officials' trade unions is necessary to carry out this measure, and there will probably be difficulties. Besides this, the officials who are to be dismissed must get high payments in lieu of notice. How much this will cost (probably many thousands of millions) is still unknown to the Government.

The terrible advance in the prices of foreign currencies during the last week has caused a new rise in the cost of living, and social disturbances have been feared. Under pressure of the Socialist Party and demonstrations by workmen, the private exchange of money has been absolutely forbidden. Banks and bankers have been practically excluded from trade in foreign currencies, which has been reserved exclusively for the State Clearing House (Devisenzentrale). In consequence of this measure, the prices of foreign currencies have been forced down, because speculation has been completely stopped, but commerce and industry can only satisfy their needs for the greatest imaginable amount of red-tape. The interference by the Government in exchange operations has already acted as a boomerang, and by preventing industrial firms from acquiring the necessary raw materials is compelling them to consider the closing down of their works.

The price of a loaf of bread has again risen from 1,790

to 2,170 kronen. The index figure for the period June 15th to July 14th shows a rise of 41 per cent. The gold parity has been increased during the same period from 4,670 to 7,500. The salaries of all State officials and of most private employees had to be increased in the same proportion. All other classes of the population who do not earn their living by trade are on the point of complete impoverishment.

On July 13th the rate of exchange was 123,600 kr, on July 17th 164,875 kr, on July 25th 148,650 kr, and on July 31st 189,000 kr to the pound.

Books and Publications.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMICS.*

Two things strike one at once about Professor Boucke's book: first, his partiality for such words as Smithianism, physiocratism, historism, associationism, phenomenalism, &c.; second, the author's amazing erudition. This very erudition, however, makes the book difficult reading for the average person. Professor Boucke assumes a great deal of knowledge in the reader—knowledge not only of economic theory, but of political philosophy, psychology, logic, and ethics as well.

Those who look to this book for a careful and elementary statement of the various economic theories which have ruled from Sir William Petty and Quesnay to Irving Fisher and Pigou will be disappointed. Professor Boucke deals rather with the assumptions underlying economic theories. Economic method rather than conclusions and results is his main concern. His field is chiefly the border-line between economics on the one hand, and systems of ethics, psychology, and political philosophy on the other.

Both Adam Smith and the Physiocrats were influenced in their assumptions by the prevailing philosophy of natural law, Smith chiefly by Hume and Locke, the Physiocrats by the static outlook of the French Rationalists. J. S. Mill was an eclectic, profoundly influenced by Comte, Bentham, and Hume. "Comte's sociology and Mill's 'Logic' give the finest proof of the philosophical foundations underlying much economic theorising." The historical school, on the other hand, was a reaction against the static concept of the Naturalists, and was largely a product of the new dynamic and evolutionary concept being developed by Hegel in philosophy and Lamarck and Erasmus Darwin in biology. It taught that "Economic laws were invalid if not related to the social process as a whole.....Law was born of circumstances in time and space." Finally, about 1870 came the new doctrine, which Professor Boucke calls Marginism, with its "explanation of exchange values by states of feeling and of consciousness in general," and its "use of least ('marginal') fractions as a standard for determining the value of aggregates."

Professor Boucke leaves us with a conviction of the relativity of economic theory, and the need for a work of scientific synthesis, hitherto lacking—a synthesis, maybe, of the subjective outlook of the marginal theorists with the social relativism of the historical school. He succeeds well in whetting our appetite for that "critical estimate of present economic theories" which he promises us in his preface, and to which this work is "prefatory."

* "The Development of Economics, 1750-1900." By O. Fred Boucke. Macmillan and Co. 12s net.

MONEY AND THE MECHANISM OF EXCHANGE.*

THIS is the sixth edition—revised and brought up to date by the inclusion of much matter relating to the financial and monetary history of the war—of a work which was originally published many years ago. The author is a member of the Institute, a professor at the Ecole des Sciences Politiques, and a former director of the Administration of the Currency; and he brings to his task a great fund of learning and research. The aim of the book is, in the first instance, to explain exactly the nature of the various instruments in circulation—money, bank-notes,

* "La Monnaie, le Crédit et le Change." By Aug. Arnauné. Paris) Félix Alcan. Sixth edition. 15 francs net.

cheques, bills of exchange, &c.—to define their functions, and make clear the particular qualities which enable them to fulfil these functions. M. Arnauné then proceeds to examine the circulation itself, with a view to showing how each instrument of exchange assists, according to its nature and special functions, in the movement of capital and transference of wealth. Within a sound framework of theory the book contains a mass of practical and historical information, much of which is not readily obtainable elsewhere. Occasional doubts assail us on particular points; for example, the author's view that bank-notes may cease to be depreciated even while the foreign exchange remains well below par, and his contention that the inter-relation of the European fiduciary exchanges at the present time is determined by the value of each currency relatively to gold—i.e., to the dollar. It seems to us that the value, e.g., of the franc relatively and sterling is not determined by the position of the franc-dollar and sterling-dollar exchanges, but that all the exchanges are determined by the balance of payments and purchasing power parities. In general, the author confines himself to explaining the way in which the mechanism of exchange works and the present position, and does not seek to suggest remedies for the existing disorganisation. It is of interest, however, to note that he apparently still considers a return to the pre-war gold standard within the bounds of practical politics. No economist, he says, doubts that every effort ought to be made to restore the pre-war gold standard "except those who delight in paradox."

The book, as a whole, forms an admirably lucid and comprehensive text-book of the subject with which it deals.

EDUCATING INDUSTRIAL ADMINISTRATORS.*

THIS book was written with the object of presenting in simple form a general survey of industry suitable for those who are undergoing some form of training for the purpose of fitting them ultimately to occupy positions of responsibility in industry, and is intended to form an introduction to the more specific aspects of the problem of industrial administration. After a general discussion of the function and character of industry, of its historical development and method of organisation, the authors deal with factory location and design, the manufacturing, commercial, and financial organisation of a factory, labour, management, and the State in relation to industry. A concluding chapter discusses the trend of industry—including the question of shorter hours, changes in the control of industry and education.

It cannot be said that the book successfully carries out the very ambitious purpose which the authors had in mind. This was impossible within the scope of a book running to only 138 pages, and we have before us what is essentially a smattering of a number of subjects connected with industry. An adequate course of training for men who are going to occupy positions of responsibility in industry should include, we suppose, a grounding in such subjects as economic history, theoretical and descriptive economics, commercial geography, business methods, accountancy, commercial and industrial law, &c., and we doubt whether, in any case, much advantage is to be gained by concentrating several of these studies into a subject called "Industrial Administration." The present book may possibly be of some use in arousing interest among a certain class of student, but it will clearly not meet the needs of all the various categories of students enumerated in the preface.

* "An Introduction to the Principles of Industrial Administration." By A. P. M. Fleming, C.B.E., and H. J. Brocklehurst. London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited, 1922. 3s 6d net.

THE A B C OF STOCKS AND SHARES.*

INTENDED primarily to guide the first steps of inexperienced shareholders unversed in the technicalities of investments, this little volume should command a ready sale. In simple language the reader can follow the story of stock and share from beginning to end, with excellent explanations of Stock Exchange jargon. It may be questioned if the risk referred to on page 2, where it is suggested that a rich country might seize the

* "The Shareholders' Manual." By Herbert H. Bassett. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited.

land of a poorer country for the non-payment of debt incurred in the ordinary way of borrowing, is to-day a serious consideration. Students with an inquiring turn of mind might wonder, if this held good, why the creditors of Russia or Honduras do not satisfy themselves in this way.

In connection with companies formed under special Acts of Parliament, it is possible that the statement on page 4 that such companies may be regarded from the investor's standpoint as similar to an ordinary public company might in certain circumstances mislead readers. Of course, of necessity the information contained in a book of this description is very much condensed, although in describing the various classes of prospectuses it might have been better if some lines had been devoted to "offers for sale," a type of, or, rather, substitute for a prospectus which is becoming increasingly popular with promoters. The author should have made it clear on page 27 that it is only certain assets in a balance-sheet which are usually valued by independent valuers, however much it may be the pious contention of reformers that all assets ought to be so valued. The cryptic entry in many balance-sheets, "shares in other companies," and other similar items which so intrigue the financial critic, are specially singled out by the author as items for independent valuations. It is to be hoped that the author will enlighten us as to the methods by which this desirable objective may be attained. It is good advice to tell novices on page 118 that in analysing balance-sheets they should be careful to investigate the item "loans" in assets, and investigators should not be disheartened in their quest if they find company secretaries somewhat reticent. The walls of Jericho did not fall at the first blast of the trumpets, and company secretaries may probably require further pressing when it comes to a question of more publicity.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Czechoslovak Republic. By Jaroslav Cisar and F. Pokorny. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. 9s net.
Tolley's Complete Income-Tax, Excess Profits Duty, Corporation Profits Tax, Super-Tax, &c., Chart. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Limited. 2s 6d net.
A History of Land Tenure in England. By J. Ghosh. (Calcutta) Kar, Majumder and Co.
An Arithmetic of Citizenship. By E. Riley and G. Riley. (London) Sidgwick and Jackson, Limited. 2s 6d net.
The Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Monthly Journal. August, 1922. (Glasgow) 7 West George street. 6d.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
August 23.	August 24.

THE chief influences in the Stock Exchange during the past week have been the failure of the Conferences on the Reparations question and the tightness of credit in Lombard street. Up to the last moment the Stock Exchange clung obstinately to the hope that the all-important conference would result in some agreement. The feeling since the result was known has been that of deep disappointment and not dismay. Strangely enough, instead of markets becoming more depressed and prices dropping as a result of general liquidation of a nervous order, they have been fairly bright, and towards the end looked cheerful. This is because of the calm attitude of Paris. It was reasonably feared that Paris would depress markets by heavy selling. But the Paris Bourse has supported, in confident manner, the markets here in which it is largely interested. In view of the relief afforded by the attitude of Paris, the stringency of money in Lombard street has been a subordinate influence in the Stock Exchange, and it has not been an obstacle to a recovery of prices in several markets, the Kaffir section being notable in this respect.

Prices in the gilt-edged market have fluctuated throughout the week within small compass, and on balance the changes are not material, whether up or down. Business has been very quiet, for there has been little demand from the public,

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL	£15,592,372
RESERVE FUND	£ 8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1922)	£321,167,218

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:
168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

while professionals themselves have not been active. There has been much activity, however, in the Home Railway market, which, despite much profit-taking on occasions and irregularity of movements in consequence of this, has been on the whole firmer and more confident. The "heavy" stocks have been the strongest, while in the Scottish group Caledonian stocks, in the last day or two, have come in for strong support. Business has been quiet in the foreign bond market, but underlying conditions have shown no marked trace of weakness, for where prices have given way it has been to an immaterial extent. Even French issues and German bonds have been but slightly disturbed by the wild fluctuations in the currencies of those countries. Indeed, the French railway scrips have shown a tendency to rally. Brazilian and Argentine bonds have been quietly firm. The Roumanian loan is expected shortly. The amount will be £2,500,000, and will probably be offered in London and New York. The continued firmness of this market will largely depend upon the future international developments and their effect upon French sentiment.

Leopoldinas have been the most prominent stock in the Foreign Railway market. They had a good rise before the official announcement that the tariff concessions have been agreed upon and only await formal ratification. The price has gone back slightly from the best, but the announcement has, of course, given general satisfaction. Argentine rails have been a most uncertain market and prices have been unsteady, being rather lower on balance. But there are all the possibilities of a good recovery here in the near future.

Business has again been restricted in the industrial market. Calico Printers have had a good rise on confident expectations of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the past year, against 5 per cent., and this has helped to keep other textile shares moderately firm. Tobacco shares have been speculated in from day to day, as usual, and have fluctuated in price constantly, for professionals have taken their profits on the rise. Hence there is not much change on the week. Marconis have been able to recover to a modest extent on the meeting and on broad-casting possibilities, which may bring some prosperity to the company. But, all the same, the market for these shares looks unsteady. Nitrate shares are reviving on rising hopes regarding the prospects of the industry, and there have been several good recoveries in the list. At the moment, this group shares, Furness, Withy have been steadily bought, and the price is better, allowing for a moderate reaction on the inevitable profit-taking.

Oil shares have been a most uncertain market, hopeful one day and depressed another, with the public taking no active interest in it and leaving the market to professionals. Continental liquidation was feared, but such fear has not been realised, and the market has shown a little more firmness. Trinidad Centrals have had a sharp recovery, and Mexican Eagles have rallied modestly. The price of rubber has fallen unrelievedly depressed.

After being a hesitating market in the early part of the week, Kaffirs have recovered again, helped by some buying from Paris, which has influenced sentiment here favourably. The Cape has also been a small buyer. Central Minings have been prominent. De Beers have rallied on French buying. Other sections have been quiet. Chartered have been alternately weak and firm, according as they have been affected by alternating sentiment.

The Committee of the Stock Exchange have issued brief regulations for the settlement of the pre-war account on September 1. All tickets will be passed on August 31. It is not expected that this account will involve serious difficulties.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hand.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded	502,528,887			
4½% Treasury Bonds (by Tender August 11, 1922), £2,500,000, at £100 3%	2,500,000	2,503,750		

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

Net Receipts into the Exchequer Week Ended August 12, 1922.

April 1 to August 12, 1922	£22,348,000	300,000	300,000
----------------------------	-------------	---------	---------

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1922	1921
£505,332,637	£388,978,203
1921	1920
152,658,080	367,549,656
1920	1919
274,718,416	1,035,059,551
1919	1918
892,917,730	1,383,381,441
1918	1917
919,034,872	1,318,596,010
1917	1916
1,090,168,650	585,436,850
1916	1915
375,218,500	685,236,326
1915	1914
658,668,876	512,522,533

Michael Nairn and Greenwich, Limited.—Authorised capital 2,200,000 shares of £1 each, of which 1,993,601 have been issued as fully paid. The company was incorporated last July "to acquire all or any of the ordinary shares" of Michael Nairn and Co., Limited, and the Greenwich Inland Linoleum Company, Limited. The position of this latter undertaking is shown in its latest balance-sheet, published in March last, and no dividends have been paid on the ordinary shares since 1914. The Nairn Company, however, is a private concern, and no balance-sheet is available to the public. The following particulars, however, are taken from an advertised statement:— "The Nairn Company was incorporated under the Companies Acts in 1893. The present nominal capital of the company is £1,450,000, divided into 15,000 cumulative 6 per cent. preference shares of £10 each, 20,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each, entitled to a preferential non-cumulative dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and 220,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, all of which shares have been issued and are fully paid up." The capital of the Greenwich Company is £443,640, divided into 100,000 cumulative 6 per cent. preference shares of £1 each, all issued and fully paid, and 687,280 ordinary shares of 10s each. Holders of ordinary shares in the Nairn Company receive 15 fully-paid £1 shares in the new company for every two fully-paid shares of £5 each. Holders of ordinary shares in the Greenwich receive five fully-paid £1 shares in the new company for every nine fully paid 10s shares. The object of this advertisement is to comply with the Stock Exchange Committee requirements in connection with an application for permission to deal in the shares, and intending share purchasers who have no other source of information than this Press statement may reasonably require further particulars of the Nairn undertaking before making an investment in the new company.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War (2½% 1925-28)	95½	95½	—	Aust. 6% 1931-41	105	105	—
Loans (4½% 1925-45)	98	97½	—	Canada 4½% 1920-25	101	101	—
5% 1929-47	100	100	—	India 5½% Stock	588	588	—
5% 1929-42	101	101	—	Do 7½% 1926-31	119	119	—
Funding Loan 4½%	88	88	—	Do 5½% 1932	99	99	—
Victory Loan 4½%	90	90	—	N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32	101	101	—
Conversion Loan 4½%	76	76	—	Nigeria 6% 1949-79	112	112	—
Consols 2½%	58	58	—	U.O.F.S.A. 6% 1930-40	106	106	—
Irish Land Stock 2½%	59	59	—	Victoria 5½% 1924-34	103	103	—
Local Loans 3%	66	66	—	W.Aust. 6% 1930-40	104	104	—

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1, f.p.d.)	2½	2½	—	Nat. Bank of Egypt	201	201	—
Chartered Bk of India	184	184	—	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	101	101	—
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.)	218	218	—	(£10)	101	101	—
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2 p.d.)	8½	8½	—	Nat. Prov. & Union of England (£20 with £4 p.d.)	101	101	—
London County Westminster and Parr's (£20 with £5 p.d.)	178	178	—	Standard of S. Africa (£20 with £5 p.d.)	12	12	—

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons.	694	694	—	Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	84	74	—1
B. A. & Pacific	484	474	—1	Leopoldina	304	334	+2
B. A. & Gt. Southern	744	744	—	Mexican Railway	144	14	—1
Buenos Ayres West.	694	684	—1	Do 1st Pref.	43	42	—1
Canadian Pacific	158	159	+1	Do 2nd Pref.	27	27	—
Central Argentine	654	654	—	San Paulo	126	126	—
Grand Trunk Ord.	18	18	—	United Havana	654	644	—1

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5% 1886-7	99	99	—	Greek 4% 1888	354	354	—
Belgian 3%	70	70	—	Japanese 4½%	107	105	—2
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	73	73	—	Do 4% 1910	69	69	—
Chilian 4½% 1895	81	81	—	Mexican Cons. 1892	62	61	—1
Do 7½% 1912	106	105	—1	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	26	26	—
Chinese 5% 1912	76	76	—	Russian 5% 1906	104	104	—
Egyptian 4%	70	71	+1	Spanish 4%	79	79	—
French 5%	39	37	—2	Seine (Dept.) 7%	982	96	—23
Do 4%	30	28	—2	Siamese 7%	108	108	—

Telegraphs.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A"	234	234	—	Marconi Canada	184	184	—
Marconi Wireless	24	24	—	Marconi Marine	184	184	—

British Railways.

Great Central Pref.	244	25	—	Metropolitan District	394	394	—
Great Eastern	394	394	—	Midland Deferred	68	67	—1
Great Northern Def.	464	464	—	North British Def.	194	194	—
Great Western	1064	1034	—30	North-Eastern	124	124	—
London, Brighton, "A"	624	62	—	South-Eastern "A"	364	364	—
London, Chatham	84	8	—	Underground Electric	24	24	—
L. and N.W. (New)	1034	1024	—10	Do "A" (1/1)	74	74	—
L. & S. Western, Def.	294	29	—	Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	84	84	—
Metropolitan	504	524	+20				

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio	85	85	—	Southern	29	29	—
Erie	20	20	—	Do Non-cum Pref.	68	68	—
Do 4½ 1st Pref.	30	30	—				

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1)	184	184	—	Imperial Tobacco (£1)	34	34	—
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	54	54	—	Linggi Plantations (£1)	14	14	—
Armstrong (St. W. & Co. (£1))	15/6	16/	+1/6	Lipton (£1)	14	14	—
Ass. Portland Cement (£1)	16/	15/9	—3/4	Lever Bros. 7% Cmp (£1)	84	84	—
B'ham Small Arms (£1)	9/9	9/	—9	Do 8% Cmp A Prf (£1)	84	84	—
Brazil Traction (£100)	494	50	—	Do 20% Cmp Prf (£1)	84	84	—
British-American Tobacco (£1)	444	444	—	Lister (£1)	14	14	—
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	144	144	—	Lobitos Oilfields (£1)	54	54	—
Burnham Oil (£1)	54	54	—	Lyons J. & Co. (£1)	44	44	—
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	34	34	—	Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.)	34	34	—
Courtaulds (£1)	24	24	—	Mexican Eagle (£10)	34	34	—
Cunard (£1)	1	1	—	Pekin (2/)	84	84	—
Dorman Long (£1)	4	4	—	Rubber Plantations Investment (£1)	44	44	—
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	14	14	—	Shell Transport (£1)	44	44	—
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	14	14	—	Smithfield & Argentines Meat (£1)	44	44	—
Forestal Land (£1)	14	14	—	United Serdang (2/)	44	44	—
Furness, Withy (£1)	14	14	—	United Tobacco (£1)	14	14	—
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1)	14	14	—	Vallambrosa (2/)	44	44	—
Hudson's Bay (£1)	64	64	—	Vickers (£1)	34	34	—
				Watney Def. Shk.	239	243	+4

Mines.

Brakpan (£1)	214	214	—	Knights	34	34	—
Broken Hill Prop. (3/)	14	14	—	Modderfontein (10/)	14	14	—
Chartered Gold Fields (£1)	44	44	—	Modderfont. "B" (5/)	14	14	—
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	44	44	—	Modderfont. Deep (5/)	24	24	—
Crown Mines (10/)	24	24	—	Premier Def. (2/6)	44	44	—
De Beers Def. (£24)	114	114	—	Rand Mines (5/)	24	24	—
East Rand Prop. (£1)	44	44	—	Rio Tinto (£5)	274	274	—
Geduld (£1)	34	34	—	Spring Mines (£1)	24	24	—
Gov. Gold Areas (£1)	54	54	—				

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim div.		Method of Payment.		
	Final.	Date of Payment.			
Railways.					
Canadian Pacific.....	10	Sept. 30		%	%
Cathart District.....	4/ p.s.	Sept. 2	Less tax	..	..
Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.....	1%*	..	Less tax	..	..
Banks.					
Bank of Toronto.....	3%	Sept. 1		..	..
British Linen Bank.....	16	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.					
New Zealand Insurance.....	8 p.s.	..	..	..	..
Mining.					
Wankie Colliery.....	5%*	Aug. 29	Less tax	..	..
Witbank Colliery.....	10%	Aug. 31	Less tax	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Poonagalla Valley Tea.....	7½*	Aug. 16	Less tax	..	..
Other Companies.					
Anchor Line.....			Tax free	5	10
British American Tobacco.....	4 %*	Sept. 30	Free of British tax	..	..
Cleethorpes Gas.....	7	..	..	..	..
D. Davis and Sons, Pref.....	6*	Aug. 12	Less tax	..	..
Eastman Kodak.....	\$11 p.s.	Oct. 2	..	nil	5
Ebbw Vale Steel, &c.....		..	Less tax	7½	7½
Glasgow American Trust.....	2½	..	..	..	..
Glodwick Spinning.....	2½	..	..	..	..
Harrods.....	5*	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..
H. Williams and Co.....	8*	..	..	..	..
International Investment, Def.....	5*	..	Less tax	..	..
John Oakey and Sons.....	2½*	Sept. 1	Less tax	12½	..
Kay's Atlas Brewery.....	3½†	..	..	..	..
Liverpool Lifting.....	2½*	..	Less tax	..	..
Pim Brothers.....	6*	..	..	..	..
Ropner Shipping.....	8	..	..	5	..
Scottish Assets.....	8	..	..	8	8
Sheffield Gas "A," "B," & "C".....	2½*	..	..	..	..
Sutton District Water.....	10*	Aug. 18	Less tax	..	..
Swan, Hunter, and Wigham.....		..	..	..	..
Richardson.....	3%*	..	Tax free	..	..
Switzer and Co.....	6*	..	Tax free	..	..
United Strip and Bar Mills, Pref.....	8	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..
Walkers, Parker, and Co.....	5*	..	..	..	..
Waste Heat and Gas.....	1½%*	Aug. 31	Less tax	..	..
Welsh Navigation Steam Coal, Pref.....	7½*	Aug. 12	Less tax	..	..
West Cheshire Water.....	5*	..	..	..	..
Western and Hawaiian Investment.....	8%†	..	Subject to tax.	16	..
Worthing Gas.....	2½%	..	..	..	..

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS, LIMITED.

INDUSTRY'S BURDEN OF TAXATION.
NATION'S REVENUE FROM LIQUOR INDUSTRY.
PROHIBITION AND RELIGION.

The 35th annual general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the White Horse Hotel, Birmingham, on the 17th instant, under the presidency of Mr W. Waters Butler.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I trust, as stated in the report, the shareholders will consider that the balance-sheet which is to be submitted for your approval to-day may be looked upon as satisfactory, considering the stagnation of industry which has prevailed throughout the year, and particularly in the area in which the trading operations of the company are mainly carried on. No district has felt more acutely the steep and sudden slump which has followed the short period of trade boom after the war.

The items of the balance-sheet call for no special mention by me, but I shall be pleased, at a later stage in our proceedings, to give information upon them should any shareholder desire it. You may rest assured that every normal contingency in connection with our liabilities has been provided for, and that the assets are taken at less than present-day market valuations.

IMPROVING LICENSING CONDITIONS.

Notwithstanding the depressing trade conditions, the company has maintained its properties and plant in the highest state of repair and efficiency. We have continued to collaborate with the Licensing Justices in Birmingham in bringing about improved licensing conditions and better service to the public, by the closing of smaller licensed properties, the structure of which is not up to modern requirements, and in return facilities have been granted for the provision of larger and more modern premises. As evidence of the extent of this work we have, during the past five years, voluntarily closed, or agreed to close, no fewer than 103 licensed houses in addition to the licences which have been scheduled by the Licensing Justices under the Compensation Act. Our large ownership in the City of Birmingham makes it possible for us to facilitate this better distribution of licences, but such operations entail very heavy expenditure, particularly in these days of high building costs.

The decline in general trade has not only resulted in a great increase in total unemployment, but also has brought about much short time accompanied by a heavy reduction in the rate of wages, consequently greatly decreasing the spending power of consumers. Unfortunately, with this severe depletion of the consumer's pocket, the burden of war taxation, and, in the case of this trade, of post-war taxation, has not been lightened, as it was confidently anticipated would take place in the last Budget.

It is quite true, as stated by the Chancellor in his Budget speech, "The burdens of taxation which have been borne by the British people, both during and since the war, in a degree that has excited the admiration of the whole world, are now felt to be so oppressive as to check enterprise and deepen despondency."

TAXATION AND THE INDUSTRY.

To no industry do these words apply in greater measure than to that in which we are engaged, and to no section of the community more particularly than to the consumers of beer. The demand for our goods fluctuates with the state of industry generally, although the decline in the output of beer falls more rapidly than the reduction in the earning power of the consumer, for the reason that whether the consumer is earning much or little, the first claim upon those earnings is the cost of the home, and this is further accentuated if his requirements during the time of short earnings are being sold at the same unit of price which prevailed when his earnings were much higher. Beer occupies this position, in consequence of the maintenance of the heavy duties imposed upon it, and which, if they could have been justified at the time they were imposed, under the prevailing conditions make the purchase of the article almost prohibitive. This is readily understood when it is realised that at the time of the last addition of duty, namely, in April, 1920, when the duty was raised from £3 10s to £5 per standard barrel, as against a pre-war duty of 7s 9d per standard barrel, making the duty nearly thirteen times greater than pre-war, the amount of trade union unemployment was then less than one per cent. of the membership of the trades unions, whereas, at the time of the introduction of the Budget last year, the figure rose to over 17 per cent. This appalling percentage has been maintained practically throughout our financial year, with a far lower rate of wage prevailing than in 1920.

There is no doubt that when the latest agreed reductions of wages in the engineering trades are in full operation, a workman, even on full time, will have, after meeting the other requirements of his household, a mere fraction of what he had to spend when beer was a penny a pint cheaper than to-day, namely, before the increase in beer duty from £3 10s. to £5 per standard barrel in April, 1920—a date when he was fully employed. How he is now, working short time, to obtain his heavily taxed tobacco, beer, and amusements is difficult to discover. Mr Lloyd George a few days ago stated as a favourable fact "that high taxation has made excessive drinking more inaccessible." It would have been more correct if he had said that the present onerous taxation had almost made prohibitive the purchase of alcoholic beverages by the most temperate consumer.

DROP IN OUTPUT AND CONSUMPTION OF BEER.

Consequently, one is not surprised at the big drop in the annual output of beer throughout the country, with very little indication of that downward tendency being checked; so much so that the Chancellor, in his Budget statement, appears to anticipate a reduction of 15 per cent. in the consumption of beer, and also a small decrease in spirits.

It was confidently anticipated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would see his way clear to effect a reduction of 30s per standard barrel, which would not only have permitted the consumer to have had his beer at 1d per pint less, but also of a better quality, as the increased consumption which would have resulted from a reduction in the retail price would have enabled us by the consequent reduction in overhead charges to have improved the strength of beer to a greater extent than the lower costs of manufacture are enabling us to do at the present time.

And here let me say the opponents of the trade are giving the impression that the consumer is not benefiting by the reduction in the cost of brewing materials and other costs of production. This company alone, during its past financial year, has improved the quality of its beer at an additional net cost of more than £150,000 without any increase in the prices to retailer or consumer. Your board will continue to maintain their practice of giving the quality of the article their first consideration, and that quality is improved as diminishing costs of production permit. Reports from traders and consumers indicate that our ales and stouts, both in cask and bottle, are unexcelled in quality.

REDUCTION OF BEER DUTY.

The Chancellor gave as his reason for not being able to reduce the duty on beer that it would probably result in a decreased revenue to the State of £22,000,000, even if the reduction of the duty resulted in an increase in consumption of 10 per cent. But surely against this theoretical loss of £22,000,000 should be set the fact that such increased output would have necessitated not only the production and use of at least 10 per cent. more brewing materials, but also a large increase in the number of persons employed in breweries, maltings, transport, and the allied trades, thereby decreasing unemployment doles and Poor Law relief. Furthermore, it would have checked the rapidly decreasing fall in the rateable value of licensed premises, thereby avoiding the diminution in the local rates, which must inevitably continue unless sales can be increased by the removal of the present prohibitive duties.

I have not the slightest doubt that had the Chancellor not have said that if he granted the 30s per barrel reduction in beer duties, he would have to withdraw the relief of 1s in the £ off income-tax, the large number of members of Parliament who had pledged themselves before this declaration to vote for a reduction of the beer duty would have done so.

I take the view that the heavy duties on beer and spirits were imposed during the war as an easy method of indirectly collecting income-tax from the working classes. If it were contended that at that time the earnings of the workers justified the imposition, to-day means be looked upon as occupying a position of ability to pay income-tax, and the levy of income-tax, I have always understood, is based and scaled upon ability to pay.

While all agree that the annual national expenditure should be balanced by the revenue of the year, and that a high rate of income-tax does check enterprise, it is equally certain that beer—which, no matter what our teetotal friends may say, is looked upon as a

necessity by the workers—when so costly as now, tends to the creation of unrest rather than the fostering of goodwill, which is so essential.

THE CHURCHES AND PROHIBITION.

I hope that the campaign of the Prohibitionist party which is to be put into operation mainly through the churches and chapels during the coming autumn will meet with the strongest opposition from the congregations, who have not been consulted as a body, nor their approval obtained for such a contentious matter as prohibition being promoted from the pulpit under the cover of temperance.

The moment our places of worship are used for propaganda in connection with acute contentious matters rather than for the promotion of a spirit of unity and Christian charity, then the power of such churches and chapels in their proper sphere of work must assuredly be weakened. One cannot imagine that the clergy of the many denominations whose aid is to be sought in this hypocritical work will fail to realise the false character of "local veto," or that they will be parties to its advancement.

CHURCHMAN'S VIEWS ON PROHIBITION.

Why I so emphasise the hypocritical character of this movement is that temperance is to be used to cover up Prohibition or compulsory abstinence. Seeing that the clergy are to be recruited for this propaganda work, it may interest them and others to know the views of a clergyman of high standing, which he has expressed as follows:—

"What is the altogether untenable position of the Prohibition advocates? It is this: If they argue that wine (alcoholic drinks) is an evil in itself, then absolute Prohibition, even for sacramental purposes, should emphatically follow; but this argument transfers responsibility from the agent to the instrument, and so destroys morality; moreover, it is contrary to Scripture, and the emphatic teaching and example of Christ, who used wine Himself."

If they argue that wine, or alcoholic drink, is not an evil in itself, then regulation of its traffic is surely the moral course to adopt. But if Prohibition is urged on account of the misuse which some make of it, then, on the same principle, printing, the theatre, and dancing should be prohibited. All this, of course, is absurd. The position of the prohibitionist is accordingly against logic and common sense.

REFORM, NOT PROHIBITION, NECESSARY.

Reform is needed—not Prohibition—reform, wise and moderate and patient in the light of experience, education, and true morality; in the interests of the great body of the public, and especially of moderate men, who constitute the majority of the people. The whole scheme of National Prohibition is a great step backward; it would be an odious and inquisitorial tyranny, foreign to the basic principle and spirit of British Law.

Prohibition is indeed fatal to Liberty, because it involves a serious outrage against the natural rights and liberties of individuals, and contemptuously disregards the claims of dissenting minorities. It is also fatal to Temperance, though not a few ingenuitously confound Temperance with Prohibition. Temperance is a growth, like all moral laws, in the individual and the community. Temperance is positive and appeals to man's sense of self-control, to his reason and conscience. Prohibition is of self-control, to his reason and conscience. Prohibition is negative and appeals to the sense of fear, to pains and penalties, and utterly ignores man's habits and education. Temperance is and is utterly ignores man's habits and education. Temperance is the development of man's righteousness and self-control. Prohibition is the reduction of man to a position of compulsory abstinence by the Criminal Law. Temperance is national total abstinence by the Criminal Law. Temperance is the heritage and blessing of a free people. Prohibition is the yoke which a country constructs for itself when it confesses its inability

to self-control, and from which it will take long years to free itself. Temperance is the badge of self-respect and orderliness. Prohibition is the symbol of hypocrisy and deception. All the secret encouragement to sly drinking, the utter lack of control, the absence of all authority, the vile decoctions served, are sure to generate a low moral atmosphere of great mischief. And such places of sly drinking greatly appeal to the young. Once let a young man become contaminated by the moral tone of the "sly grogs," he will be damaged morally, if not utterly ruined. Prohibition will undoubtedly generate lawlessness. Its extreme character, its far-reaching measures, its enormous penalties, stamp it as a grinding despotism—the fruitful parent of disorder. Prohibition is as despotic as any law of the worst despot. It utterly disregards and tramples under foot the undoubted rights of minorities, whom it grossly insults by the way it flaunts their wishes and destroys their privileges. The minority under it would obey, or suffer outrageous penalties. Wherever it prevails it is monstrous in every way and grossly insulting to the intelligence of the large minority. One extreme begets another. Prohibition will plunge us into a course of folly, bringing turmoil into the politics of the country, perjury and evasion into the courts, and deception into the people."

THE POWER OF ORGANISED MINORITY.

I think all will agree that it would be difficult for anyone to more fully state what Prohibition stands for and would result in. The *Daily Chronicle* rightly says one of the weakest points of democracy "is the power which a small organised minority has to injure the great inert majority while the latter are napping." This is well illustrated by the declaration of Americans who confess that indifference and failure to organise against the methods of a highly organised and abundantly financed movement permitted Prohibition to come about, which would never have happened had they been awake to what was developing.

It behoves each shareholder and everyone directly or indirectly interested in the trade, and all who value personal liberty, to render the fullest support by personally combating teetotal propaganda, no matter whether it may appear in church, chapel, or market-place, for it must be fully realised that the forces of our opponents are being concentrated for a big attack.

STATE'S REVENUE FROM THE INDUSTRY.

Outside the question of the value and need of the licensed trade in meeting the daily requirements of the majority of the people of this country, few realise the amount of net revenue the State derives from the consumers of alcoholic beverages. Last year the net revenue from beer, spirits, wines, and licences was £191,870,000, in addition to which large sums were paid in the form of income-tax, corporation profits tax, and local rates, the latter based on annual values largely in excess of ordinary property. The contribution to the national revenue alone represents a sum nearly equivalent to an income-tax of 4s in the £, and is far in excess of the amounts necessary to pay not only the pensions brought about by the war, but also the old-age pensions and the greater part of the cost of public education. Although one cannot put forward the amount of revenue derived from the trade as a reason for its continuance, still, it is well, particularly in these times of excessive taxation, that taxpayers should realise how this huge loss of revenue could be made good if Prohibition came about, and be as readily collected as to-day. Although, as on previous occasions, I condemn indirect taxation as being very costly from the consumer's point of view, I must agree that it is easier to collect beer and spirit duties than it would be to exact income-tax, say, at the rate of 9s. in the £, even if accompanied by the doubtful blessings of Prohibition.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK,
LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

I hope the lengthy remarks I have made this morning will not make the shareholders feel in a pessimistic mood. I can assure them that our business was never in a sounder condition than it is today, and its prosperity will be increased with a revival in the general trade of the country, which I trust will be soon apparent, and thereby alleviate the suffering brought about by unemployment which, unfortunately, is so prevalent.

With these remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I beg to move the adoption of the report, and will ask Mr H. W. Bainbridge to second the resolution.

Mr. H. W. Bainbridge seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director and the auditors having been re-elected, the usual formal business terminated the proceedings.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1922, to Aug. 12, 1922.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1921, to Aug. 13, 1921.	Receipts. Week Ended Aug. 12, 1922.	Receipts. Week Ended Aug. 13, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	112,250,000	46,355,000	45,904,000	2,038,000	2,635,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	50,630,000	62,875,000	1,154,300	1,455,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	2,657,000	2,205,000	118,000	..
Stamps.....	48,000,000	23,771,000	16,599,000	690,000	873,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	18,250,000	5,442,000	5,076,000	500,000	681,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax)...	329,000,000	101,622,000	106,164,000	7,112,000	5,877,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	23,844,000	..	560,000
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	5,427,000	3,850,000	260,000	200,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	18,802,000	16,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands.....	750,000	280,000	210,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	3,517,666	4,243,260	..	87,119
Miscellaneous.....	..	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts...	22,000,000	14,590,931	8,181,400	100,000	410,550
Special Receipts...	90,000,000	20,539,667	35,621,629	500,000	3,529,559
Revenue.....	910,775,000	295,166,261	331,693,283	13,722,000	17,558,228
Total, Inc. Balance ..	..	306,279,794	334,167,795	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	800,000	3,000,000	..	303,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	2,500,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921.....	..	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	13,000	25,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	1,450,000	2,345,000	..	..
(c) For other issues: By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,093,041,000	1,676,263,000	50,482,000	65,486,000	..
By National Savings Certificates ..	32,438,000	13,430,000	750,000	950,000	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	20	5	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35.....	..	1,024,990	..	..	..
5%, 1927.....	..	1,640,000	..	2,560,000	..
4½%, 1932.....	..	61,422,074	..	..	..
4½%, 1932.....	..	50,144,508	..	6,019,355	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	..	11,869	4,926,776	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	318,490,500	466,574,000	2,000,000	20,500,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921.....	..	172,628	28,811	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	..	265,460	1,677,000	..	26,750
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	..	162,425	163,156	..	77,624
Total.....	1,669,266,098	2,520,893,033	72,973,355	108,458,602	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Aug. 12, 1922.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1921, to Aug. 13, 1921.	Issues. Week Ended Aug. 12, 1922.	Issues. Week Ended Aug. 13, 1921.
EXPENDITURE.					
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	6,429,574	6,302,877	8,007	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	108,608,631	129,549,461	287,384	1,018,761
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	1,333,999	1,904,000	..	354,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	1,620,000	2,025,992	500,000	500,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	2,500,000	547,811	745,475	..	..
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	499,862	1,495,868	2,329	207,166
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,650,000	1,051,891	745,475	..	..
Supply Services.....	599,999,000	143,739,674	236,447,474	6,850,000	6,910,000
Expenditure.....	893,437,000	263,831,442	378,474,147	7,647,720	8,989,867

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Aug. 12, 1922.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1921, to Aug. 13, 1921.	Issues. Week Ended Aug. 12, 1922.	Issues. Week Ended Aug. 13, 1921.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion.....	..	4,850,000	..	150,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,600,000	2,890,000	..	315,000
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921.....	2,000,000	2,600,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	13,000	25,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed—				
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply.....	1,248,369,000	1,605,086,000	64,265,000	77,660,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919.....	4,671,377	15,763,633	..	522,544
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	2,750,000	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	10,250,000	6,400,000	450,000	600,000
(b) Repaid otherwise.....	..	5,600,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5%, 1922, £20,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.....	19,612,188	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....	9,444,601	23,839,798	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	299,836,500	457,789,000	550,000	18,900,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919.....	399,521	10,280,067	..	800,000
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4).....	243,012	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	6,240,000	..	500,000
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England.....	1,865,311,206	2,518,011,224	72,912,720	108,437,411
Bank of Ireland.....	2,018,233	2,024,218	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,936,659	857,591	..	..
Total.....	3,954,892	2,881,809	60,335	21,151

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Bank of England Balance.
1914.								
Aug. 26.....	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	..	11,423
Dec. 26.....	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	..	9,286
1915.								
Dec. 29.....	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	46½	54,621	20,536
Dec. 27.....	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	19½	118,102	6,868
Dec. 21.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	13½	186,637	5,486
Dec. 31.....	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	8½	305,133	4,566
1920.								
Dec. 29.....	367,626	16,962	..	245	28,500	9½	337,537	2,802
1921.								
Mar. 30.....	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	..	28,500	13½	336,504	134
June 29.....	323,884	14,965	..	..	28,500	13½	311,334	141
Sept. 28.....	314,382	14,830	..	..	28,500	14½	287,750	150
Dec. 28.....	325,584	14,658	..	..	28,500	15½	278,119	143
1922.								
Mar. 30.....	300,351	14,255	..	5,000	28,500	14½	289,131	161
June 29.....	295,374	13,338	..	..	28,500	15½	261,479	177
July 27.....	296,447	12,883	..	..	28,500	16½	254,312	260
Aug. 3.....	299,730	12,915	..	..	27,000	16½	253,995	185
Aug. 10.....	302,095	13,100	..	..	27,000	16½	257,343	152
Aug. 17.....	298,927	13,107	..	..	27,000	16½	256,903	142

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, August 21-August 26, were opened on August 18, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £65,335,000. 92 per cent. and above in full. Saturday bills at £99 7s 2d and £2 11s 0½d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, nil, in bills at 3 months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
1922.				
June 30.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11-55	98 4 4-8
July 7.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,265,000	1 13 4-65	98 5 10-8
July 14.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10-6	99 0 5-16
July 21.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10-8	100 4 11-4
July 28.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6-41	100 14 0
Aug. 4.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10-76	100 6 5-42
Aug. 11.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,795,000	2 2 0-99	100 3 1-44
Aug. 18.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 65,335,000	2 11 0-17	None allotted

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, August 25, 1922, for Treasury bonds and Treasury bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between bills and bonds in such proportion as their Lordships may determine.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1894.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 16, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government debt ..	£
Notes issued	144,031,475	Other securities.....	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	125,581,475
	144,031,475		144,031,475

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government securities	£
Capital	14,553,000	Other securities.....	79,618,460
Reserve	3,517,480	Notes	19,770,045
Public deposits*	14,168,990	Gold and silver coin..	1,826,185
Other deposits	111,587,816		
Seven-day & other bills	16,206		
	143,843,492		143,843,492

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Aug. 16, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Best	3,517,480	+ 34,398	+ 20,572
Public deposits	14,168,990	+ 2,069,929	+ 3,116,274
Other deposits	111,587,816	+ 7,067,604	+ 10,958,860
Government securities	42,628,802	+ 403,703	+ 15,111,633
Other securities	79,618,460	+ 4,168,070	+ 53,088
Reserve	21,596,230	+ 1,288,560	+ 974,235
Note circulation	124,261,430	+ 1,280,780	+ 1,973,695
Coin and bullion	127,407,660	+ 7,780	+ 999,460
% of reserve to liabilities	174%	+ 2%	+ 28%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.
1922.						
May 24.....	128,880,842	120,889,975	132,436,093	123,780,787	26,440,867	90%

BANK OF SPAIN.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	Aug. 13, 1922.
Gold	2,523,413	2,523,429	2,523,391	2,523,351	2,523,351
Silver	646,264	647,649	650,503	648,837	648,837
Loans and advs.	2,133,034	2,145,269	2,172,594	2,157,056	2,016,162
Spanish 4% stock	344,474	344,474	344,474	344,474	344,474
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES					
Circulation	4,169,394	4,169,430	4,128,196	4,146,791	4,211,375
Deposits	1,161,442	1,160,696	1,166,595	1,176,858	1,060,881
Position May 30, 1914					1,901,550

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	June 28, 1922.	June 13, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	June 28, 1922.
Gold and balances abroad	1,385,350	1,389,171	1,388,159	1,373,759	1,375,129
Government loans and securities	2,701,399	2,702,164	2,860,974	2,871,858	1,757,596
Discounts and loans	873,786	815,290	792,232	806,336	776,401
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	1,426,046	1,484,387	1,484,387	1,407,394	1,743,889
Government deposits	972,994	1,099,050	1,356,000	1,486,303	113,039
Private sight deposits	885,466	862,531	793,327	781,473	858,222
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,009,955	1,010,817	1,010,745	1,010,057	816,224

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	Position May 30, 1914
Gold	1,004,860	1,004,859	1,004,859	1,091,557	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	14,258	321,920
Silver	19,990	20,371	20,371	19,967	943,640
Treasury notes	13,083,023	9,511,163	10,789,974	5,397,594	60,780
Bill discounted	207,858,232	196,017,638	195,214,961	81,117,496	
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	189,794,722	177,027,024	175,437,418	77,390,853	2,013,860
Deposits	39,976,216	35,603,336	36,275,651	15,824,156	842,340

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 10, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	July 10, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914
Total cash	1,322,923	1,381,222	1,372,156	1,363,773	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,431,661	4,539,110	4,389,521	4,317,392	418,400
Foreign bills	9,754	9,813	9,858	9,812	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,149,893	6,147,274	6,002,182	6,044,818	6,407,490
Other advances	2,762,280	2,975,031	2,760,894	2,545,475	2,432,733
Securities	533,717	533,609	533,558	535,081	392,753
LIABILITIES					
Note circulation	14,156,094	13,932,430	13,505,440	13,360,765	15,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,937,826	2,011,091	2,043,644	1,778,908	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 14, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 24, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1921.
Gold	605,954	605,954	605,954	605,954	163,092
Silver	8,528	8,528	8,528	8,528	11,006
Drcts. & advs.	377,322	379,304	369,848	399,256	8,436
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulat'n.	972,769	983,092	990,314	978,576	1,004,597
Deposits	43,536	36,338	34,957	73,605	57,041

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 8, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	June 3, 1922.	July 9, 1921.
Gold	510,835	495,483	495,470	495,451	292
Silver, &c.	665	530	376	427	982
Government loan	12,527,698	12,498,215	12,522,810	12,522,810	10,243,384
Other advances	2,798,791	2,641,986	2,666,178	2,771,429	3,125,390
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	14,147,162	14,106,890	14,111,324	14,130,339	11,088,055
Deposits	6,023,900	5,849,509	5,876,052	5,962,173	6,222,987

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	Aug. 6, 1921.
Gold	518,026	519,409	523,667	524,451	544,442
Silver	115,888	116,282	116,335	116,865	110,711
Darlehens-Kassen.	12,187	12,138	12,114	12,097	12,938
Assets & advances	326,532	322,773	311,379	308,628	323,552
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulat'n	752,653	769,113	729,121	742,624	913,601
Deposits	280,772	231,385	263,224	255,660	93,684

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to July 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.20,383,168, of which Fr.12,138,675 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	Aug. 13, 1921.
Gold	273,888	273,909	273,917	273,930	285,061
Silver	78,632	78,738	78,590	77,965	106,686
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	72,992	72,840	72,843	72,557	14,850
Discount and loans	399,476	411,907	408,719	412,792	427,625
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulat'n	530,230	545,633	534,996	514,816	607,103
Deposits at notice	231,030	230,289	237,621	258,411	173,016

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 10, 1922.	Aug. 3, 1922.	July 27, 1922.	July 18, 1922.	Aug. 3, 1921.
Gold & silver and bullion	333,245	332,072	332,012	330,763	325,178
Securities	475,061	462,783	496,353	481,638	596,306
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulat'n	6,420,836	6,402,678	6,327,881	6,287,335	6,170,097
Current accounts	598,726	614,502	722,449	761,223	934,150

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)				
Assets.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 23, 1922.	July 15, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	1,334	1,371	1,553	1,328
Silver coin	21	21	21	20
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	276,595,446	255,116,505	233,398,809	213,779,401
Loans	1,153,514	1,214,972	1,303,381	1,181,152
LIABILITIES				
Notes in circulation	833,471,496	786,225,601	691,770,477	616,861,131
Deposits	72,876,490	36,688,849	58,684,609	40,974,165

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)				
Assets.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 23, 1922.	July 15, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	12,925	13,048	12,990	13,150
Silver coin, &c.	597	597	597	597
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	30,777,555	28,782,928	27,014,151	25,495,627
Loans	1,763,211	1,546,432	1,513,358	1,555,027
LIABILITIES				
Notes in circulation	40,949,355	38,357,359	35,867,485	35,103,483
Deposits	4,263,579	3,929,134	3,731,554	3,880,712

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914
Coin and bullion	228,304	228,310	228,324	227,564	76,644
Loans & discounts	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	88,470
Debtors abroad	25,939	23,459	16,215	14,830	24,102
Securities	16,298	14,014	14,521	15,843	11,988
LIABILITIES					
Circulation	432,305	441,940	438,743	451,790	157,266
Deposits	142,399	119,028	114,766	128,857	6,696

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,291	44,224
Bills	39,057	38,592	38,791	29,730	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,780	9,814	9,814	8,512	8,816
Discounts and loans	438,033	445,281	439,007	423,883	76,911
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	379,479	382,407	379,447	421,943	113,484
Deposits at notice	132,537	136,940	134,639	80,442	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922, his day included.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 21, 1922.	July 14, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 22, 1921.
Govt. securities	13,08,24	12,37,70	12,83,31	12,38,38	13,18,58
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,59
Loans	14,54,38	14,71,98	14,35,16	14,20,91	15,50,67
Cash credits	25,44,64	25,89,20	25,82,78	26,23,93	21,90,72
Inland bills	4,15,45	4,38,50	4,51,99	4,66,08	11,20,72
Foreign bills	17,82	12,72	5,17	4,18	4,79
Bullion	2,43,65	2,42,48	2,42,39	2,47,26	2,09,99
Dead stock	24,38	32,89	34,08	92,44	28,31
Surpluses with other banks	15,26	17,67	15,75	6,03	15,24
Cash	39,71,52	36,12,84	33,92,06	33,91,85	35,02,35
LIABILITIES					
Subscribed capital	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	10,79,00
Capital paid up	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,61,00
Reserve	4,11,85	4,11,83	4,01,83	4,01,83	3,71,63
Public deposits	31,14,58	27,93,45	26,80,41	26,80,41	18,60,21
Other deposits	59,44,49	58,87,92	60,41,43	60,41,43	69,52,46
Loans against securities	50,23	50,33	50,03	49,83	79,93
Loans from Govt. of India	40,72	78,38	78,24	1,71,58	69,13
The above includes—					
Deposits in London	125	131	122	60	54
Advances in London	351	352	356	351	575
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	95	111	100	35	94

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 8, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	137,675	122,309	122,978	378,776	90,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities	707,896	708,555	718,554	906,939	21,826
Discounts and loans	819,070	798,689	800,772	359,747	105,151
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	1,337,563	1,340,382	1,320,865	1,353,034	123,941
Deposits at notice	117,349	91,366	123,351	101,415	21,225

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

NATIONAL BANK.						
(000's omitted.)						
ASSETS.						
	June 20, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	May 10, 1922.	June 1921.	
	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	
Gold.....	30,824	30,121				
Silver.....	44,058	44,015	83,879		29,649	143,395
Foreign coin.....	153,656	130,179	43,216		43,694	39,395
Foreign banks.....	19,176	23,494	159,223		146,392	146,392
Advances to the Govt.....	225,000	217,000	217,000		220,000	895,000
Private loans and discounts.....	64,932,972	60,622,650			60,430,620	130,620
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	285,677,146	275,001,108	267,096,561		266,547,602	102,600
Deposits.....	50,050,676	51,649,766	53,613,000		56,227,595	6,863

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	Aug. 18, 1921.	Aug. 3, 1922.	Aug. 10, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	3.82	0.30	0.245
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123.45	6.95	0.61	0.4925
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88.88	7.26	0.531	0.435
Stockholm			5.60	0.4405	0.356
Christiania			9.25	0.6726	0.541

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £1	10.00	Sight London	Aug. 12 20.50
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	25.25	"	Aug. 8 24.05
Colombia (Bogota) ..	Dollars to £20	100	"	Aug. 14 98.50
Nicaragua	Colonos to £1	4.8665	"	July 22 4.60
San Salvador	Pesos to £1	9.73	"	July 29 9.30
Guatemala	Colonos to £1	90.23	"	Aug. 12 26.4
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	10.45	"	July 28 19.60
Bolivia	Pence to Bolivianos	19.20	"	July 1 15.4

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	June 15, 1922.		June 30, 1922.		July 15, 1922.	
		Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
London.....	£1	1,138	1,158	1,118	1,138	1,135	1,155
New York.....	\$1	2524	258	2524	2584	254	260
Paris.....	100 frs.	2,275	2,275	2,100	2,150	2,075	2,125
Brussels.....	100 frs.	2,075	2,125	2,000	2,050	1,975	2,025
Switzerland.....	100 frs.	4,825	4,925	4,800	4,900	4,875	4,975
Stockholm.....	100 kr.	6,600	6,700	6,525	6,625	6,650	6,750
Copenhagen.....	100 kr.	5,550	5,650	5,425	5,525	5,475	5,575
Christiania.....	100 kr.	4,350	4,450	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,300
Prague.....	100 kr.	487	497	483	493	475	485
Amsterdam.....	100 fl.	9,925	10,075	9,750	9,900	9,925	10,075
Berlin.....	100 rmk.	78	83	65	70	51	56
Helsingfors.....	100 fmk.	541	551	577	587	527	537
Reval.....	100 emk.	76	81	76	81	76	81
Warsaw.....	100 pmk.	7	7	6	6	6	6

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
	Buying. Selling.	Buying. Selling.
T.T.	14% prem.	14% dis.
Demand ..	18% prem.	18% dis.
30 days ..	14% prem.	14% dis.
60 days ..	14% prem.	14% dis.
90 days ..	14% prem.	14% dis.
120 days ..	14% prem.	14% dis.

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying. Selling.	Buying. Selling.
T.T.	100% par	100% par
Sight	100% par	100% par
Cable	100% par	100% par
On demand ..	97 1/2	97 1/2
30 days	97	97
60 days	96 1/2	96 1/2
90 days	96	96
120 days	96	96

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.
Outstanding with public ..	54,01,65,000	37,13,00,000
In paper currency reserve ..	57,89,00,000	57,89,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	95,02,00,000

* Sales were discontinued on June 6th.

India Office, August 17, 1922.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended August 16, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £7,780 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.
Countries from which Consigned.	Countries to which Exported.
Week Ended August 16, 1922.	Week Ended August 16, 1922.
British South Africa	British India
Hungary	United States of America
Germany	Norway
British West Africa	Other Countries
Other Countries	
Total value of imports of gold	Total declared value of exports registered in the week
£ 981,451	£ 78,131

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on July 31, 1922:—

In India	£
In England—	Nil
Cash at the Bank of England	£ 362
British Government securities—	
Value as on March 31, 1922	11,401,467
British Government securities since purchased (cost price)	29,178,258
	40,580,087

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

India Office, August 11, 1922.
Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write as follows on August 17th:—

GOLD.

A considerable amount of gold came on offer. Indian requirements being small, the bulk of the supplies was taken for the United States of America. Gold to the value of \$1,290,000 has arrived in New York from London. The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of July, 1922:—Imports, £2,817,880; exports, £9,514,655.

SILVER.

As a consequence of sales by the Indian bazaars and the easier tendency of the Chinese exchanges, the price receded to 34 1/2 on the 14th inst., for both cash and forward delivery. At this point, a sharp recovery was brought about by active sales of sterling by Chinese speculators (the equivalent of buying silver), and quotations yesterday reached 35d for both positions. America has been more inclined to buy than sell, leaving the onus of providing supplies to the Continent and outside sources. The market rather lacks confidence, its prevailing factor having been mainly speculative, and not the requirements of trade. Business between America and this country has become temporarily more difficult, owing to the delay in cable communications caused by the seizure of the Irish cable stations by the Irregulars. Silver acquired under the Pittman Act amounted to 122,246,506 ounces on the 4th inst., including a purchase of 300,000 ounces on that date. It is reported in the Press that the financial commissariat of the Soviet Government has approved a proposal to issue a new currency, consisting of bank notes and silver, beginning on January 1, 1923. In this manner the commissariat proposes to use the silver confiscated from the churches "to relieve the famine." The amount of silver obtainable from such a source is probably a drop in the bucket compared with the currency needs of Bolshevik Russia.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	July 22, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.
Notes in circulation	17,895	18,041	18,061
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,363	8,509	8,525
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion in India	6,515	6,515	6,519
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	585	585	585

The silver coinage during the week ending 7th inst. amounted to three lacs of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 12th inst. consisted of about 38,200,000 ounces in sycee, 33,500,000 ounces in sycee, 32,500,000 dollars, as compared with 37,600,000 the 5th inst. The Shanghai stocks have so increased that they compare favourably with any recorded this year.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.	Silver.	Date.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.		Cash Per Ounce.
Aug. 12 ..	92 5	34 1/2	Aug. 25, 1916	31 1/2
14 ..	92 5	34 1/2	24, 1917	44 1/2
15 ..	92 4	34 1/2	23, 1918	49 1/2
16 ..	92 3	35	22, 1919	60 1/2
17 ..	92 1	34 1/2	20, 1920	63 1/2
18 ..	92 0	34 1/2	19, 1921	38 1/2

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a sub-branch at Bishop Sutton, under the control of Mr W. R. Wadlow (manager Bristol branch).
The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 8

Bank street, Newquay, Cornwall, the resident officer being Mr J. C. Medhurst.

Branches of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, have been opened at Bankstown (New South Wales) and New Plymouth (New Zealand).

The offices of Crédit Foncier d'Algérie et de Tunisie were transferred to 18 St Swithin's lane, E.C. 4, on the 31st ult.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROS.), LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with April 30, 1921.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with April 30, 1921.
Prof. shares	325,000	..	Fleet, wharves, goodwill, &c. ..	6,006,010	+ 1,364,041
Ord. shares	250,000	..	Debts on open account	219,737	+ 60,119
Reserve	1,500,000	+ 100,000	Disbursements on account of current voyages ..	165,953	+ 63,137
Prof. dividends ..	6,256	..	Cash and investments ..	936,570	+ 421,471
Balances on current accounts ..	5,011,042	+ 1,023,175			
Owed on deposit ..	2,872	..			
Voyages pending ..	84,532	..			
Unclaimed divs. ..	209	..			
Profit and loss ..	148,359	+ 14,227			
Total	7,328,270	+ 1,065,826	Total	7,328,270	+ 1,065,826

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JULY, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.	Gold Recovered.	Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Mill.	£	£
Gold.				
Abbotiakoona	7,720	..	13,875	..
Mexico of El Oro	13,513	..	\$249,470	..
Oroville Dredging (18 days to Aug. 7th)	5,900	2,323	\$13,223	..
Planet-Arcurus	8,000	..	9,859	..
Plymouth Consolidated ..	8,382	..	8,979	..
Prentiss Block A	229	179	15,738	..
Rhodesia Gold	11,946	..	823	\$45,444
Santa Gertrudis	56,500	..	37,471	11,946
Shamva	..	..	..	..
	Output	Other Notes in Return.		
Tin.				
Filani (Nigeria)	50	Despatched, 64 tons.	..	..
Naraguta	35 1/2	..	..	..
Renong	..	..	..	..
Copper.				
Poderosa	..	550 metric tons, assaying 27 per cent. copper. Estimated profit, £1,800.	..	..

BRITISH BROKEN HILL.—Mill returns for fortnight ended August 12th:—8,303 tons crude ore produced 1,290 tons lead concentrates, containing 822 tons lead and 34,701 ozs silver; also 1,175 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 86 per cent. lead, 10 ozs silver per ton, and 44 1/2 per cent. zinc. 220 tons carbonates raised. One day's stoppage.

BRITISH PLATINUM.—Cable from the mines' manager states:—"For the four weeks ended August 12th 386 hours' dredging produced 172 ozs platinum and 52 ozs gold. Owing to necessary repairs dredging was suspended for one week."

FALCON.—July:—Crushed, 16,850 tons of ore, producing 27 1/2 short tons of blister copper, containing 2,862 ozs of gold and 5,781 ozs of silver; estimated value copper at £60 per short ton, gold at 90s per ounce, and silver at 3s per ounce, £29,920. In addition to above, concentrates on hand valued at £2,156 unsold, owing to breakdown crane, since repaired.

OROVA LIXES.—Output from June 17th to July 31st:—Tonnage treated, 3,321; total receipts, including royalties, £15,082; expenditure, including purchase of plant, ore, £15,740; expenditure on supervision and maintenance of property and plant, £2,449. Gold premium not included in above receipts. (Office note—The manager explains that the operations during June were unproductive, but that for July they showed a profit on treatment, and that an increased tonnage was expected for August.)

WALT.—Bullion return for the period ended August 5th:—15,342 tons crushed and 4,419 fine ozs of gold and 29,577 fine ozs of silver produced.

Reports and Notices.

Mr James S. Proctor, who has been associated with the Refuge Assurance Company for over 30 years, and who has occupied the position of joint managing director since February, 1914, has been elected chairman of the company, in succession to the late Mr R. Wm. Green.

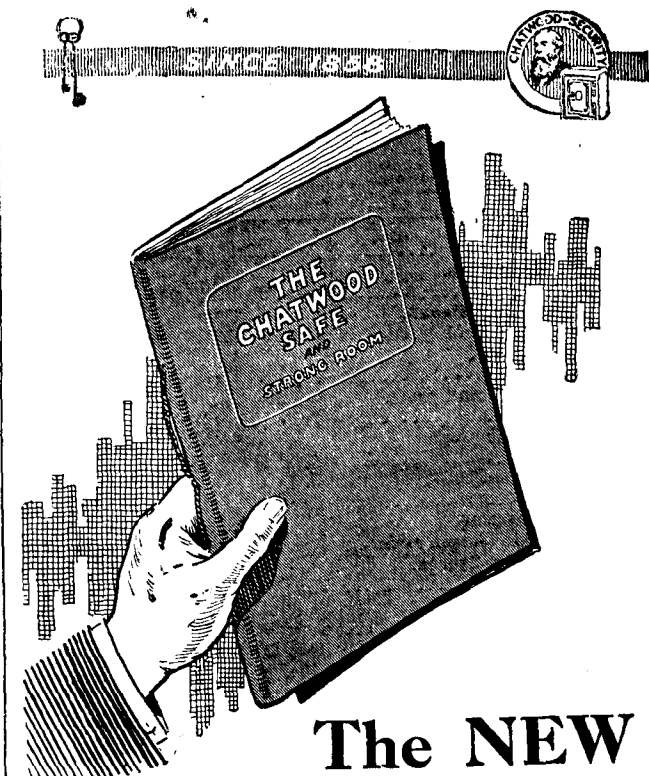
The Meadow Dairy Company, Limited, have opened a branch at 120 Northcote road, Clapham.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY 3 1/2 PER CENT. DEBT.—Tenders of bonds of the above debt for redemption were opened at the office of Messrs Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67 Lombard street, London, E.C., on August 11th, the amount available being £63,558 2s 4d. Tenders received ranged from £56 5s to £63 10s per cent. Tenders at £57 and under were accepted in full.

RAILWAYS.

LEOPOLDINA RAILWAY COMPANY.—It is officially announced that this company has received information by cablegram from their representative in Rio de Janeiro, stating that Congress has now passed the Budget containing the Federal Project of Law, including Port of Victoria, both referred to at length in the chairman's address to the shareholders on June 7th last. The cablegram adds that the Project of Law has been sanctioned by the President of the Republic. The agreement to increase the tariffs has been signed by the authorised representatives of the Federal Government and the Governments of the States of Minas and Rio de Janeiro, and now only awaits formal ratification.



The NEW Chatwood Safe Book

British firms are often criticised abroad that the catalogues issued by them leave much to be desired, since they in no way convey to prospective customers the dignity and standing of the firm and the high standard of their work.

The guiding factor in the preparation of this new catalogue has been a desire to convey something of the quality of work and high ideals of the firm, in the hope that their worth may be gauged in some measure by their aims as well as by their achievements.

We shall be pleased to send a complimentary copy to all those having in their keeping gold, silver, precious stones, securities or records of vital kind—possessions which the lust of thieves, appetite of fire, or destruction by violence may cause to be lost.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE

Since 1858

"Achievement is but another milestone along the highway of progress—the end of the journey lies ever beyond."
THE CHATWOOD TRADITION.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO. Ltd.
Bankers' Engineers.
Head Office & Works, BOLTON, Eng.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.			Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward	Net Profit.
					Prefe.	Ordinary.			
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		Dividend.
Banks.									
Munster and Leinster	June 30*	37,395	90,625	128,020	..	29,000	20	60,000	39,020
Breweries.									
Threlfall's	June 30	223,947	278,875	502,822	25,500	244,769	20	..	204,860
Canals and Docks.									
Humber Graving Dock	June 30	592	5,408	6,000	..	6,000	4	..	..
Gas.									
Leatherhead	June 30	Dr 790	4,257	3,467	..	2,900	6½	..	..
Iron, Steel, and Coal.									
Walter Scott	June 30	10,827	Dr 1,071	9,756	..	..	..	567	Dr 297
Rubber, &c.									
Juru Estates	Mar. 31	3,450	1,480	4,930	..	..	..	..	..
Mondaris (Sumatra)	Dec. 31	2,558	Dr 20,552	Dr 18,224	..	..	..	4,930	..
Travancore	Dec. 31	10,114	3,970	14,084	..	..	..	367	Dr 10,936
Shipping.									
Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.) ..	April 30	109,132	151,738	260,870	12,512	12,500	5½	100,000	135,858
Shops and Stores.									
Waring and Gillow	Jan. 31	231,210	Dr 138,087	93,123	45,000	..	..	8,205	39,918
Tea.									
Attaree Khat	Dec. 31	14,950	Dr 1,617	13,333	..	8,650	10	2,000	2,683
Bargang	Dec. 31	749	5,860	5,111	600	2,200	5	1,000	1,311
Tingri	Dec. 31	8,759	745	9,504	..	5,308	7½	2,000	2,196
Trust.									
Third Scottish American	July 1	22,330	33,086	55,416	..	24,935	8½	5,750	24,731
Waterworks.									
East Worcestershire	June 30*	2,740	3,593	6,333	..	1,660	6½	1,400	3,273
Other Companies.									
Aberdeen University Press	June 30	1,863	1,896	3,759	856	866	12	..	2,037
Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co.	Dec. 31	37,378	Dr 80,974	Dr 43,596	19,250	..	..	6,404	58,024
York Street Flax Spinning	June 30	11,668	87,624	99,292	36,000	48,000	8½	..	15,292

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS, AND CO., LIMITED.—In presenting the accounts for 1921 the directors regret the adverse results, which are due to the severe depression in trade throughout the year, to the prolonged depreciation of foreign exchanges which have made business impossible in several countries (where the company previously had a ready outlet for its manufactures), and to the general fall in values, stocks having been taken at cost or market price, whichever is the lower; these factors are seriously reflected in the accounts, but the directors look forward with confidence to the future when more normal conditions are established. Effect has been given in the accounts in accordance with the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the company held in March last, to the transfer of the company's business in France and Belgium to a company called "Etablissements Ash, Caplain Saint André"; the directors feel that this amalgamation rests upon a sound commercial foundation, and will further strengthen the company's position in those countries. The net profit, as shown by the accounts, is £498; add balance brought from 1920 accounts, £37,378—£37,876; deduct income-tax, £31,473; balance to be carried forward, £6,403. Certain of the pre-war assets in the ex-enemy countries have been realised, but, unfortunately, the agreed award of the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal remains unsettled, and forms part of the outstanding balance of £104,309 15s 8d. In view of the present economic conditions and pending settlement of the company's claims, a transfer of any loss from the general reserve has been made on account of any loss from the pre-war assets in Austria, Hungary, and Turkey. With the sincerest regret, the directors record the death of their esteemed colleague, Mr Claudius James Ash, who had an intimate life-long association with the business.

WALTER SCOTT, LIMITED.—The report for year ended June 30, 1922, shows that the balance of profit brought forward from last year's accounts is £10,826. The operation of the several departments of the company's business for the 12 months, including interest on investments, and after taking into account adjustments on account of war taxation, have resulted in a surplus of £13,430, making £24,256 for disposal. Out of this the following amounts have been provided:—Directors' fees for year to June 30, 1922, £12,000; amount cent. debenture stock for year to June 30, 1922, £2,225. The association, £7,531; leaving to be carried forward, £2,225. The report states that on the conclusion of the national coal strike on June 30, 1921, it was anticipated that there would be a revival in the steel and coal trades, but, unfortunately, this expectation was not realised. The Leeds steel works, after having stood for four and a-half months, was started up in the middle of August on orders that were then in hand, but have only been in operation intermittently during the remainder of the period, owing to the general absence of orders for steel. The result has been that the works have produced less than one-half of their normal output, and this, added to the depreciation in the value of stocks in hand last year, has resulted in a considerable loss. The collieries, with the exception of a few days' standing for want of waggons, have worked every available day, and the output has been largely increased, but not with any satisfactory result. The bye-product plant has been operated with satisfactory results, and has mitigated to a certain extent the loss on the collieries. The trading in all departments of the business in the

second half of the financial year has been distinctly more favourable than in the first six months of the period. The directors have to record with deep regret the death of their esteemed colleague and chairman, Mr J. T. Middleton, which occurred on June 22nd last. His assiduous services in the interests of the company have been invaluable, and his loss will be greatly felt. It is not proposed to fill up the vacancy on the board at present.

Reconstruction in Europe
NO. VI.

Editor - - John Maynard Keynes.

1. The Problem of Population

as viewed by an Economist, a Philosopher and an Historian.

Articles by J. M. Keynes, Benedetto Croce, G. Ferrero.
Articles on the Post-War Population and Vital Statistics of Great Britain, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria.

"The Problem of Population is going to be not merely an economist's problem, but in the near future the greatest of all political questions."

11. Agriculture and Food Supply.

The World's Grain Supplies by Sir Henry Rew;
Articles on Agricultural Conditions throughout Europe.

111. The Peasant Revolution in Eastern Europe.

A series of Striking Articles on the Agrarian Revolution in Russia, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia, Poland and the Baltic States, which, scarcely noticed here, is perhaps the most important economic event since the Armistice.

ONE SHILLING. 56 PAGES.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN COMMERCIAL.
Post free from Guardian Building, Manchester.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Aug. 12, 1922.				Aggregate 32 Weeks 1922.			
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	£	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.	£
Great Central (c)	6762	66,800	108,900	175,700	1,583,500	4,146,800	5,730,300	36,700
Do Joint Lines	1614	..	..	36,700	..	..	1,108,700	..
Great Eastern (c)	12073	178,200	70,900	249,100	3,675,600	2,984,500	6,660,100	..
Great Northern (c)	1050	127,600	96,800	224,400	3,128,600	4,469,500	7,597,900	..
Great Western (c)	3657	421,000	262,000	683,000	9,124,000	11,920,000	21,044,000	..
London & N. Western (c) ..	2433	526,200	320,700	846,900	11,890,000	13,500,000	25,390,000	..
Lon. & South-Western ..	968	179,600	45,100	224,700	4,206,700	1,856,700	6,063,400	..
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c) ..	487	135,988	22,580	158,568	2,980,275	913,054	3,893,329	..
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	423	1,533	1,772	3,305	38,189	59,003	97,192	..
Metropolitan (c)	794	33,426	2,682	36,108	1,062,988	113,230	1,176,218	..
Midland (c)	1,5854	228,000	222,000	450,000	5,663,000	10,910,000	16,573,000	..
Midland & S.W. Inc.	65	1,966	1,235	3,201	46,107	46,323	92,430	..
North-Eastern (c)	1,850	201,400	209,100	410,500	4,133,800	7,841,000	11,974,800	..
North London	16	4,749	8,022	12,771	154,964	315,997	470,961	..
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	654	195,400	37,000	232,400	4,245,000	1,355,100	5,600,100	..
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	226,737	..	..	1,570,636	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	50,210	..	..	194,524	..
Caledonian	1,097	85,300	103,200	188,500	2,292,600	3,122,300	5,414,900	..
Glasgow & S.W. (c)	476	37,400	37,200	74,600	1,009,300	1,164,200	2,173,500	..
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	3363	13,100	7,940	21,040	297,550	296,200	593,750	..
Highland (c)	492 (a)	17,714	9,461	27,175	365,748	328,123	693,871	..
North British (c)	1,3773	80,700	119,300	200,000	2,071,700	2,743,200	4,814,900	..
Belfast and County Down (b) ..	80	7,342	1,086	8,428	169,648	43,436	213,084	..
Dublin & S. East. (c)	160	8,627	3,044	11,671	181,593	112,182	293,775	..
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	8,899	13,611	22,510	298,823	445,991	744,814	..

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended August 11, 1922. (c) Week ended August 12, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	15 weeks	July 15	1,043	2,46,719	+1,67,440	35,04,789	+16,31,064
Barsi Lt. Ry.	16 weeks	22	118	30,600	-32,600	6,82,200	+2,28,100
Bengal N. & W. Western ..	14 weeks	15	67	5,85,530	+19,929	99,85,884	+9,56,770
Bengal Nagpur	15 weeks	15	2,703	11,53,000	-98,000	2,08,87,205	+19,76,553
Bombay, Bar. & C.M.	18 weeks	Aug. 5	2,871	19,07,000	+1,86,000	4,16,91,000	+48,61,000
Burma	15 weeks	15	1,342	5,55,633	-28,807	1,05,64,940	+20,53,555
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	18 weeks	5	239	89,000	-13,503	17,51,239	-1,97,533
East Indian	19 weeks	12	2,772	27,88,000	+267,000	5,54,70,000	-13,65,000
G. Indian Peninsula	19 weeks	12	3,121	20,33,500	-79,200	5,11,84,770	+21,90,723
Madras & S. Mah.	16 weeks	July 22	3,028	13,45,000	+99,192	23,931,924	+25,00,776
Rohilk. & Kumaon	15 weeks	15	259	61,724	-4,131	10,17,175	-36,483
Do Lucknow-Breilly	15 weeks	15	302	68,115	-4,594	12,24,015	+39,770
South Indian	16 weeks	22	1,852	9,17,851	+25,486	1,54,00,913	+19,43,817
Sikh. Punjab (month) ..	1 mth	April 30	717	6,46,972	-245,385	..	..
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	6 weeks	Aug. 12	752	13,300	+1,200	64,500	+5,900
Argentine Trans.	6 weeks	12	111	1,800	+15	7,640	+2,616
B. A. & Pacific	6 weeks	12	3,428	135,000	-7,000	765,000	-68,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	6 weeks	13	3,947	138,000	-27,000	879,000	-88,000
B. A. Western	6 weeks	13	1,882	30,000	+3,000	105,000	+15,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	43,180	-6,678	547,041	-11,081
Central Argentine	6 weeks	Aug. 12	3,305	202,000	+1,000	1,177,000	+13,000
Cordoba Central	6 weeks	12	1,205	74,800	+3,600	411,200	+24,500
Entre Rios	6 weeks	12	811	17,100	-2,600	98,800	-2,600
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	6 mths	June 30	..	Ma 39,000	-14,500	245,750	-26,150
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	32 weeks	Aug. 12	1,005	10,300	+400	410,500	-16,400
Leopoldina	32 weeks	12	1,831	34,707	-1,695	873,658	-172,099
San Paulo	32 weeks	13	1,534	26,782	-5,695	913,538	-39,450
State of Bahia, S.W. ..	3 mths	July 31	52	Ma 86,000	+30,000	244,000	+99,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	32 weeks	Aug. 13	838	24,100	+11,955	644,425	-101,610
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	-500	..	..
Nitrato (2 weeks)	32 weeks	Aug. 15	366	22,166	+10,089	..	-123,267
Peruvian Corp.	1 mth	July 31	1,059	811,580	+1,950	..	..
Talca	1 mth	31	172	12,090	+2,917	..	..
Cuba.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	-500,572	7,020,807	-3,680,221
Havana Central	5 weeks	Aug. 5	Net	\$474,495	+18,378	1,412,662	+1,404,329
United of Havana	6 weeks	12	1,210	8,335	-2,303	45,843	-12,182
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	6 weeks	13	873	17,155	-2,927	123,436	-12,528
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	6 weeks	13	111	3,560	-105	25,272	-1,497
C. Urug. (North Ext.) ..	6 weeks	13	185	1,936	-102	11,193	-2,689
C. Urug. (West Ext.) ..	6 weeks	13	211	1,845	-108	11,088	-1,314
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay ..	1 mth	31	113	5,368	-347	..	..
Uruguay North	1 mth	31	73	2,149	+714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Algeria and Gambia ..	32 weeks	Aug. 12	33	Ps 15,000	+4,000	625,300	+115,400
Bahia	7 mths	July 31	136	16	-939	7,360	-6,066
Bolivar	7 mths	July 31	136	78	-2,395	65,111	-7,211
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	-1,340	193,391	+5,531
Costa Rica	10 mths	July 31	190	29,975	+8,679	236,221	-33,596
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	-9,500	77,225	-55,600
Dorado Ropeway, Ext. ..	7 mths	31	45	7,000	+1,000	35,750	+6,000
El Estero Delta	15 weeks	31	559	8,672	-17,940	29,640	-13,825
Gt. Southern Spain	31 weeks	Aug. 5	Gross	Ps 63,563	+2,337	2,375,268	+810,216
International of Spain ..	31 weeks	..	Net	63,563	+167	54,112	+1,064
Central American	7 mths	July 31	Net	23,676	-1,985	217,902	-17,501
La Guaira & Caracas ..	7 mths	31	232	11,650	+1,050	71,150	+320,900
Mexican Railway	5 weeks	Aug. 31	403	\$227,100	-55,500	1,316,800	+505,400
Do	6 mths	June 30	403	\$1084,900	-193,100	7,274,600	+503,200
Do	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$161,600	+10,600	1,520,000	-11,240
Nasirji Oscarbhai	4 mths	Apr. 30	..	11,634	-2,105	41,359	-11,240
Ottoman Railway	3 weeks	Aug. 12	193	3,310	-850	165,470	-43,780
Paraguay Central	4 mths	May 27	274	3,310	-850	165,470	-43,780
Piraeus-Athens, &c.	5 mths	Feb. 28	..	\$2,311,374	+414,841	16,380,776	+5,629,650
Puerto Cabello, &c.	7 mths	July 31	35	4,750	-250	31,250	-4,954
Salvador	6 weeks	Aug. 12	100	2,298	-73	20,337	+4,954
San Francisco Province	1 mth	June 30	..	127,600	-9,865	62,390	-12,780
San Juan & Santiago ..	7 mths	July 31	31	1,781	-3,971	68,999	-16,646
Santra And Huila	3 mths	July 31	112	11,781	-1,689	68,999	-16,646

Policies are issued by the "British Dominions" at most attractive rates. Each proposal is considered on its merits, and special allowances in respect of premiums are made to employers who take precautions to ensure the safety of their employees. An enquiry involves no obligation; it may result in a considerable saving, more generous cover, and greater security.

EAGLE, STAR AND BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE CO., LTD.,

HEAD OFFICE:—British Dominions House,
ROYAL EXCHANGE AVE., LONDON, E.C.3.

ASSETS EXCEED - £20,000,000

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 3, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.				Good Med.				Fine.				Extra Fine.				Same Period 1921.				Same Period 1920.			
		Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.
Sea Island.....	..	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1
Florida do.....	..	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1
Georgia do.....	..	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1	nm1
American.....	Ord	G O L M	Mid	G M	M F	G O L M	Mid	G M	M F	G O L M	Mid	G M	M F	G O L M	Mid	G M	M F	G O L M	Mid	G M	M F	G O L M	Mid	G M	M F
Brazilian.....	1150	1200	1285	1350	1350	1465	641	756	931	1994	2339	2969	669	1150	1200	1285	1350	1350	1465	641	756	931	1994	2339	2969
Peruvian.....	..	1140	1290	1420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	..	1140	1290	1420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maceio, &c.	..	1140	1290	1420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mossoro, &c.	..	1140	1290	1420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ceara.....	..	1140	1290	1420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maranhão, &c.	..	1140	1290	1420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
São Paulo.....	..	1190	1270	1315	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian.....	Fr. G. L. F. for	Gd. Fne.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upper.....	..	1275	1350	1425	1475	1575	..	950	1250	..	nm1	4850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sakellariis.....	..	1500	1725	1850	2025	2250	..	950	1350	..	nm1	6050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown.....	..	1325	1450	1575	1650	1825	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peruvian.....	ME Fr. G. L. F. for	Gd. Fne.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Moderately Rough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smooth.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tangus.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M-tail.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wes Indian, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
D o Sea Island.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
African East, &c.	9-75	1075	1250	1350	1450	1550	6-25	8-25	1025	2950	3250	4550	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do West.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	G F FOF Gd. F	G Fne S'n	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Branch.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Bhowmuggar.....	9-10	9-60	1010	1050	1090	1130	7-30	7-55	8-05	1910	1960	2060	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Oomra.....	9-20	9-70	1020	1060	1100	1140	5-75	6-25	7-00	1444	1544	1704	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 2.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Khandeish.....	9-20	9-70	1010	1050	1090	1130	5-00	5-50	6-25	1275	1375	1535	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Comphah.....	10-40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	7-70	8-10	8-50	8-90	9-30	9-70	4-90	5-40	6-15	8-75	9-50	1075	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Seinde.....	7-60	8-00	8-40	8-80	9-20	9-60	4-78	5-28	6-03	8-57	9-32	1057	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tinnivelly.....	1200	1240	1280	..	..	..	8-30	8-55	..	2135	2185	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madras, Western.....	9-75	1015	1055	1095	..	..	6-95	7-20	..	1760	1810	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madras, Northern.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	6-70	..	..	1475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M.G. Cocanada, Red.....	Fr. 10-40	..	..	..	..	..	6-95	..	..	1500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China, Smyrna, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

MANCHESTER, August 17.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, Aug. 17, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Aug. 10.	Aug. 3.	July 27.	July 20.	July 13.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American..... per lb	12-80	12-25	13-45	13-29	13-70	13-65
Sakellariis Fully Good Fair..... per lb	17-75	16-75	18-00	18-00	19-75	19-75
Yarns—32's twist..... per lb	19-1	19-1	19-1	19-1	20-1	20-1
— 40's twist..... per lb	18-1	18-1	18-1	18-1	19-1	19-1
— 50's twist (Egyptian)..... per lb	28-1	27-1	28-1	28-1	30-1	30-1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 15, 32's and 50's.....	31	30	32	32	32	33
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	31	30	31	31	31	31
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.....	17	17	18	18	18	18
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs.....	16	16	16	16	17	17

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, Aug. 17, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American..... per lb	12-80	8-81	26-70	18-89	24-52	19-10
Sakellariis Fully Good Fair..... per lb	17-75	16-00	69-00	29-50	30-19	30-00
Yarns—32's twist..... per lb	19-1	19-1	54	41-1	54	25-1
— 40's twist..... per lb	18-1	18-1	49-1	41	53-1	25-1
— 50's twist (Egyptian)..... per lb	28-1	28-1	96	61	65	46-1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 15, 32's and 50's.....	31	30	83	60	66	33
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	31	30	69	68	64	32
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.....	17	17	47	35	38	19
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs.....	16	16	34	30	33	17

Although an uncertain feeling continues to prevail in most quarters of the market, the prospects are rather more encouraging. The opinion is gaining ground that it is now safer for merchants to secure supplies, in view of the fall in values since a month ago. In the cloth section this week the feature of interest has been the revival of inquiry for India. Buying has been patchy, but here and there substantial contracts have been arranged in standard makes for Calcutta and Bombay. Shippers have been stimulated to purchase more freely by the healthy trade advices from the other side. No increased activity can be recorded for China, and buying has been confined to small lots. Demand for most of the minor outlets has been quiet, but a few more orders have been booked in home trade fabrics. Yarn quotations remain very irregular. Spinners are expecting to obtain some relief from the Oldham holidays and the extended stoppages. Although rather more demand has been dealt with in American and Egyptian counts, the turnover shows very little improvement.

Although the improvement in the Lancashire cotton industry has met with a set-back during the last few weeks, the Board of Trade returns reflect the activity which showed itself in the spring. It may be recorded that shipments of cotton piece goods during July were larger than in any month for five years back. The total was 443,609,800 square yards, against 311,907,300 square yards in June and 177,530,400 square yards in July, 1921. These figures are

certainly noteworthy. Owing to the excellent monsoon reports, there are great hopes of India providing a considerable business this autumn.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Mills in the Bradford and Halifax districts have been closed this week for the annual holidays, and the local market has therefore presented a rather quiet appearance. A moderate amount of business has been done in some cases, but, on the whole, values have not been seriously tested. Judging from the little that has been done, however, there is no weakness in any section of the industry. Topmakers are in a strong position, and most firms are well sold forward. In both merino and crossbred tops prices are firm at about last week's rates, good warp 64's being very firm at about 4s 8d for November delivery. There is not a great deal of business in crossbreds, but topmakers are showing more firmness, and will not consider the very low prices that were current for medium and low qualities before the last series of auctions in London. The yarn trade is quietly steady, spinners being well employed on old crossbreds, and although prices are not quotably dearer, the position is regarded as sound and in sellers' favour. The unsettled conditions on the Continent are interfering to some extent with the export trade, and business with Germany especially is being held up. There is nothing new in the piece goods trade. Most firms are fairly well employed for the present, and it is expected that increased activity will be seen after the holiday season. A steady trade is passing in most qualities of home-grown wools, but in many cases it is difficult to make a profit on the high prices paid at the recent country fairs. Downs and the best half-breds are sound, and good lustre hogs are wanted, but wethers remain rather neglected.

COLONIAL WOOL.
(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

There is nothing particularly new in regard to Colonial wool. Many City offices being temporarily closed, and throughout the current week Bradford mills have been closed for Bowling Tide. This has come to be a general thing, and mills in all manufacturing districts now close for a full week for the annual holidays. B.A.W.R.A. have this week issued their usual monthly statement, giving a summary of stocks and disposals of wool from December 31, 1921, to July 31, 1922. The figures show that stocks of merinos have been reduced from 202,527 bales at the end of June to 162,268 bales at the end of July. At the end of last December stocks of merinos in B.A.W.R.A.'s hands were 419,673 bales, which all goes to show that by the end of the year the Association will practically have got rid of their surplus merinos. Then, too, the sales of Australian crossbreds were 1,175,533 bales, compared with 785,054 bales at the end of July last. When we come to New Zealand crossbreds the disposal of these is proceeding much slower than in December 31st being 634,053 bales, compared with 418,995 bales at the end of July. We expect these to sell much more slowly than announced that it will be their policy to market these as occasion demands. South African wools have gone off like hot cakes, and whereas last December 31st the British Government stock of these, which means that the next two series of sales will see these entirely gone. No matter what adverse criticism has been levelled against B.A.W.R.A.'s action by a certain section of the Yorkshire Press, it may be re-affirmed that B.A.W.R.A. have pursued the right policy, and need not be the least uneasy regarding the future of wool markets. I certainly think that B.A.W.R.A. has the British Government, and as things are, there need be no undue desire manifest to get rid of even New Zealand crossbreds. One regrets very much the existence of trouble among the shearers in Australia, but as far as one can see they are hoping to per too sheep. Strikes always dislocate business, and no one need be surprised if the forthcoming Australian season is later than it ought to be, because of the foolish action of a certain section of if Australian selling markets could get back to pre-war conditions this season, but everything points to this being prevented by the

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed	Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Y52,500,000
Reserve	Y11,780,000

Head Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office - - - - - 25 OLD BROAD STREET
(Gresham House), E.C.2.

BRANCHES: Amoy, Batavia, Bangkok, Bombay, Canton, Fochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Kiukiang, Keelung, Kobe, Moji, New York, Osaka, Semarang, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c., &c., and Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

The Bank is incorporated by Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue note in Formosa, conducts general Banking Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business, and acts as Business Agents for other Banks. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

shearers' strike. If the demand of the shearers was granted, there would be another strike next season for a further 5s per 100 sheep, so the issue might as well be brought to a final conclusion to-day as twelve months hence. It is a fact well worth noting that here in England every strike that has taken place since the armistice has resulted in the workers being the losers, sometimes disastrously so. Sensible men to-day recognise that war conditions obtain no longer, and that if the world is to be put back again into a really sound economic position, the relationship between its various sections of trade enterprise must be fully recognised.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Partly owing to Continental holidays and absence of buying interest, market conditions generally have continued quiet. The sharp setback in values of Plate linseed led to a little buying at the lower level, from which there has been little or no favourable reaction. About £19 is current value of Plate on spot, and £18 10s for seed afloat and for shipment. Calcutta is also easier round £19 10s for July-August loading. The outlook with regard to linseed is very obscure. On the basis

dull. August-October, Liverpool, sold, £17 7s 6d to £17 2s 6d; and September-November, £18 8s 9d to £17 5s.

RUBBER.—Easier on the week, and trade ruled very quiet. Standard plantation crepe and sheet, spot, also August delivery, sold, 7d to 6½d; September, 7½d to 6½d; October-December, 7½d to 7½d and 7½d; January-March, 7½d to 7½d and 7½d; April-June, 8d to 7½d. To New York, standard sheet, August-September, sold, 7½d; and October-December, 7½d, c.f. and i. Fine hard Para, spot, quoted 10½d; soft fine, 9½d; cauchó ball, 7½d.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 2½s; forward, 2½s. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 6s 3d; forward, 6s 6d; aniseed, spot, 2s 3d; forward, 2s 4½d; slab camphor, spot, 3s 6d; forward, 3s 3d; crude, spot 3s 4d; forward, 2s 11½d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 8s; forward, 7s 5d per cwt.

OILS.—Linseed market quiet and easier. Spot, net, naked, 4½s; August, 39s 9d; September-December, 36s 4½d; January-April, 34s 6d. Rape dull. Crude, spot, nominally 43s; refined, 46s. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, spot, 40s 6d; common edible, 47s 6d; deodorised (in barrels), 53s. China-wood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 63s; shipment, 62s. Coconut lower. Ceylon, spot, 39s 6d; August-September, 38s 6d; Ceylon, ditto, quoted 44s. Soya easier. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 38s 6d. Japan fish quiet. July-August, cases, 22s. Cod steady. English, spot, 3½s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, nominal; forward, 48s; deodorised, barrels, 56s. Turpentine dearer. American, spot, 97s; August, 97s; September-December, 98s; January-April, 99s 6d. Rosin firmly held. American, grade B, 14s; G, 14s 9d; H, 15s; N, 15s 6d; WG, 18s; WW, 20s 6d. French, F/C, 15s; WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 4½d; and water-white, 1s 5d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market dull and easier. Bold Bombay, afloat, £20 15s. Small Bombay, ditto, £19 15s. Calcutta, afloat, £19 15s; July-August, £19 10s; August-September, £19 5s. Plate afloat, £18 15s; July-August, £18 10s; August-September, £18 5s. Rape-seed quiet. Toria, July-August, sellers, £18 5s; real bold Ferozepore, July-August, quoted £17 15s. Cotton-seed dull. Egyptian black, August, sold, £11; and white, sold, £10. Bombay, August-September, £8 12s 6d, sellers. Gingelly quiet. Chinese, August-September, Continent, nominally, £25 10s; large Bombay, ditto, £25 5s. Castor, Bombay, August-September, sellers, £18 10s, to Hull. Groundnuts dull. Coromandel, machine-dried, August-September, £21 10s; ordinary, £20 10s; East African, £21 2s 6d; Nigerian, £21 10s; bold Bombay, £21 2s 6d. Soya beans, Manchurian, August-September, £13 per ton.

METALS.—Tin opened the week with a rather firmer tone, buyers being more prominent, and a fair turnover resulted, cash being dealt in at £159 to £158 15s; September dates, £158 15s; October fluctuating between £159 and £159 10s; with three months, £159 5s to £158 17s 6d to £159 2s 6d. Increased firmness was apparent by the middle of the week, owing to higher Eastern advices, combined with the American position, and a fair demand prevailed, especially

for forward positions. Cash sold at £159 10s to £159 17s 6d; early September, £160 15s; October, £160 to £160 15s; and three months, £160 to £161, while finally registered at £160 15s. At Thursday's session values ruled firmer, and a good business transpired, though some irregularity was apparent for three months. Cash sold at £162 5s to £161 15s; early September, £161 17s 6d; mid-October, £161 10s to £162 5s; end October, £161 15s to £162; and again at £161 15s; three months, £161 10s to £162 15s; and to £162, while finally registered at £161 12s 6d. On Friday very little change occurred, the market ruling steady, with moderate transactions. Cash, sold, at £162 to £162 10s to £162; early September, £162 10s to £162 2s 6d, while finally £161 15s. English ingots, the influence of good buying orders, and a fair business transpired. Cash sold at £64 2s 6d; October, £64 5s; November, £64 6s 3d; and three months, £64 7s 6d to £64 5s. On Tuesday the demand slackened off, and holders were forced to grant slight concessions in prices. Cash sold, £64 to middle of the week values, however, displayed an upward tendency, due to higher cable advices from the United States, and a good business was effected, comprising cash at £64 5s to £64 2s 6d to £64 3s 9d; October dates, £64 6s 3d to £64 2s 6d to £64 7s 6d to £64 6s 3d, and again at £64 7s 6d. At Thursday's session the tendency of prices was weaker, with a fairly good trade in mid-October, £64 5s to £64 1s 3d; mid-September, £64 3s 9d; to £64 3s 9d. On Friday a quieter tone prevailed respecting forward positions. Cash sold at £64 1s 3d; early October, £64 to £64 2s 6d, and three months, £64 2s 6d to £64 3s 9d to £64 1s 3d. Electrodes, £70 to £71; best selected, £66 10s to £68 10s. Strong as to position. Spelter dearer at £31 10s to £30 15s, according to home, £100, and export, £105.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—AUGUST 17.			
British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.			
Beasts—Herefords	8 d	8 d	8 d
Shortfords	7 0	8 10	8 10
Devons	8 4	8 10	8 10
Norfolks	7 8	8 10	8 10
Scottish	nominal		
Irish	nominal		
Fat Cows	5 4	6 0	

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—AUGUST 17.			
Per Cwt.			
English Epicures	2 6	3 0	
Eclipse	3 0	4 0	

LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.			
Capital and Reserve Fund - Kr. 112,000,000.00			

AUGUST 26, 1922.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XXV.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1922

No 4,122.

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)

BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

Capital and Reserve Fund - Kr. 112,000,000.00

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

MESSRS. COX & CO.

LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

Capital (paid up):
Eso. 24,000,000Reserve Funds:
Eso. 27,200,000

Branches as Under.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.

New York Office—93, Liberty street.

Paris Office—8, Rue du Halder.

London Office—27b, Throgmorton street.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up ... 348,785,000
Reserve ... 180,000,000
Deposits ... 5,079,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.
Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

London Office - 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
Manager: E. CONSOLO.
Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	345	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	364
The Monetary Puzzle	347	New Issues	364
Direction of Overseas Trade	348	Active Securities	365
Agrarian Reform in Eastern Europe.—II.	350	Company Meetings	366
French Revenue and Taxation	351	Government Returns—	
The Kaffir Market	352	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	367
Latin-American Notes	352	Currency Notes Account	367
		Public Income and Expenditure	367
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
Ireland's Tragedies	353	Bank of England	368
The Porte and its Creditors	353	Clearing Returns	368
Employment and Wages in July	354	Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks	369
Cost of Living	354	Overseas Bank Returns	369
Australian Public Finance	354	Loan and Discount Rates	371
The Outlook in New Zealand	355	Overseas Bank Rates	371
American Cotton Season, 1921-22	355	Rates of Exchange	371
Wood Stocks and Disposals	355	Indian Treasury Bills	372
African and Eastern Trade Corporation	355	Bullion	372
Furness, Withy's Year	356	Imports and Exports of Gold and Silver Prices	372
Ebbw Vale	356	Company News—	
Japanese Trade and Finance	358	Dividend Announcements	373
		Mining Outputs	373
Overseas Correspondence—		Transvaal Gold Outputs	373
United States	356	Analysis of Balance-Sheets	373
France	358	Railway & Tramway Traffic	374
Germany	358	Reports and Notices	375
Canada	359	Oil Outputs	375
Poland	361	Profit and Loss Accounts	376
Japan	361	Commercial Reports—	
		Corn Trade	375
Letters to the Editor—		Iron and Coal Trade	377
Dominion Currencies	362	Cotton Trade	378
Future of British Malaya	362	Wool Trade	378
		Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	378
Books and Publications—		Hide and Leather Trades	379
The History of the Port of London	363	Overseas Produce Markets	379
Czecho-Slovakia To-day	363	Jute	379
Books Received	363	Price Current	380

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s 6d. Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2. Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95, Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5, Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6, Fenchurch buildings, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15, Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50, Copthall avenue, and 53, Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224, Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37, Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20, Broad street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was more plentiful this week, but not plentiful enough to enable the market fully to meet its indebtedness to the Bank of England. Business in discounts was difficult, buyers and sellers of bills being equally shy, largely owing to bewilderment caused by the Government's policy with regard to its sales of Treasury bills. On Tuesday the tap was turned off, and the market rate weakened, only to be stiffened next day by the inability of borrowers to get clear of the Bank. Bewilderment was increased on Thursday by the revelation, from the Bank

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.			
COCOA.—Duty, British grown			
25s. 4d. foreign 25s. cwt.	4	8	4
Trinidad, per cwt.	50	17	0
Granada	50	17	0
Ceylon, plantation	50	17	0
Guayquil	50	17	0
Bahia, finest	50	17	0
COFFEE.—British grown			
25s. 4d. foreign 25s. cwt.	4	8	4
India (Aurore) d. 100	103	8	
Ooty (Aurore) d. 100	103	8	
Good to fine	106	12	0
Central American, d. 100	85	8	
Ord. to mid	80	10	0
Mid. to fine	80	10	0
Colombian, ordinary	60	6	0
Do. ord. to low mid	60	6	0
Do. mid. to fine	65	6	0
CHEMICALS.—			
Acid, citric, per lb.	2	3	4
Nitric	0	24	0
Oxalic	0	8	4
Tartaric, English	1	4	1
Foreign	1	4	1
Alum lump, per ton	100	10	0
Do. ground	100	10	0
Ammonia, carb. p. lb.	0	4	4
Muriate, White ton	0	6	0
Sulphate	0	6	0
Arsenic lump, per ton	60	7	0
Powder	42	6	0
Ashe, pot., per cwt.	70	0	80
Pearl do.	30	10	0
Bleaching powder, p. 100	14	0	0
Borax, crystals	29	0	0
Do. powder	23	0	0
Creosote Tar	116	0	112
90% powder	116	0	112
Calomel	4	11	0
Iodine, dry	1	9	1
Nitrate of Soda, p. 100	14	10	0
Potash			
Chlorate, net	8	4	0
Prussiate	1	4	1
Do. Foreign	1	3	1
Sulphate	2	10	0
Sal. Acetate	1	10	0
Sal. Ammoniac, p. cwt.	60	6	0
Sal. Bicarb., per ton	100	0	0
Crystals, ex ship, p. 100	100	0	0
Alkali	30	10	0
Caustic	30	10	0
Sugar of lead white ton	0	0	0
Foreign white	242	10	40
English Brands	2	2	3
Foreign	2	2	3
Hyphate Copper, p. 100	27	0	0
Zinc, cut	14	0	0
Bulphur Flour	14	0	0
Do. Roll	13	0	0
Vermilion, Chinese, p. 100	14	0	0
Do. Roll	13	0	0
Oil Peppermint, H.G. 11.2	6	2	0
U.P. 11.2	6	2	0
Malabar, Aug. Sept.	nom		
Ceylon	25	10	0
F.M. Singapore	25	10	0
F.M. Straits	25	10	0
COCHINEAL per lb.	2	0	3

DRUGS.—			
Aloes, fine E.L. p. cwt.	120	0	150
Cape, good to fine	20	0	30
Balsam Peru	8	0	8
Capivi	1	6	0
Camphor	3	5	7
Japan, refined	1	6	5
Cardamom, Ceylon	4	0	5
Canth. rid. China p. lb.	4	0	5
COFFEE.—British grown			
25s. 4d. foreign 25s. cwt.	4	8	4
India (Aurore) d. 100	103	8	
Ooty (Aurore) d. 100	103	8	
Good to fine	106	12	0
Central American, d. 100	85	8	
Ord. to mid	80	10	0
Mid. to fine	80	10	0
Colombian, ordinary	60	6	0
Do. ord. to low mid	60	6	0
Do. mid. to fine	65	6	0
CHEMICALS.—			
Acid, citric, per lb.	2	3	4
Nitric	0	24	0
Oxalic	0	8	4
Tartaric, English	1	4	1
Foreign	1	4	1
Alum lump, per ton	100	10	0
Do. ground	100	10	0
Ammonia, carb. p. lb.	0	4	4
Muriate, White ton	0	6	0
Sulphate	0	6	0
Arsenic lump, per ton	60	7	0
Powder	42	6	0
Ashe, pot., per cwt.	70	0	80
Pearl do.	30	10	0
Bleaching powder, p. 100	14	0	0
Borax, crystals	29	0	0
Do. powder	23	0	0
Creosote Tar	116	0	112
90% powder	116	0	112
Calomel	4	11	0
Iodine, dry	1	9	1
Nitrate of Soda, p. 100	14	10	0
Potash			
Chlorate, net	8	4	0
Prussiate	1	4	1
Do. Foreign	1	3	1
Sulphate	2	10	0
Sal. Acetate	1	10	0
Sal. Ammoniac, p. cwt.	60	6	0
Sal. Bicarb., per ton	100	0	0
Crystals, ex ship, p. 100	100	0	0
Alkali	30	10	0
Caustic	30	10	0
Sugar of lead white ton	0	0	0
Foreign white	242	10	40
English Brands	2	2	3
Foreign	2	2	3
Hyphate Copper, p. 100	27	0	0
Zinc, cut	14	0	0
Bulphur Flour	14	0	0
Do. Roll	13	0	0
Vermilion, Chinese, p. 100	14	0	0
Do. Roll	13	0	0
Oil Peppermint, H.G. 11.2	6	2	0
U.P. 11.2	6	2	0
Malabar, Aug. Sept.	nom		
Ceylon	25	10	0
F.M. Singapore	25	10	0
F.M. Straits	25	10	0
COCHINEAL per lb.	2	0	3

INDIA RUBBER.—	
----------------	--

return, of the large amount of money that the Government was sitting on.

	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	2½	2½	2½	2½	..

The Bank return showed an increase of £11,000 in the stock of gold, a decrease of £807,000 in the note circulation, and an increase of £818,000 in the Reserve. Repayments by the market reduced the Other securities by four millions, but Government securities rose by a million; Public deposits had expanded by 4½ millions, and Other were thus diminished by six millions. Currency notes outstanding were reduced in the week ended August 24, 1922, by £3,796,800 to £295,129,800, which includes £1,572,800 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £245,406,000, or £64,581,500 below the maximum.

The monthly statement of average weekly balances of the London clearing banks is printed in detail on another page. The aggregate figures of the nine English banks for July are compared with those of previous months in the table below:—

	June, 1921.	Dec. 1921.	March, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.
Capital and reserves	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9
Acceptances	57.7	57.7	57.7	57.7	57.7	57.7
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,768.4	1,818.6	1,746.9	1,745.3	1,755.2	1,729.7
Total liabilities	1,942.0	1,990.8	1,919.9	1,918.2	1,926.3	1,898.7
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	265.1	273.5	245.8	250.5	251.3	243.5
Money at call	98.0	105.7	102.5	109.0	113.0	116.1
Investments	335.9	343.3	327.7	315.7	312.0	312.2
Discounts	346.2	424.3	350.5	325.1	346.2	333.2
Loans and advances	815.4	762.3	746.2	735.7	723.3	721.2
Over for accept., premises, &c. ..	8.4	90.7	82.2	82.2	80.5	78.5
Total assets	1,942.0	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,918.2	1,926.3	1,898.7

The feature of the figures is a considerable drop during July in deposits. Loans and advances are again lower, but last month's decrease is trifling. Discounts, which rose substantially in June, dropped again. The banking figures in relation to the monetary position are discussed in a leading article in this issue.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

On the whole, the tone of the stock markets has been good, considering all the circumstances of the week, but gilt-edged stocks have naturally shown some slight signs of relapse in view of the exchange market demoralisation and the stringency in the money market. Foreign bonds have been under the spell of the exchange market. Home Railway ordinary stocks are dull, and prior-charge stocks have in many cases been marked down a point. Among oil shares, Anglo-Persian and Burmah Oil have spurred. Rubber shares, with the price of the raw material at or below 7d, remained stagnant, while tobacco shares, after early strength, eased off a little. The Kafir market was the most active spot in the markets until Thursday afternoon, when a relapse was caused by news from France.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

The flight from the mark and the general weakness of continental exchanges caused much uneasiness towards the end of the week in many markets, and dealings were inclined to be sporadic. Prices of raw cotton being marked up during the week perhaps helped to stimulate inquiries for yarn and cloth, but sellers were not able to transact much business at the higher values. Quotations for wool remain remarkably firm, and our correspondent reports that "there is a very general feeling throughout the industry that merino values will again advance." Nominal quotations are recorded for pig-iron on account of local holidays, and the same remarks apply to prices for manufactured iron and steel. There is no falling off from the new level of prices in the Cardiff coal market, probably because collieries are not inclined to add to their already heavy commitments. Wheat is lower on the

week, on account of the weakness in the foreign exchanges. Linseed is down from 20s to 25s per ton on the week; it is stated that there are large supplies on hand and good crop reports. Cattle hides have been, on the whole, firmer during the week, although prices for some descriptions are lower. In the shoe trade orders are scarce.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Again the main feature of the week has been the demoralisation of the German mark. The seriousness of the situation, not only for Germany, but for Europe and ourselves, is at last being realised; but, so far, no constructive effort of any kind has been made to stop the débâcle, the visit of Sir John Bradbury and M. Mauclère to Berlin, on the search for productive guarantees, being from the first little more than a forlorn hope, in view of the reiteration with increased vehemence of his original attitude by M. Poincaré at Bar-le-Duc. On the 18th the mark ran away to about 5,500, and although Monday showed a temporary recovery to 4,920, by Tuesday evening, after M. Poincaré's speech, the rate had leapt up another thousand points, by Wednesday it had reached 6,540, and by Thursday, on gloomy reports as to the negotiations in Berlin, it reached 9,000, but closed finally at 8,000. On Friday it opened at 10,000 and rose rapidly to 11,000, but during the morning moved back again to 8,500. The complete breakdown of confidence is shown by the rates for forward marks, about 400 marks over spot for one month ahead, as compared with even 50 to 100 marks last week, and it should be added that even these rates are little more than nominal. In this breakdown the franc has also, of course, been included, the Paris rate rising from 56.27½ on the 18th to 58.60 yesterday, the Brussels rate from 59.20 to 61.80. Forward francs in Paris are 10 points over spot, in Brussels 2 points under. The lira also has not escaped, having risen on the week from 98.95 to 102.50. Warsaw has again shown its dependence on Berlin by a further fall from 33,000 to 40,000, while Vienna, after some slight recovery, has continued its inevitable depreciation from 345,000 to 390,000. In spite of this general confusion and of the rapidly-increasing lack of confidence in the European situation, sterling has again remained remarkably firm, having moved on the week only from 4.48 to 4.47½. The continually decreasing export surplus of the U.S.A., as shown by last month's trade returns, and the heavy coal exports from the U.K. to America may, in part, account for this position, but the breakdown on the Continent, and the rapid approach of the autumn season, might have been expected to have far more than counteracted these influences. Among the other exchanges Prague continues its surprising and, in view of the competition of its immediate neighbours, one would have thought extremely inconvenient appreciation, the rate having again fallen during the week from 158 to 126 kroner to the £. Bucharest, after a considerable improvement on the definite announcement of the consolidation of Roumania's external Treasury bill obligations, has fallen back again somewhat, so that at 575 the gain is only some 45 points. Belgrade, after going of the funds said to have been received out of the dollar loan. Among the neutrals, Amsterdam has moved sharply against us, from 11.49½ to 11.45, while Switzerland also is a little less in our favour. Of the Scandinavian countries, Stockholm and Copenhagen have appreciated slightly, but Christiania has again depreciated. The Helsingfors quotation, on the other hand, at 207½ is a little lower. In the East, the rupee at 1s 3½d is unchanged, while the yen is worth a little more at 2s 1 23-32d. The silver market has been irregular, within narrow limits, on speculative dealings from China. India has done little, met by Continental selling. The outlook is extremely uncertain; but higher prices are hardly possible. Hong Kong and Shanghai are slightly cheaper at 2s 6½d and 3s 5d respectively. Among the South American exchanges, Buenos Ayres and Montevideo are unchanged on the week, Rio slightly cheaper, while Valparaiso has dropped sharply from 32½d to 30.80d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 19, 1922:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	22,249	Supply Services	2,000
		Interest on Debt	2,100
		Sundries	1,238
		Added to Exchequer Balances ..	555
		Reduction of Debt	10,796
	22,249		22,249

The total revenue for the week ended August 19, 1922, amounted to £22,249,416, as compared with £24,473,400 in the corresponding week of the year 1921. The total expenditure during the same period was reduced from £17,625,197 to £11,398,105. This reduction in expenditure is primarily due to the payment of interest, &c., on War Debt amounting to £2,100,277, as against £8,540,464 in the corresponding week last year. The principal item of revenue was Excise, which amounted to £19,675,000, as compared with £12,280,000 a year ago. Receipts from Property and Income-tax amounted to £5,322,000, against £6,960,000 in the corresponding week last year. The yield from Estate duties during the week was £2,300,000, as against £815,000, which makes the amount received from this source to date £26,071,000, as compared with £17,414,000 for the corresponding period in 1921.

The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £10,795,817, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 2,504	Treasury Bills	— 5,074
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 400	Public Department Advances ..	— 12,850
Issues under Section 59 (4) ..	+ 6,562	War Loan Surrenders	— 1,338
Finance Act, 1920	+ 9,466	Unemployment Insurance	— 400
		Funding Loan, &c., Skg. Funds ..	— 550
			— 20,262

The floating debt was reduced by £17,915,000 to £874,745,500 during the week ended August 19, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to August 19, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	275,229,547	Raised by revenue ..	317,355,680
Dec. in balances	7,163,144	Net repayments	49,289,277
Total	268,066,403	Total	268,066,403

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	..	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,972
National War Bonds	..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090
4% Funding Loan	..	..	..	409	405	405	405	405	405
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	360	357	348	346	346	346
5% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	24	24
5-15 Year Treas. Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	23	380	310	310
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	40	40
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	69
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	722
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Natnl. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	394	346
War Expend. Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,081
American Loan	..	51	51	51	51	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	153
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,665
	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	50	51
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,716

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 20, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Aug. 19, '22.	Aug. 19, '22.
Temporary Advances Out-standing ..	£ 23,250,000	£ 147,301,500	£ 153,045,500	£ 12,850,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	146,674,000	882,219,000	721,700,000	5,065,000
Advances by Public Deposits ..	1,176,967,000	1,029,520,500	874,745,500	17,915,000
Total Floating Debt	1,346,891,000	1,029,520,500	874,745,500	17,915,000

THE MONETARY PUZZLE.

At the moment the collapse of the mark and its economic effects, which are discussed on later pages by our Paris and Berlin correspondents, overshadow every other financial subject, but on the general position there is little at the moment to add to the views already expressed over and over again in the *Economist*. There are, however, other topics of more domestic interest which are exercising the minds of the money market. Since the gold standard has been abandoned—or, as perhaps we should say, suspended—in this country, *de facto* during the war and *de jure* by the prohibition of gold exports except under licence, our credit system was to a great extent based on the failure or success of the Government in making both ends meet out of revenue, or sales of capital assets or genuine borrowing of saved money from investors. When these expedients fail, and the Treasury has to raise the wind by Ways and Means advances from the Bank of England, this process supplies the banks of the country with an addition to their balances at the Bank of England, which they can use in this form as the basis of credit creation for their customers, or can, if they prefer to do so, turn into currency notes or Bank of England notes, to be used for the same purpose, or to meet increased demands for circulation. This new and temporary ordering of our monetary affairs has made their course more than ever difficult to trace, and their future more than ever obscure and elusive. Expectations of cheap and plentiful credit, owing to the needs of the Government to meet a large interest payment by flying kites in Threadneedle street, may be disappointed by some ingenious device on the part of the Treasury, which, as happened at the time of the War Loan interest payment last June, may succeed in raising most of the sum by sales of Treasury bills and Treasury bonds to outside buyers, and so induce dealers in credit to lend the money which they had hoped to see provided by the fountain head. If the lending is done in the form of Treasury bills, the process can be reversed as bills fall due, but as everyone knows, the tendency for the best part of a year has now been in favour of purchases of Treasury bonds, by the issue of which the Government has in twelve months reduced by £455 millions the volume of outstanding Treasury bills. This artificial state of things, by which the money market is dominated by the opulence or neediness of the Government, is common, of course, to all countries which have been obliged, or have thought themselves to be obliged, to put their currencies on to a paper basis. Abroad, the Government simply takes notes from the central bank against discounts of Treasury bills or whatever the form of borrowing may be. Our more elaborate and complicated system makes the process more difficult to trace, especially when it is veiled by official or semi-official machinations, which the market describes as the operations of the "hidden hand." For it has to be remembered that the present state of affairs presents difficulties not only to the dealers in credit, but also to the Treasury, which is apt, if it is too successful in placing Treasury bills and bonds and collecting revenue, to corner the market against itself by setting so much money into its own hands that the bill brokers, fearful of having to borrow from the Bank of England, put up the rates at which they make their weekly tenders for Treasury bills. On such occasion it sometimes happens that the market is relieved by purchases on a large scale of bills of short maturity, or by the discovery that there is a mysterious lender of large amounts of cash. And so complication is still further complicated by the Treasury, or the Bank of England, or some other institution on its behalf, lending with one hand so that it may borrow more cheaply with the other.

In recent weeks these "hidden hand" operations have not been evident, and there have been some violent jerks in the rates at which the weekly batch of Treasury bills has been sold. Last week, for instance, the average was £2 11s, against £2 2s in the previous week, plus a minute fraction of a penny in each case, the market having in the

meantime been obliged to borrow heavily from the Bank of England. It did not see why it should have to submit to this unprofitable inconvenience, and some of its members protested that the Government ought, in its own interests, to make money cheaper, and avoid the penalising of the taxpayer involved by the high price that it had to pay for discounting Treasury bills; just as in old days before the war they were wont to contend that money ought to be made cheap, so that the trade of the country should not be penalised; there always seems to be a reason why in the interests of somebody else money should be made cheap for bill brokers. At the same time, much ingenuity was devoted to the evolution of theories to account for the scarcity of short money that was afflicting the market. The daily papers have been explaining it by the decline in bank deposits caused by the payment of the second instalment of income-tax. The figures of the London clearing banks for July, however, show that during that month the decline in their deposits came to 25½ millions, while the Public Deposits in the Bank return, which stood at 16.3 millions on June 28th, had fallen to 15.3 millions on August 2nd, showing that the Government had paid out more than it had received during the period. Another explanation found the cause of stringency in the replacement of Treasury bills held by banks by Treasury bonds subscribed for by investors. This process would certainly tend to decrease the deposits of the banks, but hardly seems to tend to produce monetary stringency. The effect of it would be to cancel a deposit on the liabilities side and a discount or investment, in whichever category the cancelled Treasury bills stood, on the other, leaving the banks' cash holding unaltered and consequently giving them a higher proportion to liabilities, and so increasing the banks' lending power. But if we examine, in a table printed on another page, the movements in the aggregate items of the clearing banks' assets, we find that the chief declines are of 13 millions in the discounts, presumably representing matured Treasury bills, eight millions in the cash in hand, three millions in the "money at call," and two millions in the loans and advances. It is surely in the decreased holding of cash and money at call that the cause of stringency is to be found. Less "money at call" means less money placed in Lombard Street, and less cash in hand means less power to place money there, or with other users. Owing to the confusing obscurity of our banking figures, it is difficult to trace exactly the process by which the banks' cash has been reduced, but we know that in the last days of June 40 millions were borrowed by the Government from the Bank of England on Ways and Means advances, and that in the first two weeks of July the whole of this credit was cancelled. These movements were not fully shown in the Bank return, but on July 5th it gave Government securities at 68 millions, and Other deposits at 133 millions, while on July 19th these two items had shrunk to 47 millions and 104 millions. As soon as the Government was thus "clear of the Bank," with the consequent reduction of the bankers' balances, scarcity became evident in the market, and it was obliged to begin borrowing in Threadneedle Street—a process which was quickened later by the usual movement of cash into the country for holiday and harvest purposes.

Thus a closer examination of such figures as are to be had seems to confirm the view expressed in the money market paragraph of last week's *Economist*, that the recent stringency was merely an aggravation, owing to holiday demands for cash, of the penalty that now afflicts the market whenever the Bank of England is not lending either to it or the Government. Taxation was not the cause, for tax payments, as long as the Treasury is paying out as fast as it receives them, produce a merely temporary disturbance, and a decline in bank deposits does not necessarily mean a decline in the cash that the banks have to lend, but may more probably increase its amount. But the problem is not yet solved, for why should the market be pinched whenever it and the Treasury are both clear of the Bank of England? This used not to be so before the war, when the market normally had a considerable surplus which the Bank of England often had to borrow so as to get control. We have got back to the state of affairs described by Bagehot, who says that "at all ordinary times there is not money enough in Lombard Street to

discount all the bills in Lombard Street without taking some money from the Bank of England." Why is this so? As usual, lack of banking information makes it difficult to be sure about the answer. But we have groped towards one by taking the aggregate figures of the Big Five Banks (including at the earlier periods those of the banks that they have absorbed) at the end of 1913, 1918, and 1921, and finding the following results, in millions:—

	1913.	1918.	1921.
Deposits	660	1,328	1,644
Cash	192	396	351

The "cash" figure has to include money at call and short notice, because some of the returns did not separate these items, and the information given by the figures is to this extent blurred. For what it is worth, however, it shows that during the war period these banks doubled their deposits, and rather more than doubled their cash. In the after-war period, when chronic dependence on the Bank of England has appeared, or reappeared, there has been an increase of 316 millions in deposits and a decrease of 44 millions in cash. In other words, it appears that the great banks are working with a smaller proportion of cash, in hand, at call, or short notice, to the deposits that they have built upon its foundation, and so naturally are less able to meet the needs of Lombard Street.

THE DIRECTION OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

THE recently published Returns of the Board of Trade, showing for the first six months of the year the countries from which our imports come, and the destination of our exports, are still largely affected by the fall in prices. For the first half years of 1919 and 1920 the imports showed large excesses over the value of the exports, except in the case of Europe. But in the first half of 1921 excesses in the value of the imports were shown on a much smaller scale, and Europe was no longer an exception to the rule. In the present year Europe again shows an excess of exports, but the total excess of imports—which in 1919 was £326,700,000, in 1920 £260,000,000, and last year was £153,100,000—now amounts only to £79,600,000, and but slightly exceeds the excess of imports (£61,100,000) shown in 1914. The following table (in which the values of our trade with foreign countries are shown under the headings of the countries to which they belong) compares the balance of our trade with Europe, the United States, other Foreign Countries, and our Overseas Dominions for the first half of the years named. The re-exports are included in the values of the exports.

	JANUARY to JUNE.							
	1914.		1920.		1921.		1922.	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Europe	Min. £ 29.4	Min. £ 34.5	Min. £ 230.6	Min. £ 107.4	Min. £ 20.2	Min. £ 118.3	Min. £ 77.0	Min. £ 18.9
U.S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Foreign Countries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
British Dominions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	61.1	..	260.0	..	153.1	79.6	..	..

A striking feature of the table is that we continue to sell goods to the countries of Europe to a greater value than our purchases from them; the fact that the British Empire sells more to the United Kingdom than it buys from her should shake the confidence of those who continue to preach the doctrine that we must look to our Dominions to help us to recover our normal trade, rather than to waste time and money in trying to re-establish satisfactory trading arrangements with the countries of Europe.

The changes in the values of our imports from and of our exports to the principal countries of Europe are shown in the next table. The countries are placed in the order of the value of our imports from them this year.

	JANUARY to JUNE. (000's omitted.)							
	Imports from				Exports to			
	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.
France	23,929	40,843	28,346	25,625	14,364	75,839	20,849	28,406
Netherlands	11,493	18,311	18,943	19,539	8,127	22,345	12,910	22,512
Denmark	12,054	14,298	20,018	18,015	2,995	15,576	4,265	5,560
Spain	6,873	20,152	11,532	12,456	3,686	8,264	8,591	7,797
Germany	39,531	11,896	11,794	12,015	18,890	10,711	6,958	14,231
Belgium	5,775	20,072	9,518	11,168	2,084	6,493	2,407	4,675
Switzerland	11,469	24,702	18,197	10,337	6,507	28,111	9,646	13,030
Sweden	5,909	23,753	9,581	6,813	3,757	20,985	4,644	5,176
Norway	3,575	13,025	5,091	5,947	3,543	14,848	5,919	6,281
Italy	4,527	10,570	4,412	5,379	7,437	21,775	9,485	10,794
Portugal	1,490	4,164	2,016	2,950	1,600	5,115	1,864	3,625
Finland	..	..	2,373	2,758	..	..	1,024	1,240
Czecho-Slovakia	..	..	2,803	2,537	..	..	963	413
Greece	676	2,136	1,477	1,523	1,851	7,247	2,446	2,178
Russia	15,282	12,210	298	1,246	8,505	5,087	186	1,764
Latvia	..	..	..	1,077	..	..	285	491
Poland	..	..	799	985	..	..	1,675	910
Austria	3,803	1,561	230	745	2,168	1,509	1,104	685
Hungary	..	..	19	173	..	..	139	102
Roumania	1,770	138	1,840	662	1,573	2,491	3,394	1,034
Turkey in Europe	652	2,266	359	616	1,833	7,039	2,446	2,017
Estonia	..	..	282	531	..	..	3,615	640

France stands easily first in rank, followed by the Netherlands and Denmark. Spain, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium come next, closely together. Sweden, Norway, and Italy are also close together; and Czecho-Slovakia (standing thirteenth in the list) comes close on the heels of Finland and Portugal. Russia—bereft of Finland, Latvia, Poland, Estonia, and Lithuania—is next to Greece, and Austria and Hungary together show a lesser value than that of the imports which we received from Poland.

Comparing the values of our exports of British produce and manufactures for the first six months of the year with the values of our imports from the countries of Europe, it will be seen that the value of our imports from ten of the 22 countries, viz., Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Poland, and Czecho-Slovakia—was higher than the value of our exports to them, but that from the remaining countries we received imports less in value than the exports we sent to them. For the first six months of the year our imports from and exports to nine countries, viz., Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Russia, and Latvia, were both higher than for the first half of last year. From four countries, France, Denmark, Belgium, and Sweden, our imports were lower, but our exports higher than last year; from seven other countries, viz., Spain, Greece, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, and Estonia, our imports were higher but our exports lower than in 1921; and only in the case of Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania were both our imports and exports lower than they were a year ago. The principal increases in the values of our exports this year, compared with the values of last year, are in the case of the Netherlands, £9,602,000; France, £7,557,000; Germany, £7,273,000; Belgium, £3,384,000; Switzerland, £2,268,000; Portugal, £1,761,000; Russia, £1,578,000; Italy, £1,309,000; and Denmark, £1,295,000.

The next table shows the values of our imports from and exports to the foreign countries of the world other than European:—

	JANUARY to JUNE. (000's omitted.)							
	Imports from				Exports to			
	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.
United States	70,447	311,332	152,295	112,451	17,769	42,282	23,184	25,120
Argentina	18,004	70,004	37,720	30,418	9,645	18,260	16,332	10,993
Cuba	2,724	21,637	3,218	7,159	890	2,557	1,461	626
Brazil	5,183	8,290	3,011	4,776	4,034	9,784	6,404	4,636
Mexico	985	6,401	5,782	4,524	389	1,567	2,496	955
Japan	2,047	12,853	4,968	4,149	5,146	14,454	9,610	13,745
Persia	..	1,166	6,229	5,657	..	772	794	682
China	1,976	12,710	3,253	4,149	8,445	18,601	14,691	18,885
Peru	1,180	7,322	2,651	2,692	706	1,872	1,628	728
Chile	2,996	7,263	3,345	2,399	2,569	3,390	3,574	2,217
Uruguay	1,564	3,411	4,705	2,296	1,127	2,543	1,881	1,353
Colombia	..	1,259	1,402	1,210	..	2,902	807	1,013
Turkey in Asia	..	3,984	138	149	..	9,332	75	104

Japan and China are the only two countries shown in the table above in which the values of our exports to them exceeded the values of the imports we obtained from them. Our exports to four countries, viz.: The United States, Japan, China, and Colombia, were higher in the first half of this year than they were last year, but our imports in each case were of a lower value. In the case of four

other countries, viz., Cuba, Brazil, Persia, and Peru, the value of our imports was higher than last year; but the value of our exports was lower. In four countries, viz., Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Uruguay, both our imports and exports were smaller in value; and in the case of Asiatic Turkey only was there seen a trifling increase in the value of both the imports and the exports.

The principal changes shown this year in the value of our imports compared with last year consist of decreases of £39,844,000 in the value of our imports from the United States; of £7,302,000 in the case of Argentina; of £2,362,000 from China; and of £2,009,000 in our imports from Uruguay. On the other hand, our imports from Cuba are higher by £4,141,000, and from Brazil by £1,765,000. The chief losses shown by our exports are £5,339,000 in the case of Argentina; £1,941,000 in the case of Mexico; of £1,708,000 in the case of Brazil; and of £1,357,000 in the case of Peru.

The chief increases in the value of our exports are shown in the case of China, which took our goods to a value of £4,194,000 higher than last year; in the case of Japan, which shows increased purchases, to the amount of £4,135,000; and by the United States to the value of £1,936,000.

The changes in the direction of our trade with our Dominions is shown in the next table:—

	JANUARY to JUNE. (000's omitted.)							
	Imports from				Exports to			
	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Australia	21,431	59,906	41,997	38,815	17,711	24,336	24,898	27,569
New Zealand	16,068	25,795	29,438	27,443	4,689	9,378	8,332	7,148
India & Ceylon	22,615	68,723	29,270	22,625	36,676	86,056	60,749	7,91
Canada	9,899	33,974	23,051	18,997	9,580	21,170	10,265	11,619
Egypt	11,858	51,170	12,153	15,872	4,936	20,389	8,466	7,706
Bh. Sth. Africa	7,179	13,658	9,302	10,068	10,830	16,306	12,664	5,799
Bh. West Africa	5,394	19,367	5,709	5,685	3,931	11,354	5,830	5,799
Straits Settlements	7,134	10,090	3,751	3,637	2,612	7,381	4,924	3,620
Bh. West Indies	1,373	8,831	3,707	3,007	1,233	2,222	2,078	2,486

Our imports from the Channel Islands were valued at £2,014,000, from Mauritius at £1,704,000, and from the Federated Malay States at £1,433,000; whilst our exports to Hong Kong were valued at £3,314,000; to Mesopotamia at £1,965,000; and to the Channel Islands at £1,361,000. In the case of four countries, viz., New Zealand, India and Ceylon, British West Africa, and the Straits Settlements, our imports and exports were both lower than in 1921. In Australia and Canada and the British West Indies our imports showed lower values this year, but our exports stood higher; and in the case of Egypt and British South Africa, our imports stood higher, but our exports were less in value.

In a final table we show the chief countries of the world to which we re-export foreign and colonial merchandise, arranged in the order of the value of our re-exports for the first six months of 1922:—

	JANUARY to JUNE.				
	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
United States	18,210,000	7,520,000	38,449,000	10,783,000	10,376,000
Germany	11,396,000	1,591,000	14,106,000	10,374,000	10,225,000
France	6,205,000	13,605,000	28,368,000	4,657,000	10,224,000
Belgium	4,140,000	5,424,000	12,095,000	3,815,000	5,973,000
Netherlands	2,615,000	11,159,000	6,925,000	3,885,000	3,512,000
Australia	..	..	2,666,000	1,281,000	2,695,000
Canada	..	..	3,628,000	890,000	1,529,000
Italy	507,000	2,275,000	3,392,000	695,000	863,000
Sweden	452,000	1,979,000	2,901,000	871,000	825,000
British South Africa	..	..	1,413,000	602,000	605,000
Denmark	261,000	3,645,000	2,348,000	649,000	556,000
Norway	..	883,000	970,000	334,000	377,000
Japan	108,000	637,000	1,289,000	427,000	189,000
Russia	4,556,000	1,411,000	2,956,000	98,000	186,000
China	..	..	190,000	103,000	100,000

Of the total value of our re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise (£55,671,520), the table shows that the United States, Germany, and France took more than 30½ million pounds worth.

Adding the value of our re-exports to that of our exports for the first six months of the current year, we find that India and Ceylon took total exports to the value of £47,048,000, France took £38,630,000 worth, the United States £35,496,000 worth, and Australia £30,264,000 worth. Our next best customers were the Netherlands (£26,024,000), Germany (£24,457,000), Belgium (£19,003,000), China (£18,985,000), Japan (£13,934,000),

British South Africa (£13,269,000), Canada (£13,148,000), and Italy (£11,657,000). It must not be forgotten that the latest six months' figures compare with a period in 1921 when the great coal stoppage played havoc with our export trade. Nevertheless, the returns provide some evidence of real improvement within the bounds unfortunately imposed by the failure to approach any settlement of the grave outstanding problems of international finance.

AGRARIAN REFORM IN EASTERN EUROPE.—II.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

IN the new States of Eastern Europe, as we saw last week, three motives have inspired the agrarian reforms now in progress: the land hunger of the peasantry, the political danger created by the presence of a powerful class of actual or possible opponents of the new order, and the desire to shut out Bolshevism. In Latvia and Estonia all three motives have been visibly active; in Poland, the second, though perhaps felt, has not been seen; the first and second have been dominant in Czecho-Slovakia, and also in the territories acquired by Roumania from Austria and Hungary through the Treaties of Peace. But the third has probably been more or less operative in both; and a similar feeling has served to justify the reforms enacted in the old territory of Roumania during the war.

The Czecho-Slovakian Republic found itself burdened at its inception with a small class of large landowners, almost all Austro-German in sympathy and German in race and speech. Their ownership dated from the great confiscations after the victory of the White Mountain in 1547; they had formed an estate in the Bohemian Diet, and had not always sided with its anti-Czech fanatics; but during the war, with very few exceptions, they had been strongly pro-German. In Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia 236 owners held more than 2,150,000 hectares, or about 28 per cent. of the whole territory; in Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia the proportion of large estates was even greater, but exact figures cannot be given. In the three first-named districts the holdings of less than 10 hectares numbered 1,349,780, and took up 23.30 per cent. of the area; those from 10 to 20 hectares 94,960, or 17.46 per cent.; those between 20 and 50 hectares 51,813, or 18.65 per cent. of the whole. From all five regions before the war there had been much emigration, chiefly to America. The reforms began* in 1918 and 1919 with what may be called *Suspensory Bills*; the first forbade the sale, mortgage, or sub-division of the large estates, the second the alienation of estates exceeding 150 acres of arable land, or 250 hectares of any sort, without leave from the Land Office, a Board controlled by the Ministry and elected by the Legislature. This body was authorised to supervise estate management, and to purchase land compulsorily, leaving, however, from 250 to 500 hectares to the owner. The compensation, fixed in 1920, is based on the average prices of land in 1913-15; the sums paid are registered, and the claims are transferable, so that it resembles inscribed stock; they carry 3 per cent. interest, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is paid to a sinking fund, but they may be paid off at a quarter's notice in securities and cash. Charges on the states are safeguarded, and there is an appeal from the Land Office to the Courts. The land purchased may be sold or leased in holdings of from 6 to 15 hectares (9 to 23 acres) on very easy terms; ex-soldiers, war widows or orphans, and the "legionaries" who fought for the Allies may be aided to become holders out of special funds, but only if they or their families can cultivate their holdings themselves. Or it may be leased or sold to actual cultivators, or in larger amounts to individuals, co-operative societies, and public bodies. But the actual distribution has not progressed very far as yet, and some of the land taken has been let provisionally, to new tenants or to former holders, during the period of transition.

In the Roumanian kingdom before its recent extensions agrarian reform had been undertaken in two stages, under laws passed respectively in 1907 and 1917-18. Before 1907 about 40 per cent. of the arable land was in holdings ranging from half a hectare to 7 hectares (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ acres), 13 per cent. in holdings between 7 and 100 hec-

tares, and the remaining 47 per cent. in large estates, some of them of 50,000 acres or more. Legal serfdom had been abolished in 1848 and 1864; economic serfdom remained. The peasants paid for their holdings (which they had often sub-divided) in produce and labour, and eked out their livelihood by working on the great estates under very onerous contracts, and by hiring additional land. Their condition was perhaps worst in Moldavia, where many large estates were let by their absentee owners to middlemen—individuals or syndicates, the latter often Galician Jews; one such syndicate alone held 259,400 hectares (640,718 acres) in 1907. These sub-let the lands to the peasants or hired them as labourers, in both cases on very harsh terms. Sanguinary risings in 1907 were ruthlessly suppressed, labour contracts were regulated, money payments substituted for produce and labour rents, common pastures were provided for the small holders, and a Land Bank was established, through which the peasants might purchase land by gradual payment. But the penalties for infringement of this law were no deterrent to the landlords, and its enforcement practically rested with them. Further efforts to promote land purchase were cut short by the war; but in 1917 the Roumanian Parliament, in its refuge at Jassy, decided that small holdings should be created as an inducement to the people to resist the invader. The law regulating their formation was passed late in 1918. This should extend the area held by the peasants to 75 per cent. of the total arable area of the old kingdom; but it was only after the peace that the process could begin. Lands owned by the Crown, corporations, foreigners, and absentees are taken first; the balance is obtained from estates containing more than 100 hectares of arable land, but the scale of expropriation is progressive, the smaller estates giving up least, and no owner can retain more than 250 hectares of arable land. Preference is given in the distribution to ex-soldiers and the dependents of those killed in the war. Cultivation by the holders is compulsory; but voluntary sale is allowed, on the ground that properties of medium size are economically desirable. The landlords receive compensation in 50-year bonds, carrying 5 per cent. interest, and representing 20 years' purchase of the rental value from 1917 to 1922. Of the capital value of these bonds, 35 per cent. is found by the State, which also, we believe, pays the interest; the peasants pay off the balance at their convenience, and we understand that many have already done so. A central office finances the transaction, and communal and district committees, representing the landlords, the peasants, and the Government, select the land to be taken. The holder may mortgage, but this is usually done through a land bank or a mutual credit society; in any case, the homestead and one hectare is exempt from foreclosure. It is stated that the supply of land for distribution has outrun the demand—which may be attributable to the rooted dislike of the Roumanian peasant to settling at a distance from the place of his birth.

In the new Roumanian territories small holdings are recognised as the basis of the agricultural economy, but this is more varied than that of the pre-war kingdom. In Bessarabia after the Russian revolution, as in Russia, the peasantry seized and divided the large estates; they accepted union with Roumania only on the condition that they should keep their new holdings, and the Roumanian Government, we believe, is to pay the former landlords some compensation. In Transylvania and the other regions acquired from Hungary by the Peace Treaty of 1920, there are peasant owners—the Szeklers—akin to the Magyars in race, and German-speaking Saxons, a thrifty and prosperous people, whose holdings are fairly large; but much of the land is owned in large estates, and often by Magyar landlords, and its actual tillers are mostly Roumanian in race, especially in the south. Since the cession, expropriation and peasant proprietorship have been enacted by various decrees and laws. The National Assembly of Transylvania at Gyulaféhervár (Karlsburg) demanded agrarian reform in 1918, and the final stage was embodied in an Act passed last year. It is described elaborately, in a learned historical treatise*, by a Magyar, and therefore a hostile critic. The unit of land is the yoke, roughly equivalent to about one and

* They are fully described by Mr Joseph Macek, in the first number of the *Slavonic Review*.

** Landownership Policy of New Roumania in Transylvania." By Dr Dennis Sebess. Budapest, 1921.

one-third acre. The total amount to be expropriated is 1,600,000 yokes, or about 2,133,000 acres. No estate exceeding 500 yokes (666 acres) is left intact, but the limit varies with the local need of land; estates of 200, or, in some cases, 100 yokes may be taken, or, where pasture land is needed for the joint use of small holders, even of 50 yokes. The peasant holdings range from 7 to 16 yokes (say, 9 to 21 acres), the larger amounts being allotted "where settlements are desirable." The holdings may be mortgaged, but only to institutions authorised by the Government; sub-division is forbidden, but sale is not, and the *exposé des motifs* recognises the need of farms of medium size, and as the recipients may include Roumanian ex-soldiers, or their widows, the distribution might act as an inducement to Roumanian immigrants, or a reward for their services in the war. Compensation is paid in 50-year 5 per cent. bonds, and based on a valuation of the land, of which an important element is the price of similar land in 1913; and it is calculated at the pre-war value of the krone. A Central Bank finances the transaction. Corporation and Church lands are included, but certain portions are exempted, and the distribution gives a preference to the former tenants and to those who have fought for Roumania in the war, disabled men coming first, while deserters, defaulters, betrayers of the Roumanian cause, and persons of bad character are shut out altogether. The land to be taken is selected by committees, which, according to Dr Sebess, burden Transylvania with a costly and occasionally corrupt alien bureaucracy. His chief aim is to show from history that the agrarian conditions in Transylvania are so far ahead of those in old Roumania that no reform was necessary, and that the measures now taken are economically unsound, and devised to get rid of the Hungarian population, especially the great landlord families, mainly of Magyar origin. But the example of the adjacent countries (except Hungary, where the movement has been checked) has made the change inevitable; some of the framers of the law, Roumanian in race, were also great landlords in Transylvania; and the great Magyar families, from whom have come some of the ablest of Hungarian statesmen, could hardly have been left with their economic power undiminished on the Roumanian side of the new Hungarian frontier.

Of course, such redistribution schemes, hurriedly passed by legislatures hostile to "landlordism" must entail much hardship and injustice, especially where landlords are regarded as an alien and dangerous class. But the outside world is more concerned with the effect on the export of agricultural produce. Some of the largest estates in all these countries appear to have been models of highly organised agriculture, with beet sugar factories (in Poland), distilleries, costly steam ploughs and tractors, and all the latest appliances of scientific tillage. Are these to be cut up? It appears, however, that in all these countries estates thus highly organised may be preserved intact, and either left to their owners (in Poland) or leased to co-operative societies or even to individuals. In Latvia and Estonia co-operative organisation in all its forms is greatly developed already; in Poland it is spreading through the example of the Catholic societies in the region formerly German. In Czecho-Slovakia, we believe, it is likely to be strong, and in Roumania it is developing; and in the form of purchasing societies and (e.g.) creameries it can do much for the small cultivator. Still, it does not seem that even "the magic of property" can enable a given number of peasant holders to produce as much grain by the labour of themselves and their cattle as might be produced on a similar area cultivated by modern methods. Supporters of the reform in Latvia, Estonia, and Poland maintain that the produce for export is increasing, but the comparison is not with the pre-war period; and a recent British official report on Roumania predicts that the peasant there will not plough deeply enough to grow wheat, but will substitute maize. But even if such fears are falsified, peasant proprietorship has other dangers. Subdivision may be remote, and in Roumania it is believed that the extension of land-holding will cause population to increase; but a thrifty and prosperous peasantry, it is argued, might limit its offspring. The French peasants do so, and the well-to-do

Saxons in Transylvania. Apart from the moral question, surplus populations will be needed for some considerable time to people the waste places of the world, and emigrants—notably from Italy and Poland—give financial strength to their country by the remittances they send or bring home. And many among mankind will not exert themselves to improve their condition unless they are spurred by the need of finding additional means of subsistence.

FRENCH REVENUE AND TAXATION.

(BY OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

IN view of the whole situation of the reparations and inter-Ally debt questions, and of the pending discussions at Brussels and elsewhere of these closely interconnected problems, it is important that exact information should be available as to the principal features of the French financial situation. To this end it may be interesting to set forth the following details of the actual receipts from taxation by the French Ministry of Finance, for the first seven months of the current year, as compared with the Budget estimates:—

	Budget Estimates for the Seven Months. Francs.	Actually Collected. Francs.
Registration duties	1,833,467,500 ..	1,778,628,000
Stamp duties	315,744,500 ..	360,457,000
Tax on Bourse operations	21,268,500 ..	11,180,000
Income-tax on shares and bonds	529,456,500 ..	704,632,000
Luxury tax	7,584,500 ..	12,337,000
Tax on business turnover	1,775,250,000 ..	1,275,088,000
Customs (exclusive of sugar and salt)	1,528,534,000 ..	868,213,000
Indirect taxation (exclusive of sugar and salt), alcoholic beverages, mineral waters, railway tickets, theatres, bicycles, motor cars, playing cards, &c.	1,397,910,000 ..	1,474,412,000
Colonial foodstuffs	93,605,000 ..	102,911,000
Salt (customs and indirect)	20,118,000 ..	18,672,000
Sugar and saccharine	369,744,000 ..	357,658,000
Motor spirit and petroleum	56,468,000 ..	125,596,000
Benzol	3,810,000 ..	6,636,000
State monopolies (matches, tobacco, gunpowder, posts, telegraphs, telephones)	1,642,819,293 ..	1,637,972,000
Exceptional receipts (war stock), &c.	230,170,650 ..	689,597,400
Produce and revenue from public domains	59,014,350 ..	51,365,400
Total	9,826,944,443 ..	9,433,989,400

The most striking increases or decreases, as compared with Budget estimates, were as follows:—Increases above estimate: Stamp duties, 44,712,500; income-tax on shares and bonds, 157,062,000; luxury tax, 4,753,000; surtax on alcoholised wines, 25,875,000; railway tickets, 22,528,000; motor car tax, 31,159,000, over an estimated revenue of 55,691,000; customs duty on mineral oils, 67,491,000; telegraphs, 5,935,000; telephones, 36,029,931. Decreases below Budget estimates: Registration duties, 54,839,000; tax on stock exchange operations, 10,282,000; turnover tax, 501,162,000 short of estimate of 1,776,250,000; Customs, 660,321,000; 25 per cent. tax on spirits and 15 per cent. tax on fine wines, 20,730,000; posts, 45,678,000. The tax on turnover, it is seen, still remains the weak spot in the French taxation plans.

There remain two other important sources of revenue—that from the income-tax and from the tax on war profits—which have yielded large sums during the first seven months of the current year, but which cannot practicably be expressed in the same tabular form. The total revenue received by the French Government from taxation of all kinds during the first seven months of 1922 is shown by adding the amount received from income-tax and the tax on war profits to the amount actually collected during the same period from the sources included in the above table, namely:—

	Francs.
Income-tax actually recovered	1,119,046,800
Tax on war profits paid January-July, 1922 ..	1,190,301,400
Other taxation recovered as per above table ..	9,433,989,400
Total revenue for the 7 months	11,743,337,600

In forming any opinion, from the figures available, as to the extent to which the French income-tax payer is fulfilling his duty, it is necessary to remember that the financial year, although nominally beginning with January 1st really depends to some extent on the date on which the Budget is passed into law, which is only rarely on or before December 30th. Further, income-tax payers are allowed until March 31st to send in their declarations in respect of their income during the previous year, so that as during the current year, the assessment lists are not

completed until, say, the end of July, after which the demand notes have to be sent out. It is obvious, therefore, that in considering the relations between the amount recovered from income-tax during the first seven months of the year and the Budget estimates, only a very approximate result can be arrived at. Allowance must also be made for the fact that income-taxes have only very recently become part of the French fiscal system, and that, in view of the rooted objection of the French to direct taxation, this form of impost has only just—even if yet—passed out of the experimental stage. The success that has attended the new taxation may be judged from the facts that whereas the Finance Minister included in his estimates for 1921 the sum of 1,893,000,000 of income-tax (with the sequel that demand notes were issued later in that year for a total of 2,127,957,400), M. de Lasteyrie, in his Budget estimates for 1922, raised the amount he expects to recover from this tax to 2,389,800,000. Any opinion arrived at as to the relation between the 1,119,046,800 paid by the French income-tax payer during the first seven months of 1922 and the Budget estimates must necessarily be affected by the fact that during 1921, in addition to calling for the payment of 2,127,957,400 for income-tax in respect of that particular year, the French Treasury authorities also served demand notes for 664,291,300 in respect of assessments made in regard to previous years. The lists of assessments for 1922 are not yet completed. (It should be noted that these figures in regard to income-tax refer to France proper, and do not include Alsace-Lorraine.)

The special tax on war profits, it should be recalled, is now approaching vanishing point. Its yield in France may be gathered from the following figures:—

	France.
Budget estimates of total yield (1917-1922) ..	12,730,000,000
Total assessments levied for.....	13,826,316,500
Instalments due to date.....	11,905,466,000
Total amount actually recovered to date	8,768,684,900

The amount levied since the beginning of the present financial year has been 1,606,299,600. The Budget estimate of the yield from this tax for 1921 was 4,000,000,000; the amount actually recovered during 1921 was 3,313,000,000. This tax is payable by quarterly instalments, with the proviso that the third instalment could not be demanded before September 26, 1920, or the fourth before March 26, 1921.

THE KAFFIR MARKET.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

THERE is some pause to the buoyancy in the Kaffir market, a buoyancy which has been brought about mainly by purchases emanating from Johannesburg and the Cape. Supplementing these Cape purchases, a good deal of money has been given for the call of Kaffirs in the Stock Exchange. This caused purchases of the shares on the part of people who took the money for the call of the shares, and who, in accordance with sound Stock Exchange tradition, bought half of the stock in respect of which they took the call money. The gold returns for the March quarter of the Transvaal mines were very poor; those of the June quarter showed a recovery, which has been substantially improved upon by the returns for the past couple of months. That this should be the case was only natural, in view of the more settled conditions that have prevailed as a consequence of the Transvaal strike-fever's abatement. Three months ago the Cape was far too interested in politics for it to pay any particular attention to shares in South African mining companies; but politics having lost their savour, speculation has stepped into the breach, and the Johannesburg share market took on a new phase of activity. The animation found quick reflection in London, where prices of the principal shares had fallen to levels that offered a good deal of temptation to people who had bought shares higher up. These people were waiting an opportunity for making purchases to average, when the tide of the mining industry indicated the possibility of taking a turn for the better. So the strength of the Cape has attracted, and continues to attract, a fair measure of buying on this

side, although, curiously enough, the greater part of the support of the genuine kind comes from the provinces.

In London, the activity is largely due to the speculation that has arisen in connection with options. This speculation, as already observed, led to purchases of shares wherewith to protect the takers of the option-money, who, of course, conduct their operations on lines quite different from those of the bucket-shops which run the shares against their clients, and are willing to plead the Gaming Act if the client happens to come out on top. This week's carry-over in the Kaffir Circus showed that there is a moderate increase in the bull account, as compared with the position of a fortnight ago; but of any real demand on the part of the ordinary speculative public no great evidence can be found. From the physical point of view, in the market itself, the strength of various shares comes spasmodically, so that there will be violent scenes of excitement, followed by such placid dealing as would lead the observer to suppose that there is really nothing much going on. In other words, the activity in Kaffirs hinges upon the Cape, and it is the Cape favouritism which have been especially conspicuous in the latest revival. It is too early to attempt forecasts of dividends in respect of the current six months, and the Kaffir market can, therefore, claim all the attraction which comes from uncertainty as to the dividend outlook. Nevertheless, the gold-mining industry is in a better position now than it has been for some time past, and, what is more, the unhealthy, artificial strength produced by the effect of what is called the gold premium is almost a thing of the past, thanks to the greater regularity of the New York exchange. What the Cape may continue to do in connection with the Kaffir market, it is no use attempting to forecast, but those who regard the Kaffir Circus as offering a reasonable field for speculative investment need scarcely be reminded that the best-class issues are likely to prove the cheapest in the long run. From these—and the shares in the Modderfontein group can be used to illustrate the point—good dividends are obtainable, and with the greater favour into which the industry has been thrown owing to reduction in working costs, the incidence of further support during the autumn may perhaps flatter the hopes of those who concentrate their attention upon the good shares. Discrimination is the more necessary just now, because most of the shares in the Kaffir list stand at materially higher prices than those which prevailed last month, when the *Economist* published from the pen of its mining correspondent a tabulated list of striking examples to illustrate the manner in which working costs per ton have fallen during the present year.

LATIN-AMERICAN NOTES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CUBA.—Recent reports from Cuba tend to show that the adverse financial and economic conditions which have prevailed during the past 18 months are gradually clearing. The serious falling-off in the Republic's foreign trade between 1920 and 1921 is shown by official figures. While, during this period, exports fell from \$794,008,788 to \$278,130,740, imports declined from \$557,016,692 to \$356,435,099. The strict supervision maintained by the United States Presidential representative (General Crowder) accounts, in no small measure, for the improved condition of the island Republic's economic conditions; and although strained relations appear to exist between President Alfred Zayas and his newly-appointed Cabinet, it is believed that the intervention of the American agent will serve to prevent an open rupture. The Executive is meeting with deliberate obstruction in his expressed determination to reduce public expenditure, and to bring this within the budget limits, which have been set at \$55,000,000. The most favourable factor in the position is the gradual (and now almost completed) marketing of last year's surplus sugar crop, while prospects for the current year are considered exceptionally good. The yield is expected to amount to 3,500,000 tons, or, perhaps, even more. Whatever the crop may amount to, little difficulty is anticipated in marketing it—a favourable contrast with last year's conditions, when complete demoralisation set in.

the price of sugar declining, within a brief period, from 23 cents to 2 cents per lb. Another advantage is the lowering of agricultural labourers' wages. Two years ago these amounted, per man, to \$6 per day, whereas at present the rate averages \$1.50, the earnings of other manual workers having fallen proportionately. The long-sustained period of gambling and reckless speculation, which brought more than one flourishing financial institution to grief, has apparently completely disappeared, giving place to normal economic conditions.

PERU.—The negotiations entered into by the Peruvian Government for a further loan appear to have been successful, and once again resort has been made to New York financiers for assistance. The need for a loan became urgent owing to the Government being unable to meet some of its most pressing obligations. The funds now received, which include the proceeds of a loan of \$2,500,000 (£570,000), raised through the Trust Company of New York, and secured by the petroleum revenues, also comprises profit on exchange derived from the transfer of reserve funds in New York to London; the profits of the debased currency bill, and purchase of silver transactions connected with that operation; the payment of \$1,000,000 (£200,000) by the London and Pacific Petroleum Company, in consideration of an adjustment of the export tax on petroleum, together with a small advance on petroleum export taxes made several months back. In a new effort to control foreign exchange, the Peruvian Government has published a decree requiring a State licence for exports, which will be granted only on delivery to Customs authorities of drafts for 70 per cent. of the value of goods to be exported. The new Reserve Bank appears to be functioning satisfactorily. A clearing-house system among the local banks participating as shareholders in this institution has been inaugurated. Hitherto, at the close of daily banking operations, cheques were interchanged between the various banks by means of messengers, and the respective balance cleared by the same method. Under the new system, however, all cheques cashed through the respective banks are forwarded to the offices of the Reserve Bank, and are duly credited or debited to their several accounts. The establishment of the new institution has inspired renewed confidence, and had a stabilising effect which has afforded a fillip to banking transactions and local investments, while a stronger movement in sugar and other native products is reported.

HAITI.—Anxiety is being experienced by coffee planters in Haiti regarding the prospects of the coming crop. As in other Latin-American countries, the economic prosperity of the people depends largely upon the supply and price of the berry. Although the season is yet insufficiently advanced to allow of any accurate forecast, it is believed that the current year's crop will fall about one-fourth short of that of last year, while the price f.o.b., Cape Haitien, was quoted round about 16½ cents per lb. It is not expected that this price will be maintained when the new crop comes to hand. In the meantime the financial condition of the country remains very unsatisfactory, notwithstanding the strict supervision of American officials. The Administration is endeavouring to raise a further loan of \$15,000,000 (£3,000,000), part of which would be allocated to the redemption of the outstanding French indebtedness. Owing to the advantage of present exchange discounts the present time is considered particularly favourable for such a transaction, which would not only relieve the Government from many of its present necessities, but would serve to circulate in business circles new money which would become available for the increase of stocks, which have fallen very low and need replenishment.

COLOMBIA.—British oil interests in Colombia have met with considerable competition upon the part of the Royal Dutch Shell Company, especially in connection with the Diégo Martínez concession, in the Sinu, but it is now learned that this competition will come to an end with the withdrawal of Dutch interests from the neighbourhood. The option over the properties granted to British interests still remains in force. In connection with this an initial payment of \$40,000 has already been made, while the balance of \$60,000 still outstanding is expected to be paid forthwith. While considerable energy and enterprise have been displayed by the British syndicate, which

is said to be using rotary drills and employing American drillers on its properties located near Puerto Colombia, so far no confirmatory report has been received of the success of the operations, which have been in progress for some months. On the other hand, considerable prosperity seems to have attended the operations of the Tropical Oil Company, the products of whose refinery at Barranca Bermeja are on sale at several Colombian towns at prices considerably cheaper than those hitherto quoted in that country. As an example may be cited the price of kerosene, which has hitherto sold in Cartagena at \$6.30 the case of 10 gallons, but which is now being offered by the Tropical Oil Company at \$2.95. In the case of gazolene, hitherto selling at \$6.60 the case, the price quoted is \$4.35. If these prices can be profitably maintained, it is understood that the large number of Magdalena River steamboats, most of which are run by a British transport company, will adopt fuel oil in place of wood, which has hitherto proved a very expensive item, and thus effect very substantial economies in the company's working expenses.

Notes of the Week.

Ireland's Tragedies.—A malign fate still pursues Ireland. Every hope, every new opportunity is followed by a series of tragic events calculated to thwart achievement. Of these the assassination of Michael Collins is the latest and most grievous. The fervent hopes aroused by the signature of the Treaty last December were tempered by the realisation that to bring the Irish Free State into being and Ireland into calm waters would tax to the utmost the strength, courage, and resourcefulness of the two chief Irish signatories, Mr Arthur Griffiths and Mr Michael Collins. After months of bitter struggle it recently began to appear that at last rebellion was waning and the goal of peace in sight. At such a moment natural death removes Mr Griffiths, and after a few days Mr Collins, now bearing more than a double load of responsibility, falls to the bullet of a rebel. Thus once again Ireland faces an hour of acute trial. We are by no means without hope that the people of Southern Ireland will produce the men and the spirit necessary to meet it. The great majority of the people of the nascent Free State have, by their suffrages, shown that they were ranged behind Mr Griffiths and Mr Collins in their support of the Treaty and in their work of pacification. The latest tragedy will serve to strengthen their support and fire their determination that Ireland's new hope shall not be blighted by the work of rebels and gunmen. The misguided fanatics who slew Sir Henry Wilson did Ireland the most signal disservice by embittering the age-long feud between North and South. Those who killed Michael Collins have for the moment dealt a very grievous blow at the Irish Free State; but from their act may arise a resentment among the law-abiding majority that will gather in force till it sweeps away the obstacles that hold the Free State back from peace and prosperity, and so complete the tremendous task towards the accomplishment of which Mr Griffiths and Mr Collins have given their most valiant efforts and finally their lives. Such is our hope, but for the moment the position is pregnant with anxiety.

The Porte and its Creditors.—To the report of the Ottoman Debt Council for 1920-21 Sir Adam Black contributes an introduction dated April, 1922, showing the injury inflicted by the prolonged state of war in Asia Minor on the revenues and credit of the Porte. Nearly all that region is controlled by the Angora Government, which has "borrowed" the revenues assigned to the Debt service, to the amount last spring of about £T16,000,000, apart from those which have fallen to it through the retirement of the French from Cilicia. Thereby it has seriously weakened Turkish credit by taking a course never adopted at Constantinople even under the stress of the world war. It acknowledges its liability, but it has hardly enough for its own needs, and the country will not recover for years. Of the revenues now available for the Debt service, however, the gross and net totals

for 1920-21 show a slight increase over those for 1919-20. It comes mainly from tobacco and Customs, and is offset by the fall in exchange. Of the revenues directly administered by the Council (from salt, stamps, spirits, fisheries, and silk), only that from fisheries shows a real increase; this is due to higher prices and a larger supply. Yet in August, 1921, the price of salt was tripled, and the penalties for evasion are to be heavier. Foreign intervention has delayed the projected modification of the stamp duties and hampered the collection of the duty on imported alcohol. The silk tithe had increased largely from 1915 to 1920, but only through a rise in price; the actual production has declined heavily through the lack of hands and devastation of the silk-producing districts, and cannot revive for years. The Custom House staff of the Council cannot prevent the frauds which certainly take place. The exchange in March, 1920, was 405 piastres to the £ sterling; in April, 1922, it was 700; now it is 725. The control over Government expenditure exercised by the Provisional Financial Commission (consisting of the British, French, and Italian members of the Debt Council) seems to be purely advisory, and the Government shows no disposition to retrench. Its one financial merit is that it has not met its difficulties by issuing notes. The deficit last year was £T9,720,000, and the officials received only seven months' pay; the cost of living is tenfold more than before the war. But the Council has been able to increase the 1s 3d paid last year on each of the 11 coupons (nominally of 8s each) of the Unified Debt from 1915 to 1920 to 2s; and 6s is to be paid on the coupons of 1920-21 and 1921-22. These payments are independent of any sum that may fall to the bondholders out of the deposits placed during the war in German and Austrian banks, when it is decided what rate of exchange is to be adopted in their repayment. The net receipts for 1921-22 show an estimated decrease as compared with 1920-21 of £T455,290, but after deducting the fixed sum for the service of the Unified Debt and the Lottery Bonds, there will be a balance of about £T15,574,700 for the Special Reserve Fund covering the loss on exchange, which will then exceed £T17,580,000. The bondholders are at least faring better than the Turks.

Employment and Wages in July.—July saw a continuance of the slight decline in unemployment which had been in progress during May and June. The *Ministry of Labour Gazette* records that the percentage unemployed among members of the trade unions from which returns are received fell from 15.7 at the end of June to 14.6 at the end of July. How this percentage has moved recently and how it stood before the war is shown in the following table:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.											
End of—	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.
January ..	2.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	2.2	0.3	0.3
February ..	2.0	0.3	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	16.3	1.9	0.3	1.2
March	1.7	0.3	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6	17.0	17.0	1.9	0.4	0.9
April	1.9	0.4	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2	16.4	16.4	1.9	0.4	0.7
May	1.9	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1	15.7	15.7	1.9	0.4	0.6
June	1.9	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	14.6	2.0	0.5	0.5
July	2.0	0.5	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	..	..	2.3	1.3	0.5
August	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	..	..	2.2	1.1	0.4
September ..	2.0	1.1	0.4	2.6	5.3	15.6	..	..	2.0	1.1	0.5
October	2.0	1.1	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	..	..	2.6	1.4	1.2
November ..	2.6	1.4	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	..	..	* Excluding coal miners.		

The improvement previously recorded in the textile, tin plate, and steel sheet trades was maintained, and there was also some improvement in the coal mining industry and in the engineering and shipbuilding trades. The percentage unemployed among workers coming under the Unemployment Insurance Act was 12.3 at July 24th, as compared with 12.7 per cent. at June 26th. In the industries and services for which statistics are compiled by the Labour Ministry the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in July resulted in a total reduction of nearly £490,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,360,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £13,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 330,000 workpeople. The principal reductions affected coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midland area, workers employed in the engineering industry generally, and railway ser-

vants. In the case of coal miners in the above area there was a decrease of over 6 per cent. on current rates; engineers had their wages reduced by 5s 6d per week; and the wages of railway servants in most grades, except engine drivers and firemen, were reduced by amounts varying from 2s to 4s per week. Since the beginning of 1922 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of nearly £3,200,000 in the wages of 7,350,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £3,500 in the wages of 18,000 workpeople.

Cost of Living.—The *Ministry of Labour Gazette* records a fall of 3 points in its cost of living index figure during July, which leaves it 81 per cent. above the pre-war level. The following table traces recent movements in this figure:—

ALL ITEMS: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914. (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)					
	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January 1st	85.90	120	125	165	92
February "	90	120	130	151	88
March "	90	115	130	141	86
April "	90.95	110	132	133	82
May "	95.100	105	141	128	81
June "	100	105	150	119	80
July "	100.105	105.110	152	119	84
August "	110	115	155	122	81
September "	110	115	161	120	..
October "	115.120	120	164	110	..
November "	120.125	125	176	103	..
December "	120	125	169	99	..

The figure for food alone, which had advanced from 70 per cent. at June 1st to 80 per cent. at July 1st fell back to 75 per cent. at August 1st, the decline being due to a large fall in the price of potatoes. Small average decreases in the prices of meat, fish, flour and bread were rather more than counterbalanced by increases in milk, eggs and sugar. Our contemporary hazards an estimate that clothing now costs 140 per cent. more than before the war.

Australian Public Finance.—Our Melbourne correspondent writes:—The preliminary statement of Commonwealth revenue and expenditure presented to Parliament by the Treasurer, Mr Bruce, on July 5th, shows gross totals (inclusive of transactions on both sides with the States) comparing with the previous year as follows:—

	1920-21.	1921-22.
Revenue	£ 65,517,608	£ 64,913,085
Expenditure*	64,624,087	65,118,265
Surplus	893,521	..
Deficit	..	205,180

* Exclusive of loan expenditure.

The revenue for 1921-22 has been credited with £835,000, payment received on account of the army of occupation (this item not being set against war loans), and but for this the deficit for 1921-22 would be £1,040,180. The decline in revenue is mainly the result of reduced Customs receipts, which had been swollen in 1920-21 by excessive importations, together with lessened receipts from the War Time Profits Tax. The Customs revenue, however, has been maintained at a higher level than was anticipated, as large Australian borrowings in London have helped to facilitate import trade. The increase in expenditure has led to much adverse criticism, as although less was spent upon repatriation and other war services, there has been an increase under almost every head of ordinary expenditure, in addition to the increase in interest on public debt. The hope of relief in taxation has thus practically disappeared, apart from readjustments probably in detail. The Commonwealth revenue for 1921-22 includes taxation £49,677,980. Allowing for direct taxation by the six States, the total Australian taxation for 1921-22 is between 68 and 69 millions, or approximately £12 10s per head of population. In 1920-21 the total taxation was £70,318,921, against £55,328,307 for 1919-20, and £44,305,501 for 1918-19. The foregoing figures do not include New Zealand, where taxation receipts rose from £16,458,329 in 1919-20, to £22,453,077 in 1920-21.

id then fell to £16,639,641 in 1921-22 (the financial year ending March 31st), the latter figure being equivalent to about £13 6s 8d per head. The total New Zealand revenue for 1921-22 was £28,127,007, against £34,260,962 in 1920-21, and the expenditure £28,966,837, against £28,568,729, inclusive of £500,000 in each year transferred to public works account.

The Outlook in New Zealand.—Our Auckland correspondent, writing on July 10th, reports steady improvement in the financial outlook. The labour world is quiet: in spite of recent wages reductions there have been no strikes. The banking returns for the June quarter show an excess of £4,767,048 of advances over deposits—£1,363,878 less than in the previous quarter, owing to an increase in deposits and reduction in advances; not much more than half the excess of advances for the June quarter last year (£8,874,390). As regards public finance, it is hoped that, within a measurable distance of time, the Budget may balance. Public expenditure is still increasing, but Mr Massey, the Premier, has shown that he intends to meet these expenses by a policy of retrenchment rather than through new loans, which only give temporary and illusory relief. A second reduction in the wages of all public employees (some 50,000) is now announced, while retrenchment is also being followed on other lines. A report from the Secretary of the Treasury shows that the expenditure for the financial year 1921-22 increased over that of 1913-1914 by £16,341,000— an increase mostly due to the war. Nearly £5,000,000 of this is interest and sinking fund on war loans. A proposal to suspend the sinking fund was rejected by Mr Massey, as implying a breach of faith. Although there has been some improvement during the last few months, it is not yet shown in the latest Treasury returns. As a large proportion of the revenue, especially the land and income-taxes, did not come in till towards the end of the financial year, special arrangements had to be made to meet current requirements. During the year Treasury bills amounting to £1,155,453 were issued in anticipation of loan moneys and revenues, upon the receipt of which they were redeemed. No Treasury bills were outstanding on March 31st, nor have any been issued since. In spite of the heavy taxation on companies, business on the Stock Exchange shows a continued firmness, quotations showing, on the whole, an upward tendency. Heavy taxation has not resulted in any serious reduction in dividends. It is true, in some cases, the usual rate of interest has only been maintained by trespassing on the reserve fund, but this is exceptional; in most cases the increased charges have been passed on to the public. Another reason for the firmness of Stock Exchange quotations is that many investors have been driven to seek these securities in preference to house property (formerly a favourite mode of investment), owing to the rent restriction legislation of the last three years. This anti-landlord legislation has had the very opposite effect of what was intended, by discouraging house-building, and has already been modified. Doubtless it will soon be totally repealed, as has already been done in Australia. Owing to the onerous restrictions on company profits already referred to, high rates of wages, general depression and want of capital, very few new industries have been started lately in New Zealand. On this account, old-established industries already in possession of the field have enjoyed a virtual monopoly; this is another cause which has tended to counteract the excessive financial burdens of taxation of profits. It is the general belief that these burdens will soon be lightened, when a further improvement in Stock Exchange quotations may be expected.

American Cotton Season, 1921-22.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The mail to hand this week from the United States has brought fuller details of the annual report on the American cotton season 1921-22, published by Mr H. G. Hester, the secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange. The actual growth for the season is given as 8,442,000 bales, and the commercial crop as 11,653,000 bales. The carry over on July 31st was 4,904,000 bales, against 9,363,000 bales twelve months previously. The grade of the crop was middling. A feature of the year's production was that it was one of the

most even running growths on record. There was very little low grade cotton, and the same may be said to a great extent of the previous year. The superabundance of low and undesirable descriptions in the 1921 carry over was, therefore, mostly accumulations from prior seasons' growths. The way in which these low grades have been absorbed, says Mr Hester, is one of the most interesting features of the year. Many of the mills, especially in the Southern States, awoke to the real value of the so-called unspinnable cottons at the discounts at which they were being sold, and quite a number of them used those descriptions for the first time during the past year. The value of the commercial crop was 1,173,833,582 dollars, as compared with 1,076,380,710 dollars in 1920-21, and 2,516,544,520 dollars in 1919-20. Mr Hester closes his report with the following significant comment: "Notwithstanding the rise in value of raw cotton there is a hopeful feeling and a disposition to discount an expectation of increasing scarcity of raw material, and the probable straightening out of the European crisis leading to an increased demand from foreign quarters." For a long number of years manufacturers of cotton goods in the United States have made great efforts to increase their foreign trade, but it is doubtful whether any real progress is being made, and the shipments from year to year vary considerably. It is now stated that the exports of cotton piece goods from America during the twelve months ended June 30th last were 603,786,485 yards, against 543,026,622 yards in the previous year, and 444,729,241 yards in the year ended June 30, 1913. Business with foreign outlets is chiefly in unbleached cloths, and last year the shipments in grey goods were about 35 per cent. of the total.

Wool Stocks and Disposals.—From statistics issued by the secretary of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association, Limited, we have compiled the following summary of wool stocks and disposals at December 31, 1921, and July 31, 1922:—

Description.	Stock and Afloat, Dec. 31, 1921.	Disposals, July 31, 1922.	Stock and Afloat, July 31, 1922.
Australian—	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Merinos	419,673	257,405	162,268
Crossbreds	755,860	133,074	622,786
Total Australian	1,175,533	390,479	785,054
New Zealand—	2,738	224	2,514
Merino	377,486	126,581	250,905
Crossbreds (bulk combing) ..	126,061	40,154	85,907
Slipes	127,768	48,099	79,669
Scoured	..	..	..
Total New Zealand	634,053	215,058	418,995
South African—	80,647	65,819	14,828
Crossbred, medium	..	..	..
Grand total	1,890,233	671,356	1,218,877

The grand total of 1,218,877 does not include 16 bales of reconditioned wool. Of the stocks of wool shown above, one-half of the Australian wool and the whole of the New Zealand and South African wool belongs to the British Government. The other half of the Australian wool belongs to the British Australian Wool Realisation Association, Limited.

African and Eastern Trade Corporation.—For 1920 profits of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, amounted to £854,499. Of this sum £300,000 was allocated to investment depreciation account, and the investments of the company, mostly in allied and subsidiary undertakings, were recorded in the balance-sheet as £8,293,215. Reserves, however, fortunately had been accumulated to an extent of £6,914,358. This report and accounts of the previous year—1920—was issued in July, 1921, and records the intention of the directors to make a final payment of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which would absorb £124,219. In the report and accounts just published for 1921, the attention of shareholders is called "to the unprecedented world-wide depression in trade during the year under review," the consequences of which are that results for the year show a heavy "loss in trade and a depreciation in values of stocks and of forward commitments." The directors, after payment of the final

ordinary dividend in 1920, found themselves in 1921 with a balance of £207,597 in hand. But to make provision for trading losses and depreciation of stocks, it was decided to take £1,750,000 from reserves. A further sum of £1,500,000 was also taken from reserves to write down investments in allied and subsidiary companies. The balance-sheets record that reserves have been reduced in one year from £6,914,358 to £3,729,509, while investments in allied companies are now £6,849,459, as against £8,232,942 a year ago. It would perhaps have been clearer to shareholders if the depreciation of security holdings in allied undertakings had been more fully explained in the report. If these "investments" have been written down by £1,500,000 on account of asset depreciation, then a loss to this extent might have been shown in profit and loss account. If, on the other hand, the depreciation is for securities which are merely depressed in sympathy with prevailing conditions, then perhaps the directors could see their way clear to explain what hope there may be of an improvement in values. It is a matter for comment that the auditors' report is made "subject to the value of the shares in subsidiary and allied companies." Properties are taken at cost—two items of £972,849 and £387,398 respectively. Various creditors total £3,364,602, including an advance by bankers of £490,275, as against comparative liabilities of £1,619,836 in previous accounts, while debtors have increased from £2,796,900 to £2,891,309. Total assets are down from £15,621,680 to £13,595,415. The directors have a stiff task before them to bring this once profitable undertaking once again into the dividend-paying lists. It is to be hoped that the chairman at the annual meeting next week will make a clear and complete statement of the position, and deal with those points to which we have alluded. The balance-sheet will be found analysed in our usual column.

Furness, Withy's Year.—A further decline in profits this time of £127,737 is shown by the report of Furness, Withy, and Co. for the year ending April 30, 1922. From the following table can be traced the financial history of the company since 1908:—

	Total Profit.	Depreciation.	Reserve, &c.	Dividends.	Ord. Rate.
	£	£	£	£	%
1908-9	267,075	114,897	..	166,361	5
1909-10	332,992	145,417	..	183,302	5
1910-11	440,732	179,603	50,000	220,620	7½
1911-12	653,207	240,000	125,000	270,620	10
1912-13	756,141	350,000	125,000	270,620	10
1913-14	620,928	350,000	..	270,620	10
1914-15	653,548	350,000	15,000	268,431	10
1915-16	1,386,960	350,000	300,000	463,125	20
1916-17	*787,564	350,000	200,000	456,250	20
1917-18	645,077	200,000	..	456,250	20
1918-19	747,661	..	300,000	452,500	20
1919-20	1,004,821	500,000	..	452,500	10
1920-21	782,914	300,000	..	452,500	10
1921-22	655,207	..	200,000	452,500	10

* After payment of two years' Excess Profits Duty.

Allocations to reserve and depreciation are £100,000 less than a year ago, and the directors maintain the ordinary dividend at 10 per cent., including a 5 per cent. bonus, while carrying forward £206,055 as compared with £203,348 a year ago. The text of the report states that owing to the continuance of depression "only a small portion of the profits are derived from the earnings of the steamers. They mainly arise from other branches of the company's business, and from dividends on investments." It will be noticed from the above table that, despite the depressed conditions, profits exceed those of the last pre-war year. The balance-sheet, which is analysed in the usual column, though still less laconic than the balance-sheets of some shipping concerns, unfortunately shows signs of compression this year. On the liabilities side three items, "Reserve fund," "Reserve account for insurance and repairs," and "Trade contingencies fund," have now been telescoped into one item, "General reserve account"—a proceeding which admittedly is clearly explained in the report, but for which no reason is given. On the assets side the £500,000 of National War Bonds hitherto shown separately is included in a general asset

item of £7,836,934. We hope this is not a first step towards adopting the extreme uninformative nature of certain other shipping concerns' accounts. Sundry creditors are down by £678,766, and sundry debtors £332,193 higher, while the item "bankers' balances on current and deposit accounts, Treasury bills, cash and bills of exchange on hand" is £1,118,723 lower at £1,722,612. Shareholders have reason for satisfaction in the way in which the company is ploughing its way through the period of shipping depression.

Ebbw Vale.—"The whole of the collieries were idle during the national dispute in April, May, and June; the Abercarn group resumed in July, but the Ebbw Vale group remained idle a month longer owing to a local dispute. The iron and steel departments, which were rendered idle by the coal strike of October, 1920, resumed work in October, 1921. The wages paid during the year in respect of the Ebbw Vale Company's operations amounted to £1,336,195, as compared with £4,168,015 during the previous year." This brief introduction to the report and accounts of the Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal Co., Limited, serves as a prelude to statement showing a net trading loss of £320,870 on the year ended March 31st last. The directors, however, consider that they are justified in taking £421,329 from reserves to clear this off, and to distribute £84,000 to the 7 per cent. cumulative preference shareholders in payment of dividend for the year under review. In the balance-sheet, cash in hand amounts to £3,728, but there is £860,179 due from debtors. Stocks at £782,478 are valued at cost or market price, whichever is lower. Interests in associated companies are taken at cost at £2,802,974. Property and plant appears at £6,912,513. It should be noted, however, that the auditor draws attention to the point that "No amount has been provided during the year for depreciation of capital outlay." Comparatively considered with balance-sheets of companies representative of other industries, the accounts before us are informative, and interesting statistics are included.

Japanese Trade and Finance.—Cabled advices from Tokyo record a continuance of stringency in the short loan market, the rate for day-to-day money being quoted 7 per cent. The money market resources have been strained by large and popular issues of new debenture stocks, by the efforts of the tax-collector, by the demand for accommodation by silk-reelers, by the half-yearly settlement in the Provinces, and lastly by preparations for paying up subscriptions to the new Government loan. The cotton yarn market is inactive, while the silk market shows a tendency to weakness in spite of the enforcement of limitation of production. No general improvement is visible in foreign trade. Various plans for the regulation of prices, the reduction of railway rates, the raising of the rate of interest on postal savings bank deposits, the lowering of monopoly prices of salt and tobacco are reported as likely to be gradually put into force. On August 15th the note issue of the Bank of Japan was 1,108,000,000 yen as compared with 1,119,000,000 yen a year ago, while discounts and advances at 152,000,000 yen compared with 84,000,000 yen at August 15th, 1921. The Bank of Japan's index number of wholesale prices for July was 266 as compared with 259 for July, 1921.

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—FAVOURABLE CROP OUTLOOK—COMMODITY PRICES—TARIFF DEVELOPMENTS—JUNE RAILROAD EARNINGS—COAL AND RAILROAD STRIKES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 14.

PRESENT indications point to unusually heavy yields of all crops with the exception of cotton and sugar beets, while the production of corn, white potatoes, and hay promises to be close to the largest on record. The crop of sweet potatoes may exceed all previous yields. The

Government's August report forecasts a three-billion-bushel corn crop for the fifth time in this country. Thanks to favourable weather, corn and various other crops made remarkable growth in July.

The indicated yield of tobacco, totalling 1,425,000,000 lbs, if realised, will be the fourth largest crop ever grown, while the prospective harvest of apples, 200,000,000 bushels, is more than double that of last year. Owing to the promise of liberal harvests of corn, oats, barley, rye, and other crops there is likely to be plenty of feedstuffs for fattening livestock, with a prospect, therefore, of a large supply of meat at possibly lower prices. The promise of bountiful harvests this year encourages expectations of some lowering of living costs. Estimates of yields, based on the August 1st condition of the crops, compare as follows with those actually gathered last year, and with the record harvests of the past, the figures being in bushels unless otherwise indicated:—

PRODUCTION IN MILLIONS OF BUSHELS.

	1921.	1922.	Past Records.	Year.
Winter wheat	587	542	760	1919
Spring wheat	208	263	356	1918
All wheat	795	805	1,025	1915
Corn	3,080	3,017	3,208	1920
Oats	1,061	1,251	1,593	1917
Barley	151	192	256	1918
Rye	58	79.6	91	1918
Rice	36.5	38.7	51.7	1920
Buckwheat	14.1	13.8	23	1866
Total seven cereals	5,195	5,397	5,896	1915
White potatoes	547	440	442	1917
Sweet potatoes	98.7	112	104	1920
Tobacco, pounds	1,075	1,425	1,582	1920
Flax	8.1	11.4	29	1902
Hay, all, tons	96.8	110.3	111	1916
Cotton, bales	8.0	11.4	16.1	1914
Apples	98.1	202	253	1914
Peaches	32.7	56	64	1915
Peanuts, pounds	816	679	1,234	1917
Kaffirs	115	114	137	1920

The value of 17 leading crops, based on the Government's August crop report and on August market prices, is figured by the Department of Agriculture at \$7,134,654,000, or approximately \$1,200,000,000 more than the same crops were worth a year ago at the prices then prevailing. The figures are predicted, obviously, upon favourable conditions continuing until harvest time.

During July the net movement in prices of commodities was negligible, judging from *Bradstreet's* index number as of August 1st, namely, \$12.0688, which shows a decline of only three-tenths of 1 per cent. from July 1st. The number marks a decline of 42.1 per cent. from February 1, 1920, and of 36.1 per cent. from November 1, 1918, but an advance of 9.1 per cent. over August 1st a year ago, of 14 per cent. from the low point of recent years on June 1, 1921, and of 38.5 per cent. from August 1, 1914. Changes in the various groups of commodities since July 1st were exceptionally small; seven groups showed decreases as against six that advanced.

Possibly before this article is published the United States Senate will have taken a final vote on the Tariff Bill, which for four months has been the subject of heated debate. Assuming that the Senate will pass as a whole the Bill, which it has approved piecemeal, that measure, together with the Bill passed some time ago by the House of Representatives, will be submitted to a Conference Committee, whose task will be to draft, if possible, a compromise Bill acceptable to both the House and Senate. How much time the conferees may require to complete such a tariff is wholly problematical, especially since the two Bills are radically different in many respects. During the past week the Senate disposed of the sugar schedule by fixing rates of 1.84 cents a pound on sugar imported from Cuba and 2.3 cents on imports thereof from other countries, both rates representing increases over those provided in the House Bill. The Senate Finance Committee had recommended 1.60 and 2 cents respectively; much higher duties had been proposed, but were defeated by the narrow majority of two votes. The Senate also put hides on the free list, rejecting the rates of 4 cents a pound on dried hides and 2 cents a pound on raw hides, which the Finance Committee had recommended despite the practically unanimous protest of leather goods manufacturers. Boots and

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over \$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



shoes were likewise placed on the free list, as was potash.

Unfinished business on the books of the United States Steel Corporation at the end of July amounted to 5,776,161 tons, representing an increase of 140,630 tons during that month, and the largest total of unfilled orders reported for any month since the end of April, 1921; it compares with 4,830,324 tons at the close of July a year ago. It seems that the demand for steel is now about equal to the capacity of this country's mills. The corporation's July operations ranged from over 76 per cent. to about 71 per cent. of capacity. Its production in that month is estimated at approximately 1,000,000 tons of finished steel.

Practically complete reports of railroad earnings for June show that the net operating income of the first-class carriers amounted to \$76,470,500, equivalent to an annual return at the rate of 4.78 per cent. on their tentative property valuation. That rate compares with 4.36 per cent. in May of this year, and 3.18 per cent. in June, 1921. Gross earnings in June totalled \$472,880,600, representing an increase of 2½ per cent. over the corresponding month of last year, while operating expenses of \$363,335,000, showed a decrease of 4½ per cent., as compared with June, 1921. For the first half of 1922 net operating income for all roads, with the exception of two rather small lines which have not yet reported for June, amounted to \$348,387,400, or at an annual rate of 4.43 per cent., as against \$145,639,800, or at an annual return of only 1.85 per cent. during the first six months of 1921. Operating revenues decreased 2½ per cent., and operating expenses 12.1 per cent., as compared with the same period of last year. Owing to the coal and railroad strikes, relatively poor earnings reports are expected for the months of July and August. The coal strike seems likely to be terminated in the near future. All efforts on the part of the Government as a "voluntary mediator" to end the railway shopmen's strike have proved futile, as have similar efforts by the Railroad Labour Board. One of the main issues in-

volved, and probably the most important remaining obstacle to a settlement, is the question of seniority rights. The strikers still insist on the full restoration of such rights if they return to work, that is, they are demanding that they be restored in all respects to their former status. President Harding's latest peace proposal was that the strikers should return to work, that the railroads should assign them to work, and that both sides should submit the dispute over the restoration of seniority rights to the Railroad Labour Board for decision, which should be accepted as final and binding by all parties concerned. The great majority of the carriers accepted that plan, while the minority also accepted it to the extent that they agreed to take back as many of the strikers as possible, and to leave the seniority issue to the Labour Board for settlement. The shopmen, however, flatly rejected this proposal, presumably because the Railroad Labour Board has already ruled that the strikers are no longer railroad employees; as they apparently view it, the seniority issue would be decided by a tribunal which has declared that the strikers have no rights to such privileges. Present indications are that strong measures may be adopted by the Government to end the strike if the situation becomes much worse.

FRANCE.—REPARATION CRISIS—GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE—POSSIBLE ECONOMIC RAPPROCHEMENT WITH GERMANY—THE BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 23.

FOR the moment, awaiting the return from Berlin of Sir John Bradbury and M. Maucière, the French Government is refraining from any definite action and is merely marking time. It is now announced that the embargo placed on the banking accounts of German nationals in Alsace-Lorraine has been removed, and for the moment, at any rate, there need be no expectation that this country will take independent steps against her creditor on any of the lines which it was seriously feared, immediately after the failure of the London Conference, might be adopted. M. Poincaré's latest speech—at Bar-le-Duc yesterday—however, clearly indicates that the French Government has absolutely come to the end of its patience in respect of any further concessions to Germany, and that the Poincaré Cabinet is fully resolved that no further moratorium shall be given to Germany unless accompanied by specific and productive guarantees. The manner in which the Bar-le-Duc speech has been received here leaves no possible doubt that in adopting this line M. Poincaré's Government has the whole strength of French public opinion behind it.

Coupled with the firmer tone in French opinion is the fact that the idea that it might be advantageous to try and arrange some kind of economic alliance with Germany (to which I referred last week) has made substantial progress here of late. With the exception of a certain group of the French industrial leaders, perhaps, the French as a nation have no real liking for anything in the way of an entente with Germany, whether of an economic or any other form. The idea is by no means a new one, however. It has been advocated for years by M. Caillaux, and has long been regarded with a kind of sneaking affection by the now greatly diminished Radical-Socialist party, which he led triumphantly for some years before his fall. The argument has often been put forward that the best policy France could adopt in regard to Germany would not be to crush her politically and economically by force of arms and insistence on extracting the last farthing of the reparation debt from her, but to form an economic alliance with her, with the hope that, by the combination of French savings and German enterprise, the two nations might secure the preponderating influence in the reconstitution of Russia and the moribund States of Central Europe. By partnership in such a combination, it is insisted, French finance would be able to bring about the domination of Germany in quite another and much more profitable form than she can ever hope to do by confining herself to the sterilities of the Versailles Treaty or by imposing sanctions by the force of her "mailed fist." The revived interest in this idea that has been displayed lately is perhaps to some extent a natural rejoinder to Mr

Lloyd George's reported reference to the possibility that Great Britain might find it necessary, in certain events, to seek "other friendships" than that of France. The friendly welcome that has been given to the idea in Germany itself has naturally caused many people here to hesitate seriously in considering it; nevertheless, the fact that such an alliance is now regarded here as possible, and that, although one writer describes the suggested Franco-German entente as "an alliance of despair," and another as "a return to an old (i.e., Caillauxist) insanity," it is recognised here that "if it must some day be concluded, thanks to Mr Lloyd George, it must necessarily be directed against Great Britain," ought surely to have some influence in their dealings with Franco-British relations on those who at present guide British opinion.

As was to be expected, the failure of the London Conference resulted in a depression of the Bourse, but this effect was only temporary, and the market closed firm, the depreciation of the franc favouring foreign securities. French Rentes continued in demand, and the Three per Cents. gained three-quarters of a point. Banks were markedly stronger than last week; the Crédit Lyonnais advanced to 1,365 and the Banque de Paris to 1,240, while the Crédit Mobilier that opened at 410 closed at 425. In transports the most interesting quotation is that of the Suez Canal, that under the influence of the exchange was advanced to 7,200. Chargeurs Réunis also improved and the Voitures à Paris on the news that they had sold their premises for five millions moved from 930 to 950. Electrical undertakings shared in the general advance, Thomson going from 783 to 805 and the Parisienne de Distribution from 555 to 585. Breguet, however, declined from 825 to 793. Metallurgical shares were for the most part unchanged, but there were certain sharp rises. Thus Micheville moved from 670 to 700, Chantiers de St. Nazaire from 550 to 569, Chatillon from 1,510 to 1,535, and Denain-Anzain from 1,510 to 1,530. Both on account of the exchange and the favourable news regarding the coal strike in America there was a marked improvement in copper. Tintos after certain fluctuations moved from 1,549 to 1,555, and Bolée from 450 to 466. Oil shares were also sought after. Royal Dutch, for example, gained 900 points at 20,500, and Mexican Eagles were advanced to 174.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—STATE MEASURES—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—PRICES—CONTRACTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 19.

THE Reparation Commission's plan to continue negotiations at Berlin did not stop the rise in the foreign exchanges, and yesterday again New York took the lead and quoted the mark at a parity of about 1,400, against a Berlin official dollar rate of 1,158. On the 16th Dr. Wirth made a long and very pessimistic statement to foreign Press representatives, ascribing the mark's fall directly to the last two French "notes of menace," and foreshadowing the following results: "Further impoverishment of large classes, destruction of the Budget balance, the cutting-off of necessary food and raw materials imports, the selling-out of reserves of goods, hunger, revolts of despair by the masses, subversion of all Government authority, and (especially for German industry) destruction of working capital and laming of production." While the mark's new collapse is, indeed, no more sign of the predicted catastrophes than there was after former heavy mark declines, when similar predictions were made. As has been earlier shown from here, finances rapidly adapt themselves to the currency depreciation; and the chief ultimate effect on the substance of wealth is the impoverishment of the purely capitalistic (rentier) class, and of foreigners with German interests. Dr. Wirth a second time laid stress on the ruin brought on certain German classes. But the purely capitalistic German, whose wealth consists of bonds and (though in somewhat less measure) of dividend-paying stocks, has already been so fully ruined that, if he is fit for work, he has been forced into the earning classes, so that, with

certain exceptions, the only class feeling extreme need consists of persons who cannot work. For the plight of these, Government policy, and not merely the currency depreciation, is responsible. Government policy has aimed at taking the actual substance of Reparations deliveries, whether cash or goods, out of the pockets of the mere mark interests; and the present aggravation of the Reparations crisis results ultimately from the fact that, with the mark interests fallen to about 1-300th of their nominal value, nothing worth taking is left for further Reparations. No post-Revolution Government made any attempt to distribute the burden more justly. In all taxation, the paper mark is still treated as a full gold mark; and this in the taxation of capital increment and in the real estate increment tax leads to anomalies which, when contrasted with the big profits earned by the secured debtor class from the same currency depreciation, are unjust to the point of absurdity. Concrete cases, of which details have appeared in the newspapers, are: (1) A landowner whose estate in 1913 was valued officially at 1,640,000 gold marks, with a mortgage thereon of 1,100,000 marks, paid off his mortgage out of the profits of three harvests; and so, at no capital cost, became full owner of an estate in which he formerly held only a one-third interest; (2) the owner of a villa which, before the war, cost about 40,000 gold marks, who lately had to sell for 120,000 paper marks, worth 600 gold marks, had to pay in unearned increment tax 61,644 marks, his nett receipts being about 300 gold marks, so that, whereas the currency depreciation trebled the real worth of one citizen, it reduced the wealth of another to about 1-130th.

This is not a result of Reparations, as Dr. Wirth declared, but a result of the Government's indolent policy of taking the line of real resistance. Only when crash or scandal is threatened does the Government intervene, and then only in so far as is necessary to prevent crash or scandal. Owing to their inability to pay gold insurance liabilities to Swiss citizens, several insurance companies are threatened with bankruptcy; and as bankruptcy would mean a crash and scandal, the Government, in addition to helping the companies itself, proposes to put some of the burden on companies which have no foreign currency liabilities, thus further impoverishing home insurers, whose interest in their policies has already been almost wiped out. Similarly, the Government, having favoured the complete ruin of mortgage-bond holders (with, of course, all other bondholders), passed a law authorising the hypothecation banks to break their agreements and raise their interest rate, the aim and effect being to prevent a formal crash and scandal, but not to compensate the real losers. The Housing policy is on the same basis. The latest House-Rent law makes it impossible for the houseowner to get more nett rent in paper marks than he formerly got in gold marks, so that at present exchange all but about 1-300th of his interest has been expropriated; but to prevent the open scandal of further ruin of the houses, the tenant is to pay for repairs. Before March last, when money was plentiful, the Government could easily have raised a Funded Loan if it had guaranteed capital and interest in paper marks on an index-system based either on the mark's future gold-exchange, or (as would have been more reasonable) its future buying-power (as the new Russian State Bank has been obliged to do in order to attract deposits). The present common German practice of hoarding goods and foreign currencies, which the Government denounce as dishonest and unpatriotic, would cease were only some such guarantee given that the burden of further mark-depreciation would not be thrown on certain classes, while other classes profit.

The Government has been obliged to raise salaries, wages and pensions by around 38 per cent. The cost is estimated at 125 milliards a year. The floating debt on August 10th was 312,380,525,000 marks, of which 297,032,535,000 marks were discounted Treasury bills. The increase since the beginning of the financial year is 40,445,360,000 marks, of which 31,466,344,000 marks went on fulfilment of the Peace Treaty. The Customs gold supplement for the week August 23-29th is 17,400 per cent., or 175 times the nominal. Railway freight rates will be raised 50 per cent. on September 1st.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.,
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
AND BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE EAST.
Estate Management
Estate Supplies
Engineering
General Exports and Imports
Shipping Agencies
Sales of Produce
Banking and Insurance

The Bourse this week was active and rising, but showed yesterday a certain reserve. In connection with foreign buying of metal and coal stocks, various reports are circulated as to supposed French plans to collaborate with the German heavy industry, and these measures are represented as being in some way an alternative for new French Reparations sanctions, but it is not very clear what France as a whole would gain. The *Boersen Courier* states that a French group is negotiating with Hugo Stinnes, with aim of getting influence on Stinnes' Deutsch-Luxemburg Company, which was the nucleus of the Rhine-Elbe Union, and of seven important concerns which the Deutsch-Luxemburg controls or owns. Stinnes is reported to need capital (part of his expansion plans has been postponed owing to money market stringency), and owing to the loss of the Deutsch-Luxemburg's smelting works at Differdingen, in Alsace, he is interested in having good relations with French business, and with the Lorraine minette proprietors. The cotton manufacturing industry is threatened with difficulties owing to the coincidence of the new exchange crisis with lessened reserves of raw cotton at Bremen. American cotton yesterday was quoted at 692 marks per kilo, against 1 mark or less before the war. At a price of 500 marks, a middle-sized spinnery consumes cotton worth 75,000,000 marks per month; and the 9,000,000 spindles at present estimated as being worked would consume 162,000,000,000 marks worth in a year. Some other industries which import most of their raw material are facing similar troubles, and if foreign credits are not obtained, a new recourse to home credits, with corresponding inflation, must be the result. Similar difficulties have, however, been overcome after past heavy mark declines.

A new further decision by the Federal Court of Appeal on the question of contract keeping in time of currency revolution is as follows. An automobile manufacturer contracted to deliver cars within a fixed time and at a fixed price. A fall in mark exchange made it difficult to obtain raw material, and by the time the cars could be manufactured, after the contracted delivery date, production cost was three or four times higher than the contract price. The manufacturer refused to deliver at the contract price. The Court of Appeal confirmed decisions of earlier courts, which declared that the contract need not be kept, and declared that to force the keeping of the contract would be "against loyalty and faith," all the more so because the parties, when signing the contract, did not mean to provide for an obligation by the manufacturer to deliver goods at a fourth of their cost. The Court here seems to have applied a general provision of German law that "loyalty and faith" (*Treu und Glauben*) are an essential part of a business deal, and to have reasoned that the demand for fulfilment of a contract which has turned out to be one-sided is against "loyalty and faith."

CANADA.—CROPS—WHEAT BOARD IN TWO PROVINCES—GRAND TRUNK APPEAL—THE RAILWAY PROBLEM—THE CATTLE EMBARGO—FUEL PROBLEM—BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, August 14.

THE wheat harvest has now commenced in earnest in the prairie provinces, and weather conditions are very favourable for cutting operations. Good rains have fallen throughout Manitoba, and conditions in that province are generally favourable. In the southern half of Saskatchewan they are almost uniformly good, but in the central and northern districts the crops have suffered from drought at a critical period, and the yields indicated on August 1st

will not be up to the average. A parallel lack of moisture in northern and central Alberta has not been remedied in time, but conditions in the district south of Calgary are better than for many years. British Columbia has now had welcome rains, but the drought did a lot of damage. On the other hand, conditions throughout the eastern provinces continue to be very satisfactory, and very substantial yields in every line of crop are reported. The forecast of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the chief crops, together with the actual figures for the 1921 crop, read as follows:—

	1921.	1922 (Estimated).
Wheat	299,670,000	320,968,000
Oats	426,232,900	509,752,000
Barley	59,709,100	64,881,000
Rye	21,455,260	37,848,000
Flaxseed	4,111,800	4,530,000
Potatoes	107,346,000	102,974,000
Hay and clover	11,366,100	15,545,000
Alfalfa	662,200	483,000

Two-thirds of the increase in the wheat crop is accounted for by the good crops in Manitoba, where there will probably be a gain of 14 million bushels, and the benefits of the very pronounced increase in the hay and clover crop will enure chiefly to the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick.

The provincial Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan, after considerable hesitation, decided to go ahead with the Wheat Board scheme, and their Legislatures have held special sessions and passed legislation conferring the additional powers without which it was stipulated that the Federal legislation could not come into effect. The powers bestowed upon the Board by the concurrent legislation are exceedingly drastic, and give it the most complete control over the marketing and movement of all wheat grown in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which produce between them four-fifths of the total crop. It is given the fullest investigatory powers, and can take possession of, sell, and deliver wheat stored in elevators or anywhere else in the province "on such terms as it may direct." It can prohibit any individual firm or corporation excepting itself or its licensees from buying or handling wheat, and can order any person holding wheat to sell it to itself. It is clothed with full powers to enter into contracts and agreements about the purchase, handling, storage, transportation, and insurance of wheat, and, as if these powers were not sufficient, the local Cabinets are empowered to add such others as may be necessary. The Manitoba Legislature, which has just been elected, contains a majority sympathetic to the idea of the Board, but it will not be able to meet in time to pass the necessary legislation to make the Board applicable to that province. However, the grain trade are sufficiently perturbed by the prospect of the Board's operations in the other two provinces, and gloomily predict their own ruin unless the Board proves a failure. For the moment, the fortunes of the Wheat Board have received an unexpected setback through the refusal of Messrs James Stewart and Riddell, the two men chiefly responsible for its previous success, to accept their former posts.

There is general satisfaction in Canada at the failure of the appeal of the Grand Trunk shareholders, especially as the cabled reports of the hearing had almost prepared the country for an adverse verdict. The King Government are known to be mightily relieved, for they knew that a pro-Grand Trunk verdict would at once give irresistible force to an agitation, which has many supporters already, for the complete abolition of the Privy Council's jurisdiction over Canadian cases. Moreover, the further revelations made last session of the real financial condition of the Grand Trunk seemed finally to dispose of the charge that any injustice had been done, and to show that the earlier shareholders got a very fortunate bargain. The process of the amalgamation of the Grand Trunk with the rest of the national railway system is now being tackled by the Minister of Railways. For the time being, however, all the Canadian railways, and particularly the Grand Trunk, are reaping a temporary harvest from the American railway strikes, and traffic which would normally go over American lines is being despatched through Canada.

Gratification is also felt at the recent vote in the British Parliament which removed the stigma resting upon

Canadian cattle by the embargo regulations, and it is hoped that it will soon be implemented by legislation giving free access to Britain for Canadian store cattle. But doubts are expressed in some quarters whether the removal of the embargo will see a renewal of the store cattle trade on a large scale. With the virtual disappearance of open range which could be leased at a few cents per acre, the cost of raising young cattle in Western Canada has risen enormously, and freight rates are much higher, both on land and sea, than in the old pre-embargo days. There used to be a very serious wastage in connection with the store cattle trade, and it was only the low cost of production which enabled it to be faced. Attempts will, of course, be made to revive the trade, but, at least, it would not have been profitable last spring.

The very serious American strikes have, so far, only directly affected the western coalfields of Canada, though they menace her with many grave difficulties, but the industrial situation is very precarious. The railway shopmen of Canada, following the example of their American brethren, have resisted the cut in wages announced by the railways, and a Conciliation Board appointed under the Industrial Disputes Act is now sitting in Montreal to decide the merits of the case. But the railways have insisted upon interpreting the Act as allowing them to put in force the reductions without awaiting the decision of the board. The Department of Justice has supported the contention of the workmen that the *status quo* in wages should be maintained till the Board announces its decision, but the Government has not yet seen fit to force the railways to such a course. So a deadlock has arisen and halted the arbitration proceedings in Montreal. Perhaps the most serious problem confronting the Government concerns the fuel situation for the winter. At this date central Canada has usually secured ample supplies, both of bituminous and anthracite coal, from the mines of Ohio and Pennsylvania, but the stoppage of production there through the strike has left Canada with very meagre reserves. The Government have established a fuel committee, which, however, will only have advisory functions. Two of its members have been to Washington and have obtained a promise that Canadian claims for coal will receive some consideration when priorities on distribution are being settled. The City of Toronto is reported to have ordered 100,000 tons of Welsh anthracite, and other communities are debating similar steps. Unless a strike in the Nova Scotia mines is averted, the Government will be compelled by public opinion to set up a system of control and rationing.

Mr W. S. Fielding, the Finance Minister, has disclosed part of the Government's plan for taking care of its maturing obligations. A five-year loan of 5½ per cent. bonds issued in 1917, and now amounting to \$178,000,000, will mature on December 1st, and it is proposed to provide for retiring these bonds by a domestic issue on November 1st, which will take the form of a conversion loan. Holders of the maturing bonds will be offered a new issue bearing the same rate either for five years or for ten, and as an inducement to convert, the bondholders will be given a bonus of a month's interest, the coupons of the new bonds being payable on November 1st instead of December 1st. Bonds, whose holders do not desire to convert, will be redeemed in cash. There is, however, one important difference between the two sets of bonds. The 1917 issue was tax-free, but Parliament decided that all future issues should be shorn of this privilege. The Government had taken authority to borrow \$350,000,000, but all this sum is not immediately required. The Federal finances are by no means in a satisfactory condition; an increase in the Customs returns has been balanced by serious declines in other items, and the increases in the cigarette taxes have, as many people prophesied, produced a serious slump in the revenue from that source. The burden of local taxation is proving very oppressive, and all the provincial treasurers, save one, find their abilities strained to raise the funds necessary for current administration. The treasurer of Quebec is in the happy position of being able to record a most substantial surplus, which is largely due to the very large profits of the Government's liquor system. Their extent arouses the wrath of the temperance party, but is the envy of all other provincial treasurers.

POLAND: POLITICS—THE FINANCIAL SITUATION—THE CROP OUTLOOK—NEW CAPITAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, August 9.

For nearly two months Poland was without a Government. After protracted debates and discussions, Marshal Pilsudski succeeded at last in finding a Premier who has the support of the majority of the Diet. The new Cabinet is in composition similar to that which was obliged to tender its resignation at the beginning of June. As Premier, Mr Ponikowski has been replaced by Mr Norwak, Rector of the University of Cracow. Most of the Ministers belonging to the former Cabinet remain at the head of the respective departments. Only Mr Michalski and Mr Skirmunt have not been included in the new Cabinet. The portfolio of the Ministry of Finance has been taken over by Mr Jastizebski, and that of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Mr Narutowicz.

For two months the Polish mark has been steadily declining, and the printing press is working with an increasing speed, but we are kept in the dark as to the measures which the new Minister of Finance intends to adopt in order to balance the Budget. In the beginning of July Mr Jastizebski, in criticising the financial policy of his predecessor, pointed out that instead of the estimated 132 milliards, a deficit of 400 milliards must be expected. He dwelt on the necessity of increasing the income-tax by 10 milliards, the railway fares by 62 milliards, indirect taxes by 17 milliards, the ground-tax by 47 milliards, &c. Even if these measures were realised, the uncovered deficit would amount to 273 milliards. Mr Jastizebski said nothing about his plan of dealing with this situation.

The downward movement of the Polish mark is illustrated by the following figures:—

	July 27.	August 7.
London.....	26,250	29,500
Paris	499	534
Zurich	1,120	1,250
New York	5,910	6,640
Berlin	1,175	8,90

With the exception of the German mark, all foreign exchanges have risen.

While the financial situation is far from being satisfactory, the economic conditions of the country continue to improve. The crop outlook is very satisfactory. The area under cultivation has increased in comparison with last year by 22.5 per cent. for wheat, by 22.1 per cent. for rye, by 12.3 per cent. for barley, by 20.3 per cent. for oats, and by 10.6 per cent. for potatoes. The most marked improvement may be observed in the Eastern districts, which are only now beginning to recover from the Bolshevik invasion. In that part of Poland the area under cultivation has increased by more than 100 per cent.

According to the estimates of the Office of Statistics, the yield per acre of cereals will this year be similar to that of a year ago, and for potatoes a much better result is expected. As after the last harvest import requirements of cereals were very small, it may be assumed that a part of the new crop will be available for export.

New capital issues during the first six months of this year amounted to 9.4 milliard marks, as compared with 8.2 milliards during the same period in 1921. This is a very small increase, if we take into account the depreciation of the Polish mark. (The average quotation of the dollar rose from 1,000 marks in the first period to 3,000 in the second.) A slackening in the creation of new undertakings is observable, as shown by the figures below:—

NEW JOINT STOCK COMPANIES CREATED.

	First Half-year, 1921.		First Half-year, 1922.	
	Number.	Capital.	Number.	Capital.
		Mln. Marks.		Mln. Marks.
Industry and agriculture	96	3.75	71	3.25
Trade and transport	19	0.30	21	1.26
Banking	10	0.63	3	0.38
Insurance	1	0.01	1	0.01
	126	9	96	4.90



HEAD OFFICE:
1 Dale Street,
LIVERPOOL.

LONDON:
Chief Office,
1 Cornhill, E.C.3

TOTAL ASSETS exceed - £20,000,000
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID over - £102,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. ANNUITIES.

Marine, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee, Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, &c.

OFFICES IN ALL THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL CENTRES

The number of companies which have increased their capital has also decreased from 153 in 1921 to 95 in 1922. This slackening of the economic activity is due to the famine of capital from which the country is suffering. The recovery of Polish industry would be much quicker if Poland could succeed in obtaining the necessary foreign capital. Even under present conditions, some industries have already reached the pre-war level. For instance, the Polish coal production (without Upper Silesia) was, during the first four months of this year, equal to that of the same period in 1913. Strikes in April have prevented the output from surpassing the level in 1913. Employment statistics in other branches of industry also reveal a steady improvement.

JAPAN.—TRADE BALANCE—GOLD HOLDINGS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, July 5.

THE foreign trade of Japan for the six months ended June 30th shows a steadily increasing adverse balance, and there is little prospect that trade currents will be reversed during the second half of the year. Of the 28 principal articles of export, some 14 registered gains during the period, especially rice, starch, tea, refined sugar, raw silk, cotton yarns, cotton hosiery, caps, hats, and buttons, but of these only raw silk, cotton yarns, cotton cloth, and silk fabrics registered any substantial gains. Tea also showed considerable increase. Of the 28 principal articles of import, 15 showed increase, particularly rice, wool, Chilean saltpetre, oil cake, soda, leather, dyes, pulp, pig-iron, leather, cotton cloth, woollen cloth, paper, nails, and machinery. The trade balance for the six months ended June 30th now totals some 368,370,000 yen, as against 223,888,000 for the same period of last year. The figures for the half-year are as follows:—

	January to June, 1921.	January to June, 1922.
Exports.....	573,493,000	735,196,000
Imports.....	797,381,000	1,103,566,000
Total.....	1,370,874,000	1,838,762,000
Balance	223,888,000	368,370,000

From the point of view of a general increase in the nation's volume of trade the situation seems encouraging, but the steady increase in the unfavourable balance of trade is having its effect upon national finance, and the specie holdings are already declining.

Before the war Japan's total gold holdings amounted to no more than some 353,000,000 yen. At the close of the war the amount had swollen to more than 2,000,000,000 yen. In June alone there was an export of over 2,000,000 in gold, the adverse balance for the month amounting to 1,972,000 yen, and for the six months the adverse balance stands at 1,458,000 yen. The national specie holdings have now been reduced to 1,877,000,000 yen in round numbers. Of this total the

amount held by the Government is 634,000,000 yen, and that owned by the Bank of Japan amounts to 1,243,000,000 yen. The amount of this gold abroad totals 655,000,000 yen, leaving 1,222,000,000 at home.

Letters to the Editor.

DOMINION CURRENCIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Allow me to thank you for the attention you have given to the proposal for an issue of Imperial Treasury bills, and for your criticism thereupon. Perhaps you will be kind enough to afford me space to reply.

First of all, with regard to Egypt. The notes of the National Bank of Egypt form now the sole currency of that country, and they are wholly covered—by British Treasury bills—for much the greater portion, by short-dated securities, and by a comparatively small amount of gold. I am unable to refer to the exact proportions, but all are easily realisable into sterling. When, therefore, you say that Egypt could not have kept the exchange value or her currency stable had the tide of trade flowed fast enough and long enough in the adverse direction, “except as long as the stock of Treasury bills held out,” is it not tantamount to admitting Egypt’s ability to keep her exchange stable? Her stock of Treasury bills must hold out as long as her currency notes remain out. It would be extremely difficult for an Egypt denuded of currency to go on buying British goods without selling something in exchange.

Then with regard to Imperial Treasury bills. I am afraid I have failed to make clear the reasons which led me to substitute Imperial Treasury bills for British Treasury bills as a proposed basis for the currencies of the Empire. Hence, perhaps, there has been some confusion of thought. I referred to the political reason in my letter, but not to the economic reason. It is the difficulty which would be experienced by the Dominions and India in acquiring sufficient British Treasury bills, not only to cover the fiduciary portion of existing currencies, but to give the necessary elasticity to movements of trade and currency. British Treasury bills could only be acquired by an excess of exports from the respective countries.

Had the proposal been that British Treasury bills were to be used as a currency basis, it would have been difficult for me to answer the criticism in the latter part of your article, and your reference to “the rather modest automatic correctives” would have been warranted. But the proposal is not for the countries in the Empire to acquire Imperial Treasury bills in the first instance. These, although in a different form, may be said to be in their possession already, for it is a proportion of the existing debt of the different countries in the Empire that is to be converted into Imperial Treasury bills. What this proportion should be is a matter for discussion. It should cover the fiduciary issue of existing currencies, and, in addition, there should be sufficient to afford quite a considerable measure of elasticity for trade and currency movements. No great harm would be done if a very liberal interpretation were put on what is necessary to afford this elasticity; for while the bills would be convertible into currency, currency would also be convertible into bills—into what would probably be the most acceptable security in the world, having not more than three months to run, freely negotiable, exchangeable into the currencies of the different countries in the Empire, and bearing interest at the current rate as determined by the free play of competition. There is a further very important condition that, with the exception of gold and (for India) silver, legal tender would only be obtainable against Imperial Treasury bills.

Under the above conditions, there must surely be parity of exchange as between the participating countries. I also venture to think that the Imperial Treasury bill would form not a modest but a very powerful corrective, which would not be controlled by, but which would control an adverse balance of trade in any part of the Empire. It would do so by the recognised methods of contraction of the credit base and the rate of interest. The credit base

would, however, be not actual legal tender alone, but legal tender plus Imperial Treasury bills, so freely would they be interchangeable. Let us follow, as briefly as may be, the operations. An excess of imports to any country in the Empire would mean one or more of three things—a contraction of currency in actual circulation, a diminution in the deposits of the banks of that country, and an increase in their advances. A return of currency would not diminish the reserves of the banks (currency plus Imperial Treasury bills), but it would not increase them. Exports from Britain to Australia, for example, would be met in the first place by a diminution in the Australian banks’ holding of Imperial Treasury bills in order to pay for the exports. To the extent that in Australia the banks received payment, directly or indirectly, in currency, they would be in a position to replace the Treasury bills, while the issue department of the Commonwealth Bank (the sole issuer of notes in Australia) would hold so much less. But to the extent that the excess of imports were met by deposits being drawn upon or by an increase in advances, the banks would not be able to replace the Treasury bills, and their position would be weakened. Sooner or later this must lead to a raising of the rate of interest, and a curtailment of advances, thus checking imports and stimulating exports. But under the conditions I have mentioned, there would be very considerable elasticity, which should enable mere seasonal movements in trade to be dealt with without much, if any, disturbance. Elasticity, especially at the present juncture, is most essential.

It is not only in inter-Empire trade that this elasticity is desirable. We need it also to aid production in the Empire. As we experience the weight of the American debt, the importance of increased production will become more and more apparent. In normal times the harvesting and moving of crops have been one of the main causes of movements in the demand for money and in interest rates. And yet it is a most beneficent operation, which everything possible should be done to help and nothing to hinder. The geographical position of the Empire, with its diversity of crops harvested and moved at different periods of the year, affords a great opportunity for co-ordinated Empire finance. Thus, when currency is required for harvesting in one part of the Empire, it is being set free in another part, because the harvest there is over. But if each country in the Empire has its own currency arrangements with no connecting link between them, how is advantage to be taken of such a unique situation? Imperial Treasury bills would form the connecting link, and through the London money market it would be very easy for one part of the Empire to help another in both production and trade.—I am, yours faithfully,

J. F. DARLING.

Aviemore, N.B., August 21st, 1922.

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH MALAYA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Many years have passed since Sir John Anderson, when High Commissioner in the Federated Malay States, warned Malaya about “putting all its eggs into one basket,” and in a country such as Malaya, which is practically becoming in every way as civilised as any portion of the British Empire, it is to be regretted that little has been done in this matter. During recent years, companies have been formed for the purpose of the extraction of oil from rubber seed and the local manufacture of matches. Much was expected of the latter proposition. Experiments in certain forest reserves have proved that the right type of wood for match-making industry is prevalent in large quantities. It is, however, regrettable to have to record that little or no progress has been made in the development of these industries, and I am compelled to admit that the whole future of Malaya hangs on the success of the rubber-planting industry. It is true that it was tin-making that gave the States their first big step forward, but to-day the known tin-bearing lands of the Federated Malay States are being rapidly denuded of their metalliferous contents, and unless the rubber industry can sail safely through the troubled waters of the present chaotic condition of things in the rubber world, we will very soon see the sign “Bankrupt” hanging over the portals of that country.

Whilst I would urge that this is a matter upon which the Imperial authorities should wake up and take something more than an academic interest, I must add that it is a matter of profound consternation to those who have the future of the Empire’s trade foremost in their thoughts.

I am never pessimistic, and I will hope that a day may come when tin and rubber will fade into comparative insignificance against the potentialities of Malaya, which are at present unknown. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

L. E. HAYNES.

Sino-British Trade Association, China House, 77 Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1, August 18th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

THE HISTORY OF THE PORT OF LONDON.*

In 1700 the total imports of England were valued at £5,970,000, of which £4,785,000, or upwards of 80 per cent., was the value of the imports by London. Of the £7,302,700 worth of exports from England, London contributed £5,388,000, or nearly 74 per cent. The proportion of the whole foreign trade of the kingdom done by London was 77 per cent. By 1737 the total foreign trade of England had risen to £18,914,000, of which London’s share was £12,698,000, or 67 per cent. The great increase in trade was due to a development of the exports, in which the outports had gained most of the additional trade. In 1756 the imports had gained 12 per cent. in value, and the exports rather less than 6 per cent., and the imports of London were slightly lower than in 1737. A steady rise in our trade then set in, and by 1792 the imports by England reached £17,898,000, and the exports £23,674,000, of which London’s share was £12,072,000 and £14,743,000 respectively, amounting to 65 per cent. of the whole, as compared with 67 per cent. in 1737, and 77 per cent in 1700.

These are a few of the stages in the growth of the Port of London, traced in Sir J. Broodbank’s interesting volumes. The compilation of the history has evidently been a work of love; and the two volumes should be welcomed by students of all ages, and by everyone who takes a pride in the great history of London. It is clearly shown, at epoch after epoch, that legislation in favour of selfish interests has inevitably resulted in loss and suffering to the community, and that only by working for the good of all classes can it be hoped to benefit the community at large.

To show the magnitude of the subject dealt with in the history, the two statements set forth in Appendix I. are arranged below, in the shape of a table, showing the growth in the value and the tonnage of the trade of the Port of London since 1700:—

A. Tonnage of Shipping (Foreign and Coastwise) Entering the Port with Cargoes.				B. Statement of Values of the Foreign Trade of the Port.					
Year.	Tons.	Value.	Percentage.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.	Percentage.	Value.	Percentage.
1700	435,000	£4,785,000	80.0	£4,785,000	£5,388,000	£10,173,000	77.0	£10,173,000	77.0
1750	746,000	£5,541,000	78.5	£5,541,000	£8,415,000	£13,956,000	74.6	£13,956,000	74.6
1795	1,775,000	£14,863,000	83.8	£14,863,000	£16,579,000	£31,442,000	85.2	£31,442,000	85.2
1913	2,008,000	£25,879,000	89.1	£25,879,000	£15,791,000	£41,670,000	89.1	£41,670,000	89.1

The percentage increase in the value of the total trade in 1913 (1,209.7) was much greater than the tonnage increase (1,031.7). The reverse had been the case in 1750 and 1795. It should also be noted that the statement of values is of the foreign trade of the Port, whereas the statement of tonnage includes coastwise shipping.

* “The History of the Port of London.” By Sir J. Broodbank. Two Volumes. Chairman of the Dock and Warehouse Committee of the Port of London Authority. (London) Daniel O’Connor, 1921.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA TO-DAY.*

PROBABLY few people have yet realised the significance of Czecho-Slovakia in the redistribution of political power in Central Europe. This work gives very full information on the history and resources of the new State, its ethnical and political structure, its literature and art, and its economic and financial condition. The union of Czech and Slovak, unforeseen by most foreign observers before its actual achievement, is here justified on the threefold ground of race, language, and history. The two tongues are variants of one; the Slovaks were described in the seventeenth and eighteenth century as “Bohemians,” the term “Czecho-Slovakia” was actually coined in 1839, and the Magyars recognised the affinity by forbidding Czech books in Slovakia during their prolonged efforts at “Magyarisation.” Of a population of nearly 13,600,000, some 67 per cent. are Czechs and Slovaks, 22 per cent. German, 5.5 per cent. Magyars, 4 per cent. Ruthenes, and about 1.5 per cent. Poles. But the Czechs and Slovaks are gaining on the rest. The State is a Parliamentary Republic, with a very liberal Constitution, interpreted by a Supreme Court, women’s suffrage, compulsory voting, proportional representation (which has made the Czech minorities visible in the most German districts), Home Rule for Ruthenia, and concurrent endowment for the churches, coupled with full religious freedom. It has nearly the area of Great Britain; it contains the chief main routes between North-West and South-West Europe, and till quite recently it was practically the sole manufacturing region of Austria-Hungary. It has every useful metal except platinum; its mines have been worked from the early Middle Ages, and it contains the oldest mining school in the world. Its agriculture is highly developed; its forests vast and well managed; it is the only European country which exports sugar. Its resources of waterpower, which the State is helping to utilise, are enormous; its health resorts are famous, and the Tatra mountains will become a new playground for tourists. The book describes fully its trade, industry, and finance, and the land reform now in progress, all recently dealt with in these columns; its new commercial agreements are summarised, the co-operative movement in it is described in an appendix, and there is a useful map. The volume is of high value to exporters and intending investors, as well as to students of the new Europe.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Labour Policy False and True. By Sir Lynden Macassey. (London) Thornton Butterworth, Limited. 7s 6d net.
Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution. 1920. (Washington) Government Printing Office.
Stock Exchanges’ Ten-Year Record. (London) Fredc. C. Mathieson and Sons. 20s.

This is the fourteenth issue of this useful work of reference, and covers the period from 1912 to 1921 inclusive. Quotations for 7,287 securities, known to the London and chief provincial stock exchanges, are shown, and dividends are also appended. The publishers claim that this is “the largest and most complete publication of its kind.”

Annual Statistical Report of the American Iron and Steel Institute for 1921. (New York) 40 Rector street.

The Round Table. September. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited. 5s.

Six Years in Bolivia. The Adventures of a Mining Engineer. By A. V. L. Guise. (London) T. Fisher Unwin. 21s.

The Journal of The National Institute of Industrial Psychology. July, 1922. No. 3. (London) 329 High Holborn, W.C.1.

A Book About Sweden. (Stockholm) The Swedish Traffic Association.

* “The Czecho-Slovak Republic.” By Jaroslav Cisar and F. Pokorny. Illustrated. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. 9s net.

Foreign Branch: 168, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

ACCOUNT.
September 8.

Rubber having remained a trifle under 7d per lb, nothing of any interest has transpired in the course of market prices. Several companies' reports appearing during the past few days have testified to the difficulty experienced by producers in the face of the present price of the produce. Amongst oil shares, Anglo-Persians and Burmah Oil spurred, the former on expectations of a good report in the near future. Shells and Mexican Eagles have been dealt in but mildly, and the general dullness of markets influenced the oil market with the rest. Uroz were run up to 10s 6d, to drop back to 9s in less than 24 hours later. In the tobacco market, both Imperials and British-Americans have been going ahead again, rumour toying with the idea that a bonus on Imperial shares is near at hand. Textiles are firm, though the Calico Printers' figures were not deemed entirely satisfactory by some. Courtaulds went better, which led to revival of the old rumour about division of the Viscose holding. Imperial Continental Gas regained 8 or 9 points of its recent loss. Furness, With; eased off, on issue of the report, but recovered later on. African and Eastern shares went flat, the report showing a heavy loss for last year. Electric lighting stocks keep good, and the cable stocks are better on balance. Radio Corporations came into a little demand from America. Other members of the wireless group showed a firmness, during the early part of the week,

Death has been busy recently amongst Stock Exchange members. The House sustained a heavy loss this week through the death of Mr Alexander Thomson, one of the best known jobbers in the colonial market. His geniality and benevolence caused him to be well known throughout the City; with his passing away the Stock Exchange loses one of its old school of perfect gentlemen. The assassination of Mr Michael Collins (who served at one time as a clerk in a Stock Exchange office) served to accentuate the dullness in Irish stocks, the 2½ per cents. shedding a point.

April 1 to August 19, 1922 ..	£22,748,000		£	400,000		£	400,000
-------------------------------	-------------	------	---	---------	------	---	---------

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1920.....\$505,712.637	1921.....\$388,976,203
1921.....152,658,080	1922.....367,549,656
1920.....274,718,416	1919.....1,036,059,951
1919.....832,917,730	1918.....1,393,381,441
1918.....919,033,872	1917.....1,118,696,010
1917.....1,090,168,650	1916.....585,455,000
1916.....375,218,500	1915.....685,236,426
1915.....638,668,876	1914.....512,522,633

Roumanian Government Consolidation Loan.—The following particulars, while of more immediate interest to holders of Roumanian Treasury bills, are also noteworthy as revealing an earnest attempt to straighten out the external obligations of a Continental country—legacies of the war and post-war period. With a view to proceeding with the consolidation of Treasury bills, issued by the Roumanian Government in pounds sterling, United States and Canadian dollars, French and Belgian francs, and various other currencies, the Roumanian Government has created a Consolidation Loan of a nominal amount of £35,000,000, or \$175,000,000 (United States gold), bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum and dating from October 1, 1922. Amortization will be effected by purchases in the market below par, and, when bonds cannot be purchased, by half-yearly drawings at par, commencing on April 1, 1928, the sum devoted to this purpose being approximately 2.5 per cent. The amortization fund is calculated to redeem the whole of the bonds not later than the beginning of April, 1968. Sterling bonds and coupons attached will be payable in London at the office of the British Overseas Bank, and in New York in dollars at their correspondents at the exchange of the day, and dollar bonds and coupons attached will be payable in dollars in New York at banks appointed by the British Overseas Bank, and also in London in sterling at the British Overseas Bank. Under the provisions of the general bond, the Consolidation Loan is a direct obligation of the Roumanian Government, and is specially charged, subject to a prior charge given to the Roumanian 4 per cent. External Loan of 1922, limited to £2,500,000, or \$12,500,000 U.S.A. gold, *pari passu* with the present and future Roumanian funded external loans (but in priority to all other external or internal loans or indebtedness). It is further secured against the proceeds of the export taxes, which are payable in foreign currencies or gold. These are estimated to produce not less than £4,000,000 per annum. The Government has arrived at an agreement with the National Bank of Roumania for the formation of a special account into which the payment of sums necessary for external debt services will be made. This agreement is a highly interesting document, and confers wide powers on the National Bank. At the time

Bingo Gold Mines, Limited.— Authorised capital £500,000, in shares of £1 each, divided into 125,000 cumulative 10 per cent. participating preference and 375,000 ordinary shares. It is stated that all the preferred shares have been issued and paid for in cash, and 312,500 ordinary shares have been issued and credited as fully paid. The company was formed in July, 1922, for the purpose of acquiring gold-mining rights. The purchase price has been fixed at £325,000, of which £75,000 is payable in cash. These and other detailed matters are given in a Press announcement, made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. Apparently the vendor will make £25,000 in cash and £50,000 in shares over the promotion. For a gold-mining proposition, the information, while being voluminous, is, we presume, not an attempt to convince

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

		Price Last Week.	95 cents	Price, Fricke.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	95 cents	Price, Fricke.	Rise or Fall.
War	53%, 1925-38.	974	95	100	+	Aust. 6% 1931-41	105	95	100	+
Victory Bonds 4%	1925-45.	974	95	100	+	Canada 4% 1920-25.	101	105	100	+
Loans	5%, 1929-47.	1004	100	100	+	India 5% Stock	683	684	683	+
	4%, 1923-42.	1014	101	101	+	Do 7% 1926-31	119	118	119	+
Funding Loan 4%	1923-42.	884	88	88	+	Do 5% 1932	99	99	98	+
Victory Bonds 4%	1925-45.	908	88	88	+	N.S.W. 5% 1922-32.	101	102	102	+
Conversion Loan 5%	1926-48.	968	88	88	+	Nigeria 6% 1949-75	112	112	112	+
Consols 2 1/2%	1925-45.	573	57	57	+	U.S. 4% 1942-47.	107	107	107	+
Irish Land Stock 2 1/2%	1925-45.	594	59	59	+	Victoria 5% 1924-34.	104	104	104	+
Local Loans 3%	1925-45.	654	65	65	+	W.Aust. 6% 1930-40	105	105	105	+

[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS OF THE ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Sterling converted into Sterling.....	At par.
French Frs. converted into Sterling.....	50 French Frs. to the £.
Belgian Frs. converted into Sterling.....	53 Belgian Frs. to the £.
Italian Lire converted into Sterling.....	
Sterling.....	88 Italian Lire to the £.
Pesetas converted into Sterling.....	25.50 Pesetas to the £.
Swedish Crowns converted into Sterling.....	
Sterling.....	16.50 Swedish Crowns to the £.
Portuguese Escudos.....	60. Escudos to the £.

Application will be made in due course for an official quotation of the sterling Bonds on the London Stock Exchange and of the dollar bonds on the New York Stock Exchange.

On behalf of HELBERI, WAGG & CO., LTD.,
N. C. Boot, Joint Secretary.

LONDON, 22nd August, 1922.

Foreign Government Securities.

Price	Latest	Price	Latest	Price	Latest	Price	Latest
Week	Price	Week	Price	Week	Price	Week	Price
Argentine 5%, 1888-7...	99	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgian 3%	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	73	73	73	73	73	73	73
Chilian 4%, 1895	86	86	86	86	86	86	86
Do 7%, 1895	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
Chinese 5%, 1912	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
Egyptian 4%	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
French 5%	37	35	35	35	35	35	35
Do 4%	28	27	27	27	27	27	27

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Marconi Wireless	23	23	23	23	23	23	23

British Railways.

Great Central Pref. ...	25	24	24	24	24	24	24
Great Eastern	39	38	38	38	38	38	38
Great Northern Def. ...	45	44	44	44	44	44	44
Great Western	103	101	101	101	101	101	101
London, Brighton, "A" 62	62	61	61	61	61	61	61
London, Chatham	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
L. and N.W. (New) 102	102	101	101	101	101	101	101
L. & S.W. Western, Def. 29	29	28	28	28	28	28	28
Metropolitan	52	51	51	51	51	51	51

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio ...	85	84	84	84	84	84	84
Erie	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Do 4% Int. Pref.	30	30	30	30	30	30	30

Miscellaneous.

Crated Bread (£1) ...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) 5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Armstrong (Sir W. G.)	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
and Co. (£1)	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
A.S. Portland Cement (£1)	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Barker, John (£1)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Bham Small Arms (£1) 9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Brazil Traction (£100) 50	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
British-American							
Tobacco (£1)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Burmah Oil (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Coals (J. and P.) (£1) 3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Courtauld (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cunard (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dorman, Long (£1)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fine Cotton Spinners							
(£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Forestral Land (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Furness, Withy (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Highlands and Low-							
lands Rubber (£1) 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Mines.

Brakpan (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Broken Hill Prop. (8)							
Chartered (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crown Mines (10)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
De Beers Def. (£2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
East Rand Prop. (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gold (£1)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Gold (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

WARING AND GILLOW, LIMITED.
DRASTIC WRITING DOWN OF STOCKS.

The annual general meeting of Waring and Gillow, Limited, was held on the 22nd instant at the company's premises, 164-182 Oxford street, London, Mr W. J. Jennings, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr Joseph Ritson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and in reference to the amount of £1,128,669 carried forward from the previous year, subject to taxation, explained that it had been agreed with the authorities that the company's liability for taxation would not exceed £807,457. If that sum, together with the preference dividend for the year—£45,000—were deducted, it would be seen that they had started the year under review with a credit balance of £186,210. The loss of £71,293 shown on the year had been clearly foreshadowed at the last meeting, and everyone engaged in business was well aware that the country had been passing through probably, from the business point of view, the most difficult of modern times. The extremely rapid fall in the value of stocks had more than absorbed any trading profit, and the drastic writing down thereby entailed had been a most vital matter adversely affecting profits. It was reflected in the figures of stock-in-trade and works in progress, standing to-day at £557,314, as against £875,361 the year before. The board had met the fall in values to the full, and were advised that a heavy sum must ultimately come to the company in that connection in respect of refund of excess profits duty. Nothing had been included in the accounts, however, in anticipation of that, and, on the contrary, the board believed that a substantial portion of the reserves which had been made for every contingency would also ultimately fall in to profit. Meanwhile, the company's customers were receiving the full advantage of the fall in values. The company's general trade was showing a steady increase in value and volume week by week.

The cash position had improved by about £100,000 during the year, but generally the accounts were still greatly influenced by war taxation and the reserves it had been thought fit to make in connection with the special war work the company had done. The company had come through the worst of the depression with its credit unimpaired, and with cash and liquid assets in a far better position than before the war, and he thought they might certainly claim to have enhanced the reputation of the firm. Last year his final words had been: "The considered view of the board is that we must be prepared for a more or less prolonged period of depression," and those remarks applied to-day. Apart from the fact that there was now nothing to be feared in regard to falling prices, and that the improvement in general trade the board thought they saw had materialised, he did not think he could add anything of a helpful nature.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, August 28-September 2, were opened on August 25, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £55,590,000. Tenders for Monday to Wednesday bills at £99 7s 9d will receive about 43 per cent. and above in full. Thursday to Saturday bills at £99 7s 11d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 7s 9.28d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, nil; in bills at 3 months, £45,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
1922.				
June 30	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11.55	98 4 4.8
July 7	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 13 4.65	98 5 10.8
July 14	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10.06	99 0 5.16
July 21	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10.9	100 4 11.4
July 28	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6.41	100 14 0
Aug. 4	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10.76	100 6 5.42
Aug. 11	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,795,000	2 2 0.09	100 3 1.44
Aug. 18	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 65,335,000	2 11 0.17	None allotted
Aug. 25	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,590,000	2 7 9.28	None allotted

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, September 1, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £50,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1914.									
Aug. 26	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	£ ..	£ 481	9.924	9,286	11,423
Dec. 30	38,478	169	600	28,500	..	276	54,621	20,536	9,286
1915.									
Dec. 29	103,125	729	159	28,500	..	190	118,102	6,868	6,868
Dec. 27	150,144	2,430	64	28,500	..	134	186,637	5,486	5,486
Dec. 26	212,782	8,554	39	28,500	..	89	305,133	4,566	4,566
Dec. 25	323,241	15,529	..	28,500	..	91	337,537	2,802	2,802
Dec. 31	356,152	17,182	250	28,500	4,000	130	336,504	134	134
1919.									
Dec. 31	367,626	16,962	..	28,500	19,450	139	311,334	141	141
1921.									
Mar. 30	343,826	15,599	3,000	28,500	19,450	148	287,750	150	150
June 29	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	19,450	152	278,119	143	143
Sept. 28	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	19,450	147	289,131	161	161
Dec. 28	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	19,450	159	261,479	177	177
1922.									
Mar. 30	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,650	163	257,312	250	250
June 29	295,374	13,338	6,000	27,000	21,150	160	254,343	152	152
Aug. 3	299,730	12,915	7,000	27,000	21,150	159	259,903	142	142
Aug. 10	302,095	13,100	7,000	27,000	21,150	159	256,745	139	139
Aug. 17	298,927	13,107	7,000	27,000	21,150	162	252,728	179	179
Aug. 24	295,130	12,927	7,000	27,000	21,150	162	252,728	179	179

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts.	Receipts.
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Aug. 19, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Aug. 20, 1921.	Week Ended Aug. 19, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs	48,098,000	47,360,000	1,743,000	1,456,000
Excise	160,750,000	61,305,000	75,155,000	10,675,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	10,600,000	2,657,000	2,205,000	180,000
Stamps	48,000,000	26,071,000	17,414,000	2,300,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	18,250,000	5,692,000	5,179,000	815,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	3,000,000	530,000	420,000	10,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	323,000,000	106,944,000	113,124,000	5,322,000
Corporation Profits Tax	27,800,000	954,000	24,024,000	6,960,000
Post Office	19,750,000	5,737,000	4,010,000	180,000
Crown Lands	54,625,000	20,050,000	17,500,000	1,250,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	750,000	280,000	210,000	..
Miscellaneous	14,000,000	3,517,666	4,243,260	..
Ordinary Receipts	22,000,000	14,948,075	8,687,400	357,144
Special Receipts	90,000,000	20,571,939	36,635,029	32,272
Revenue	910,775,000	317,355,680	356,166,689	22,249,416
Total, Inc. Balance	328,529,210	359,241,195	..	24,473,400

NOTE—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Branches:
GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SANTA MARTA, BARRANQUILLA, PUERTO CABELLO, CARACAS, MEDELLIN, BOGOTA, MANTA, GUAYAQUIL, QUITOS, LIMA, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, COPIAPO, COQUIMBO, VALPARAISO, SANTIAGO, CHILLAN, TALCAHUANO, CONCEPCION, ROSARIO, MONTE VIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, MENDOZA, SAN RAFAEL, BAHA BLANCA, TRELEW, COMODORO RIVADAVIA, PUERTO DESEADO, SAN JULIAN, SANTA CRUZ, RIO GALLEGOS, PUNTA ARENAS, RIO DE JANEIRO, SAO PAULO, SANTOS, PORTO ALEGRE, PELOTAS, RIOGRANDE DO SUL, MERCEDES, ROSARIO, MONTE VIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, PERGAMINO.

Branches of the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited:
• BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
• BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
• BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00

Deposits and Cheque Accounts

(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		RECEIPTS.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to Aug. 19, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to Aug. 20, 1921.	Week Ended Aug. 19, 1922.	Week Ended Aug. 20, 1921.
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Billion	800,000	3,100,000	..	100,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,500,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	950,000	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,450,000	2,345,000	..	..
(c) For other issues:—				
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,143,287,000	1,731,784,000	50,246,000	55,521,000
By National Savings Certificates	33,298,000	14,230,000	800,000	300,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—				
5-15 year, 1925-35	121,708	1,024,990	..	1,355,000
5% 1927	61,422,074	..	..	..
4% 1932	52,648,508	..	2,503,900	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	11,869	4,926,776	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	319,740,500	491,824,000	1,250,000	25,250,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	..	2,000,000	..	2,030,600
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	172,628	28,811	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	1,677,000	6,562,500	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	163,156	..	..
Total	1,953,827,914	2,630,392,433	84,561,816	109,499,400
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.				
	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		ISSUES.	
	Apl. 1, 1922, to Aug. 19, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to Aug. 20, 1921.	Week Ended Aug. 19, 1922.	Week Ended Aug. 20, 1921.
EXPENDITURE.				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	6,429,574	6,373,452	70,575
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	110,708,908	138,089,925	2,100,277
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,107,999	1,904,000	774,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,788,000	2,020,000	2,540,632	400,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	671,639	..	123,828
Land Settlement	3,500,000	499,862	1,565,386	69,518
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,051,891	745,475	8,430,000
Supply Services	529,999,000	151,739,674	244,877,474	8,430,000
Expenditure	893,437,000	275,229,547	356,099,344	17,625,197
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances	..	2,850,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	..	84,909	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,000,000	3,330,000	400,000	440,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921	2,000,000	2,600,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	950,000	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..	2,090,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	1,303,689,000	1,674,376,000	55,320,000	69,290,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919	6,059,594	16,119,814	1,388,217	356,211
Floating Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds ..	3,300,000	..	550,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	10,650,000	6,400,000	400,300	..
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	6,600,000	..	1,000,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5% 1922, £20,612,188; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,188	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	9,444,601	23,839,898	..	100
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	313,996,500	476,389,000	14,100,000	18,600,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	11,140,089	..	860,022
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	..	6,915,000	..	675,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—	1,949,817,528	2,626,857,754	84,506,322	108,846,550
Bank of Ireland	1,922,555	2,055,037	..	..
Bank of England	2,047,831	1,479,642	..	..
Total	4,010,386	5,554,679	155,494	652,870
Treasury, August 21, 1922.				

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 23, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	144,043,690
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion	125,593,690
Total	144,043,690

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Capital	14,553,000
Reserve	3,507,481
Public deposits	18,457,895
Other deposits	105,496,490
Seven-day & other bills	15,083
Total	142,029,949

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Account.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Aug. 23, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,507,481	—	9,999
Public deposits	18,457,895	+ 4,288,905	+ 751,541
Other deposits	105,496,490	+ 6,091,326	+ 10,689,797
Government securities	43,853,202	—	8,562,233
Other securities	75,763,103	+ 3,855,357	+ 8,562,233
Reserve	22,413,644	+ 817,414	+ 1,525,496
Note circulation	123,453,660	+ 807,770	+ 2,510,895
Coin and bullion	127,417,304	+ 9,644	+ 985,799
% of reserve to liabilities	184%	+ 1%	+ 24%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.							
May 31	128,881,009	122,715,860	130,221,478	123,356,836	24,615,149	184%	12 1/2
June 7	128,886,129	122,513,410	141,479,390	134,418,206	24,822,719	187%	12 1/2
14	128,884,081	121,557,550	127,874,151	120,304,710	25,376,531	191%	12 1/2
21	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	121,906,319	25,960,416	201%	12 1/2
28	128,946,693	123,048,010	131,435,226	124,906,319	26,348,683	184%	12 1/2
July 5	128,958,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	143,807,498	22,385,822	178%	12 1/2
12	127,900,698	124,256,265	124,248,705	124,906,319	22,101,993	178%	12 1/2
19	127,402,158	124,256,265	126,641,810	124,906,319	21,595,893	178%	12 1/2
26	127,403,930	124,256,265	126,641,810	124,906,319	21,595,893	178%	12 1/2
Aug. 2	127,399,880	125,774,190	127,874,151	124,906,319	20,075,330	161%	12 1/2
9	127,399,880	125,774,190	127,874,151	124,906,319	20,075,330	161%	12 1/2
16	127,407,660	124,261,430	125,756,806	124,247,252	21,596,230	174%	12 1/2
23	127,417,304	123,453,660	123,954,385	119,616,305	22,413,644	184%	12 1/2

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Aug. 21, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Aug. 25, 1920.	Aug. 24, 1921.	Aug. 23, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	29,254,136	28,933,380	124,893,550	125,964,555	123,453,660
Public deposits	17,543,751	19,014,899	15,363,947	17,706,354	18,457,895
Other deposits	42,889,928	41,248,964	100,591,209	116,186,287	105,496,490
Government securities	13,567,655	11,046,570	41,555,460	52,415,435	43,853,202
Other securities	35,103,208	41,461,280	75,883,141	78,658,583	75,763,103
Reserve of notes and coin	30,108,153	25,463,980	16,585,307	20,888,148	22,413,644
Coin and bullion	40,912,288	35,947,360	123,028,857	128,402,703	127,417,304
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	49%	42%	14%	15%	18%
Bank rate of discount	3%	3%	7%	5%	5%
Market rate, 3 months' bills ..	3 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2
Price of Consols	75 1/2	74 1/2	67 1/2	47 1/2	54 1/2
Price of silver per oz.	28 1/2	26 1/2	46 1/2	38 1/2	54 1/2
Average price of wheat	38s 2d	35s 0d	90s 7d	66s 9d	52s 6d
Exchanges—					
Paris	25 1/4	25 1/4	50 50	47 50	56 15
New York	84 1/4	84 1/4	83 1/4	83 1/4	84 1/4
Amsterdam	12 1/2	12 1/2	11 30	11 30	11 30
Berlin	20 47	20 47	176 182	304 317	5150 6000
Clearing house return	276,890,000	199,913,000	676,664,000	603,211,000	600,046,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—August 16	22,458,883,000	1,791,038,000	24,249,921,000
August 23	549,981,000	50,065,000	600,046,000
Total to date 1922	23,008,864,000	1,841,103,000	24,849,967,000
Do 1921	20,633,999,000	2,000,830,000	22,634,829,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,374,865,000	+ 159,772,000	+ 2,534,637,000
%	10 3/4%	8 7/8%	9 8/8%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	+ 3,018,303,000	+ 1,070,041,000	+ 4,088,344,000
%	8 6/8%	26 2/8%	10 4/8%

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. July, 1922.	Bank of Liv'pool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.	London County Westm'r and Parr's Bank, Limited.	National Provin- cial and Union Bank of Eng'nd, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Willm's Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	7,760	33,799	1,437	2,372	34,470	54,381	30,388	30,182	3,955	4,731	203,475
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	1,907	7,112	564	849	7,934	8,738	9,037	6,761	196	1,055	44,153
Items in transit	4,823	21,495	2,812	5,301	16,408	14,840	24,612	16,207	5,735	3,634	115,897
Money at call and short notice.....	5,045	53,286	1,829	1,032	79,241	53,024	86,594	49,129	3,379	4,022	336,581
Bills discounted	13,805	84,859	4,637	9,860	87,947	66,493	55,638	56,412	18,672	8,109	406,432
Investments	37,103	128,664	7,447	5,009	120,237	177,436	104,174	122,900	17,746	18,133	738,849
Advances to customers and other accounts											
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	4,010	5,481	143	1,752	7,575	18,058	11,331	4,014	281	581	53,226
Bank premises account	1,450	4,761	346	370	4,898	4,959	4,007	4,120	570	674	26,155
Investments in affiliated banks	..	8,018	..	..	7,669	3,559	2,991	2,240	..	..	24,477
	75,903	347,475	19,245	26,545	366,379	401,488	328,772	291,965	50,534	40,939	1,949,245
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts	11-38	10-62	8-21	10-25	10-30	15-03	10-14	11-18	8-83	12-65	11-46
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up.....	2,349	15,592	800	1,000	14,373	10,861	9,004	9,309	1,500	1,875	66,663
Reserve fund.....	1,400	8,250	800	500	10,000	10,861	9,004	8,878	1,000	1,100	51,793
Current, deposit, and other accounts	68,144	318,152	17,502	23,138	334,431	361,708	299,420	269,764	44,754	37,383	1,774,396
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.....	4,010	5,481	143	1,752	7,575	18,058	11,330	4,014	281	581	53,225
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	155	..	..	14	..	2,999	..	3,013
Reduction of bank premises account	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155
	75,903	347,475	19,245	26,545	366,379	401,488	328,772	291,965	50,534	40,939	1,949,245

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

	July 20, 1922.	July 10, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	June 20, 1922.	July 20, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Total cash	1,344,124	1,322,293	1,381,222	1,372,156	1,338,230	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,917,098	4,931,661	4,539,110	4,389,521	3,220,510	418,400
Foreign bills	9,780	9,754	9,813	9,858	19,660	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,150,427	6,149,893	6,147,274	6,002,182	6,424,500	nll
Other advances	2,585,935	2,762,280	2,975,031	2,760,894	2,351,365	79,175
Securities	531,882	533,717	533,609	533,658	395,907	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,949,770	14,156,094	13,932,430	13,506,440	13,816,304	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,878,097	1,937,826	2,011,031	2,043,644	1,754,198	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 21, 1922.	Aug. 14, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	605,954	605,954	605,954	605,954	605,954	163,092
Silver	8,717	8,528	8,239	8,156	10,681	8,436
Depts. & advances	365,590	377,322	379,304	369,848	423,468	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	959,709	972,769	983,092	990,314	993,146	316,632
Deposits	41,559	43,536	36,338	34,957	52,570	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	June 17, 1922.	June 10, 1922.	July 16, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	510,834	510,835	495,483	495,470	495,459
Silver	748	665	530	376	526
Government loan	12,521,099	12,527,698	12,498,215	12,522,553	10,323,993
Other advances	2,874,957	2,798,791	2,641,986	2,666,178	1,232,895
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	14,209,832	14,147,162	14,106,890	14,111,324	11,199,891
Deposits	6,040,673	6,023,500	5,849,509	5,876,052	6,239,421

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	Aug. 1, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	Aug. 13, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	516,197	518,026	519,409	523,667	514,556	171,715
Silver	115,540	115,858	116,282	116,335	104,331	18,350
Darlehens-Kassen.	12,187	12,138	12,138	12,114	13,487	1,487
Assets & advances	335,074	326,532	322,773	311,372	340,334	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	733,550	752,653	769,113	729,121	889,331	275,925
Deposits	273,249	250,772	231,385	263,224	141,491	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to July 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.20,383,168, of which Fr.12,138,675 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 19, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1921.	May 24, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	273,821	273,888	273,309	273,917	285,043	104,918
Balance abrd. and foreign bills	78,678	78,632	78,738	73,590	114,508	112,172
Swedish and for.	72,991	72,992	72,840	72,843	18,686	32,465
Gov. securities	396,628	399,476	414,907	408,719	416,951	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	521,813	530,230	545,633	534,996	596,607	226,555
Deposits at notice	237,346	231,030	230,289	237,621	175,536	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 10, 1922.	Aug. 3, 1922.	July 27, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin & silver	333,006	333,245	332,072	332,012	324,505	322,650
Securities	469,318	475,051	462,783	496,353	609,533	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	6,427,057	6,420,836	6,402,678	6,327,881	6,173,134	934,150
Current accounts	587,156	598,726	614,502	722,249	1,014,549	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 23, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	1,454	1,334	1,371	1,553
Silver coin	21	21	21	21
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	303,545,842	276,595,446	255,116,505	233,398,809
Loans	1,170,330	1,153,514	1,214,972	1,303,381
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	913,932,437	833,471,496	786,225,601	691,770,477
Deposits	85,376,128	72,876,490	36,688,849	58,684,609

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 23, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	12,953	12,925	13,048	12,990
Silver coin, &c.	597	597	597	597
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	31,777,141	30,777,555	28,782,928	27,014,151
Loans	1,760,330	1,764,432	1,546,432	1,513,358
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	42,016,269	40,949,355	38,357,359	35,867,485
Deposits	4,115,167	4,263,579	3,929,134	3,731,554

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold and bullion	228,304	228,310	228,324	228,325	227,564	76,644
Loans & discounts	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	306,152	88,470
Foreign bank notes	25,939	23,459	16,215	14,830	18,741	24,102
Securities	16,298	14,014	14,521	15,843	50,160	11,988
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	432,305	441,940	438,743	451,790	481,581	157,266
Deposits	142,399	119,028	114,766	128,857	75,256	6,696

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,291	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,856	39,157	38,592	29,547	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,780	9,780	9,814	8,512	8,816
Discounts and loans	434,138	438,033	445,281	422,744	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	375,690	379,479	382,407	418,513	113,484
Deposits at notice	133,464	132,537	135,940	78,070	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 his day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

	July 28, 1922.	July 21, 1922.	July 14, 1922.	July 7, 1922.	July 29, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Govt. securities	12,93,85	13,08,24	12,37,70	15,26,83	13,79,82
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,58
Loans	14,48,49	14,54,98	14,71,98	14,35,16	13,61,16
Cash credits	25,44,95	25,44,64	25,89,20	25,82,78	21,63,23
Inland bills	4,02,24	4,15,45	4,38,50	4,51,59	11,29,95
Foreign bills	14,86	17,82	12,72	5,17	1,05
Dead stock	2,43,36	2,43,65	2,42,48	2,42,39	2,10,24
Sundries	25,00	24,38	32,89	34,08	23,28
Balances with other banks	20,14	15,26	17,67	15,75	17,92
Cash	43,23,34	39,71,52	36,12,84	33,92,06	35,73,27
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	10,89,24
Capital paid up	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,53,56
Reserve	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,01,83	3,82,71
Public deposits	33,19,07	31,44,58	27,93,45	26,80,61	24,17,87
Other deposits	60,50,07	59,44,49	58,87,92	60,41,43	65,12,77
Loans against securities	50,33	50,33	50,33	50,03	84,29
Loans from Govt. of India	50,84	40,72	78,38	78,24	44,43
Sundries	118	125	131	122	29
Deposits in London	350	351	352	356	575
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	126	95	111	100	110

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	June 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	3,359	3,362	3,358	3,364	1,571
Government securities	38,046	38,779	39,150	36,644	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	28,334	30,322	33,692	31,205	2,400
Government deposits	4,213	3,069	3,668	2,322	2,315
Other deposits	12,632	12,401	12,240	12,831	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,626	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	112,424	137,675	122,309	373,231	90,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities	707,890	707,896	708,553	896,938	21,826
Discounts and loans	805,896	819,070	798,689	361,252	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,321,122	1,337,563	1,340,382	1,343,760	123,941
Deposits at notice	100,643	117,349	131,366	95,971	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

	June 21, 1922.	June 14, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	June 22, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion	26,714	26,744	26,757	26,902	27,712
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	2,583	3,544	3,894	4,092	2,865
Discounts	135,132	135,774	139,955	141,724	119,300
Government loans	700,099	700,099	700,099	680,099	588,111
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	808,413	811,724	807,020	796,627	648,037
Deposits	47,129	45,454	51,906	52,498	53,167

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)

	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
ASSETS.						
Gold	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,101	38,101	38,044
Silver	19,563	19,703	19,868	19,935	20,252	20,583
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613	111,535
Bills discounted	27,357	27,644	22,577	20,372	17,292	9,041
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489	3,587,627
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,325,322	1,442,811

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

		Par Level.	Aug. 25, 1921.	Aug. 10, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	3.77	0.30	0.245	0.16
Basel	Swiss francs to 100 marks	123.45	6.95	0.61	0.4925	0.29
Copenhagen	Danish kroner to 100 marks	88.88	5.43	0.44	0.356	0.2373
Stockholm	Swedish kronor to 100 marks	88.88	5.43	0.44	0.356	0.2373
Christiania	Norwegian kroner to 100 marks	88.88	5.43	0.44	0.356	0.2373

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Bolivia	Sucres to £1	Sight London	Aug. 19	20.50
Bolivia	Bolivares to £1	"	Aug. 16	24.25
Bolivia	Dollars to £1	"	Aug. 22	98.50
Nicaragua	Colonias to £1	"	July 22	4.60
Nicaragua	Colonias to £1	"	Aug. 12	9.40
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	"	Aug. 19	26.50
Costa Rica	Colonias to £1	"	Aug. 4	19.50
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	"	July 1	154

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.		Australia and New Zealand on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
	Aus. tralia.	New Zealand.	Aus. tralia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	..	..	..	..
Sight	..	..	..	..
Cable	..	..	..	..
On demand	97 1/2	97 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2
30 days	96 1/2	96 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
60 days	96	96	97	97
90 days	96	96	97	97
120 days	96	96	97	97

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.
Outstanding with public*	54,01,65,000	34,82,00,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	57,39,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	92,21,00,000

* Sales were discontinued on June 6th.

India Office, August 24, 1922.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended August 23, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £9,644 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended August 23, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended August 23, 1922.
British South Africa	620,508	United States of America	1,275,384
British West Africa	41,826	Norway	181
Belgian Congo	19,546	Netherlands	1,656
Latvia	2,400	Java	20,469
Other Countries	1,424		
Total value of imports of gold	685,704	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	1,297,690

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on August 24th as follows:—

GOLD.

Indian requirements again being small, most of the gold on offer was taken for the United States of America. Gold valued at \$4,691,000 is reported as having arrived in New York—\$4,215,000 from London and \$476,000 from France. We have remarked on occasion in connection with gold currency reserves that, in order to afford effective support to foreign exchanges, they must be available—either actually or potentially. When gold in reserve is known to be held immobile as a policy, it ceases to function. The situation of Germany is an emphatic commentary upon this fact. The value of the gold held in the Reichsbank, if sold in the world's market, is about £54,000,000. On the 14th instant the notes in circulation amounted to 205,275,349,000 marks. The value of currency marks in British currency sank by noon to-day to 8,400 marks to the pound. On this valuation, the entire Reichsbank issue, calculated in British currency (allowing for some increase subsequent to the 14th instant), is worth only about £24,500,000. Theoretically, therefore, the Reichsbank may be said to hold the foreign value of its entire note issue in gold, and to have a gold reserve of £29,500,000 to spare. As a fact, however, this statement is incorrect, for the value of the mark abroad would be improved instantly and powerfully if the Reichsbank gold reserves were applied to the payment and cancellation of its notes.

SILVER.

The market has been mainly occupied with speculative business. Native operators in China exchange continue to swing to and fro in their operations—now as buyers and now as sellers of sterling—and silver orders corresponding to these movements have been sent to London. A measure of support has come from America—bear covering and otherwise. India has been a free seller. Notwithstanding that the outlook is not promising, the strong speculative influences at work render it unwise to be dogmatic as to the future, though, of course, the power of speculators to maintain prices in the long run is limited. The value of the silver mined in Mexico from the first years of the Spanish conquest—1521—to January, 1922, reached the enormous total of 6,000,000,000 pesos, or \$3,000,000,000 in American currency, according to figures made public by the Mexican Embassy. Considered by weight, Mexico has produced somewhat more than 155,000 tons of silver. Over the 40,000,000 pesos; since 1900 the average has been 74,000,000 pesos; this includes the 10-year revolutionary period of 1911-21, when silver-mining activities were greatly hampered, and in more peaceful state, it is expected that production will mount to general merchandise during July has again turned the balance of trade in favour of India by Rs.32 lacs from an adverse balance of Rs.111 lacs in June, 1922.

MONTHLY BALANCE OF TRADE.

(In Lacs, including Bullion and Paper Rupee movements.)	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
April	+ 13.87	— 6.85	+ 4.17
May	+ 5.74	— 2.00	+ 4.17
June	— 8.2	— 1.67	+ 3.48
July	— 3.14	— 1.35	+ 1.11
August	— 9.36	— 2.34	+ 3.2
September	— 4.69	— 93	..
October	— 10.32	— 8.65	..
November	— 11.07	— 9.22	..
December	— 9.02	— 2.55	..
January	— 8.97	— 7.12	..
February	— 7.03	— 59	..
March	— 4.86	— 1.42	..

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,041	18,061	18,165
Silver coin and bullion in India	8,509	8,525	8,627
Silver coin and bullion out of India	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government)	6,515	6,519	6,521
Securities (British Government)	585	585	585

The silver coinage during the week ending the 15th instant amounted to 1 lac of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 19th instant consisted of about 39,800,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 5,300 silver bars, as compared with bars on the 12th instant. The stock on the 19th instant is the largest reported since May 21, 1921.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.		
Aug. 19	92 0	34 3/4	34 3/4	d	Sept. 2, 1916	32 1/2
21	92 0	35	35	d	Aug. 31, 1917	46
22	92 0	34 3/4	34 3/4	d	30, 1918	49 1/2
23	92 1	34 3/4	34 3/4	d	29, 1919	58
24	92 2	35 1/2	35 1/2	d	27, 1920	61
25	92 2	35 1/2	35 1/2	d	26, 1921	38

NOTICES.

It is officially announced that an agreement has been concluded for the old-established banking businesses of Messrs Dingley and Co., bankers, of Launceston, and Messrs Dingley, Pearce and Co., bankers, of Okehampton, to be amalgamated Limited. The arrangements provide for the retention of the present staff and for two of the partners, Messrs John Dingley and E. D. Pethybridge, to become local directors. The directors of Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that Mr J. W. Beaumont Pease, formerly deputy-chairman, has been elected chairman of the bank, in the place of the late Sir Richard Vassar-Smith, Bart., and that Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., has been elected deputy-chairman.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of new offices at 25 New Cut, Lambeth, S.E. 1; in High street, Honiton, and at Hockley Heath, Birmingham.

The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank is now open at Market Place, Woodstock, the resident officer being Mr C. H. Tolley.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they will open on Monday next, the 28th instant, a new branch at 52 King street, Penrith, under the management of Mr A. H. Page. A new sub-branch has been opened at Abersoch, under the control of Mr D. L. Jones, manager Pwllheli branch.

Hambros Bank, Limited, have received the following telegram from the head office of Den Danske Landmandsbank, Copenhagen:—"At a meeting of our board of directors Mr Ernst Meyer, president of the Merchants' Guild, Copenhagen, was appointed a manager of our bank, owing to the resignation of Mr Harhoff, who has been a manager since 1872."

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'est Pre-Year, vious.
Railways.					
Plymouth, Devonport	2% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Shropshire Union	5% Sept. 9	Less tax			
Southern Punjab	3% Sept. 13	Subject to tax 3/1			
Banks.					
Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata	4% Sept. 22	Less tax			
British Bank of South America	10% p.a. Sept. 4				
National Bank of Egypt	8% p.a. Aug. 21				
Spanish Bank of River Plate	4% Aug. 21				
Mining.					
Broken Hill South	2% p.a. Nov. 3	Less tax			
Neechi Mines (Colombia) (25% Pref.)	6% Sept. 29	Less tax 5s in £			
Oroville Dredging	7% Sept. 29	Less tax 5s in £			
Other Companies.					
Agar, Cross, and Co.	7% Sept. 15	Less tax			
Barlow and Jones	10% Sept. 15	Less tax			
Birmingham Canal	2% Sept. 15	Less tax			
British Columbia Electric, Pref. and Delf.	3% Sept. 7	Tax free			
Canoe and Co.	5% Sept. 7	Tax free			
Cambrian Coaching	5% Sept. 7	Tax free			
Cardiff Exchange	10% Sept. 1	Tax free			
Charles Clifford	10% Sept. 1	Tax free			
Civil Service Supply	1% p.a. Sept. 1	Less tax			
Edwards and Co.	5% Aug. 25	Less tax			
Fairbairn, Lawson, Combe, Barbour	8% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Furness, Withy, and Co.	5% Aug. 26	Less tax			
Henry Spencer and Co.	5% Aug. 26	Less tax			
Hine, Parker, and Co.	5% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Indo-European Telegraph	5% Sept. 1	Less tax			
J. and R. Allan	5% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Leyland and Birmingham	5% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Newcastle upon Tyne Electric	7% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Do 5% Pref.	24% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Ocean Coal and Wilsons	3% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Patent Victoria Stone	4% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Royal Brewery, Bradford	5% Sept. 1	Less tax			
South Suburban Gas	6% Sept. 11	Less tax			
Style and Winn	1% p.a. Aug. 26	Less tax			
Thomas Dockrell	4% Aug. 27	Less tax			
Too good and Sons	6% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Tootal Broadhurst Lee Co.	6% Sept. 1	Less tax			
United Carlo Gatti, & Co.	2% Sept. 1	Less tax			
Wigan Coal and Iron	2% Sept. 1	Less tax			

THE UNITED NITEL COMPANIES, LIMITED.—The directors have decided, owing to the continued trade depression, to postpone payment of the half yearly dividend, due on the 1st proximo, on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares. They very much regret having to arrive at this decision, but are satisfied that it is the best course to adopt, taking into account the bad state of trade.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JULY, 1922.

	Tons Crushed,		Gold Recovered,			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Jumbo	1,450	..	492	..	..	..	71
Lake View and Star (period July 1st to Aug. 15)	4,163	..	..	..	..	12,235	80
Output.							
Tin.	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.					
South Bukuru	5	Shipped, 5 tons.					
Coal.	Tons.	Sales of coal week ended Aug. 12th, 51,126 tons					
Chinese Engineering	4,309	Week ended Aug. 19, 1922.					
East Kent Colliery	54,942	..					
Copper.	Tons.	..					
Tanganika	4,061	..					

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—Extract from report for four weeks ended June 21st:—Broken Hill—One dressing mill—This plant dealt with 20,855 tons of tailings producing 312 tons of lead concentrate and 4,594 tons of silice. Zinc separation plant—Production consisted of 2,553 tons of zinc concentrate, assaying 48.02 per cent. zinc, 4.93 per cent. lead, and 10.56 ozs silver per ton. Slime flotation plant—Production consisted of 1,596 tons of lead concentrate, assaying 15 per cent. zinc, 49.31 per cent. lead, and 86.60 ozs silver per ton, together with 3,648 tons of zinc concentrate, assaying 50.79 per cent. zinc, 5.07 per cent. lead, and 12.96 ozs silver per ton. Sulphuric acid plant—Equal to 470 net tons of strong acid were produced.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	June, 1922.			July, 1922.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Aurora W. United (10s shares)	8,740		1,556	9,500		1,712
Brakpan	58,000	116,957	45,883	64,500	118,646	45,281
City Deep	86,000	165,676	51,850	88,500	173,369	66,712
Consolidated Langlaagte	35,900	48,188	5,662	41,100	53,345	10,687
Consolidated Main Reef	44,600	72,015	6,734	52,100	92,162	23,781
Crown Mines (10s shares)	172,000	240,709	42,768	214,000	282,356	67,690
Durban Roodepoort Deep	27,500	42,296	1,558	31,000	48,424	7,398
East Rand Proprietary	106,500	128,856	8,410	119,000	137,900	7,937
Ferreira Deep	26,200	31,781	1,385	30,500	38,976	5,397
Geduld Proprietary	44,600	74,783	23,482	46,300	74,841	30,118
Goldenhuis Deep	52,781	57,521	2,618	53,222	62,485	3,786
Glyn's Lydenburg	4,244	6,488	536	3,276	6,662	1,343
Goch, New			998	17,500	17,634	1,003
Government Areas	141,000	285,522	155,171	141,000	283,025	153,899
Kleinfontein, New	42,000	52,395	4,303	47,600	62,548	5,975
Knight Central	28,500	26,468	310	32,000	29,046	1,246
Langlaagte Estate	42,500	63,908	12,807	49,300	66,047	14,459
Langlaagte Vlei	17,910	19,249	2,172	19,323	19,206	1,161
Meyer and Charlton	13,800		20,189	15,000	13,506	22,248
Modderfontein B.	60,000	148,217	61,829	62,000	155,929	86,945
Modderfontein Deep Levels	43,300	106,627	65,675	43,200	106,631	66,257
Modderfontein East	25,500	46,316	4,086	26,300	48,115	9,045
Modderfontein, New (£4 shares)	106,000	218,630	120,453	108,000	224,074	127,933
New United	10,600	10,600	1,827	11,200	12,148	2,066
Nourse Mines	43,800	63,260	5,592	47,700	66,572	8,824
Primrose, New	17,800	19,450	1,414	19,100	19,490	1,649
Randfontein Central	119,500	163,196	31,499	133,500	189,616	45,025
Robinson (£5 shares)	14,500	22,253	6,086	17,000	25,660	9,692
Robinson Deep	6,700	79,242	15,634	68,100	94,564	30,084
Roodepoort United	90,400		1,400	7,893	56,711	8,484
Rose Deep	47,700	56,086	9,293	50,500	56,711	8,484
Stimod and Jack	40,100	48,169	*2,938	48,800	48,576	*2,123
Spring Mines	43,000	84,233	28,958	41,400	86,641	35,079
Sub-Nigel	10,000	27,528	5,662	10,400	27,039	5,420
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	15,490	24,089	165	15,940	23,623	245
Van Ryn	32,220		8,091	34,300	44,626	9,069
Van Ryn Deep.	55,100	122,301	62,036	55,000	120,360	63,000
Village Deep.	51,000	75,470	12,605	50,000	79,721	15,040
West Rand Consolidated	34,000		10,109	34,300	44,366	4,206
West Rand Proprietary	48,336		12,350	42,350	58,650	14,296
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	39,600	50,764	11,380	46,200	53,845	12,655
Wolhuter	32,500	35,795	2,512	33,700	36,022	2,665

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Aug. 19, 1922.				Aggregate 33 Weeks 1922.			
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	
Great Central (c)	6763	69,600	130,200	199,800	1,653,100	4,277,000	5,930,100	
Do Joint Lines	1614	161,200	84,300	245,500	3,836,800	3,068,800	6,905,600	
Great Eastern (c)	1,2072	115,400	121,400	236,800	3,244,000	4,590,700	7,834,700	
Great Northern (c)	3,657	371,000	339,000	710,000	4,945,000	12,599,000	17,544,000	
Great Western (d)	2,633	511,000	383,000	894,000	12,350,000	13,909,000	26,259,000	
London & N. Western (d) ..	968	167,400	52,800	220,200	4,374,100	1,909,500	6,283,600	
Lon. & South. Western	487	124,800	27,452	152,252	3,105,082	940,486	4,045,568	
London & S.W. Jnc. (c) ..	423	1,559	3,023	36,028	1,095,993	116,253	1,212,246	
Mar. & Carlisle (c)	1,5854	219,000	297,000	516,000	5,882,000	10,488,500	16,370,500	
Metropolitan (c)	63	3,088	1,317	4,405	49,135	47,640	96,775	
Midland (c)	1,850	177,000	244,300	421,300	4,310,800	8,085,500	12,396,300	
Midland & S.W. Jnc. (c) ..	16	4,779	8,883	230,700	159,743	324,880	484,623	
North Eastern (c)	654	186,000	44,700	232,215	4,431,000	1,399,800	5,830,800	
North London	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,452,849	
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	391,730	
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,618,746	
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	1,097	85,600	97,700	184,300	2,379,200	3,320,200	5,699,400	
Caledonian	476	37,500	39,600	71,100	1,048,800	1,203,800	2,252,600	
Glasgow & S.W. (c)	3364	13,740	7,560	21,300	311,290	303,760	615,050	
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	492	19,436	9,979	29,405	385,174	338,102	723,276	
Highland (c)	1,3773	79,200	114,300	193,500	2,150,900	3,837,500	5,988,400	
North British (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Belfast and County	80	6,772	1,152	7,924	176,490	44,588	221,008	
Down (b)	160	8,759	2,942	11,701	190,352	115,124	305,476	
Dublin and S. East. (b) ..	538	11,879	17,140	29,019	510,702	463,131	973,833	
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended August 18, 1922.
(c) Week ended August 19, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	16 weeks	July 22	1,043	Rs. 2,24,850	+ 1,45,571	Rs. 3,70,421	+ 17,54,102
Barelly L. Ry.	17 weeks	Aug. 11	218	26,800	+ 7,700	34,500	+ 2,35,800
Bombay & N. Western ..	15 weeks	Aug. 11	22	5,64,250	+ 17,191	5,81,441	+ 13,21,487
Bombay Nagpur	17 weeks	Aug. 11	22	10,78,000	+ 52,000	11,30,000	+ 22,12,300
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	20 weeks	Aug. 19	2,871	19,23,000	+ 2,34,000	21,57,000	+ 50,80,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	16 weeks	Aug. 11	2,442	5,22,486	+ 62,014	5,84,500	+ 20,52,359
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	19 weeks	Aug. 11	239	91,000	+ 4,843	95,843	+ 1,32,859
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	17 weeks	Aug. 11	2,772	28,75,000	+ 2,55,000	31,30,000	+ 11,08,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	20 weeks	Aug. 11	3,121	20,95,000	+ 1,01,700	21,96,700	+ 22,19,882
G. Indian Peninsula	17 weeks	July 22	3,028	12,75,000	+ 67,182	13,42,182	+ 23,67,958
Madr. & Mahr.	22 weeks	Aug. 11	253	43,669	+ 13,161	56,830	+ 48,64,400
Rohilkh' & E. India	16 weeks	Aug. 11	230	61,092	+ 2,756	63,848	+ 37,01,400
Do Lucknow-Breilly	16 weeks	Aug. 11	2,852	9,17,851	+ 25,486	9,43,337	+ 19,43,817
South Indian	1 mth	April 30	717	6,46,972	+ 245,885	6,71,857	+ ..
Bhbn. Punjab (mth)							
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	7 weeks	Aug. 19	752	12,700	+ 77,200	13,970	+ 5,900
Argentine Trans.	7 weeks	Aug. 19	111	1,350	+ 160	1,510	+ 2,455
B. A. and Pacific	7 weeks	Aug. 19	7,628	136,000	+ 3,000	139,000	+ 65,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	3,947	132,000	+ 16,000	1,011,500	+ 96,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	Net	24,000	+ 8,000	32,000	+ 96,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	Net	77,000	+ 16,000	522,000	+ 96,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	Net	20,000	+ 3,000	116,000	+ 17,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	45,180	+ 6,678	51,858	+ 11,08,000
Central Argentine	7 weeks	Aug. 19	3,305	201,000	+ 18,000	1,378,000	+ 31,000
Cordoba Central	7 weeks	Aug. 19	1,205	65,000	+ 1,000	476,200	+ 25,59,900
Entre Rios	7 weeks	Aug. 19	811	18,100	+ 1,900	116,000	+ 27,900
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	7 mths	July 31	1,005	Me 45,750	+ 10,250	291,500	+ 36,400
Brazil Gt. Southern	33 weeks	Aug. 19	1,005	9,400	+ 4,100	419,900	+ 12,300
Londrina	33 weeks	Aug. 19	1,831	37,387	+ 1,096	91,045	+ 171,000
San Paulo	33 weeks	Aug. 19	20	25,182	+ 6,296	93,920	+ 45,746
State of Bahia, S.W.	3 mths	July 31	52	Me 86,000	+ 30,000	244,000	+ 59,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	33 weeks	Aug. 20	838	23,340	+ 8,510	667,765	+ 93,100
Antofagasta	1 mth	Mar. 30	544	18,000	+ 500	..	+ ..
Arauco	32 weeks	Aug. 15	366	22,166	+ 10,089	..	+ 123,267
Sitirato (2 extension) ..	1 mth	July 31	1,059	81,581,000	+ 1,950	..	+ ..
Peruian Corp.	1 mth	July 31	172	12,090	+ 2,917	..	+ ..
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	- 500,572	7,020,807	- 3,080,221
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
Havana Central	6 weeks	Aug. 12	1,210	49,568	+ 1,171	55,537	+ 13,53,300
United of Havana	7 weeks	Aug. 12	1,210	49,568	+ 9,515	345,224	+ 81,21,200
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	7 weeks	Aug. 19	273	18,109	+ 2,957	141,545	+ 15,485
Central Uruguay	7 weeks	Aug. 19	311	3,869	+ 175	29,141	+ 1,672
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	185	2,093	+ 166	15,292	+ 2,855
C. Urug. (North Ext.) ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	211	1,857	+ 44	12,945	+ 1,358
C. Urug. (West Ext.) ..	7 weeks	Aug. 19	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	+ ..
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	113	5,368	+ 347	..	+ ..
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	..	+ ..
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	..	+ ..
Uruguay-Northern.							
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	33 weeks	Aug. 19	33	Ps 15,000	+ 2,000	641,300	+ 117,400
Alcoy and Gandia	7 mths	July 31	15	16	+ 932	7,360	+ 6,056
Bilbao	7 mths	July 31	136	7,800	+ 2,395	65,111	+ 7,211
Bolivar	7 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	+ 1,340	193,931	+ 3,551
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 mths	May 31	190	27,975	+ 8,679	236,221	+ 35,596
Costa Rica	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,225	+ 54,500
Corado Extension	7 mths	July 31	45	7,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 6,000
Jorjato Ropewy. Ext.	7 mths	July 31	5594	8,672	+ 1,746	97,640	+ 13,826
Orizaba Delta	15 weeks	Aug. 5	104	Ps 63,349	+ 23,327	2,375,268	+ 810,216
St. Southn. of Spain	31 weeks	Aug. 5	Gross	68,869	+ 167	54,112	+ 1,064
St. Southn. of Spain	31 weeks	Aug. 5	Net	23,676	+ 1,985	217,902	+ 1,750
Central America	7 mths	July 31	232	11,650	+ 7,300	71,150	+ 1,920
La Guaira & Caracas ..	7 mths	July 31	403	\$236,900	+ 199,100	1,575,700	+ 326,400
Mexican Railway	6 weeks	Aug. 14	403	\$1081,900	+ 10,600	7,526,600	+ 505,400
Do	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$161,600	+ 1,935	1,522,000	+ 603,200
Do	6 mths	June 30	Net	11,371	+ 1,935	63,574	+ 14,850
Nasajo Ocasarhama	6 mths	June 30	193	5,434	+ ..	165,470	+ 43,780
Nasajo R. H. W.	3 weeks	Aug. 12	278	3,310	+ 850	..	+ ..
Passaic-Camden, N.J.	47 weeks	May 27	274	\$2,311,374	+ 414,841	16,380,785	+ 5,299,660
Prague-Athens, etc.	9 mths	Feb. 28	35	4,750	+ 250	31,250	+ 1,500
Puerto Cabello, etc.	7 mths	July 31	25	2,394	+ 363	22,731	+ 5,317
Salvador	2 weeks	Aug. 19	100	..	+ 3,069	62,390	+ 12,780
San Jo. Fe Province	7 mths	July 31	..	11,750	+ 4,971	69,399	+ 12,780
San Jo. Fe Province	7 mths	July 31	..	11,750	+ 4,971	69,399	+ 12,780
San Jo. Fe Province	6 mths	June 30	112	(a) 10,941	+ 1,689	69,399	+ 16,646

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,523	- 253,738	57,421,605	+ 23,089,649
Feb.	235,653	235,625	400,430,580	- 2,728	76,706,840	+ 24,882,880
Mar.	235,653	234,202	473,433,986	- 1,451	84,657,199	+ 54,657,199
Apr.	235,653	234,338	416,240,237	- 214	71,468,443	+ 24,000,083
May	235,653	235,333	447,299,150	- 320	80,514,943	+ 24,000,083
June	235,653	235,310	472,383,903	- 343	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.	
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	12 mths	June 30	Gross	\$101,381	- 101,209	1,156,513	- 883,114
Canadian Nat.	32 weeks	Aug. 14	Gross	\$1,050,100	- 264,355	32,559,894	- 7,050,673
Canadian Natn*	5 mths	May 31	Gross	\$4,870,500	+ 428,177	21,604,133	- 5,684,188
Canadian Pac.	35 weeks	Aug. 21	Gross	\$3,369,000	- 126,000	100,400,000	- 10,341,000
Canadian Pac.*	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$13,810,000	- 651,000	76,295,000	- 7,761,000
Grand Trunk.	33 weeks	Aug. 21	Net	\$2,362,000	- 742,000	9,814,000	- 3,136,000
Temiscouata	1 mth	June 30	Gross	\$276,395	+ 3,206	13,100,839	+ 91,405
			Gross	\$31,924			

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. + Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land.....	1 mth	May 31	810	£	95,170	£	£
Mid. of W. Aust.....	12 mths	June 30	277	7,695	- 11,606		
New Cape Central.....	39 weeks	July 29	205	2,128	204	128,074	- 2,828
Rhodesia Railways.....	1 mth	May 31	1,397	136,323	- 4	79,404	+

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

[illegible]

(t) Royal Brewery, Brentford.—This dividend absorbed £10,500.

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

wheat of the old crop was offered at 45s to 47s, and larger supplies of new range from 42s to 44s for suitable milling qualities per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported irregular, but closed steady in sympathy with higher c.i.f. offers. No. 1 Northern Manitoba 53s 6d ex-ship, 50s landed, No. 3 ditto 48s, No. 2 Hard winter 46s 6d, Australian 53s, Rosafe 64 lbs 49s 6d ex-ship, and ditto landed 52s, all per 496 lbs. The cargo section proved dull, owing to a falling off in Continental demand due to Exchange difficulties, and rates declined in sympathy with lower foreign advices. The small business effected comprised steamers of New South Wales afloat at 50s to 49s 9d, Barusso 62 lbs shipping/shipped 46s 6d, Rosafe 63½ lbs afloat 46s 9d, all to the Continent. Parcels in generally quiet demand, and values easier. Flour dull and easier. London standard straight run reduced to 43s, patents 45s to 46s, town households 41s, all English straight run 41s per sack delivered London area. All English country straights (new) 36s 6d, free on rail at London stations. Imported weak. Manitoba top patents 42s 6d to 44s, export patents 40s to 43s, Pacific 37s 6d to 38s, Australian 38s 6d to 39s 6d per 280 lbs ex-store. On c.i.f. export

Rangoon spot 7s 4½d, Madagascar haricots old crop 9s to 12s, new crop 14s to 16s per cwt, Chinese horse beans £10 15s to £11 15s per ton. Peas steadily held. English maples 75s to 90s, dumplings 58s to 63s, spot 38s, Tasmanian A grade 22s free on rail. Imported, Japanese 22s, Dutch 21s to 26s per cwt. English rye quoted 38s to 40s per 504 lbs free on rail. Lentils steady. No. 1 split 22s, No. 2 ditto 21s 6d, Egyptian 21s to 22s per 100 lbs. Homeward grain charter-paid for early September loading to U.K./Continent, heavy grain clipped oats 2s 6d extra, ordinary oats 3s 9d extra, heavy grain steady for August loading, but forward easy. North America Bordeaux/Hamburg September done 3s per qr, America Northern Range to Mediterranean August 17 cents, and Gulf to West Italy to U.K./Continent, and 2s 6d extra Mediterranean. Easterns quiet and Bombay on deadweight paid 21s to U.K./Continent per ton. Australia inactive and nominal. Danube chartering at the moment is restricted owing to adverse weather and at the conditions.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGE

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21.

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to August 19.....	Cwts. 63,291	Cwts. 368,335	Cwts. 17,950	Cwts. 39,520
50 weeks to August 19.....	16,139,596	12,877,021	10,826,781	13,079,137
Average price of English wheat per				
quarter.....	s d 52 6	s d 66 9	s d 90 7	s d 70 10
= per cwt.....	12 3	15 7	21 ½	17 3

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years 1918 to 1921:—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.						AVERAGE PRICES.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
		qrs	bsh	qrs	bsh	qrs	bsh	£	d	£	d	£	d
Aug. 12	1922	16,256	6	1,838	0	4,237	2	53	10	38	0	30	0
19	1921	14,768	4	2,063	1	5,671	3	52	6	45	11	32	2
1918		1,462	7	637	6	1,447	3	74	8	62	6	56	9
1919		9,180	1	4,829	1	70,127	2	73	10	83	4	62	0
1920		4,186	3	2,425	2	10,209	2	90	7	77	10	57	1
1921		85,944	6	11,241	0	21,669	6	86	9	56	5	37	1

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated August 24th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Owing to the local holidays, the weekly pig-iron market was not held on Tuesday. Business is held up for the time being, and the nominal quotations are unchanged at 87s for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B., and 90s for East Coast mixed numbers hematite. Several lots of both Cleveland and Hematite pig-iron have been sold to America for prompt shipment, and this business is very acceptable to ironmasters at a time when the home demand is very quiet. Manufactured iron and steel: All the local steel works are closed this week, but a few more orders have been placed at current prices. Steel ship plates, home, £9; steel ship angles, £8 15s; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s net. Iron Ore: Only a small business has been done, restricted to odd cargoes for prompt delivery. The nominal quotation for best Bilbao Rubio is 24s 6d, but buyers expect to cover their requirements at something below this figure.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The recovery of trade, while it certainly exists, progresses in a very patchy manner, and in some important departments it has scarcely been felt up to the present time. In fact, cases of reaction can be found. In this respect the Sheffield district is less fortunate than the other great centres of iron and steel manufacture, and there are still nearly 50,000 persons unemployed. All kinds of crucible steels are stagnant as ever, and the average working of the mills and forges does not exceed half time. The improvement in the cheaper grades of mild steel continues, the demand for these increasing in both the home and export markets. Current prices have now reached a level to tempt buyers in most parts of the world, and, moreover, British makers can give better delivery than Continental works. Basic pig-iron is being imported freely to the United States and the Continent, but home trade in foundry and hematite qualities is extremely quiet, and stocks are accumulating at some of the furnaces. Cut prices will be accepted for actual business. There is growing activity in the electrical department, and the outlook for it is decidedly hopeful. Locomotive engineers have booked some good overseas orders lately, and are fairly well provided with work for the coming winter months. British railways have not yet departed from their hand-to-mouth policy of buying steel for rolling stock and general purposes. Extreme depression obtains in shipbuilding material. A moderate amount of business is being done in some kinds of hand tools, other kinds being quiet. There is universal complaint of unprofitable working. Wages continue to be reduced in all trades. The strike of cutlery operatives has not been settled. In the coal market steam hards are in fair demand at about 20s or 21s per ton at pits, and there is a better sale for cobbles, nuts, and slacks, while cokes are scarce and dear. Gas coal is also going out more freely. Buying of house coal for the winter has begun. The demand for best qualities exceeds the supply, and there is an increasing call for seconds. Best South Yorkshire hand-nicked branch commands 36s per ton.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—Boiler plates, heavy rails, and sections keep exceptionally steady, especially boiler plates. Of the latter Messrs Yarrow, at Scotstoun, have booked sufficient to enable them to re-open their yard—after being closed down for a year. The fixed charge for boiler plates is £12 10s, exclusive of extras. Steel (black) sheet makers have lowered quotations by 10s a ton, and the new list gives—under $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inches size, £10; $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, £10 10s; $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch gauge, £11 15s; 1 to 2, £12 15s; 20 to 24, £13 5s; 24 to 27, £14 5s; 14 gauge nail sheets, £9; 15 gauge, £9 5s; 16 gauge, £9 10s; corrugated, 24 gauge, £17 12s 6d. Inquiry is chiefly for thin sheets, and that from India, China, and Australia, and it is believed demand will be maintained, and extend to the heavier sizes, which just now are rather neglected. The United States continue to purchase good quantities of Scotch foundry iron, which is going out by several thousand tons per week. If it were assured that the States would remain favourable for a period (some months) producers round here would put a number of their idle furnaces on blast, for they are getting rid of all stocks, but there is a doubt, and they hold off from increasing outputs. It is understood that the shipments to the States are being executed at quite 100s a ton for No. 3 f.o.b. Glasgow. One calculation puts the despatches already at about 25,000 tons. For home, pig-iron inquiry is most inactive. Scotch hematite is stagnant at £5 7s 6d (1s 3d back since last week); No. 1 foundry £5 a ton (2s 6d up); No. 3 foundry, £4 15s (also 2s 6d up), and Crown bars £10 10s (unchanged). Demand for bars is unsatisfactory from all points of view. Bridge builders continue well engaged on old contracts. Amongst the inquiries in the market to-day are one from the Indian Government for corrugated steel sheets, galvanised pipes, gas and water tubes (black); and one from the Great Indian Peninsula for steel rails, &c. The coal trade position varies with the tenour of the strike reports from the States. To-day the tone is strong, and prime qualities are commanding 27s to 30s a ton for shipment to America. Scotch collieries are more fully employed than they have been for over a year.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—As indicated last week, the partial settlement of the coal strike in the United States has had absolutely no effect on the Cardiff coal market. As a matter of

fact, it is doubtful whether there would be any immediate effect even if a complete settlement was effected. Collieries are so fully booked up that they are not anxious to add to their commitments for a couple of months ahead, and consequently there is no sign of relaxation in prices. There is, it is true, a lull in the demand on American account, but there is every indication that Canada will soon be in the market for supplies. Representatives of Welsh firms have already reached Canada, and are in consultation with coal factors in that country. At present anthracite coals are practically out of the market, and dry coals are being purchased as a substitute. The result is that the prices of these latter have mounted up to pretty well the same level as the leading Admiralty descriptions. The paucity of inquiries from the Continent continues, but this does not cause any perturbation in the existing circumstances. The full effect of the American shipments was felt at the South Wales docks last week, and the quantity exported easily constituted a record for this year. The Customs returns showed that during the week there was exported nearly 600,000 tons—a figure which approximates that of pre-war days. In the open market charterings have been reported from Cardiff and Swansea for the United States and Canada aggregating over 1,150,000 tons. The stringent measures taken by the Great Western Railway Company in the regulation of traffic has proved successful in preventing any congestion in the dock areas, and bearing in mind the unexpected rush, the complaints made as to delays are remarkably few and insignificant. Although Germany is reported to be getting heavy supplies from this country, South Wales has not yet benefited. In fact, not a single inquiry on German account has been reported and presumably all the German contracts have gone to the North. The output of coal was adversely affected by the holidays, but the miners promptly resumed work, and the rate of production is probably now approximately about one million tons per week. Coke is in fair demand, and prices tend to harden. On the other hand patent fuels are dull, and several of the works are on stop through lack of orders. Prices continue at recent levels, consequent upon the fact that costs of production are so high. Current market prices are as follows:—Best Admiralty, large, 31s to 32s 6d; seconds, 30s to 31s; best drys, 30s to 31s; black veins, 30s to 31s. Western Valleys, 30s to 31s; Eastern Valleys, 27s 6d to 30s; best bunker smalls, 22s to 23s; ordinary cargo smalls, 20s to 21s; coking for export, 40s to 45s; inland blast-furnace coke, 27s to 27s 6d; a ovens; patent fuel, 28s to 30s; pitwood, ex ship, 34s 6d to 35s.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 18, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Good Med.				Extra Fine.				Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
		Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.
Sea Island	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Parayba, Rio Grande, &c.	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do.	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American	Ort	G	O	L	M	M	G	M	M	G	O	L	M	G	M
Brazilian:	1145	1195	1280	1325	1350	1445	6-42	7-57	9-27	1757	2102	273			
Pernam	Mid	M	F	F	G	F	G	F	G	M	F	F	G	F	G
Parayba, Rio Grande, &c.	1135	1285	1415				5-67	8-17		2009	2657				
Macao, &c.	1135	1285	1415				5-67	8-17		2009	2657				
Mossoro, &c.	1135	1285	1415				5-67	8-17		2009	2657				
Ceara	1135	1285	1415				5-67	8-17		2009	2657				
Maranhm, &c.	1135	1285	1415				5-67	8-17		2309	2657				
São Paulo	1185	1665	310												
Egyptian:	F	G	F	G	F	G									
Upper	1325	1400	1475	1525	1625				9-00	1200		nm	435		
Sakellaridis	1500	1725	1800	2025	2250										
Brown	1375	1500	1625	1700	1875				9-00	1300		nm	555		
Peruvian:	M	F	F	G	F	G									
Rough			1350	1400	1475					1000			440		
Moderately Rough			1250	1325	1350				7-00	9-50			2900	380	
Smooth	1245	1420	1420	1570	1670		6-67	9-67	1092	3157	3457	410			
Tangust	1270	1420	1520	1570	1720										
Mitaff	1150	1300	1450	1550											
West Indian, &c.			1200	1300	1400				2300	2900		7500	850		
Do Sea Island			2300	2600	2900	3000									
African, East, &c.	1000	1100	1275	1375	1475	1575	6-25	8-25	1025	2750	3050	445			
Do West			1145	1195	1220	nm									
Machine Ginned Surtee			1195	1235	1275				8-55				206		
Machine Ginned Broach			1065	1105	1145	1185	1225	7-30	7-55	8-05	1810	1860	1960		
Machine Ginned Brownagur	9-05	9-15	1005	1045	1085	1125			5-69	6-19	6-94	1344	1444	160	
Machine Ginned Ocmra, No. 1	9-15	9-65	1030	1070	1095	1135			5-75	6-25	7-00	1530	1450	161	
Machine Ginned Ocmra, No. 2			1030	1070	1110										
Machine Ginned Khandeish		9-15	9-65	1005	1045	1085	5-00	5-50	6-25	1175	1275	143			
Machine Ginned Comptah	1035		1075						6-95			1635			
Machine Ginned Bengal	7-65	8-05	8-45	8-85	9-25	9-65			4-90	5-40	6-15	7-75	8-50	9-7	
Machine Ginned Scinde	7-55	7-95	8-35	8-75	9-15	9-55			4-78	5-28	6-03	7-57	8-32	9-1	
Tinnahelly	1195	1235	1275						8-30	8-55		2035	2085		

MANCHESTER, August 24.

Prices in the market during the past week have gone against buyers. The upward movement has stimulated inquiry in yarn and cloth, and although in many instances buyers have not been in a position to pay the figures required, a fairly healthy trade has been done in some sections. In cloth circles the chief activity has been for India, there being an encouraging turnover in grey staples and bleaching cloths, chiefly for Calcutta. The trade outlook in our dependency is healthy. A little more inquiry has been mentioned for China, but transactions of importance have been quite isolated. News from the Near East remains poor. A few more lines have been put through for South America. The home trade houses are hampered by heavy stocks of summer goods.

Yarn prices have been firmer. Business has been irregular, but a fair turnover has taken place in American and Egyptian counts for home use. The export yarn department remains dull.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Aug. 24, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.	Aug. 3.	July 27.	July 20.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13.88	12.80	12.25	13.45	13.29	13.70
— Bakellariadis Fully Good Fair . . . per lb	18.00	17.75	16.75	18.00	18.00	19.75
— Egyptian . . . per lb	20.4	19.4	19	19.4	19.4	20.4
Yarns—32's twist . . . per lb	19.4	18.4	18	18.4	18.4	19.4
— 40's twist . . . per lb	20.4	19.4	18.4	19.4	19.4	20.4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) . . . per lb	20.4	19.4	18.4	19.4	19.4	20.4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's . . . 32 6	32 6	31 6	30 6	32 0	32 0	32 6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's . . . 32 6	32 6	31 0	30 0	31 6	31 6	32 6
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs . . . 18 3	18 3	17 9	17 3	18 0	18 0	18 3
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs . . . 17 0	17 0	16 6	16 0	16 9	16 9	17 3

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Aug. 24, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13.88	9.68	23.22	19.74	26.03	18.25
— Bakellariadis Fully Good Fair . . . per lb	18.00	16.00	66.00	30.00	30.19	28.25
— Egyptian . . . per lb	20.4	17.2	51.4	41.4	55.4	25.4
Yarns—32's twist . . . per lb	19.4	16	47	40.4	55.4	24.4
— 40's twist . . . per lb	20.4	16.4	90	61	65.4	44.4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) . . . per lb	20.4	16.4	90	61	65.4	44.4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's . . . 32 6	32 6	30 0	60 0	70 0	70 0	32 6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's . . . 32 6	32 6	29 6	77 0	58 6	67 9	31 6
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs . . . 18 3	18 3	17 3	46 0	35 0	40 0	18 10
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs . . . 17 0	17 0	16 3	38 0	30 9	35 0	17 14

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—There is just a nice, steady business passing in tops, and the market remains remarkably firm. Topmakers are well booked forward, and are not disposed to press business, especially as there is a very general feeling throughout the industry that merino values will again show an advance when the auctions are resumed in London on September 4th. Really superior wools are scarce, and even the continued slump in the German mark does not counterbalance the keen demand for raw material. The unsettled conditions in Germany are naturally causing a certain amount of anxiety, but trade is still being done on a sterling basis, and payment is being made on the due date. The trade in tops is more or less of a hand-to-mouth nature at present, but prices are exceedingly firm, with, if anything, a hardening tendency. Good warp 64's tops are quoted as high as 5s per lb, but some firms are still willing to accept anything from 4s 9d for a standard article. Average 64's are available at from 4s 6d to 4s 7d, and 60's super at 4s 3d to 4s 4d. Cape tops are very scarce, and are making prices fully equal to Australian. There is not much change in crossbreds, but quotations for all qualities are firm, and against the buyer. A fair amount of new business is being put through in yarns, and prices show a distinct hardening tendency. Spinners are well employed both on home and export account. There is not much change in the piece goods trade, but the outlook is fairly satisfactory, and renewed buying is expected in the course of a few weeks, especially if values are well maintained at the next series of colonial wool sales in London. Most descriptions of home-grown wool are moving, and quotations remain very firm. The finest sorts are favoured, and there is rather more doing in Cheviots, good half-breds, and lustre hogs.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

There is no strikingly new development in the wool trade, but everything appears to be intact. Prices in consuming centres, particularly for merinos, are still showing an upward tendency, and everything appears to indicate a continuance of the sound factors which are now being revealed. Both spinners and manufacturers appear to be somewhat concerned about the present high market values of merinos and fine crossbreds, and are certainly looking forward with some anxiety to the prospect of a new selling season opening in Australia with merinos on a basis of 4s 9d for good 64's tops. There are firms in Bradford to-day who are asking as much as 5s for really good 64's for December delivery. One might assume that this is entirely a protective price, but some firms are so sanguine regarding the future that they are unwilling to accept less until they can buy wool to produce this quality of top at a lower price. Quite a number are so optimistic regarding the future that they are freely prophesying a further advance at the next series of London sales, which are expected to begin on September 4th, and judging from the prices they are quoting, are "banking" upon this advance being realised.

It is perhaps a little too early to speak definitely about the future, but everything indicates a continuance of the present sound manufacturing conditions which are found everywhere in the worsted industry. Recent information from Roubaix is equally satisfactory, first hand news intimating that mills are very busy, consumption being at the maximum in combing, spinning and weaving departments. There is no mistaking the tenor of the reports

received from Germany and Switzerland, and in whatever direction one may turn, the same tale is told respecting merinos.

Perhaps one may venture to suggest that Messrs Dalgely and Co. or the N.Z. Loan and Mercantile Company would be conferring a real favour upon the trade if they would ask their head office in Australia to cable some definite information respecting the shearers' strike, and what is likely to happen in connection with the shearing of the new clip. Such information would be heartily appreciated at the present time. Some are of opinion that the shearers' strike is general, though we scarcely think this is so, and we have received information from at least one source which indicates that not all the shearers are participating in the strike. Evidently some are prepared to stand by the decision of the Arbitration Court. However, more definite information respecting the general state of affairs would be welcome.

The forthcoming clip should be a good average one, though we have received several letters this mail which speak of it as being somewhat more waxy than the last. Generally speaking it should be fairly well grown. We know that several New Zealand pastoralists are resorting to the use of merino and Corriedale rams, all the direct outcome of the low prices ruling for medium and coarse crossbred wool. The use of the rams mentioned should make the fleeces much finer, and one has often regretted the almost complete absence of comeback wool from New Zealand. However, we think this move for two or three years would be an advantage where it could be adopted, and as far as one can see, there is every prospect of fine crossbred wool maintaining to day's profitable prices.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Large supplies of linseed near at hand and good crop reports, coupled with the pressure of re-sellers of Calcutta, had the effect of depressing the market to the extent of 20s to 25s per ton on the week. As low as £16 17s 6d was accepted for July, August Plate to Hull. Prices have, however, rallied somewhat, Plate on spot at Hull quoting up to £18, and "afloat" £17 10s. Trade in the new Plate crop has begun, a steady business being round £15 12s 6d to £16 10s to Hull and £15 15s to £16 10s to the Continent, January-February loading. Calcutta to London has been freely done at £18 5s and £18 10s for shipment, £19 now being current market value for afloat. Cottonseed has been irregular and weak. Black Egyptians easing off to £10 5s at Hull, with £10 10s paid for September shipment to Liverpool. Bombay quiet, and £8 5s accepted for seed on passage to Hull. Soya beans are lower, Manchurian offering at £12 5s, Hull or Hamburg, with sellers of new crop 10s below this figure. Rapeseed and most other seeds dull, and in poor demand.

In consequence of the small trade passing, and of lower seed values, raw linseed oil has sharply declined, £39 being the Hull price for prompt delivery, or 60s to 80s drop on the week. Forward positions have also declined, but are steadier round £34 10s for September-December, a fair business having been done in the vicinity of this figure. The unsettled conditions on the Continent and the effects of the new American tariff have been adverse to trade in this commodity. Cotton oils remain dull and neglected, with prices weak. Crude Egyptian freely offering at £35, and soapmakers' grade of refined at £39, ex Hull mill. Soya bean oil is also easier at £39 ex Hull mill, and palm kernel at £36 and ground cut at £44 are each 20s lower, and very little actual trade passing.

Linseed cakes are in moderate supply, and rather more business is reported, late rates being fully upheld. Cotton cakes are in fair request, and meals are inclined dearer.

The First National Bank of Boston

The leading financial institution of New England

Foreign and domestic commercial banking of every nature

Correspondence solicited.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Cattle hides were firmer at the auctions held this week in Bermondsey, and most classes of ox and heifers made advances ranging from 3/6d to 3/8d per lb. Cows were unchanged except for 59 lbs and under firsts, which class made 3/6d per lb less money, while seconds bulls depreciated in value by 1/2d per lb. Kips were firmer, seconds and thirds making 3/6d per lb more money. Calf skins were slightly easier on the balance by about 3/6d per lb. Sheep skins realised more money, pelts selling at from 3s 5d to 5s, and lambs from 2s to 6s 4d per skin. There is not much activity in the foreign hide market so far as the home trade is concerned, on account of the high prices ruling for most descriptions. The few Campanas which have changed hands during the week made \$46, with Swifts Montevideoes fetching as much as \$46 1/2. Australians and Capes are neglected in the salted descriptions, with Saladeros only offering in small lots. A few small sales have been effected in dry and dry salted descriptions, but business is restricted on account of the prices being asked.

Sole leather has shown a slight improvement during the week, although most of the trade continues to be done with the repairing erd. In this direction bends averaging from 8 to 10 lbs are most in request, shoe manufacturers being interested in the lighter weights of common stock at round about 16d per lb. Common bellies are receiving more attention, and anything up to 7 1/2d usually finds a buyer. Shoulders are a poor sale, and little business has been done in this direction during the week.

Distributors of upper leathers report a little more enquiry for the box and willow calf, with prices slightly firmer for some of the imported goods, particularly German. Glace kid in black is also receiving more attention, and plump skins at from 10d to 15d are enquired for. Coloured kid leathers, however, are not so much in request, and shoe manufacturers are only covering themselves as orders are received. Carriers report a trifle better call for waxed kip butts and splits.

Shoe manufacturers still find the orders for footwear on the small side, and rather slow in coming to hand. In fact, some of the factories have found it necessary to close down for a long week-end on account of the scarcity of orders on the books.

JUTE.

Messrs W. F. Soutar and Co. write, on August 23rd, as follows:—Since our previous report the market has continued lifeless, except during the disturbing influence of the acreage forecast in July, indicating only 1,456,000 acres under jute cultivation, which, if correct, will mean a considerable shortage, even against present consumption, before another season's crop can be provided. However, weather conditions for the crop have been good since the acreage forecast was issued, and in consequence the outturn per acre will be larger than was at that time estimated. Unfortunately, during the same time trade conditions have become worse, and the sanguine estimates of consumption have naturally shrunk. Prices during the forecast spurt reached £39 for old crop and £42 for new crop first marks on Dundee contract, and are now at £32 10s to £33 for actuals, with a drooping tendency. Exchange has remained remarkably steady notwithstanding the extraordinary fluctuations of Continental exchanges. The rate has ruled between 1s 3 1/2d to 1s 3 3/4d for telegraphic transfers, and at the close is 1s 3 1/2d. Freight rates have been still further reduced, and are now at 3s 6d per 50 c.f.t. less the usual 10 per cent. rebate. Stocks of jute in Dundee we estimate at 700,000 bales (including unsold in and there brokers' hands and standing stock in spinners' hands), and there are 49,500 bales of old crop still to arrive in Dundee. The consignment in Dundee and district for season 1922-23 we estimate at 800,000 bales, which means that the trade of the district requires 750,000 bales of new crop jute if stocks are to be maintained at present level. Cloth and yarns: For a time in May, June and July, stimulated no doubt by reports regarding shortage of the crop and advancing prices for raw material, large orders were placed for Hessian, and prices advanced from 4d to 5 1/2d per yard, and are now 4 1/2d per yard. Eight-pound cops, at the same time, advanced from 3s to 3s 8d per spindle, but are now 3s 3d per spindle. At the close large sales are being made of Hessians, and stocks of such are being rapidly cleared. New crop 1922-23: There is no eagerness to sell at present values, as the general expectation is that prices are bound to be higher, and that the Calcutta mills will try to secure the bulk of the limited crop that will be available. New jute is not being pressed by Calcutta, although quantities are now reaching the bazaars, and the yield of fibre per acre will likely, with recent favourable weather conditions, be estimated at fully three bales per acre.

Season 1921-22. 1922-23.
Arrivals at Dundee (direct and coastwise), July 1st to date . . . 51,859 bales. . . 49,509 "
Afloat to Dundee at date . . . 11,716 "
Prices at 1st marks for shipment Sept./Oct. at date . . . £33 per ton. . . £32 10/ per ton.

PRICES FOR SPOT.

1922.	Diamonds.	Firsts.	Mangos.	Hearts.	Daises.
January . . .	£50 to £47 10/	£28	£25	£19	£26
February . . .	£47 10/ to £45	£28 to £27	£25 to £24	£19 to £18	£26
March . . .	£45 to £47 10/	£27 to £28 10/	£24 to £24 10/	£18 to £20	£26 to £26 10/
April . . .	£45 to £47 10/	£28 10/ to £32	£24 10/ to £29	£20 to £24	£26 10/ to £30
May . . .	£47 10/ to £50	£32 to £38	£29 to £35	£24 to £28	£30 to £34
June . . .	£50	£38	£35	£28	£34
July . . .	£50	£38 to £39 10/ to £37 10/	£35 to £36 to £34 10/	£28 to £30 to £28 10/	£34 to £35 to £34

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, August 25.

With no appreciable recovery in demand, business in most commodities proved very quiet, but more particularly so with regard to raw products.

SUGAR.—Prices are easier on the week, mostly 1s 6d per cwt in the case of refined descriptions, and actual transactions were confined to a moderate compass. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 58s to 59s; crushed, 56s 6d; granulated, 52s to 52s 9d; caster, 55s 3d to 56s 3d; yellow crystals, 46s 9d; pieces, 36s to 40s for yellows; and fine white, 46s 6d. Granulated, October, 51s 3d; November-December, 50s 9d. Crystallised West India ranges from 42s 6d to 45s 6d as to quality. American granulated, spot, sold, 50s 6d to 49s 6d; ditto, afloat, 23s 6d to 23s; August, 23s 3d; September, 23s; white Java, arrived, steamer, 21s to 20s; July, steamer, 19s 6d; August, 19s 3d, c.f. and i. terms, London. White Mauritius, spot, 47s to 48s 6d; white Trinidad, 49s; white Brazilian, 47s 6d to 48s. Cuban, basis 96 per cent., August-September shipment, sellers, 18s; Java, No. 17, Dutch standard, August-September, 19s 9d; and some Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., September-October, sold, 9s 3d, all c.f. and i. terms, United Kingdom. Dutch granulated, prompt, 26s, f.o.b., Amsterdam, Czechoslovakian granulated, November-December, 22s, f.o.b., Hamburg. Cuban stocks stand at 513,200 tons, against 1,308,500 tons same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s. Term market, December, sold down to 20s 6d.

COFFEE.—Spot market steady, and all home trade qualities met with fair support, but export descriptions still hang fire. Nairobi, bold sizes, sold 95s 6d to 102s 6d. Costa Rica, 100s 6d to 112s 6d. Futures nominal, while more or less neglected.

COCOA.—There was only a limited trade effected in spot parcels, but prices showed no particular alteration. Accra to arrive, F/F quality, October-December, sold 38s, f.o.b. terms. Butter quiet at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—Indian auctions this week embraced some 29,884 packages, of which 22,400 consisted of new season's. All the better qualities experienced active competition at full prices, but common and some medium sorts disclosed slight irregularity, with a tendency on balance to favour the buyer. A brisk demand ensued for the 27,478 packages Ceylon catalogued, and prices ruled dearer all-round, being in the case of fine qualities 14d to 2d per lb higher on the week.

RICE.—Market very quiet, and general situation nominal at the moment. Two stars, spot, 15s 3d to 15s 6d; August-September, 14s 4 1/2d. Broken descriptions in poor support. Beans steady, and Rangoon hand-picked, spot, sold, 7s 3d. Japanese peas, after a heavy decline, engaged more support, and prices improved, but manifested some irregularity. Spot lots sold, 36s to 37s; September-October, from 23s 9d to 27s, and later at 25s 6d; December-January, down to 22s, 25s 6d, and later at 24s.

SPICE.—Pepper market remains quiet and without new feature. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 4d; August-October, steamer, 3 1/2d; Lampung, spot, quoted 4 1/2d; Aleppy, spot, 4 1/2d; Tellicherry, 4 1/2d; Ceylon, 4 1/2d; white Singapore, 6 1/2d; August-October, 6d; Muntok, spot, 7d; August-October, 6 1/2d to 6 3/4d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 3d; October-December, 7 1/2d. Pimento, spot, 2d; flake tapioca, spot, 2 1/2d per lb; ditto, August-September, steamer, London, 21s 6d; fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 19s 6d. Sago flour, September-November, 13s 6d; October-December, 13s 3d. Desiccated coconut, spot lots sold, 34s 6d to 34s; afloat, 33s to 32s 6d; August-September, 33s. Ginger quiet, unaltered.

FRUIT.—The market continues in a generally quiet state, and of currants Patras half-bags quoted 55s; quarter cases ranging from 52s to 56s. Australian three crowns attract attention at 65s to 67s. Sultanas.—Australian three crowns sell at 10s, but there is no interest shown in other growths. Cape raisins vary from 50s to 60s, as to grade. Evaporated fruits quiet, though plums meet with moderate support. Oregon, 30-40, 94s. Star dates, on spot, 27s 6d.

JUTE.—Only quiet trading was in force this week, and with some pressure to sell, prices suffered a further decline. First grade, spot, Hamburg, sold, £31; ditto, August-September, ditto, £26 to £25 15s; October, Continent, £28 10s; lightning grade, ditto, £26 to £25 15s; ton. 10-oz Hessians, spot, 35s 6d; forward, 34s; 8-oz, spot, 25s; forward, 24s. A twills, spot, 77s; forward, 76s; B, spot, 64s 6d; forward, 64s 6d; salts, 59s 6d; sugars, 76s.

HEMP.—Manila was dealt in quietly, and prices showed little or no alteration. G grade, September-November, quoted £34 10s; J, £31 10s; K, £30 10s; L, £29 10s; M, £28 10s. New Zealand quiet, but steady. H.P.F., spot, £34; forward, £32 10s; fair forward, £31. African Sisal firm, with few sellers. No. 1 G.E.A., September-November, quoted £37 10s; B.E.A., £36 10s. Indian hems slow at about steady prices.

SHELLAC.—Market dull, but prices tolerably steady. T.N., spot, quoted 320s; August, sold, 290s; October, 290s; and December, 280s to 275s.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd., 24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1832 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £600,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,100,000 RESERVE FUND - £320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

ates were kept firm by doubts as to plentiful money next week, and after the Treasury Bill result was announced, the three months' rate was nominal in the neighbourhood of 2½ per cent.

	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Bank Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
London Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½

The Bank return showed an increase of £465,000 in the circulation, a decrease of £6,000 in the stock of gold, and a decrease of £471,000 in the Reserve. There were small increases on balance, both in the Government and Other securities, but the most notable feature was an increase of 7½ millions in the Public deposits, with an almost equal decline in the Other deposits. There was a reduction of £1,818,000 to £293,311,000 in the currency notes outstanding on August 31, 1922, which includes £1,569,600 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £243,591,700, or £66,396,700 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

In the early part of the week the stock markets were under the influence of such unfavourable factors as the reparations crisis, the Turkish advance in Asia Minor, the settlement of the pre-war account, and monetary stringency. Under these circumstances prices in the Consol market weakened, and a very little selling was sufficient to send quotations down. On Thursday afternoon a better tendency in investment stocks set in, and yesterday morning's news of the Reparation Commission's unanimous decision was very well received. French and German securities moved up and down with the exchanges, while a fall took place both in Greek and Turkish bonds. Home railway ordinary stocks have been neglected, and the prior-charge stocks are mostly easier. The oil share market is dull, and rubber shares gave way a little on the Dutch Government's decision, referred to in a Note of the Week. In the industrial markets textile shares are a strong feature, but the recent activity in tobacco shares has waned. For most of the week the Kaffir market was held in check by developments abroad, but during Thursday afternoon and yesterday there was a decided recovery.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

The commodity markets are still under the influence of the home holiday season, while overseas business is mainly restricted on account of the European and Near East political outlook. There is a disposition in the cotton trade to mark time pending the official report on the American crop and Continental political developments. In consequence, price changes have been few. Transactions were scarce in the wool market, but prices remain firm, with quotations for merinos moving higher. The home demand for Cleveland pig-iron is poor on account of the holiday season; a welcome demand, however, is reported for American account, and prices are inclined to be firm. With a free market in manufactured iron and steel, competition is keen, and our correspondent states that it is difficult to fix prices. In the South Wales coal markets new business has been on a small scale, although inquiries for America are still being received. A fair business has been done in oilseeds, following the sharp fall in linseed values.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

After the wild movements which culminated at the end of last week, rates in general have shown rather more steadiness, in anticipation of a decision by the Reparation Commission, and, in spite of many disquieting reports which were reflected in hour-to-hour fluctuations, there was a growing feeling that France would not force the issue to the full length indicated in M. Poincaré's speeches. At the end of the wide fluctuations on the 25th the mark settled down to about 9,000, from which it further recovered sharply on the following day, until by Wednesday it had again reached 6,200. On Thursday a new outbreak of uncertainty, mainly coming from Berlin, brought it up again to 7,300, but on the

announcement of the decision of the Reparation Commission the market yesterday morning opened not above 5,000. This rate, however, did not hold during the morning, and by midday it was up again to 6,200. Although the present compromise offers a more or less satisfactory way out for the moment, the position is still very obscure, and there is a good deal of uneasiness as to the attitude of both the German and French Governments. The Paris rate has moved in the same way as the mark, from 59.20 on the 25th to about 57.65 on Wednesday, 58.17½ on Thursday, and, after being about 57 at the opening of yesterday morning, to 57.30 by midday, Brussels, as usual, showing similar fluctuations from 62.30 to 60.45. The forward rate in Paris narrowed to five points per month over spot, while in Brussels it moved somewhat the other way, from two points to three points per month under spot. Italy, after moving in much the same way, ended up at 101½, about 2 lira better than a week ago. After maintaining for some time a surprising steadiness, the New York rate has given way somewhat to the combined effects of seasonal demands, the slackening off of coal imports on the settlement of the strike, and the unsettled state of Europe, and has dropped away from 4.47½ to 4.46. A movement of this kind is only to be expected, and all that can be said is that the rapid growth of inflation in the States and the decline in American exports may counteract to some extent the general adverse influences. The rate for futures is ½ cent per month over spot. The movements during the week in neutral currencies have been somewhat irregular, going in our favour in the early part of the week and against us in the middle, but in the end rates have ended up much the same as a week ago, with Amsterdam at 11.44½, Switzerland at 23.46, Madrid at 28.78, Lisbon, also, which has fallen rather rapidly during recent weeks on unfavourable views as to its position, has been more or less steady at 2½. Stockholm and Christiania have moved somewhat in our favour, Copenhagen somewhat against us. In Central Europe Vienna, after reaching about 425,000 on the 25th, reacted sharply on Monday to 320,000, and shows now a slight improvement on this figure. While the apparent solution of the difficulties in the way of the new bank of issue may be taken as satisfactory, it would seem, on the other hand, that the negotiations for close co-operation with Italy are having less success than was at first expected, partly owing to the determined opposition of the Little Entente, partly to the fears of Italian industrialists of Austrian competition. Warsaw also, which on the 25th had reached 42,500 marks, has recovered again to 38,000, but the close sympathy of this rate with the German mark is still proving a difficulty. It is to be hoped that an effective scheme of financial reform will be inaugurated by the new Government. Prague, after being as low as 117½ on Monday, has risen again to 132½, a welcome reaction to Czech industrialists. It is suggested that a good deal of the recent rapid appreciation in this currency has been due to heavy purchases by Austrian and Germans determined to escape at all costs from the wreck of their own "valuta." Belgrade, after its recent recovery, has depreciated again a little, and Bucharest is also somewhat higher. Helsingfors, at about 209, is very much the same as a week ago. In the case of Greece the defeats in Asia Minor are reflected in a rapid rise from 142 to 152½. In the East the rupee is about the same as pushed up a little on American and Chinese support, the silver market became quiet again later in the week, price ending the same as last week. Yesterday morning, however, both Hong Kong and Shanghai showed weakness. In South America, Buenos Ayres moved up to 44½d, Rio de Janeiro was unchanged, Monte Video at 42½d was ½ cheaper, as also was Valparaiso at 31.50 pesos.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 26, 1922:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	14,195	Supply Services	14,195
		Interest on Debt	
		Grants	
		Added to Exchequer Balances	
		Reduction of Debt	
			14,195

The total revenue during the week ended August 26, 1922, amounted to £14,195,380, which compares with £13,533,103 during the corresponding week of 1921. The expenditure for the same week amounted to £7,048,183, as against £13,190,737 in the corresponding week last year. The chief item of revenue was Property and Income-tax, which yielded £5,048,000, against £4,254,000 in the corresponding week last year. Customs yielded £3,114,000, against £3,311,000. Estate duties produced £1,160,000, against £1,586,000.

The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £6,577,738, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 100	Treasury Bills	- 6,364
Unemployment Insurance ..	+ 180	Public Department Advances ..	- 472
		War Loan Surrenders	- 402
	+ 280		- 6,838

The floating debt was reduced by £6,812,000 to £867,933,500 during the week ended August 26, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to August 26, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	282,277,730	Raised by revenue ..	331,551,060
Dec. in balances	6,593,685	Net repayments	55,867,015
Total	275,684,045	Total	275,684,045

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	May 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,996	1,956	1,943	1,972	1,972
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Funding Loan	..	..	..	..	..	405	405	405	405
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	360	357	348	346	346	346
34% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	266	266	479
5½% Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	380	380	310
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40	61
Do by tender 4½%	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	69
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	882	716
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Nat'l. Savings Certs. ..	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	346
War Expend. Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,081
American Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances ..	..	51	51	51	51	..	..	..	..
	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	152
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,658
	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	50	51
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,709

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 27, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Aug. 26, '22.	Aug. 26, '22.
Temporary Advances	33,000,000	147,301,500	152,573,500	472,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	..	..	..	..
Advances by Public Deposits ..	148,024,000	882,219,000	715,360,000	6,340,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,165,972,000	..	..	..
Total Floating Debt	1,346,996,000	1,029,520,500	867,933,500	6,812,000

A BREATHING SPACE.

ONCE more the experts of the Reparation Commission have come to the rescue of the politicians and patched up an arrangement which prevents a definite breach between the Allies on the Reparation question, and gives the politicians a breathing space in which to make fresh efforts at concerted financial policy. We do not claim for these gentlemen any intellectual or moral superiority over the Cabinet Ministers of their respective countries, but they happen to work under conditions more favourable to international harmony than have obtained at the many abortive conferences which have discussed this question. In the first place, they have the great advantage of possessing a thorough understanding of the problems with which they deal. Secondly, they are happily free from political pledges and the necessity of considering electoral chances, and finally they have the

benefit of many months of personal acquaintance and co-operation. We may perhaps add that they seem to have been actuated by a determination to reach a solution and to endeavour to meet one another's difficulties, a condition which we fear has not actuated all parties at the last two or three conferences.

In form the Reparation Commission have rejected the request of Germany for a moratorium in respect of cash payments, but in effect they have granted this concession indirectly for the rest of this year. It will be remembered that the experience of 1921 proved the impossibility of Germany's meeting in full the schedule of payments agreed upon in May of that year, and that the Conference at Cannes very nearly agreed upon a reduced schedule of payments for 1922. That conference broke up prematurely owing to the French political crisis, and after much negotiation, in the course of which Germany proceeded with payment on the hand-to-mouth basis of 31 million gold marks every ten days and a plan was made for the tightening up and supervision of Germany's finances, the Commission finally approved the payment in 1922 of 1,450 million (gold) marks in kind and 720 million (gold) marks in cash. Of this latter amount 450 millions have been paid, leaving 270 millions to be paid before the end of the year. Practically the whole of the cash due in 1922 is payable to Belgium under the clause of the Treaty which gives her priority of payment up to two milliard marks, and as Belgium is anxious not to drive her debtor into default, she has suggested, and the Commission has unanimously agreed, that the outstanding balance of cash shall be paid by means of Treasury bills due six months hence. As no moratorium has been asked for in regard to deliveries in kind, which go in the main to France, no further question should arise on the payments for this year.

Like all the devices invented from time to time by the Reparations Commission, however, the settlement is only a make-shift; for it does not touch the problem of scaling down and fixing on a definite or permanent basis the payment for reparation. This could only have been done with the concurrence of the Governments, and as part of a general settlement, which would include the question of the Inter-Allied debts. Moreover, the respite is only a short one. If no further step is taken Germany will automatically become liable in 1923 to meet the full schedule of payments, which proved impracticable last year. Incidentally she will have to meet the added burden of the bills about to be issued when they mature six months hence. The Commission will, therefore, have to get busy almost at once on the problem of the amount and methods of payment which Germany is to make next year. On this question the problem remains substantially where it was before the abortive conference last month in London. Its outstanding feature is that, however willing France may be to scale down Germany's debt, it is politically impossible for her and, as the Bankers' Committee evidently considered, it would be unreasonable to expect that she should agree to a radical reduction, unless the claims against her are also reduced in accordance with equity and her ability to pay. We need hardly repeat that in our view this means that, however sharply we may criticise France's subsequent attitude either towards Germany or to other powers,

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	10,860,852
Reserve Fund ..	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,000 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

ical questions of the day, on any basis of justice France owes the world nothing in respect of the Great War. To make the settlement of the Reparation problem and with it the rebuilding of the commerce of Europe contingent upon a change in attitude of the American nation towards the British debt is a counsel of despair, and we can see no prospect of approaching a solution of the vicious circle within which Europe's trade is being throttled and her political stability menaced, until Great Britain is willing in effect, if not actually in name, to reverse the disastrous policy of the Balfour Note.

In this connection, we are glad to see that though the Note was not actually addressed to America, the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington has issued a statement with regard to America's loans to Great Britain, which sets right the unfortunate misrepresentation which was made in that historic document. "It should be said," Mr Mellon states, "that the obligations of the foreign Governments in question had their origin almost entirely in purchases made in the United States, and that the advances made by the United States Government were for the purpose of covering the payment for these purchases by the Allies. The statement that the United States Government virtually insisted upon a guarantee by the British Government of amounts advanced to the other Allies is evidently based upon a misapprehension. Instead of insisting upon a guarantee of any transaction of that nature the United States Government took up the position that it would make advances to each Government to cover the purchases made by that Government, and would not require any Government to give obligations for advances made to cover purchases of any other Government. Thus the advances to the British Government were to cover its own purchases!" It appears from the statements made in Washington that about 28 millions of the British debt in America were incurred to pay for deliveries on contracts placed in America before April, 1917 by us on behalf of Russia, but this is the only sum spent in America on goods supplied to the Allies. It is true that in 1917 and 1918 we lent to our Allies between 800 and 900 millions to enable them to buy goods in Great Britain, and it is on this basis that Sir Robert Horne stated that if we had not had to lend to France, we should not have had to borrow in America. Even this statement, which makes some very drastic assumptions, is open to discussion, but it is very different from the statement of the Balfour Note that America was unwilling to lend to the Allies, and would only lend through Great Britain. The statement is unjust to both France and America, whose direct transactions must have exceeded by a considerable amount the total sum lent to Great Britain. The Government has so far refused to give adequate details of these debts. It is to be hoped that the House of Commons will insist on the fullest information at the earliest possible moment. In the meantime, the mark exchange is thoroughly demoralised, and its future course quite incalculable. What are the effects of the slump on the economic situation? In the first place, the reaction of the recent movement upon the trade of the world is not as serious as was the case a year ago. The phenomenon of depreciation is now well understood, and by means of index numbers wages and internal prices more promptly adjust themselves. The business world is not afraid that the slump will once more demoralise the international price level. Again, though the slump affects Germany's power of making cash payments, it has not yet seriously undermined her economic strength, and if the debacle can be checked, Germany in a comparatively short time would be as capable of paying reparation as she has ever been.

On the other hand, we have seen in Russia and Austria that if the depreciation continues indefinitely, Civil Government becomes impossible, and economic relations so disturbed (in spite of such devices as using foreign currency in trading transactions, &c.) that there is something very like political and economic disintegration. Germany, with her great traditions of organisation, will make a much stiffer resistance to such a tendency than Russia has done, but, on the other hand, her large industrial population constitutes a very serious

danger if the nation is thrown back on its own resources. The depreciation of the exchange means that everyone converts marks into consumable goods, and saving is completely stopped. It means in business that only hand-to-mouth transactions are carried on, whereas long-period transactions are the essential conditions of a highly organised State.

Finally, the danger to Germany is, therefore, to be treated with all seriousness. If Germany and Central Europe are more completely eliminated from international commerce than is the case at present, we cannot hope to escape the most serious repercussion. We are grateful to the Reparations Commission for saving us from a breach which might well have led to the break-up of the Versailles Treaty, and thrown back the settlement of Europe once more into the melting-pot; but even on the most selfish grounds, we must regard this question as one of the utmost urgency, and cannot afford to retire into isolation and leave the European tangle to unravel itself.

THE RUSSIAN FAMINE AND THE REVIVAL OF RUSSIA'S AGRICULTURE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

INFORMATION is now to hand which enables a fairly reliable estimate to be made of the extent to which the food position in Russia has been improved. For Russia and the Ukraine it is calculated that the cereal crops (wheat, rye, barley, oats, millet, and buckwheat) to be harvested this year will approximate 39,250,000 tons on an area of 40,170,000 dessiatines. This compares with 26,789,000 tons on 49,114,000 dessiatines in 1921, with 28,966,000 tons on 56,842,000 dessiatines in 1920, and 65,930,000 tons on 82,550,000 dessiatines in 1916. Expert observers consider that this expected crop of 1922, after necessary deductions for seed, tail corn, animal consumption, and carry over, should, under an effective scientific scheme of distribution throughout Russia, enable an average ration to be given to the population in town and country in the greater part of Russia on a perhaps somewhat reduced scale to that in force in, for example, Italy during the war, but sufficient to satisfy the minimum requirements of the bulk of the population. Although it is true that the primary cause of the famine, which, in spite of the relief afforded to 8,000,000 people by the American Relief Administration and to 1,500,000 by the societies represented on the International Russian Relief Committee, has caused a loss of about 2,000,000 Russian lives, was the intense drought in the summer of 1921; yet it should also be remembered that the reports received from relief experts of various nationalities contain continued reference to the lack of foresight on the part of the Russian Government in the scheme of tax levy in kind on the peasants to satisfy the needs of the towns. It is to be hoped that the lesson of 1921 will have been taken to heart by the Russian Food and Relief Authorities, and that in the cereal year 1922-1923 they will not only have the wisdom to secure over the enormous area for the feeding of the population of which they are responsible, a reasonable distribution of the available food supply, but will also invite the assistance of foreign experts in the coming year to help them in facing a most difficult problem.

Attention has been drawn recently to the decision in London of the Council of the League of Nations to examine through its secretariat, and report upon the relation of the Russian famine to economic conditions in Europe, and the need for taking a more constructive view of the question of Russia's agricultural production. The anticipated increase in the Russian 1922 harvest has perhaps encouraged the representatives of the Russian Government to adopt a more independent attitude at The Hague and elsewhere towards the demand of the European Governments for explicit guarantees to enable free trading relations to be established between West and East. The Soviet representatives are correct in their view that the restoration of Russia to full economic relations with the world is contingent on the revival of Russia's agriculture, and pinning their faith on an immediate good fortune, they are

mind to allow a policy of *solvitur ambulando* to govern the question of external credits for agriculture and industry. In this view they are only to a small extent right, inasmuch as it would appear that at the beginning of the solution of Russia's difficulties will rise from an early granting of private credits to some industries in which the Russian Government can guarantee that a profit on exports can be realised by foreign trading companies. But large scale transactions will only be effected when the Western world has a more accurate idea of present economic conditions in Russia (state of rail, road and river transport, agriculture, finance, currency and taxation, vital statistics, and epidemics), and is satisfied that the Russian Government is pursuing a long-sighted policy in regard to reconstruction and not basing its attitude on a temporary advantage. The back of the Russian famine has certainly been broken, except in certain outlying parts of Russia—such as the Urals and South Ukraine—yet the progressive diminution in the land under cereal cultivation (of the 99½ million hectares under crops before the war, 90 per cent. were devoted to cereal cultivation) point to the danger of the present situation. The great bulk of the Russian population is on the land, and the immediate future of Russia depends largely on the policy which is adopted towards her peasants. If the peasant is not helped before the sowings next spring with seed and with working animals (the number of horses and cattle in 1920 had decreased by about 25 per cent. as compared with 1916, and the figures for 1921 and 1922 show further great reductions), or with tractors and ploughs; if he is not given some indication in advance of the extent of this help, and some reasonable assurance in regard to taxation, and not merely of his right to sell such surplus produce as he may have, but also of the prospect of his being able to turn the roubles he receives in exchange into something quite tangible—for instance, clothes and tools—the prospect of there being a harvest in 1923 equal to 1922, even with satisfactory climatic conditions, is remote.

The Soviet Government would be well advised to consider now the whole question of their future agricultural policy and the extent to which they may call in assistance from outside in the shape of technical advice and financial help. As regards the former question, the door has been thrown open to them by the recent decision of the League of Nations to collect information with a view to the early setting up of an expert commission composed of men well known in their respective countries who have had experience in handling in a practical manner questions of production, transport, and distribution. As regards the second point, it is for the Russian Government to consider whether they would not be well advised to make use in Russia of some intermediary bodies who might act as trustees towards corporations or firms in America or Europe who may be disposed to send seed and agricultural machinery through them to the Russian peasants against delivery of a percentage of the crop, which might, if the position within Russia allows, be exported, or, in the alternative, sold, and invested in Russia or used in the purchase of other goods for export. It is understood that of the 400 or so representatives of the American and European relief societies now working in Russia there are many men of real practical ability who know Russian trade conditions and the language well, and who are acceptable to the Russian authorities.

Mr Hoover, Dr Nansen, and other public men, who have taken a leading part in the solution of the difficulties attending the Russian famine, should be in a position from this material to organise as between the federations of national industries and merchants in America and Europe on the one hand, and the Russian Government, the Russian trusts and co-operative societies, and the peasants on the other, a medium which would enable a start to be made before the spring of 1923 in reconstruction work in Russian agriculture, without which any real attempt to restore Russia's economic relations with the rest of the world is not possible. When Russia has resumed in some small measure the position which, in spite of undeveloped conditions of agriculture, she occupied before the war, as one of the most important granaries of the world, there should be no reason to fear a delay in the resumption of extended relations in other fields.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEXT Monday the 54th Annual Trades Union Congress will open at Southport, and continue during the remainder of the week. In addition to the chairman's address, the election of officers, and 68 resolutions which find a place on the agenda, the consideration of the annual report of the General Council and of the report of the National Joint Council (a new item at the Congress) will take a good deal of time.

It is significant that no less than a dozen resolutions and four amendments deal directly with the organisation, structure, and powers of the trade union movement. One of the most important is a motion instructing the General Council "to make a report to the next annual Congress showing the extent of trade unionism in this country, the present organisation of the trade union movement, the number of amalgamations which have taken place in recent years, the number of federations in existence, and the powers they possess, and any other information likely to be of use to the Congress in shaping a policy for the closer unification of trade union forces." What appears to be aimed at is a sort of trade union Domesday Book. The General Council has itself submitted a resolution, which, if it is adopted, will have far-reaching consequences, though its acceptance is doubtful. The effect of the resolution, if carried, will be to establish a new standing order, making it an obligation on all affiliated unions to keep the Council informed with regard to matters arising between unions and employers or one union and another, in particular where such matters may involve, directly or indirectly, large bodies of workers. Except on request of the union or unions concerned in a dispute the General Council would not intervene, so long as there is a prospect of settlement. If, however, negotiations break down and end in deadlock, and large bodies of workers affiliated to the Congress are likely to become unemployed, and if standard wages, hours, and conditions are imperilled, "the Council may take the initiative by calling representatives of the unions into consultation and use its influence to effect a just settlement of the difference." After examination of the facts the Council may tender its advice to the union or unions implicated in the dispute, and if such advice is rejected, "the Council shall duly report to Congress." The resolution continues, "Where the Council intervenes.....and the union or unions concerned accept the assistance and advice of the Council, and where, despite the efforts of the Council, the policy of the employers enforces a stoppage of work by strike or lock-out, the Council shall forthwith take steps to organise on behalf of the union or unions concerned all such moral and material support as the circumstances of the dispute may appear to justify. For this purpose the General Council shall, if it deem necessary, raise funds by a call upon the affiliated unions proportionate to membership to meet the expenditure of the Council in relation to the dispute." This resolution arises out of an inquiry into the joint defence of trade union standards, and it is an attempt on the part of the General Council to secure greater consolidation and stronger discipline in the trade union movement. It is expected, however, that some unions will be inclined to oppose the proposals as infringing the sovereign rights of individual unions.

Another important resolution stands in the name of the General Council. It asks that "in order to enable the labour movement to acquire and run its own newspaper and any other publication considered necessary by the national committees" (i.e., the General Council and the Labour Party Executive), "the annual affiliation fee be increased from 1d to 3d per member." This motion really has reference to the *Daily Herald*. At the Labour Party Conference at Edinburgh in June a policy was agreed to, subject to the approval of the Congress in September. If the Labour movement decides finally to accept responsibility for the *Daily Herald*, the levy will be used to subsidise the paper in the early stages. Other resolutions on trade unionism deal with the Joint Committee of Trade Unionists and Co-operators, appointments on the General Council staff, the promotion of amalgamation and federations, the transfer of members from one union to another when they change their occupation. The various resolutions for the better organisation of trade unionism are part

of the general movement which is now taking place, and which has already achieved some measure of co-ordination between the Trades Union Congress and the Labour party.

There are eight resolutions on the agenda dealing with the National Insurance Acts, and five devoted to workmen's compensation. Three resolutions refer to unemployment, two of them condemning the Government's policy. Of special importance are the resolutions dealing with the legal minimum wage. There are no fewer than five resolutions on the agenda dealing with trade boards, whilst a further resolution calls for the re-establishment of the agricultural wages board. The National Union of General Workers submits a reasoned resolution asking the Congress, "while acknowledging the service rendered by the Cave Committee in dispelling the unfounded and exaggerated allegations against trade boards," to record its emphatic disapproval of the recommendations of the Committee on grounds which are set forth in the resolution.

Professional and clerical workers are obviously perturbed, as the National Union of Clerks, the Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, the National Foremen's Association, and the Railway Clerks' Association have resolutions down dealing with alleged attempts on the part of employers to break trade unionism amongst the black-coated workers. It is urged, to quote the words of the resolution, that efforts are being made by employers "to prevent trade union organisation amongst professional, technical, supervisory, clerical, and other workers by the institution of superannuation, pension, and benefit schemes, membership of which is conditional upon such employees undertaking not to become members of a recognised *bona fide* trade union." It may be anticipated that the trade union movement will hear more of the question in the future, and also of the movement amongst employers to secure for health insurance approved societies, subsidised and controlled by employers, powers to administer the Unemployment Insurance Acts—a matter which will come up for discussion at the Trades Union Congress next week.

Though the agenda of the Congress is primarily industrial in character, there are some resolutions which are political or social in character. They range from the welfare of the blind and the extension of the Rent (Restriction) Acts to the Japanese in Siberia and electoral reform. Four resolutions are devoted to education, two of them condemning the "economy" proposals of the Government. Formerly, it was almost impossible to judge from the agenda whether it was intended for the delegates of the Trades Union Congress or the delegates of the Labour party. Now, however, the Congress agenda is less political than industrial, though many of the resolutions, as, for example, those dealing with legislation, call for co-operation with the Labour party. For the most part the agenda for the Southport Congress is severely practical, dealing almost entirely with immediate questions of interest to the trade union movement. It is unlikely to be a "high falutin'" Congress, but it will be none the worse for that.

TEA PLANTATION COMPANIES IN 1921.

As a preliminary study to an examination of results of tea plantation companies during 1921, a perusal of some board of Trade figures makes interesting reading, and we therefore reproduce total tea imports and re-exports for 1920 and 1921, together with figures for 1913:—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TEA.

From—	1913.	1920.	1921.	1913.	1920.	1921.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£
India	203,459,657	190,347,245	285,308,460	7,839,223	15,576,903	14,812,697
Ceylon	110,936,427	123,348,642	118,190,558	4,179,462	7,923,617	6,626,043
Siam	16,272,548	15,928,282	4,569,074	613,147	1,106,298	244,787
Other India	32,052,717	39,867,273	36,896,148	1,072,515	2,241,427	1,305,738
Other countries	2,322,115	1,704,794	555,362	78,558	109,557	28,160
	365,043,464	431,196,236	445,519,602	13,782,905	26,957,802	23,017,425
Re-exports	57,555,651	41,281,335	34,741,183	2,808,940	3,432,835	1,964,368

These figures are unusually significant. Firstly, there is a remarkable change in public taste, which only an extreme enthusiast would lay at the door of the small difference in the duty on foreign tea. China sent us approximately only 4½ million lbs, as against nearly 5 million lbs in 1920 and 16½ million lbs in 1913. India,

however, where most British companies operate, sent us over 285½ million lbs, as against 250½ million lbs in 1920 and merely 203½ million lbs in 1913. These figures form the keynote to the better results in tea company finance in 1921, although, of course, the more favourable exchange ruling and also reduced shipping freights were potent factors; while no doubt economies in management and cheaper rice helped to reduce the expenditure side.

As usual with our company group articles, we have selected a few representative undertakings, and from the information revealed in reports and accounts, and also with the aid of that gleaned from other sources, attempted to survey the financial side of the industry for 1921. It was decided by the large tea producers to continue the system adopted in 1920 of finer plucking. This, it should be observed, while referred to in some quarters as restriction of crops, is, it is contended, mainly to meet the demands of the market for better quality teas, or no demand. It is reported that the non-co-operative movement in India, beyond unsettling workers, caused no serious troubles, and there has been apparently little difficulty in obtaining labour in most cases. The directors of the Lungla, however, in their report call attention to labour unrest, which resulted "in strikes and slackness in work."

The following table shows crops and financial results over a period of three years of 14 selected undertakings:—

	Crop.	Net Profits.	Crop.	Results.	Crop.	Net Profits.
	1919.	1919.	1920.	1920.	1921.	1921.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Amalgamated Estates	6,184,410	144,644	5,442,184	89,423 Loss	4,381,050	44,634
British Indian	1,675,414	13,587	1,650,987	24,178 "	1,226,499	16,295
Ceylon Plantations	4,692,616	147,602	4,896,727	65,811 Profit	4,167,041	167,345
Chargola Association	1,630,202	9,944	2,085,991	40,896 Loss	1,038,487	5,599
Chubwa	2,817,955	51,928	2,494,521	32,063 "	1,813,322	16,943
Cons. Tea and Lands	5,919,964	445,232	17,689,878	240,598 "	13,776,272	166,667
Dooars	5,955,271	112,383	4,978,093	46,347 "	3,122,721	64,853
E.I. Tea and Produce	2,340,245	64,802	5,320,659	79,706 "	2,178,750	650
Eastern Produce	5,783,045	49,782	3,194,911	34,839 "	4,594,868	98,215
Jhazie	2,841,292	7,984,354	86,113	7,643,926	30,502 "	2,627,337
Lungla	7,984,354	86,113	7,643,926	30,502 "	5,807,528	108,651
Nedem	2,821,828	24,313	2,661,689	73,112 "	1,599,972	6,646
Yatiantota	7,406,708	113,057	5,356,834	21,272 "	3,879,124	27,066
	478,452	19,598	620,161	30,559 "	460,017	14,956

* Loss.

Although it has been stated that the finer plucking process is reckoned to be equal to a reduction of 20 per cent in the crop yield, most companies report an unfavourable season, with excessive rain at one period, and in district complaint is made of a severe mosquito blight. Thus to what extent finer plucking is responsible for the smaller crops recorded above it is difficult to say. An examination of the financial results shows that the disastrous season of 1920 has been completely left behind, and that the industry is once again on the path to prosperity.

Some companies in the tea industry follow the commendable practice of giving shareholders interesting table of comparative results over a number of years, while a few others supply working costs and selling price per lb. Thus we find that for 1917 the Jokai company was able to record production costs at 7.73d per lb, which, however, by 1920 had grown to 14.75d, although for the year under review reduced to 12.25d. In 1917 this company sold its tea at 11.31d, showing a profit of 2.18d per lb. The selling price was nearly the same in 1920—11.41d—and the result was a serious deficit, but with the price in 1921 increased to 16.67d per lb, a profit of 4.42d is obtained. The past year's figures are the more remarkable, when it is considered that the total production for 1921 at 5,807,528 lbs is 1,836,398 lb below the previous 12 months' figures. The average price realised by the Jhazie company works out at 14.75d, as compared with last season's average of 12.19d per lb, while the cost of production was 10.65d, as against 9.07d for 1920. Dooars in an interesting table records in 1921, but with the selling price changed from 9.07d to 15.60d a loss is now converted to a profit, which is given in detail in our table above. The British Indian works out gross sales at 13.28d, and total expenses as 10.19d, leaving a profit of 3.22d per lb. The Ceylon Tea Plantations gives an

excellent statement showing working results for the last 35 years. In 1904 the yield of tea per acre was 446 lbs, and the sale price in London 7.41d per lb. For 1920 the yield per acre was 656 lbs, with the sale price 12.77d, and last year the yield fell to 486 lbs and the price to 14.22d. The sale price is, however, not strictly comparable, as in 1911 the returns in the company's statement changed from gross to net. The table would undoubtedly be of considerably more value if production costs were included.

In the following table we analyse the balance-sheets of the companies included in our group:—

	Capital, including Deben- tures.	Reserves and Undivided Profits.	Debtors Bills Payable.	Estates and Pro- perty.	Cash and Invest- ments.	Total Assets.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amalgamated Estates	898,350	318,290	298,980	772,650	491,244	1,556,538
British Indian	77,325	52,215	8,882	57,147	28,876	138,421
Ceylon Plantations	527,120	191,843	105,174	468,231	208,947	821,149
Chargola Association	163,017	39,361	19,598	153,020	37,410	261,976
Chubwa	106,000	54,418	48,842	106,000	5,066	206,260
Consol. Tea and Lands	2,550,000	801,464	407,520	2,026,644	860,258	3,760,272
Dooars	348,000	134,048	47,952	286,252	66,722	530,000
East Indian Tea and Produce	249,250	nil	178,428	281,006	3,546	427,678
Eastern Produce	405,000	171,595	94,542	412,930	85,706	679,929
Jhazie	115,000	116,070	36,813	128,533	31,119	281,207
Jokai	350,000	307,140	130,175	361,730	85,234	787,315
Lungla	375,000	nil	55,601	275,322	23,166	430,601
Nedem	540,000	65,448	71,488	456,061	62,378	678,337
Yatiantota	221,630	17,500	2,143	201,868	7,048	242,919

It may be complained that this is a very rough-and-ready method of measuring the position of these companies. The most we claim for these figures is that it enables a comprehensive view of the financial trend, position, and methods of finance to be examined, and also places the inquirer on the path to follow up any unusual method of accounting revealed by our figures.

Our final table shows recent dividends, the trend of share prices, and present yield:—

Company.	Am't of Share.	Dividend for 1919.	Dividend for 1920.	Dividend for 1921.	Price End of July, 1914.	Price End of Aug., 1921.	Price Aug. 21, 1922.	Present Yield.
		%	%	%				£ s d
Amalgamated Est.	10	10	Nil	15	91	73	83	5 14 0
British Indian	5	10	5	15	64	53	74	10 6 0
Ceylon Plantations	1	15	12	30	54	24	38	9 0 0
Chargola Ass'n	1	5	Nil	Nil	28	3	1	Nil
Chubwa	5	45	5	15	174	134	154	4 19 0
Cons. Tea & Lands	10	224	Nil	10	15	14	14	6 18 0
Dooars	1	224(b)	Nil	274	34	14	24	13 6 0
East Indian	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	7	9	10 0 0
Jhazie	5	15	6	18	16	14	18	11 2 3
Jokai	10	15	Nil	Nil	24	14	42	22 3 0
Lungla Sylhet	1	74	Nil	10	3	18	14	6 13 3
Nedem	1	124(b)	Nil	10	3	18	14	6 13 3

(b) On new capital.

The unusually high yield shown for Dooars is on account of a distribution of an amount recovered for E.P.D., which, of course, will not occur again. This, we understand, represents approximately 7½ per cent. There has been some activity of late in the tea share market, and it is possible that prices may tend further to rise; but, as will be seen from our table, substantial improvements are already recorded in many shares on prices in 1921.

MARKET RIGHTS.—I.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE problem of market rights and market facilities is one that presses for an immediate solution. Before the war, when prices were low and while such vast quantities of food supplies came in bulk from other countries, restrictions imposed by ancient charters and privileges were felt only to a limited extent. Both producers and consumers were heavily taxed, but there was no actual pressure. With the advance in prices and restricted margins owing to the higher cost of living, the necessity for curtailing intermediary expenses and profits becomes of urgent importance. So also does the need for simplifying the process of sale. Whatever has the effect of checking freedom of sale imposes a serious burden, particularly in the case of feeding stuffs.

Markets existing to-day are, in the main, merely duplications on a larger scale of a system in vogue for centuries, the chief variation being that they are conducted on wholesale rather than retail lines. A hundred years

ago sales in markets throughout the country were probably more numerous between producers and householders than through traders. In the London markets the proportion of retail trade is now infinitesimal; the markets are run by traders for traders. The reasons for this change are the huge increase of population in suburban areas which are non-productive of food; the pushing farther back of the productive land, making it unprofitable for smaller producers to take their supplies to large central markets; the vast increase of distant or overseas supplies as a result of improved intercommunications by rail or water, and the marvellous development of distribution by retailers.

What was common at one period, and still is so in the smaller provincial towns and on the Continent, namely, housewives regularly attending market for the purchase of supplies, is practically unknown in London. Provisions are purchased in shops, or householders are called upon daily for orders, and the goods are delivered to their doors. Retail markets in London have gradually declined, or have failed when established.

The same process is at work in other large centres of population. How far it might have been arrested had changing conditions been recognised, and local markets opened as the towns and cities extended, need not be discussed. Concentration has created a system in which practically all the business is done by wholesale dealers or salesmen in central markets, and by retailers attending these markets to purchase supplies which they dispose of in the various localities. Thus the character of markets is totally different from the original intent, when Islington and Kensington and nearly all the outer Metropolitan areas consisted of market gardens or cultivated fields. Now their vast populations consume a thousandfold more than was ever produced in them.

With the rise of towns and the imperative necessity of organising food supplies, the responsibility for providing centres at which buyer and seller could meet was recognised. These centres for regular sale developed around market crosses or upon open spaces, many picturesque examples of which can still be seen, whilst fish markets were placed by the water side. Such was the case with Billingsgate, the history of which goes back a thousand years, practically on the same site as now occupied by it. The Smithfield Market (Smoothfield) appears to have been established in 1253, then, and for long afterwards, conveniently situated on the outer boundary of the City and for the great arterial northern and western roads. Leadenhall and others, whether under private or corporate control, were founded at later periods. Several names of streets are indicative of association with the various markets.

In the report of a Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls (1887) it was stated that "the English Market System grew up by means of Royal grants of Monopolies to individuals; even when the practice was enjoyed by a Corporation its origin was independent in theory of the ordinary Municipal privileges." It may be assumed that in most instances the market was in being before a Royal Grant or Charter was made, for, as has been observed, "Markets cannot be established at the caprice of individuals; they must grow." Consequently, public authorities acted when success was assured, and the clamant demand for permanency of facilities could not be resisted. The risks involved led to monopolistic charters. Henry III. issued the first of these, which was re-enacted by Edward III. (March 6, 1326), who gave to the City of London Authorities the sole right of establishing markets within seven miles of London Stone, which stone is now embedded in the wall of St. Swithin's Church, Cannon street. Considering the wide range, nearly equal to the present Metropolitan area, then mainly fields interspersed with small villages, either the citizens had re-

markable prevision of the Greater London yet to be, or were determined to provide against every contingency.

Whilst other monarchs confirmed the Market Rights of the City, the Charter named is the keystone of the arch. In a trial between the Great Eastern Railway Company and the late Sir Julian Goldsmid, then lessee of Spitalfields Market, the Lord Chancellor (Selborne) stated that the claim of the City to Market Rights, as expressed by the Grant of Edward III., was absolute, although it has been waived by the Corporation in several instances, such as Spitalfields, Covent Garden, the Borough and Hungerford Markets. The Grant is not on the Statute roll, but in the judgment referred to the assumption was accepted that it was granted by the Crown with the assent of Parliament, and has, therefore, the full effect and operation of a private Act of Parliament. Whether that be true or not, there is no contesting the powers of the City in respect to markets.

Charles II., however, did not accept this view, for he seized the City's Rights and Liberties, which were restored by an Act of William and Mary declaring such action illegal and arbitrary. Evidently the power of the Crown at that time was able to compel acquiescence, for in 1682 the Merry Monarch granted the Covent Garden privileges to the Earl of Bedford, and also to John Balch and his heirs to hold two markets every week at Spitalfields. James II. extended this latter privilege. Not only has the Spitalfields Market been held to the present time, but further rights have been maintained. The Great Eastern Railway Company have had to pay tolls to the lessee of Spitalfields Market amounting to thousands of pounds per annum on goods entering its Stratford Market. Recently these Spitalfields Rights have been taken over by the City Corporation at a cost of nearly £300,000. The tolls collected there within a few years have advanced from £750 to £25,000 per annum.

THE PRE-WAR SETTLEMENT.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

SEPTEMBER 1st (yesterday) was a date awaited with undisguised anxiety by a good many circles in the City which feared lest the final settlement of the pre-war liabilities might disclose unexpected obligations. Not only in the Stock Exchange, but in other directions as well, the official end of the war, fixed a year ago for yesterday, September 1st, re-aroused the latent feelings of apprehension which had slumbered during the war—indeed, throughout the whole period of eight years during which borrowers were protected by the various emergency rules set up during the latter half of 1914. So far as the Stock Exchange is concerned, the first impression of stark ruin which international war produced in the very early days of the struggle gave way to a growing feeling of confidence in the outlook as, in market after market, prices reached the levels at which they stood on the outbreak of war, and at which prices lenders of money could call upon the borrowers to liquidate engagements or take up stock. Estimates of the account open in Stock Exchange markets at the end of July, 1914, ranged from 80 millions to 200 millions; probably the latter figure was considerably nearer the mark than the former. Under the influence of war conditions, when prices recovered after the first clash of arms, these liabilities had become whittled down to about three million pounds, and had the markets this week been in anything like a normal condition, such an amount would not have worried anybody. It is only because of the slump in foreign exchange, the renewal of war between Greece and Turkey, and the generally unsettled condition of affairs throughout the world, which lent to the Stock Exchange position a threatening air, and caused the nervousness already mentioned. Amongst some of the markets in which the making-up prices of July, 1914, had not been reached were the Home Railway, the Grand Trunk, Mexican Railway, and foreign railway departments. The Grand Trunk is the worst sufferer; to take only a couple of examples, the first preference stock has fallen some 84 points since war broke out, while the second preference, which was then quoted at 72, is now about £3. Nor have there been any dividends worth mentioning during the period to help matters, for Trunk

firsts and seconds have received nothing since April 1917. Mexican Railway first preference has fallen from 104 to 39, and the second preference from 65 to 25. Both in Trunks and Mexicans, however, the bull and bear account was of comparatively modest dimensions on the outbreak of war, and it is only the extraordinary severity of the slump which throws these prices into such sharp relief. The actual amount of money involved cannot be very large. In the Home Railway market, although North Westerns, Great Westerns, Brighton Deferred and several others are still below the pre-war making-up figures, this is of little moment to bulls of the stock who have been carrying over their commitments for the past eight years and who are now entitled to all the dividends that have accrued during the period. Taking North-Westerns as an example, the present price of 102 goes against the pre-war making-up price of 124½, but as the dividends for the eight years on North-Western ordinary come to over 50 per cent., less tax, the actual position is that bulls of the stock would have money to receive. In some cases values have shrunk to nothing at all; instances may be found in the oil market, as well as in some of the other sections.

To meet the necessity for raising cash in order to take up these stale stocks, sales of other securities have been in progress during the past few days. People have been selling Conversion stock, War Loan, and other gilt-edged securities. The settlement, however, has passed off without any untoward incident, and the Stock Exchange is once more back in much the same position as it was before the war started. Some few remnants of the war regulations are left—such, for instance, as that Rule which forbids contangoes in the Consol market. It was in June this year that the Stock Exchange Committee practically abolished the restrictions which fettered business; which prohibited contangoes, options and other such methods of speculative dealing. If the sweeping away of these restrictions has failed to produce that increase in business which had been expected, it may be urged, on the other hand, that the House has come to no harm through the change-over period, and that, clear of all its pre-war obligations, the Stock Exchange is now able to face the outlook with as much serenity and composure as it is able to command, having regard to the chaotic conditions prevailing in foreign quarters. To sum up the whole matter, the House can cordially congratulate itself upon having come through the financial effects of the war with so small a degree of damage. Members acknowledge that the fetters imposed upon their business through the Temporary Regulation and other like measures, have turned out to be a blessing in disguise by protecting markets, and in raising to a higher point than has ever before prevailed the standing and the credit of the Stock Exchange itself.

Notes of the Week.

A Dutch Banker on Free Trade.—The Annual Reports of the Netherlands Bank, signed by the president, Dr Vissering, are always worth reading, and the latest issue, recently to hand, is no exception to the rule. Dr Vissering, it will be remembered, was a member of the Bankers' Committee which met at Paris a few months ago, and what he has to say on international finance and economics is always deserving of attention. We commend to our readers the following passage:—"It is necessary," writes Dr Vissering, "not only to set one's face sternly against an international policy of suspicion, but also to plead for the removal of the obstacles in the way of free international trade and exchange of commodities. In every country stress is laid on the necessity of increasing exports by means of hard work, but customers in other countries are necessary for such exports, and these customers can in the long run only pay if they are afforded an opportunity to export, i.e., to import into other countries. International trade is only to a small extent settled in money; the main settlement is always effected by exchange of goods. There is all the more reason, in face of the present disorganisation, to promote such free exchange as far as possible; any obstacles to it must have a much more adverse action than before the

war. We are at the present time not so much in presence of a problem of over-production as of under-consumption; considerable markets for commodities are greatly impoverished, or have practically disappeared. These markets must be again nursed until they become consumers as formerly, and, if it cannot be accomplished in any other way, by helping them to become good debtors by means of well-considered credits. That is the great problem with which we are faced, and to solve which all nations must put their shoulders to the wheel. We should strive for prosperity not only in our own country, but co-operate in creating it in the neighbouring ones. The solution of the problem of the reconstruction of Europe cannot therefore be brought about by the recovery of Western Europe alone; it embraces in no less degree the recovery of Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe." Thus the voice of responsible banking opinion abroad comes to reinforce last year's manifesto of the London bankers.

The Burden of Iraq.—No doubt the trouble in Mesopotamia, or Iraq, as officials now style it, is not unconnected with the long delay in making official peace with Turkey and with the vacillation of policy. But the British taxpayer is more concerned with another aspect of the matter. To him Mesopotamia is a heavy burden, and he begins to wonder more and more whether his bearing of that burden is of any real use and service. If under British supervision the population of this fertile land can gain happiness, prosperity, and good government, and if the great resources of the country can be developed for the benefit of them and of the world, then there is something to put against the burden of expenditure. But at the moment, one year after the establishment by the British of King Feisal on the throne, discontent in Iraq is bubbling to a head, and trade and commerce are stagnant. Having recently taken up the responsibility for the good government of Iraq, the British Government cannot, as some critics advise, retire to Basra and leave the country to govern itself. But in view of the immense sums which the British taxpayer has poured, and is pouring, into the country, the public surely has a right to expect from Mr Churchill or the Prime Minister a clear explanation and justification of the acts of administrative severity recently reported, and a categorical assurance that British money is being employed in the only way which could reconcile the public to the burden—that is, in the deliberate pursuit of the liberal policy of establishing a régime of justice, liberty, good order, and prosperity in this famous territory, which, before it suffered the blight of Turkish rule, was known as the granary of the world.

The Greco-Turkish War and Greek Finance.—The striking successes of the Turkish troops in Asia Minor force upon public attention once more the dangerous position in the Near East, and the lamentable results of the long-continued failure of Allied statesmen to arrange and ratify formal terms of peace. The recent announcement that a conference on the Near Eastern situation may be held shortly at Venice gives hope of relief for Greece from the strain put by the retention of Greek forces in Eastern Thrace and Anatolia on the finance and foreign trade of the Greek kingdom. The severity of the strain, now increased by the military necessities caused by the new Turkish successes, may be apprehended from the Report (to April, 1922) just issued by the Overseas Trade Department, from the Commercial Secretary of H.B.M.'s Legation at Athens. The daily cost of maintaining the 220,000 troops mobilised was estimated in April last year at five million drachmas; in October it had risen to eight millions. Of the Budget figures it need only be said that deficits are increasing, and that for the last two years more than half the total "revenue" has been derived from internal loans. In May, 1921, the Government took steps to cope with the situation, both by a further issue through the National Bank of 550 million drachmas paper—partly to guarantee the Bank's loans to it—and by the ingenious forced loan, which takes over half the currency held by the public, doubtless as a basis for a further issue. This loan was designed to cover the extraordinary deficit, i.e., the cost of maintaining the 220,000 troops; the ordinary de-

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

ficits are being met chiefly by an increased and progressive income-tax and higher Customs duties, which, however, have not helped to check importation. But severe checks have been imposed by the fall, and still more by the fluctuations, in exchange. The rate on January 1, 1921, was 47.80 drachmas to the £; on December 31st it had fallen to 99.25; the reports in May that free dealing in exchange would be prohibited sent it for a short time from 65 down to 120 drachmas to the £. The prohibition consisted in giving to a Consortium, originally consisting of four leading banks, but later incorporating various local ones, a monopoly in exchange dealings; its committee fixed an official rate daily, and apportioned the amount of exchange among its various members, but, though it sold more exchange than it purchased—the deficit being made up out of the capital subscribed by the constituent banks—it could not fully enforce its monopoly or supply the demand. It necessarily gave priority to purchases for army supplies, for imports of prime necessity, and for goods already landed, so that little was available for payment for further imports, and, with the drachma fluctuating, but in the long run falling, and prices outside going down likewise, the importers postponed their orders and often refused to take delivery. Imports in 1920 were in value 2,131 million drachmas; in 1921 only 1,674 millions; those from Great Britain fell more heavily—from 391.8 to 157 millions. Moreover, the competition of German, Czechoslovakia, and Italy is stimulated by their low exchange. The German trade has suddenly risen beyond its pre-war level. But British exporters who know the market are urged in the Report not to withdraw, and advised as to the means of promoting trade. Particulars are given of fresh industries, and of the great resources in metals, lignite, and water power. An Appendix gives interesting particulars as to the urgent need for facilitating business in Salonika, and especially the transit trade with Serbia, by simplifying Customs formalities and instituting the free zone authorised in 1914.

Latvia To-day and To-morrow.—The condition and prospects of Latvia are fully described in a statement prepared last April for the Genoa Conference. Traversed as it is by the chief railways connecting the Baltic with Russia, formerly its main market, a recovery in that country must give it great commercial importance. Windau and Libau (now Ventspils and Leipaja) have practically ice-free harbours; Riga is closed, on the average, 37 days in the year. Windau harbour is being dredged to admit the largest liners, and a railway of Russian gauge will shortly connect Libau and Riga, where great facilities exist for storing and loading freight. Thus the capacities of all three ports will be fully utilised all the year round, and a law provides for the establishment of free ports. Pending a Russian recovery the export of flax and timber is reviving. During the war the production of flax and linseed fell off 60 per cent., and the 275,000 acres previously devoted to it shrunk to 75,000. One-fourth of the whole country is forest; the annual supply of timber, allowing for forest conservation, might reach 150 million cubic feet, but through shortage of labour and rolling stock, and the demand for reconstruction and for railway fuel, only 14 million cubic feet were exported in 1921. The timber also supplies the material for the manufacture of furniture, paper, matches, wood, alcohol, and tar. Dairying is also important. Half the population is agricultural, one-fourth

industrial; in 1910 the metal, chemical, and textile industries employed more than 50,000 workmen, and one-fourth of the whole Russian metal industry was concentrated in Riga and Libau. But Latvian industry can do without Russian raw material, and will be aided by freedom from the high Russian tariff and by the electric power to be obtained from the Dvina. The currency has been stabilised, and the issue of paper money stopped. The internal debt is small; the foreign debt slightly exceeds £2,040,000, or about 22s 6d per head of population, mainly to the United States for food and military stores. The Budget deficits of the last four years have been caused mainly by the needs of reconstruction and of national defence against filibusters from Germany and Bolsheviks; for 1922-23 the deficit will be about £600,000, but in 1913 the country paid its way and contributed £3,600,000 to the Russian Treasury, so that surpluses should again become the rule. Banking, well developed before the war, has since made progress; a State Bank is projected with a capital of £3,000,000; two-thirds may be foreign, and foreigners will be eligible to its board; the Government will be a shareholder. The country has suffered from the war even more severely than Belgium; it urgently needs foreign credits and foreign capital, the latter for advances, through a Land Bank, to agriculturists, to revive industry, to improve railways and harbours, and to support the State Bank. Four-fifths of the population are Letts, a vigorous race, nearest of kin to the Scandinavians, and speaking the oldest language in Europe. The standard of education and culture is high, and it is predicted that Latvian modern literature, music, and art will yet astonish the world.

Conditions in Esthonia.—A Reval correspondent writes: The General Election held towards the end of 1920 was in reality the first election of a regular Parliament, as the former was one made merely to enable the members to found a Constitution for the country. They, however, did not limit themselves to this work, but entered upon legislation, passing the Land Bill, which has given cause to so much criticism and discussion. As space will not allow me to dwell upon this law I will merely mention that it confiscates and distributes amongst the peasants the Baronial estates (Rittergute), but not the smaller properties (Landstelle and Gesinde). No compensation has been paid to the landowners, and great abuses have been committed by the peasants and the persons named to administrate the estates taken from the proprietors. This law has not given particularly good results, and many people anticipate its revision. However unjust this law may seem, it is generally believed that it put an end to the rising Bolshevism in Esthonia, and had it not been for this, it is quite possible that the Constitution might have been considerably altered. The present Government is a Coalition of several parties, but the Social Democrats or Radical parties do not belong to it. The Government consists of the Farmers' party, Labour, Peoples, and Christian parties, with Mr Constantin Paets as Prime Minister. There being no President in Esthonia, the Prime Minister takes his place for all practical purposes. This country was recognised *de jure* by the Supreme Council on January 26th of last year, and this act called forth great rejoicing. The present Government has been in office much longer than any previous one, and Esthonia has made great strides towards order and commercial improvement under it. The Government have dealt very firmly with the communistic or revolutionary parties, and have consolidated their position. It is hoped that, for the first time, the Budget of 1922 will not show a deficit. The factories in Esthonia are mostly working, partly or wholly, and trade is no longer so severely hampered by Governmental restrictions as it was two years ago. The army has been reduced to a peace footing, but its influence is still felt strongly in politics. Trade now is brisk. An English firm has taken over the old Russo-Baltic Works, the largest shipbuilding concern on this coast, which used to employ 20,000 workmen. As yet they have done little, but Messrs Vickers have apparently associated themselves with this company, called the Anglo-Baltic Works, and developments are pretty sure to take place. Their first general meeting has been allowed by the Government to take place, and will be held very

shortly. Most of the trade here is done with Germany, and the shops are all full of German goods. It seems that owing to the depreciated exchange Germany can supply goods much cheaper than the United Kingdom. The feeling here is certainly not in favour of Germany, but there has been a great influx of German agents here, who offer credits to the merchants and compete successfully in prices with other countries. Trade agreements have been negotiated with France and Finland, besides other countries. There are several banks here, one is under foreign control, and the British Overseas Bank is interested in another. The railways are in good order and trains run now with great regularity, which is a marvellous improvement on the times following the great war. Exchange, which has varied very widely in recent years, falling from 85 to 1,500 Estonian marks to the £ sterling, seems pretty stable now, and with slight variations has remained at the present price for the last year. When the port is closed through ice, which usually occurs about February, and no goods are ordered, there is generally a recovery in exchange.

French Promoting Banks in 1921.—Details are now available as to the operations during 1921 of the principal French banks (*Banques d'Affaires*) which specialise in promoting and underwriting industrial and other enterprises and securing a market for the shares and bonds in such undertakings (as distinct from the ordinary deposit and discount banks). These banks, which play a very prominent part in the French economic system, rely largely upon their own proper resources, and on the large amounts of ready cash represented by the current accounts of other banks and important industrial and commercial concerns, for the money they require to carry on their operations. Their special function is confined to the flotation and underwriting of industrial issues, on the system adopted by them before the war in regard to the issue of foreign loans. These banks, as a rule, possess no branches in France, and themselves place directly in the hands of the public none of the shares in which they are interested, but distribute them through the medium of the ordinary and local banks who sell such scrip on an agreed commission basis. The following table includes the principal items in the balance-sheets of the more important of these banks for the past year, together with the comparative totals of each category of account for 1918, 1919 and 1920, and for 1913. The balance-sheets are for the year ending December 31, except in the cases of the *Crédit Mobilier Français*, which was dated June 30th, and the *Banque Française pour le Commerce* (July 31st):—

(In Millions and 100's of Thousands of Francs.)							
	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Bills and Dividends.	Dr. Current Accounts.	Cr. Accounts, & Correspondents.	Profits.	Paid-up Capital.	Reserve.
<i>Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas</i>	247.9	631.7	255.0	1,027.0	25.8	200.0	137.7
<i>Banque de l'Union Parisienne</i>	35.0	242.0	238.0	512.1	0.4	150.0	94.9
<i>Société Centrale des Banques de Province</i>	6.3	27.6	316.0	121.9	..	85.5	18.8
<i>Crédit Mobilier Français</i>	8.5	83.7	77.4	90.9	7.2	100.0	9.3
<i>Banque Française pour le Commerce</i>	109.0	305.1	94.3	414.0	..	100.0	17.4
<i>Banque Transatlantique</i>	3.7	65.5	40.6	71.1	4.6	40.0	10.1
<i>Banque des Pays du Nord</i>	58.3	232.6	68.0	334.1	4.3	50.0	4.1
<i>Crédit Français</i>	12.0	40.6	98.8	150.7	..	50.0	3.2
Total, 1921.....	480.7	1,628.8	1,188.1	2,721.8	42.3	775.5	297.6
" 1920.....	612.6	1,876.8	1,125.5	3,280.5	75.3	647.3	265.5
" 1919.....	369.5	1,299.7	815.5	2,263.2	49.2	513.6	215.6
" 1918.....	201.4	740.8	519.7	1,225.3	39.1	445.0	177.9
" 1913.....	155.5	439.3	666.9	909.7	46.3	437.5	230.7

The above figures include no deductions for losses experienced by the *Banques de Province*, 124,400,000 frs., the *Banque Française*, 1,800,000 frs., and the *Crédit Français* 300,000 frs.

Dutch Free-trade in Rubber.—The decision of the Dutch Government not to take any action in the way of coercing restriction of rubber output in the Netherlands East Indies cannot be considered very surprising, in view of the manner in which the Dutch themselves voted against the resolution in its favour at the Hague in July. The matter was discussed at length in the *Economist* of

July 29th. The effect of the meeting was to cause a smart rise in rubber shares, followed immediately by reaction. Luckily, the advance lasted so brief a time that the public were not attracted in any measure, but to holders of rubber shares, who have been hoping for some assistance from the Dutch Government in the matter of rubber restriction, the decision will come disappointingly. Holland has always of late years been a staunch supporter of Free-trade, and Dutch industries look with dislike and suspicion at any interference with their liberties by their own or any other Government. This it is which has caused the Dutch rubber-producing interests to decline so resolutely to come into any kind of combination or ring for the support of the price of rubber. The Dutch grower's attitude is that he wants to manage his business in his own way, and if he can see the present crisis through in the rubber industry, it is of no particular interest to him whether weaker companies go to the wall or not. In fact, if they failed, it would leave the air clearer for those concerns which remain standing. Thus the Dutch and the American points of view have a good deal in common. It is proposed that there should be an Anglo-American Conference between rubber growers and consumers, to be held in New York at an early date, and rubber shareholders will have to consent once more to carry over their expectations of a better time coming until the result of this conference shall be made known.

Central American Affairs.—A correspondent writes: President Orellana's Address to the Guatemalan Congress is substantially an appeal to his fellow-citizens to suspend political agitation until the next general election, and meanwhile to support his efforts for educational, social, and economic reconstruction, for the improvement and extension of communications and the maintenance of order, so as to secure respect for the nation abroad. He announces his determination to use his full legal powers in securing order and checking disturbances which would tend to interrupt the progress of recovery and would act as a deterrent to foreign immigration and foreign capital. He guarantees the maintenance of all civic rights, and promises full political and religious toleration; and he hints at the need of "abundance of currency," a phrase which may seem ominous, but probably refers to the scheme of financial reconstruction with aid from the United States, delayed at present through the rejection by the Guatemalan Congress of the plan submitted to it recently. No doubt the country will profit by the proposed assistance, but such proposals are sure to meet with considerable opposition in any Spanish-American Republic. Guatemala, however, already merits the respect of foreign nations by her habit of providing for her debt service a year in advance; she will merit it still more if the scheme in question enables her to pay the arrears due under the agreement of 1913. It is to be hoped that order will be maintained by other methods than those adopted by President Cabrera. Reports of disturbances, drastically suppressed, in various outlying districts are discredited in authoritative quarters in London. Advances through New York suggest that the Clericals may make trouble. In Honduras, it is stated, the party is promoting disturbances with money subscribed by sympathisers in Mexico; and it is alleged to be attempting to impose obstacles to American penetration by the revival of the federation scheme frustrated last year by the Guatemalan revolution. But no such scheme can succeed without Guatemala, and her consent is now less likely than ever. And Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador have just renewed the treaty of amity and friendship made in 1907 with the United States.

Flax Developments.—A Belfast correspondent writes: Though the present flax area in Ireland is very small, only 25,000 acres or so, the operations of the flax-pulling machines just now are attracting so much notice that farmers will have greater incentive to grow this crop to a larger extent. As flax must be pulled and not cut, like grain, in its harvesting, in order to get the fibre in best condition and length for spinning, the cost for manual labour has hitherto been very expensive—about £3 per acre—and not always obtainable. Now three new inven-

tions—one from Canada—are now in operation, making it possible for two men to harvest up to six times as much fibre per day as eight labourers hitherto. Of course, climatic difficulties and soil conditions may affect output figures considerably. Nevertheless, the economy and success is such that Irish farmers must gradually employ machinery, just as the reaper and binder superseded the hand sickle. Cheapening of flax means also cheaper linen, and still another greater gain will be the use of special pedigree flax seed giving 100 per cent. more fibre from the same area. Even in England hopes are entertained in some quarters of a revival of flax growing. A thousand acres are being harvested near Selby in Yorkshire. Linens raw material stocks are very low now, and it seems absurd that we must rely on foreign countries for 90 per cent. of our total requirements.

Some Statistics of the American Farm.—A correspondent writes:—A sheaf of buff and white and grey pamphlets is before the writer, and there is nothing particular to distinguish them from those other pamphlets in blue which Englishmen doomed to peruse official publications dignify by the name of books. There is the same prevailing indigestibility, there is the same want of correlation of statistics which mark the home product. Yet somehow some new facts manage to emerge, facts new, at least, to him whose fortune it has been to turn over the pages of American official information. For one thing, we get at the important circumstance of there being 10,583,000 adult males living by agriculture. This is of itself impressive. Then we find that there are 4,034,000 labourers, a striking proportion on a land which most of us figure as cultivated by owners of the soil which they till. Of these 4,034,000, however, it is probable that a considerable proportion of sons and nephews of the owners for the Government classification will be seen to include three classes only—the owners, or yeomen, who number 3,995,000; the tenant farmers, 2,454,000 in number; and "all others." There would be great and real gain to our essential knowledge of the agricultural problem if we could be told, not of the United States only, but of European countries, including our own, how many of those living by the land are relatives of the owners or farmers. Many Englishmen will probably be surprised to learn that there are now 2,454,000 tenant farmers in the United States; that, in fact, there is in existence a powerful and numerous class preferring, like the typical British farmer, to pay rent and keep his capital as material wherewith to stock and cultivate the farm. Mortgages now subsist on 29 per cent. of United States farms, and so far from the great war profits having been devoted to paying off mortgages, the extent of these was only 27 per cent. in the year before the war. The American cultivator has still a truly vast task before him. He has taken up 955,000,000 acres, but as yet only 507,000,000 are actually cultivated. Clearly there is an almost indefinite area for expansion. A separate return in a different buff book gives the cultivated area at 82 acres, and the not-yet-improved at 78, on the average American farm of 150 acres. The "not-yet-improved" area appears to be land reduced into possession and individual ownership, or tenancy, but not yet regularly tilled or laid down to grass. A good deal of it is uncleared woodland not definitely scheduled as forest. The creatures of the States are little known outside America, but it may be worth noting that Iowa is the champion State for pigs, horses, beef cattle, and poultry, a commanding position, though Texas has the greatest number of farmers (327,000), and is the leading State for wool; California, however, has the greatest number of sheep (2,500,000), and is also the great honey State. In timber the chief States are Louisiana (pines), Washington (spruce and cedar), Michigan (maple). The returns give Wisconsin as "the champion hemlock State," which sounds strange till we remember that the American hemlock is a soft wood tree and a conifer. A natural result of English settlers preferring Canada as under the Flag is none the less in some respects disconcerting. There are only 27,000 English-born farmers in America to 141,000 Germans, and the three States of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota form a regular German enclave, with 45,000 Germans to 2,800 Englishmen. The State where Englishmen predominate most is Utah: 1,216

A decree that has now been published in the *Journal Officiel* stipulates that on and after September 1st nothing but "whole meal" flour shall be milled in this country. This measure arises from the fact that the present year's wheat harvest is by no means as abundant as that of 1921. Last year the French wheat crop amounted to nearly 88,000,000 quintals, which was approximately equal, in spite of a smaller acreage sown, to the pre-war total. This year the yield is much less satisfactory, and there was a risk, unless steps were taken to make the available crop go as far as possible, that France would be compelled to buy some 20,000,000 quintals of corn in the foreign market to meet the needs of her population. The probable effect of such purchases on the already depreciated value of the franc is obvious. It is regarded as questionable whether the measures adopted will meet the object in view. At the best it is considered that the amount of economy effected will be unimportant. With flour at from 100 to 110 of the quintal, and bran, which is the chief by-product, selling only at 40s, the millers may be relied on, quite apart from the new regulations, to get as much flour as possible out of the grain. Further, even if it be exact that the French wheat harvest is below

that of last year, the reports of the International Agricultural Institute indicate that the world's wheat crop for 1922 will be equal to 107 per cent. of the yield of last year, so that there need be no fear of any real shortage. As to the effect that purchases of foreign wheat might have on the exchange, this might be a serious factor, as the *Temps* points out, if France now suffered from the enormous adverse trade balance registered in 1919 and 1920. The adverse balance for the first half of the current year, however, was only 1,300,000,000f, or barely equivalent to 12 per cent. of the total imports, whereas in 1913 the deficit reached 19 per cent. Finally, so far as the purchase price of foreign wheat is concerned, the French Government would always be master of the situation, as it would be able to remove the import duty of 14f per quintal imposed on this cereal at any period it thought fit.

The French foreign trade returns for the current year, as issued month by month, show that the increase in the quantities of merchandise imported is much greater, as compared with the figures for 1921, than the increase in values. It is also noticeable from the latest available figures that imports continue to increase, while exports are still on the decline. The most striking feature of the import returns is that while imports of foodstuffs and raw materials have increased largely during the first seven months of the current year, the imports of manufactured goods have fallen off by 907,946,000f, or nearly 33 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period of 1921. The detailed figures are as follows:—

IMPORTS.				
(In Thousands of Francs.)				
	First Seven Months. 1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec. for 1922.	
Foodstuffs	2,832,032	3,100,474	..	+ 268,442
Raw materials	6,065,076	7,292,648	..	+ 1,227,572
Manufactured goods	3,182,162	2,274,216	..	- 907,946
Totals	12,079,270	12,667,338	..	+ 588,068
EXPORTS.				
Foodstuffs	1,283,523	960,070	..	- 323,453
Raw materials	2,453,237	2,341,693	..	- 111,544
Manufactured goods	7,145,674	6,798,488	..	- 347,186
Postal parcels	670,898	701,457	..	+ 471
Totals	11,553,332	10,801,702	..	- 751,630

The weights of the goods imported or exported during the same period were as follows (in tons):—

IMPORTS.				
(First Seven Months.)				
	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec. for 1922.	
Foodstuffs	1,916,484	2,681,362	..	+ 764,878
Raw materials	17,085,494	25,016,106	..	+ 7,930,612
Manufactured goods	950,418	969,874	..	+ 19,456
Totals	19,952,396	28,667,342	..	+ 8,714,946
EXPORTS.				
Foodstuffs	779,251	478,226	..	- 301,025
Raw materials	7,291,487	9,933,755	..	+ 2,642,268
Manufactured goods	1,181,437	1,287,887	..	+ 106,450
Postal parcels	13,419	13,890	..	+ 471
Totals	9,265,594	11,713,758	..	+ 2,448,164

The total exports for the month of July were valued at 1,433,042,000f, and the total imports at 1,995,746,000f, or an excess of imports over exports of 562,704,000f. Raw materials alone were imported to the value of 1,200,000,000f, as compared with an average of 1,000,000,000f during the previous months.

The position on the Bourse continues favourable, and the profits made during the last few weeks appear to have encouraged speculators, while the decline in the value of the franc has increased the interest taken in foreign securities. A further element tending to strength has been the favourable position in the United States, where the prospects of the harvest are such as to justify the hope that a record crop will be reaped. French rentes have risen sharply, the 1915 5 per cents. moving from 75.90 to 76.55, the 1917 4 per cents. from 62.50 to 63.55, and the 1918 4 per cents. from 62 to 62.95. The other rentes have remained virtually stationary or have declined slightly. Banks, generally, have maintained their position, with a tendency to increasing firmness, *Crédit Lyonnais* advancing from 1,360 to 1,410, and *Crédit Mobilier Français* from 415 to 450.

The steady advance in railways has largely been checked. Thus *Est* at 780 has lost 20 points, *Metropolitan* at 434 has gained five points, *Midi* at 815 10 points, *Nord* at 1,259 24 points. *Orleans* at 950 has lost 20 points, *P.L.M.* at 955 is unchanged, and *Ouest* at 680 has gained five points. Shipping has advanced, *Chargeurs Français* going from 574 to 610, *Chargeurs Réunis* from 370 to 390, and *Messageries Maritimes* from 189 to 190.

GERMANY. — CURRENCY VICISSITUDES AND ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 29.

IN view of the excitement caused by last week's heavy fall of the mark exchange, I propose to treat the question in its permanent aspects, and to postpone the usual account of immediate conditions. In the height of last week's mark panic, Berlin newspapers devoted what space they could spare from their own catastrophe to the Czechoslovak catastrophe. They dealt with the 250,000 Czech unemployed, told how nearly all workmen in important Bohemian industries have been served with notice of discharge, and explained that the Czech "catastrophe," "crash," and "disaster" (all words used also to describe the mark fall) were due to the rapid rise in Czech crown exchange. Taken alone, there is no novelty in a currency improvement bringing "catastrophe" to an exporting industrial country; but doubt concerning the doctrine of a necessary connection between exchanges and prosperity is raised when economic ruin of the same kind is ascribed at once to currency deterioration and to currency improvement. The doubt is strengthened by the fact that the stable-exchange countries are also deep in industrial-commercial crises of a kind which diminish the real substance of wealth. It appears that no one of the three possible states of an exchange ensures real prosperity; and, if that is so, the depreciation of the German mark, taken alone, is not even *prima facie* proof of injury to the real substance of German wealth.

But if the German catastrophe cannot be proved by the mark-exchange depreciation alone, it cannot be proved by anything else. True, the Wirth Cabinet and its supporters keep up the catastrophe panic, and tell of the dreadful things that have happened, or are going to happen, to the economic substance. The best comment on this is to recall the recent panic concerning the Republic's peril from a Monarchist counter-revolution; the Republic, the Cabinet declared, was at death-grips, and a dreadful banquet of blood was promised by a rushed-out decree legalising summary executions. All that happened only a few weeks ago; but already the comedy of nerves has been forgotten, nobody has been summarily executed, and to-day one can read 50 newspapers without finding one reference to the fact that the Republic is at death-grips. The mark catastrophe is like the Monarchist catastrophe, even to the repetitions, for Herr Erzberger's assassination provided an earlier Rathenau crisis, and early 1920, when the dollar reached 100, and late 1921, when it reached 300, produced earlier mark "catastrophes." In the first lull, when no Minister is killed, and in the first lull when the mark ceases falling, everyone forgets both kinds of catastrophe; and intelligent citizens observe that just as the Republic was not, and could not be, endangered by the death of a Minister, so the economic substance of the nation was not, and could not be, impaired by speculative selling of marks at a fraction of their worth.

That a German economic catastrophe might conceivably go together with mark-currency depreciation is not denied. But the certain symptoms, independent of the mark exchange, of such an economic catastrophe would then be visible; and they are not visible. Symptoms might be (1) an aggravation of the State finances, probably due to national inability to bear the necessary taxation, or (2) an aggravation in the nation's material condition, due to exhaustion of real capital and failure to earn sufficient real incomes. Probably the two would go together; and with the second would go declining production, unemployment, and probably also numerous bankruptcies as an expression of individual increase of

consumption over production. Of neither aggravation is there the least sign. With the dollar at 2,000 marks, the State finances are far better than with the dollar at 50 in 1919; and the condition of the people as regards feeding, clothing, regularity of employment, and individual solvency is beyond comparison better. The mark exchange is therefore an entirely worthless indicator of the nation's economic substance.

The State finances, to repeat, have not got worse. The Government has not failed to extract from the people the revenues necessary for administration and service of debt. An increase in revenue far exceeding the increase in expenditure was lately reported by me, with figures, to the *Economist*. The connection between the mark exchange and revenue and expenditure has been repeatedly misjudged. The real process is: 1. A mark exchange fall causes (is not caused by) internal currency depreciation and prices rise. 2. Expenditure increases, and vast supplementary Budgets have to be submitted. 3. At first, until new revenue is got in, current deficits increase, and they are met by floating debt operations and by inflation. 4. During the mark exchange recovery, or relative stability, which follows every bad fall, revenue, now based on a higher level of values, rapidly catches up, so that Budget equilibrium is again attained, and the net result is a large nominal increase of floating debt, which does not embarrass the finances because the ratio of interest charges to revenue becomes ever smaller and smaller. Apart from Reparations, one can therefore say: the more the mark has depreciated, the better have grown the State finances. The debt burden, it is true, is merely transferred from the State to the public; but there is a certain real relief. 1. Part of the debt burden is transferred to foreign creditors' shoulders, and here mark depreciation brings a direct calculable increase of German national wealth. 2. The native pure capitalist (the mere currency and bond interest) is ruined and driven into the producing army, becoming a wealth-producer. Only the invalided pure capitalist becomes a public burden.

This process has been repeated again and again, and again and again prophets of the ruin of the State finances by the currency depreciation have proved mistaken. In 1919 Herr Erzberger produced a balanced Budget. The mark exchange collapsed immediately afterwards, and his Budget was ruined—the mere additions to official salaries exceeded his whole estimated revenue. In the next two years supplementary Budgets followed in quick succession, revenue increased, the mark fell again, and revenue again increased. After the mark collapse of June-November last the Budget seemed hopeless. The increase in expenditure again far exceeded the originally estimated revenue. But in the mark exchange lull, which lasted from November until the Rathenau murder, revenue caught up; and, like Erzberger, Dr Wirth last spring could present a balanced Budget, also without Reparations. During the present mark fall Dr Wirth has had to grant salary increases again exceeding his whole estimated revenue of the spring; his Budget is, therefore, worthless, and a new vast increase of the floating debt is inevitable. But already revenue is rising headlong, and there is no reason at all why a Budget balance should not again be restored, as after last year's mark collapse.

The State finances could not have been saved by the automatic reduction of the real debt alone, most of it, as stated, having merely been thrown back upon native private shoulders. They were saved by the flourishing condition of trade. English financiers know how rapidly trade reacts on revenue, and except for a few months in mid 1920 Germany has had an uninterrupted trade boom. In July there were 19,000 unemployed, and an unsatisfied demand for about 50,000 workmen by the iron and coal industries alone. Bankruptcies are one-seventh of the pre-war normal, and this, in general, proves that citizens are producing more than they consume. The profits of capital are small, but the real wages of most earners have kept up, and if not provably higher than in 1913, they are certainly higher with the dollar at 2,000 marks than they were in 1919, with the dollar at 50 marks. The real substance of a nation incessantly and efficiently at work could not possibly be impaired by a mere revolution in values.

These facts could not be denied by the catastrophe ex-

ponents. But after every mark fall is repeated the prediction that *this time* the catastrophe has really come. The nation survived because production was active, but with its currency unit at x to the dollar no nation could continue producing. The reasons why production should cease are two: 1. The buying power of the home population is exhausted, and as the trade boom is mainly a home boom, production will cease when buying power declines. 2. If the buying power does not first decline production will cease, because with a dollar at 2,000 marks the importing of food for the worker and raw materials for his looms and blast furnaces must cease. Both these arguments are wrong in theory and disproved by fact. In theory, buying power is a result of production, and buying power cannot cease first; in fact, there is no sign whatever of a decline in buying power. The second prediction was heard in 1919, 1920, and 1921; it was made by the Chancellor last week; it was made by him during the June-November mark collapse of last year; and again and again it was proved by other experts that whereas Germany had easily imported wheat, cotton, and copper when the dollar cost only 100 marks, she could not import when it cost 200; and, later, that though she had nevertheless imported when the dollar cost 200, she could not possibly import when it cost 400. And so on. In theory, this is baseless. Except to lower exchange countries, which welcome the mark currency, Germans export in exchange for dollars, pounds, guildens, and other high currency, and the American who is invoiced \$100 for Solingen penknives and transfers the \$100 to another American who sells Germany copper has no need even to ask what is the day's mark quotation. In practice, the falsity is even more glaring. For as the following table, which begins on the eve of the mark fall of 1921, shows, imports have greatly increased, and in July this year, with the mark depreciated to 525 to the dollar, it was possible to import more than three times as much goods as 14 months earlier with a mark eight times more valuable:—

	Approx. \$ Exchange.	Imports in Metric T.
1921 May	65	1,534,000
November	260	2,534,000
December	190	2,085,000
1922 January	190	2,310,000
February	220	1,475,000
March	285	2,644,000
April	290	2,888,000
May	290	3,809,000
June	320	4,030,000
July	525	4,800,000

A final proof of the confusion prevailing on this point is that the same catastrophe prophets who declare daily that production must cease because the more the mark falls the harder it is to import necessities also declare daily that ruin is impending because of the threatening surplus of imports over exports. The two arguments actually follow one another in a recent Ministerial speech.

The proposition which the above arguments and facts are designed to support is that Germany is suffering mainly from a currency crisis, and not from a crisis of economic substance, and that the international mark panic and the predictions that Germany will be ruined and will drag down all Europe have, if they have no other basis than the mere mark exchange depreciation, no basis at all.

ARGENTINA.—ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN — PUBLIC FINANCE — BANKING POSITION — TRADE OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AYRES, July 24.

WRITING at the very moment that the Argentine Press is full of glowing accounts of the reception given to Dr Alvear in London, it is not easy to comment as freely as one might otherwise do on the question of Anglo-Argentine relations in commercial and financial affairs. That the importance and cordiality of Great Britain's greeting to Argentina's President-Elect is not likely to be forgotten by Dr Alvear himself, when he assumes office next October, is reasonably certain; but, from the very nature of his position, an Argentine President is not in a position to exercise much personal influence, if the

object aimed at does not appeal to the ideals of the party who have elected him. Were it possible to say that there was a manifest desire to extend financial and commercial relations with Great Britain on the lines that characterised the Governments of 20 years ago, the practical importance of Dr Alvear's visit to London would be vastly greater. As things are, one inclines to the belief that the effect on commercial and financial relations will be practically nil. It has been freely remarked that an almost immediate result of the visit will be an Anglo-Argentine loan of 50 million sterling. That is the Argentine point of view; whether the City holds a similar opinion may be doubted. Unfortunately, there is a want of breadth in the views of even the most enlightened Argentine statesmen, who, obsessed by their quite warrantable convictions regarding the immense potential wealth of the Republic, are lacking in a sense of proportion. They cannot, or will not, see that unless Argentina is in a position to offer special terms, both as regards interest and guarantees of stability, she is but one borrower among many.

The Irigoyen Government took over a big debit balance; took over also the facile system of getting ready money by short-date loans to keep the administrative machine running smoothly. Dr Alvear assumes office under almost worse financial conditions than did President Irigoyen. During the war taxation of exports and additional dues on certain luxury goods brought in immediate, and for a time important, sums to the national treasury, but those sources of income are now closed. Financially, Argentina does not know where she stands to-day. Her last officially sanctioned Budget dates from 1912! For, incredible though this may seem, subsequent annual accounts have been but modifications of the Budget Estimates discussed and passed in due and constitutional form in the year named; the Radical party having never yet accomplished even the complete discussion of all the clauses in any Budget Estimates introduced by President Irigoyen's Government.

As a proof of the inherent vitality and prosperity of Argentina, the chaotic state of the official financial system is hard to beat. This country goes forward in spite of, and not on account of, its official methods; though it is clear that this paradoxical state of being cannot continue indefinitely. It must also be borne in mind that, while some few private fortunes have been made and retained owing to the benefits derived by Argentina from war conditions, in general the position of the producer in 1922 is not altogether as favourable as it was in 1914. "Argentina," as one of her leading statisticians, Ingo, A. E. Bunge, recently Director-General of Statistics, remarked in a study of production costs worked out in 1917, "has produced much and capitalised little. Nevertheless, for many years she has lived in the belief that she was accumulating considerable wealth in the form of reproductive capital. But this new capital all came from abroad." This sane and eminently accurate view of the situation is rarely held, even by Argentines, who are otherwise commercially well informed. Not only is their attitude frankly antagonistic to foreign capital extant in the Republic, but they are immediately ready to support any measure which professes to limit the gains of such capital for the benefit of "national industry." One firmly believes that much of this mistaken opinion can be traced directly to the delusive policy which has characterised Government finance for close on ten years. Short-date borrowing, which might perhaps have been passed as excusable in war-time, stultifies itself very soon when used as a means of financing either general expenditure under normal conditions, or non-reproductive public works such as railways in the outlying parts of Argentina must certainly be considered. Broadly speaking, no private capital has been invested in Argentine enterprises since 1912; not only that, but one may also add that no Argentine capital has been diverted from the customary channels in which it flows, namely, agricultural and pastoral production. Individual industrialists who had plant and expert knowledge before the war have seen their capital increase rapidly by sheer accretion of undreamt-of profits, but, as a nation, Argentina stands much where it did in 1914, except as regards its official debts, which are some \$800,000,000 Arg. paper higher than they then were, if one includes internal and external loans, all of which are

for periods ranging between five years and six months.

General business in Argentina is manifestly improving, the steady shipment of all classes of exportable produce and the rise in the price obtainable for meat, wheat, butter, wool, and hides reacting on trade in general. The steady diminution in the total of banking deposits which marked the first five months of 1922, changes in the June total to an increase of some fifty million dollars, and although home readers may assume that the subsequent diminution in the Bank of England rate will react in an unfavourable sense, the paradoxical fact is that under present-day conditions this does not occur. The increase goes wholly to Argentine banks; some thirty-six million dollars thereof swelling the funds of the Banco de la Nacion, which now carries 40 per cent. of the total bank deposits in this Republic and does 38 per cent. of the advances figuring under the heading of discounts and loans. A large addition to available funds is also provided by the issuing of still more Cédulas through the Hypothecary National Bank, the latest series, No. 13, being already in circulation. This makes \$150,000,000 Argentine paper issued in Cédulas during the current year, hence, cattle crisis notwithstanding, private business in Argentina is by no means pinched for loanable capital. Indeed, the private mortgage companies are complaining that their business is suffering severely from the competition of the National Mortgage Bank, which makes it all the more remarkable that an American concern should propose to enter this market at the present time. Cables from New York, however, state that various American financial interests are about to inaugurate such an institution, which will be known as the "Compania Hipotecaria Americana." Competition in general banking business has, indeed, driven one American institution out of the market, the American Foreign Banking Corporation closing its doors at 24 hours notice, paying off its staff, and announcing by circular and through the columns of the Press that its liquidation would be carried out by the local branch of the First National Bank of Boston, which would pay all cheques, drafts, &c., actually outstanding. The long and short of the Argentine banking position is that prospects of profit on the scale which was considered normal prior to 1910 are very distant. Between the Banco de la Nacion Argentina, which scarcely professes to show profits, and explains a lavish liberality on the ground of attention to the best national interests, and the 33 banks who are trying to earn dividends, the Argentine borrower and banking customer generally is well catered for at very favourable terms. Meanwhile the outlook for trade is healthy. Cattle have improved a little in price. Wheat is distinctly firmer, and wool and hides are a firm market. The ultimate sanction of the increased railway tariffs was so generally expected that it has passed almost unnoted in Argentine business circles, but when the new rates come into force after the statutory notice has been given, that is to say in the first fortnight of August, complaints may be looked for, and it is quite on the cards that an attempt will be made to reopen the whole question, cheaper coal and the example of the British and American authorities in their dealings with the railways being the prepared by the Socialist Deputies. Ocean freights have been down to unheard-of figures, parcels of grain to United Kingdom-Continent being booked at as low as 12s 6d, with a round pound sterling for a prompt 5,400 steamer grain generally, is to some extent accountable, but even so it is evident that the Plate market is once more becoming as uncertain as it is competitive for all owners whose vessels are consigned to these parts of the world.

SWITZERLAND. — EIGHT HOURS DAY — CAPITAL LEVY PROPOSAL — RHINE NAVIGATION — A GOVERNMENT LOAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, August 14.

On July 1, 1921, both Houses of the Swiss Parliament accepted a modification of labour legislation which authorised the Swiss Government to abolish the eight hours working day in times of general economic crisis.

The labour unions have now begun to collect the necessary signatures for an appeal to a referendum. Of course, they will get them within a few weeks, and we shall have at the latest next spring a popular votation on the subject of maintaining the eight hours day. Half of the voters are peasants, and in all probability they will vote against this social progress. The majority will, however, be a very small one, so that the Government will be careful in granting exceptions. One remembers that the eight hours day in Switzerland was not the outcome of the strength of the labour unions, but rather a result of political bargaining. This is why the attempts to do away with it have had a measure of success. In a certain number of trades, especially in engineering, and probably also in all public transport services, the eight hours day will be maintained independently of the Government attitude.

At the same time, Swiss people will have to vote on a socialist proposal, namely, that of a levy on capital. This votation will be rather a touchstone of the political education of the Swiss people. The Socialist proposition, which is backed by 87,535 signatures, only affects people with more than 80,000 Swiss francs capital, and married people with 110,000. That is to say, according to the message to Parliament, only 0.6 per cent. of the population will have to pay, or, in other words, 99.4 per cent. of the citizens will have to decide whether such a levy shall be paid by the others or not. The proposed levy will ask up to 60 per cent. of capital. The smallest levy is proposed to be 8 per cent., and the progression a very rapid one, so that the maximum of 60 per cent. must be ceded to the State by people having three millions of francs. All the limited companies will be taxed not according to their reserves, but according to their nominal share capital, so that every industrial concern of any importance is supposed to write down its share capital to 40 per cent. of the present face value, and to hand to the State 60 per cent. of the shares. Thus the State would have 60 per cent. of the voting power in all industrial and commercial and financial concerns, of more than three millions paid-up share capital. Only these exaggerations so far as limited liability companies are concerned guarantee that the proposal will not get through. For the overwhelming majority of the citizens, though having no fortune of 80 thousand francs, have sufficient mistrust of a majority of 60 per cent. of State votes in all limited companies. The aim of this levy on capital will not be a general redemption of all Federal war debts, but the creation of a fund for social assistance. The latter aim will be the tombstone of the proposal, for the peasant voter is not willing to supply further money to support lazy town folk.

The Swiss Government, in a message to the Federal Parliament, proposes adhesion to the international agreement of Strasbourg. By this proposal the Government abandons the Swiss attitude of free Rhine shipping from Strasbourg to Basle in the natural bed of the river. The French proposal of exploiting the water power between Basle and Strasbourg for the purpose of electrical energy necessitates the creation of lateral canals with sluices. The lateral canals must necessarily be in Germany or France, that is to say, not in the internationalised river, but under foreign denomination. But the theoretical freedom of the Rhine bed becomes practically useless when none of the riparian States is willing to perform regular dredging. Switzerland herself has neither the competence nor wants to spend the necessary money for dredging regularly between Basle and Strasbourg. Therefore, Switzerland's insistence on using the free bed would be simple obstinacy. In agreeing to the French project, Switzerland obtains the internationalisation of the canal in spite of the fact that it is entirely on French territory.

At the end of this month the Swiss Government will issue a loan of 125 million francs. This loan will probably be the first Swiss Government loan issued at the rate of 4 per cent. The original proposal was 4½ per cent., but during the last fortnight the price of all securities dealt with on the Swiss stock markets has risen so rapidly that their average yield is now 4.2 per cent., so that an issue of 12-years bonds, as forecasted, 5 per cent. below par, will be willingly accepted. The money market is still very easy, and one may expect for this autumn a series of loans of all kinds of public bodies which will profit by the easiness of money for the purpose of consolidating their floating debt.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve Funds - - £1,350,000

Head Office: EDINBURGH.

R. G. THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.
Over 150 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.
JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAW, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—FOREIGN TRADE—PUBLIC FINANCE—STATE ENTERPRISES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, August 19.

THE trade returns for Czecho-Slovakia for the first five months of the year 1922 show exports at 37,915,987 qs, against 36,495,389 qs for 1921, and imports at 15,216,806 qs, against 17,858,440 qs for 1921. Thus there is an increase of exports amounting to 1,420,148 qs and a decrease in imports of 2,641,634 qs. The latter is easily accounted for by the rise in value of the Czecho-Slovak crown. But the destination of the exports and their nature deserve study. Germany accounts for 14,716,263 qs, or, roughly, two-fifths of the whole. Austria comes next with 12,903,571 qs, Hungary third with 3,642,705 qs. So it is seen that Germany, Austria, and Hungary have taken about six-sevenths of the whole, France coming next with the amount of 871,984 qs. The German mark is now worth one-twentieth of the Czecho-Slovak crown, while a Czecho-Slovak crown equals 2,000 Austrian crowns. How, then, are Germany and Austria to pay for their coal and sugar? Austria certainly has to receive 300 million crowns as part of her loan from this country, and this will be paid her at the rate of 30 millions a week, which again will be earmarked for the payment to Czecho-Slovakia for coal and sugar. How the principal and interest of the loan is to be repaid is another story. It is probable that many Continental buyers, especially in Germany, have meanwhile taken advantage of the previous low rate of the crown, and laid up reserves in the country banks with a view to the contingency that has now become a fact. Indeed, one of the causes to which the first rise of the crown was attributed was the buying up of crowns for short credits by Continental speculators. Of the imports, the greatest amount came from Germany, which accounts for 8,095,550 qs, about half consisting of domestic coal from Upper Silesia. Again a long way after come Austria and Hungary with 833,285 qs and 877,232 qs respectively. Great Britain and the United States have sent very much less than last year, the latter having come down to 864,484 qs from 1,488,859 qs in 1921, and Great Britain from 843,228 qs in 1921 to 232,876 qs only for this year. The reason given for this falling off is that less flour has been purchased from England and America. But the imports from all countries have fallen, with the exception of France, Holland, and Switzerland. Those from France have nearly doubled, the increase in the other two countries being slight only. But from such countries as Austria and Hungary that the decreases should exceed in the one case upwards of half-a-million and the other over a quarter of a million is surely significant.

To give an idea as to the difficulty of gauging the economic position of this country from ordinary sources of information, it may be mentioned that a Government paper a short time ago pointed triumphantly to the almost unflinching success of Government enterprises, mentioning a coal mine, a radium mine, and other industries, showing one only, the iron works at Podbrezov, as not paying expenses. From a speech by Dr Rasín, who was thought likely to be the next Finance Minister, it appears that these iron works alone show a loss of 131 million crowns yearly; the Government munition works at Brno likewise show a huge loss, while the great private works show a profit, and while the private coalowners make profits, the

State mines make a loss. He grants that the railways are expensive and the freights high, but declares that such obstacles to business therefrom cannot account for the loss, amounting to a milliard of crowns. There must be something amiss, and he states his intention to run these State concerns in future on business lines, and that they must pay their way or be given up. Dr Rasín looks facts in the face. He is determined to balance his Budget, but will inaugurate a new system. He is even convinced that the nationalised properties will eventually pay for themselves, notwithstanding the dismal prophecies of pessimists. Turning to the export trade, he makes a very important announcement when he says that if Germany is compelled to raise her tariff and taxes, Czechoslovakia is in a position to reduce her taxes, tariff, and Customs duties, and so enter the world markets without regard to the rise or fall of the mark. Dr Rasín's abilities are well known, and when he makes such a pronouncement as to his future policy, he may be trusted to carry it out if given the chance; but it is now stated that he will not be Financial Minister in the new Parliament. The post is to go to Dr Pospíšil, expert financial adviser to the Genoa Conference and director of the Prague Savings Bank.

The figures of the importation of flour and corn for the five months of 1922 show that 866,410 quintals only were imported, against 2,201,450 quintals for the same period of last year. Flour alone shows a diminution of 951,550 quintals. Corn has been imported chiefly from Roumania, the Argentine Republic, and the United States.

Books and Publications.

COLONIAL TARIFF POLICIES.*

A TARIFF Commission may be supposed to have a prejudice in favour of tariffs, for without them it would have no reason to exist, but we have failed to find any signs of bias in this lengthy and laborious survey—860 pages of close print—of tariffs as they affect the colonial possessions of the chief countries. This Report briefly traces the growth of the colonial possessions belonging to the European countries, first Spain and Portugal, then Holland, and finally France and England. Nearly one-half of the world's area now consists of colonies, using that word in its broadest meaning.

In the early period colonial rivalry was dominated by the theories and practices of mercantilism and monopoly. "The chief object of early colonial enterprise was the acquisition of treasure in the form of precious metals." The principle of monopoly applied to all phases of the colonial trade; but after 1815 the colonial Powers "loosened, in different degrees and with unequal promptitude, their restrictions on colonial trade." People felt that the expenses of colonisation were "certain and burdensome," while the profits, if any, were uncertain and transient. For all that, France and England went on adding to their territories. A third theory began about 60 years ago, when the development of industries and large scale production forced a keener competition to secure markets for manufactured goods. Nearly all the great expansion of colonial holdings in Asia, Africa, and Oceania, measured in square miles, have been secured by the seven chief empires since 1877, though Spain's Empire dwindled.

Protection, as the Report says, in theory and practice may be regarded both as a cause and effect of nationalism. Most colonial Powers turned Protectionists, adding differential or preferential tariffs for the trade between themselves and their overseas possessions; but Great Britain and Holland stuck to Free-trade (or, at least, until Mr Chamberlain's Budget of 1919), and Germany used to maintain the principle of the "open door" in the territories which she has now lost. One of Bismarck's motives in acquiring colonies "was undoubtedly to prevent the erection of protective barriers by other nations," and in

agreement with Great Britain the two Governments were able to impose a Free-trade policy throughout Central Africa.

Of late years tariffs have been springing up all over the world like the magic hedge round the castle of the Sleeping Beauty. Only in Class "B" of mandated territories—e.g., in Central Africa—is the principle of the "open door" recognised, and even here it is only guaranteed, as in the case of the draft mandates for Class "A," for the benefit of other members of the League. In Class "C" territories the "open door" is not required, and it is not pleasant to read in this Washington Report that "in fact, differential duties have been introduced into South-West Africa and Samoa, and by discrimination of other kinds Australia has effectively monopolised the trade of the territory entrusted to her control."

While nearly every country likes to secure a preference for itself in its overseas possessions, it does not like other countries to do the same; the report describes how recent Treaties have tried to maintain general trading rights—e.g., by the Congo Agreement at Berlin and the Act of Algéciras, while others have given "open door" pledges for a limited time—e.g., the Anglo-French Treaty in Central Africa (30 years), the Spanish-American Treaty for the Philippines (10 years), and in the Japanese annexation of Korea. "Assimilation" is of little advantage to the colonies because they export raw materials and food, which usually get free entry everywhere, except that tea and tobacco are taxed for revenue purposes. There is, we are told, always a tendency to favour the mother country, even where there are no preferential duties or where the "open door" continues; "trade follows the flag," and the influence of shipping, a common language, and the investment of national capital act as a natural preference.

The Report discerns a reaction from Free-trade everywhere; the "open door" has been losing ground for 20 years, Preference has been advancing steadily for 30 years; attention is called to the growth of tariff preferences between France and her colonies, and the authors think that if our Government maintains the preferential duties of 1919 it "can scarcely fail to lead to the extension of such a policy among the Crown Colonies." After this the Report gives a detailed review of the policies adopted by the various colony-owning countries. The volume cannot be called light reading, but it should be invaluable as a book of reference.

BIRMINGHAM'S BLUE-BOOK.*

THE annual accounts published by municipal corporations contain masses of detail, but the accounts are not well set out. They do not enable even the capable student easily to obtain a clear view of the financial position of a municipality. This defect is not the fault of the treasurers who compile and issue these accounts. They are considerably hampered by requirements in the nature of statutory and departmental returns and regulations—and are thus sinned against rather than sinning. The publication of statutory returns by municipal corporations is very necessary. But these returns should be in form less unsuitably to the great trading enterprises now commonly undertaken by municipalities. For instance, at present two balance-sheets for each department are involved—one relating to loan and capital accounts (actually including "Debt extinguished or provided for" as a liability), and the other relating to income accounts. These two balance-sheets are unnecessary except in order to comply with the present system, and they cause much trouble and confusion. The whole system of municipal returns and account-keeping urgently needs revision.

The financial statement of the City of Birmingham—Birmingham's Blue Book—for the year ended March 31, 1922, compiled by the acting treasurer, has been completed, and published with most commendable diligence. In the aggregate the loans outstanding at March 31, 1922, amount to £28,992,785. The assets consist of capital expenditure on undertakings deducting amounts already provided from rates for repayments of loans—£4,012,216; and capital expenditure

* "U.S.A. Tariff Commission." (Washington) Government Printing Office.

* "City of Birmingham's Financial Statement, 1921-1922." (Birmingham) The Council House.

on trading or reproductive undertakings—after deducting repayments of loans provided from income—£17,671,803. There is a net balance of cash in hands of treasurer, £2,760,576. Total assets, £31,444,157. The reason why such a large amount should be in the treasurer's hands is not clear. The treasurer had actually in his custody at March 31, 1922, according to the accounts, no less than £3,710,182 belonging to various departments; but out of this sum he had advanced to other departments £949,606, including £667,701 advanced to the gas department. The authority for these advances is not stated, and the interest charged for them does not appear separately in the accounts.

Of the capital expenditure on trading undertakings, nearly one-half, viz. £7,606,980, is in respect of water. The profit and loss account of the water department shows that the revenue from water rates and charges was £572,773, and required a contribution, which was granted, from the borough rate of £255,000 to meet revenue charges, including interest and redemption of debt. The electric supply, gas, and tramways undertakings are paying their way, supposing always that the amounts charged to the profit and loss accounts for redemption of loans are sufficient to cover expired capital outlay on plant (depreciation). This cannot be determined under the present system. The electric supply capital alone was raised by upwards of 130 separate loans, varying in amount from £150 to £500,000, and varying in period of repayment from 5 to sixty years. It is obvious, therefore, that the annual sum provided for redemption of loans may be either more or less than the actual expired capital outlay on the plant if the amount of this was properly measured.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- British and Continental Labour Policy.* By B. G. De Montgomery. (London) Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Limited. 21s net.
- Indian Export Trade. A Critical Analysis.* By R. M. Joshi. (Bombay) The Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics.
- Journal of the Royal Statistical Society.* July, 1922. (London) Royal Statistical Society, 9 Adelphi terrace, Strand. 7s 6d.
- The Planter.* June, 1922. (Penang) Incorporated Society of Planters. \$1.
- Calendar for Twenty-Eighth Session, 1922-23.* (London) The London School of Economics and Political Science. 3s 6d.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS. SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
September 6.	September 7.

It has been a week of alarms and excursions in the Stock Exchange markets, excitement being accompanied by comparatively little business. Contrary to all expectation, the pre-war account which came up for settlement yesterday, Friday, turned out to be a troublesome one, and it is known in the Stock Exchange that the open stock required a certain amount of assistance for it to get placed. The hostilities between Greece and Turkey added to nervousness, engendered by the implacable attitude of France and the helter-skelter drop of the mark. At one time, the War Loan dropped to 99½ sellers, German Threes gave way, and French bonds were especially flat. The House, as a whole, hung upon the movements of the leading markets, and when, on Thursday afternoon, a brighter atmosphere prevailed in gilt-edged stocks, the general disposition of markets became more cheerful. Everyone will be relieved when the pre-war settlement is out of the way, though its after-effects may possibly make themselves felt for some time to come even yet.

The War Loan dominated the situation in the Consol market, and prices weakened every day until Thursday afternoon, when a few buyers came in, the position was declared to be over-sold, and prices accordingly recovered. Home Railway Guaranteed and preference stocks are down in some forty or fifty cases.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDÔME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

Colonials hold their prices. National War Bonds are mostly easier. French bonds, after being acutely weak, recovered noticeably, the French railway issues following in the same track as that of French Government bonds. German bonds moved up and down according to the fluctuations in the mark. Chinese Eights are easier. Greek bonds are mostly down a point or two, and Turkish Unified also fell by reason of the military developments in the Near East. Czechoslovaks are harder. Argentines and Chileans advanced, but Brazilians continue to be pressed for sale upon an unwilling market.

Home Railway stocks are somewhat neglected. Dividends are out, prices are ex dividend, and there is nothing to arouse interest in the situation for the moment. Consequently, prices have been jogging along very quietly. Grand Trunks are again lower. In these, as in Mexican Rails, the losses to be settled this week on account of stock open on the pre-war settlement are extremely heavy. Argentine railways continue on an even keel, and the October dividends are being discussed with interest. No material changes occurred in Nitrates.

Rubber shares gave way a trifle, owing to the Dutch Government's refusal to use coercive measures for the restriction of rubber production in the Netherlands East Indies. The Oil market is uninteresting, from the fact of the changes on the week being so comparatively small. Textiles, as a section, make the best showing in the industrial market, a number of rises occurring under the genial influence of good reports and vague statements as to the industry having returned to something like normal conditions. Shipping stocks are steady. A few small rises occurred in the London banking shares. Insurance issues scarcely move. The Iron and Steel market is, on the whole, somewhat heavy, recent dividend declarations having disappointed a good many people who had been holding their shares in the hope of a trade revival. Dunlops went a little better; the directors seek power to use the remaining three million pounds 8 per cent. debenture stock as collateral security against an issue in America that will enable the Dunlop-America company to start work. Some of the stores and catering shares have improved. The Wireless market is extremely placid, and nothing of fresh interest has occurred in the cable group. Amongst land shares, Hudsons Bays, both ordinary and preference, are better. Interest in tobacco has somewhat waned.

The Kafir market has been over-shadowed by the developments abroad. Prices yielded a trifle, and the market took on a languid appearance, which was not wholly dispelled by the recovery which started on Thursday afternoon. De Beers are the strongest spot in South Africans, the prices of both ordinary and preference spurring by reason of optimistic statements that are being made in regard to the returning prosperity of trade. Tin shares are neglected, nor can it be said that there has been any animation worthy the name in the mining sections devoted to Russian, Mexican, Indian, Broken Hill or West Australian shares.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded	505,732,637	..	..	..
4½% Treasury Bonds (by Tender August 25, 1922)	None allotted	..	..	..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED AUGUST 26, 1922.

April 1 to August 26, 1922	£22,848,000	100,000	100,000
To the Public—			
Devon General Omnibus and Touring Co., 87,000 7% Cum. Pref., £1, at par (Sept. 1)	87,000	..	10,875
Total to Public	87,000	..	10,875
To Shareholders only—			
Adelaide Electric Supply, 250,000 6½% "C" Cum. Pref., £1, at par (Aug. 28)	250,000	..	62,500
Cleethorpes Gas, £50,000 6½% Pref. Stock, issued at par, red. at par June 30, 1922 (Aug. 28)	60,000	..	3,000
De La Rue (Thomas) and Co., £400,000 8% Conv. Deb., at par (Aug. 28)	400,000	..	80,000
Total to Shareholders only	710,000	..	145,500
Total offered for subscription to date	£256,629,637	1921	£388,978,203
1922	154,081,480	1920	367,549,686
1921	276,046,615	1919	1,036,659,861
1920	893,787,730	1918	1,393,381,441
1919	837,918,120	1917	1,318,596,010
1918	1,093,756,860	1916	585,436,850
1917	680,522,100	1915	685,236,326
1916	658,773,876	1914	512,522,633

The Devon General Omnibus and Touring Company, Limited.—Authorised capital £110,000, divided into 100,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 10,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. The 10,000 ordinary and 87,000 preference shares have been issued. This is an offer for sale of the 87,000 preference shares at par. It is stated that there are no debentures or charges on the company's assets, "except a mortgage of £10,000." It will be noticed that the preference issue is top heavy, and as the advertised "offer for sale" does not make it clear as to the extent to which assets could be charged, the term "preference" is of more theoretical than practical interest. Payment of capital and dividends on the shares are guaranteed by the Torquay Tramways Company, Limited, a prosperous undertaking, which should be able to find the necessary money. Apparently this is the omnibus undertaking of the Torquay Tramways Co., which has been formed into a separate, although subsidiary concern. The shares may enjoy a local market, but the general investor will probably not be attracted by the offer.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

Price Last Week.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.
War 4½% 1925-28	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
Loans 4½% 1925-28	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97
4½% 1929-47	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
4½% 1929-47	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
Funding Loan 4½%	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
Victory Bonds 4½%	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
Conversion Loan 4½%	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73
Consolidated 4½%	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
Irish Land Stock 4½%	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Local Loans 3%	65	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1, l.p.d.)	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Chartered Bk of India	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.)	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2 paid)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid)	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons.	70	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
B. A. & Pacific	49	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
B. A. Gt. Southern	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Buenos Ayres West.	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
Canadian Pacific	164	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
Central Argentine	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
Grand Trunk Ord.	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgian 3%	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	73	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Chilian 4½% 1896	86	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
Do 7½%	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
Chinese 5%, 1912	78	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Egyptian 4%	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
French 5%	35	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Do 4%	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A"	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Marconi Wireless	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Marconi Canada	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
Marconi Marine	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13

British Railways.

Price Last Week.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.
Great Central Pref.	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Great Eastern	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
Great Northern Def.	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Great Western	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
London, Brighton, "A"	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
London, Chatham	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
L. and N.W. (New)	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
L. & S. Western, Def.	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Metropolitan	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
Chesapeake & Ohio	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84
Erie	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Do 4½% 1st Pref.	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30

American Railroads.

Price Last Week.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.	Price.
Aerated Bread (£1)	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Armstrong (Sir W. G.)	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Ass. Pulp. Cement (£1)	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Barker, John (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bham Small Arms (£1)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Brazil Traction (£100)	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
British - American Tobacco (£1)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Burnham Oil (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Courtauld (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cunard (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dorman Long (£1)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Forestral Land (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Furness, Withy (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Highlands and Low- lands Rubber (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brakpan (£1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Broken Hill Prop. (S)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chartered Bank (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crown Mines (10)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Crown Mines (S)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
De Beers Def. (£24)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
East Rand Prop. (£1)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Gould (£1)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Gov. Gold Arcas (£1)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Method of Payment.	Last Div. Year.	Lat. Pre- Year.
Railways.						
Wirral Railway	14%	..	..	..	..	..
Banks.						
Dominion	12	Oct. 2	(Quarter)	..	..	..
Insurance.						
State Assurance	25*	..	Subject to tax	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Mount Austen (Johore)	..	..	Less tax	20	..	..
Mining.						
Kofffontein Estates	2/ p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Ouro Preto, Pref.	2/ p.s.	Sept. 23	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Artizan Dwellings	5*	Sept. 11	Less tax	..	..	..
British Gas Light	5½%	Oct. 6	Less tax	..	..	..
Do Bonus	2/6 p.s.	Oct. 6	Less tax	..	..	..
Colchester Brewery	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Dalmington Iron	2½%	..	Tax free	5	5	7
Dundak Gas, "A" and "B"	15/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Frederick Gorrings	5*	..	..	..	..	..
F. Steiner and Co.	5*	..	..	..	..	..
Herne Bay Waterworks	4	..	..	..	..	..
Leigh Mills	..	..	Tax free	10	5	..
MacLay and Co.	..	..	Less tax	10	..	..
Nicholson	8*	Sept. 29	..	..	..	..
Pennsylvania Water	14%	Oct. 2	..	..	..	..
Pinchin, Johnson, and Co.	5%	Aug. 31	..	..	..	..
Raphael Tuck and Sons	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron	3½%	..	Less tax	10	10	..
Staveley Coal and Iron	5%	Sept. 27	Tax free	6	7	..
T. Lyons and Co.	8*	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Uxbridge Gas	5½%	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
West Surrey Water	7	..	..	..	..	..
Woolley, Sanders, and Co.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wyman and Sons	..	..	Tax free	10	10	..

THE LEEDS FORGE COMPANY announces that owing to depression in trade and loss caused through engineers' strike, it is not proposed to pay usual interim dividend on preference shares.

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January	£1,917	211,851	293,794	240,056
February	220,885	250,020	268,225	304,488
March	225,008	199,881	134,332	257,356
April	213,159	208,934	282,306	265,591
May	218,057	403,255	225,841	273,562
June	214,215	194,194	238,200	247,161
July	207,339	241,270	279,469	263,918
August	223,719	231,226	271,452	..
September	204,184	248,085	363,374	..
October	186,462	282,237	306,536	..
November	158,335	272,470	267,005	..
December	..	..	..	..
Total Gold	2,499,492	3,056,549	3,217,275	..

NOTE.—The value of the gold output fluctuates each month in accordance with the amount of premium which may be declared to the Mines Department of Southern Rhodesia in that month.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

ENCOURAGING DECREASE IN OPERATING EXPENSES.

The 24th ordinary general meeting of the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Limited, was held on Tuesday, August 29th, in the offices of the company, 14 St Vincent place, Glasgow. Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., C.H., M.P., chairman of the company, presided.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The report of the directors for the year ended April 30, 1922, states that:—

The directors, in submitting to the shareholders the usual audited balance-sheet of the company for the year ended April 30, 1922, wish to express their regret that, owing to continued ill-health, Sir Alfred Booth has found it necessary to resign the chairmanship of the company, which he had held since September, 1912.

Having regard to the conditions which have ruled, the various services of the company have been well maintained throughout the year.

The freight business during the year has been carried on at a very low level of rates, especially in the Indian trade. The directors regret that there are no apparent signs of improvement in the immediate future. The passenger carryings of the company, both to the United States and the East have been satisfactory, despite the continued operation of the U.S. Act limiting immigration.

Delivery of the new steamer "Tuscania" from the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, is expected in September, 1922, and of

meantime. The "Tuscania" from Fairfield will be delivered on September 11th, and the "California" from Stephens about the middle of next year. Both steamers are well adapted for their trades, and we hope will be a great success. You will realise, however, that the great cost of these vessels is a severe handicap, and that it is a serious problem to do business with ships costing roughly a million and a-half, which in 1914 would have cost about £600,000. This, however, is not a problem which affects us alone, but is what every liner company in Great Britain has to face for many years to come.

I should like to refer to one very satisfactory part of our accounts. As you are aware, during the war all operating expenses increased enormously, largely owing to the state of hostilities existing. Since their cessation we have made constant endeavour to return to a normal basis, and not without success, our present basis being very much below the existing general increase over the year 1914.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.

I cannot foretell the future, gentlemen, nor can I pretend to forecast what will happen in the next twelve months. We have many difficulties to meet, not included in the bad trade which now exists. Financial conditions are abnormal, as exemplified by the large difference between long loan rates and bill discount rates, and future finance is difficult to estimate. Capital expense is another question which gives your directors constant anxiety, whilst the burden of heavy taxation is always with us. The sooner this country can return to a sane and normal Budget the better it will be for every business enterprise in Great Britain.

The company is in a good position, and has an excellent organisation, and whilst our shipbuilding liabilities are large, we possess great possibilities of earning, and in these abnormal times I consider we are in a very good position to take advantage of whatever the future may offer.

VOTE OF THANKS TO MANAGEMENT AND STAFFS.

Before proposing the adoption of the accounts, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the management in Glasgow and the staff generally, both ashore and afloat, for all their work and effort during the past year. Without this continued effort and goodwill we could not present to you so satisfactory a statement of affairs as we have done to-day.

Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ending April 30, 1922, submitted to this meeting, be hereby received and adopted, and that, as recommended by the board, a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ending April 30, 1922, be and is hereby declared upon the 25,000 ordinary shares of £10 each, payable, free of income-tax, on and after the 31st inst."

I will ask Mr A. C. F. Henderson to second the resolution.

Mr A. C. F. Henderson, deputy-chairman and managing director: I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions to put regarding the report, and none being forthcoming, he submitted the resolution to the meeting. There was a unanimously favourable response, and he declared the resolution carried.

Mr Robert Clark proposed the re-election of Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., and Sir Percy E. Bates, Bart., as directors of the company.

Mr J. F. N. Graham seconded, and the proposal was unanimously carried.

Sir Thomas Royden: I thank you very much.

The Chairman then moved: "That the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr Richard Henderson (who does not seek re-election) be not filled up, and accordingly that the number of acting directors be reduced from nine to eight." He said: "It is a matter of great regret to everybody connected with the Anchor Line that Mr Richard Henderson, who has been so closely and successfully associated with the company for so many years, is retiring, and not seeking re-election. He is taking up his residence abroad, and finds it impossible to attend any of our meetings. I am sure I am only expressing the feeling in the minds of everybody connected with the company when I say how much we regret this decision."

Mr A. C. F. Henderson: I beg to second.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr David Meikler Reid proposed the re-election of Messrs M'Clelland, Ker and Co. as auditors of the company, which was seconded by Mr William Adshead and carried unanimously.

Mr David M'Cowan: Before we part I have a pleasant duty to perform, and that is to invite you to give a hearty vote of thanks to our chairman. I am sure we all consider the balance-sheet a most satisfactory one, considering the trying times shipping is going through just now, and it reflects the greatest credit on the management and the chairman.

The Chairman: I thank you very much. I am much obliged to you.

The meeting then terminated.

FURNESS, WITHY, AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY DIVIDEND DESPITE YEAR'S DIFFICULTIES.

AMERICA'S SHIPPING LEGISLATION.

The thirty-first annual general meeting of Furness, Withy, and Co., Limited, was held, on the 1st instant, at the registered office of the company, Furness House, Leadenhall street, London, Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., presiding.

The secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:

When I addressed you last year I indicated that a difficult period lay ahead of us, and I think everyone who knows anything about shipping will agree that the past 12 months have been just about as depressing as they well could be. I think, therefore, we may congratulate ourselves upon the results shown in the accounts before us. Naturally, the figures are reduced in comparison with previous years, the profit, including the carry-forward, being £858,554 19s 4d, as against a corresponding figure of £955,848 4s 6d last year. This is the net profit after charging up all expenses and making provision for taxation. After allowing for the dividend on the preference share capital and for the interim dividend already paid on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, we have transferred £200,000 to general reserve, and I will submit to you at the close of my address a resolution that a bonus of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, be paid to the ordinary shareholders, making a return for the year of 10 per cent., free of income-tax. The allocation to reserve will bring that fund up to an amount of £2,000,000, or 50 per cent. of our issued ordinary share capital. As regards the dividend, I think it is at a time like the present that our shareholders will appreciate the result of our past policy of endeavouring to pay a consistent dividend at a fair rate rather than distributing a few high dividends when trade happens to be good, and then falling from grace by paying nothing at all during bad times. These proposals will leave £206,054 19s 4d to carry forward to the current year's accounts, as against £203,348 4s 6d brought in.

"BALANCE-SHEET" ITEMS.

Turning to the balance-sheet items, I do not think there is a great deal that need be specially commented upon. Our capital account remains unchanged; sundry creditors are down by £700,000 at £3,963,292 8s 3d. These are the only items on the debit side, as we have no debentures, loans, or secured liabilities. On the credit side, our property and assets are increased by about £300,000. Sundry debtors are up by £330,000, and our cash and bills on hand stand at £1,722,612, as against £2,841,334 last year.

It must not, however, be assumed that because we have not raised any new capital during the past years we have either gone back or stood still in development. After all, to use a contradictory expression, to stand still is to go back in business affairs. As a matter of fact, we have added many fine vessels to our fleet and those of our subsidiary companies, and we have now taken delivery of the greater part of the vessels that were contracted for during the war, all of which have been achieved without any addition to our capital or that of our subsidiary companies. I think, therefore, that the shareholders cannot but feel satisfied with the position I have outlined, and, much as we dislike the depressed trading conditions, we are well prepared for the present situation.

I have already alluded to the fact that we have no charges of any kind upon our assets. This also applies to our associated companies, Prince Line, the Houlder Shipping Companies, Johnston Line, Rio Cape Line, Manchester Liners, Norfolk and North American Steam Shipping Company, Warren Line, Gulf Line, the Neptune Company, and a number of our smaller subsidiaries.

Before passing on I would like to mention that, as must necessarily be the case, a very small percentage of our income this year is derived from the earnings of the steamers owned by the company. The remainder of our revenue represents interest and dividends on investments, the trading of our branch offices, and profits earned in various ways.

SHIPPING INDUSTRY'S OUTLOOK.

None the less, shipping is our main business, and I am not going to disguise the fact that the outlook is anything but encouraging. The situation is no better than it was when we met last year, with one exception that a good deal of progress has been made in reducing expenses. Freight rates usually are, on an average, only about one-fifth of what they were during 1920, which, of course, is simply the reflection of falling trade, and the result is that there were on July 1 laid up in our home ports alone no less than about 532 vessels of just over 1,000,000 tons net register, or, say, 2,500,000 tons d.w., lying idle for lack of profitable employment.

During the year that has passed since I last addressed you, a good deal of progress has been made in the direction of reducing

operating costs. Our efforts have not always met with as much success as we had wished, but still, under existing conditions, there is very little more that shipowners can do by themselves. We have to wait for the general restoration of the trade of the world, but, in the meantime, the problem to which we have to address ourselves is to take the utmost possible advantage from such business as is being done.

AMERICA'S MERCANTILE MARINE.

I have on many occasions, both in my capacity as chairman of a number of representative British shipping companies and as president of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, made a point of explaining what I conceive to be the attitude of British shipping towards the United States mercantile marine. Yet I am afraid that attitude is still misunderstood in certain quarters, as I am repeatedly hearing reference to the propaganda which it is alleged British shipping interests are directing against the growth and development of the United States mercantile marine. I desire to state publicly and emphatically that there is no such propaganda on the part of British shipowners, and any reports to the contrary are calculated to create an unfortunate atmosphere.

We have these definite conditions to face, that Great Britain has no increase in her mercantile marine as compared with pre-war, whilst the United States has increased in ocean-going shipping from under 2,000,000 to 12,500,000 gross tons. That problem seems to me to be only capable of solution by friendly co-operation with the object of increasing the trade of the world. I would be the last one to suggest that any stranger has the right to interfere in a nation's domestic affairs, and consequently, British shipowners do not claim any right to express an opinion upon the direct subsidy proposals which the United States are contemplating for the benefit of their mercantile marine, but when these proposals extend to the point of discrimination against British and other foreign shipping in United States ports, then quite different considerations arise.

NEW LEGISLATION.

If the citizens of the United States consider that the payment of a subsidy is the best method by which to establish and maintain their mercantile marine, and to encourage private ownership, and incidentally, perhaps, to rid themselves of a cumbersome national fleet, that is entirely a matter for them to decide, and time alone will show whether that policy is right or wrong, but the legislation which is at present being considered goes a great deal further than this in seeking to control and direct international commerce in favour of the vessels of the United States at the expense of all others. The only true basis of international shipping is that the vessel that can carry the goods most cheaply, without any artificial restrictions or incentives, shall do the trade. Any other policy adopted by any country simply means unnecessary taxation to its citizens, and higher costs for the commodities it imports and exports. Great Britain has for a great many years past not only upheld but also given practical effect to the doctrine of freedom of the seas by giving in her ports equal treatment and opportunities in every respect to the vessels of all flags, whether the foreign vessels comply with the British standard or not. The legislation that is now being considered in the United States would entirely destroy the principle upon which the present relationships between the mercantile marines of the British Empire and the United States are founded, and it certainly appears to be inconsistent with the spirit of the Washington Conference. After enumerating the restrictions in the proposed legislation, the Chairman continued: As a nation, we find that we are expected, and rightly expected, to meet heavy obligations on the one hand, and, on the other hand,

we are expected to forgo financial obligations due to us, whilst we have to face formidable tariff walls against the entry of British goods into those countries, but I have every confidence that in the long run common sense will prevail and that with a full and frank exchange of views between all parties that policy which is best for the common good of all must emerge.

It is my custom at these meetings to give you a résumé of the various ramifications of our business. I am glad to be able to report that every section of the business is in very good trim and our subsidiary undertakings continue to develop and extend their activities. So far as it is possible for one to speak with confidence in such circumstances, I do most emphatically feel confidence in the continued prosperity of our company, and during this trying time we are on the look-out to take advantage of any favourable opportunities for development that may present themselves.

The resolution was seconded by Mr R. E. Burnett and carried unanimously.

Mr J. A. Harradon proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff, which was seconded by Mr Walter Lee, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman having briefly replied, the proceedings terminated.

EBBW VALE STEEL, IRON, AND COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

RAILWAY CHARGES AND LOCAL RATES.

The fifty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the company was held, on the 29th ultimo, at the Cannon street Hotel, London. Sir Frederick Mills, Bart. (chairman and managing director), presided.

The Chairman said the tale he had to tell was not so much one of industrial operations, but rather of extricating a great concern from the difficulties into which the Government, on the one hand, and labour, on the other, had precipitated it during recent years. Having commented on certain items of special interest in the balance-sheet and in the profit and loss account, he expressed the regret felt by the board that, for the first time for over twenty years, they were not able to recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares.

Proceeding, he said: Perhaps the less said about the doings in the coal mining industry in the spring of last year the better. It remains a catastrophe from which the industry will be long in recovering. Employees of the collieries have already appreciated the difficulties of the case, and have in part met the position, but until there be a reversion to the eight-hour day and railway rates, and Imperial and local taxation are reduced it is not possible to expect a reduction in the cost of coal. At the moment the American demand for coal is in being, but it must be recognised that this is an adventitious circumstance.

When the collieries restarted in the autumn of last year the directors were confronted, in a period of rapidly falling prices and inadequate demand, with the problem of the iron and steel departments. They were gradually restarted in October and November, 1921, and whilst a loss was not unnaturally the result of the actual working, the general results were not discouraging for the reason that departments ancillary to the iron works could be run at a profit. Taking the company's operations as a whole during the last six months of the financial year, a working profit was made. It is worthy of note that the increase in railway charges and of local rates current during the year under review had a surprising effect upon our cost of manufacture. Direct railway charges on a ton of finished steel have increased by no less a figure than 15s., and, in turn, local rates, which ten years ago amounted to 1s 5½d per ton on finished steel, amounted during the period under review to no less a sum than 7s 6d, and I need hardly point out that it is necessary that very considerable reduction in

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

these two important items shall be brought about with as little delay as possible.

NEW STEEL-MAKING PROCESS.

The shareholders will recollect that, very largely at the instance of the Government, this company acquired large interests in Northamptonshire, and the shareholders will doubtless be interested to know that our importation of foreign ore has ceased, and that we are now working wholly on Northamptonshire ores. This has involved a change in our steel-making process, and we have adopted a modification of the basic Bessemer process as being the most suitable. A change-over of this character, on so large a scale as we usually operate, cannot be accomplished all in a moment, and must be accompanied with some expense. Accordingly, the board have proceeded along the line of rather proving the process than in endeavouring to achieve a large output, which, under the conditions ruling, would have been difficult to dispose of. The by-product coke oven plant at Ebbw Vale has now a capacity of 11,000 tons a week, probably the largest in the kingdom, and the two new blast furnaces are in every way remarkable. The first of them was tested in the manufacture of hematite pig-iron, and produced as much as 3,039 tons in one week, which we believe to be the largest output of hematite in this kingdom, and since turning to the manufacture of basic pig-iron the maximum output so far has been 1,741 tons in one week, which is believed also to be the largest output of pig-iron made from Northamptonshire ores, and considerably in excess of that for which the furnace was designed. The new pig-iron is of excellent quality, the resulting steel is everything that we hoped for, and apparently suitable to our customers. As I have already said, hitherto we have sought rather to prove the process metallurgically, and that we have done. We now propose to test it commercially. Your board is so far satisfied that as soon as the last of the new blast furnaces is completed in a few weeks' time it is proposed to run the works to their fullest extent, should the condition of trade permit.

TRADE OUTLOOK.

The shareholders will no doubt expect an expression of opinion in regard to trade outlook, and I am bound to confess that, notwithstanding the many evidences that have been observable from time to time during the last 12 months, there has not been that revival of industry in general which would justify me in saying that we are out of the wood. There is certainly a greater demand, but it is clear that the several conditions that all commercial people are continually calling for must be forthcoming before a general resuscitation of industry can be expected. These conditions are well known. Having detailed them, he moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was unanimously adopted and the other formal business transacted.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Redemption Account.	Gold and Silver.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	£ 481	£ 9,244	£ 9,286		
Aug. 25. 1915.	38,478	169	600	18,500	481	9,244	9,286		
Dec. 29. 1915.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	276	54,621	20,536	
1916.									
Dec. 27. 1917.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	190	118,102	6,868	
Dec. 28. 1918.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	134	186,637	5,486	
Dec. 31. 1919.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	89	305,133	4,566	
Dec. 31. 1920.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	91	337,537	2,802	
Dec. 29. 1921.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	130	336,504	134	
Mar. 30. 1922.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	28,500	19,450	139	311,334	141	
June 29. 1922.	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	19,450	148	287,750	150	
Sept. 28. 1922.	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	19,450	152	278,119	143	
Dec. 28. 1922.	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	19,450	147	289,131	161	
1922.									
Mar. 30. 1922.	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	159	261,479	177	
June 29. 1922.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,450	163	254,312	250	
Aug. 10. 1922.	302,025	13,100	7,000	27,000	21,150	159	259,903	142	
Aug. 17. 1922.	298,927	13,107	7,000	27,000	21,150	161	256,745	139	
Aug. 24. 1922.	295,130	12,927	7,000	27,000	21,150	162	252,728	179	
Aug. 31. 1922.	293,311	12,747	7,000	27,000	21,150	164	250,763	145	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £30,600,000, for 1921 at £31,556,200, and for 1922 at £30,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £50,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, September 4-September 9, were opened on September 1, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £58,605,000. Tenders for Monday to Saturday bills at £99 6s 6d will receive about 60 per cent. and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 11s 8.33d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, nil; in bills at 3 months, £50,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1933. Average Price.
June 30. 1922.	£ 50,000,000	£ 84,430,000	2 2 11.55	98 4 4.8
July 7. 1922.	£ 50,000,000	£ 71,260,000	1 18 4.65	98 5 10.8
July 14. 1922.	£ 45,000,000	£ 80,385,000	1 13 10.06	99 0 5.16
July 21. 1922.	£ 45,000,000	£ 77,055,000	1 16 10.8	100 4 11.4
July 28. 1922.	£ 45,000,000	£ 71,435,000	1 13 8.41	100 14 0
Aug. 4. 1922.	£ 50,000,000	£ 71,675,000	2 2 10.76	100 6 5.42
Aug. 11. 1922.	£ 45,000,000	£ 55,795,000	2 2 10.76	100 3 1.44
Aug. 18. 1922.	£ 45,000,000	£ 65,335,000	2 11 0.17	None allotted
Aug. 25. 1922.	£ 45,000,000	£ 55,590,000	2 7 9.28	None allotted
Sept. 1. 1922.	£ 50,000,000	£ 68,605,000	2 11 8.33	None allotted

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, September 8, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £50,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1922, to Aug. 26, 1922.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1921, to Aug. 26, 1921.	Receipts. Week Ended Aug. 26, 1922.	Receipts. Week Ended Aug. 26, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..	..
Customs.....	112,250,000	51,212,000	50,671,000	3,114,000	3,311,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	62,709,000	75,515,000	1,404,000	1,360,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	2,657,000	2,374,000	..	..
Stamps, &c., Duties.....	48,000,000	27,231,000	19,000,000	1,160,000	1,669,000
Stamps.....	18,250,000	6,062,000	5,483,000	370,000	304,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	530,000	420,000	..	..
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax).	329,000,000	111,992,000	117,378,000	..	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	24,024,000	5,048,000	4,254,000
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	6,427,000	4,370,000	690,000	360,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	21,300,000	18,500,000	1,250,000	1,000,000
Crown Lands.....	750,000	350,000	280,000	70,000	70,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	3,517,666	4,243,260	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	..	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts...	22,000,000	15,202,984	9,131,503	254,909	444,103
Special Receipts.....	90,000,000	21,406,410	37,310,029	834,471	676,000
Revenue.....	910,775,000	331,551,060	369,699,792	14,195,380	13,535,103
Total, inc. Balance ..	..	342,724,590	372,774,298	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	800,000	3,300,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	2,660,000	..	160,000	200,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921.....	..	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	13,000	25,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922.....	..	950,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	1,450,000	2,345,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,193,643,000	1,820,971,000	50,356,000	89,187,000	700,000
By National Savings Certificates ..	33,998,000	14,930,000	700,000	..	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds.....	..	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds.....	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year, 1925-35.....	..	1,024,990	..	..	..
5%, 1927.....	..	121,708	..	..	..
5%, 1927.....	..	61,422,074	..	..	..
4½%, 1934.....	..	52,648,508	..	..	..
By Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	..	11,869	4,926,776	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	319,940,500	517,174,000	200,000	25,360,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments:—					
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919.....	..	3,000,000	..	1,000,000	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	..	172,628	28,811	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	..	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	..	162,425	163,156	..	..
Total.....	..	2,019,439,294	2,761,487,536	65,611,380	131,095,103

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1922, to Aug. 26, 1922.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1921, to Aug. 26, 1921.	Issues. Week Ended Aug. 26, 1922.	Issues. Week Ended Aug. 26, 1921.
EXPENDITURE.					
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	6,429,574	6,373,452	..	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	110,997,613	140,627,662	288,705	2,537,737
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	2,107,999	1,904,000	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	2,020,000	2,540,632	..	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	2,500,000	671,639	..	..	..
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	507,506	1,565,386	7,644	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,650,000	1,053,725	745,475	1,834	..
Supply Services.....	529,999,000	158,489,674	255,530,474	6,750,000	10,653,000
Expenditure.....	893,437,000	282,277,730	409,290,081	7,048,183	13,190,737
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances:—					
Bullion.....	..	2,900,000	..	50,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	..	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	2,000,000	3,930,000	..	600,000
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921.....	..	2,000,000	2,600,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	13,000	25,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	950,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922.....	..	..	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	2,090,000	..	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	..	..	..	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt:—					
Treasury Bills for Supply.....	1,360,409,000	1,774,846,000	56,720,000	100,470,000	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919.....	..	6,061,312	16,883,929	1,718	769,115
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	..	3,300,000	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—					
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	..	11,250,000	6,400,000	600,000	..
(b) Repaid otherwise.....	..	..	7,500,000	..	900,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off —					
5%, 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.....	..	19,612,208	..	20	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	..	9,444,601	23,839,898	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	314,668,500	490,639,000	672,000	14,250,000	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....	399,521	11,640,089	..	500,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919.....	243,012	..	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4).....	..	6,915,000	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (4) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	55,656	61,200	..	..
Balances in Exchequer:—					
Bank of England.....	2,361,013	2,098,288	398,458	43,251	..
Bank of Ireland.....	2,218,833	1,801,642	171,001	322,000	..
Total.....	4,579,846	3,899,930	569,459	365,251	..

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922. Treasury, August 28, 1922.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 30, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	£ 144,034,205	Government debt.....	£ 11,015,100
		Other securities.....	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion.....	125,584,205
	144,034,205		144,034,205

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Capital	14,553,000	Government securities	44,357,645
Res.	3,528,638	Other securities	76,120,602
Public deposits	26,226,587	Notes	20,115,320
Other deposits	98,096,484	Gold and silver coin	1,826,967
Seven-day & other bills	15,825		
	142,420,534		142,420,534

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

RESOURCES.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.
Total gold reserve.....	3,061,760	3,066,430	3,071,640	2,619,080
Legal tender notes and silver reserve.....	130,900	131,420	130,530	147,080
Legal tender notes and silver reserve.....	389,930	382,490	382,160	1,495,350
Bills discounted for member banks.....	165,490	149,600	146,800	35,210
Bills bought in open market.....	484,760	488,620	491,710	238,770
Government obligations owned.....	67,330	66,600	65,930	54,090
All other resources.....	43,970	32,940	27,880	31,480
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits.....	1,807,880	1,814,030	1,807,920	1,642,150
Other deposits.....	2,146,670	2,142,300	2,147,220	2,485,910
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation.....	56,950	58,130	60,550	112,810
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation.....	22,220	21,710	21,790	19,130
All other liabilities.....	321,440	321,380	321,130	316,850
Capital and surplus.....	79.8%	80.2%	80.4%	66.5%
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.....				

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	June 30, 1921.
Cash and bank balances.....	459,360	439,800	450,869	520,557
Bank balances abroad.....	136,248	136,159	127,358	67,919
Call and short loans.....	274,418	287,786	278,175	276,644
Securities.....	318,753	313,490	342,989	388,496
Loans in Canada.....	1,215,936	1,236,934	1,259,739	1,362,621
Loans abroad.....	148,225	148,836	150,715	155,846
Other assets.....	100,558	101,906	98,919	107,522
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation.....	166,085	155,652	164,724	195,675
Deposits—				
Government.....	89,024	96,412	145,753	145,544
Public in Canada.....	1,687,162	1,691,975	1,720,566	1,870,972
Foreign.....	365,770	367,434	275,525	282,158
Bank balances—				
Canadian.....	9,773	8,793	9,714	12,675
Foreign.....	35,493	37,171	45,612	41,677
Bills payable, &c.....	24,521	25,758	22,648	42,810
Other liabilities.....	4,183	5,012	5,012	3,033
Capital and rest.....	254,414	254,291	254,248	264,318

BANK OF FRANCE.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold coin and bullion.....	5,531,528	5,531,080	5,530,714	5,522,383	3,730,625
Of which held abroad.....	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367
Silver coin and bullion.....	285,824	285,669	285,577	276,831	632,650
Discount and advances.....	4,298,676	4,099,623	4,141,767	4,748,129	2,347,775
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	36,384,980	36,050,884	36,221,340	37,024,735	5,811,875
Government deposits.....	50,020	27,597	58,547	40,733	183,700
Private deposits.....	2,119,940	2,111,317	2,229,497	2,795,463	845,950

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

(000's omitted.)

LIABILITIES.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.
Capital.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.....	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation.....	6,714	6,427	5,432	4,978	4,774
Bankers' deposits.....	5,515	5,555	5,894	5,810	5,792
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion.....	252	248	212	132	132
Gold certificates.....	9,183	8,927	8,558	8,235	8,029
Subsidiary coin.....	250	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic).....	321	318	..	..	..
Loans and advances to the Government.....	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other loans and advances.....	49	57	64	27	35
Investments.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.....	79.1 %	78.6 %	79.6 %	78.9 %	78.3 %

BANK OF SPAIN.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	Aug. 13, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
Gold.....	2,523,413	2,523,429	2,523,391	2,523,351	2,495,103	521,775
Silver.....	648,264	647,649	650,503	648,837	623,466	728,600
Loans and discounts.....	2,133,034	2,145,263	2,172,594	2,157,056	2,016,162	800,725
Treasury bills.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	344,475
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation.....	4,169,394	4,169,430	4,128,196	4,146,791	4,211,375	1,901,550
Deposits.....	1,161,442	1,160,696	1,166,595	1,176,858	1,060,881	477,500

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	June 28, 1922.	June 13, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	May 13, 1922.	June 28, 1921.
Gold and balances abroad.....	1,385,350	1,389,171	1,388,159	1,373,759	1,375,129
Government loans and securities.....	2,701,399	2,702,164	2,860,974	2,871,858	1,757,596
Discounts and loans.....	873,786	815,290	792,232	806,336	776,401
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	1,426,046	1,484,387	1,484,387	1,407,324	1,743,889
Government deposits.....	972,994	1,099,050	1,356,000	1,486,303	1,153,059
Private sight deposits.....	885,466	862,331	793,327	781,473	858,222
Private deposits at fixed dates.....	1,009,955	1,010,817	1,010,745	1,010,057	816,224

BANK OF JAPAN.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1921.	Position June 30, 1914.
Cash and bullion.....	1,278,380	1,283,602	1,283,275	1,281,261	1,280,686	221,330
Discounts.....	109,594	70,714	68,502	77,248	162,538	41,740
Advances.....	153,021	145,796	162,103	167,881	177,259	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	1,206,439	1,228,056	1,150,171	1,173,472	1,331,785	362,270
Govt. deposits.....	703,384	711,566	718,694	706,054	680,034	87,340
Other deposits.....	49,045	80,796	60,131	58,236	39,617	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 28, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
Gold.....	1,004,861	1,004,858	1,004,859	1,091,543	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England.....	50,032	50,032	50,032	..	321,920
Silver.....	21,060	21,765	21,093	16,564	321,920
Treasury notes.....	224,822,734	16,598,678	13,339,704	3,644,332	943,460
Bills discounted.....	224,822,734	218,439,021	210,395,137	76,062,756	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	215,168,262	205,275,349	198,463,679	77,190,575	2,013,860
Deposits.....	47,804,963	44,056,158	36,758,781	9,639,476	842,540

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 31, 1922.	July 20, 1922.	July 10, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash.....	1,356,122	1,344,124	1,322,923	1,381,222	1,346,218	1,221,875
Inland bills.....	4,476,681	4,417,038	4,431,661	4,539,110	5,136,364	418,400
Foreign bills.....	9,788	9,780	9,784	9,813	19,575	81,300
Advances to the Treasury.....	6,151,617	6,150,427	6,149,893	6,147,274	6,362,036	..
Other advances.....	2,579,513	2,585,935	2,762,280	2,975,031	2,477,777	79,175
Securities.....	533,331	531,882	533,717	533,609	391,451	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation.....	14,064,400	13,949,770	14,156,094	13,932,430	14,005,103	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts.....	1,776,733	1,878,097	1,937,826	2,011,001	1,765,665	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 28, 1922.	Aug. 21, 1922.	Aug. 14, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	Aug. 29, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
Gold.....	605,954	605,954	605,954	605,954	605,969	163,092
Silver.....	8,888	8,717	8,528	8,239	10,566	8,436
Depts. & advances.....	356,349	365,590	377,322	379,304	430,347	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	961,449	959,709	972,769	983,092	1,004,129	316,632
Deposits.....	32,365	41,569	43,536	36,338	48,927	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 30, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
Gold.....	510,940	510,834	510,834	510,835	495,458	..
Silver.....	887	891	748	665	379	..
Government loan.....	12,531,636	12,525,422	12,521,099	12,527,698	10,364,033	..
Other advances.....	2,958,273	2,895,145	2,874,987	2,798,791	3,212,055	..
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	14,266,593	14,203,105	14,209,832	14,147,162	11,447,775	..
Deposits.....	6,075,344	6,072,821	6,040,673	6,023,500	6,299,244	..

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold.....	515,089	516,197	518,026	519,409	544,494	171,175
Silver.....	115,328	115,540	115,858	116,282	110,531	18,350
Darlehens-Kassen.....	11,186	12,235	12,187	12,138	13,973	..
Assets & advances.....	358,155	335,074	325,532	324,773	334,229	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	725,028	733,550	752,653	769,113	878,218	275,925
Deposits.....	294,022	273,249	250,772	231,385	135,504	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to July 31, 1922, total issues were Fr. 20,381,168, of which Fr. 12,138,675 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	Aug. 27, 1921.	May 24, 1914.
Gold.....	273,802	273,821	273,888	273,909	284,997	104,912
Balance abn. and foreign bills.....	78,835	78,678	78,632	78,738	108,226	112,173
Gov. securities.....	73,038	72,991	72,992	72,840	19,756	32,465
Discount and loans.....	383,617	396,628	399,476	411,907	398,684	112,669
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	512,607	521,813	530,230	545,633	585,242	226,555
Deposits at notice.....	230,285	237,346	231,030	230,289	163,594	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 10, 1922.	Aug. 3, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion).....	331,141	333,006	333,245	332,072	322,823	322,650
Securities.....	497,981	469,318	475,061	462,783	611,219	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	6,412,398	6,427,057	6,420,836	6,402,678	6,152,046	934,150
Current accounts.....	625,078	587,156	598,726	614,502	1,034,137	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Aug. 15, 1922. Krone.	Aug. 7, 1922. Krone.	July 31, 1922. Krone.	July 23, 1922. Krone.
Gold coin and bullion, bills				
Silver coin	1,454	1,334	1,371	1,555
Bills discounted	21	21	21	21
Loans and drafts	303,545,842	276,595,486	255,116,505	233,398,809
Loans	1,170,330	1,153,514	1,214,972	1,303,381
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	913,932,437	833,471,496	786,225,601	691,770,477
Deposits				

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Present Rate.	Date.	Previous Rate.	Date.
Discount	4 ..	July 13, 1922 ..	4 1/2 ..
Deposit	1 1/2 ..	June 15, 1922 ..	2 ..

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Changed.	%	Bank Rate	Changed.	%
Amsterdam	July 18, 1922 ..	4	Madrid	May 11, 1922 ..	5 1/2
Athens	May 15, 1920 ..	6 1/2	Paris	Mar. 11, 1922 ..	5
Berlin	Aug. 28, 1922 ..	7	Prague	Apr. 27, 1922 ..	5 1/2
Brussels	June 8, 1922 ..	4 1/2	Rome	July 11, 1922 ..	5 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 ..	6	Sofia	July 14, 1919 ..	4 1/2
Calcutta	July 5, 1922 ..	4	Stockholm	June 1, 1922 ..	6 1/2
Christiania	Aug. 17, 1922 ..	5	Swiss Bank	Aug. 17, 1922 ..	3
Copenhagen	Apr. 25, 1922 ..	5	places	Nov. 18, 1919 ..	8
Helsingfors	Nov. 8, 1920 ..	9	Tokio	Nov. 29, 1921 ..	7
Lisbon	Sept. 3, 1920 ..	7	Vienna	Nov. 29, 1921 ..	7
New York Federal Reserve	June 21, 1922 ..	4	Warsaw	Sept. 1, 1922 ..	7

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	47.80-90	58.60-65
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20.43	326-329	8100-8400
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	3000-3150	400000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	308-313	125-128
Warsaw	zlotys to £1	T.T.	20.43	10200-10500	40000
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	318-323	530-570
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24.02	1400-1500	7500
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	560-580	730-750
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	430-460	770-830
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	150-170	360-370
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12.10 1/2	71-74	11.44-11.45
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	48.90-49	60.60-65
Christiania	krone to £1	T.T.	18.159	27.75-80	26.77-82
Stockholm	krone to £1	T.T.	18.159	17.15-20	16.70-73
Copenhagen	krone to £1	T.T.	18.159	21.00-10	20.75-80
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	257-262	207-209
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	65.75-65.25	142-147
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	83-83 1/2	102 1/2-102 1/2
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	21.83-88	23.44-46
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	28.58-63	28.76-79
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	53 1/2	51-64	28-3
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2-97 1/2	97 1/2-97 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2-4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2-4.86 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4.86 1/2	4.16-18	4.46-46 1/2
Buenos Ayres	pence to peso	T.T.	47.62 1/2	43 1/2-44	43 1/2-44 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	8 1/2	7 1/2
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	41 1/2-42 1/2	42 1/2-43
Valparaiso	pence to £1	90 days	13 1/2	13-20	31-50
Lima	Eng. to Per. \$1	90 days	12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	1s 4 1/2-1s 5 1/2	1s 3 1/2-1s 4 1/2
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Gold	1s 4 1/2-1s 5 1/2	1s 3 1/2-1s 4 1/2
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Sov. 1	1s 4 1/2-1s 5 1/2	1s 3 1/2-1s 4 1/2
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 8 1/2-2s 8 1/2	2s 6 1/2-2s 7 1/2
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	..	3s 7 1/2-3s 7 1/2	3s 5 1/2-3s 5 1/2
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 3 1/2-2s 3 1/2	2s 1 1/2-2s 1 1/2
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	24.58 1/2	2s 6 1/2-2s 6 1/2	2s 1 1/2-2s 1 1/2
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T.	24.06 1/2	12s 6 1/2	2s 2 1/2
Mexico	pence to do. l.	T.T.	..	13 1/2	25d-28d

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.
Call money	5 1/2 ..	4 ..	4 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..
Time money (90 days' mixed coll) ..	5 1/2 ..	4 ..	4 ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days ..	5 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..
Non-members—eligible, 90 days ..	5 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..
Ineligible, 90 days ..	5 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..
Commercial accept., 90 days ..	6 ..	4 ..	4 ..	4 ..	4 ..	4 1/2 ..

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.
London—					
50 days		3.7018	4.4650	4.445	4.4325
Cable		3.7450	4.4875	4.445	4.46
Cheques		3.7387	4.4850	4.4725	4.4675
Paris	Dollars for £1	4.8666	7.87	7.9450	7.71
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	7.65	7.5450	7.41
Switzerland ..	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	17.16	19.10	19.07
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	19.30	4.5650	4.5450	4.41
Vienna	Cents for 1 krone	20.26	0.12225	0.0925	0.063125
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19.30	13.10	15.56	15.51
Amsterdam ..	Cents for 1 guilder	40.195	31.92	39.00	39.07
Copenhagen ..	Cents for 1 kroner	26.80	17.90	21.66	21.41
Stockholm ..	Cents for 1 krona	19.30	13.65	17.42	17.18
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	19.30	12.75	26.49	26.51
Montréal	Cents for Can. \$1	49.85	5.70	3.20	2.85
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	..	98.75	99.975	99.99
Hong Kong	Cents for H. Kong \$	..	50.75	47.75	47.80
Shanghai	Cents for 1 Shng. tael	..	69.125	77.50	77.50
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee	..	28.125	29.15	29.09
Buenos Aires ..	Gold pesos for \$100	103.65	146.00	121.10	121.50
Rio de Janeiro ..	Cents for 1 milreis	32.42	12.90	13.35	13.35
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	20.60	10.50	12.75	13.50

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Buenos Aires	1000	Sight London	Aug. 26	19.60
Venezuela	25.25	"	Aug. 25	24.75
Colombia (Bogota) ..	100	"	Aug. 29	98.25
San Salvador	4.8666	"	July 22	4.60
San Salvador	9.73	"	Aug. 26	9.35
Guatemala	90.25	"	Aug. 26	263.90
Costa Rica	10.45	"	Aug. 4	19.50
Bolivia	19.20	"	July 22	15 1/2

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	Sept. 1, 1921.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	3.67	0.245	0.16
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123.45	6.75	0.4925	0.29
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88.88	6.51	0.435	0.2918
Stockholm	"	"	5.35	0.356	0.2373
Christiania	"	"	8.70	0.541	0.3656

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	June 15, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 15, 1922.
London	£1	1,138	1,158	1,138
New York	\$1	22.25	22.25	22.25
Paris	100 frs.	2,225	2,275	2,254
Brussels	100 frs.	2,075	2,125	2,100
Switzerland	100 frs.	4,825	4,925	4,900
Stockholm	100 kr.	6,600	6,700	6,625
Copenhagen	100 kr.	5,550	5,650	5,525
Christiania	100 kr.	4,350	4,450	4,400
Prague	100 kr.	487	497	493
Amsterdam	100 hfl.	9,925	9,975	9,925
Berlin	100 rmk.	78	83	76
Helsingfors	100 fmk.	541	551	577
Reval	100 mk.	76	81	76
Warsaw	100 pmk.	7	8	5

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
London on South Africa.	Buying.	Selling.
South Africa on London.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	1 1/2% prem.	1 1/2% dis.
30 days	1 1/2% prem.	1 1/2% dis.
60 days	1 1/2% prem.	1 1/2% dis.
90 days	1 1/2% prem.	1 1/2% dis.
120 days	1 1/2% prem.	1 1/2% dis.

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £10.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
Ans. tralia.	New Zealand.	Ans. tralia.
T.T.	..	..
Sight	..	..
Cable	100% par	100% par
On demand	97 1/2	97 1/2
30 days	97 1/2	97 1/2
60 days	97 1/2	97 1/2
90 days	97 1/2	97 1/2
120 days	97 1/2	97 1/2

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.
Outstanding with public*	54,01,65,000	31,93,90,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	56,89,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	88,82,90,000

* Sales were discontinued on June 6th.

India Office, August 30, 1922.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended August 30, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £6,132 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended August 30, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended August 30, 1922.
British South Africa	£ 813,104	Norway	£ 150
British West Africa	6,807	Italy	1,844
Latvia	1,322	British India	333,168
Belgium	439	Straits Settlements	3,100
Hungary	7,500	Other Countries	87
Other Countries	3,712		
Total value of imports of gold	833,491	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	338,6

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on August 31st, follows:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold has been on offer, and has 90 absorbed on account of India and the United States of America. Gold valued at \$4,280,000 has been received in New York, 358 London. Although in the middle ages Bohemia was famous for its gold mines, the working is at present restricted.

gold mine at Roudny. On an average the ore contains 10.5 grammes of gold per ton, about 80 per cent. of which is extracted. The annual output of ore and pure gold is illustrated by the following figures:—

	Output of Pure Gold.	Output of Ore.
	Kilogrammes.	Tons.
1913	325	35,994
1921	256	30,260
1922 (up to May 31st)	111.5	13,035

In spite of certain difficulties, experts predict that the mine has a promising future. At present, however, the undertaking is handicapped naturally by the high cost of production. Wages and the cost of materials necessary for working the mine have increased to such an extent that the Government has been asked for a grant in aid. (The prices of timber have increased by 1,194 per cent., benzine by 2,971 per cent., coal from 2.50 crowns to 54.50 crowns, &c.) The undertaking at present employs over 400 people.

SILVER.

The market has been quiet; support has come mostly from bears and speculative quarters connected with China. America has not been a seller, and supplies from the Continent have been scanty. Had offerings been larger, the demand—which has not been keen—would not have sufficed to hold up prices. India has been more inclined to sell than to buy. The U.S. mint report for 1921 specifies the production of silver in France for 1919 and 1920 as 12,000 ounces in each case. These figures are probably conjectural. We have heard on excellent authority that the actual output each year was about 10,000 kilos, or 321,500 ounces. It will be seen from the statistics that follow that coined silver is still flowing strongly into the Indian currency chests. Fresh record holdings are being shown each week. The amount of notes in circulation is still somewhat below the record total of 18,691 lacs on January 15, 1920. The ratio between the note circulation and metallic reserve was then 46.5 per cent., as compared with 61.2 per cent. on August 22nd last. The ratio between the note circulation and silver reserve alone on the latter mentioned date was 47.9 per cent., and therefore larger than the ratio of the whole metallic reserve on the earlier date.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	Aug. 7, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,061	18,165	18,198
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,525	8,627	8,709
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	6,519	6,521	6,473
Securities (British Government) ..	585	585	584

The silver coinage during the week ending 22nd inst. amounted to 3 lacs of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 26th inst. consisted of about 40,300,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 4,840 silver bars, as compared with 39,800,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 5,360 silver bars on the 19th inst. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 35 1/4 d the tael. Statistics for the month of August are appended:—

	Per Ounce Standard.	Per Ounce Standard.
	Cash Delivery.	Two Months' Delivery.
Highest price	35 1/4	35 1/4
Lowest	34 3/4	34 3/4
Average	34.956	34.927

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.		Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.	
		Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.			
		s	d	d	d			
Aug.	26 ..	92	2	35½	35½	Sept.	8, 1916	32½
	28 ..	92	3	35½	35½		7, 1917	49
	29 ..	92	7	35½	35½		7, 1918	49½
	29 ..	92	4	35½	35½		5, 1919	58½
	31 ..	92	2	35½	35		3, 1920	59
Sept.	1 ..	92	5	35½	35½		2, 1921	38½

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Aug. 26, 1922.			Aggregate 34 Weeks 1922.		
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	6763	64,200	124,200	188,400	1,717,300	4,401,200
Do Joint Lines	1611	15,000	35,900	37,400	399,800	3,152,700
Great Eastern (c)	1,2072	101,700	126,400	228,100	3,345,700	4,717,100
Great Northern (c)	1,050	375,000	356,000	731,000	9,870,000	12,615,000
Great Western (d)	3,657	473,000	389,000	862,000	12,820,000	14,280,000
London & N. Western (d) ..	2,633	155,100	55,400	210,500	4,529,200	1,964,900
Lon. & South-Western	968	125,471	25,388	151,459	3,430,551	968,474
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c) ..	487	1,326	1,326	3,250	40,874	62,826
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	422	32,971	3,167	36,138	1,128,364	119,420
Metropolitan (c)	729	208,000	301,000	509,000	6,090,000	10,789,000
Midland (c)	1,5854	1,968	1,491	3,459	51,163	49,131
Midland & B. W. Junc.	63	170,800	222,400	393,200	4,811,600	8,377,700
North-Eastern (c)	1,850	16	4,836	8,628	22,500	4,607,600
North London	654	176,600	47,300	234,019	1,447,700	6,055,300
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caledonian	1,097	81,300	100,100	181,400	2,460,500	3,320,100
Glasgow & S.W. (c)	476	35,000	40,000	75,000	1,081,800	1,243,800
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	334	12,800	8,240	21,120	324,170	312,000
Highland (c)	492	19,228	10,165	29,393	404,402	348,267
North British (c)	1,377	82,300	117,100	199,400	2,233,200	3,954,600
Belmont & County	..	..	..	..	..	..
Down (b)	80	6,911	1,256	7,767	182,931	45,844
Dublin & S. East. (b) ..	160	7,566	3,322	10,958	118,516	316,434
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	9,960	15,221	25,181	320,662	478,552

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended August 25, 1922.
(c) Week ended August 26, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	17 weeks	July 29	1,043	2,25,647	+ 1,46,368	33,32,753	+ 19,00,470
Bairi Lt. Ry.	18 weeks	Aug. 5	118	26,100	+ 6,500	7,35,100	+ 2,42,300
Bengal & N. Western ..	15 weeks	July 22	67	5,64,260	+ 17,194	10,87,667	+ 13,21,487
Bombay Nagpur	17 weeks	Aug. 2	2,703	10,78,000	+ 52,000	2,53,13,894	+ 22,12,308
Bombay, Bar. & C.L.	26 weeks	Aug. 26	2,871	18,09,000	+ 1,21,000	4,70,86,000	+ 52,01,000
Burma	17 weeks	Aug. 29	1,342	5,68,977	+ 33,824	1,19,17,504	+ 20,18,506
Delhi, Umballa & Kalika	20 weeks	Jan. 19	239	83,900	+ 15,837	19,94,762	+ 1,48,636
East Indian	18 weeks	Aug. 26	4,772	29,76,000	+ 1,20,000	6,13,21,000	+ 9,88,000
G. Indian Peninsula	21 weeks	Aug. 26	3,121	19,93,000	+ 1,56,000	5,52,73,700	+ 21,46,041
Madras & S. Mahr.	18 weeks	Aug. 26	3,028	12,50,000	+ 87,284	2,84,56,324	+ 21,25,252
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	16 weeks	Aug. 26	225	49,669	+ 13,161	10,66,844	+ 48,644
Do Lucknow-Breilly	22 weeks	Aug. 26	302	61,092	+ 2,765	12,85,107	+ 37,014
South Indian	18 weeks	Aug. 26	5,182	8,87,207	+ 70,312	1,74,52,640	+ 22,87,637
8thn. Punjab (month) ..	1 mth	April 30	717	6,46,972	+ 245,885	..	..
Argentine N.E.	8 weeks	Aug. 26	752	9,700	+ 2,100	86,900	+ 8,000
Argentine Trans.	8 weeks	Aug. 26	111	1,640	+ 648	10,630	+ 1,808
B. A. and Pacific	8 weeks	Aug. 26	5,428	130,000	+ 2,000	1,031,000	+ 63,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	8 weeks	Aug. 26	5,947	130,000	+ 13,000	1,141,000	+ 117,000
B. A. Western	8 weeks	Aug. 26	1,882	68,000	+ 14,000	590,000	+ 107,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	43,180	+ 6,678	547,041	+ 11,081
Central Argentine	8 weeks	Aug. 26	5,305	190,000	+ ..	1,968,000	+ 31,000
Cordoba Central	8 weeks	Aug. 26	1,205	63,500	+ 1,500	538,700	+ 22,000
Entre Rios	8 weeks	Aug. 26	611	16,800	+ 5,400	153,700	+ 33,300
Brazilian (b)							
Brazil Gt. Southern	7 mths	July 31	31	Me 45,750	+ 10,250	291,500	+ 36,400
Gt. West. of Brazil	34 weeks	Aug. 26	1,005	8,500	+ 1,900	428,400	+ 14,200
Leopoldina	34 weeks	Aug. 26	1,831	37,046	+ 1,491	948,031	+ 169,512
San Paulo	34 weeks	Aug. 26	27	163,300	+ 7,787	936,485	+ 51,533
State of Bahia, B.W.	3 mths	July 31	53	Me 86,000	+ 30,000	244,000	+ 99,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	34 weeks	Aug. 26	838	22,785	+ 6,965	690,550	+ 86,135
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	+ 500	..	..
Nitrato (2 weeks)	32 weeks	Aug. 15	366	22,166	+ 10,089	..	+ 123,267
Peruvian Corp.	1 mth	July 31	1,059	81,580	+ 1,950	..	..
Taitai	1 mth	July 31	172	(b) 12,090	+ 2,917	..	..
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$110,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,080,221
Havana Central	8 weeks	Aug. 26	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana	8 weeks	Aug. 26	1,210	9,247	+ 953	74,568	+ 15,453
Uruguay.							
Central Uruguay	8 weeks	Aug. 26	26	16,674	+ 3,249	158,219	+ 18,734
C. Urug. (East Ex.)	8 weeks	Aug. 26	311	5,224	+ 675	32,365	+ 2,347
C. Urug. (North Ex.)	8 weeks	Aug. 26	185	1,816	+ 642	17,108	+ 3,497
C. Urug. (West Ex.)	8 weeks	Aug. 26	211	1,559	+ 185	14,504	+ 1,545
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	113	5,368	+ 347	..	..
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	71	2,149	+ 714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alloy and Gandia	4 weeks	Aug. 26	33	Pe 17,050	+ 4,050	658,350	+ 121,450
Bilbao	7 mths	July 31	15	16	+ 932	7,360	+ 6,066
Bolivar	7 mths	July 31	136	7,800	+ 2,395	65,111	+ 7,211
Bolivar Nat. Ry.	7 mths	Oct. 31	86	17,240	+ 1,340	193,391	+ 5,531
Costa Rica	12 mths	June 30	189	20,832	+ 3,025	237,053	+ 36,621
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	7,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 5,000
Dorado Ropery, Ext.	7 mths	July 31	6594	7,796	+ 2,786	105,346	+ 16,612
Egyptian Delta	16 weeks	Aug. 10	104	Pe 83,927	+ 37,422	2,458,195	+ 847,458
Gt. Southern of Spain ..	32 weeks	Aug. 10	Gross	68,869	+ 167	5,411,12	+ 1,064
International of Central America.	7 mths	July 31	Net	25,676	+ 1,985	217,902	+ 17,501
La Guaira & Caracas	7 mths	July 31	253	11,650	+ 1,050	71,150	+ 1,520
Mexican Railway	7 weeks	Aug. 21	403	\$235,900	+ 50,900	1,809,600	+ 379,100
Do	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$161,600	+ 10,600	1,522,000	+ 503,200
Nasajo Oceanhamm.	6 mths	June 30	11	11,371	+ 1,933	63,974	+ 14,850
Osman B. A. Ry.	4 weeks	Aug. 19	193	5,622	+ 850	16,470	+ 43,789
Paraguay Central	47 weeks	May 27	274	Pe 21,314	+ 414,841	16,380,765	+ 4,299,939
Puerto Athens, &c.	9 mths	Feb. 28	35	4,450	+ 230	31,250	+ 1,600
Puerto Cabello, &c.	7 mths	July 31	100	3,315	+ 1,035	26,046	+ 6,552
Salvador	8 weeks	Aug. 26	100	148,368	+ 3,069	62,390	+ 12,780
Santa Fe Province	2 mths	July 31	11	11,750	+ 3,971	68,949	+ 16,646
Santiago	7 mths	July 31	119	(a) 10,941	+ 1,684	..	..
Santa and Huelva	6 mths	June 30	119	(a) 10,941	+ 1,684	..	..

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	235,653	235,395	400,430,580	+ 4,772,834	76,706,840	+ 54,852,820
Mar.	234,202	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,486	113,468,943	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May	235,333	234,931	447,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,933,555	+ 28,064,528
June	235,208	235,310	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,676

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	12 mths	June 30	Gross	+ \$101,381	1,156,513	+ 883,114
Canadian Ntn. 35 weeks	Aug. 21	Gross	\$1,058,300	+ 256,155	33,618,191	+ 7,306,828
Canadian Ntn. 7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$4,433,800	+ 798,676	30,189,794	+ 6,791,863
Canadian Pac. 33 weeks	Aug. 21	Gross	\$3,369,000	+ 125,000	100,400,000	+ 10,341,000
Canadian Pac. 7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$14,464,000	+ 1,309,000	90,759,000	+ 9,070,000
Grand Trunk. 33 weeks	Aug. 21	Net	\$1,962,000	+ 92,000	11,776,000	+ 3,228,000
Tatnoco. 1 mth	June 30	Gross	\$476,395	+ 3,206	13,100,839	+ 91,405

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	4 mths	Aug. 30	810	110,335	+ 7,822	..	..
Mid. of W. Aust.	12 mths	June 30	277	7,695	+ 204	128,074	+ 2,247
New Cape Central.	40 weeks	Aug. 5	205	1,793	+ 359	81,197	+ 613
Rhodesia Railway.	4 mths	July 31	30	150,026	+ 732	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	34 weeks	Aug. 26	329	\$79,324	+ 2,039	2,837,054	+ 144,331
Burnley Corporation ..	5 weeks	Aug. 26	12	\$3,418	+ 31	"	"
Calcutta Tramways...	34 weeks	Aug. 26	26	\$116,930	+ 24,881	"	+ 990,664
Chatham & District....	33 weeks	Aug. 21	17	\$1,834	+ 135	56,338	+ 91
Egyptian Markets	35 weeks	Aug. 21	14	\$1,446	+ 26	57,644	+ 10,507
Glasgow Corporation ..	12 weeks	Aug. 26	101	\$41,237	+ 2,057	515,199	+ 44,121
Isle of Thanet	47 weeks	Aug. 26	23	\$3,243	+ 42	50,364	+ 892
Lancashire United	34 weeks	Aug. 26	22	\$3,139	+ 574	103,021	+ 13,701
Liverpool Corporation ..	34 weeks	Aug. 26	26	\$23,761	-	993,602	+ 25,344
L.C.C. Tramways	22 weeks	Aug. 31	31	\$94,501	+ 4,762	2,945,067	+ 177,951
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	32 weeks	Aug. 27	15	\$248,305	+ 39	731,865	+ 147,499
Pernambuco Trams	34 weeks	Aug. 27	27	\$4,163	+ 896	120,423	+ 8,501
Singapore Electric	30 weeks	July 29	27	\$7,095	+ 6,132	328,222	+ 25,000

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefee.	Ordinary.				
		£	£	£	Amount.	Amount.	Rate.	£	£	%
Banks.										
Queensland National	June 30	16,959	128,819	145,778	..	99,952	12½	37,000	8,826	117,541
Breweries.										
Colchester Brewing	June 30	3,199	14,538	17,737	5,250	6,237	5	2,000	4,250	11,798
Financial, Land, &c.										
Western & Hawaiian Investment	June 30	8,028	16,966	24,994	5,445	9,680	16	5,000	4,869	..
Gas.										
Harrow and Stanmore	June 30*	7,349	8,927	16,276	1,287	6,053	6	..	8,936	5,812
Woking District	June 30*	1,470	1,573	3,043	626	1,490	5	..	927	1,257
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.										
Smedley's Hydropathic	July 31	8,230	10,145	18,375	1,125	6,250	12½†	6,000	5,000	8,052
Rubber, &c.										
Malayalam	Mar. 31	..	7,353	7,353	..	..	..	..	7,353	..
Other Companies.										
Wolsley Sheep Shearing Machine	Dec. 31	30,369	18,172	12,197	..	..	..	..	12,197	..

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

steady rates. English old ranges from 40s to 55s, New grinding 35s to 43s per 448 lbs free on rail. Imported, Californian quoted 37s to 45s, Australian chevalier 47s to 55s, Chilean brewing 45s, all per 448 lbs ex-store. No. 4 Canadian Western ex-ship 32s, landed 34s 6d, American ex-ship 48 lbs 32s, ditto landed 33s, Persian ex-ship to arrive 28s, all per 400 lbs. Maize cargoes attracted very little attention, but with adverse Argentine weather reports holders refrained from pressing, which resulted in a steady price level. Parcels were in fair request, and prices, while irregular, showed a firmer tendency. The spot demand also proved quiet, and in some instances slightly lower prices were accepted. Plate yellow 40s 3d ex-ship, 42s 6d landed, No. 2 mixed American 33s 6d ex-ship, 35s landed, No. 6 yellow African 35s ex-ship, all per 480 lbs. Oats in quiet request, and English 1s to 2s per qr lower. New English whites ruled at 25s to 28s, grey and black ditto 23s to 26s per 336 lbs, free on rail. Imported dull. Plate f.a.q. quoted 26s, ditto clipped 27s, No. 2 Canadian Western 30s 3d, No. 2 white clipped American 38 lbs 25s 6d, ditto 36 lbs 25s, British Columbian 42s, all landed per 320 lbs. Oatmeal quietly steady. London-made all cuts £18, rolled oats £18, flaked £21, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £21 to £21 10s. American all cuts £18 per ton. Beans remain quiet. English springs 56s to 63s, winters 51s to 53s per 532 lbs, free on rail. Imported: Rangoon spot 7s 3d to 7s 6d, Madagascar haricots old crop 8s to 11s, and new 13s to 14s per cwt. Chinese horse beans £10 15s to £11 15s per ton. Peas steady. English maples 70s to 80s, duns 52s to 55s, small blues 65s to 75s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Japanese spot quoted 37s, Tasmanian A grade 22s to 23s, New Zealand blue 20s to 23s, Dutch blue 21s to 27s per cwt. English rye quoted 35s to 39s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Lentils quiet. No. 1 split 22s 6d, No. 2 ditto 21s, Egyptian 20s to 21s per 100 lbs. Homeward grain chartering was of fair extent, though mainly confined to cargoes from North America. Montreal to Avonmouth September paid 2s 10d, ditto Hull 3s per qr, Continent 11½ cents to 12 cents per 100 lbs., and Mediterranean November 1st-15th 4s 3d per qr, ditto four ports Sweden/Norway 18 cents October, and Greece 21 cents September. Gulf to West Italy September 16 cents, Northern Range to Continent 11 cents, West Italy 16 cents, Greece 20 cents per 100 lbs. North Pacific quiet, and 35s per ton quoted to U.K./Continent, and 37s 6d to Mediterranean September-October. River Plate chartering was mostly at a standstill, the only fixture recorded being at 22s up-river loading to U.K./Continent September-October, less 6d to direct port U.K./Continent with Mediterranean and Adriatic options. Eastern markets quiet, but Bombay steady at 20s on deadweight home. Australia nominally unaltered, while Danube business is in abeyance pending the decision of the Roumanian Government with regard to maize exports.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21, 1919-20, and 1918-19.

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to August 26	76,230	397,128	66,174	56,359
51 weeks to August 26	16,216,226	13,274,149	10,892,955	13,135,496
Average price of English wheat per quarter	s d	s d	s d	s d
— per cwt	49 2	64 10	90 11	73 3
	11 3½	15 2	21 2	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	s d	s d	s d
Aug. 19	14,768 4	2,063 1	5,871 3	52 6	45 11	32 2
26	17,787 2	1,629 4	8,282 0	49 2	39 5	28 8
1918	2,754 1	1,856 4	5,154 5	74 8	60 1	57 11
1919	13,150 4	6,172 6	10,549 3	73 3	86 7	61 10
1920	15,440 5	7,155 2	14,416 1	90 11	78 5	55 4
1921	92,663 1	24,013 2	19,400 7	64 10	59 9	32 2

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated August 31st, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The demand for Cleveland pig-iron from America is very welcome to local ironmasters, as, this being the local holiday season, the home demand is very slack. A fair quantity has been sold for export, thus relieving makers of their stocks. Prices are inclined to be firm, and 87s 6d per ton is quoted for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. The demand for hematite is not so great, but the price of mixed numbers is still maintained at from 89s to 90s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Most of the local steelworks have restarted after the holidays, and although orders are not plentiful, a few have accumulated during the stoppage. With a free market, competition is very keen, and it is difficult to fix prices, but the following are about the general quotations:—Steel ship plates, £9; steel ship angles, £8 15s; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £8 15s net. Iron ore: No new business is reported, but the nominal price for best Rubio is still 24s 6d sellers, whilst buyers are holding off in the hope of procuring what they require at a lower figure.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The recovery of the steel trade is scarcely perceptible in several important local branches, and hopes of autumn activity are fading. Experiences of individual firms are sharply contrasted, as those producing the cheaper

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, LOMBARD STREET,
LONDON, E.C. 3,

And over 1,600 Branches in England and Wales.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:
168, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3.

The Bank issues Drafts and Letters of Credit on all the principal towns of the World; makes Mail and Telegraphic Transfers; effects Foreign Collections; establishes Documentary Credits; and generally undertakes EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS.

Agents and Correspondents in all the Principal Towns throughout the World.

steels are undoubtedly booking increased business in both the home and export markets. There is a tendency to put further blast furnaces into operation, but this is to meet the demand from America and the Continent. Basic pig sells fairly well, but there is little demand for foundry, forge and hematite sorts, the prices of which are steady, but would be shaded in some cases to effect sales. The tool steel branch is more stagnant than ever, there being practically no overseas demand, while a considerable part of home requirements are being met out of surplus war stocks. The demand for tools of some kinds is a little more brisk. Sheffield makers of steel tramway points and crossings have lost a contract worth about £18,000 in Glasgow, which was placed in America at £3,000 less. The successful contract, however, was for a cheaper kind of material than that of the Sheffield houses, who only supply the all-manganese trackwork. The transaction does not, therefore, mean that America can supply tramway steel here at a lower price than the home makers. Plate and cutlery makers have not yet discerned any signs of buying for the Christmas season, which should now be beginning. The electrical branches are booking orders fairly well. The financial resources of local firms are so strained that a sudden access of new business on a considerable scale would cause embarrassment. The coal trade is rather stronger, and some pits are advancing prices of household sorts. But qualities are abnormally dear. Steam coal is selling rather freely, and there is a considerable export business doing in this and blast furnace coke. Makers can get 22s for the latter for export, but 17s 6d at the ovens is the home price.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The business feature of the week has been the disclosure of the placing with shipbuilders on the Clyde of orders for five large steamers, two with Messrs John Brown and Co. (of Sheffield and Glasgow), two with Messrs Connell and Co., and one with Messrs Barclay, Curle and Co. With the four vessels arranged for by Messrs Lithgow and Co., Port Glasgow, it follows that the contracts for the month reach to nine boats, with probably an overall tonnage of 50,000 tons. Matters are appreciably better in the pig-iron trade, thanks, however, and only to the demand which is in force for Scotch brands from America. A number of sales have been effected since Monday, and shipments are regularly going forward. The price for Scotch No. 3 is now up to 105s per ton f.o.t. at makers' works. No. 1 is higher, how much so is not declared, being a detail of negotiation between buyers and sellers. For home business makers are asking £5 per ton for No. 1 and £4 17s 6d for No. 3 f.o.t. sellers' works. Scotch hematite idle at £5 7s 6d. For both hematite and Scotch foundry the inquiry is exceedingly light, purchases being fully 50 per cent. below the normal standard. On the pig-iron "ring" on Wednesday sellers of Scotch No. 3 were firm at 102s 6d f.a.s. Glasgow (mixed numbers). For No. 3 Middlesbro' 87s 6d f.o.b. Middlesbro' was asked; and for mixed numbers East Coast hematite 91s f.o.b. Middlesbro' was named. In the finishing departments business during the week has been slow, slacker than it has been since the month came in, and so-called official quotations for most kinds of stuff have been with difficulty upheld. Thus, boiler plates are no better than £13 10s; ship plates, £9; and sections, £8 15s. Good specifications executed at fractions off. Sheet bars and billets off a bit at £7 and £7 2s 6d respectively. Coals keep firm, and the exports are on a bigger scale than has for a while been experienced. At the various Fife and Clyde ports about seventy boats are waiting on cargoes, a large proportion being destined for the Continent.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been a lull in the local coal markets during the past week, and new business has been on a small scale. Inquiries on American account are still circulating, but a comparatively few are now materialising into orders. Apparently buyers are holding off on the present enhanced level of prices. Business is momentarily expected on Canadian account, but so far this has not been forthcoming to any material extent. Trade with the Continent, too, has declined, and France appears to be pretty well out of the market for the moment. It seems that she is buying heavily in Belgium, and that this accounts for the paucity of orders from that country. At the same time, colliery salesmen are not perturbed at the present quietude, as collieries are in not in any immediate need of orders, being fully booked up in many cases up to the end of September, and even well into October. The traffic at the docks continues very heavy, and this week additional coal-trimmers have been put on in order to cope with the situation. Fortunately, the precautions taken by the Great Western Railway Company have prevented anything in the nature of inconvenient congestion. The Customs returns for the week ending August 25th showed exports amounting to nearly 500,000 tons, but there is every indication that this week's shipments will be appreciably higher. Some excitement occurred during the week consequent upon an embargo being issued by the transport workers on the loading of the Fascist-manned Italian ship "Emanuel Accame," and the incident caused some local anxiety as to the continuance of smooth working at the docks. As a result of negotiations conducted by the local leaders, and investigations as to the personnel of the crew of the Italian ship, and the circumstances under which she arrived at Cardiff, it was arranged on Thursday that the embargo should be lifted. The vessel, by the way, has been chartered to convey South Wales coal to the United States. During the week there has been an easier tendency in regard to prices generally, with the exception of dry coals, the firmness of which is still fully maintained consequent upon their being taken in substitution for anthracite coals, which are pretty well out of the market. Of the best grades of coal, leading Monmouthshires are the weakest spot, and values have a downward tendency. Current market prices are as follows:—Best Admiralty large, 30s to 31s; seconds, 29s to 30s; best dries, 30 to 31s; black veins,

28s to 29s 6d; Western Valleys, 28s to 29s; Eastern Valleys, 26s 6d to 28s; best bunker smalls, 21s to 22s; ordinary cargo smalls, 19s to 20s; coke for export, 40s to 45s; inland blast furnace coke, 27s to 29s 6d at ovens; patent fuel, 28s to 30s; pitwood (ex ship), 32s to 33s. The tinplate market is quiet, present rates of exchange having an adverse effect as far as Continental business is concerned.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Although business in tops is being conducted more or less on hand-to-mouth lines, the market remains exceedingly firm, and quotations for merinos are moving to a still higher level. To some extent this may be regarded as a protective measure, for most topmakers are heavily sold forward, and the general impression is that merino values will again advance at the Colonial wool auctions which open in London next Monday. Some quotations to-day are frankly protective, but warp 64's tops are worth at least 4s 10d per lb, and good average 64's are quoted at 2d less. A feature of the market is the scarcity of good Cape tops, and quotations for these are now fully on a par with Australian. There is a moderate amount of business in crossbreds, and for the fine sorts quotations are firm at late rates. In some cases, however, users have lost confidence on account of the holding up of business with Germany as a result of the financial crisis, and some considerable weights of crossbred yarn originally intended for the Continent can be picked up at prices well under the market level. There is a fair inquiry for Botany and fine crossbred yarns, and spinners are advancing their quotations in sympathy with the rise in tops, but the trade as a whole is somewhat spotty. While some firms report good orders, others assert that manufacturers are inclined to hold off. The general feeling is that, with values steady on to-day's level, some good business could be done, but any further advance in quotations may check demand. The piece goods trade presents no new feature. Orders coming to hand are comparatively small, but the outlook generally is regarded as favourable. Home-grown wools are selling well, and prices remain very firm.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Next Monday another series of London sales will commence. The quantity available is 128,000 bales, the auctions being arranged to last two weeks. In view of the financial position on the Continent, there is a good deal of surmise as to what will happen to values, the whole trade being concerned to know whether the financial crisis will bring about a reaction in wool. It cannot matter a great deal whether Germany is a buyer or not, for the home trade and other sections of the Continental trade will be quite capable of lifting the wool catalogue. It is not so much a question of German buying being stopped as the effect of the slump in the mark upon the value of the franc and lire, it being well known that practically all other Continental countries besides Germany are keen to purchase the raw material. So long as the German money crisis continues, it is certain to operate adversely upon all other Continental exchanges, and a great deal will depend upon the result of the attempts to settle the reparations question, and the attitude Germany takes up in regard to paying dues and demands. So much raw material has been bought for Germany during the past two years that if that country were to drop out now, some effect would be produced upon values, and although German spinners and manufacturers have not exhausted their sterling resources, the value of the mark being so low cannot but prevent a large volume of business being done, which would have been executed under more favourable financial conditions. We may not see big operations on the part of that section of the trade, but we shall be greatly surprised if a moderate amount of buying is not done during the next fortnight in London. Under any condition we do not expect a big onslaught until the outlook clears, but Germany wants wool, and will exhaust her sterling resources in London before finally retiring, which we do not believe will be the case.

The home trade are looking forward to the forthcoming series of sales with feelings of optimism. It would suit the book of practically all buyers if, instead of an advance in merinos, as expected, there were to be a decline of 15 to 20 per cent. A rise at the present

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed - - - - - Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up - - - - - Y52,500,000
Reserve - - - - - Y11,780,000

Head Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office - - - - - 25 OLD BROAD STREET
(Gresham House), E.C.2.

BRANCHES: Amoy, Batavia, Bangkok, Bombay, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Kiukiang, Keelung, Kobe, Moji, New York, Osaka, Semarang, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c., &c., and Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

The Bank is incorporated by Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue note in Formosa, conducts general Banking Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business, and acts as Business Agents for other Banks. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

uncture is very undesirable, and we consider that on to-day's market values for fine wools, it will be impossible to lift another 1,000,000-bale clip. The forcing-down tactics adopted in June ought never to have been used, for there are good 64's tops to deliver that were sold at 4s, a price which was never justified. Starting a new season in Australia at current values must put the entire trade upon tenter-hooks. One of Yorkshire's biggest spinners emphatically stated this week that yarn business had practically stopped in merino qualities, simply because manufacturers and wholesale fabric buyers affirm that trade is being killed on account of to-day's very high prices. We see that Sir John Higgins repeats the recent statement of Sir Arthur Goldfinch that there will be an acute shortage of merinos within 12 months. If that is so, it may convince the buying public that it is high time they turned to something more reasonable in price, and quite as serviceable. While we certainly do not favour any lower prices for crossbreds, we cannot see how the world's textile trade can be re-established with merinos at a famine price. The economic position is such that no higher prices ought to be paid for merinos. Reasonable values would help to set going some thousands of looms which are still standing, because there is still such a large section of the world's population which cannot afford to buy the cheapest wool fabrics produced to-day.

LONDON COLONIAL WOOL SALES—SEPTEMBER SERIES, 1922.

The following are the approximate quantities of B.A.W.R.A. wool to be offered in London during the auctions which commence on September 4th:—

	Bales.
Australian—	
Greasy merino combing	23,000
Ditto carbonising	100
Ditto lambs	150
Scoured merino combing	500
Ditto clothing	2,200
Ditto clothing skin wool	300
Ditto carbonising	150
Greasy crossbred combing	14,300
Ditto combing skin wool	200
Ditto clothing	200
Ditto carbonising	300
Ditto lambs	1,150
Ditto carbonising lambs	950
Scoured crossbred combing	1,100
Ditto combing skin wool	1,100
Ditto clothing	1,000
Ditto clothing skin wool	400
Ditto carbonising	1,800
Ditto carbonising skin wool	150
Ditto lambs	800
Ditto carbonising lambs	150

In addition to the above, about 78,000 bales of privately owned wool will be offered during the series, say 24,000 bales Australian, 40,000 bales New Zealand, 2,000 bales Cape, and 12,000 bales South American.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 25, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.	Same Period 1920.
Sea Island	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American	Or	G	L	M	F	G	L
Brazilian	1170	1320	1450	1500	1550	1170	1320
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1170	1320	1450	1500	1550	1170	1320
Maceio, &c.	1170	1320	1450	1500	1550	1170	1320
Mossoro, &c.	1170	1320	1450	1500	1550	1170	1320
Ceara	1170	1320	1450	1500	1550	1170	1320
Maranhão, &c.	1170	1320	1450	1500	1550	1170	1320
Baía Paulo	1220	1300	1435	1480	1525	1220	1300
Egyptian	Fr.	G	F	For	Gd.	Fr.	G
Upper	1325	1400	1475	1525	1625	1325	1400
Bakellariadis	1500	1725	1800	2025	2250	1500	1725
Brown	1350	1475	1600	1675	1850	1350	1475
Peruvian	MF	Fr.	G	F	Gd.	MF	Fr.
Rough	1275	1350	1400	1450	1500	1275	1350
Moderately Rough	1305	1455	1555	1605	1705	1305	1455
Smooth	1305	1455	1555	1605	1705	1305	1455
Tangul	1150	1300	1450	1550	1650	1150	1300
Mitafi	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1200	1300
West Indian, &c.	2300	2600	2900	3000	3100	2300	2600
Do Sea Island	1025	1125	1300	1400	1500	1025	1125
African, East, &c.	1180	1230	1255	1300	1350	1180	1230
Do West	G	F	For	Gd.	F	G	F
Machine Ginned Surtee	1095	1135	1175	1215	1255	1095	1135
Machine Ginned Broach	935	985	1035	1075	1115	935	985
Machine Ginned Bhownagar	945	995	1045	1085	1125	945	995
Machine Ginned Comra, No. 1	945	995	1045	1085	1125	945	995
Machine Ginned Khandesh	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225	1065	1105
Machine Ginned Comptah	795	835	875	915	955	795	835
Machine Ginned Bengal	785	825	865	905	945	785	825
Machine Ginned Scinde	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1225	1265
Tinnivelly	1000	1040	1080	1120	1160	1000	1040
Madras, Northern	Fr.	1065	1105	1145	1185	Fr.	1065
M.G. Cocoonada, Red	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225	1065	1105
China, Smyrna, &c.	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225	1065	1105

MANCHESTER, August 13.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the past week have shown very little change. There has been a disposition in many quarters to mark time pending the official report on the American crop and developments relating to political and financial matters in Europe and the Near East. Miscellaneous sales have occurred in piece goods for India and the undercurrent of demand keeps up fairly well. Isolated transactions have occurred in grey shirtings for China, and fancies have not been altogether idle. Operations have been very restricted for Egypt and the Levant. Finishing cloths have been in moderate request for South America. There has been no activity in home trade circles. A firmer tone has prevailed in the yarn market. Spinners have obtained some relief as a result of the Oldham holidays and the extra week's stoppage of the mills. A fair turnover has taken place in American and Egyptian counts.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.—ANNUAL STATISTICS.

Details have just been received of the Egyptian cotton crop for the season ended July 31st, the growth being 5,488,025 cantars (a cantar is about 100 lbs.), against 4,876,500 cantars in the previous season, and 5,642,560 cantars in 1919-20. The largest crop ever grown was in 1913-14, the total being 7,684,172 cantars. Shipments from Alexandria during the past 12 months amounted to 749,181 bales, against 428,470 bales in the previous year and 841,707 bales in 1919-20. During last season Great Britain took 339,252 bales, against 220,223 bales in the previous year and 408,063 bales in 1919-20. Shipments to the United States during the past 12 months were 168,843 bales, against 49,722 bales in the previous season and 291,496 bales in 1919-20. The acreage last season under cotton in Egypt was 1,291,778 feddans, and for 1922-23 the area under cultivation has been estimated at 1,465,135 feddans. The new crop is reported to be doing very well, and there is a possibility of a large output.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Aug. 31, 1922.	Price, Aug. 24, 1922.	Price, Aug. 17, 1922.	Price, Aug. 10, 1922.	Price, Aug. 3, 1922.	Price, July 27, 1922.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	13.76	13.88	12.80	12.25	13.45	13.29
— Bakellariadis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	18.00	18.00	17.75	16.75	18.00	18.00
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	20.1	20.1	19.1	18.1	19.1	19.1
— 40's twist .. per lb	19.1	19.1	18.1	17.1	18.1	18.1
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28.1	28.1	27.1	26.1	27.1	27.1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	32	32	31	30	32	32
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	32	32	31	30	31	31
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	18	18	17	16	17	17
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	17	17	16	15	16	16

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Aug. 31, 1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	13.76	10.76	22.60	19.21	25.90	17.60
— Bakellariadis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	18.00	18.00	67.00	30.00	30.19	27.75
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	20.1	18	51	41	55.4	24.2
— 40's twist .. per lb	19.1	16.3	46.4	40.1	55.2	24.2
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28.1	31	90	61	66.1	43.9
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	32	31	78	65	71	62
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	32	30	66	57	69	51
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	18	18	46	34	41	18
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	17	17	37	30	35	16

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The advance reported in the Bermondsey hide market last week seems to have been a temporary flutter, as values were steady on Thursday, best ox making from 6½d to 9½d per lb. Fluctuations in other grades were unimportant, calf being slightly firmer.

GIRARD TRUST COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



Equipped to perform all kinds of fiduciary service—under appointment by courts, corporations and individuals.

Correspondence invited.

Chartered 1836.

Capital and Surplus - \$10,000,000.

Member of Federal Reserve System.

Lambs sold from 2s to 6s 9d each, and pelts from 3s 8d to 5s 6d each. Tanners are buying imported hides very sparingly, and the trade in S.A. hides is rendered difficult by the chaotic exchanges. Dry hides are wanted in the cheaper grades, as tanners are still being pressed to deliver same very low priced bonds for the "stunt" boot trade. The American hide market is reported firm, with best heavy Chicago packers quoted at 20 cents.

Whatever the reason, or reasons, there is a better tone prevailing in the Bermondsey leather market. The optimists seem to feel the trade has tided over the worst period, and this seems supported by the fact that inquiries for leather have come in much better of late. True, the actual purchases are for small quantities, but these make up quite a respectable total at the end of the week. Light bonds of 6/8 lbs are the chief want, repairers asking for weights up to 10 and 12 lbs. Tanners are fairly firm on prices, but some of them complain loudly of the low-priced rubbish which some makers of boots seem to favour.

The demand for upper stock is improving, and holders of the better classes of box and willow calf, glacé kid and chrome sides report a better inquiry. American leathers are much in request, and prices are decidedly firmer. German leather seems out of the market for the moment owing to the collapse in the exchange. Curriers are short of orders, although there seems a better demand for semi-chrome of late.

The shoe trade is slowing down after the autumn holiday demand, and more short time is reported. Schemes are being promulgated to produce a stamped "All-British Boot," made from British leather, but I fear American and Continental leathers have obtained too great a hold in our market to make any such scheme a success.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

After the sharp fall in linseed values, during which a fair business was done at the decline on crushers' account, there is a steadier feeling, though prices are still 10s to 15s per ton lower on the week, and reflect the small prompt and near demand and the uncertainty which exists as to the extent of the Argentine surplus. Arrivals at the seaboard are already in excess of the estimated total for the whole year, and a good deal of linseed is at up-country stations, and has yet to come forward. In these circumstances, coupled with the extremely poor demand for the oil product, it is not surprising that crushers are buying only from hand to mouth, and when the market is in buyers' favour. Plate linseed on passage has been bought at as low as £16 10s, with slightly more paid for August-September shipment, though values have since hardened to £17 for on passage and for shipment. New crop continues to be dealt in round £16 and £16 5s. For Calcutta to London £17 17s 6d was accepted for afloat and £18 for shipment, but current values are 10s to 15s above these figures. Black Egyptian cottonseed slumped to £10 accepted, but is slightly firmer round £10 10s (sellers), as is also Bombay, but actual trading is small.

Very little business has been done in linseed oil, the cessation of the American demand and the unsettled situation on the Continent proving very depressing factors. The inquiry in the home trade is fair, but comparatively little business has been done, notwithstanding a further decline in values, spot now offering freely at £37, and September-December at £3 10s, ex Hull mill. Raw linseed oil on spot has fallen £6 10s since August 1st and forward £5 10s, a very sharp decline in the course of a month. Cotton oils are down 50s to 60s on the week, current value of crude Egyptian being £31 10s and ordinary refined £36, whereas a better demand. Very little inquiry for crude soya bean oil is reported, and together with palm kernel oil is quiet and lower. Rape oil is very quiet, but ground nut oil is in fair request, and late value about maintained.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, September 1.

SUGAR.—Only a moderate amount of business was effected in most kinds during the week, demand being largely confined to wants of immediate necessity. Prices show a decline of 6d per cwt for refined parcels on spot. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 57s 6d to 58s 6d; crushed, 50s; granulated, 50s 6d to 51s 3d, according to quality; pulverised, 53s 3d; caster, 53s 9d to 54s 9d; yellow crystals, 45s 3d; pieces, 35s 6d to 38s 6d; fine white, 45s 6d; granulated, October, 50s 9d; November-December, 50s 3d. Crystallised West India, sold, 42s to 44s 6d, as to sample. American granulated, spot, changed hands at 49s 6d to 50s and 49s 9d; afloat parcels, 23s 1½d to 23s 3d; August-September, 23s 3d; white Java, spot, sold, 48s 10½d to 48s 6d and 48s 9d; afloat, 19s 7½d to 20s 3d, c.f. and i. terms, London. White Mauritius, spot, 47s 6d to 48s; white Brazilian, 47s to 47s 6d. Cuban, basis 96 per cent., August-September, quoted, 18s; Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., ditto, 9s 3d, both c.f. and i., U.K. Cuban stocks stand at 495,300 tons, against 1,256,700 same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s per cwt.

COFFEE.—Spot market without new feature, business proceeding quietly at mostly previous prices. Export demand is still very slow. Futures dull.

COCOA.—Market quiet, but prices regarding spot parcels show no material alteration. Forward, Accra, F/F quality, October-December, sold, 41s to 42s, ex quay terms, Liverpool, and ditto, 36s to 35s and 37s per cwt, f.o.b.

TEA.—Quantity of Indian brought to auction this week totalled 32,332 packages. Brisk competition ensued for medium to fine qualities, and previous values were easily secured; but in the case of common demand was rather quiet, and trend of prices against the

seller. 25,564 packages Ceylon aroused active support, particularly where run of quality marked an improvement, and prices were dearer, about 1d per lb on average in the case of good to fine invoices.

RICE.—Market steady, but trade moved quietly. Two stars, spot, 15s 3d to 15s 6d; August-September, 14s 6d, c.f. and i. Broken kinds quietly steady. Siam C.I., August-September, 10s 10½d, c.f. and i. Rangoon beans quiet, with small sales in spot parcels at 7s 3d, Japanese peas, spot lots, sold, 36s to 37s; September-October, 25s 6d to 27s, and 25s 6d; October-November, 26s, and December-January, 23s 3d to 25s. Madagascar butter beans, spot, old crop, quoted 8s to 10s; new, 12s to 14s.

SPICE.—Pepper market presented quiet features, with rates moving in favour of buyers. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 3½d ditto, August-October, steamer, 3½d; Aleppo, spot, quoted 4½d; Tellicherry, 4½d; white Singapore, spot, 6½d; August-October, white Muntok, spot, 6½d; August-October, 6½d; October-December, 6½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 4d; October-December, 1s 4d. Flake tapioca, spot, 28d per lb; October, steamer, 21s; fair Penang seed pearl, flour, August-October, sold, 13s 6d; October-December, 13s 6d. Desiccated coconut, spot, sold, 33s; afloat, 31s; October-December, 31s. Quiet at recent prices.

There was a fair inquiry for other growths, but other growths were not so steady. Australian copra, spot, 10s 10½d; quarter cases, 10s 10½d. The market is quiet, but other growths are not so steady. Dates quiet. Spot, 27s 6d.

WHEAT.—The market improved sharply in the early part of the week, a good many covering orders were in circulation, but later a much quieter tone prevailed, and prices gave way, closing firm. First grade, September-October, and also October-November, to usual Continental ports, were sold up to £31 10s, and later £30 10s, then £31 10s. Lightning grade in these positions at £26 10s to £28 10s, £27 10s, and £28. Hessians ruled steady. 10 oz, afloat, were dealt in at 35s 6d; 8 oz ditto quoted 25s; A twills, spot, 78s; B, sold, 65s 9d.

HEMP.—The market for Manila presented very quiet features, but prices were without material alteration as sellers were not pressing. G grade, September-November, sellers, £34 10s; H, £33 10s; J, £31 5s; K, £30 5s; L, £29 5s; M, at £28. New Zealand dull. H.P.F., September-November, £32 10s; fair, £31. African sisal, No. 1, G.E.A., August-October, £37 sellers, and B.E.A., £36. Indian quiet and featureless.

SHELLAC.—Market dull and prices tended easier. T.N., spot, 310s to 315s; October, 265s; December, 260s.

COPRA.—Market quiet, and rather unsettled at times. F.M.S. Straits, July-August, Hamburg, sold, £22 12s 6d; ditto, September-November and October-December, Rotterdam, £23, £23 5s; Ceylon, September-October, London, £24 10s to £24 6s 3d; ditto, Genoa, £23 17s 6d; South Sea Islands quoted £22 5s; Cebu, £22 5s;

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD

PRIVATBANK,

Fredriksstad.

Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21.000.000.

Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:
A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XXV.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1922.

No. 4,124

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)
BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

Capital and Reserve Fund - Kr. 112,000,000.00

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.
BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.
MESSRS. COX & CO.
LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

Capital (paid up):
Esc. 24,000,000Reserve Funds:
Esc. 27,200,000

Branches as Under.

82 offices in Portugal.
Do small towns in East and West Africa.
Do in Brazil.
Do in India and China.
Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
New York Office—93, Liberty street.
Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—27B, Throgmorton street.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up ... " 348,786,000
Reserve ... " 180,000,000
Deposits ... " 5,079,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucarest.

London Office - 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. CONSOLO.

Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	417	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	435
The Debt Problem Once	419	New Issues	436
More	419	Active Securities	437
The War After the War ..	420	Government Returns—	
Our Index Number	421	Public Income and Ex-	
Central Europe III.—Czech-		penditure	439
slovakia	422	Currency Notes Account ..	439
The Hosiery Trade	423	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
The Stock Exchange Com-		by Public Tender	440
mittee's War Work	424	Bankers' Gazette—	
Notes of the Week—		Bank of England	440
Ireland's Finances	424	Clearing Returns	440
Austria's Progress	425	Overseas Bank Returns ..	440
The Mexican Debt Settle-		Loan and Discount Rates ..	442
ment	425	Rates of Exchange	442
The "Egypt" Inquiry	426	Overseas Bank Rates	443
Cotton Trade Organisation		Indian Treasury Bills	443
American Cotton Crop	426	Bullion	443
The Outlook for Tin	427	Imports and Exports of	
Port of Para	427	Gold	443
Modder East	427	Gold and Silver Prices	444
The Dutch East Indies	428	Company News—	
Conditions in Japan	428	Dividend Announcements ..	437
Overseas Correspondence—		Mining Outputs	444
United States	428	Transvaal Gold Output	
France	429	Statistics	445
Germany	430	Reports and Notices	445
Italy	432	Railway & Tramway Traffic	446
Spain	433	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	448
Roumania	433	Commercial Reports—	
Books and Publications—		Corn Trade	447
Recent Economic Literature		Iron and Coal Trade	448
—A Month's Survey	434	Wool Trade	449
Russia Through German		Cotton Trade	450
Eyes	435	The Timber Trade	450
Books Received	435	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	450
Company Meetings	438	Hide and Leather Trades ..	451
		Overseas Produce Markets	451
		Price Current	452

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £3 18s 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."
Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at
Messrs Davies and Co., 95, Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons,
5, Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6, Fenchurch buildings, Sugar
Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15, Cullum street;
Willing and Co., Limited, 50, Copthall avenue, and 53, Finsbury
pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224, Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,
37, Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad
street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

LAST week's revenue return indicated that the Govern-
ment had borrowed £7½ millions in Ways and Means
Advances from the Bank of England in order to finance
the interest payment due on September 1st; but this
creation of new credit appears to have been a very short-
lived transaction since Thursday's Bank return showed
a decrease of nearly a million in Government securities.
In the early days of the week, owing to the scarcity of
maturing Treasury bills, and large repayments to the
Bank of England, money was far from plentiful in the

Lat. 23 10s; Dutch East Indies, £23 2s 6d. Palm kernels,
November-November, Liverpool, sold, £16 10s, and October-
December, £16 12s 6d.

RUBBER.—Market rather featureless, general trade being quiet, and
prices easier on the week. Standard plantation, spot and August,
sold, 6½d to 6½d; September, 6½d to 6½d; October, 6½d to 7d; Octo-
ber-December, 7d to 7½d; January-March, 7½d to 7½d; April-June,
7½d to 7½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 10½d; soft fine, rod; ball, 7½d
per lb.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 30s; forward, 24s 6d. Japanese peppermint oil,
spot, 6s 9d; forward, 6s 3d. Aniseed, spot, 2s 3d. Slab camphor,
spot, 3s 6d; crude, 3s 6d; and forward, 3s 4d and 2s 11d respectively.
Cassia oil, spot, 5s 6d; forward, 5s per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 85s;
forward, 75s per cwt.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market quiet, steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot,
per cwt. Albumen, spot, 3s 2d. Dried yolk, spot, 6½d per lb.

Standard market easier. Spot, net, naked, 34s 6d; September,
October-December, 33s 14d; January-April, 32s 14d.

Crude, spot, nominally 40s; refined, 44s. Cotton
seed, spot, 34s; common edible, 45s; do, do, 46s.

Egyptian, spot, 34s; common edible, 45s; do, do, 46s.
China-wood quiet. Hankow, spot, 63s; do, do, 63s.

Shipment, 63s. Coconut steady. Ceylon, spot, 43s; do, do, 43s.

September, 37s; Cocchi, ditto, quoted 43s. Japanese oil, spot,
barrels, August-September, 36s. Japan, spot, 36s.

cases, 22s. Cod steady. English, spot, 45s; do, do, 45s.

English crushed, naked, spot, 45s; do, do, 45s.

Turpentine firmer. American, spot, 95s; do, do, 95s.

September-December, 95s; January-April, 95s 9d. Rosin firmly held. American,
grade B, 14s; G, 14s 9d; H, 15s; N, 15s 6d; W, 15s 6d;

WW, 20s 6d. French, F/G, 15s; WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum
steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 4½d; and water-white,
1s 5d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market quiet and somewhat irregular. Bold
Bombay, afloat, £19. Small Bombay, ditto, £18. Calcutta, afloat,
£18; July-August, sold, £18 to £18 2s 6d; August-September, £18 5s;
September-October, sold, £18 5s. Plate afloat, £17; July-August,
£16 15s; August-September, sold, £16 15s; January-February, new
crop, £16 2s 6d. Rapeseed easier. Toria, August-September, sold,
£17; real bold Ferozepore, August-September, quoted £16 10s;
Cottonseed steadier. Egyptian black, September, quoted £10 10s;
and white sold, £9 2s 6d to £9 12s 6d. Bombay, August-September,
£8 5s, sellers. Gingly quiet. Chinese, new, October-December,
Continent, £23 5s; large Bombay, August-September, £22. Castor,
Bombay, August-September, sellers, £17 10s, to Hull. Ground nuts
easier. Coromandel, machine-dried, August-September, £19 7s 6d;
ordinary, £18 17s 6d; East African, £19; Nigerian, £21; bold
Bombay, £19 10s. Soya beans, Manchurian, August-September,
£12 10s per ton.

METALS.—Tin opened the week with a steady tone, and after a
slight downward movement subsequently became firmer on buyers

showing more interest. Cash sold at £158; September, £158 to
£158 10s; October at the same figure; November, £158 to £158 2s 6d
to £158; and three months, £158 10s to £158 to £158 15s, while
finally at £158 10s. The firm tone was maintained, and a further im-
provement registered in sympathy with higher American advices and
stimulating cables from the East, while buying orders were well in
evidence. By the middle of the week standard cash stood at £160 15s
to £160 12s 6d; September, £161 10s to £160 10s; October,
£161 to £160 12s 6d; November, £161 5s to £161; and three months,
£161 5s to £160 10s to £160 15s to £160 12s 6d. At Thursday's market
values ruled rather firmer, with a fairly good inquiry. Cash sold at
£160 5s to £160 12s 6d; and three months, £160 15s to £160 10s to
£160 5s; and finally registered at £160 15s. On Friday the tendency
was firmer, and trading resulted in cash at £160 12s 6d to £161, and
three months £161 to £160 15s to £161 2s 6d. English ingots, £161 10s.
Copper commenced the week with a firmer tendency on sellers
showing more reserve. A fairly good business transpired, however,
chiefly for forward positions. Standard, cash, sold, £62 1s 3d;
September, £62; October, £62 2s 6d to £62 5s to £62 2s 6d;
November, £62; and three months, £62 2s 6d to £62 5s. Firmness
characterised subsequent movement, due to higher advices from the
United States and covering orders for distant positions, while cash
and near maturities were also dealt in. On Wednesday, standard,
cash, ruled at £62 17s 6d to £63; September, £63; October,
£63 2s 6d; November, £62 15s to £63 5s to £63 2s 6d; and three
months, £62 17s 6d to £62 15s to £63 5s. At Thursday's market
rates were rather easier, and a large business transpired. Cash sold
at £62 12s 6d to £62 17s 6d; and three months, £62 15s to £62 12s 6d
to £63. On Friday the tendency was firmer, with a good demand.
Cash sold at £63 3s 9d, and three months £63 6s 3d to £63 7s 6d to
£63 8s 9d. Electro, £69 10s to £70 10s. Best selected, £66 to £68.
Strong sheets, £94. Wire bars, £70 10s. Lead firmer at £24 2s 6d
to £23 10s, as to position, Spelter dearer, £10 5s to £10 10s,
according to position. Antimony, ordinary, £27 to £29 10s.
Aluminium, home, £100; export £105.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—AUGUST 31.

British Beasts, per stone, of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	7 8 to 8 4	Sheep—Downs (clipped)	10 8 to 12 0
Shorthorns	7 0 8 4	Ewes (clipped)	7 0 7 8
Devons	7 10 8 6	Crossbred (clipped)	10 0 11 4
Norfolks	7 0 8 4	Scottish (clipped)	11 4 12 8
Scottish	nominal		
Irish	nominal		
Fat Cows	5 4 6 0		

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—AUGUST 31.

English Epicures	2 0 to 2 6	Sharpe's	2 9 to 3 3
" Eclipse	2 9 3 3	King Edwards	3 6 4 0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS—		INDIA RUBBER—		PROVISIONS—		SPICES—	
QOOOA—Foreign, British gross	2s 4d	Aloes, fine E.I., p. cwt	150 8	Para, fine, hard, spot	17 0	Irish creamery	192 0	SPICES—Pepper, per lb.	10 0
23s 4d foreign 28s cwt.	65	Cape, good to fine	20 0	Plantation crepe	60 0	Do factory	165 0	Singapore, fair white	0 6
Almonds, Dutch, gross	71 0	Balsam Peru	8 0	INDIGO—per lb.	10 0	Do factory	165 0	Black Singapore	0 6
Almonds, Dutch, net	69 0	Cajuput	1 6	Bengal, good red vio-	9 0	Do factory	165 0	White Siam	0 6
Almonds, Dutch, 2s 4d	71 0	Campor	1 6	let to fine	9 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 2nd	0 10
Ceylon, plantation	75 9	Japan, refined	3 5	Mid. ord. to good	7 9	Do factory	165 0	Cinnamon—1st sort.	0 11
Guayaquil	55 0	Cardamoms, Ceylon	1 6	Low to good ord.	5 6	Do factory	165 0	Do 3rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Cathu rita, China, p. lb	4 0	Madras, dry leaf, good	5 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 4th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Castor oil	85 0	Do low to ord.	1 6	Do factory	165 0	Do 5th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Gum Benjun, Sum. cwt	5 0	Kurpah, good, mid to gd.	6 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 6th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Gum Gutt. Sum. cwt	12 0	Low to mid.	3 6	Do factory	165 0	Do 7th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Olibanum	110 0	HEMP—per ton	4 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 8th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, fair to good	80 0	Manilla, "J" Grade	48 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 9th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, good	7 0	Manilla, "K" Grade	31 5	Do factory	165 0	Do 10th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	N.Z. spot, high fair	34 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 11th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	JUTE—	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 12th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Native first marks	30 15	Do factory	165 0	Do 13th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Sept./Oct. 1st grade	30 15	Do factory	165 0	Do 14th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	LEATHER—per lb.	1 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 15th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Sole Bends 6/8 lb.	1 3	Do factory	165 0	Do 16th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 10/12	1 1	Do factory	165 0	Do 17th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 12/14	1 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 18th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 14/16	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 19th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 16/18	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 20th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 18/20	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 21st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 20/22	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 22nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 22/24	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 23rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 24/26	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 24th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 26/28	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 25th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 28/30	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 26th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 30/32	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 27th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 32/34	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 28th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 34/36	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 29th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 36/38	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 30th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 38/40	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 31st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 40/42	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 32nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 42/44	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 33rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 44/46	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 34th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 46/48	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 35th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 48/50	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 36th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 50/52	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 37th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 52/54	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 38th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 54/56	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 39th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 56/58	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 40th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 58/60	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 41st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 60/62	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 42nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 62/64	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 43rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 64/66	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 44th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 66/68	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 45th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 68/70	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 46th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 70/72	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 47th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 72/74	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 48th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 74/76	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 49th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 76/78	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 50th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 78/80	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 51st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 80/82	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 52nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 82/84	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 53rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 84/86	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 54th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 86/88	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 55th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 88/90	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 56th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 90/92	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 57th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 92/94	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 58th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 94/96	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 59th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 96/98	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 60th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 98/100	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 61st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 100/102	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 62nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 102/104	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 63rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 104/106	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 64th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 106/108	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 65th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 108/110	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 66th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 110/112	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 67th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 112/114	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 68th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 114/116	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 69th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 116/118	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 70th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 118/120	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 71st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 120/122	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 72nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 122/124	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 73rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 124/126	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 74th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 126/128	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 75th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 128/130	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 76th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 130/132	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 77th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 132/134	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 78th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 134/136	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 79th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 136/138	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 80th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 138/140	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 81st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 140/142	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 82nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 142/144	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 83rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 144/146	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 84th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 146/148	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 85th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 148/150	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 86th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 150/152	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 87th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 152/154	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 88th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 154/156	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 89th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 156/158	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 90th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 158/160	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 91st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 160/162	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 92nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 162/164	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 93rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 164/166	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 94th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 166/168	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 95th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 168/170	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 96th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 170/172	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 97th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 172/174	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 98th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 174/176	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 99th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 176/178	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 100th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 178/180	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 101st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 180/182	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 102nd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 182/184	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 103rd	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 184/186	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 104th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 186/188	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 105th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 188/190	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 106th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 190/192	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 107th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 192/194	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 108th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 194/196	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 109th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 196/198	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 110th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 198/200	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 111th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 200/202	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 112th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 202/204	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 113th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 204/206	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 114th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 206/208	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 115th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 208/210	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 116th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 210/212	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 117th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 212/214	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 118th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 214/216	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 119th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 216/218	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 120th	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 218/220	2 0	Do factory	165 0	Do 121st	0 10
Guayaquil	55 0	Opuntia, mid to good	7 0	Do 220/222	2 0	Do			

market, and it had some difficulty in clearing itself of debt. On Thursday, however, when the Bank return showed a very large increase in the bankers' balances, money suddenly became much more plentiful, and bills, which had been difficult to dispose of, were in much keener demand. Yesterday, however, the demand for money was quite keen again, and the three months' rate was quoted firm at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. A good deal of stress has been laid by the French Press on the transfer of some gold from safe custody at the Bank of England to the vaults of the Bank of France. Such a movement can evidently have no effect on the exchange or on the real strength of the position of either of the banks.

	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	..

The Bank return showed a minute decrease in the stock of gold, and a decline of £1,039,000 in the circulation with a corresponding increase in the Reserve. Government securities were £910,000 lower, and Other showed a net increase of £669,000, the market's borrowings having apparently exceeded repayments. Interest payments had reduced the Public Deposits by $12\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and added $13\frac{1}{2}$ millions to Other. The circulation of currency notes was reduced by £223,000 to £293,088,200, which includes £1,566,400 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £243,371,800, or £66,616,600 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Business in the Stock Exchange has been on the dull side, and although the pre-war settlement last week was successfully carried through, the after-effect upon the gilt-edged market has been one of depression. British Government stocks are mostly lower on the week, but India stocks have been firm. French bonds have improved on buying from Paris, and Mexicans have risen on the publication of the details of the new debt scheme. Home Rails have been quiet and industrials fairly steady, while oil shares have been doing well. Interest in Kaffirs is drifting in other directions, but there have been some sharp rises in diamond shares.

COMMODITY MARKETS.

The commodity markets have been fitful during the week, probably reflecting in many cases after-holiday moods. Fully middling American raw cotton fell from 13.76d to 12.70d per lb, and in consequence buyers of yarn were inclined to adopt a waiting policy. But at the wool sales combing merinos and fine crossbreds realised about 5 per cent. above July prices, and wool of all other descriptions maintained its value. American demand for pig-iron stimulated home buyers, and prices were raised, Cleveland No. 3 G.M.B. now being quoted at 90s per ton. There are signs of improved demand for manufactured iron and steel, although many works are idle and others are only working part time. The termination of the coal strike in the United States has been followed by a fall in coal values in the Cardiff market, best Admiralty declining to 28s 6d per ton.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

However unsatisfactory in tone, the statement issued by M. Poincaré at the end of last week at least gave assurance of the French Government's adherence to the decision of the Reparation Commission agreeing to an actual, if not a formal, moratorium for Germany, and the further French request for another Conference in the near future points to the possible reconsideration of the British attitude as expressed in the Balfour note. The result has been the return of a slightly less pessimistic feeling, which has gone some way towards stopping the recent rot in Continental exchanges. For the solution of the immediate

crisis there remains only the provision by Germany of satisfactory guarantees to Belgium, and there is every probability that these will be forthcoming. The German mark has been steadier than for some time past, although the figure of 5,750 on the 1st has not been maintained, the rate having risen again to 6,375 on Tuesday, and although since then there was some recovery, it still stood yesterday at 6,000. What movements will take place in the near future it is difficult to say. A large part of the recent rise in quotation was, of course, due to panic; but in the meantime internal prices have risen very rapidly, and the scarcity of actual currency is causing notes to be issued as rapidly as possible, so that it is hardly possible even to guess at what figure a relative equilibrium in rates might be expected. The rate for forward marks remains nominal at some 200 to 600 per month. The Paris rate has been somewhat irregular, but on the week is some 30 centimes higher at 57.50. Apart from the more fundamental influences, the falling off in tourist traffic and the necessity for autumn imports are likely to make their effect felt, nor is it easy to see that the reports that the Bank of France is preparing to redeem its gold now deposited in the Bank of England are to be interpreted, as has been suggested in the French press, as a bull point. The spread between Brussels and Paris has again widened a little, the quotation having moved during the week from 60.35 to 60.85. The quotation for francs one month forward is in Paris 3 points above and in Brussels 4 points below spot, as compared with 5 points above and 3 points below respectively a week ago. Sterling in New York has moved somewhat irregularly, having on Tuesday been up to over 4.47 $\frac{1}{2}$. Since then, however, there has been a distinct downward pressure, as was only to be expected, and the rate stood yesterday at 4.46 with the likelihood of going weaker. The Italian rate has moved up rather more than 1 lira during the week to 102 $\frac{1}{2}$. Among the neutral exchanges, Amsterdam has moved rather strongly in our favour to 11.46 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the Swiss rate has also risen somewhat to about 23.50. In Scandinavia, Stockholm has remained almost stationary, while Copenhagen and Christiania have again depreciated a little. Helsingfors, on the other hand, shows a slight recovery to 207. In Central Europe the Vienna rate has steadied somewhat on the hope that assistance may come from Geneva, and now stands at 310,000. The rumours of an external loan, however, guaranteed by the chief Allies, are at least premature. Warsaw also shows distinct signs of recovery, and at 33,000 is some 5,000 points better than a week ago. Prague, after recovering from last week's sudden rise, is up again to about 132 $\frac{1}{2}$. The rate, however, is still so low as to have most serious effects on Czech industry, and complaints are growing still louder of increasing bad trade and unemployment. Belgrade this week shows a decided recovery to 350, but Bucharest is again rather worse at about 630. The Athens rate, on the collapse of the Greek armies in Asia Minor, continues to move up rapidly and is now quoted at 177, as compared with 158 a week ago. In the East the rupee rate is very slightly firmer at 1s 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d than a week ago, while the yen is also $\frac{1}{2}$ dearer at 2s 1 $\frac{1}{4}$. Silver in the earlier part of the week went higher with buying from Calcutta and little offering. Later, however, both China and the Continent were sellers, and prices came down again to much the same as last week. On balance the Hong Kong and Shanghai rates also show little change. In South America, Buenos Ayres was $\frac{1}{2}$ d cheaper at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Montevideo unchanged at 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Rio $\frac{1}{2}$ d cheaper at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, while Valparaiso at 32p was $\frac{1}{2}$ p cheaper.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 2, 1922:

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	18,139	Supply Services	12,358
Taken from Exchequer Balances ..	1,275	Interest on Debt	13,940
Increase of Debt	8,950	Sundries	1,225
	26,364		26,364

Customs yielded £2,022,000, as against £2,596,000, and Excise £1,099,000, against £925,000 for the corresponding period last year. Property and Income-tax brought in £7,100,000, as compared with £6,818,000, and Miscellaneous receipts provided £2,316,102, as against £3,695,055 a year ago.

The week's operations increased the National Debt by the sum of £8,949,499, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
Advance Bank of England ..	+ 7,500	Treasury Bills	- 2,724
Public Departments	+ 6,950	War Loan Surrenders	- 972
	+ 13,550	Surrenders	- 904
			- 4,600

The floating debt was increased by £10,805,000 to £878,738,500 during the week ended September 2nd.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to September 2, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	308,641,510	Raised by revenue ..	347,690,404
Dec. in balances	7,868,622	Net repayments	46,917,516
Total	300,772,888	Total	300,772,888

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	..	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds ..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,971	1,971
4% Funding Loan	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3½% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year Treas. Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	380	310
Do by tender 4½%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,060	882	713	69
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Natnl. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	346
War Expend. Certs.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,097	1,090	1,081	..
American Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances	1	204	435	243	205	154	200	147	166
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,668
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,718

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 27, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Sept. 2, '22.
Temporary Advances Out- standing	£ 33,000,000	£ 7,500,000	£ 7,500,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	147,301,500	158,623,500	6,050,000
Advances by Public Departments ..	148,024,000	882,219,000	712,615,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,165,979,000	882,219,000	2,745,000
Total Floating Debt	1,346,996,000	1,029,520,500	878,738,500

THE DEBT PROBLEM ONCE MORE.

We regret that M. Poincaré should have considered it necessary to issue the reply to the Balfour Note, which was published last Saturday. M. Poincaré reiterates most of the arguments which have constantly been urged in these columns in favour of a policy of cancellation of the Allied debts by Great Britain, and with the substance of his main thesis we have no complaint. But the tone of the Note and the way of presenting many of the subsidiary arguments is unfortunate and thwarts his intention. Indeed, we may doubt whether it will have any more influence in affecting the policy of the British Government and opinion in this country than the Balfour Note itself has had in moving American opinion in the direction of cancelling the British Debt. We have repeatedly urged that the case for our conditional cancellation of the European debts, while we continue to pay America, is based first on the ground that it would be a sound business proposition for this country, and second that, while the argument on grounds of equity are overwhelmingly in favour of our foregoing any claim against our European Allies, these arguments do not apply with the same force to our debt to the United States; for no amount of argument can really represent America's part in the war as being exactly on all fours with that of Great Britain. M. Poincaré puts these arguments, but in a curiously distorted form. "It cannot be forgotten," he says, "that the United States came into the war, without its existence

being directly threatened, to defend the principles which lie at the basis of civilisation—whereas Great Britain, as had France, had to safeguard not only her independence and her territory, but also the life, the property, and the means of existence of her nationals." This is an unfortunate way of drawing the distinction by a writer who is endeavouring to appeal for a high-minded and far-sighted outlook in this country, and it is unfortunate that M. Poincaré should appear to minimise the idealistic impulses which were so great a factor in uniting Great Britain in support of the war. The truth is that Great Britain could not possibly ignore the outbreak of international lawlessness which occurred in 1914 at her very door any more than a householder can be indifferent to a mob of hooligans threatening life and destroying property in his own street. But one can hardly expect people in another town some distance away, even though actuated by the same desire to see law and order observed, to feel the same necessity to intervene unless the disturbance spreads. The impulse actuating American opinion was the same as in Great Britain, but her interest was more remote. The difference is one of degree, not of kind. But the difference is so great that the distant friend who lends a hand will decide for himself how much of his resources he will contribute. But the householders in the danger zone must if necessary contribute all they possess. If we meant what we said when we spoke during the war of pooling our resources, we should deal with Allied debts on the basis of distributing the burden in proportion to ability to pay. M. Poincaré shows an almost equal lack of understanding in cumbering his Note with arguments as to the price at which goods were invoiced to one another by France and Great Britain. Such matters can have little effect on opinion in this country, and only tend to distract attention from the chief issue and create the impression that the whole matter is one of haggling over detail.

If these blemishes had been removed, the Note would have been a powerful statement of arguments which, in our opinion, are incontestable. M. Poincaré can properly point out that "no assimilation can be established between the war debts which the Allies contracted between themselves and Reparation Debts. If the Allied Governments had not afforded one another the reciprocal financial aid, out of which arose the war debts, either the war would have ended badly, or it would have lasted longer, and in any case it is the lending countries which should have made, either by their industries or by the despatching of larger effectives, the effort which the borrowing countries made in their stead.....As Lord Balfour so excellently says, the inter-Allied debts were contracted, not for the individual benefit of particular States, but for the great aim common to all, an aim which, as a whole, was attained. From a moral point of view, such a realisation would justify a cancellation of these debts. At the least, it cannot be contended that it does not give to these debts a character different from that of ordinary international debts."

It is eloquent proof of the widening breach between Great Britain and France that it should be necessary for our late allies to remind this country of such points as these. We sincerely hope that the unfortunate expressions which the Note contains will be forgotten, and that the substance of the situation, which more than ever calls for wise policy on our part, will be remembered.

A contribution towards sound thinking on these problems is made by a Committee of the British Association, which has just reported on a series of questions relating to finance, currency, and credit. In the main, this Committee of dons, financiers, and ex-civil servants add the weight of their opinion to the views that are now almost common form in this country. But they also have some comments of a less obvious kind in answer to the various questions which they have set themselves. In contrast, for example, to M. Poincaré, who observes that "in drafting the Treaty of Versailles, the victorious countries declined, for the first time in history, to demand from the defeated countries the costs of the war," the British Association Committee point out that, "If we turn back to the nearest parallels which history offers and compare the late war with the cognate balance-of-power wars against Louis XIV. and Napoleon, we find that

Louis XIV. was never left at the mercy of the Allies as Germany has been, and that in the case of Napoleon, the consummation of the war was a restoration of the French monarchy, which had then to be treated as a friendly Power." The Committee observes that the effect of a reduction of principal or interest or of cancellation to some extent depends upon whether the debt is good, bad, or doubtful. In the latter event, they think that any composition or writing-down would injure the debtor's credit as being indication of a weak financial position; and they contrast this with the cancellation of the British debt, which they suggest would have a beneficial effect on the debtor as well as on other parties. Such methods of analysis may be useful in clearing the ground, but they are hardly applicable to the Allied debts to Great Britain or America; for the cancellation of these, if ever carried out, will be done as much as a matter of justice as of business, and is, in our opinion, likely to be followed by a general improvement of credit. The Committee add a very important argument which has a practical bearing. It is pointed out that the payment of debts or indemnities necessarily involves disturbances to the natural course of industry both at the beginning and at the end of the period of payment. If after an initial dislocation the payments were suddenly stopped by cancelling the balance of the debts, "the men employed in the export trades in the debtor countries would find their occupation gone, and the same kind of thing would happen to the men in the creditor countries who had been employed by the specified purchasing power hitherto free because of the receipt of the gratuitous imports; there are certain to be effects of dislocation through the sudden disturbances of supply and demand in the home market. So much unemployment might follow on both sides that neither creditors nor debtors would be willing to wipe the slate. Where no payments have been made, the considerations point to the desirability of cancellation without delay." It is to be hoped that this sound argument will be well digested by those who are at close grips with the debts problem.

THE WAR AFTER THE WAR.

At the moment of writing, it is impossible to forecast the dimensions to which the Turkish military successes in Asia Minor will attain. His Majesty's Government (whose views are expressed in certain inspired statements that have been appearing in the Press) seem to expect the fall of Smyrna itself—a foreboding that is full of significance, coming, as it does, from a party to whom this *dénouement* would be odious, and who have not been inclined to face unpleasant facts (at any rate, in regard to the Near Eastern situation). For the Greek Army in Asia Minor the fall of Smyrna would mean the difference between an armistice and a capitulation. In the Anatolian territory which they have occupied, they possess no other port with facilities for embarking large numbers of troops at short notice, and, if they were deprived of this one possible avenue of retreat, they would be caught on the Asiatic Continent like rats in a trap. Yet even supposing that the Greek forces make a stand, and that an armistice is then arranged for the immediate evacuation of what is left of them from Asia Minor, that will not modify, in essentials, the new situation which the Turkish victories, up-to-date, have already created. Bereft of its strategical positions, munitions, transport, discipline, and, above all, of its *moral*, the Greek Army has ceased to be a military factor in Anatolia. The Turkish Army is left undisputed master of the field, and this means that the Turkish Government at Angora are masters of the political situation, and that the last pretence of Allied control has come to an end.

The realities of control in Anatolia (which fell into the lap of the Allied Governments, as a result of General Allenby's victory in the autumn of 1918) were, of course, sacrificed long ago by the Allied Governments themselves—first at the Peace Conference of Paris, when they utterly failed to agree upon any common Eastern policy, and then in May, 1919, when they sent the Greek Army to Smyrna to guard the spoils while they continued to quarrel over the division of them. By sending a Greek Army to Smyrna from overseas, they caused a new Turkish Army

to spring out of the ground, and abandoned the settlement of Anatolia (and possibly of the whole Middle East) to the blind issue of a "war-after-the-war." For more than three years now this internecine struggle in Anatolia has gone on, producing its inevitable harvest of hate, cruelty, agony, and devastation, and reacting even upon those Englishmen, Frenchmen, and Italians who have business interests in this part of the world, by paralysing their trade. All this is on the heads of the three Allied Governments, and ultimately on the heads of their respective nations, who have allowed them, through ignorance and indifference, to behave as they have done. From the moral point of view, there is nothing to choose between one Power and another. Great Britain, France, and Italy—they have all been sacrificing the unfortunate populations of Greece and Turkey to their own rivalries and ambitions. The difference in their respective policies is one not of the heart, but of the head, and here, unfortunately, our own Government has suffered discomfiture. Mr Lloyd George, like his French and Italian colleagues, has indulged in the immoral practice of playing a small Near Eastern people as a pawn in the game of British Foreign policy, but (in the teeth of his expert advisers) he has chosen the wrong colour and made the wrong moves, with the consequence that, at this moment, his pawn has been swept off the board, while the French pawn is approaching the eighth square.

The British Government have throughout adopted an almost incredible attitude, and plunged deeper, at every movement, into the morass, through a sullen determination not to admit that the path they have chosen is muddy. During the last six months, when it was obvious that the Greeks could neither destroy the Turkish Nationalists nor permanently stand between them and the Straits, our Government have twice over deliberately rejected an opportunity of coming to an understanding with Angora while the Greek army still remained in being. Last spring the Nationalist Foreign Minister, Yusuf Kemal Bey, came to London. He was received by official circles, but the conversations broke down over the freedom of the Straits. A few weeks ago, there came a second emissary from Angora—Fethi Bey, the Minister of the Interior—with conciliatory proposals, including an important concession on this vital question. Angora was now prepared for the complete demilitarisation of a zone of territory on either shore of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. But Fethi Bey did not even get so far as Yusuf Kemal. He was kept waiting on the doormat, in the outermost court of the Whitehall temple, and was informed that the necessary diplomatic ritual could only be performed by the three Powers officiating together. The excuse was insolently inadequate, for an exploration of the ground by informal discussion need not have involved any separate engagement disloyal to our Allies, nor would the latter (who had been acting independently themselves, and who would have welcomed any approachable or anxious to protest if such discussion between London and Angora had taken place. But the British Government were in a sulky mood. Fethi Bey's efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution without further bloodshed were frustrated. He left London for Paris and Rome; the Turkish offensive was launched; and His Majesty's Government, having refused to secure the freedom of the Straits by agreement with the Turks, and having now been getting the job done vicariously, have to rack their brains in order to improvise an alternative. Obviously, no alternative can be found. The Greek army has broken down; we cannot and will not send a British army to replace it; the Turkish army is therefore master of the situation; and the future status of the Straits will substantially be decided at Angora and not in London. The British Government have missed their last opportunity, and many will hold them responsible for this bout of bloodshed and destruction in Asia Minor, which would have been averted if Fethi Bey's mission had been given a chance of success.

How will Mr Lloyd George attempt to cover this egregious failure? Probably by raising a hue and cry against the "disloyalty" of France, because French statesmen

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

have played with greater decision and ability a game which he has not been too proud to play himself. If the Government adopt this expedient, it is important that the public should see through it, for it would play straight into M Poincaré's hands. If the Entente is to come to an end, nothing would suit France better than that it should be broken by Great Britain, and that over the Near East, where the two Powers are pot and kettle, instead of being broken by some lawless action of France in regard to Germany. This hole must be stopped, before the Government can slink out through it, but it is also desirable that the public should keep a close watch on the Government's policy towards the Greeks.

"Save me from my friends!" must be the feeling of the unfortunate Greeks at this moment, and indeed Mr Lloyd George has proved a worse friend to Greece than any previous British Prime Minister of either party. While professing (and probably, in his confused way, feeling) solicitude for the Greek nation and for the Christian minorities, he has exploited them and led them on to destruction. His Majesty's Government are now bound in honour to give practical proof that their solicitude is genuine, and of this there will be two "acid tests." First, in attempting to negotiate an armistice, will the Government place the real interests of Greece and the minorities before their own selfish policy? The Turks will certainly not grant an armistice except on the basis of their "National Pact," which includes the retrocession of all Eastern Thrace up to the River Maritsa. The British Government have intimated to the Press that they will not contemplate an armistice on these terms, and that the Greek troops evacuated from Asia will come in handy for maintaining the present military position on the Straits and in Europe. Such a policy, at this juncture, would be not only selfish but ineffective. It would place the Greeks and the minorities, who need an armistice at any price, between the devil and the deep sea, for the Turks on their side would never consent to it. The public must remember that the Turks thoroughly distrust our Government, with the same good reason with which the Greeks distrust Italy and France. The Turks did not fail to notice how, "on grounds of humanity," we saved the remnants of Denikin's army from the Bolsheviks and evacuated it to the Crimea, whence it afterwards emerged as a military force again under General Wrangel. That is not a move that any Government can play twice over.

The second test will be whether our Government are willing to give Greece that compensation for the losses in which they have involved her, that lies to their hand, namely, the union of the Greek island of Cyprus with the Greek national State. Four-fifths of the Cypriots are Greek-speaking Christians, who have unmistakably demonstrated their desire to be united politically with their kinsmen. Our original occupation of the island rested on a shady transaction with Turkey, every article of which is now obsolete. The annexation of Cyprus in 1914 was an act of war, the confirmation of this in the peace settlement a defiance of that principle of self-determination, to which we have expressed such devotion in Europe and

Asia Minor. If "Ionia" and Thrace are restored to Turkey without Cyprus being united to Greece, not only the British Government but the British nation will be put to shame. The public must rouse itself from its indifference towards the Near East to a sufficient extent to defend its honour, if not to control in other respects the policy of the Government, in which, after all, important national interests are concerned.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

AFTER being practically stationary for two months, our Index Number has dropped substantially in August, the total falling by 139 points to 4257. This figure is actually two points lower than was recorded at the end of February, hitherto the lowest point reached since the end of the war. The August decline is principally due to substantial falls in the prices of primary foodstuffs, which are not unusual at this season of the year, while minerals have also registered a further reduction. The table below shows the movements of the five groups since the beginning of the year:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Timber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	Percentage Change.
Basis (avg. 1901-5)...	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914....	579	352	618	464	553	2566	116.6
" Dec., 1915....	897	446	731	711	848	3634	165.1
" Dec., 1917....	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5845	263.2
" Nov., 1918....	1289	782	1848	903	1389	6212	282.6
" Dec., 1918....	1303	782	1805	866	1337	6094	277.0
" Dec., 1919....	1441	881	2442	1145	1453	7364	334.7
" Mar., 1920....	1508	914	2974	1246	1709	8352	379.6
" Dec., 1920....	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
" Dec., 1921....	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
" Jan., 1922....	907	654	1066	730	925	4284	194.7
" Feb., 1922....	948	640	1037	696	936	4259	193.6
" Mar., 1922....	980	687	1038	700	892	4297	195.3
" April, 1922....	1008	667	1010	709	890	4285	194.8
" May, 1922....	1040	657	1079	710	885	4372	198.7
" June, 1922....	1000	676	1135	690	887	4389	199.5
" July, 1922....	994	669	1120	712	900	4396	199.8
" Aug., 1922....	880	674	1123	691	887	4257	193.5

Wheat and oats are very largely responsible for the drop in the first group, which has also been assisted by a heavy seasonal decline in potatoes. There has been a reduction in flour after a slight rise in July, and beef and mutton are lower, but pork has risen. In the second group the principal change was an advance in tea, there having been good competition at the auctions. Coffee has fallen, but butter after last month's relapse has rallied a little.

In the textile group fluctuations were far smaller than usual, there being no changes beyond small increases in cotton and cotton manufactures, and a decline in jute. The small advance in American cotton is to be traced to

the slightly poorer showing of the second crop report of the Census Bureau. So far as cloth is concerned, Messrs Robt. Barbour and Brother, Limited, write that—

For all practical purposes India has been almost the sole contributor to the month's turnover. Calcutta has been actively engaged in attempting to place lines of Grey Shirtings, Dhooties, Mulls, and Jaconets, but offers, for the most part, have proved too low for acceptance, and much cabling and counter-cabling have transpired in consequence. Bombay, Karachi, and Madras have all been nibbling, but nothing of any consequence has found its way into the order books. Cheaper cotton would probably make all the difference, for there is a limit to India's capacity to pay, and the present high level of prices must be perilously near it, whilst any further advance would most likely bring things to a dead stop.

Further reductions in steel rails and iron bars and a fall in lead account for the bulk of the reduction in the minerals section, while a reaction in oilseeds, by which the July advance is wiped out, is the only change of importance in the miscellaneous section. Below we set out the month's changes of each commodity's index number as compared with the level at the end of July, the figure 50 in each case representing the average price during the base period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	86	- 18	Cotton A.	125	+ 5	Copper	53	- 3
English	77½	- 18	Cotton E.	124	+ 3	Minerals	691½	- 21
Flour	80	- 11	Yarn	122½	+ 1½			
Barley	80	- 24	Cloth	130½	+ 1½			
Oats	73	- 24	Wool, Eng.	113	..	Baltic timber	105	+ 1½
Potatoes	50	- 31	Aus. Wool	97½	..	Amer. timber	128	+ 2½
Rice	110	- 2	Silk	132	..	Leather	137	..
Beef	97	- 9	Flax	132	..	Petroleum	77½	..
Mutton	101½	- 10	Hemp	44½	- 6	Oilseed	72½	- 12½
Pork	125½	+ 12½	Jute	102½	- 6	Tallow	69½	- 4
Cereals & Meat	880½	- 114	Textiles	1,123½	+ 3½	Indigo	127	..
Tea	108	+ 8	Pig-iron	94	- 6	Crystals	125	..
Coffee	89½	- 4½	Steel rails	84½	- 7½	Rubber	11	..
Sugar cane	156	- 1	Iron bars	84½	- 7½	Miscellaneous	887½	- 12½
Sugar beet	106	- 1	Coal, steam	125	..			
Butter	98	+ 2½	House coal	97	..	Total	4,237	- 139
Tobacco	116½	..	Lead	102	- 6			
			Tin	65	+ ½			
Other foods	674	+ 5						

As a result of these changes, the increase in the total index number as compared with the pre-war level has dropped from 71 per cent. to 66 per cent., as may be seen from the figures below, which also trace the movement of each group:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	236
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287
March, 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325
June, 1920	261	263	415	278	281	305
Dec., 1920	233	229	209	261	230	231
June, 1921	203	188	158	210	185	188
Dec., 1921	159	180	180	164	168	170
Jan., 1922	157	186	173	158	167	167
Feb., 1922	164	182	168	150	169	166
March, 1922	169	195	168	151	161	167
April, 1922	174	189	164	152	160	167
May, 1922	180	186	175	153	159	170
June, 1922	174	192	184	149	160	171
July, 1922	172	190	181	153	163	171
Aug., 1922	153	192	183	149	160	166

The minerals group has fallen back to the end of June figure, and remains the nearest to the pre-war level, while cereals and meat are not much higher. Subsidiary food and textiles are still further above the average than they were a month ago.

We conclude with a table showing the percentage as changes in indices of wholesale prices of commodities as compared with the pre-war level for several important foreign countries:—

	United States.	France.	Italy.	Germany.	Switzerland.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Japan.
Nov., 1918	205	358	438	..	325	366	292	214
Highest, 1920	227	591	679	..	(Jan.)	366	403	322
End 1921	123	326	594	3,585	176	172	178	209
End Jan., 1922	124	307	562	4,888	171	170	177	206
Feb., 1922	126	314	577	3,955	170	166	182	205
Mar., 1922	125	308	534	5,899	163	165	177	197
Apr., 1922	127	315	527	6,572	160	164	179	194
May, 1922	129	318	524	7,841*	161	164	180	197
June, 1922	131	326	537	13,935*	..	..	..	201
July, 1922	131	326	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Altered to include 16 finished industrial products.

There was practically no change in the United States and France in July, but Japan shows an increase, while there has been an enormous rise in the figure for Germany.

CENTRAL EUROPE III.—CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE rapid rise of the Czech crown in the last two months has made many Czechoslovak hearts fill with pride and satisfaction, but has, nonetheless, made conditions very difficult in this essentially exporting country. The causes of the rise may be briefly summarised:—(1) The export figures for the early part of the year show a very considerable advance in most articles, as compared with 1921. This was particularly noticeable in the month of May. (2) Imports have fallen off as compared with the same period. (3) The catastrophic fall of the mark resulted in an increased demand for sound currency, and this was intensified by German purchases for reparations purposes. (4) The Czech Government is in possession of dollars and sterling as a result of the recent loan, and is determined not to buy goods in England and America, but to spend the money directly in the Czechoslovak republic. This rise in the national currency can hardly appear, therefore, as an unmixed blessing to the Minister of Finance.

The rapid appreciation from about 230 = £1 to somewhere near 150 has quite naturally given the Czech manufacturers something to think about. Unemployment, or, rather, short time, has become general, and attempts are being made to readjust costs of production to the new level of the crown. But it is hoped in some circles that manufacturers will now give more attention to efficiency—a quality somewhat rare in minds trained in the atmosphere of a Polizeistaat such as was the old Austria. Thus the abandonment of the sugar cartel may lead to greater care being taken in respect to the quality of the product itself. White dust at a high price can no longer be passed off on the international market as in the good old days of 1919. Almost everybody pays lip service to the ideal of stability, but vague references to "the natural level" and suchlike phrases seem to imply that national prestige is associated in the minds of most people with a high rate of exchange. A general readjustment of prices has now become necessary, and it may be interesting to observe that one of the reasons given for maintaining the salaries of officials at a low level was that a future rise in the exchange would lend a different complexion to the whole question.

The more interesting question is whether the present higher level can be maintained. It is true that about half the country's debt is held abroad, and that this, in the long run, will not be affected by the level of the crown. It is also true that the finances of the country are essentially sound. Indeed, the need for high taxation was somewhat exaggerated in the period immediately following the war, with the very gratifying result that a reduction in taxation may confidently be predicted in the next Budget. And in this connection the wisdom of the policy initiated by Dr. Rasin becomes abundantly clear when we compare the financial position of Czechoslovakia with that of its neighbours. In Hungary, for instance, at long last, it seems that a really energetic system of taxation is about to be introduced by Finance Minister Kallay. But it would have been on the whole easier to make people make sacrifices in the interest of national rehabilitation in 1919 and 1920 than it is to-day.

In any case, the Czechs, unlike some of their neighbours, have something of the German capacity for work, and, given a greater degree of efficiency in industrial leadership, and a desire—which probably exists in labour circles—for a peaceful readjustment of wage rates, this present crisis may be overcome, and even lead the way to more stable conditions of economic life.

At the same time, Czech efficiency reminds one somewhat of the old Austria. The bureaucratic tradition seems to belong to the birthright of the new Republic, and hardly makes for the maximum development of national resources. Officialdom needs restraining, unless a new "Polizeistaat" is to take the place of the old. Dr Rasin's insistence on the need for Government undertakings to be administered on the lines of efficient private exploitation

seems to be well placed. Incidentally, however, as the tobacco monopoly and the railways show, much has already been accomplished in this direction since the Armistice.

National hatred seems to be encouraged in some circles in order to take the mind of the "man in the street" off social antipathies. It is, at any rate, certain that in the world of "high finance," at least, Czechs and Germans co-operate on the best of terms. Finally, one cannot help being struck by the almost universal belief amongst the Czechs in the future of their country, and this feature, combined with the will to work, affords a strange contrast to the observer who comes to Prague from Vienna.

THE HOSIERY TRADE.

(BY A LEICESTER CORRESPONDENT.)

THE unemployment returns compiled by the Ministry of Labour furnish ample testimony to the activity of the hosiery industry. For a considerable time now the monthly percentage figure has been the lowest of all the industries scheduled, and at the beginning of last month only 1.7 per cent. of the 82,000 workers registered as belonging to the industry were reported to be totally unemployed, and only .3 per cent. were reported as on systematic short time. Consequently, with the bonus on the sliding scale in accordance with the index figure of the cost of living restored to 9d in the 1s (which, in view of advances given in many departments during the war, represents considerably more than 75 per cent. increase on pre-war earnings) operatives have reason to be well satisfied with their position.

On the other hand, while manufacturers are gratified to see the results of their policy in meeting the abnormal conditions attendant upon the general slump in trade, they complain that their rate of profit has not as yet reached the level of 1913, which was by no means unduly high. The industry, indeed, is to be congratulated upon the manner in which it has weathered the storm. There have been very few derelicts, and though there may still be a few outstanding differences on contracts with spinners to settle, the rapid and sustained revival of trade should enable most firms to enter smoother waters and steer clear of the difficulties which still beset their course.

It is true that in the fancy section of the trade there has been a noticeable falling off in demand, due to the unseasonable weather we have experienced; but this branch has enjoyed a lengthy run of good business, and can be relied upon to provide novelties which will fill in gaps in the order books.

The output in fabric costumes increases steadily, and this comparatively new outlet for the energies of the industry has not been exploited to anything like its fullest extent.

The sale of children's socks, for the production of which in very large quantities a few leading firms are mainly responsible, continues uninterrupted, and in the hose and half-hose departments the welcome improvement which set in about three months ago is well maintained. The supply of good brands of artificial silk hose has been hardly equal to the demand, notwithstanding the inclement weather, and makers of these goods will be fully occupied till the end of September at least.

The heavy underwear section of the trade has at last come into its own, and order books are well filled. In all probability, however, many buyers will suffer disappointment over deliveries, owing to their failure to place their orders earlier in the year, which has been their custom. Several factors may have contributed to this unfortunate departure from precedent. First of all, there was uncertainty as to the quantity and prices of German goods which might be dumped on the home market. Then rumours were rife as to the amount of surplus Government stocks in the hands of the Disposals Board. These

rumours, however, have been effectually met by an assurance from Sir Maurice Levy that surplus Government stocks have been practically absorbed. The policy may also have been dictated by fears existing at the time when orders should have been placed as to the financial situation likely to obtain when the goods fell due for payment, or more probably by the hope that prices would go in favour of buyers if orders were withheld. If this hope was entertained, it has not been, nor is it likely to be, realised, and, as indicated, buyers are likely to suffer for their temerity, for manufacturers were not to be cajoled into making for stock simply on assurances that the goods would be wanted.

It is in this section of the trade that the only cloud on the industrial horizon has arisen. For some time now an endeavour has been made to carry out a decision of the Industrial Council that new wage lists should be prepared for the various districts. In some districts considerable progress has been reported, but Leicester and Leicestershire have done very little in that direction. The union submitted a revised price list for the Leicestershire country districts, where most of the underwear is made on Cottons Patent machines, but this called for advances which manufacturers could not see their way to grant. In return the latter submitted a list which they claimed removed most of the anomalies to which exception could be taken, and put all the country firms on the same level. The manufacturers' suggestions were not acceptable to the operatives, who considered that the prices they were receiving called for considerable advances. A deadlock seemed to have been reached, the manufacturers contending they had never agreed to consider the question of advances, and pointing out that goods made on Cottons Patent machines were meeting with serious competition from fashioned goods made from circular web fabric. It is hoped that the two parties will come together and arrive at an amicable settlement, but the situation is a delicate one, calling for the exercise of a great deal of patience and forbearance on both sides. Much capital is locked up in the district concerned in Cottons Patent frames, and notwithstanding the low rate of unemployment in the industry many of these costly machines are to-day standing idle. *Ex. facie*, therefore, it looks as though any attempt to increase the wages of operatives on these particular machines would, if successful, in the long run react to the detriment of the operatives themselves, as the manufacturers contend that it is only by keeping their cost of production down they can keep these machines going and provide work for the country districts. The result of a round table conference which is in course of arrangement is awaited with much interest by the trade generally.

Reports on overseas trade are encouraging, orders are coming to hand much more freely, while inquiries have increased to an extent sufficient to inspire the hope that ere long normal activities with the majority of our principal markets abroad will be resumed.

Naturally, the fate of the application of the fabric glove manufacturers under the Safeguarding of Industries Act aroused considerable interest in the trade. The general opinion seemed to be that the treatment accorded to the recommendation of the Committee set up to hear the application furnishes an illuminating example of the manner in which industry is treated as the shuttlecock of politics. In view of the fact that practically no new evidence was adduced, it was felt in hosiery circles that the Committee could not very well amend its recommendation without stultifying itself, but what surprises hosiery manufacturers more than anything else is the inference which Lancashire spinners and trade unionist officials would have the man in the street draw from their statements. To read the evidence of some of these gentlemen one would come to the conclusion that the fate of the whole of Lancashire's great industry is involved in the decision. It is known that this is far from being the case, and that the opposition was engineered mainly by merchants who can see more profit out of handling German gloves than in assisting to find a fellow-countryman work, and who, realising that the Committee appreciated their opposition at its real value, as a last resort, sought to strengthen their case by appealing to the well-known political leanings of Lancashire.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE COMMITTEE'S WAR WORK.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

TWELVE months after the official conclusion of peace, the Stock Exchange decks being finally clear of pre-war wreckage, it is appropriate to review part of the work that went on at home while land, air, and water forces were pressing the war to its final victorious conclusion. The Stock Exchange was ill-prepared for a crisis. A long period of previous depression had served to build up a stale and rather shaky bull account. The failure of the King to prevent the Irish rupture had filled men's minds with foreboding; business in stocks and shares fell away to a minimum. Big firms in the House were known to be embarrassed. The hammer fell several times during the week previous to the declaration of war, but the worst was known to be in store. The Committee met hastily on the morning of Friday, July 31st, and members found the Stock Exchange closed as they came to town at ten o'clock. The New York Stock Exchange promptly followed suit. From that date until the House reopened five months later, the Committee sat nearly every business day; sometimes two and three times a day, dealing patiently with the shoals of questions that arose, and legislating with a wisdom which subsequent events fully justified. The first important decision was that of fixing minimum prices. The next was the carrying-through of a partial settlement in November, 1914. Both steps aroused strenuous opposition, outside the House as well as from members. Yet the result brought nothing but good. While the difficult settlement was in course, the Stock Exchange Committee were engaged in long and weary negotiations with the Treasury and the banks in connection with the re-opening of the House. Nobody imagined in those days that the war would last four years and more. Fresh rules and regulations were all framed on the assumption that they would prove as temporary as their name implied. When the House re-opened, a bitter cry arose that the Committee had sold the Stock Exchange into the hands of the Treasury for the sake of a shelter over members' heads; so onerous appeared the terms upon which the Government consented to allow a phantom freedom of dealing to be restarted. In spite of the ring drawn around facilities, however, the Stock Exchange Committee were constantly consulted by the Treasury for the devising of ways and means in order to defeat the efforts of friendly neutrals to sell, in this country, enemy-held stocks and shares. In their spare time the Committee fought, up to the House of Lords, their contention that they had the right to re-elect, or not, any members whom they chose, and the Committee won their case in every Court.

Various departments of the State came to the Committee for aid in clerical work connected with National statistics; for months the Settling Rooms beneath the House were filled with members, every night, who made out thousands of forms—of which one whole batch turned out to be useless, owing to some departmental error in printing the particulars. The Committee took an active part in urging the mobilisation of securities when the latter were required for collateral against obligations contracted abroad. At home everything was done to assist the national weal by holding the delicate balance between the really indispensable, and the man who could be spared. The Stock Exchange Military Tribunal won its good name by strict impartiality and fair dealing; Lord Derby came, at the Committee's invitation, and addressed the House in a strong and businesslike speech, upon the chief points of his recruiting policy. Hardly a week passed without the Committee having to meet some new point in connection with the system of cash dealings; each point was faithfully faced, and, where occasion demanded, was dealt with by rule or resolution. As the weary war went on, the Committee bent their energies towards securing some relief for members through the mitigation, or entire removal, of business restrictions that experience proved to be unnecessary. The prohibition of contangoes, options and other speculative facilities turned out to be salutary in unexpected ways. It raised the credit of the Stock Exchange. It won new confidence from the public. It banished fortnightly alarms. The "hammer" was super-

seded by a milder "liquidation" which, in its early days, received every help from the Committee in averting failure and softening unmerited hardship.

As the House began to press for a return to normal conditions after the war, the Stock Exchange Committee took one census, in November, 1921, and another in January this year, of stock still open on pre-war account. The statistics thus obtained were considered encouraging enough to justify permission being given to begin dealing, in May last, for the fortnightly settlement once more. Provincial stock exchanges, relations with whom were sorely strained when war broke out, fell readily into line with the mother Stock Exchange, which had guided the exchanges skilfully and sagaciously across the quicksands of debt to the firm ground of public respect. Cordial relations had been established with the Treasury and with the banks. Mr Austen Chamberlain and Sir Robert Horne were two of the war-time Chancellors of the Exchequer who dined, in the Stock Exchange, with Committee and managers. Only last month the Bank of England presented the House with a magnificent piece of plate in remembrance of the close association between them, and of the assistance rendered by the Stock Exchange to the Bank during the war. The Stock Exchange Committee have been one of the best-abused body of men in the City of London; it is but fair to place upon a printed record, necessarily brief and incomplete, some of the multifarious labours which engaged their unceasing attention during the war. By reason of their legislation, there was not a single hour of panic throughout the period. Public welfare has been scrupulously consulted and protected. The Stock Exchange has emerged from the frightening shadow of the war and the pre-war account, with its credit higher than it has stood for half a century or more, a state of affairs for which the House has to thank, above all, the 30 men who form its unpaid Committee.

Notes of the Week.

Ireland's Finances.—Thanks to the attentions of the Military Censor, our Irish correspondent's articles have been much delayed. Writing last week, our Dublin correspondent, after a reference to the solemn pageant at the public funeral of Mr. Michael Collins, says that the feeling of apprehension, particularly on the economic aspect of the situation—the gradual development of which has been indicated more than once in the *Economist*—is now finding open expression, and the public is being brought to a more vivid realisation that something like national bankruptcy has been wafted over the horizon into full view by the cyclonic blasts of fanatical folly and partricial hatred which Messrs. Childers and de Valera have let loose. The morning Press is warning its readers in emphatic terms of the financial burdens which are being hung round Ireland's neck by the wanton destruction of wealth and of the machinery of production and distribution. There are no definitely-ascertained figures, or even approximately-ascertained figures, as to the damage already done, but it is unquestionably enormous; and it is entailing a great deal of unemployment. This, in turn, tends towards an increase of disorder and brigandage. The question arises whether Messrs. Childers and de Valera are merely trying to blackmail Ireland into agreeing with them, or whether, in themselves become converted to his principles and aim as a prelude to the building up of the polity of their own Ministry of Finance, receipts into the Irish Exchequer for the period April 1, 1922, to August 26, 1922, amounted to £10,487,076, and issued thereout to £6,903,308—leaving a balance of £3,583,768—on the latter date. Inquiry figures are prepared on the basis of the old system, and of moneys actually collected without any of the adjustments with which students of the White Papers were familiar. Thus, there may be considerable debit and credit

items before the *true* revenue can be ascertained as distinguished from the *true* revenue of Great Britain. In addition, there will have to be also a corresponding adjustment in reference to the Six Counties of North-East Ulster—and in this connection the Joint Exchequer Board established under the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 will presumably have to function until, at any rate, the new political and fiscal systems come into complete operation. The figures now furnished show that the Provisional Government is paying its way and has sufficient funds to carry on with, but they are not a safe basis for comparison or inference as to the past, the present, or the future. In the meantime, the meeting of the new Dail Eireann has been postponed again until September 9th, and the Irish Labour Party, having threatened action by way of protest if the meeting were postponed beyond August 26th, is considering its plans. Its extreme wing is almost avowedly in sympathy with the rebel irregulars and demands a Workers' Republic. Mr. Cathal O'Shannon, the Chairman of the Recent Trades' Union Congress, in Dublin, commented severely on the action of the Provisional Government and described as an illegitimate attempt to induce citizens "to sign away their personal liberties" its action in requiring captured rebels, as a condition of their release, to sign an undertaking not to take up arms against the Free State. The more moderate and more ably led section of Labour professes to view the struggle between the Provisional Government and the rebel irregulars in the spirit of "a plague on both your houses." This expresses and symbolises its policy of seeking to stand astride of the saw between the two and to control their oscillations for the aggrandisement of its own interests and importance.

Austria's Progress.—With the financial position of Austria on the agenda paper of the League of Nations Conference at Geneva, a report on the Economic and Commercial Situation of Austria to July, 1922,* by Mr O. S. Philippotts, Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Vienna, makes an apt appearance. The writer states that during the last twelve months considerable progress has been made towards a normal economic life, the contrast between the sad state of the public finances and the currency and the improvement in the condition of most of the population being still more marked than in previous years since the breakdown. Despite the slump in exports, statistics are produced to show that on the whole Austrian industries are producing about 60 per cent. of their capacity, an improvement of 10 per cent. over 1921. The food, and consequently the health of the population, has shown a marked improvement, and 1921 is the first year since the war when the births exceeded deaths, chiefly owing to the fall in the death-rate. There is also a large increase in foreign trade. "Force of habit and old connections, good communications and a central position, the attraction of a beautiful and pleasure-loving city, a widely known language, and the necessity of a commercial centre for this much-divided part of Europe, have all had a share in bringing this about, and have proved more potent than national antipathies and even the handicap of the fluctuating exchange." British exports to Austria considerably exceed those to Czechoslovakia and Yugo-Slavia as well as Hungary, although the two former States are much more populous and richer than Austria. It is calculated that the value of British products imported per 1,000 of the population into Austria is £297, as compared with £97 into Czechoslovakia, £86 into Yugo-Slavia, and £40 into Hungary. The industrial position is, of course, still very far from satisfactory, as the improvement in the majority of the people is not only a result of increased production, but is partly at the expense of the capital of a minority, including many of the aged, the widows and orphans. Nevertheless there has been an advance on the whole, particularly in the material aspect of the situation as contrasted with the political and psychological. There is still a gap between production and consumption, but they are at least on converging lines. In answer to the fundamental question, "Can Austria live?" Mr Philippotts is of opinion that it can "if it is given and gives itself a chance," and that

* Stationery Office. 1s 6d net.

from the material point of view the economic existence of Austria as an independent State is possible. But the problem of Austria is not only economic, it is largely a political and psychological one, because part of the population has to adapt itself to new conditions, has to content itself for the time with a lower standard of life and find new work, and above all the Austrians have themselves to acquire confidence in the future of their country. The upper and middle classes, and, indeed, all but those actually earning weekly wages or enjoying the profits of successful speculation, have already been compelled to reduce their standard of life, often indeed to the level of extreme penury. Vienna must live largely by international finance and commerce, and freedom from excessive interference and taxation is an absolute necessity for these, otherwise they go elsewhere. In agriculture, too, the all-important side of the production of wealth has been sacrificed to the supposed political exigencies of its distribution. A revival in agriculture is Austria's most urgent need, probably the migration of some of the superfluous population of Vienna to the country which has begun, will have to go somewhat further until a balance is reached. The psychological difficulty is the prevalent pessimism which inhibits initiative on the parts of the Austrians themselves and makes them look solely abroad for salvation. "The amount of foreign credits generally estimated to be necessary to place Austria on its feet again by stabilising the currency and founding a new bank of issue is about £10,000,000. It is an open secret that, despite the law to the contrary, very much larger sums in foreign currencies than this are hoarded by Austrians, both inside and outside the country; the amount lying in Swiss banks alone has been estimated at £18,000,000. But these resources lie idle because the owners have no confidence in the Government or the future of the country." There seems no reason to doubt that Vienna will continue to expand its commerce and remain the great trading and financial centre of this part of Europe. British traders, therefore, should not be deterred by the vagaries of the exchange from cultivating a market which affords the key to trade with so large an area.

The Mexican Debt Settlement.—Further details of the Agreement arrived at in June between the Mexican Secretary of the Treasury and the representatives of the International Bankers' Committee have reached London, and were fully summarised in the morning papers of Tuesday last. The settlement covers 28 loans and issues, or groups of issues, of bonds or secured notes, including four External and two Internal loans, the Mexico City Sterling Loan of 1889, the Irrigation bonds (Caja de Prestamos), five State loans, a number of bonds and secured notes of the National Railways of Mexico and the companies absorbed by it, and two bond issues of the Tehuantepec National Railways, now owned by the State. The total debt amounts to a milliard of pesos, or about £100 millions, and the arrears of interest to about 400 million pesos, or about £40 millions. As was stated in June, the funds for the payment of current interest are to be provided by the whole proceeds of the oil export tax imposed last year, together with 10 per cent. of the gross revenues of the National Railways of Mexico, and their entire net revenues; the Government undertakes to furnish at least 30 million pesos for 1923, and an additional five million pesos in each of the following four years, so that in 1927 the interest fund will be 50 million pesos, or £5,000,000. After 1927 the cash service on all the obligations included in the settlement is to be resumed in full. The cash payments during 1923 will be from 50 to 100 per cent. of the interest on the external loans and the secured Railway Notes, 25 per cent. on the Internal 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. bonds, 50 per cent. on the State bonds, and from 50 to 65 per cent. on the other railway loans. In 1926 the funds should permit of the full cash payment of interest on all the bonds scheduled, except the 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. Internal Loans and the State bonds. Interest not paid in cash will be paid in scrip or certificates maturing in 1943, but redeemable before that date at 105 and accrued interest, or by purchase, and bearing 3 per cent. interest annually from January 1, 1928. No interest will be paid on the

coupons in arrear from 1914 to January 1, 1923, but they will be exchangeable for certificates redeemable by the Government, by purchase or payment at par, during forty years from January 1, 1928. These will be of two classes, A and B, class A being redeemed in its entirety before class B is begun. The external loans of 1899, 1910, and 1913, and the secured railway notes are to receive the full face value of the arrears in A certificates; the other railway issues and Government loans (except the 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. Internal Loans) 35 per cent. in A and 65 per cent. in B certificates; the Internal 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. loans, 100 per cent. in B certificates. The A certificates will probably be all paid off before 1948. The National Railways are to be controlled by a Board agreed on with the Government, and restored to their condition when taken over. Two bond issues of the Mexican Packing Company, the Treasury Notes of 1913 after series A, and the De Kay Bonds, are tacitly excluded from the settlement as having been issued by President Huerta's Government. Their inclusion would probably lead Congress to reject the plan, but the present Government seems clearly liable for them, and their repudiation would injure Mexican credit hereafter, so that it need not be regarded as final. The settlement has been favourably received, and Mexican descriptions have gone up. It is now before Congress, and will probably encounter opposition. Its acceptance would help towards American recognition, but here, judging from the President's Message, there is still a deadlock.

The "Egypt" Inquiry.—The judgment delivered on Monday at the conclusion of the Board of Trade inquiry into the loss of the P. and O. liner "Egypt" was for more than one reason a notable pronouncement. The hearing of evidence by Mr Butler Aspinall, K.C., and four assessors concluded early in August, after lasting nine days, and the Court sat again specially to give its judgment, which took over an hour in delivery. The liner, a steamer 500 feet long, was run into near Ushant in foggy weather last May, when outward bound from London, by the "Seine," a smaller French steamer, which was specially strengthened at the bow for ice. The "Seine," going 6 to 8 knots, crashed bow-on into the port side of the "Egypt," which had stopped engines and slowed down to 4 or 5 knots. The liner listed heavily, and sank in 20 minutes. Out of 338 persons on board 87, of whom 16 were passengers, were lost. A large quantity of bullion was also lost with the ship. At the time alarming accounts were published of misconduct by lascars members of the crew, who were alleged to have fired on passengers in a struggle for the boats. At the inquiry the representative of the British seamen pressed the argument that Asiatic crews are unsuitable, but the judgment attributed the loss of life mainly to default on the part of the master and chief officer in failing to take proper measures to ensure good order and discipline, and to failure on the part of the owners, through their officials, to take effective measures to ensure compliance with their regulations as to boat drill. The suddenness of the disaster, the heavy listing over of the ship, and the fog helped to cause panic. Though the boats were ample and the officers were active, there was much confusion. The lack of order, which contributed largely to the loss of life, was attributed by the Court to no definite orders having been given by the captain and officers at the time of the collision. The passengers and crew did not go to their correct places for boat stations. Some of the non-European members of the crew did crowd into boats without orders, but used no violence, and they were, in fact, without weapons. Their action, while not justified, could only be accounted for, the judgment declared, by the fact that they were not properly led, and, like others, were ignorant of where to go or what to do. Two of them, it came out in evidence, were wounded by shots fired by a passenger. The Asiatics are, therefore, exonerated from the charges levelled against them. The Court suspended the master's certificate for six months, and severely censured the chief officer. In expressing the opinion that there was failure on the part of the owners, the judgment reflects on the P. and O. Company, which has a great record for the safe carriage of passengers, and the findings as to the cause

of the loss of life come as a shock. Effect was not given to the regulations issued to commanders, and the shore officials, as well as the ship's officers, were blamed. The judgment recommends an increase of Board of Trade supervision and inspection, but it is permissible to doubt whether this would avail much. The great shipping companies are bound, for the preservation of their good name, to take all possible precautions. Probably boat-drill will now be more seriously regarded. If, as the Court remarked, the European members of the crew had shown more alacrity in going to their allotted boats, the Asiatics would probably have assisted, instead of hindering, in the saving of life. The apportionment of blame as between the colliding vessels was, of course, a question which did not come before the Court.

Cotton Trade Organisation.—Owing to the severe depression which still exists in the spinning branch of the Lancashire cotton industry, the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations has recently had under consideration certain proposals for the purpose of obtaining relief. In the past, when demand for yarn has not been equal to the production, the members of the Federation have decided to curtail output on an organised scale. In this connection the industry has been divided into two sections—one comprising users of American cotton and the other consisting of users of Egyptian cotton. According to the rules of the Federation, restriction of production cannot be put into force unless the owners of 80 per cent. of the spindles in a particular section are in favour of the scheme. It is now being suggested that the industry should be divided into several departments, the basis for each section being the counts and qualities spun. It is at a meeting of the General Committee of the Federation, circles there is much difference of opinion as to whether the Federation will be able to organise the trade on the lines indicated. There is a feeling, however, that more drastic action should be taken for the purpose of limiting yarn output, as the amount now being produced is in excess of the requirements of users, and spinners are being compelled to sell at prices which mean a definite loss. There has been mention of some arrangement being come to similar to the regulations of the Cotton Control Board during the war, when, owing to the smaller imports of raw cotton as a result of the activity of enemy submarines, supplies of the raw material were rationed, and the regulations of the Board, however, were compulsory and sanctioned by the Government, and there is little forward a scheme which would have the adequate support of all the employers.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—In cotton trade circles at the end of last week there was great interest in the official report of the United States Government on the crop for 1922-3. The condition on August 25th was given as 57 per cent., against 70.8 per cent. a month previously and 49.3 per cent. at the same time last year. The statement, on the whole, was slightly better than anticipated, and on the report in a few minutes there was a decline of over a farthing per pound. The downward movement has continued, and matter is, growers in the United States are more prepared to sell their cotton at current prices rather than hold it in expectation of higher values. Unfavourable features at the moment are the political situation in Europe and lished indicates a crop of 10,575,000 bales. Some authorities, owing to the unsettled state of affairs on the Continent, are inclined to revise their forecast of requirements of users being nearly 13,000,000 bales; so that before July 31st next stocks will have to be called upon to meet the deficiency.

The Outlook for Tin.—A correspondent writes:—After the severe depression witnessed late in August, sentiment in the tin market has veered round, and since the opening of the new month the undertone has been hard. Chief interest has centred round the monthly figures. These were expected to show Straits shipments of fully 6,000 tons, but as matters turned out the actual tonnage only amounted to 5,405 tons, against 4,045 tons in July. The supplies of Banka and Billiton tin amounted to 1,235 tons, against 840 tons, the shipments from China for the month being heavy at 1,440 tons, of which 1,340 tons went to the United States. Thus the total monthly supplies aggregated 7,386 tons, as compared with only 5,515 tons for July, and the deliveries were down to 6,382 tons, against 7,771 tons in the previous month. The American deliveries showed a shrinkage of 440 tons at 4,150 tons, this being due to the coal and rail disputes in the United States, while the United Kingdom deliveries dropped from 2,414 tons in July to 1,424 tons, due to the fact that the consuming industries, such as tinplate mills, were closed down for the holidays for a good part of the month. The visible supply thus stood at the beginning of September at 21,233 tons, against 20,229 tons in the previous month and 18,969 tons at this time last year. When the fact that the F.M.S. Government holds an unsold surplus of 12,500 tons of tin, for which a much higher rate than current market value was paid, is taken into consideration, it must be admitted that tin has held up wonderfully well during the recent depression seen in the non-ferrous metal group generally, and this no doubt has given rise to the impression which prevails in metal circles that the price will go ahead later on in the autumn, especially if there is anything like a trade revival towards the close of the year. Statistically tin may be regarded as quite sound despite the unsold Eastern surplus, although obviously while this large tonnage remains undispersed for consumptive purposes, and the policy of the F.M.S. Government is unknown, there is always the possibility of it being marketed. In metal circles it is understood that a meeting took place recently between British, American, and German tin operators, and the decision came to was to hold up the market and resist any bear attacks that might be attempted. The setback in the American deliveries during the month of August was rather a discouraging factor, but the demand for the United States has since come on very considerably, and this is bound to have good effect. The average cash price for standard tin on the London Metal Exchange during July was £156 4s 4d, but some improvement was made last month when the average for cash was £160 1s, and that for three months tin £160 3s 4d. The British tinplate industry is well engaged, with specifications coming in more freely. A prominent Welsh company recently booked up one order for 250,000 boxes of oil sizes for Eastern account, and there is more inquiry about. Thus the consumption of tin for home use should be larger in the near future, and it is only reasonable to expect that the improvement made last month should continue. Nothing of the nature of a runaway market is expected, not is it wanted, but with users everywhere working with light stocks, and the possibilities of the Continental demand improving, there is certainly some justification for the quiet optimism which prevails.

Port of Para.—We have received a full report of the meeting of the holders of Port of Para 1st Division Bonds, held at Brussels on August 30th. Mr J. de Decker, vice-president of the Port of Para, made a detailed statement of the history of the company, and of the vicissitudes of the traffic of the Port of Para in connection with the collapse of the rubber industry. He said that the fixed charges of Port of Para could only be met if the guarantee is regularly paid by the Brazilian Government. In the Budget for the year 1922, no credit had been inserted for the payment of that guarantee, and, moreover, the Minister of Public Works, when approving the accounts of the company, had declared that, notwithstanding this approval, the Government did not intend to accept liability for the amounts of the guarantee exceeding the

proceeds of a certain 2 per cent. gold tax levied on imports through the Port of Para. Mr de Decker further stated that not only this contention was absolutely contrary to the text and to the spirit of the company's concession, but that in the past the Government had always paid the total of the guarantee without any relation to the 2 per cent. gold tax. The board, relying upon the good faith uniformly shown by the Brazilian Government, expected that after reconsideration of the matter, this erroneous decision would be rescinded. A bondholder proposed to take advantage of the mission of Mr de Decker to request him to present to the Brazilian Government the following protest under form of a resolution that "(a) the holders of bonds of the First Division of the Company of Port of Para, assembled in meeting at Brussels, August 30, 1922, in view of the fact that the Brazilian Government has stopped making the payments due from it upon the guarantee, which payments are essential to assure the service of the obligations of the company, hereby unanimously direct Monsieur J. de Decker, vice-president, who is about to depart for Brazil to represent the company there, to express in their name the proper Government authorities that it was in reliance upon the good faith of the Brazilian Government that they have subscribed for their bonds, and had agreed in 1920 to the plan of reorganisation of the company; (b) that the default in the payment upon the guaranty is causing the most serious injury to the 80,000 bondholders of the company; and (c) that they appeal to the high spirit of justice of the Brazilian Government to the end that, after further consideration, it will take measures necessary to assure the service of the guaranty due to the Company of Port of Para in the same manner as it has always been paid in the past." This resolution was unanimously passed.

Modder East.—Our mining correspondent writes:—In connection with the announcement of the August crushing—which, by the way, shows a profit of £15,160, as against £9,050 for July—the management of this Eastern Rand undertaking notify an important change of policy as regards the working of the mine. The company, it may be recalled, commenced production in April, 1920, by utilising the Apex plant of the New Kleinfontein Company. Advantage was subsequently taken of the opportunity to acquire the joint reduction works of the Jupiter-Simmer Deep companies, which had shut down, but owing to the heavy expense which would have been entailed the removal and re-installation of the machinery was postponed. This decision was dictated partly by the high charges for labour then current, and partly by the financial position of the company, which had become difficult. During the year ended June 30, 1921, the capital was increased by 373,800 shares, about half being called under options at par, and the other portion subscribed in response to an invitation made at the end of 1920. Of £500,000 debentures issued, £89,240 had been converted into shares; the balance fell due for redemption on July 1, 1921. To meet this obligation a loan of £400,000 was obtained from the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, and in respect of this loan fresh debentures were issued, carrying 8 per cent. interest, principal redeemable at the end of 1922, if not previously converted into shares at par. The shares for a long time past having been about or under 10s, there is no prospect of the debentures being reduced by conversion into shares; consequently in a few months the company will find itself once more under the necessity of dealing with its first charge indebtedness. In these conditions the directors announced that work will be confined to the richer section of the mine in order that higher profits may be earned, and in the hope that an extension of the rich zone may be found. "Should further substantial areas of high-grade ore be disclosed, and the present debt be wiped out, the company's circumstances would justify an appeal for funds necessary to erect the company's own plant of 50,000 tons monthly capacity, for which the large tonnage standing developed in Nos. 2 and 3 shaft sections would be then available for treatment." The change of policy has met with a very mixed reception on the Stock Exchanges both

of London and Johannesburg. Something, it is obvious, will have to be done soon, but the new procedure partakes largely of the nature of "gutting" the mine to the ultimate disadvantage of the original shareholders.

The Dutch East Indies.—The immense resources of the Dutch East Indies in native or acclimatised agricultural produce, in petroleum, and in minerals, together with the great opportunities offered for British trade, are described in the very full Report just issued by the Overseas Trade Department from Mr H. A. Bluett, the British Commercial Agent at Batavia. The Report covers the period of depression and revival following the prosperity of the war years and the glut of exports released by the coming of peace. During the war new markets were found, and of these Australia is likely to be of increasing importance. The recovery in the export trade began just a year ago, and this year a considerable expansion is probable; and there is an increasing demand for imports, including textiles, clothing, electrical apparatus, earthenware, and porcelain, glass, chemicals, provisions, and drugs, but competition, especially from Germany, is keen. Much detail is given for the benefit of British exporters, and manufacturers are strongly recommended to organise local branches, to keep stocks on the spot, to study and to meet the local demands, and to quote prices including the cost of delivery to the purchaser. The Javanese are thoroughly progressive, the country is carefully administered, and possesses all the conditions of rapid development; even during a time of stress there will be many potential buyers, and any firm with capital can create a magnificent and permanent demand for a "branded" article, provided it is well packed and sold at a reasonable price, and with due consideration for the buyers' tastes and the local conditions of trade. Very full particulars are given of the chief products and the conditions of the export trade in them—sugar, rubber (mainly Brazilian), coffee (now almost entirely an African variety), tobacco (which supplies the outer leaves of Havana cigars), cocoa, cinchona (of which, with its derivative quinine, 95 per cent. of the world's output comes from Java, while its cultivation is increasing in Sumatra), pepper, tea, palm oil, copra, kapok, and other products; and we gather that the last two, which are in the hands of native producers, are doing well, and that the others, which are grown mainly under European direction, have passed the worst of the depression. The numerous mineral products are also dealt with at length. Of petroleum the supply, though not "spectacular," is expected to be steady and lasting. Foreigners can only obtain long agricultural leases in partnership with citizens, and mining licences only if they have obtained the right of residence; and the cost of living for Europeans is very high. The potential wealth of the country is colossal, and the Government is educating and encouraging the natives to develop it as much as possible themselves.

Conditions in Japan.—Cable advices from Japan state that the stringent conditions of the money market which existed throughout the first half of the month have been aggravated by the payment of the new Government loan, and the partial repayment by the Imperial Silk Company of the loan from the Government. Towards the end of the month the flow of money to the country was much larger than anticipated, on account of the usual monthly settlement, together with the half-yearly settlement-day in the provinces. Thus the keen demand for short loans on the one hand, and the reluctance of lenders to use money cheaply on the other, forced the rate up to over 12 per cent. at the end of the month, but with the turn of the month it dropped to 9½ per cent. by the repayment of some of the Government loans, and the payment of interest. In the silk market export business was small, although there has been every possibility of some orders forthcoming from Europe and America on account of the poor prospect of the autumn cocoons harvest. The stock markets have been dull. Various schemes to put prices down, either Governmental or otherwise, are now being put into practice, and the question of the removal of the embargo on the export of gold has again been discussed.

Anglo-Polish Trade.—A correspondent writes: It is significant, in view of the previous food shortage in most of the countries of the Middle East, that Polish food products occupy a prominent place in the International Food Exhibition at Olympia. This is due to the fact that a large additional area has been brought into cultivation in that country owing to the peaceful conditions of the last year, and there is a big surplus available for export. The organised unions of manufacturers in the different trades affected, and in all the divisions of Poland, have never lost heart, even in the darkest days during the war, in the possibilities of Anglo-Polish trade, and great hopes are entertained that mutual trade relations will help in introducing conditions of greater peace and stability in countries that still suffer from the prevalent uncertainty and unrest.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—STEEL COMPANIES INCREASE WAGES—RAILROAD AND COAL STRIKE CONFERENCES FAIL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 26.

WITH the 20 per cent. increase in wages of day labour in the plants of the United States Steel Corporation, announced this week to become effective September 1st, the daily wage for common labour will be raised to 36 cents an hour, as against 30 cents an hour, which the corporation has been paying since August of last year. Under the new scale the wage for a 10-hour day will be \$3.60, or 80 per cent. higher than the pre-war level of \$2 for 10 hours' work, but about 29 per cent. below \$5.06 rate established February 1, 1920, which was the highest wage ever paid by the Steel Corporation for common labour. The present increase follows a series of reductions which began with a cut of approximately 20 per cent. in May, 1921. In July of that year wages were further reduced by about 8½ per cent. through abolishing time and one-half for any work done over the basic eight-hour day, and on August 29, 1921, another cut, amounting to 20 per cent., brought the pay down to the present rate of 30 cents an hour. The increase, it is understood, will affect some 156,000 men of the 220,000, approximately, who are on its pay-roll; the remainder, about 64,000, are in the transportation and mining departments, and therefore will not receive the increase. A like increase in wages, to take effect also on September 1st, has been announced by most of the independent steel companies. When wages were cut last year prices of steel products were also lowered. Conditions in the industry are entirely different now, and for some time past it has been expected that wages would be advanced. Mills, in some cases, which have been seeking employment in other lines where the pay was higher. In the iron and steel industries especially there appears to be an increasing scarcity of labour, which is attributed largely to the restrictions placed upon immigration, and to the unprecedented building activity. Another in favour of raising steel wages was the agreement reached at the recent Cleveland conference, whereby soft coal miners will resume work at the same wages that prevailed before the strike. Furthermore, prices of iron and steel products have been advanced, on the average, about 16 per cent. from the low point of last February, while on certain advance has been close to 50 per cent. During the past week pig-iron in some centres has risen \$4 a ton, and \$2 advanced from \$2 to \$10, and finished steel prices have risen. Further price increases are considered likely in the near future, since, excluding wages, production costs have been greatly increased, it is said, owing to the fuel shortage. The movement to increase wages or to grant rates of pay in effect before the labour strikes began is not confined to the steel and coal industries. Although the New England textile strike is virtually broken, some mills

in that section, which for months past have been insisting on a 20 per cent. reduction in wages, have unexpectedly abandoned their position, and offered to take strikers back without any reduction. In the case of mills producing woollen and worsted goods, difficulty was probably experienced in getting sufficient numbers of operatives to run their plants at the lower wage scale, especially in view of the fact that the leading producer, the American Woollen Company, did not reduce its wages. The action of some cotton goods mills in that section in agreeing to resume operations at the same wages that prevailed before the textile strike began is harder to understand, the more so because they have contended all along that they could not afford to pay the old wages, and because raw cotton is much higher than it was at the outset of the labour controversy. Furthermore, consumers of cotton cloths continue to resist efforts to advance prices. Strange to say, a marked revival in trade and industry in coming months is quite generally being predicted, notwithstanding the decided trend toward higher operating costs, whereas only about two years ago trade slackened, and prices collapsed because operating costs had soared to abnormal heights. In view of the reduction in railroad wages, and downward revisions elsewhere, the action of the steel companies, as well as the other wage developments mentioned, is perplexing and greatly complicates the economic situation and outlook.

Further conferences to end the railway and anthracite coal strikes have failed to result in any settlement, and it now looks like a "fight to the finish." There is some talk of the Government taking over coal mines and railroads, to operate them temporarily in the present emergency, but such a step would meet with widespread opposition throughout the country.

FRANCE.—THE WIESBADEN AGREEMENT AT WORK—THE STINNES CONTRACT—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Paris, September 6.

THE problem of extracting from Germany payment of reparations in kind (as distinct from cash) has now, as I foreshadowed last week, assumed prime importance, not only by reason of the fact that all hope of obtaining, so far as France is concerned, payment in cash has now vanished for some time to come, but because the Wiesbaden and supplementary (Gillet and Bemelmans) agreements are now in operation. I gave last week such details of the first month's working of the agreements as were then available, and since then no further information has been obtainable. The Minister for the Liberated Regions, M. Charles Reibel, has convoked for this afternoon a meeting of the Comité Consultatif pour les Prestations en Nature (Consultative Committee for Payments in Kind), however, and is expected to lay before this body something in the way of a detailed report of the extent to which the new agreements have been applied during the past month. A summary, at least, of this report will doubtless be made public within a day or two. It is understood, however, that one of the chief subjects that will be considered by the meeting referred to will be the vexed question of the rate of customs duties to be applied in future to goods entering France from Germany. The Committee, which is a mixed body, composed both of Government officials and representatives of the great industrial and trading groups of the country, is known to be by no means unanimous on this question of customs duties, but it is generally considered as probable that the Government will insist on maintaining the régime of comparatively low duties (based on the French minimum tariff, plus co-efficients), which have been in force experimentally during the first month of the operation of the Wiesbaden Agreements, and that it will continue to resist the pressure that has been brought to bear upon it for the purpose of imposing the much higher duties (subject to reduction by rebates) of the French General Tariff (which were intentionally fixed at prohibitive rates as regards certain categories of German goods).

So far as I have been able to gather from inquiries made in official quarters to-day, the first month's work-

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over \$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



ing of the Agreements has resulted in orders being placed to the amount of about 3,000,000. This is, perhaps as satisfactory as could be expected, and the number of orders passed to German firms is steadily increasing. The results attained would have been much more substantial, probably, but for the fact that the number of *mandataires*, or authorised buying agents, is still extremely small, and that some time must yet elapse before the very strict regulations that have been drawn up concerning the appointment of these intermediaries can be carried out to the extent necessary. In view of the opportunities that might obviously be given for illicit profit-making in connection with the operation of the Wiesbaden Agreements, the appointment of buying agents has been surrounded with exceptional safeguards. Agents must be of French nationality, and companies acting as agents must have registered offices in France while the majority of their officials must be French. *Sociétés en participation* are not accepted as *mandataires*. The maximum rate of commission allowed to the official *mandataires* (or commission agents)—and no person is allowed to act in this capacity unless formally authorised by the Government—has been fixed at 6 per cent. of the price actually paid to the German firm from which the goods are obtained. The amount of this commission paid by the purchaser out of his indemnity. Out of the commission the agent must pay all expenses connected with his own travelling, with the reception of the merchandise in Germany, seeing it through the custom verification on arrival in France, and checking on delivery the payment of customs duties, cost of transport, &c. being, of course, at the charge of the actual purchase. The regulations provide further that special books of account must be kept by a *mandataire*, and be subject to inspection by the State. So far, some 150 applications for appointment as *mandataires* have been sent in, whom about half-a-dozen have received certificates of appointment.

The first cheque drawn by the German Government

payment for an order placed under the Wiesbaden Agreement reached the Ministry for the Liberated Regions this morning. According to the procedure agreed upon by the two Governments, this cheque must be forwarded by the French Government to the *sinistré*, by whom the goods were ordered. The latter, in turn, will pass it on to the German firm from whom he received the goods, who will obtain payment of his bill by presenting the cheque at one of the German banks selected for this purpose.

The most interesting recent development in this connection is the announcement that agreements have been signed between the Marquis de Lubersac, as President of the Confédération des Co-opératives de Reconstruction, and Herr Hugo Stinnes, for the supply of an enormous amount of building materials. The Confédération of Co-opératives in question has a total membership of 130,000 sufferers, holding recognised claims to indemnity to the value of over 13,000,000,000. The contract signed by M. de Lubersac and Herr Stinnes states at the outset that at an interview that took place between the two signatories on August 14th, M. de Lubersac "set forth the peculiarly critical situation in which the sinistrés of the devastated regions who are still without shelter find themselves to-day, and emphasised the appeasing influence on Franco-German relations that would result from an effective participation by Germany in the reconstruction of the devastated regions. Herr Stinnes, taking the same point of view as M. de Lubersac, and wishing to show his desire to contribute to this reconstruction, agrees as follows with M. de Lubersac" (then follow the terms of the contract).

Under this contract it is agreed that the Stinnes building company, Aktiengesellschaft für Hoch-und-Tiefbau, of Essen, shall act as intermediary or buying agent for the Confédération of Co-opératives for the devastated regions, in return for a commission of 6 per cent., "this company being specially qualified in construction matters, and in direct relation with the German building industry." "The amount of commission paid to the company in respect of its purchases is to be included in the sum with which Germany will be credited by reason of its deliveries of merchandise," which is also to include "the expenses incurred by the Hoch-und-Tief (*sic*) for the purpose of financing the execution of the contracts with a consortium of banks under the direction of the Dresdner Bank," with which a representative of the co-operatives will enter into relations. German experts are to be attached to the various co-operative societies, it is stipulated, which will also, in their turn, have representatives in Germany, and particularly on the commission of control in Germany, which will have the duty of accepting or refusing materials. Further, the Hoch-und-Tief will be responsible for distributing the orders, and Herr Stinnes claims to be allowed to take out of the coal to be delivered to France by Germany an amount of combustible sufficient to meet requirements for the fabrication of the cement, bricks, tiles and lime to be delivered under this contract, on the ground that this will enable him to increase the deliveries of these materials. "The distribution of this coal among the various German industries will be entrusted to the firm of Hugo Stinnes, in conjunction with the Westphalian Rhine Syndicate," and Herr Stinnes makes himself responsible that the coal so handed over by the French Government shall be used solely for the purpose of speeding up deliveries under the system of payments in kind.

Other clauses of the contract provide that in no case must the prices of materials delivered under it exceed those prevalent on the French market. The contract is to hold good only as long as these payments in kind benefit from the minimum French customs tariff, and its duration synchronises with that of the Wiesbaden and supplementary Berlin agreements. Finally, MM. de Lubersac and Stinnes undertake to lay the terms of the contract and their reciprocal declarations before their respective Governments.

There, for the moment, the matter rests, and it remains to be seen whether the contract will receive the sanction of the French Government. It will be noticed that there is no reference in it to the employment of German labour

in France. It will also be realised that such an arrangement, although undoubtedly beneficial in many respects to France, would confer immense advantages on German industry, and particularly on the concern with which Herr Stinnes is himself personally identified. It is estimated, in fact, that Herr Stinnes's own profits, in view of the magnitude of the affair, would be in the neighbourhood of £7,000,000.

It may be stated as significant that, so far there has been little public criticism of the Lubersac-Stinnes contract in Paris. In Berlin, on the contrary, the Press was at first furiously opposed to the arrangement, but twenty-four hours later many of the newspapers began to take a very favourable view of the stipulations, on the ground that the contract must inevitably prove beneficial to German interests. French opinion has apparently not yet made up its mind on the matter, or is, perhaps, awaiting a lead from the Poincaré Cabinet. On the face of it, the country should welcome the adoption of a method that will undoubtedly offer a solution of one of the most serious problems with which France is faced.

The decision of the Reparation Commission, while in many ways unsatisfactory to France, has been welcomed on the Bourse in so far as it has avoided all danger of a rupture of the Entente, and, on the whole, markets have been a trifle harder than they were last week. French rentes have improved, the 3 per cents. moving from 60.15 to 60.25, the 1915-16 5 per cents. from 76.55 to 76.65, and most of the rest similarly, though the unredeemable 5 per cents. dropped from 90 to 88.80, and the 1920 6 per cents. from 91 to 90.75. Turks were generally lower, though the Unified 4 per cents. advanced from 77 to 77.50. Banks were either stationary or harder. Banque de France remained unchanged at 5,815, but Banque Nationale de Crédit strengthened from 638 to 640, Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas from 1,265 to 1,275, and Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 615 to 630. Railways for the most moved up a few points, with the notable exception of Nord, that fell from 1,259 to 1,240, and Métropolitain, that fell from 434 to 425.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—CURRENCY PROBLEMS—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 2.

The Reparation Commission's decision brought a sharp fall in the foreign exchanges, and in commodity prices, on the ground, apparently, that the threatened immediate crisis has been avoided. In general the decision is ill taken, although it was long ago foreseen that a really effective Moratorium, much less a revision of Reparations mission's conditions will not be carried out. It is true (and this shows a healthy disbelief in itself by the Commission) that the Moratorium decision is postponed until Germany merely "prepares" a "plan" of financial reform, and this time the actual execution of the plan is not demanded as a condition for considering a Moratorium; but the Note's text indicates that the Commission measures listed as essential to a "plan" of financial reform are impossible.

The Commission puts "balancing the Budget" as first and unconditional, but, curiously enough, puts "a currency reform" third, and between the two, and as a condition precedent of the second, it puts the prospect of a mean Reparations. The Commission must know that "balancing the Budget" is impossible without currency reform coming first, because currency reform is, or at least involves, full stabilisation of the Reichsmark. Without full stabilisation by technically dependable means, there can be no guarantee against a fresh exchange collapse, with renewal of the familiar effect upon the price-stabilise the mark exchange? By establishing an active Gold exporting as a corrective, in the way of pre-war Europe, is impossible, and gold export was never, and

short of an inexhaustible stock of gold, never could be anything more than a remedy for temporary deficits in the payment balance. The other remedy (also at best temporary and not inexhaustible) is a foreign loan, but the Commission unreasonably puts the foreign loan in order after the stabilisation, and not before it, and as its necessary condition. But the currency reform, though a "plan" may be drawn up, cannot be carried through. As stated, the "currency reform" involves a stabilisation of the mark exchange (naturally at any gold value, if only a really stable value); but how can the Commission expect from Germany currency reform in this correct and only effective sense when the richest States in Europe, including States which would have no difficulty in getting loans, have themselves not achieved currency reforms, when the exchanges of these States are liable to be any day sent down sharply, if not into collapse like the German, by a mere disparity between imports and exports which may any day occur. Germany, the Commission proclaims, is to do what the best financiers, with the counsels of half a dozen conferences of experts, failed to do in countries without war debts, and without Reparation liabilities. But here rises another question. Reparation payments are suspended, and the "plan" demanded can be launched. Suppose relative stabilisation to be carried through by means of a foreign loan, or by an at present unexpected improvement in the trade balance. The foreign payment balance will thereby be created. What is to happen when Reparation payments are again demanded even if only on a reduced scale? The currency reform (stabilisation) will come incontinently to an end. If the currency reform is liable to be overthrown by a mere increase on the passive side of the payment balance caused by a drop in the ratio of exports to imports, how much more disastrously will it collapse when considerable Reparations payments begin?

The above leads back to the old consideration, which nobody denies when the question is put directly, but which practically never appears in Ally notes and speeches, that only a big German export surplus can provide Reparations without aggravating the present bad mark exchange or upsetting a stabilised mark, if stabilised mark there is. And this in turn leads back to the Reparation Commission's first condition, a balancing of the Budget. As long as the currency reform is impossible, the balancing is impossible. The Budget, as shown lately from here, is by no means as hopeless as German officials rehearse, and as Ally economists believe it to be. But present it, and as Ally economists caught up on expenditure when the mark ceased falling, Revenue was always again thrown behind expenditure when the mark again fell, and each fall is accompanied by new price and value revolution, by unreasonable displacements of real wealth at home, and by wholesale expropriation of the foreign mark-interests. In theory the Government could balance its Budget first, and have its currency reform later, but its cause at present, by means of inflation, the whole real substance of State expenditure is annually extracted from the nation quite as surely as if by means of taxation; and the nation quite as surely as if by means of taxation; and the burden than it imposes under the present system, and while distributing the burden more fairly. But the re-curring mark exchanges collapses, and price-rises have hopelessly dislocated all plans for such a sensible method, and there are further the two factors of official indolence, and popular passivity and ignorance of currency questions. The effect of the passivity and ignorance is that while plans to increase a property tax by a mere 2 per cent. are enough to cause a Cabinet crisis, it is possible to tax away 499-500ths of a citizen's wealth by means of currency depreciation without even evoking a protest. In these conditions official indolence naturally does not hesitate which path to choose.

With regard to what was stated last week, that the mark depreciation does not threaten the import of necessities, I may note that both Herr Schroeder, addressing the Reparations Commission at Paris, and the Reichswirtschaftsrat, in a formal resolution, have expressed agreement with Dr Wirth and all other authorities that the

French American Banking Corporation

67 William Street
NEW YORK CITY

Cable Address - FRENAMBANK

Capital, Surplus & Undivided Profits - \$2,845,000

We transact a general foreign and domestic banking business and solicit your inquiries.

depreciation does actually prevent import. So far these statements are untrue; and it will be a puzzle if after imports increased threefold in a period in which the mark fell 90 per cent. (May, 1921, to July, 1922), imports will suddenly decrease because the mark has again fallen 60 per cent. (July-August). The expulsion of the mark from foreign trade, to which, as stated last week, is largely due the fact that imports do not decrease, is now being followed by its expulsion from home trade. No day passes without some firm or industrial association proclaiming for, and even practising, the charging of dollars or pounds to home customers, and the system is being applied at the Leipzig Fair, and has there led to violent protests. Where high currencies are not actually charged, the dollar exchange of the day, and not the home production cost in marks, is taken as basis for the mark price. The official Eisenwirtschaftsbund has formally adopted this method, and even petty tradesmen cite the day's dollar exchange to explain sudden increases of their mark prices for home-produced goods. Insurance companies are issuing policies—fire, accident, and others—for which the premiums and capital sums will vary automatically with the exchanges. The charging of dollars or the calculating of home charges on the dollar basis is more reasonable than the protesters believe. The seller knows from experience that though he may reap a normal mark profit on his mark production cost, the value of his mark receipts for financing new transactions depends not upon their percentage to the past cost of production, but upon the exchanges. If the dollar has just fallen, he must exact an abnormally big profit, and his only way of calculating how big the profit ought to be is to follow the dollar. The Federation of German Industries has, however, for reasons which seem sound, rejected a suggestion that commercial-industrial balances should be drawn in goldmarks.

The Forced Loan of 70 milliard paper marks (which was originally to be 1 milliard, and is now worth about 200 million goldmarks) has yielded so far 1,835 millions paper. The Socialists are agitating for reintroduction of State food and industrial control, for a compulsory exchange-rate for the mark, and other chimerical measures. While the credit need has long been acute, the new currency need almost threatens a trade breakdown. The Reichsbank, whose note reserve was depleted by a recent strike, could not meet this week's enormous demand for currency; its private bank clients were rationed to one-tenth of what they asked for, and private banks in turn refused to pay out more than 3,000 marks, not always that. The result is an increase in the use of cheques, and the good effect of this will remain. The demand for currency is a result of the price rise. If, with prices rising rapidly, the volume of business done remains unchanged, the amount of currency needed must increase rapidly, and the recent inflation is a mere trifle compared with the rush up of prices during the past month, and is therefore inadequate. Further, the volume of business has actually increased, as the certainty of still higher prices ("Flight from the Mark") has set the public buying everything it can lay hands on. This involves a demand for credit as well as a demand for cash, and on the 28th the Reichsbank raised its rate another 1 per cent. to 7 per cent., the rate for advances being raised to 8 per cent. In the third week of August, private bills discounted increased by 4.463 millions, and Treasury bills by 6.044 millions; and in the eight weeks preceding the last Bank statement private bills discounted increased by

12,570 millions, or 13 times the whole holding of private bills a year ago, while Treasury bill discounts increased by nearly 57 milliards. The Bank's report for August is likely to show much the greatest credit strain so far recorded, and probably also to show record inflation. On the basis of the latest mark fall, increased inflation is not only inevitable, but is even necessary for the smooth conduct of business. It is announced that of the Dutch 140 million gulden credit granted in 1921, only half has been exhausted. This credit can be utilised for payments in any currency for imports from any country, and the fact that it has not all been taken up is another proof that the great mark fall has not reduced the ability to import from native payment resources.

The Bourse was this week very active and rising, and yesterday, the last open day of the week, moderately firm but quiet, the influence being the drop in the exchanges. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index shows that on August 25th, when the mark was about at its worst, the industrial stocks index was 82,599, or only double the 40,250 of November 10th (highest of 1921). While, therefore, the mark's gold exchange fell to one-seventh, stock quotations only doubled, and even if a certain allowance be made for increases of capitalisation, it is clear that the gold prices of stocks at current quotations are far below the values of the properties owned. The gold dividend-yield is, however, ever smaller and smaller, averaging (again after increase of capital is allowed for) about one-forty-fifth of the dividend of 1913. Reichsbank shares have had a big rise. With the extraordinary price increases of single commodities in August I shall deal next week, when the general indexes for September 1st will probably have appeared.

ITALY.—THE CRISIS ABATES—FASCISTI IN GENOA —ITALY'S NATIONAL WEALTH AND TAXES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, September 5.

WHEN I last wrote (August 2nd) Italy was approaching a crisis. The Facta Ministry was hurriedly reconstituted to meet the growing danger from the Fascisti. There were indeed rumours that the Fascisti were to march on Rome to dissolve Parliament and set up a dictatorship. The rumours proved, as generally in Italy, unfounded. The Government laid on the military authorities the duty of maintaining order in the disturbed provinces; and all ended in nothing. The country is to-day peaceful and contented. The Chamber has given a large vote of confidence to the same Facta Ministry, of which it endeavoured to get rid a few weeks before. The great topic to-day is the General Election. The Fascisti claim that their representation—about 20 Deputies—is too small; that the trend of public opinion is against Socialism and in their favour. Therefore a General Election is due, notwithstanding that the Chamber is only one year old. Liberals and Democrats hesitate, and say that the proportional system should be abolished before going to the constituencies. Proportionalism was undoubtedly favourable to the great mass parties, i.e., Socialists and Populists, and fatal to the old non-organised Liberal parties.

Meanwhile, under the pressure of Fascism, Municipal Socialist and Communist councils are resigning or being dissolved; first among them, the Socialist council of the great northern capital, Milan. Socialist administration in Milan was of the worst species. The number and salaries of public employees were raised without regard to economy and even decency, and the city was almost bankrupt. The cry for economy in State and local Budget is at last loud, and we may hope that a new era of retrenchment is in sight.

Another result of the Fascist movement is the dissolution of the authority of the Port of Genoa (Consorzio del Porto di Genova). On August 5th, Palazzo San Giorgio, the magnificent old building where the Genoa Conference sat, was occupied by Fascisti. Senator Ronco, president

of the Port Authority, was compelled to sign a series of decrees dissolving the monopolistic Socialist co-operatives of working men, to whom the operations of the port were entrusted, and was ultimately compelled to resign. The closed lists of the workers (all Socialists) authorised to work on the port were reopened, and new nationalist workers admitted. True, the cost of operations in the Genoa port were going up, but it is doubtful if this was due more to the high wages paid to monopolistic red co-operators than to the exactions of various classes of middlemen bent upon squeezing the utmost farthing from every ton of merchandise passing through the great Italian port.

Signor Matteotti, M.P., has presented an interesting report to the House Committee on Finance. The following table gives the yield of State taxes before and after the war:—

	1913-14.	1920-21.	1921-22.
(In Million Lire).			
Ordinary Taxes.			
On incomes, capital, and wealth ..	607.7	2,021.0	2,908.9
On transactions (stamp and registration taxes) ..	261.5	1,471.8	1,612.0
On consumption ..	1,138.9	5,555.7	6,179.8
	2,008.2	9,048.5	10,700.7
Extraordinary Taxes.			
All on income and capital ..	..	2,156.0	2,071.1

Even leaving out of account the extraordinary taxes (excess profit taxes, war income-tax, exceptional increase of capital levy) the tax yield increased more than five-fold, and, including extraordinary taxes, more than six-fold.

The increase was highest on transactions and consumption, almost from 1 to 6, while the direct taxes on income and capital increased less than 3½ fold. But if we add to the ordinary taxes on income the extraordinary taxes, we see that the increase of direct taxes was from 607 to 4,170 million lire, or almost from 1 to 7. Thus all classes of taxpayers are to-day more severely hit by taxes than before the war. The lira has depreciated from 1 to 0.21; but taxes having risen from 1 to 6, the real burden is increased by 50 per cent. And we are only at a beginning. A report by Signor D'Aroma, Director-General of Direct Taxes (on income, capital and wealth) to the Ministry of Finance is illuminating. Our most productive ordinary tax is called *imposta di ricchezza mobile*, and corresponds closely to your income-tax, except in so far that it leaves out, for separate taxation, net rents accruing to land and house proprietors. The total income assessed to the *imposta di ricchezza mobile* was in 1918 only 2,030,774,117 lire. In 1921 it rose to 3,974,277,318 lire, and in 1922 to 6,002,747,033 lire. This huge increase signifies that more and more incomes are brought into the fiscal net. The administration, somewhat lax before the war, is becoming more and more severe. Signor D'Aroma hopes to be able, in a few years, that only 1 billion lire annual income is assessed to the land tax, 0.8 to the house-tax, 6 to the income-tax (*ricchezza mobile*), 4.5 to the direct income-tax (income-tax on State servants' salaries and other incomes paid by the Government, which are not assessed, but directly taxed at the source), making 12.3 billion lire of income assessed and taxed. The true national income is much higher, it is true, is a country of small incomes, which should be exempt from direct taxation; but if 30 out of 60 billions distance between 12 billions taxed and 30 billions which ought to be taxed. Even allowing for 6 billions legally exempt (interest of public debt issued under the clause of tax exemption and other similar items), the administration has a large virgin soil left to till to the benefit of the exchequer.

One potent cause of tax evasion, however, is the extravagant method of putting up tax rates, so that the taxpayer is bound to minimise the income assessed to save himself from utter ruin. Land income assessed to save 1 billion, but upon this paltry sum is laid from State, Provinces and municipalities a tax burden of 876 millions lire. A rate of 88 per cent. cannot be paid; the only way of escape for the taxpayer is to understate his assessed income. The burden of the house tax is 620 millions lire

SPAIN—POSTAL STRIKE—COMMODITY PRICES— TRADE AND EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, August 20.

As often happens in Spain, the month of August has not been free from disturbing influences. Congress had barely adjourned for the holidays, when a serious conflict broke out amongst the Post Office employees. Not receiving immediate attention from the Minister of the Interior, they abandoned work, and business was practically paralysed for three days. The Prime Minister returned in haste from San Sebastian and stifled the strike temporarily by promising that after they had returned to work he would study their claims and would give them all possible justice, but he is firm in his contention that public servants should not use strikes as an instrument to enforce their aspirations. This has brought the postal clerks again on strike. Señor Sanchez Guerra has replied to this by a lockout of the whole of the staff, the Royal Decree suppressing the rights of seniority of all those who do not re-enter immediately. Those who delay in so doing will take rank from the date of their return, thereby losing the benefit of their previous years of service in connection with the Government Pension Fund. The situation at the moment is critical, as neither side seems disposed to give way; in the meantime, public opinion, which was at first rather inclined in favour of the employees, is now highly irritated against them. A large number of volunteers have offered their services to the Government, and it would seem that the strikers are losing ground, especially as both the postmen and telegraph operators have refused to join them.

The index numbers of the cost of living in Spain, compiled by the Geographical and Statistical Institute, start from the year 1913 only. The Institute calls attention to the fact that owing to the influence of exceptional disturbing factors, such as lack of transportation facilities, Government restrictions, rise in wages, and the reduction of working hours, speculation, clandestine exports, &c., the index numbers cannot be relied upon to the same extent as would be the case in normal times when the quotations would be governed by free offer and demand. These index numbers have been compiled to cover the most important articles consumed in this country, and any deficiencies in them are due to lack of reliable sources of information and to the fact that it is the first time that work of this kind has been undertaken officially in this country. The following are the classification and index numbers for the different groups:—

Years.	FIRST GROUP.			Index Number for Group.
	Animal Food-stuffs.	Vegetable Food-stuffs.	Liquid Foods, &c.	
1913	100	100	100	100
1914	102	102	99	102
1915	110	121	106	114
1916	121	127	115	122
1917	142	144	118	137
1918	181	172	135	165
1919	204	177	152	179
1920	215	201	197	204
1921	203	176	159	180

The foregoing figures give an idea of the rapid increase in the cost of living during and since the war. The limit appears to have been reached in 1920, when the difference attained 104 per cent. for the total section when compared with 1913.

During the same period of nine years the figures for the other group were as follows:—

Years.	SECOND GROUP.					Index No. for Group.
	Combus-tibles, Gas, Electricity.	Textiles and Hides.	Metals.	Building Materials.	Chemical Products.	
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	107	100	94	101	98	100
1915	118	105	167	112	107	123
1916	166	120	210	129	144	155
1917	194	166	202	151	197	182
1918	304	221	240	197	242	242
1919	269	234	147	194	224	211
1920	294	239	184	230	243	238
1921	212	151	168	261	187	199

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.

1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
EASTERN MERCHANTS.

SHIPPING AND INSURANCE AGENTS.

With Branches and Associated Companies throughout the Far East and in North America, Australia and New Zealand.

In the group of combustibles the year which saw the highest prices was 1918, when the increase reached 204 per cent., whilst the greatest increase in the textile group was 139 per cent. in 1920. The total increase for this section reached its maximum in 1918 with 140 per cent. over the prices of 1913. The general index numbers of these two sections together give the following:—

1913	100	1918	204
1914	101	1919	195
1915	119	1920	222
1916	139	1921	190
1917	160		

The commercial agreements, first with France, then with England, have caused business to be a little more brisk during the past month, although the commercial situation still leaves much to be desired. The exports from Spain during the first four months of this year declined to 34,627,000f, as against 141,370,000f during the same months of last year, whilst the imports from France to Spain in the same period descended from 228,465,000 in 1921 to 87,920,000 in 1922. Exports therefore showed a reduction of 107 millions and imports 141 millions for the months in question. Exchanges have been very erratic in the past month, in harmony with other European centres, and there has therefore been a small revival of speculation in foreign currencies on the Madrid and Barcelona Stock Exchanges.

ROUMANIA.—FLUCTUATION OF EXCHANGES.—ITS EFFECT ON TRADE—PRICES AND EXPORT TAXES —THE AGRARIAN REFORM—IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPORT SYSTEM—ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME—NEW OIL POLICY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRASOV, August 25.

THIS month experienced the widest fluctuation of the lei rate registered ever since the existence of the country. The Bucharest quotations of all foreign currencies declined by about 50 per cent. within a few days. At the middle of July the sterling attained its high record at 800, while at the beginning of August it was quoted at 400. Though a considerable improvement of the lei was generally expected, in consequence of the favourable crop reports, still such a rapid advance was regarded as unnatural. The disappointment caused by the postponement of the 2,500,000 loan, which was regarded over here as already concluded, and the failure of the London conference, gave rise to a marked reaction, and the lei receded the greater part of its advance. During the last few days a new improvement has been noticeable, though much less sharp than the previous one, which was succeeded by another decline.

The rapid decline of foreign rates affected the timber trade in the first place; several big timber firms intended to declare bankruptcy, and it is only through the rapid recovery of foreign exchanges that the timber trade escaped a severe crisis. The carefulness of banks when restricting advances to timber merchants was thus more than justified by events. The effect of the fluctuation was less threatening but more permanent concerning the corn trade. The improvement of the lei brought with it a decline of corn prices, owing to the rigidity of the system of export taxes. The original purpose of export taxes on corn has been the compensation of the difference between world market prices and home prices, created through the low rate of Roumanian exchange. For this purpose it would be necessary to adjust the taxes according to the fluctuation of home prices, world market prices, and exchange rates. Instead of this, definite taxes have been fixed in gold lei and in foreign currencies. For instance, rye pays 795 gold lei (or 28 or 120 dollars, or 640 Swiss francs, &c.) per 10 metric tons. It is true that the paper

lei equivalent of this amount varies directly with the fluctuations of the Roumanian exchange; yet it does not follow the fluctuation of the difference between home prices and world market prices. If the lei rate would improve to such an extent that the price of corn in Roumania would become equal to the world market prices, the export taxes would still exist, completely stopping exports. In the present case the improvement of the lei was not as great; still, it was sufficient to render export taxes a serious obstacle to exportation. Thus a fall of inland prices took place.

Of course, the succeeding decline of the lei rate soon enhanced corn prices again; however, the fluctuation has largely discouraged buyers as well as sellers, so that at present only professional gamblers dare to undertake any transaction in corn. The well-established export houses prefer to wait until the lei has become more steady. Consequently, the activity of exporters is much inferior to that of the corresponding period of last year, though the quantities available for export are much larger, and transport conditions have also undergone an improvement. The greater part of the corn exported at present is being sent to France and Switzerland, in payment of the loans contracted in 1920 and in 1921 respectively.

Foreign exchange transactions which were excluded from the official market since the beginning of the war have been readmitted to the Bucharest Bourse on August 21st. This will, at least, prevent the uninitiated public from being misled by unscrupulous private exchange agents.

The Government is endeavouring to accelerate the carrying out of the agrarian reform. This year's big crop is held to cast doubt upon the pessimistic prophecies concerning the unfavourable effect of the distribution of land in production. As the transition period is necessarily detrimental, the Government attempts to shorten that period.

The Government also intends to eliminate another handicap to export—i.e., transport difficulties. Agreements have been concluded with Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, in virtue of which these countries will lend to Roumania the rolling stock required for the transportation of Roumanian corn to those countries. The seaports of Constanta, Galati, and Braila are being extended, and a second railway line will be constructed between Constanta and Bucharest. A committee has been appointed to elaborate a scheme of electrification of State railways with the aid of hydraulic forces and natural gas. It is expected that the transformation work will begin next spring.

According to recent information, the Government intends to adopt a more liberal attitude towards foreign undertakings in the matter of oil concessions than the policy adopted since the war. Seemingly, they begin to realise the urgent need for foreign capital, for at present only a small fraction of the total oil areas—estimated at 150,000 hectares—is being exploited. In connection with this, it is interesting to note the suggestion made by Mr Aristide Blank, a leading banker of the country, who proposes to grant a concession for 25 years concerning

the entire unexploited oil territories to a group composed of foreign capitalists, against 55 per cent. of the profits and the granting of a loan enabling the Government to consolidate its internal and external debts and to reorganise the transport system of the country.

The textile industries are having a prosperous time, especially since the recent appreciation of the Czechoslovak kronen, which eliminated the competition of Bohemian industries. The raw material used by cloth factories is at present pure wool, instead of the wool and cotton mixture used before the war, for Roumanian wool is at present cheaper than cotton imported from countries with appreciated currencies.

Books and Publications.

RECENT ECONOMIC LITERATURE—A MONTH'S SURVEY.

AGAIN one has to start with the statement that in the publications of the last month pure economics is to all intents and purposes unrepresented. Of applied economics in its narrower sense, as applied, that is to say, to commerce and the mechanism of business and finance, there is very little. Such books as these all fall mainly into that large class, so difficult to define with any exactitude, where economics mixes itself up with history, with geography, with politics, above all, with industrial politics. There are, that is to say, a considerable number of descriptive books, ranging from Latvia to Bolivia; a certain number dealing with labour as politically organised to-day; and a very few whose standpoint is that of theory. Among these latter may be mentioned two volumes by M. Henri Lambert, that enthusiast for Free Trade, who sees it as the key to the whole problem of European reconstruction, and the one safe road to peace. "*Il Nouveau Contrat Social*" and "*Pax Economica*" (both published by Alcan of Paris, at 7f 50c) are expositions of this theme, to which this Charleroi manufacturer has, ever since the war, been devoting himself with the ardour of an evangelist. Another synthetic effort—it sounds better in French—is "*Le Mutualisme essai de Synthèse*," by Arthur Travers-Borgstroem (Alcan, 6f), a translation from English. The author is all against economic nationalism; he has to struggle, there, against a tide of new nationalist feeling. Little of this, fortunately, finds expression in the admirable description of the *Czecho-Slovak Republic*, written by Messrs Paroslav Cisar and F. Pokorny, and published in this country by Fisher Unwin (9s), a book which contains some admirable chapters on the art, music, literature and the new Republic, but not as much as one might wish on the difficulties met with by a country which, surrounded by neighbours of precipitously depreciating currencies, struggles manfully against inflation. There is much of interest in the Swedish Traffic Association's "*Book about Sweden*"; and in Mr A. V. L. Guise's "*Six Years in Bolivia*" (Fisher Unwin, 21s, in which country the author spent six years as a mining engineer. The same may be said of Mr Owen Rutter's "*British North Borneo*" (Constable, 21s), though Mr Rutter's interest is mainly geographical and anthro-

As a description of the mechanism of the French Budget, and of official public finance, the little book which Mr Harvey E. Fiske has edited for the Bankers' Trust Company of New York, on *French Public Finance in the Great War and To-day*, is extremely valuable. In addition to the chapters dealing specifically with public finance, from the Treasury point of view are a series of others describing the mechanism of local and municipal finance, the banking system, the savings banks, &c., and the whole is illustrated by excellent tables and graphs. One can at least discover what the French income-tax, for instance, actually amounts to, and who pays it.

Publications like the *Stock Exchange's Ten Years' Record* (F. C. Mathieson, London, 20s) and *Tolley's Tax, &c.* (Waterlow, London, 2s 6d) explain themselves, as does *The Shareholders' Manual*, by H. H. Bassett

(Pitman, London, 3s 6d), and the *Annual Statistical Report of the American Iron and Steel Institute* for 1921 (New York, 40 Rector street). Statistical discussions, of a kind interesting to actuaries, as bearing on the incidence of casualties at sea and elsewhere, are contained in the *Statistical Journal* for the July quarter (9, Adelphi terrace, 7s 6d).

Like Mr Fiske's work on French finance, Mr B. G. Montgomery's study of *British and Continental Labour Policy* (Routledge, 21s) is almost purely documentary in its sources. He surveys the position and programmes of Labour parties in Great Britain, France, and the Scandinavian countries, and reveals, incidentally, a very interesting connection between actual progress in the improvement in social conditions and "reformism" as a political theory. The French socialists are the most "advanced," i.e., the most revolutionary, in theory; but when one turns from general declarations to actual programmes, one finds them including elementary reforms long ago secured, for example, in this country. Mr Montgomery's book (he is a Frenchman) is curious, especially in the sections describing British conditions, by its complete elimination of the human factors. It is a useful work, the more so that it is rigorously descriptive and non-argumentative. He says nothing on the topics which, for instance, occupy Sir Lynden Macassey in his *Labour Policy False and True* (Thornton Butterworth, 7s 6d).

RUSSIA THROUGH GERMAN EYES.*

GERMANY, having direct experience of revolution—though there are many who would deny that the fall of Kaiserism in 1918 constituted such in the strict sense—and being, thanks to geographical circumstances, in close and constant touch with Communism in its varying phases, are in better position than inquirers from happier and more distant countries to report on Russian life. The author of this book was in Petrograd and Moscow from September, 1921, to January, 1922, for the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, in whose columns its chapters appeared in the form of special articles. He is a Socialist, not a Communist, but he went to Russia to see a country, not a Communist experiment, and he has kept that intention very loyally in the front of his mind throughout. Whatever one's judgment on Bolshevik ideas and policy—Herr Schotthöfer is inclined to think that the *coup d'état* of October, 1918, was premature, that Russia was not ready, industrially, for Marxism—the existence of Lenin's Government is a fact, an element in the picture of the Russian nation. He agrees with most other impartial observers in holding that there is no effective alternative to it. Although, as he says, the Communists are not popular with the peasants, as were the Bolsheviks, who in 1918, promised them land and peace. Among the facts that have forced the new economic policy on Lenin's Government, the resistance of the peasants to requisition, &c., is among the most important. The effect of that policy is, of course, that the *régime* is no longer, in any strict sense, Bolshevik. It is now grappling with the same problem as every other war-shattered country, a problem presented in Russia in an aggravated form: the problem of economic reconstruction—only it is definitely trying to solve it from the bottom up, on the basis of certain assured minimum conditions for the under-dog. In this connection he makes one significant remark. Alexander Hertzén remarked of the Russia of his day that its deepest failure lay in the fact that "behind the visible there is no invisible State.....no ideal that, ever sought, is never fully realised." Czarism, Czaropapism, had no aim beyond its own aggrandisement. But the Soviet Republic, says Mr. Schotthöfer, has given Russia an "invisible State." This ideal is there, and is felt. Whether the present *régime*—as to whose miseries he is quite frank—can be transformed into Socialism is dubious; he does not discuss that. But the feeling about it is a fact he records. His book is not an argument, so much as a series of pictures. They are not extremely well done, but their honesty gives them a claim. His picture of the famine is quietly done; but the facts are so frightful that "writing up" is superfluous.

* "*Sovijsk Russland im Umbau*." Von Fritz Schotthöfer. Frankfurt: Frankfurter Societäts-Druckerei.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Interdépendance*. By R. Hofmann. (Paris) Librairie G. Oudin. 9f.
War and Armament Loans of Japan. By Ushisaburo Kobayashi. (London) Humphrey Milford.
Le Rôle du Consommateur dans l'économie moderne. By Georges Z. Strat. (Paris) Editions de la Vie Universitaire.
Pax Economica. By Henri Lambert. (Brussels) Maurice Lamertin. 7f 50c.
Le Nouveau Contrat Social. By Henri Lambert. (Brussels) Maurice Lamertin. 7f 50c.
The Argentine Republic: Its Development and Progress. By Pierre Denis. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. 21s net.
British North Borneo: An Account of its History, Resources and Native Tribes. By Owen Rutter (London) Constable and Co., Limited. 21s.
The Heart of Arabia: A Record of Travel and Exploration. By H. St. J. B. Philby. In two volumes. (London) Constable and Co. 63s.
Ninetieth Annual Meeting, Wednesday, September 6th, to Wednesday, September 13th. Journal of Sectional and Other Proceedings. (London) British Association for the Advancement of Science.
The Ulster Association for Peace With Honour. The Bulletin. Vol. I., No. 1. September, 1922. (London) 24-25, St Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W. 1.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch - 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
 West End Foreign Branch - 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
 Liverpool Foreign Branch - 42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
 Manchester Foreign Branch Corner York St. & Fountain St., Manchester.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET. ACCOUNT.
 September 20. September 21.

The awkward settlement of September 1st, which cleared up the last of the war position in the Stock Exchange and elsewhere, has been successfully surmounted, but left an aftermath of unpleasant, rather than bitter, effects from which the gilt-edged markets are suffering. For the War Loan to dip below 100 was due to fairly substantial realisations of the stock, accompanied by rumours that some of these sales were forced, and were on behalf of people who had not yet settled up in full their pre-war obligations. Vague talk of a possible rise in the Bank rate, and of an approaching number of new issues, served to emphasise the dulness of the Consol market. India Government stocks, however, are not at all bad, and these, together with certain other securities quoted this week ex the interest payments due early next month, have started to recover part of the deductions. National War bonds, however, are dull, and the tendency of the gilt-edged market, including the stocks in the Home Railway prior-charge list, is somewhat subdued.

French bonds, Government and railway alike, gave way during the earlier part of the week, but made a rapid recovery as the sentiment changed and Paris sent buying orders. The French capital has been a buyer also of Rio Tintos and De Beers. German bonds have been comparatively quiet, though the agreement to postpone the question of reparation payments till the end of the year infused a more cheerful tendency into the foreign market as a whole. Mexican Government bonds have mounted by several points, in consequence of the scheme just propounded for the settlement of the country's debts. Turkish and Greek bonds have remained curiously quiet, having regard to the developments in the Near East. Argentines are steady, no particular heed being paid to the rumour which sported with the idea that the republic may be raising a new loan in order to build a railway line to come into competition with those already existent. Brazilians have been erratic, Russians are better.

GUSTAV CASSEL'S Important Book

Money and Foreign Exchange after 1914

Demy 8vo. 10/6 net.
 Dr. Cassel has been described by Mr. Lloyd George as "one of the most brilliant economists in the world."

CONTENTS OF THIS BOOK:

Abolition of the Gold Standard—Creation of Artificial Purchasing Power—The Rise in Prices—The Growth of the Volume of the Means of Payment—Arithmetical Expressions for Increase in Circulation and Rise in Prices—Scarcity of Commodities and its Bearing on the Rise in Prices—The Influence of Inflation on Gold—The Exclusion of Gold—The Discount Policy and its Efficiency as a Regulator of the Monetary Standard—The Exchange Rates—Deviations from Purchasing Power Parities—Popular Misconceptions—Relations to Earlier Theories on the Exchanges—Inflation after the War—Reform Programmes—The Actual Operation and Effects of Deflation—The Retarded Diminution of the Circulation—The Problem of Stabilisation—Index.

CONSTABLE 10-12 Orange St. LONDON W.C.2.

Dissatisfaction is arising at the onerous charges imposed upon bulls of Home Railway stocks, and the market has relapsed into a quietude in which any such complaint has a good chance of making itself heard. The Undergrounds are better, Districts spurring strongly; otherwise no feature stands out in this department. Grand Trunks have gone back a trifle. Mexican Rails were disposed to harden, but no particular strength has developed yet. Argentine Rails, at first somewhat perturbed by the rumour mentioned above, rallied partially on the assumption that the Argentine Government is not at all likely to build a competing line, although it might be willing to develop the railway systems by the addition of supplementary lines of its own. Cordoba Central stocks are substantially higher. Leopoldinas, after touching extremes of 42 and 37½, finished the week above the worst.

The rubber market is dormant, but oil shares are giving a much better account of themselves than they have been doing of late. The bringing-in of new wells on the Mexican Eagle property stimulated the market in these shares, and led to recovery in others of the same group. The dramatic rise in Anglo-Persian ordinary was started by favourable statements as to the amount of profit which the company is said to be making. Several of the lower-priced oil shares have come into renewed prominence, and speculation appears to be drifting from Kaffirs into oil shares. The textile market is generally hard, with Courtaulds a strong spot. Banking shares have begun to improve, and the insurance group is good, with Royal Exchange shares about 10 points up. Few alterations of note have occurred in the shipping market. P. and O. gave way a little after the finding of the Commission on the loss of the "Egypt." Imperial Continental Gas strengthened, and several rises have taken place in the electric supply group. Stores shares are better, with John Barkers, Whiteleys, and others of this class in considerable demand. Wireless shares are better. The cable market exhibits no animation. In the brewery list, Meux preference improved on the payment of the first instalment of the arrears of dividend. The iron and steel market moves narrowly and without a special tendency, losses of a few pence being balanced practically every day by gains of equal amount in other shares. Weakness in Armstrongs is ascribed to fears of a poor report in the near future. Brunner Monods were strongly supported by the provinces.

Interest in Kaffir shares, as already mentioned, is disposed to veer into other directions, and prices sagged a trifle from the best. Broken Hills are being taken by the Colony, and Rio Tintos advanced by reason of Paris purchases. Diamonds came in for sharp rises, the trade conditions being said to have altered materially for the better. Tin shares are uninteresting.

Lord Balfour has consented to unveil the Stock Exchange War Memorial, in the House, on October 27th.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded	506,629,637			
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender September 1, 1922)		None allotted		

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 2, 1922.

April 1 to September 2, 1922	£22,748,000	£100,000	£100,000
------------------------------	-------------	----------	----------

To the Public—				
Inveresk Paper Co. (1922), Ltd., £150,000 6½% First Mort. Deb. Stk. (red. at 103%), issued at 95% (Sept. 5)	150,000	142,500	7,500	135,000
Do 125,000 8% Cum. Pref. Shares, £1 at par	125,000	125,000	6,250	118,750
Do 85,000 Ord. Shares, at par (allotted to directors)	85,000	85,000	4,250	80,750
Crosses and Heatons' Associated Mills, £1,263,620 6% Gtd. First Mort. Deb. Stk. (red. at 105% after Sept. 1, 1932, or at 103% 1963), issued at 98% (Sept. 6)	1,263,620	1,238,348	126,362	1,111,986
Total to Public		1,590,848	144,362	1,446,486
To Shareholders only—				
Chester United Gas, £41,890 5% Red. Deb. Stk. (rep. at par 1932-42), issued at 97½%	41,890	40,843	4,189	36,654
Devon General Omnibus and Touring, £7,000 7% cum. pref. shrs. £1 at par	87,000	87,000	10,875	76,125
Total to Shareholders only		127,843	15,064	112,779
Total offered for subscription to date				
1922	£508,248,328			£388,978,203
1921	155,306,480			367,549,636
1920	276,525,984			1,036,059,551
1919	896,300,213			1,353,381,451
1918	961,468,317			1,318,596,010
1917	1,097,032,860			885,436,850
1916	384,258,100			685,236,326
1915	658,773,876			512,522,633
1914	172,585,827			

Manchester Corporation Bills.—Tenders will be received at the chief cashier's office, at the Bank of England, London, on Thursday, September 14, 1922, for Manchester Corporation Bills to be issued under Manchester Corporation Acts, to the amount of £1,000,000. The bills will be dated September 19, 1922, and will be payable 12 months after date. They will be issued and paid at the Bank of England, London.

Port of Karachi.—This is an issue of £330,000 6 per cent. sterling debentures by the trustees of the Port of Karachi. These debentures are repayable at par in 1952 in London in sterling, and interest is also presumably payable in sterling in London. The Karachi Port Trust was constituted under an Act of the Government of Bombay, and the trustees have the exclusive right to levy charges in connection with the port. The present debt of the board amounts to £1,702,667, calculating the rupee as equal to 1s 4d. Against this liability it is stated that the board have assets valued at £3,779,500. An interesting table is given in the advertisement made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, showing revenue and expenditure for the past six years. These debentures were offered at £99 10s per cent., and they appear to be a good investment in their class.

Crosses and Heatons' Associated Mills, Limited.—Authorized capital £1,000,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 906,093, credited as paid up 8s per share, are to be issued to Crosses and Winkworth Consolidated Mills, Limited. This is an issue of £1,600,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, of which £1,203,620 is now offered for subscription at 98 per cent. The remaining £336,380 is being issued at par in part payment for certain properties now being acquired. The issue is repayable on September 1, 1963, at 103 per cent., but it may be redeemed by the company after authorised debenture issue is limited to £3,000,000, and is to be secured by a trust deed constituting a specific first charge on property and plant and a floating charge on other assets. The statement as to assets for the remaining unissued portion of £1,400,000 of debentures is rather vague. It might be taken to read that the company has the option of providing chargeable assets are independently valued at £1,731,397, and £543,650, representing uncalled liability on shares to be allotted to Crosses and Winkworth. It is a matter for comment that assets to the value of £2,456,424 should be represented by such a small share capital. Also the fact that average earnings over a period of only five years are shown calls for notice. Principal, interest, and premium upon the debentures are, however, guaranteed by Crosses and Winkworth Consolidated Mills, Limited, and this additional safeguard may attract some investors who consider that the guaranteeing company are now on the road to prosperity.

The Inveresk Paper Company (1922), Limited.—Incorporated in Scotland. Authorized share capital £250,000, divided equally into 8 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each. Applications are invited for and 125,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference debenture stock at 95 each at par. The directors and others, it is stated, have applied to the vendors. The debenture stock is secured by a trust deed constituting a specific first charge on property and plant. It is to be redeemed at 103, and during 1927 and each succeeding December 31, 1947, will be applied in redemption of the stock price. The company has been formed to acquire the business wards of 50 years ago. Profits are, however, only at £279,983. Independent and dated valuations are given of the property and plant. The purchase price is £175,000, of which £135,000 is payable in cash, but exactly what the company obtain for this amount is difficult to understand from the prospectus. In addition to and 5 per cent. for underwriting preference shares, the company is paying £20,500 for preliminary expenses. Subject to the fact that future prospects of the paper-making industry merit in their class, while the debentures are not without shares would depend on the investor's long view of the industry.

Omnium Oil Development Company, Limited.—Incorporated in Canada. Authorized share capital £250,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares of 5s each, of which 358,142 shares have been issued. The company was formed in September, 1920, in and Trinidad. This is a Press announcement made to comply with London Stock Exchange regulations, but the shares will only appeal to those with some knowledge of the directors, and advertisement of more details than those vouchsafed in the

Isis Chemicals and Dyes, Limited.—Authorized capital £30,000, divided into 300,000 ordinary shares of 2s each. The whole amount has been issued and the shares are fully paid. This is an announcement made in the Press to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. The company was incorporated on June 1, 1921, to acquire certain processes used in the production of dyes. It is stated that application will be made to the London Stock Exchange for permission to deal in shares of the company, but it is hoped that purchasers will exact much more information from the directors than that contained in the advertisement before parting with their money.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
War 4½% 1925-28	95½	94½	95½	94½	95½	94½	95½	94½
Loans 4½% 1925-28	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
4½% 1925-28	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
4½% 1925-28	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½
Victory Bonds 4½% 1925-28	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½
Conversion Loan 3½% 1925-28	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½
Consols 2½% 1925-28	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½
Irish Land Stock 2½% 1925-28	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½	57½
Local Loans 3½% 1925-28	64½	64½	64½	64½	64½	64½	64½	64½

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Barclays B (£1 f.p.d.)	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½
Chartered Bk of India	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.)	248	248	248	248	248	248	248	248
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £24 paid)	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½
London County Westminister and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid)	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½	174½

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Argentine 5% 1888-7	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgian 3% 1900-10	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914-70	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
Chilian 4½% 1895-100	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
Do 7½% 1900-100	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½
Chinese 5% 1912-100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Egyptian 5% 1912-100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
French 5% 1912-100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Do 4% 1912-100	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Argentine 5% 1888-7	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgian 3% 1900-10	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914-70	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
Chilian 4½% 1895-100	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
Do 7½% 1900-100	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½	105½
Chinese 5% 1912-100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Egyptian 5% 1912-100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
French 5% 1912-100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Do 4% 1912-100	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Anglo-American "A" 2½%	23½	23½	23½	23½	23½	23½	23½	23½
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) (£1)	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
Ass. Paint Cement (£1)	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
Barker, John (£1)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Pharmaceuticals (£1)	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½
Brazil Traction (£100)	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
British American Tobacco (£1)	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Burmah Oil (£1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½
Courtaulds (£1)	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½
Cunard (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Dorman, Long (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½
Forestal Land (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Furness, Withy (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Obispo and Ohio	85	84	85	84	85	84	85	84
Erie	20	18	20	18	20	18	20	18
Do 4½% 1st Pref.	30	28	30	28	30	28	30	28

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Aerated Bread (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) (£1)	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
Ass. Paint Cement (£1)	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
Barker, John (£1)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Pharmaceuticals (£1)	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½
Brazil Traction (£100)	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
British American Tobacco (£1)	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½	48½
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Burmah Oil (£1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½
Courtaulds (£1)	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½
Cunard (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Dorman, Long (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½
Forestal Land (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Furness, Withy (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½

	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.	Price	Week.
Brakpan (£1)	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½
Broken Hill Prop. (8)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Chartered (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
Crown Mines (10)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
De Beers Def. (26)	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
East Rand Prop. (£1)	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½
Goldfield (£1)	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½
Gov. Gold Arcas (£1)	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.		Interim div.		Final div.		Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim	Date of or Final.	Date of Pay-ment.	Method of Payment.	Lat'st Year.	Pre-vious Year.	%	
Railways.								
Darjeeling Himalayan	Rs6 p.s.	..	..	..	Rs12 p.s.	..	%	
Do Ext.	Rs28 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Hornacastle	23 1/2 %	Sept. 14	Less tax	..	43	5	..	
Hoshiarpur-Doab Branch	23 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Nisaran's State	23 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sara-Siraiganj	5 1/2 %	..	..	..	5	44	..	
Sidmouth	2 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wirral	1 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Banks.								
Banco de Chile	..	..	..	..	88 p.s.	88 p.s.	..	
Bank of Australasia	11 1/2 %	Oct. 6	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Chartered of India, &c.	14 1/2 %	Sept. 13	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Guaranty Trust of N. Y.	3 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..	..	
Molson's Montreal	5 %	Oct. 2	..	..	..	..	..	
National Bank of India	20 %	Sept. 15	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Northern Banking "A"	17 1/2 %	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Do "B"	8 %	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Insurance.								
British General	16 p.s.*	Oct. 2	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Eagle Star, &c.	30	Oct. 2	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Tea and Rubber.								
Assam Company	12 1/2 %	Sept. 26	Less tax	..	20	15	..	
Dejoo Tea	..	..	Less tax	..	5	..	..	
Highland Tea Co. Ceylon	5 %	Sept. 4	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Mining.								
Balaghat Gold, Pref.	1/ p.s.	Sept. 22	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	..	..	..	
Broken Hill South	2/ p.s.	Nov. 3	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Central Provinces Prospecting	10 %	Oct. 2	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Johannesburg Consolidated	7 1/2 %	Sept. 21	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Meyers Gold	15 %	Oct. 7	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	..	..	..	
North Anantapur Gold, Pref.	16 p.s.	(& bns/6 p.s.)	Less tax 4/9 in £	..	..	..	..	
Do Ord.	16 p.s.	(& bns/6 p.s.)	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	..	..	..	
Nundydroog	16 p.s.*	Sept. 23	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	..	..	..	
South African Real Estate	2 1/2 %	Nov. 6	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Companies.								
Albany Spinning	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	
American Telephone & Telegraph	24 1/2 %	Oct. 16	..	..	..	..	..	
Barnsley Brewery	9 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	12 1/2	12 1/2	..	
British Tobacco Co. (Australia)	3 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..	..	
Calcott Brothers	..	..	Tax free	..	40	40	..	
Cammell, Laird & Co., Cum. Pref.	23 1/2 %	Oct. 4	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Canada Land and Nat. Inv.	..	Oct. 2	..	..	..	..	..	
Canadian General Electric	1 1/2 %	Oct. 2	..	..	..	..	..	
City Offices	7/ p.s.*	Oct. 14	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Clarke, Chapman, and Co.	1/ p.s.*	Sept. 14	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Clover (Spinning)	3/ p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cons. Gas, &c., Baltimore (Common and Series "A" Pref.)	\$2 p.s.	Oct. 2	..	..	..	..	..	
Do Series "B"	\$1.75 p.s.	Oct. 1	..	..	..	..	..	
Croft (Spinning)	3/ p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Davis and Timmins	6 %	Oct. 2	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Direct Spanish Telegraph	8 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Dominion Tar and Chemical	24 1/2 %	(& bonu s 2 1/2 %)	Tax free	..	5	..	..	
Dublin and Wicklow Manure	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
East Hull Gas	5 %	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Edinburgh Collieries	5 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Empire Jute	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Fletcher, Son, and Fearnall	5 %	..	Tax free	..	10	..	..	
F. Steiner and Co.	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	
General & Commercial Invest. Df	6 p.s.	Sept. 27	..	..	..	..	..	
Hardy's Crown Brewery	2/6 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Hardy Patent Brick	..	..	..	..	7	10	..	
Hartford Brothers	6/ p.s.*	Sept. 30	Tax free	..	10	10	..	
Imperial Tobacco (Canada)	1 1/2 %	Sept. 28	..	..	..	..	..	
John Milligen and Co.	16 p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Jones and Higgins	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Kelsall and Kemp	5 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lancashire Dynamo and Motor.	3 %	..	Tax free	..	10	5	..	
Leigh Mills	5 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Leyland Gas	5 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lincoln Wagon and Engine	5 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Liverpool Exchange (£20)	8/ p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	
London Theatres of Varieties	23 1/2 %	Oct. 16	Less tax	..	5	10	..	
Mappin and Webb	23 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Marlborough (Spinning)	1/3 p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	
McBirney and Co.	3 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Metropolitan Gas of Melbourne.	5/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Meux's Brewery, Pref.	\$1.17/6 p.s.	S. Sept. 6	Less tax 6/ in £	(arrears)	..	..	..	
Michael Nairn and Greenwich.	5 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Mirfield Gas	2 1/2 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Newcastle and Gateshead Water	3 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Northampton Electric Light,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
"B" Ord.	4 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
North British Locomotive, Pref.	2 1/2 %	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Oldham Brewery	10/ p.s.	(& bonu s 20/ p.s.)	..	..	40/ p.s.	..	..	
Oxford Electric	5 %	Sept. 15	..	..	..	..	..	
P. and W. Macellain, Pref.	3 %	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Pearson and Knowles, First and Second Pref.	5 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Penarth Pontoon	5 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Penrhyber Navigation Colliery.	6 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Piccadilly Tobacco Manufacturing	..	..	..	..	8	6 1/2	..	
Plummer, Roddis	6 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Powell Duffryn Steam Coal, lat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ref. and 2nd Pref.	3 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Reditch Gas	5 %	Oct. 2	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Reville. Limited	6 %	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron	3 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	6	7 1/2	..	
Short's, Lim. (Prefd. Ord.)	5 %	Oct. 2	..	..	..	..	..	
Shrewsbury & Wern Brewery, Pf	6 %	Oct. 2	Less tax	..	(arrears)	(arrears)	..	
Singer and Co.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Singapore and Col.	5 %	Sept. 27	Tax free	..	12 1/2	12 1/2	..	
Smedley's Hydropathic	6 1/2 %	..	Tax free	..	10	10	..	
Smith, Garrett, and Co.	6 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..	
South London Electric	5 %	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Stewarts and Lloyds, Prefd.	10 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..	..	
Tatapaca Waterworks	4 %	Oct. 2	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Tate Iron and Steel Co.	Rs. 21 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Thomas and Evans & John Dyer	5 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	7 1/2	..	..	
Van den Bergh's Emballage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Fabrieken. Rotterdam	7 1/2 %	Sept. 4	..	..	..	..	..	
Wallsend Slipway and Eng.	3 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	
Western Telegraph Company	5/ p.s.*	Sept. 29	Tax free	..	10	10	..	
West of Scotland Investment	5 %	Oct. 2	Less tax	..	..	..	..	
Wills	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LIMITED.
RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.
ABOMINATION OF THE EXPORT DUTIES.

The 34th ordinary general meeting of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, was held, on the 1st instant, at the Banqueting Hall of the Exchange Station Hotel, Liverpool, Mr J. H. Batty (chairman of directors) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the total of the authorised capital was not altered from that of last year, viz., £13,000,000. The 5,000,000 15 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares were now changed, and were shown as "shares authorised but not issued." In accordance with the special resolution confirmed on August 4th, the rights to be attached to these shares were to be determined before or at the time of issue. There was a small increase of £14,862 in the ordinary shares, which now stood at £3,560,368, in connection with the completion of previous agreements, and the acquisition of a small concern to ensure the supply of packing cases and boxes required for A. J. Caley and Son and other subsidiary companies. The next item of importance on the debit side of the balance-sheet was sundry creditors, £2,417,208 14s 2d; included in this was about £1,500,000 for contingencies, excess profits duty, and income-tax adjustments, and when the final settlement with the Government was made this should show a corresponding decrease. The advances by bankers, £490,275 4s 10d, was a fluctuating amount. The whole of the company's assets were free from encumbrances.

AFRICA HOUSE.

They had during the year, when conditions were most difficult, provided the moneys required to take up their commitments, including the payments on the construction of Africa House, without occasion to resort to the hypothecation of properties, produce, or merchandise. Whenever they required help in that direction their bankers had assisted them with a readiness which they most cordially appreciated, and he thought he could assure them that they continued to enjoy their full confidence. There was a new item, Allied Companies, £139,424 16s 6d, consisting of internal adjustments between the subsidiary and parent companies, and these were liable to fluctuation. The depreciation fund showed an increase of £36,687 3s 4d. The insurance fund was increased by

£10,618 2s 1d, which was the profit on the underwriting by the company during the year. General reserve stood at £3,220,045 8s 8d, the balance remaining after transferring £1,750,000 to profit and loss account and writing off £1,500,000 from investments. On the credit side the value of buildings, lands, steamers, &c., was £972,849 5s 4d, an increase of £265,395 0s 11d, mainly explained by the transfer of certain properties of subsidiary companies, the completion of one new bar steamer, another in the course of construction, and properties purchased in other markets than West Africa. The properties in London and Liverpool showed an increase of £201,910 8s 6d, which was accounted for by the additional expenditure on Africa House, Kingsway, London. He thought they would all agree with him that it was not the time to consider selling a property of that kind even if it was decided to do so. The showed a decrease of £790,397 2s 1d as compared with last year. Produce in transit and in store in U.K. and elsewhere was somewhat less than last year. Sundry debtors and payments in advance, £252,884 1s 10d, and advances to Allied Companies, £2,638,424 13s 4d, would be very materially reduced when E.P.D. and income-tax adjustments were fully completed.

TRADE CONDITIONS.

Trade conditions in 1921 throughout the world were disastrous, and West Africa was still suffering from over taxation, and the natives were discouraged. The abomination of the export duties was having a very detrimental effect on trade in the British West African colonies, and they were determined not to rest until they got these duties removed altogether. Arrangements had been made for Major-General Grey and Mr A. A. Cowan to visit West Africa shortly. During the year the corporation entered into agreement with the Société Française de Pétrole, Limited, for the option of four concessions in the district of Half Assinie in the Gold Coast Colony, comprising an area of about 150 square miles. The directors wishing to show their sympathy with the shareholders in the unfortunate results of the year's trading suggest that the amount of directors' fees for this year should be £1,500 instead of £3,000.

Mr Robt. Miller seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors, Messrs T. Rowland Hughes, J.P., H. C. Hutchinson, J. Pickering Jones, and M. H. McNeill were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs Harwood Banner and Son) re-appointed. A resolution fixing the directors' fees at £1,500 was also adopted.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1922, to Sept. 2, 1922.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1921, to Sept. 3, 1921.	RECEIPTS. Week Ended Sept. 2, 1922.	Week Ended Sept. 3, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..	..
REVENUE.	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..	..
Customs.....	112,250,000	53,234,000	53,267,000	2,022,000	2,596,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	63,808,000	77,440,000	1,099,300	925,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	2,782,000	2,374,000	125,000	..
Stamps.....	48,000,000	28,161,000	19,548,000	930,000	548,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	18,250,000	6,522,000	5,593,000	460,000	110,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax) ..	3,000,000	540,000	420,000	10,000	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	329,000,000	119,092,000	124,196,000	7,100,000	6,818,000
Corporation Profits Tax	27,800,000	954,000	24,674,000	650,000	..
Post Office.....	19,750,000	6,987,000	4,590,000	560,000	220,000
Crown Lands.....	54,625,000	22,550,000	18,500,000	1,250,000	..
Loans.....	750,000	350,000	280,000	..	..
Miscellaneous—	14,000,000	3,584,908	4,305,703	67,242	62,443
Ordinary Receipts...	22,000,000	15,402,984	9,677,180	200,000	545,677
Special Receipts...	90,000,000	23,722,512	41,005,334	2,316,102	3,695,055
Revenue.....	910,775,000	347,690,404	385,870,267	16,139,344	16,170,475
Total, Inc. Balance ..	..	358,863,934	388,944,773	..	..

OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	800,000	3,350,000	..	50,000	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	2,660,000	..	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921.....	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	27,500	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	13,000	25,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	1,450,000	3,932,000	..	1,985,000	..
(c) For other issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,248,794,000	1,886,087,000	55,151,000	65,116,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	34,498,000	15,680,000	500,000	750,000	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	20	5	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35.....	..	1,024,990	..	620,000	..
5% 1927.....	121,708	17,740,000	..	..	..
4% 1927.....	61,422,074	..	..	..	..
4% 1932.....	52,648,508	..	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	11,869	5,902,049	..	975,273	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	333,490,500	567,024,000	13,550,000	49,850,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919 ..	..	4,000,000	..	1,000,000	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	180,460	34,538	7,832	5,727	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..	..
of the Finance Act, 1920.....	162,425	163,156	..	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	2,104,787,470	2,897,610,011	85,348,176	136,122,475	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1922, to Sept. 2, 1922.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1921, to Sept. 3, 1921.	Issues. Week Ended Sept. 2, 1922.	Week Ended Sept. 3, 1921.
EXPENDITURE.					
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	6,429,574	6,373,452	..	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	124,977,493	158,245,963	13,979,880	17,618,301
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	2,107,999	2,073,000	..	169,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	2,020,000	2,540,632	..	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	673,638	1,999	2,120	61,012
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	509,626	1,626,398	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,650,000	1,074,315	759,659	20,590	11,174
Supply Services.....	529,999,000	170,848,865	266,705,149	12,359,191	11,174,685
Expenditure.....	893,437,000	308,641,510	438,324,253	26,363,780	29,034,172
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....	..	2,900,000	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	84,909	84,909	..	410,000	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	2,230,000	4,340,000	230,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922.....	2,660,000	2,861,474	660,000	261,474	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	27,500	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	13,000	25,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	2,110,000	..	20,000	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—					
Treasury Bills for Supply.....	1,418,284,000	1,854,951,000	57,875,000	80,105,000	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919.....	6,063,507	17,574,907	2,195	685,978	..
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	4,272,138	..	972,138	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—					
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	11,750,000	7,000,000	500,000	600,000	..
(b) Repaid otherwise.....	..	7,500,000	..	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—					
5% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000 ..	19,612,208	..	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....	9,444,601	25,056,743	..	1,216,845	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	319,668,500	514,089,000	..	23,450,000	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....	399,521	12,140,089	..	500,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issues under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919 ..	243,012	..	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4) ..	..	7,465,000	..	550,000	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911 ..	55,656	61,200	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	2,101,482,562	2,894,401,075	86,623,113	136,813,467	..
Bank of Ireland.....	2,096,561	1,866,062	264,452	232,226	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,342,874	1,010,485	..	458,768	..
Total ..	3,304,908	3,208,936	1,274,937	690,99	..

Note—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.
Treasury, September 4, 1922.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.						
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold, Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govern- ment Securi- ties.	Balance	Bank of England.	
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%			£	
Aug. 28.	21,535	..	6,302	3,810						11,423	
Dec. 30.	38,478		169	600	18,500		481	9,924		9,286	
1915.											
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	276	54,621		20,536	
1916.											
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	190	118,102		6,688	
1917.											
Dec. 26.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	134	186,637		5,486	
1918.											
Dec. 31.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	89	305,133		4,566	
1919.											
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	91	337,537		2,802	
1920.											
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	130	336,504		134	
1921.											
Mar. 30.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.		28,500	19,450	139	311,334		141	
June 29.	323,884	14,965	3,000		28,500	19,450	148	287,750		150	
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	3,000		28,500	19,450	152	278,119		143	
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	3,000		28,500	19,450	147	289,131		161	
1922.											
Mar. 28.	300,351	14,255	5,000		28,500	19,450	159	261,479		177	
June 29.	295,374	13,338	6,000		28,500	19,450	163	254,312		250	
Aug. 16.	298,927	13,107	7,000		27,000	21,150	161	256,745		139	
Aug. 23.	295,130	12,927	7,000		27,000	21,150	162	252,728		179	
Aug. 30.	293,311	12,747	7,000		27,000	21,150	164	250,763		145	
Sept. 6.	293,088	12,665	7,000		27,000	21,150	164	250,437		167	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliations:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

BRANCHES:
* BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
+ BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
* BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

UNITED STATES: SAN FRANCISCO, NEW YORK, MEXICO.

CENTRAL AMERICA: GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SANTA MARTA, BARRANQUILLA, PUERTO CABELLO, CARTAGENA, CARACAS, MEDULLIN, BOGOTA, MANTA, GUAYAQUIL, IQUITOS.

SOUTH AMERICA: LIMA, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, COPIAPO, COQUIMBO, VALPARAISO, SANTIAGO, CHILLAN, TALCAHUANO, CONCEPCION, RIO DE JANEIRO, SAO PAULO, SANTOS, PORTO ALEGRE, PELOTAS, RIOGRANDE DO SUL, MERCEDES, ROSARIO, MONTE VIDEO, MONTE VIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, BUENOS AIRES, PERGAMINO, MENDOZA, SAN RAFAEL, BAHIA BLANCA, TRELEW, COMODORO RIVADAVIA, PUERTO DESEADO, SAN JULIAN, SANTA CRUZ, RIO GALLEGOS, PUNTA ARENAS.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%
June 14.....	128,884,081	121,957,550	127,874,151	180,324,710	25,376,531	194
21.....	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	180,730,727	25,960,416	200
28.....	128,946,693	123,048,010	131,435,299	184,946,319	24,348,683	189
July 5.....	128,458,962	124,583,313	148,316,424	143,807,498	22,385,822	151
12.....	127,900,698	124,249,705	124,987,104	120,766,661	22,101,993	178
19.....	127,402,158	124,256,265	126,641,810	122,965,489	21,096,300	174
26.....	127,403,930	124,757,630	121,873,106	118,748,150	20,075,330	164
Aug. 2.....	127,399,590	125,774,190	123,325,355	121,260,295	20,307,670	162
9.....	127,399,880	125,542,210	120,739,131	118,482,895	21,596,230	174
16.....	127,407,660	124,261,430	125,756,806	122,247,262	21,643,644	178
23.....	127,417,304	125,417,304	125,954,385	119,616,305	21,942,287	181
30.....	127,411,172	123,918,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	22,982,998	178
Sept. 6.....	127,412,713	122,879,715	123,035,544	120,237,248		

At corresponding date with the present week.	Sept. 4, 1912.	May 17, 1912.	Sept. 8, 1920.	Sept. 7, 1921.	Sept. 6, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	£ 29,274,310	£ 28,933,380	£ 125,906,565	£ 126,432,535	£ 122,879,715
Public deposits	15,896,771	19,014,809	16,500,595	15,479,410	13,685,108
Other deposits	47,116,125	1,248,964	116,988,625	140,730,389	111,540,456
Government securities	13,367,655	11,248,964	116,988,625	140,730,389	111,540,456
Other securities	36,518,725	14,461,280	116,988,625	70,046,794	43,647,661
Reserve of notes and coin	31,367,819	25,463,980	17,618,752	20,427,771	22,982,998
Coin and bullion	42,129,123	35,947,366	123,077,137	128,410,306	127,412,713
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	49.3%	42.3%	11.3%	13.4%	18.9%
Bank rate of discount	4%	3%	1%	5%	18%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	3%	2%	1%	4%	12%
Price of Consols	74 1/2	74 1/2	62 1/2	42 1/2	27 1/2
Price of silver per oz.	74 1/2	74 1/2	46 1/2	47 1/2	57 1/2
Average price of wheat,	28 1/2	26 1/2	59	48	35 1/2
Exchanges	34 1/2	33 1/2	90 1/2	62 1/2	63 1/2
on Paris	25-75-30	25-17-20	52-15-53-00	48-55-80	46-45-82 1/2
on Amsterdam	84 1/2	84 1/2	53-57-10	53-57-10	54-56-82 1/2
on London	20-45	12-05-10	11-19-25	11-73-76	11-40-47 1/2
on Berlin	20-45	20-45	185-90	143-35-2	54-00-61
Clearing house return	340,975,000	199,313,000			

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—August 30.....	£ 23,552,359,000	£ 1,886,135,000	£ 25,438,494,000
September 6	645,437,000	54,847,000	700,284,000
Total to date 1922.....	24,197,796,000	1,940,982,000	26,138,778,000
Do 1921	21,732,593,000	2,105,886,000	23,838,479,000
Increase or decrease in 1922. {	2,465,203,000	164,904,000	2,300,299,000
	+ 11 3/4%	= 7 7/8%	+ 9 6/9%
Total for 1921.....	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,020,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921. {	3,018,303,000	1,070,041,000	4,088,344,000
	= 8 3/4%	= 26 3/4%	=

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to September 2,	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	88,795,200	77,497,800	- 11,297,400
Bristol	52,527,000	49,311,000	- 3,216,000
DUBLIN	245,888,600	217,444,900	- 28,443,700
HULL		38,323,700	
LEEDS	39,876,000	37,851,900	- 2,024,100
LEICESTER	26,858,900	27,784,300	+ 925,400
LIVERPOOL	308,914,300	23,450,300	- 3,329,500
MANCHESTER	491,484,800	522,764,000	+ 31,279,200
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	56,203,200	65,071,000	+ 8,867,800
NOTTINGHAM	24,357,100	22,984,200	- 1,372,900
SHEFFIELD	41,060,600	39,451,500	- 1,609,100

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.
(000's omitted.)

BANKS.				
(000's omitted.)				
	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	June 30, 1921.
ASSETS.				
Cash and bank balances...	459,360	\$ 439,802	\$ 460,869	520,558
Bank balances abroad...	136,248	156,788	172,358	167,917
Call and short loans...	274,418	287,768	72,358	67,917
Securities...	318,753	313,490	278,175	276,641
Loans in Canada...	1,215,936	1,236,934	1,259,989	1,388,416
Loans abroad...	14,225	144,896	150,715	1,569,917
Other assets...	100,558	101,906	98,919	105,574
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation...	166,085	155,652	164,724	195,641
Deposits—				
Government...	89,024	96,412	145,753	145,541
Public in Canada...	1,687,162	1,691,975	1,720,566	1,870,916
Foreign...	365,790	367,434	275,525	282,141
Bank balances—				
Canadian...	9,973	8,793	9,714	12,616
Foreign...	35,493	37,121	45,612	41,611
Bills payable, &c...	24,521	25,755	22,648	42,268
Other liabilities...	2,963	4,182	3,012	2,612
Capital and rest...	254,414	254,291	254,348	261,541

(000's omitted.)						
	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1921.	Posted May 28, 1921.	
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion	5,532,528	5,531,528	5,531,080	5,522,592	5,735,373	
Of which held abroad	1,948,797	1,949,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	3,735,373	
Silver coin and bullion	285,991	285,991	285,569	285,569	633,373	
Discount and advances	4,005,943	4,298,676	4,049,623	4,612,552	2,337,373	
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	36,959,193	36,384,980	36,050,884	37,253,988	58,111,373	
Government deposits	23,279	50,020				
Private deposits	2,045,972	2,119,940	2,117,317	2,448,488	84,111,373	

	(000's omitted.)				
	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£	£	£
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	6,916	6,714	6,427	5,432	4,978
Bankers' deposits	5,439	5,515	5,555	5,894	5,810
Assets.					
Gold coin and bullion	252	252	248	212	132
Gold certificates	9,287	9,183	8,927	8,558	8,235
Subsidiary coin	250	250	250	250	..
Bills discounted (domestic)	313	321	318	..	..
Loans and advances to the Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other loans and advances	279	49	57	64	27
Investments	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities	79.2 %	79.1 %	78.6 %	79.6 %	78.9 %

	(000's omitted.)					Position
	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	Sept. 3, 1921.	May 30, 1919
Assets.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.	Pesetas.
Gold	2,523,386	2,523,424	2,523,413	2,523,424	2,498,622	521,775
Silver	650,444	650,285	646,269	647,649	627,831	728,600
Loans and debts.	2,019,381	2,038,017	2,133,545	2,145,263	1,993,244	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,474	344,476	344,474	344,474	344,474	344,475
Treasury bills.	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Liabilities.						
Circulation	4,131,407	4,124,258	4,169,394	4,169,430	4,185,457	1,901,550
Deposits	1,146,209	1,156,756	1,161,442	1,160,696	1,021,832	477,500

	July 13, 1922.	June 28, 1922.	June 13, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	July 15, 1921.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances					
abroad	1,762,632	1,385,350	1,389,171	1,388,159	1,367,466
Government loans	2,673,084	2,701,399	2,702,164	2,860,974	1,829,111
and securities	921,611	873,786	815,890	792,232	760,771
Discounts and loans					
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,708,004	1,426,064	1,484,387	1,484,387	1,758,448
Government deposits.	761,521	872,394	1,099,050	1,356,000	1,141,417
Private sight depôts.	982,328	885,466	862,133	793,527	865,535
Private deposits at fixed dates.	1,011,446	1,009,955	1,010,817	1,010,745	838,071

	(000's omitted.)										Position
	July 29, 1922.	July 27, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	July 30, 1921.	July 30, 1920.	July 30, 1919.	July 30, 1918.	July 30, 1917.	July 30, 1916.
ASSETS.											
Cash and bullion.....	1,278,380	1,285,600	1,283,275	1,281,261	1,280,686	1,275,864	1,275,864	1,275,864	1,275,864	1,275,864	1,275,864
Discounts.....	109,594	70,714	68,502	71,221	62,530	42,387	40,701	40,701	40,701	40,701	40,701
Advances.....	153,021	145,796	162,103	167,881	129,259	82,677	82,677	82,677	82,677	82,677	82,677
LIABILITIES.											
Notes.....	1,206,439	1,285,056	1,501,171	1,173,472	1,331,785	1,142,628	367,222	367,222	367,222	367,222	367,222
Govt. deposits.....	703,384	711,566	718,694	706,054	690,034	1,299,393	1,299,393	1,299,393	1,299,393	1,299,393	1,299,393
Other deposits.....	49,045	80,779	60,131	58,238	39,617	66,440	66,440	66,440	66,440	66,440	66,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA					
(000's omitted.)					
	Aug. 31, 1921. Marks.	Aug. 28, 1922. Marks.	Aug. 15, 1924. Marks.	Aug. 31, 1921. Marks.	Position May 30, 1924. Marks.
Assets.					
Of which deposited in Bank of England	1,004,859	1,004,861	1,004,858	1,023,708	1,315,363
Liabilities.					
Treasury notes	50,032	50,032	50,032	16,848	321,943
Bills discounted	22,569	21,060	21,765	3,044,838	963,600
Notes in circulation	23,239,597	20,503,192	16,598,678	80,046,388	87,072,721
Deposits	271,470,141	241,210,577	230,704,072	85,872,721	2,013,842
Capital.					
Notes in circulation	238,147,160	215,168,262	205,275,349	13,649,599	
Deposits	56,124,454	47,844,963	44,056,158		

	(000's omitted.)						
	July 31, 1922.	July 20, 1922.	July 10, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	May 31, 1921.	Percent of 1921.
ASSETS.							
Total cash	1,356,122	1,344,124	1,322,923	1,381,222	1,346,218	1,221,121	81.8
Inland bills	4,768,681	4,617,098	4,617,661	4,538,120	3,136,364	418,181	81.8
Foreign bills	9,758	9,780	9,754	9,813	19,575		
Advances to							
Treasury	6,151,617	6,150,427	6,149,893	6,147,274	6,362,036	n ^a	
Other advances.	2,579,513	2,585,395	2,762,280	2,975,031	2,477,777	79	
Securities	533,331	531,882	533,717	535,609	391,451	1,056,056	25.6
Note circulation	14,064,400	13,949,770	14,156,094	13,932,430	14,008,103	193,103	100
Deposits & drafts	1,726,733	1,878,097	1,937,826	2,011,001	1,765,665		

		(000's omitted.)					Posi
		Sept. 4, 1922.	Aug. 28, 1922.	Aug. 21, 1922.	Aug. 14, 1922.	Sept. 5, 1921.	
ASSETS.		Flornia.	Flornia.	Flornia.	Flornia.	Flornia.	Flornia.
Gold	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,957	16
Silver	8,762	8,883	8,717	8,528	10,283	10,283	16
Depts. & advances	307,356	356,349	356,349	377,322	447,812	447,812	31
LIABILITIES.							
Notes in circula'tn.	986,541	961,449	959,709	972,769	1,021,031	1,021,031	31
Deposits	2,938	2,938	2,959	45,536	43,425	43,425	

	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
ASSETS.					
Gold.....	510,940	510,834	510,834	510,835	510,835
Silver, &c.....	887	891	748	565	4
Government loan.....	12,531,636	12,525,422	12,521,099	12,527,638	10,300,000
Other advances.....	2,958,273	2,895,145	2,874,597	2,798,791	3,220,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	14,266,593	14,203,105	14,209,832	14,147,162	6,200,000
Deposits.....	6,075,344	6,072,821	6,040,673	6,021,900	6,000,000

	Ang. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
ASSETS.						
Gold	50,446	515,089	516,197	518,026	544,511	171,175
Silver	115,222	115,328	115,540	115,858	110,531	18,350
Darlehens-Kassen.	11,242	11,186	12,235	12,187	14,570	
Assets & advances	375,514	358,155	335,074	326,532	352,758	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	771,113	725,028	733,550	752,653	927,134	275,925
Deposits	271,840	294,022	273,249	250,772	109,861	33,750

	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Sept. 5, 1921.	May 24, 1914.
ASSETS	Kronor.	Kronor.	Kronor.	Kronor.	Kronor.	Kronor.
Gold	273,789	273,802	273,821	273,888	284,932	104,911
Balance abr. and foreign bills ...	78,165	78,835	78,678	78,632	108,620	112,177
Swedish and for. Gov. securities...	73,049	73,038	79,991	72,992	20,063	32,465
Discount and loans	414,276	383,517	396,628	399,476	446,165	113,656
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulat'n	569,155	512,607	521,813	530,230	648,880	226,555
Reserve at notice	209,024	230,285	237,346	231,030	143,777	69,661

	Aug. 31, 1922. Francs.	Aug. 24, 1922. Francs.	Aug. 17, 1922. Francs.	Aug. 10, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 1, 1921. Francs.	Position May 2, 1914. Francs.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	330,179	331,141	333,006	333,245	322,146	329,635
Securities	497,620	497,981	469,318	475,051	594,700	697,646
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	6,527,662	6,412,398	6,427,057	6,420,836	6,216,234	6,341,141
Notes in circulation ..	517,683	625,078	887,156	598,726	936,829	112,111

(000's omitted.)					
	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 3, 1922.	
	Krone.	Krone.	Krone.	Krone.	
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion, bills	930	1,454	1,334	1,334	
Silver coin	21	21	21	21	
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	404,421,046	303,545,842	276,595,446	255,116,514	
Loans	1,282,394	1,170,330	1,153,514	1,214,514	
Notes in circulation	1,147,586,970	91,932,437	833,471,496	786,255,496	
Deposits	136,629,297	85,376,128	72,876,490	36,688,490	

	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 1922.
	Krone.	Krone.	Krone.	Krone.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	12,858	12,953	12,985	
Silver coin, &c.	597	597	597	
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c	34,332,991	31,777,141	30,777,555	28,782
Loans	1,808,111	1,760,530	1,763,211	1,546
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	43,934,866	42,016,859	40,943,355	38,357
Deposits	4,391,213	4,115,167	4,265,579	3,923

	July 31, 1920	June 30, 1921	May 31, 1922	April 29, 1922	July 31, 1921	Post May 30
	Kroner.	Kroner.	Kroner.	Kroner.	Kroner.	Kroner.
Assets.						
Coins and bullion	228,304	228,310	228,284	228,325	227,541	28
Loans & discount	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	395,158	76
Debtors abroad	25,939	23,549	16,215	16,830	18,741	94
Securities	16,298	14,014	14,521	15,843	50,160	11
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	432,305	441,940	438,743	451,790	481,581	157
Deposits	142,399	119,028	114,766	128,657	75,256	6

(000's omitted.)					
	Aug. 31, 1922. Kroner.	Aug. 22, 1922. Kroner.	Aug. 15, 1922. Kroner.	Aug. 31, 1921. Kroner.	Post May Kroner.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,292	147,292	147,292	147,292	24
Balance abroad and foreign bills	37,610	39,707	38,856	31,762	48
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,780	9,780	9,786	8,545	7
Discounts and loans	445,100	438,312	434,138	454,832	11
Loans	384,683	375,403	375,690	420,951	
Notes in circulation	133,062	137,419	133,464	100,186	
Deposits at notice					

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT						
(000' s omitted.)						
	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	June 30, 1921.	May 31, 1921.	June 30, 1920.
ASSETS.						
Gold	£ 3,359	£ 3,362	£ 3,358	£ 3,364	£ 3,364	£ 3,364
Government securities	38,046	38,779	39,150	36,644	36,644	36,644
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	28,334	30,322	35,692	31,205	31,205	31,205
Government deposits	4,216	3,069	3,658	2,322	2,322	2,322
Other deposits	12,652	12,401	12,420	12,931	12,931	12,931

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	July 28, 1922.	July 21, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.
Govt. securities	13,59,27	13,67,64	12,93,85	13,08,24	13,61,72
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,60
Loans	16,31,65	14,20,74	14,46,49	14,54,98	12,92,37
Cash credits	25,58,01	25,27,69	25,44,95	25,44,64	22,63,52
Inland bills	4,07,56	4,12,33	4,02,24	4,15,45	10,57,06
Foreign bills	11,80	13,28	14,86	17,82	96
Bullion	2,43,50	2,43,25	2,43,36	2,43,65	2,10,68
Dead stock	29,55	30,80	25,00	24,38	26,97
Sundries	16,73	19,87	20,14	15,26	16,46
Balance with other banks	42,84,30	42,07,74	43,23,34	39,71,94	31,77,94
Cash	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,04,52
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38
Capital paid up	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85
Reserve	32,83,97	31,43,56	33,19,07	31,14,58	17,76,45
Public deposits	63,09,91	61,52,21	60,50,07	59,44,49	66,96,51
Other deposits	46,39	46,39	50,33	50,23	82,28
Loans against securities	56,18	55,26	50,84	40,72	47,24
Sundries	141	123	118	125	13
Deposits in London	367	353	350	351	579
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	104	125	126	95	101

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	110,493	112,424	137,675	383,211	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	707,889	707,890	707,896	887,931	21,826
Discounts and loans	821,354	805,896	819,070	382,200	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,310,726	1,321,122	1,337,563	1,336,960	123,941
Deposits at notice	129,848	100,643	117,349	131,617	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	June 28, 1922.	June 21, 1922.	June 14, 1922.	June 7, 1922.	June 29, 1921.
Coin and bullion	Escondos.	Escondos.	Escondos.	Escondos.	Escondos.
Of which gold	26,895	26,714	26,744	26,757	27,751
Balance abroad	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Of which gold	3,645	3,645	3,645	3,645	3,645
Discounts	140,700	135,132	135,774	139,555	120,885
Government loans	700,099	700,099	700,099	700,099	586,111
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	815,017	808,413	811,724	807,020	649,845
Deposits	52,298	47,129	45,454	51,906	56,968

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Gold	Levs.	Levs.	Levs.	Levs.	Levs.	Levs.
Silver	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,138	38,101	38,044
Treasury notes	19,563	19,703	19,868	19,935	20,252	20,583
Private loans	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613	111,535
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489	3,587,627
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,325,322	1,442,811

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 20, 1922.	June 20, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	May 20, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.
Gold	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.	Polish Marks.
Silver	31,535	30,824	30,121	28,879	19,200
Foreign coin	44,121	44,058	44,015	43,916	40,800
Foreign banks	234,027	153,658	130,179	159,222	43,600
Advances to the Govt.	32,151,393	19,716,513	23,494,096	217,000,000	158,000,000
Private loans and discounts	278,500,000	225,000,000	217,000,000	58,746,277	11,662,500
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	351,343,208	285,677,146	276,001,108	267,096,561	133,734,200
Deposits	62,296,256	50,050,676	51,649,766	53,636,427	34,648,600

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	August 16, 1922.	August 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	May 31, 1922.
Lat. Rbls.	Lat. Rbls.	Lat. Rbls.	Lat. Rbls.	Lat. Rbls.
Total cash	134,880	282,165	281,851	244,636
Foreign bank	712,892	611,667	467,879	494,194
Discounts and loans	326,793	327,526	293,500	449,631
Other assets	642,314	1,045,167	762,121	422,266
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	300,000	300,000	300,000	304,929
Reserve	4,929	4,929	4,929	857,182
Other liabilities	688,289	1,192,268	934,993	448,816

BANK OF ESTHONIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.
E. Marks.	E. Marks.	E. Marks.	E. Marks.	E. Marks.
Gold, for coin and notes	102,120	227,708	217,670	192,212
Total cash	206,858	264,859	315,451	291,096
Discounts and loans	2,552,533	2,390,793	2,305,754	2,305,864
Foreign banks	1,239,764	1,249,373	1,187,923	869,984
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,770	37,771	37,771
Notes in circulation	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Deposits	2,544,837	2,530,524	2,397,241	2,621,064

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1921.
Cs. K.	Cs. K.	Cs. K.	Cs. K.	Cs. K.	Cs. K.
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,096,713	10,096,712	10,096,712	10,096,712	9,528,807
Discounts and advances	1,877,583	1,914,938	1,925,798	1,966,607	3,105,279
Gold and silver holdings	1,717,248	1,611,508	1,423,072	699,952	1,446,353
Foreign bills and balances abrd	722,766	718,260	704,468	871,248	1,451,036
Other assets	856,085	859,334	1,016,344	1,126,992	1,451,036
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circulation	9,647,573	9,713,234	9,794,619	9,916,077	10,962,482
Deposits	3,444,175	3,320,665	3,069,903	2,568,572	1,972,733
Other liabilities	2,178,647	2,167,453	2,301,872	2,276,862	2,596,260

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchequer bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENES.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 22, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1921.
Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.
Gold	63,682	63,719	63,683	63,683	75,329
Other coin and notes	16,852	16,625	16,949	16,855	20,274
Foreign credits	412,996	280,932	281,722	281,506	339,369
Bills	1,057,330	989,841	941,222	893,510	228,777
Govt. advances	4,537,073	4,537,073	4,587,058	4,587,058	4,232,559
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	4,984,143	4,955,739	4,911,115	4,868,701	4,085,984
State credits	333,902	333,902	333,888	333,888	371,688
Deposits	703,128	549,799	625,849	621,029	368,654

LONDON RATES.

Bank rate (reduced from 3½% July 13, 1922)	Sept. 1, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Sept. 3, 1922.	Sept. 4, 1922.	Sept. 5, 1922.	Sept. 6, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
3 months' do.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
4 months' do.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
6 months' do.	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months'	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Loans—Day to day	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Deposits allowed by Banks	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½

† Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks :—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.						Trade Bills.					
		3 Months.		4 Months.		6 Months.		3 Months.		4 Months.		6 Months.	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1922.													
June 23.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
30.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
July 7.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
14.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
21.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
28.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
Aug. 4.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
11.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
18.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
25.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
Sept. 1.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2
8.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Sept. 9, 1921.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	49-50-55	56-70-60
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	358-360	5600-5800
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	3500-3600	32000-33000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-04	300-310	1334-1344
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	20-43	14300-14800	38000-40000
Bukares	lei to £1	T.T.	20-43	375-380	600-625
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	25-22½	1550-1650	9500-10500
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	24-02	582-582	730-750
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	460-480	770-810
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	175-185	370-380
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-73½-75½	11-44-11-45
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	50-40-45	60-60-65
Christiania	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	28-60-65	26-77-82
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-25-30	16-83-86
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	21-21-26	20-75-80
Helsingfors	dr. marks to £1	T.T.	18-159	275-278	207-209
Greece	drachma to £1	T.T.	25-22½	66½-66½	157-162
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22½	85½-86	101½-101½
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	21-75-80	23-44-46
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	5-6-4	28-75-80
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	63-4	5-6-4	28-75-80
Alexandria	piastre to £1	Sight	97½	97½-97½	97½-97½
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-6-6	3-72½-73½	4-46-46½
Montreal	dollars to £1	30 days	4-16-17	4-16-17	4-46-46½
Buenos Ayres	pence to £1	T.T.	4-16-17	4-46-46½	4-46-46½
Rio de Janeiro	pence to £1	T.T.	4-16-17	4-46-46½	4-46-46½
Manila	pesos to £1	T.T.	15-31	42½-43	42½-43
Yokohama	Eng. to Per. £1	30 days	63-4	31	31
Lima	per. to £1	30 days	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Tientsin	ster. to dollar	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Shanghai	ster. to dollar	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½
Mexico	pence to £1	T.T.	10 to 11	11-73½-75½	11-73½-75½

rupees) imported into India during the period October, 1921, to June, 1922, was as follows:—

	Gold.	Silver.
October, 1921	1.92	1.41
November, "	2.03	1.64
December, "	42	67
January, 1922	82	1.66
February, "	1.10	1.84
March, "	2.76	2.02
April, "	1.82	2.03
May, "	3.50	1.09
June, "	3.45	66
	17.82	12.02

During the nine months under review, therefore, India acquired precious metal to the value of about £20,000,000, the greater portion being in the form of gold. The *Times* Toronto correspondent, under date September 5th, states that the gold production in Northern Ontario during August is estimated at \$1,840,000 (£408,000). Three mines in the Porcupine District and five in Kirkland Lake contributed to the output. There is a prospect that the total production in the Province will soon reach \$25,000,000 (£5,550,000) per annum.

SILVER.

The Indian bazaars have been the main factor in the market. Buying orders from this quarter at the beginning of the week, coming on a poorly supplied market, gave it a firm tone, and the prices rose gradually to 35½d on the 5th inst. Yesterday offerings from the Continent and America, with some re-selling on Indian account, caused a sharp fall to 35¼d for both quotations. Calcutta and Bombay bazaars were reported as buyer and seller respectively on the same day. To-day there was renewed buying by the Calcutta bazaars for prompt shipment, causing an advance in prices, the spot quotation going to a premium of ½d over that for forward delivery. After the departure of this week's steamer, however, it does not seem probable that this difference will be maintained. The following interesting remarks as to the period over which purchases under the Pittman Act are likely to extend appeared in the *New York Times* of August 20th:—"If the Government continues buying silver at the rate prevailing during recent months, it will take at least another fifteen months to replace the 208,000,000 ounces sold to Great Britain during the war, according to N. H. Lawrie, managing director of the American Gold and Silver Institute. The purchases are being made under the Pittman Act, which guarantees domestic producers \$1 per ounce. "The Act went into effect in May, 1920; since then the monthly averages of purchases," according to Mr Lawrie in the *Engineering and Mining Journal Press*, were as follows:—"In 1920 they were 3,738,420 ounces, in 1921 4,888,544 ounces, and in 1922 4,798,770 ounces. The total silver purchased to July 25, 1922, was 119,960,506 ounces, leaving a total of approximately 87,000,000 yet to be purchased. The monthly average for the 26 months is 4,513,943 ounces. At that rate the 87,000,000 ounces would be purchased in a period of 19.3 months. At the monthly rate of purchases for 1922, however, the period of purchase would be shortened to 18.2 months. With the increasing production of copper and lead, the production of silver will increase this year, it is estimated, by about 6,000,000 ounces. If the probable increase in production for 1922 is maintained during 1923, it will decrease the duration of the Pittman Act by about three months, indicating a total remaining period of 15.2 months. To protect their interests, silver producers should be guided in their operations and plans for the future marketing of silver by the minimum estimated life of the Pittman Act of fifteen months from July 25, 1922, or to about November 1, 1923." Including a purchase of 350,000 ounces on August 23rd, the total amount of silver purchased under the Pittman Act up to that date was 126,434,506 ounces.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18.165	18.198	18.226
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8.627	8.709	8.832
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2.432	2.432	2.432
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	6.521	6.473	6.378
Securities (British Government) ..	585	584	584

The silver coinage during the week ending 31st ult. amounted to three lacs of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 2nd inst. consisted of about 40,200,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 4,100 silver bars, as compared with about 40,300,000 ounces in sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 4,840 silver bars on the 26th ult. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s 5½d the tael.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.	Silver.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward Per Ounce.					
Sept. 2 ..	92 5	35 1	35 1	Sept. 15, 1916	32 1			
4 ..	92 4	35 1	35 1	14, 1917	51			
5 ..	92 3	35 1	35 1	14, 1918	49 1			
6 ..	92 2	35 1	35 1	12, 1919	60 1			
7 ..	92 4	35 1	35 1	10, 1920	59			
8 ..	92 5	35 1	35 1	9, 1921	38 1			

NOTICES.

We regret to announce the death, on the 31st ult., of Mr Alfred Gardner, a partner in the firm of Messrs Ide and Christie.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank announces the opening of a branch at Teheran (Persia).

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR AUGUST, 1922.

Gold.	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Crude Works.	Mill.	Crude Works.		
Ashanti	7,808	...	...	...	6,522	(a) 27,709
Associated Gold	6,350	...	...	...	5,922	(a) 7,924
Blackwater	3,800	8,000	1,922	799	2,721	...
Cam and Motor	3,677	...	...	...	(d) 7,475	2,446
Champion Reef	15,300	...	...	...	5,656	(a) 25,485
Esperanza	12,355	23,478	3,143	1,095	4,238	5,019
Menzies Cons.	2,080	...	...	...	...	\$3,843
North Anantapur	18,420	52,722	6,122	4,380	10,502	4,026
Nundyrroog	1,756	...	...	...	1,824	...
Obbuss	9,700	17,535	4,507	680	5,187	...
Oreogum	13,000	15,600	7,608	896	4,351	(a) 1,697
Rezende	6,100	902	...	...	2,940	(a) 13,588
Shanava	168,300	168,300	8,300	16,544	24,844	(b) 113,247

(a) Including premium. (b) 91s 2d per oz. (c) Par value. (d) 90s per oz.

Copper.	Output.	Other Notes in Return.	
		Tons.	Value.
Tanganyika	3,871	...	...
Aramayo	200	...	...
Deebok Dredging	30	...	...
Gopeng	534	...	...
Idria Hydraulic	174	...	...
Ipo	16	...	...
Jos	124	...	...
Kaduna Prospects	34	...	...
Kaduna Syndicate	34	...	...
Kefi Cons.	20	...	...
Kinta	30	...	...
Kramut Pulai	...	...	...
Lahat	373	...	...
Lower Bischi	104	...	...
Malayan	9	...	...
Nigerian Consolidated	60	...	...
Nigeria (Bauchi)	177	...	...
Pahang Cons.	12	...	...
Pengkalan	...	...	...
Ramuan	...	...	...
Rayfield	18	...	...
Ropp	40	...	...
Siam	100	...	...
Sungei Besi	904	...	...
Tangkah Harbour	54	...	...
Tekka	83	...	...
Tekka-Taipung	31	...	...
Tronoh	99	...	...
Yarde Kerri Group	71	...	...

Coal.	Output.	Value.
Chinese Engineering	89,514	...
Chislet Colliery	4,508	...
Clydesdale	16,947	...
Dundee	35,915	...
Middleburg Steam	31,025	...
Natal Navigation	15,584	...
South African Estates	49,494	...
Tweefontein United	74,374	...
Versening	57,807	...
Vryheid	28,357	...
Wankie	31,117	...
Miscellaneous.	...	...
Freemantle Trading	449	...
New Vaal River	1,270	...
Rhodesia Broken Hill	1,805	...
San Francisco	1,270	...
Transvaal Silver and Base Metals	402	...

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—Output for four weeks to July 1st:—16,250 tons crude ore were treated, assaying 13.8 per cent. pb., 6.7 per cent. zn., and 13.0 per cent. cu. The concentrates, assaying 66.5 per cent. pb., 25.7 per cent. zn., and 8.5 per cent. cu. Of the foregoing, 2,472 tons came from the lead concentrating mill, 68.0 per cent. pb., 28.5 per cent. zn., and 8.1 per cent. cu., and 412 tons were produced from current slime, assaying 57.3 per cent. pb., 38.3 per cent. zn., and 9.6 per cent. cu. 11,287 tons dump slime were treated, assaying 11.0 per cent. pb., 6.8 per cent. zn., and 13.1 per cent. cu., and produced 1,841 tons concentrates, assaying 48.1 per cent. pb., 32.7 per cent. zn., and 14.3 per cent. cu. The despatches of zinc tailings were:—To Zinc Corporation, 29,045 ozs.; to Amalgamated Zinc, 8,461 tons.

and 13.1 per cent. zn., and produced 1,841 tons concentrates, assaying 48.1 per cent. pb., 32.7 per cent. zn., and 14.3 per cent. cu. The despatches of zinc tailings were:—To Zinc Corporation, 29,045 ozs.; to Amalgamated Zinc, 8,461 tons.

BURMA CORPORATION.—No. 7 level:—West crosscut, 1,137 ft south: from 40 ft to 55 ft, 30 ozs silver, 45 per cent. lead, 9 per cent. zinc; from 55 ft to 65 ft, 13 ozs silver, 25 per cent. lead, 7 per cent. zinc; from 65 ft to 70 ft, 14 ozs silver, 33 per cent. lead, 12 per cent. zinc; from 70 ft to 75 ft, 11 ozs silver, 15 per cent. lead, 5 per cent. zinc; from 75 ft to 80 ft, 37 ozs silver, 47 per cent. lead, 12 per cent. zinc.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC COMPANY OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.—Production during August:—1,943 tons zinc; silver lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation containing 218 tons lead, 46,359 ozs silver.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.—During the four weeks ended on Aug. 26, 1922, 9,574 tons of ore and 2,241 tons of slimes were milled at the Central mine—producing 2,350 tons of lead concentrates including 403 tons from the de-leaching plant, which assayed 40 ozs silver, 66 per cent. lead, together with 3,588 tons zinc concentrates assaying 11 ozs silver, 7 per cent. lead, 47 per cent. zinc per ton.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	July, 1922.			August, 1922.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
Aurora W. United (10s shares) ..	9,500	12,988	1,712	11,000	13,637	1,825
Brakpan	64,500	118,640	45,281	64,000	117,223	46,070
City Deep	88,500	173,639	66,712	89,000	171,915	63,701
Consolidated Langlaagte	41,100	53,345	10,687	45,200	56,927	11,355
Consolidated Main Reef	52,100	92,162	23,781	53,000	86,507	18,431
Crown Mines (10s shares)	214,000	282,356	67,690	225,600	307,653	84,865
Durban Roadport Deep	31,000	48,424	7,398	31,800	49,054	8,058
East Rand Proprietary	119,000	137,900	7,937	125,000	142,503	11,553
Ferreira Deep	30,500	38,976	5,397	34,000	44,479	8,007
Geduld Proprietary	46,300	74,841	30,118	46,800	75,807	31,288
Geldenhuis Deep	53,222	62,485	3,786	54,650	62,220	3,977
Glyn's Lydenburg	3,276	6,662	1,343	3,662	7,440	1,581
Goch, New	17,500	27,634	1,003	17,500	27,744	1,201
Government Areas	141,000	283,025	153,899	150,000	292,744	162,542
Kleinfontein, New	47,600	55,548	5,975	47,900	53,984	5,371
Knight Central	32,000	29,046	1,246	32,500	29,081	1,681
Langlaagte Estate	49,300	66,047	14,459	51,300	73,928	20,706
Limpasards Vlei	19,325	19,206	1,161	21,000	21,189	1,286
Meyer and Charlton	15,000	38,506	22,248	15,200	39,524	23,121
Modderfontein B.	62,000	106,631	66,257	48,800	110,613	69,966
Modderfontein Deep Levels	26,300	48,115	9,045	27,000	52,507	15,159
Modderfontein East	108,000	224,074	127,933	112,000	236,777	140,603
New United	11,200	12,148	2,066	11,900	13,561	1,159
Primrose Mines	47,700	66,572	8,824	48,000	67,803	9,171
Primrose, New	19,100	19,490	1,649	20,200	20,732	2,114
Randfontein Central	133,500	189,616	45,025	157,000	209,834	55,684
Robinson (45 shares)	17,000	25,660	9,692	18,300	27,295	11,000
Robinson Deep	68,000	94,564	30,084	70,500	103,724	36,142
Roodport United	8,650	7,893	380	53,700	57,513	9,043
Rose Deep	50,500	56,714	8,488	48,800	57,513	9,043
Summer and Jack	48,800	48,576	2,129	53,700	57,513	9,043
Spring Mines	41,400	46,241	35,071	48,000	96,587	42,600
Sub-Nigel	10,600	27,039	5,420	11,000	26,416	5,296
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates ..	15,940	23,623	245	16,170	24,965	2,353
Van Ryn	34,300	44,626	9,059	34,900	45,307	9,201
Van Ryn Deep	55,000	120,865	63,000	57,200	130,126	72,001
Village Deep	54,600	79,721	15,001	57,600	81,444	16,835
West Rand Consolidated	34,300	44,366	4,403	34,300	44,756	4,604
Witwatersrand Deep	42,350	58,650	14,256	37,200	57,484	14,067
Witwatersrand (Knights)	46,200	53,845	12,255	48,000	55,925	15,074
Wolhuter	33,700	36,022	3,665	32,100	36,048	2,903

* Loss. £4 12s per fine oz. £4 11s 6d per fine oz. m £4 10s 3d net per fine oz. n £4 10s net per fine oz.

(b) Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Limited.—Extraordinary profit due to temporarily abnormal grade, combined with increased tonnage and reduced costs.

Reports and Notices.

Messrs Higginson and Co. and Messrs Cull and Co. notify subscribers that the definitive certificates of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company, Limited (Cia Mexicana de Petroleo, "El Aguila," S.A.)—certificates for 7 per cent. first preference shares, will be ready for delivery on and after October 2, 1922, in exchange for fully-paid letters of acceptance and/or scrip certificates. The exchange will be made at the head office of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, 5 Threadneedle street, London, E.C.2, or may be effected through any branch. It is pointed out that under no circumstances should letters of acceptance or scrip certificates be sent by post. To facilitate the collection of dividends it is stated that arrangements have been made to issue all definitive certificates in the name of the London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Company, Limited (affiliated with the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited), endorsed in blank by that company. Dividends will be payable at any branch of the bank upon presentation of the share certificates for this purpose.

The Marine Insurance Company, Limited, has appointed Mr George Aubrey Thomas Darby as manager to succeed the late Mr H. F. Kingdon.

Brigadier-General B. R. Hepburn, C.M.G., has been appointed chairman of the General Petroleum Company of Trinidad, Limited.

Mr Geo. W. Paton (d-puty-chairman and managing director of Bryant and May, Limited) has been appointed chairman and managing director of Maguire, Paterson, and Palmer, Limited.

At a meeting of the council of the Rubber Growers' Association, held on September 4th, it was decided to convene a special meeting of the council to be held on Monday, September 11th, at noon, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, adopting the following resolution:—"That this council is of the opinion that the Colonial Office Committee should proceed to the introduction of a scheme as set out in the report of the Stevenson Committee with the voluntary

assistance of the British and other interests operating in the Netherlands Indies."

The Banco di Roma has increased its capital from 150 million lire to 200 million lire.

The La Guaira and Caracas Railway Company, Limited; the Dorada Railway (Ropeway) Extension, Limited; the Dorada Extension Railway, Limited; the Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railway Company, Limited, have removed to Moorgate Hall, London, E.C.2.

Baring Brothers and Co., Limited, notify that the transfer books of the Commercial Cable Company sterling 4 per cent. 500-year debenture stock will be closed from the 20th to the 30th instant, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the warrants for the interest due October 1, 1922.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

CONSOLIDATED EXTERNAL DEBT OF COLOMBIA.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the payment of the September instalment of the debt service in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1922.

3 PER CENT. DIPLOMATIC DEBT OF VENEZUELA, 1905.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the receipt of a sight draft for £4,390 15s 4½d, being the moiety of the third fortnightly instalment of the debt service payable to the council in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1922.

RAILWAYS.

NATIONAL RAILWAYS OF MEXICO.—The report of the National Railways of Mexico for the year ended June 30, 1921, shows a debit balance of 23,464,658 Mexican gold pesos, raising the debit balance in balance-sheet to nearly 300,000,000 pesos, after charging interest on bonds. The President's report explains position of company's lands at Port Tampico. An arrangement has been come to with the local Government whereby the company will be compensated for lands by the payment over a period not exceeding five years.

BANKS.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA.—The report of the Commercial Bank of Australia for the year ended June 30, 1922, states that net profits amount to £228,081, plus £13,322 brought in, making in all £241,403 available for distribution. The directors have placed to reinstatement of capital £66,726, reduction of bank premises £10,000, a further dividend on ordinary shares at 15 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £42,209. In addition to the above amount of £66,726 applied towards reinstatement of capital, £134,275 (being premium received on new issue of shares) has been applied to that purpose, which has completed the reinstatement of the bank's capital.

Reconstruction in Europe

NO. VII.

Edited by John Maynard Keynes.
MANCHESTER GUARDIAN COMMERCIAL.

I. R

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Week Ended Sept. 3, 1922.				Aggregate 35 Weeks 1922.		
	Miles Open.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Central (c)	6762	60,330	140,000	200,330	1,717,600	4,541,200	6,318,800
Do Joint Lines	1612	..	..	38,400	..	..	1,222,300
Great Eastern (c)	1,2072	154,370	85,000	239,370	4,149,100	3,237,700	7,386,800
Great Northern (c)	1,0550	176,600	125,000	301,600	3,452,300	4,842,900	8,295,200
Great Western (d)	1,3570	386,000	300,000	686,000	1,025,600	1,296,000	2,321,600
London & N.-Westm.(d) ..	2,6532	163,600	59,000	222,600	4,492,800	2,023,900	6,716,700
Lon. & South-Western (c) ..	487	129,535	24,500	154,035	3,360,800	990,974	4,351,662
Lon. Brighton & S.G.(c) ..	423	1,361	2,093	3,454	42,235	64,819	107,054
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	794	33,086	3,257	36,343	1,162,650	122,677	1,284,727
Metropolitan (c)	1,5852	222,000	316,000	538,000	3,512,000	1,110,000	17,417,000
Midland (c)	63	1,975	..	2,236	53,138	50,392	105,530
Midland & S. W. Inc., ..	1,850	63	1,975	2,038	4,042,100	8,548,600	13,210,700
North-Eastern (c)	16	180,590	240,900	421,490	1,669,408	324,297	511,703
North London	654	186,200	8,789	194,989	4,793,800	1,499,000	6,292,800
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	..	..	..	230,609	..	..	7,917,477
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	5,866	..	..	391,662
..	..	..	..	46,148	..	..	1,713,032
..	..	..	..	12,120	..	..	224,367
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	1,097	98,100	103,900	202,000	2,558,600	3,424,000	5,982,600
Caledonian	476	41,500	41,400	83,000	1,123,400	1,285,200	2,408,600
Glasgow & S.-W. (3) ..	243	12,080	8,300	20,380	353,200	320,300	655,550
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	492 (a)	18,614	9,744	28,358	423,016	358,111	781,027
Highland (c)	1,3772	85,700	116,100	201,800	2,318,900	4,070,700	6,389,600
North British	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bellevue and County ..	80	6,675	1,120	7,795	189,606	46,964	236,570
Down (b)	160	9,069	1,088	12,153	206,927	121,600	328,587
Dublin and S.-East. (b) ..	538	11,654	19,820	31,474	532,516	498,172	830,486
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended September 1, 1922.
(c) Week ended September 2, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Percent Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	17weeks	July 29	1,049	2,255,447	+1,466,388	332,753	+19,007,447
Barri Lal Ry.	19weeks	Aug. 12	118	23,100	+ 4,300	758,200	+ 246,600
Bengal & N. Western	16weeks	July 29	67	573,550	+ 89,017	1,147,217	+14,105,500
Bengal Nagpur	17weeks	Aug. 29	2,703	10,788,000	+ 52,000	2,333,189	+22,123,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	21weeks	Aug. 26	2,871	18,093,000	+1,210,000	4,709,500	+52,010,000
Burma	17weeks	Aug. 29	1,349	5,641,000	+ 33,820	1,191,520	+20,152,000
Delhi, Umballa Kalka	21weeks	Aug. 26	235	86,000	+ 21,342	20,807,762	+ 17,003,000
East Indian	19weeks	Sept. 2	2,772	30,643,000	+155,000	5,435,800	+ 6,380,000
G. and N. Peninsula	21weeks	Aug. 26	312	139,000	+1,550,000	6,527,730	+21,465,000
Madras & Mahr.	18weeks	Aug. 29	5,3028	12,500,000	+ 87,284	2,645,364	+24,555,250
Robil'd & Kumbson	17weeks	Sept. 29	259	54,217	+ 7,973	11,21,661	+ 56,610
Do Lucknow-Breilly	17weeks	Sept. 29	707	71,000	+ 13,510	11,411	+ 46,520
South Indian	18weeks	Sept. 29	1,129	8,87,207	+ 70,312	1,745,640	+22,873,000
Sttn. Panjab(mth)	1 mth	April 30	717	6,46,972	-245,885		
Argentine (a)							
Argentine N.E.	9weeks	Sept. 2	752	£ 8,600	+ 3,600	95,500	+ 11,600
Argentine Trans.	9weeks	Sept. 2	111	1,800	+ 411	12,430	+ 1,300
B. A. & Pacific	9weeks	Sept. 2	3,428	122,000	+ 500	1,153,000	+ 58,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	9weeks	Sept. 2	3,947	133,000	+ 1,000	1,270,000	+120,000
B. A. Western	9weeks	Sept. 2	1,384	25,000	+ 10,000	266,000	+117,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	68,000	+ 15,000	658,000	+125,000
Central Argentine ..	9weeks	Sept. 2	3,305	15,000	+ 15,000	1,733,000	+17,000
Cordoba Central	9weeks	Sept. 2	1,925	56,000	+ 5,000	595,700	+16,000
Entre Rios	9weeks	Sept. 2	811	15,500	+ 6,700	147,500	+ 40,000
Brazilian (b)							
Brazil Gt. Southern	7 mths	July 31		Mx 45,950	+ 10,250	291,500	+ 36,400
Gt. West. of Brasil.	35weeks	Sept. 2	1,005	8,600	+ 2,400	437,000	+16,600
Leopoldina	55weeks	Sept. 2	1,831	39,202	+ 2,271	987,293	+16,270
Paulista	35weeks	Sept. 2	1,554	29,755	+ 7,510	996,240	+61,000
State of Bahia, S.W.	4 mths	Aug. 31	52	Mx100,000	+ 28,000	344,000	+127,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	35weeks	Sept. 3	838	24,965	+ 9,045	715,515	+ 77,000
Araucario	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	+ 500		
Nitrato (2 weeks)	35weeks	Aug. 31	366	27,751	+ 14,416		+108,800
Peruvian Corp.	2 mths	Sept. 3	1,059	913,860	+ 408,570	2,544,900	+ 410,500
Talca	1 mth	Sept. 3	172	(b) 12,990	+ 2,917		
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Net	\$1,102,374	-500,572	7,020,807	+3,802,200
Havana Central	9weeks	Sept. 2	Net	\$474,495	+18,378	1,412,662	+1,404,430
United of Havana ..	9weeks	Sept. 2	1,210	9,202	- 782	83,770	+ 16,200
Havana Central	9weeks	Sept. 2	1,210	45,606	+ 8,846	437,624	+ 99,700
Uruguay.							
Central Uruguay	9weeks	Sept. 2	273	19,703	+	177,992	+ 23,000
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	9weeks	Sept. 2	311	5,394	+	35,859	+ 2,500
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	9weeks	Sept. 2	1,923	1,923	- 704	19,031	+ 4,400
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	9weeks	Sept. 2	211	1,796	+	16,300	+ 1,800
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084		
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	113	5,368	+		
North-West Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	- 747		
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	113	2,149	+		
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia ..	35weeks	Sept. 2	35	Ps 21,000	+ 7,500	679,350	+ 128,500
Bilbao	8 mths	Aug. 31	15	8,930	+ 73	8,300	+ 550
Bolivar	8 mths	Oct. 31	136	8,500	+ 1,143	73,650	+ 8,000
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 mths	Aug. 31	186	17,240	+ 1,130	193,391	+ 3,000
Costa Rica	12 mths	June 30	189	20,832	+ 3,025	257,053	+ 36,000
Costa Rica	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,295	+ 54,000
Dorado Extension ..	9 mths	July 31	45	7,000	+	35,750	+ 3,000
Dorado Ropway, Ext.	7 mths	July 31	45	7,000	+ 786	105,436	+ 16,000
Egyptian Delta	16weeks	Aug. 10	559	Ps 85,046	+ 19,193	2,645,029	+ 918,000
Gt. Southn. of Spain	34weeks	Sept. 2	258	Gross 68,869	+ 167	5,411,12	+ 1,000
International of Am.	7 mths	July 31	Net 23,676		1,985	217,902	+ 17,000
Central America ..	8 mths	Aug. 31	237	10,000	+ 860	81,250	+ 2,000
La Guasima & Caracas	8weeks	Aug. 31	403	\$342,000	-124,700	2,189,400	+ 466,000
Mexican Railway ..	1 mth	July 31	403	\$1127,500	-227,600		
Do	1 mth	July 31	Net 201,000				
Nassajo Ocasarham.	6 mths	June 30	193	11,371	- 1,933	63,674	+ 14,000
Osman Railway	1week	Aug. 26	374	10,427			
Paraguay Central ..	47weeks	May 27	275	3,310	- 850	165,470	+ 43,000
Pirassun-Athens, Ec.	9 mths	Feb. 28	D \$2,311,374	+ 414,841		16,380,765	+ 5,839,000
Puerto-Ricco, Ec.	7 mths	July 31	35	4,750	- 250	31,250	+ 8,000
Queretaro	9 weeks	Sept. 2	100	2,353	+ 308	28,399	+ 4,000
Salvador	2 mths	July 31		148,368	+ 3,059		
Santa Fe Province	7 mths	July 31		11,750	+ 3,974	62,390	+ 12,000
Samana & Santiago	7 mths	July 31		11,750	+ 1,689	68,399	+ 16,000
Zafra and Huelva ..	6 mths	June 30	112	(a) 10,941			

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.			\$	\$	\$	\$
Feb.	235,653	235,395	333,892,529	- 75,383,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,699
Mar.	234,202	236,625	+ 4,772,834	+ 76,848,800	+ 54,422,820	+ 28,542,820
Apr.	234,338	234,986	473,430,580	+ 16,059,426	113,468,843	+ 54,537,199
May	235,323	235,355	416,240,237	- 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,044,943
June	235,208	234,931	477,439,150	+ 10,679,512	92,331,585	+ 23,079,585
		235,310	472,383,203	+ 10,679,512	92,331,585	+ 23,079,585

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cons. & Hudson Bay	12 mths	June 30	Gross		1,156,515	883,141
Canadian Nat.	34 weeks	Aug. 31	Gross	-101,209	350,923	7,776,029
Canadian Pac.*	7 mths	July 31	Gross		1,556,287	6,791,865
Canadian Pac.*	34 weeks	Aug. 31	Gross	-138,676	30,189	10,641,000
Canadian Pac.*	7 mths	July 31	Gross	-1,307,000	106,252	9,070,000
Grand Trunk	34 weeks	Aug. 31	Net	-1,362,000	92,000	3,228,000
Temiscouata	1 mth	July 31	Gross	2640,853	76,345	15,741,692

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashonaland.....	4 mths.	Aug. 30	810	116,935	+ £	£	£
Mid. of W. Africa.....	1 mth.	July 30	277	7,938	+ 474	..	..
New Capa Central.....	41 weeks	Aug. 12	205	1,931	277	83,130	+ 23
Rhodesia Railways..	4 mths.	30	1,397	150,096	- 737		

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	35 weeks	Sept. 2	329	\$75,697	+ 3,394	2,912,751	+ 140,932
Burley Corporation	2 weeks	..	12	\$1,445	..	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	35 weeks	..	354	\$11,540	+ 20,251	..	+ 1,010,932
Chatham & District	35 weeks	Aug. 17	15	\$1,834	..	56,388	..
Egyptian Markets	35 weeks	..	14	\$1,446	- 26	57,644	- 10,564
Glasgow Corporation Tramways	13 weeks	Sept. 2	101	\$44,277	- 2,251	559,476	- 44,322
Isle of Thanet	48 weeks	Aug. 30	..	\$2,079	..	53,543	- 1,238
Lancashire United	35 weeks	..	39	\$3,038	- 376	106,120	- 14,338
Liverpool Corporation Tramways	34 weeks	..	120	\$23,761	- 482	939,602	+ 25,356
L.C.C. Tramways	23 weeks	Sept. 8	161	\$94,418	- 7,740	2,139,502	- 185,636
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	34 weeks	Aug. 31	..	\$851,257	+ 295	786,122	+ 147,878
Pernambuco Trams.	35 weeks	Sept. 3	..	\$2,432	- 482	124,741	- 11,818
Singapore Electric	35 weeks	July 29	..	..	..	..	..

TRAMWAY & OTHER MONTHLY GROSS

					GROSS & NET RECEIPTS.				
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage	Receipts for Month.			Total Receipts.		
				1922.	1	or -	1922.	1	or
Barcelona Traction Co., repts. in p.m.s.,	7 mths	July 31	Gross Net	3,708,509 2,174,800	59 +	+ 864,371	26,223,728	+ 5,278.	
Brazilian Electric repts. in mil.	7 mths	July 31	Gross Net	16,635,000 10,700,000			15,814,212	+ 2,473.	
Brisbane Electric Brit. Columbia	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross Net	255,260 255,260		4,585	595,960	+ 19.	
Electric, &c.,	1 mth	July 31	Gross Net	\$834,772 \$222,659	5,583 15,523		..	..	
Buenos Ayres La Croce Trams	1 mth	July 31	Gross Net	..		..	..	..	
Burmah Electric	1 mth	July 31	Gross Net	..		..	..	..	
Trwys. & Light	11 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$57,227	5,283		..	..	
Cape Elec. Trams	1 mth	July 31	Gross Net	\$61,637 \$23,669	17,873		..	+ 106.	
Canadian Wstrn. Natural Gas	1 mth	July 31	Gross Net	\$7,514	..		..	..	
Caribbean	10 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$27,053	6,547		828,723	+ 115.	
Corrientes Trms.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross Net	1,880 11,700	107 10,400		19,088	+ 1	
Catalinas Wareh.	2 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$1,060,862 \$1,024,278	362,191 368,261		13,844,852	+ 341.	
Cities Service Co.	Year	July 31	Gross Net	\$27,118 \$1,087,770	3,502 72		13,402,254	+ 4,476.	
Cordoba Light &c.	4 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$27,118 \$1,087,770	3,502 72		104,133	+ 1	
Elect. Sup. of Vict.	16 weeks	July 31	Gross Net	\$27,118 \$1,087,770	3,502 72		104,133	+ 1	
Harbin Elec. Rly.	5 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$1,087,770 \$599,313	12,261 102,737		5,459,542	+ 117.	
Light & Power	5 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$599,313 \$20,392	12,261 102,737		2,922,221	+ 588.	
International Light & Power	12 mths	June 30	Gross Net	\$20,392 \$6,313	102,737 1,045		76,459	+ 1	
Kalgoolie Elec.	5 mths	May 31	Gross Net	\$6,313 \$2,636	1,045 11,775		..	..	
Tramways	5 mths	May 31	Gross Net	\$2,636 \$3,698	11,775 7,549		826,138	+ 4	
Keynote Tele.	6 mths	June 30	Gross Net	\$3,698 \$5,952	7,549 1,528		327,220	+ 5	
La Guaira Harbr.	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross Net	\$5,952 \$6,058	1,528 473		..	..	
La Plata Electric	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross Net	\$6,058 \$6,470	473 52,424		..	..	
Lima Light, Pwr and Tramways	6 mths	June 30	Gross Net	\$6,470 \$85,385	52,424 12,388		406,596	+ 4	
Manila Electric	6 mths	June 30	Gross Net	\$85,385 \$20,508	12,388 7,709		136,943	+ 1	
Railroad, &c.	7 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$20,508 \$21,093	7,709 24,033		2,045,639	+ 6	
Para Electric	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross Net	\$21,093 \$25,676	24,033 1,884		876,384	+ 4	
Rangoon Electric	4 mths	June 30	Gross Net	\$25,676 \$25,676	1,884 1,884		876,384	+ 4	
Shanghai Electric	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross Net	\$25,676 \$25,676	1,884 1,884		876,384	+ 4	
United Electric T. of Montevideo	10 mths	Aug. 31	Gross Net	\$25,676 \$25,676	1,884 1,884		876,384	+ 4	
Vera Cruz	6 mths	June 30	Gross Net	\$25,676 \$25,676	1,884 1,884		876,384	+ 4	
Victoria Transvaal Pwr.	Quarter	Mar. 31	Gross Net	\$25,676 \$25,676	1,884 1,884		876,384	+ 4	
Winnipeg Electric	7 mths	July 31	Gross Net	\$25,676 \$25,676	1,884 1,884		876,384	+ 4	

§ Approximate receipts.

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY.—The profit for the year ended June 30, 1922, amounts to £397,885, and together with the £85,185 brought forward from previous accounts, shows a balance of £483,070. Payment for the first half-year's dividend, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, absorbed £147,335, and it is now proposed to place £100,000 to reserve, paying a further dividend at the same rate, which will take £149,314, and carry forward £86,421 to next year's accounts. The reserve fund now stands at £2,460,000, and total assets amount to £38,902,633. Deposits are £31,493,201, and cash in hand and at bankers £7,473,873.

ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA.—The accounts of the Alliance Bank of Simla for the year ended June 30, 1922, including Rs3,31,154 brought forward and after contributing to staff provident fund and rebating current bills, show a profit of Rs14,45,584. The interim dividend at rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on ordinary shares, and at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on preference shares absorbed Rs4,07,039. The dividend for the half-year ended June 30th at rate of 6 per cent., free of tax, on preference shares, absorbed Rs1,62,293, and the directors propose to set aside to reserve for debts considered doubtful or bad Rs8,00,000, leaving to be carried forward Rs76,251. The directors also deem it expedient to transfer to reserve for debts considered doubtful or bad Rs42,00,000 at credit of reserve fund.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—The report for the half-year to June 30th last states the net profits amounted to Rs.63,52,242, and Rs.12,74,494 was brought forward, making Rs.76,26,736. This sum the governors of the bank disposed of as follows:—In payment of a dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, free of tax (Rs.44,98,300); to reserve fund, Rs.10,00,000; to pension funds, Rs.5,00,000; and carried forward, Rs.16,28,435. The report states that money was in strong demand throughout the half-year, considerable pressure being experienced in March and April, when it was found necessary to obtain relief by borrowing to the extent of Rs.2,00,00,000 from the paper currency reserve against trade bills. The rate of interest was raised to 8 per cent. on February 15th, at which figure it stood until April 26th, when it was reduced to 7 per cent. It was further reduced to 6 per cent. on May 31st, and again to 5 per cent. on June 14th. The average rate for the half-year was 7.132 per cent.

average rate for the half-year was 7.132 per cent. The profit and loss account of THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.—The profit and loss account for the half-year ended June 30th last shows a balance of £168,235 for the available for distribution, including £27,604 brought forward. The board declared an interim dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, or 12s per share (£10 paid), less income-tax. The dividend absorbed £65,250, leaving a balance of £102,985 to be dealt with. Of this sum the directors have transferred £75,000 to the income-tax and contingencies account, and £27,985 has been carried forward. Total assets now amount to £51,256,295, while deposits are recorded as £45,346,612. Cash in hand and at Bank of England amounts to £4,057,871.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TATA IRON AND STEEL.—The report of Tata Iron and Steel Company for year ended March 31, 1922, states that as new ordinary and deferred shares are not entitled to participate in any profits earned prior to June 30, 1921, two statements have been prepared, one for three months ended June 30, 1921, and the other for nine months ended March 31, 1922. The net profit for three months was Rs23,49,933, plus Rs3,54,693 brought in and Rs1,10,699, being managing agents' commission for three months, which they have to go, making Rs28,15,386. The directors have resolved to place to depreciation fund Rs19,00,000, to income-tax and super-tax Rs2,12,261, dividend on first preference shares for three months at 6 per cent. per annum, dividend on second preference shares for three months at 7 per cent. per annum. The net profit for nine months ended March 31, 1922, was Rs54,87,571, out of which depreciation fund received Rs26,00,000, income-tax and super-tax Rs3,50,000, leaving Rs35,37,571. The directors recommend dividend on first preference shares for nine months at 6 per cent. per annum, on second preference shares at 7 per cent. per annum, leaving Rs5,31,321, which the directors recommend be carried forward.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS.—Estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of August was 83,592 barrels, equal to approximately 11,900 tons, and the oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds Limited, amounted to about 10,100 tons.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The production for August is cabled as 9,371 tons.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.—Oil produced during August 9,500 tons. Oil purchased during August from other companies 10,100 tons.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, August 30, 1922 amounted to 1,101 tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane Friday Evening.

Harvesting operations are proceeding steadily in the United Kingdom under more favourable conditions, although recent rains have made hand-cutting necessary in some districts. A continuance of fine dry weather during the next week or two is eminently

desirable in order to cart grain lying out in the fields. Wheat is expected to show a good yield generally, though quality may fall below last year. Barley is rather under average, while the out-turn of oats is appreciably lighter and short in straw. New crop grain is offering in larger quantities at the Statute markets, but good dry samples are by no means easily obtainable, a considerable proportion being damp. Millers so far show very little interest, and in order to effect business growers were obliged to make slight concessions. Best samples were held for 42s, with inferior at 38s to 39s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported varieties also moved off slowly at a further reduction, the decline being due to weakness in North American markets and pressure to sell, though later a steadier tone prevailed. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 50s. No. 2 hard winter, 47s, Australian 52s 6d, Rosafe 64 lbs 48s, all ex ship to arrive per 496 lbs. The cargo section remained in a dull state, as buyers evince little confidence in present prices owing to excellent crop reports from North America, while the immediate outlook would certainly appear favourable to importers. European countries will be able to carry on for a while with home crops, which proves a depressing factor on the other side, though no doubt prices will react when export buying is seriously attempted. Moderate cargo sales include Rosafe 64 lbs arrived at 44s 6d, No. 1 Northern Manitoba October-November 44s 4½d to 44s 6d, No. 2 ditto 43s 6d to 43s 7½d, and No. 2 hard winter afloat 44s 3d per 480 lbs. Flour prices suffered a further reduction owing to the wheat position and lack of buying interest. Home milled declined 1s per sack, London standard straight run now ruling at 40s, town households 38s, patents 42s to 43s, and all English straight run 37s per sack delivered to London bakers. Imported easier, while difficult to vend. Manitoba patents range from 38s to 41s, Pacific 36s, and Australian 37s to 38s per 280 lbs, ex store. Barley quiet and without new feature. New crop English shows variable quality, and ranges from 36s to 41s per 448 lbs free on rail. Foreign malting sorts, however, meet with a fair inquiry owing to indifferent samples of native on offer. Chilian quoted 54s to 57s, Australian 47s to 56s per 448 lbs ex store, American malting 29s 9d ex ship per 400 lbs. Maize quiet but firmly held, holders being more reserved owing to adverse Argentine weather, which is interfering with shipments of this cereal. La Plata ex ship quoted 40s 6d, there being very little on landed terms, No. 6 yellow African ex ship 35s 3d, American mixed landed 35s 3d, while a cargo of La Plata August-September sold at 37s per 480 lbs. Fairly good supplies of new winter native oats and a few lots of spring are on offer, prices ruling steady at 24s to 28s per 336 lbs free on rail. Imported firm. La Plata f.a.q. 26s 3d, clipped 27s, No. 2 Canada Western 30s 9d, No. 2 white clipped American 38 lbs 25s 9d, all landed per 320 lbs. Oatmeal in good demand, and prices 10s. ton dearer for home milled at £18 10s, all cuts. English beans move off quietly, but prices are about steady. English peas experienced a better demand, while imported for shipment were freely dealt in at full to dearer rates.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1921-22, contrasted with 1920-21, 1919-20, and 1918-19.

	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.	1918-1919
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to September 2.....	163,228	440,049	138,526	94,957
52 weeks to September 2.....	16,379,454	13,714,198	11,031,481	94,957
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
quarter.....	43 4	62 7	50 8	73 4
= per cwt.....	10 14	14 7	21 1	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.		qrs bush	qrs bush	qrs bush	s d	s d	s d
Aug. 26.....	17,787	2,629	4,282	0	49	39	28
Sept. 2.....	38,086	5	4,477	1	43	37	25
1918		15,620	4	5,375	3	72	60
1919	22,939	2	10,719	6	14,276	2	73
1920	32,322	7	14,274	0	15,881	3	90
1921	102,678	1	38,320	23	23,509	4	62

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Preferential.	Ordinary.	Rate.			

		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
Banks.										
Commercial of Australia	June 30	13,322	228,081	241,403	84,695	37,773	15	76,723	42,209	237,772
Commercial of Sydney	June 30	85,185	397,885	483,070	..	296,649	10	100,000	86,421	..
The National	June 30	27,604	140,631	168,235	..	65,250	12	75,000	27,985	133,158

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 7th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The American demand for pig-iron, both ordinary Cleveland G.M.B. and Basic iron, has stimulated home buyers, and ironmasters have made a good number of sales during the past week. Prices have consequently been raised, and Cleveland No. 3 G.M.B. is now quoted at 90s per ton. The hematite market is very quiet, and stocks of East Coast mixed numbers hematite are increasing in makers' yards. The price is weak at 90s per ton, and business could not be carried through at a less figure. Manufactured iron and steel: There are signs of an improved demand, but some works are still idle, whilst others are only working part time, and the approximate quotations are as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9; steel ship angles, £8 15s; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s net. Iron ore: Stocks at works are still heavy, and new business is very scarce. The price of best rubio is firm at 24s 6d, c.i.f. Tees, but Mediterranean ores are obtainable at 1s to 2s per ton less than quoted for best Bilbao rubio.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The improvement now in operation in the steel trades is only partial, as several local branches of industry report that the amount of business moving has tended to fall off during the last month. While the outlook continues to brighten, therefore, Sheffield as a whole is not much better off than it was six months ago. As may be imagined, there is a good deal of pessimism in local trade circles, and quite a number of old-established firms are finding it extremely difficult to keep their heads above water as regards finance. Money is so stringent that some of them would be embarrassed by a sudden access of new business. For this reason, and also because of the danger of prices being forced up, people generally would prefer a steady and gradual recovery to an immediate boom. Things are extremely bad in alloy steels for cutting purposes, and it is doubtful whether one-tenth of the crucible steel furnaces are working. As regards the heavy steel branches, about one-fifth in five is in operation in Sheffield itself, but the Rotherham district furnaces, where the output is chiefly basic steel, the output has gone up to about 60 per cent. of its capacity. Business is increasing in the Lincolnshire district both for basic pig-iron and basic steel, and the output is not far short of normal. A large part of the production is going to the United States. Business in hematite pig continues very quiet in the home market, but the position is rather better. Engineering and ironfoundry continue depressed, nor is there much enquiry likely to result in early business. Buying of steel for the motor industry and by the railways is increasing steadily, but the volume of trade is still relatively small and unsatisfactory. The demand for steel tools is mixed, some kinds being in request and others neglected. The season for farm tools and steel for implements has ended rather earlier than usual, and has been a very poor one. The usual Christmas buying of cutlery and electro-plate has not yet begun and these trades are only working three days a week on the average. Prices of these goods are being severely cut by firms that badly needed orders. The coal trade in South Yorkshire is a good deal more active than it was three months ago, as the district is obtaining some of the American trade. Best steams are now quoted 27s 3d per ton f.o.b., the home prices being 21s at pits. Railway companies are taking increased supplies, and small steam fuels are going away rather freely, as are nuts and cobbles. For gas coal there is a more active inquiry. House coal is in better request, best qualities being scarce and commanding high prices. Best hand-picked branch is quoted 36s at pits and Silkestone 33s. Furnace and foundry coke are in active request, especially from the Continent.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—The one actually hopeful outlook is that having relation to demand for pig-iron from America. It is calculated that fully 70,000 tons of Scotch brands have in recent months been sold here for despatch to the United States, and there is an inquiry in force which may last till the end of the year. As a result of this demand surplus stocks have been licked up, yet makers, not sure as to the future, are slow in relighting furnaces and so adding to production. This week 110s a ton is being named for No. 3 at makers' yards for shipment. Home demand is weak, and No. 1 commands no more than 105s, with No. 3 100s. Steelworks, taking them all in all,

are badly off for orders; some of them are wholly idle. Black sheets (thin) are in healthy inquiry for the Far East. Tubemakers are much better off than they have been for a while, and so are re-rollers of steel bars. Official returns give the launches on the Clyde for last month as 17 vessels, of 53,849 tons, bringing the aggregate for the eight months up to 90 vessels, of 254,303 tons, against 165 vessels, of 298,864 tons last year. And the boats "in hand" are fewer in number and bulk than has ever been known in the history of Scotch shipbuilding. Coals remain in active demand for the States and for the Continent. At present there are 100 steamers waiting at different Scotch ports for cargoes.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The termination of the coal strike in the United States has been quickly followed by a reaction on the Cardiff coal market. The situation to-day in the South Wales coal trade is very considerably better than it was in the second half of July, when the American demand first became active on an extensive scale. The orders placed by the United States and Canada during August were very heavy. The tonnage already chartered for the shipment of South Wales coals exceeds 1,400,000 tons, according to the fixtures which have been reported on the market, and the stems of a large number of collieries are full up to the end of the present month, and in some cases up to the end of October. It is from these contract commitments that the market derives its chief, if not, indeed, its only, support. Current inquiries are scarce. Orders from France and Italy are very fluctuating. During the past month shipments to France have ranged from 108,000 to 156,000 tons per week, and those to Italy from 38,000 to 95,000 tons. Buying from the United States has been almost entirely discontinued, and in these circumstances prices are once

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(with which is incorporated the AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.)

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£8,916,660
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£2,229,185
RESERVE FUND	£2,893,336
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£6,687,476
	£11,809,996

Board of Directors.
 William Referson Arbuthnot, Esq., Solomon B. Joel, Esq., J.P.
 Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., Esq., Horace Peel, Esq.
 Edward Clifton Brown, Esq., Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
 Stanley Christopherson, Esq., William Smart, Esq.
 Robert E. Dickinson, Esq., Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
 James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.

Senior General Manager in South Africa—J. P. Gibson.
Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey.
Asst. Gen. Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
London Manager—Francis Shipton. Secretary—Herbert G. Hoey.

Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4
London Wall Branch: 83, London Wall, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

(Opposite the Royal Colonial Institute.)
 NEW YORK AGENCY: 68 WALL STREET.
 ROTTERDAM BRANCH: 18 COOLSINGEL.
 HAMBURG AGENCY: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1023, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1049, 1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1647, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1655, 1657, 1659, 1661, 1663, 1665, 1667, 1669, 1671, 1673, 1675, 1677, 1679, 1681, 1683, 1685, 1687, 1689, 1691, 1693, 1695, 1697, 1699, 1701, 1703, 1705, 1707, 1709, 1711, 1713, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1721, 1723, 1725, 1727, 1729, 1731, 1733, 1735, 1737, 1739, 1741, 1743, 1745, 1747, 1749, 1751, 1753, 1755, 1757, 1759, 1761, 1763, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773, 1775, 1777, 1779, 1781, 1783, 1785, 1787, 1789, 1791, 1793, 1795, 1797, 1799, 1801, 1803, 1805, 1807, 1809, 1811, 1813, 1815, 1817, 1819, 1821, 1823, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1839, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1847, 1849, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1857, 1859, 1861, 1863, 1865, 1867, 1869, 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027, 2029, 2031, 2033, 2035, 2037, 2039, 2041, 2043, 2045, 2047, 2049, 2051, 2053, 2055, 2057, 2059, 2061, 2063, 2065, 2067, 2069, 2071, 2073, 2075, 2077, 2079, 2081, 2083, 2085, 2087, 2089, 2091, 2093, 2095, 2097, 2099, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2107, 2109, 2111, 2113, 2115, 2117, 2119, 2121, 2123, 2125, 2127, 2129, 2131, 2133, 2135, 2137, 2139, 2141, 2143, 2145, 2147, 2149, 2151, 2153, 2155, 2157, 2159, 2161, 2163, 2165, 2167, 2169, 2171, 2173, 2175, 2177, 2179, 2181, 2183, 2185, 2187, 2189, 2191, 2193, 2195, 2197, 2199, 2201, 2203, 2205, 2207, 2209, 2211, 2213, 2215, 2217, 2219, 2221, 2223, 2225, 2227, 2229, 2231, 2233, 2235, 2237, 2239, 2241, 2243, 2245, 2247, 2249, 2251, 2253, 2255, 2257, 2259, 2261, 2263, 2265, 2267, 2269, 2271, 2273, 2275, 2277, 2279, 2281, 2283, 2285, 2287, 2289, 2291, 2293, 2295, 2297, 2299, 2301, 2303, 2305, 2307, 2309, 2311, 2313, 2315, 2317, 2319, 2321, 2323, 2325, 2327, 2329, 2331, 2333, 2335, 2337, 2339, 2341, 2343, 2345, 2347, 2349, 2351, 2353, 2355, 2357, 2359, 2361, 2363, 2365, 2367, 2369, 2371, 2373, 2375, 2377, 2379, 2381, 2383, 2385, 2387, 2389, 2391, 2393, 2395, 2397, 2399, 2401, 2403, 2405, 2407, 2409, 2411, 2413, 2415, 2417, 2419, 2421, 2423, 2425, 2427, 2429, 2431, 2433, 2435, 2437, 2439, 2441, 2443, 2445, 2447, 2449, 2451, 2453, 2455, 2457, 2459, 2461, 2463, 2465, 2467, 2469, 2471, 2473, 2475, 2477, 2479, 2481, 2483, 2485, 2487, 2489, 2491, 2493, 2495, 2497, 2499, 2501, 2503, 2505, 2507, 2509, 2511, 2513, 2515, 2517, 2519, 2521, 2523, 2525, 2527, 2529, 2531, 2533, 2535, 2537, 2539, 2541, 2543, 2545, 2547, 2549, 2551, 2553, 2555, 2557, 2559, 2561, 2563, 2565, 2567, 2569, 2571, 2573, 2575, 2577, 2579, 2581, 2583, 2585, 2587, 2589, 2591, 2593, 2595, 2597, 2599, 2601, 2603, 2605, 2607, 2609, 2611, 2613, 2615, 2617, 2619, 2621, 2623, 2625, 2627, 2629, 2631, 2633, 2635, 2637, 2639, 2641, 2643, 2645, 2647, 2649, 2651, 2653, 2655, 2657, 2659, 2661, 2663, 2665, 2667, 2669, 2671, 2673, 2675, 2677, 2679, 2681, 2683, 2685, 2687, 2689, 2691, 2693, 2695, 2697, 2699, 2701, 2703, 2705, 2707, 2709, 2711, 2713, 2715, 2717, 2719, 2721, 2723, 2725, 2727, 2729, 2731, 2733, 2735, 2737, 2739, 2741, 2743, 2745, 2747, 2749, 2751, 2753, 2755, 2757, 2759, 2761, 2763, 2765, 2767, 2769, 2771, 2773, 2775, 2777, 2779, 2781, 2783, 2785, 2787, 2789, 2791, 2793, 2795, 2797, 2799, 2801, 2803, 2805, 2807, 2809, 2811, 2813, 2815, 2817, 2819, 2821, 2823, 2825, 2827, 2829, 2831, 2833, 2835, 2837, 2839, 2841, 2843, 2845, 2847, 2849, 2851, 2853, 2855, 2857, 2859, 2861, 2863, 2865, 2867, 2869, 2871, 2873, 2875, 2877, 2879, 2881, 2883, 2885, 2887, 2889, 2891, 2893, 2895, 2897, 2899, 2901, 2903, 2905, 2907, 2909, 2911, 2913, 2915, 2917, 2919, 2921, 2923, 2925, 2927, 2929, 2931, 2933, 2935, 2937, 2939, 2941, 2943, 2945, 2947, 2949, 2951, 2953, 2955, 2957, 2959, 2961, 2963, 2965, 2967, 2969, 2971, 2973, 2975, 2977, 2979, 2981, 2983, 2985, 2987, 2989, 2991, 2993, 2995, 2997, 2999, 3001, 3003, 3005, 3007, 3009, 3011, 3013, 3015, 3017, 3019, 3021, 3023, 3025, 3027, 3029, 3031, 3033, 3035, 3037, 3039, 3041, 3043, 3045, 3047, 3049, 3051, 3053, 3055, 3057, 3059, 3061, 3063, 3065, 3067, 3069, 3071, 3073, 3075, 3077, 3079, 3081, 3083, 30

ek have been exceedingly good, and it is to be hoped that merinos will advance no further.

Judging from the cable reports of the meetings held in Melbourne between the directors of the B.A.W.R.A., selling brokers, and representatives of growers, the association is again on the war-path. Taking an impartial view of the situation, we are not at all surprised with the programme announced by B.A.W.R.A. to take off the hands of growers all medium and coarse crossbreds at liberal advances, and not to reoffer until July, 1923. This action has, however, quered the pitch, Australian selling brokers have announced that they are prepared to give reasonable advances on all consigned clips of crossbreds, offering also to warehouse these wools free of charge until September, 1923. It is quite plain that the selling brokers in Australia are not going to accept the B.A.W.R.A.'s policy quietly. Australian selling brokers are acting well within their rights, for the association was only formed to supervise the sale of the old wool belonging to the British Government when the previous form of control was abandoned. The directors of B.A.W.R.A. appear to be animated by good motives in propounding their scheme, for it is certainly necessary that growers should receive a paying price for their medium and low crossbred wools, but circumstances are such that it is advisable for them to a large extent to leave well alone.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 1, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.	Same Period 1920.
Sea Island.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Georgia do.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
American.....	Ord	G O L M	Mid	G M F	G O L M	G M F	G O L M
Brazilian.....	Mid	M F	Fr.	G F	Gd.	Fne.	Gd.
Pernam.....	1190	1240	1325	1370	1395	1490	1524
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.....	1180	1330	1460	..	..	..	1826
Macao, &c.....	1180	1330	1460	..	..	..	1826
Mossoro, &c.....	1180	1330	1460	..	..	..	1826
Ceara.....	1180	1330	1460	..	..	..	1826
Maranhão, &c.....	1180	1330	1460	..	..	..	1826
São Paulo.....	1230	1310	1355	..	..	..	..
Egyptian.....	Fr.	G F	Fr.	Gd.	Fne.	..	..
Upper.....	1325	1400	1475	1525	1625	..	1200
Sakellariadis.....	1500	1725	1800	2025	2250	..	..
Brown.....	1350	1475	1600	1675	1850	..	1175
Peruvian.....	M F	Fr.	G F	Gd.	Fne.	..	..
Rough.....	1300	1375	1425	..	..	1075	..
Moderately Rough.....	1315	1465	1565	1615	1715	..	2700
Smooth.....	1315	1465	1565	1615	1765	..	2824
Tanganyika.....	1150	1300	1450	1550	..	..	..
Mitani.....	1250	1350	1450	..	..	..	..
West Indian, &c.....	2300	2600	2900	3000	..	..	7500
Do Sea Island.....	1025	1125	1300	1400	1500	1600	875
African, East, &c.....	1190	1240	1265	..	..	..	2550
Do West.....	G F	Fr.	G F	Gd.	Fne.	..	..
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	1095	1135	1175	1215	1255	..	1735
Machine Ginned Broach.....	935	985	1035	1075	1115	1155	1269
Machine Ginned Bhowngar.....	945	995	1045	1085	1125	1165	1275
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 1.....	945	995	1045	1085	1125	1165	1275
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 2.....	945	995	1045	1085	1125	1165	1275
Machine Ginned Khandesh.....	1065	1105	..	..	..	..	1560
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	795	835	875	915	955	995	700
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	785	825	865	905	945	985	682
Machine Ginned Scinde.....	1225	1265	1305	..	..	..	1960
Madras, Western.....	1000	1040	1080	1120	..	..	1585
Madras, Northern.....	Fr.	1065	..	..	..	..	1325
M.G. Cocoonada, Red.....	Fr.	1065	..	..	..	..	..
China, Smyrna, &c.....	Fr.	1065	..	..	..	..	..

MANCHESTER, September 7.

The feature of interest in the market this week has been the slump in raw cotton rates, sentiment being very bearish. As is usual in a falling market, buyers of yarn and cloth have adopted a waiting policy, and in the opinion of most people the bottom in values has not yet been reached. Less demand has been experienced in piece goods for India. No improvement can be recorded in the offtake for China. Restricted operations have taken place for the minor outlets, East and West, and home trade buyers have purchased from hand to mouth. There is no probability of increased activity until values are stabilised. Yarn quotations have been easier in sympathy with the drop in the raw material, and home users have purchased sparingly. Slightly more demand has been met with in bundle yarns for India.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, Sept. 7, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Aug. 31.	Aug. 24.	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.	Aug. 3.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	12.70	13.76	13.88	12.80	12.25	13.45
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .. per lb	17.25	18.00	18.00	17.75	16.75	18.00
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	19 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	19 1/2	19	19 1/2
— 40's twist .. per lb	18 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	18 1/2	18	18 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28	28 1/2	28 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	28 1/2
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	31	32	32	31	30	31
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	31	32	32	31	30	31
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	17	18	18	17	17	18
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs ..	16	17	17	16	16	17

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, Sept. 7, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	12.70	13.10	23.41	18.20	25.73	16.90
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .. per lb	17.25	21.50	65.50	30.00	30.19	27.75
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	19 1/2	20	50 1/2	40 1/2	55 1/2	24 1/2
— 40's twist .. per lb	18 1/2	18 1/2	46	39 1/2	55 1/2	24 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28	36	85	61	67	43
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	31	33	77	58	72	31
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	31	33	74	56	69	30
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	17	19	64	50	41	18
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs ..	16	18	36	30	35	16

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Building timbers have been arriving much more largely than a year ago, and the docks in London and around the coast have been kept well employed in storing for stock or sending off by lighters or on to rail. For this late period of the season stocks are by no means heavy, but quite sufficient when the poor state of the demand is considered. The Finns have placed almost all their stocks at what importers consider good prices, and the Swedes have been so successful in their sales here and on the Continent that the balances that will remain unsold by the end of the season will not be of any serious moment—that is provided they do not send them on consignment to this market! Russian goods have increased largely in import in comparison with last year, and though small compared with pre-war times, more is expected this season; and what has come, writing generally, has arrived in that condition and cut approaching those of the old Russian shippers of ante-Revolution days. Had Russia since the Armistice been able to present f.o.b. prices of Swedish wood producers (L26 for unsorted red deals and L18 for battens) would never have been obtained, and of the high timber costs.

The furniture wood market is keeping up remarkably well considering the state of the furniture and cabinet trades, and the poor, but fortunately slightly improving, shipbuilding trade, where hardwoods are used for interior and decorative work. For prime making from 8d and African 4d and upwards per foot super from first hands, but the poorer qualities are not in so much request; are not in any great demand. For American furniture woods the market is still slow. For cedar there is now little demand. Teak, both in the log and converted, is still in the dumps, but there is hope that when the shipbuilding trade improves holders of teak and pitchpine will get some relief.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OLSEEDS.

Trade during the week has been very quiet indeed, and only a minimum of actual business done. Linseed is steadier, but prices have shown little movement. Crushers about cleared Plate afloat at L16 10s, and L17 7s 6d is now quoted for old crop all positions to October, while new is steady round L16 5s, January-February loading. Calcutta has been done at L18 5s on passage to London, and this remains the value for "afloat." Cottonseed has again eased off to below L10 for black Egyptians and L8 5s for Bombay, but buyers evince no interest. West African cottonseed recently arrived at Liverpool has commanded L7 10s. Increasing quanti-

The Sixty Policy
Secures protection for your dependants
And a pension for yourself
And eases the cost during the present years of uncertainty.

Write for particulars to the
National Provident Institution,
48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

ties of this seed are also arriving at Hull. Soya beans and other oilseeds are all more or less neglected.

Pressure to sell in near position has caused raw linseed oil to further decline about 50s per ton on the week, values ex-Hull mill now being L34 15s spot and L33 5s month. Forward the position is steady round L32 for January-April delivery, and has invited some speculative interest. Cotton oils are down 30s to 40s on the week, as is also soya bean oil, crude Egyptian cotton quoting L30 and soap makers' refined L34, ex-Hull mill, with crude soya bean offering at L37 10s. Rape oil quiet and palm kernel and ground nut oils steady, and values about maintained.

The shipments of linseed (Plate and Indian) from January 1st to September 1st were:—To the U.K., 311,200 tons; the Continent, 413,275 tons; together 724,975 tons, against 837,600 tons same period last year; and of Plate to North America 200,000 tons, against 152,000 tons. The world oversea movement of linseed thus far this year is thus 924,975 tons, against 989,600 tons a year ago. The surplus of the Indian crop for export is estimated at 126,000 tons, and of Plate 57,000 tons. A private estimate puts the latter at 300,000 tons, thus confirming the suspicions which European buyers have entertained for several weeks that the linseed in Argentina yet to come forward was considerably in excess of the official estimates.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Fortunately for tanners the hide market shows no sign of any further advance, as all classes sold at Bermondsey on Thursday remained steady. Best heavy ox sold again at 9 1/2d, lights going to 6 1/2d as last reported. Cows made from 6 1/2d to 7 1/2d for best, and kips from 3d to 6d per lb. Calf were also steady, best lights making 12d to 12 1/2d and heavy 7 1/2d to 10 1/2d. Lambs sold from 3s 2d to 6s 9d each, and sheep pelts from 4s to 6s each. The imported hide market shows no important features, holders' ideas as to value not yet squaring with those of the tanner, who finds it practically impossible to get any increase on his leather.

Although trade in leather cannot be described as brisk, yet there is a much better tone prevailing, and quite a fair amount of leather has been seen out from Bermondsey this week. Northern tanners are also sharing in the improved demand. Repairers are buying 10-12 lb bends, but manufacturers seem content with 6-9 lbs in order to keep the cost of the boot down to as low a limit as possible. American sole has advanced in price to such an extent that competition with English is not possible for the moment. Rough dressing leather is dull, although in spite of the exchange a fair quantity is still being sent to the Continent.

The demand for upper stock has improved, and fair sales are reported of chrome sides and glacé kid. Prices are firming up, and shoe manufacturers will, I think, be wise if they soon cover and requirements. Many, however, are waiting for the Shoe and Leather Fair, which opens in London early next month, to test the market.

Reports from the leading shoe centres are cast in rather a gloomy vein, as orders seem to have fallen off of late. The home demand for winter has, however, hardly set in, whilst business with the Continent still lags owing to the instability of the exchanges.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, September 8.

The markets for the chief part remained in a quiet state, demand, especially for most raw materials, being measured by wants of immediate necessity.

SUGAR.—There was a fair inquiry for refined descriptions, particularly British, and market ruled steady. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes sold 58s to 59s; crushed, 56s 6d; granulated, 51s 3d to 51s 9d; castor, 54s 3d to 55s 3d; yellow crystals, 45s 9d; pieces, 36s 6d to 39s 6d; fine white, 45s 6d; granulated, October, 51s; November-December, 50s 6d. Crystallised West India ranges from 42s to 45s 6d as to quality. American granulated, spot, sold, 49s 10 1/2d to 50s 3d, and to quality. Western American granulated, spot, sold, 22s 9d; White 49s 10 1/2d; afloat, 23s 3d to 22s 9d; September, 22s 9d; Java, spot, 47s 6d to 48s; afloat, 20s; August, steamer, 19s 10 1/2d, c.f. and i. terms London. Belgian crystals, October-December, sellers, 19s 6d; granulated, 19s 9d, f.o.b., Antwerp. Czechoslovakian and Dutch sugars quiet, but steady for shipment. Cuban basis 96 per cent., September, quoted 18s 9d. Java No. 17, Dutch standard, ditto, 19s 3d c.f. and i., United Kingdom. Terminal market quiet. White, November, sold, 21s 4 1/2d to 20s 6d; December, 21s 4 1/2d to 21s 6d and 20s 6d; March, 21s 7 1/2d to 20s 9d; May, 22s to 21s. Cuban stocks stand at 453,000 tons, against 1,225,300 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—There was a moderate business doing during the week, chiefly in home-trade qualities, and a steady tone characterised the market. Bold Nairobi, sold, 8s to 10s 6d; Uganda Robusta, 68s to 73s. Future delivery market remained in a dull state. December, sold, 60s 3d.

COCOA.—Actual transactions in spot parcels were of retail propor-

tions, on about former terms. Forward quiet. West Coast African, October-December, quoted, 36s 6d, f.o.b. terms, for F/F quality.

TEA.—Some 35,800 packages Indian were catalogued in auction during the week, and for which a fair demand prevailed. Good to fine qualities realised steady rates, but common went off in favour of the buyer. Ceylon sales of 24,000 packages disclosed some irregularity, with slight weakness discernible in common and medium qualities.

RICE.—Market very quiet, but prices steady, as sellers do not press. Two stars, spot, 15s 3d; August-September, 14s 3d. No. 1 garden Siam, September-October, double bags, 16s 6d, c.f. and i. terms. Beans quiet. Rangoon, spot, 7s 3d. Japanese peas irregular and easier. Spot lots quoted, 35s; September-October sold, 28s to 26s 6d; December-January, 26s to 24s 9d.

SPICE.—Pepper market quiet, and without new feature. Fair black Singapore, spot, quoted 3 1/2d; October-December, 3 1/2d; Aleppy, spot, 4 1/2d; Tellicherry, 4 1/2d; white Singapore, spot, 6d; Muntok, 6 1/2d; ditto, October-December, 6 1/2d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 4d; October-December, 7 1/2d. Pimento, spot, 2d; flake tapioca, spot, 2 1/2d per lb. Ditto, August, London, 26s; September, 23s; fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 19s; sago flour, October-December, 13s 1 1/2d; desiccated coconut, spot lots sold, 33s to 32s; afloat, 31s; September-October, 33s. Ginger quiet, unaltered.

FRUIT.—Market steady but quiet for currants regarding spot lots. Patras quoted, 55s; quarter cases, 52s to 56s; Vostizza, 56s to 58s; Australian three crowns, 67s to 68s; two ditto, 62s to 63s. Australian sultanas steady, and three crowns sell at 105s, other growths ruling slow. Cape raisins, 40s to 60s, as to grade. Dates quiet. Siam, spot, 27s; new crop Hallowee, October shipment, 32s 6d, c.f. and i., London, was asked, but later business resulted in ditto via Bombay at 35s, landed terms, London.

JUTE.—Market opened the week with a firm tone, but developed irregularity and some weakness later, improving later. First grade, September-October and also October-November, Continent, sold, L35 to L33 10s, L33, and L35 10s; lightning grade, L32 to L30 10s and L32 10s; and old crop firsts, spot, Hamburg, L31. Hessians steady. 10-oz, spot, 35s; 8-oz ditto, 25s. A twills, 78s; B, 67s. Flour sold, 77s.

HEMP.—With a continued quiet demand from ropemakers, and some increase in selling orders, prices gave way. G. grade, September-November, sellers, L33 10s; J, L30 15s; K, L29 15s; L, L28 15s; M, L28. New Zealand dull, and high point fair, spot, quoted L33 10s; fair, L31 10s. African sisal, No. 1, G.E.A., September-November, sellers, L36, and B.E.A., L35.

SHELLAC.—Market very quiet, and quotations in a great measure nominal, closing dearer. Fair free T.N., orange spot, 300s; October, 265s; December, 245s to 250s 6d paid.

COPRA.—Market quiet, and prices tended in favour of the buyer. F.M.S. Straits, August-September, Hamburg, sold, L22 5s; ditto, August-October, Rotterdam, L22 15s; ditto, October-December, L23, L23 10s, and L23 5s; F.M., ditto, September-November, Marseilles, L22 10s; Ceylon, September-October, London, L24 7s 6d; continent, L24 5s; South Sea, ditto, quoted L22 10s; Java, L23 12s 6d; Dutch East Indies, L23; mixed, excluding Padang, L22 5s. Palm kernels, October-December, sold, L17 2s 6d.

RUBBER.—Market steady, and there was a fair trade effected this week. Standard crepe and sheet, spot, also September, sold, 6 1/2d to 7 1/2d; October, 7d to 7 1/2d; October-December, 7 1/2d to 7 1/2d, and 7 1/2d; January-March, 7 1/2d to 7 1/2d; April-June, 7 1/2d to 8d. To New York, standard sheet, October-November, sold, 7 1/2d to 7 1/2d; and November-December, 7 1/2d, c.f. and i. terms. Fine hard Para, spot, 10 1/2d; soft fine, rod; Caucho ball, 7 1/2d.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market quiet, but steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot, 75s 6d per cwt. Albumen, spot, 3s 2d; forward, sold, 2s 10 1/2d lb paid and buyers.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 30s; forward, 24s 6d. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 6s 9d; forward, 6s 3d. Aniseed, spot, 2s 3d. Slab camphor, spot, 3s 6d; crude, 3s 4d; and forward, 3s 4d and 2s 11d respectively. Cassia oil, spot, 5s 6d; forward, 5s per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 85s; forward, 75s per cwt.

ISINGLASS.—At the seventh auctions of the year the larger supply of 773 packages was offered, against 480 in July last. A slow demand prevailed generally, and to effect sales lower prices had to be accepted, with few exceptions. Para lump, 3d to 6d down; tongue, 1s to 1s 6d, and honeycomb easier. West India lump, 3d to 6d lower, while purse ruled in favour of buyers. Maracaibo showed some irregularity; good stout pale brought firm rates, whilst skinny showed a decline. Bombay: Kurrachee leaf was 3d to 6d down; tongue ruled firm; purse lower, and bladderpipe steady. Penang leaf showed a decline of 1s to 1s 6d; tongue commanded firm prices, whilst purse was rather cheaper. Saigon long leaf firm to rather dearer, whilst round was 1s to 1s 6d lower.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd.,
24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1833 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £800,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,100,000 RESERVE FUND - £320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XXV.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1922.

No. 4,125.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2
ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD, President
The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full Information respecting
ESTATE DUTY
and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

issued by the Company may
be obtained on application
from the Head Office or any
of the Offices or Agencies
of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

Christiania, Norway,

transacts all kinds of banking business.

and all Norwegian places of any importance.

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Aalesund, Bergen, Christiania, Drammen, Fredrikstad, Haugesund, Sandefjord, Skien, Stavanger, Trondheim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

America's Claim - Our Counter-Claim - 473

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS:

The Structure of French Finance - 473

Canada and British Goods - 474

For Next Summer - 474

Books Received - 474

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s 6d.

Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch Buildings; Sugar Loaf Court, Leadenhall Street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum Street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall Avenue, and 53 Finsbury Pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad Street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

By comparison, conditions in Lombard Street this week have been comfortable, the market having repaid all its debts to the Bank on Monday. On the other hand, there has been nothing in the way of a surplus, the making up of weekly balance-sheets by some of the banks having absorbed any margin, while the effect of tax collection is still being felt. Discount rates have been fairly well maintained, and were unaffected by the competition for the Manchester Corporation yearling bills on Thursday, allotments for which were made at an average of

THE MONEY MARKET.

By comparison, conditions in Lombard Street this week have been comfortable, the market having repaid all its debts to the Bank on Monday. On the other hand, there has been nothing in the way of a surplus, the making up of weekly balance-sheets by some of the banks having absorbed any margin, while the effect of tax collection is still being felt. Discount rates have been fairly well maintained, and were unaffected by the competition for the Manchester Corporation yearling bills on Thursday, allotments for which were made at an average of

THE MONEY MARKET.

By comparison, conditions in Lombard Street this week have been comfortable, the market having repaid all its debts to the Bank on Monday. On the other hand, there has been nothing in the way of a surplus, the making up of weekly balance-sheets by some of the banks having absorbed any margin, while the effect of tax collection is still being felt. Discount rates have been fairly well maintained, and were unaffected by the competition for the Manchester Corporation yearling bills on Thursday, allotments for which were made at an average of

THE MONEY MARKET.

By comparison, conditions in Lombard Street this week have been comfortable, the market having repaid all its debts to the Bank on Monday. On the other hand, there has been nothing in the way of a surplus, the making up of weekly balance-sheets by some of the banks having absorbed any margin, while the effect of tax collection is still being felt. Discount rates have been fairly well maintained, and were unaffected by the competition for the Manchester Corporation yearling bills on Thursday, allotments for which were made at an average of

THE MONEY MARKET.

By comparison, conditions in Lombard Street this week have been comfortable, the market having repaid all its debts to the Bank on Monday. On the other hand, there has been nothing in the way of a surplus, the making up of weekly balance-sheets by some of the banks having absorbed any margin, while the effect of tax collection is still being felt. Discount rates have been fairly well maintained, and were unaffected by the competition for the Manchester Corporation yearling bills on Thursday, allotments for which were made at an average of

THE MONEY MARKET.

By comparison, conditions in Lombard Street this week have been comfortable, the market having repaid all its debts to the Bank on Monday. On the other hand, there has been nothing in the way of a surplus, the making up of weekly balance-sheets by some of the banks having absorbed any margin, while the effect of tax collection is still being felt. Discount rates have been fairly well maintained, and were unaffected by the competition for the Manchester Corporation yearling bills on Thursday, allotments for which were made at an average of

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	453	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	474
The Control of Currency and Credit	455	New Issues	475
A Railway View of the Railways Act	456	Active Securities	476
Overseas Trade in August ..	457	Company Meetings	477
Nobel Industries	457	Government Returns—	
The Tobacco Trade	458	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	479
Electricity Shares	460	Currency Notes Account ..	479
Latin-American Notes	460	Public Income and Expenditure	479
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
Conditions in Ireland	461	Bank of England	480
The League on Disarmament	462	Clearing Returns	480
Turkey and the Allies	462	Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks	481
Russo-Asiatic Agreement ..	462	Overseas Bank Returns	481
A New Loan for China? ..	463	Loan and Discount Rates ..	483
The Crops	463	Rates of Exchange	483
The U.S.A. Harvest	464	Overseas Bank Rates	483
Iron and Steel and Coal Output ..	464	Indian Treasury Bills	484
Cotton Trade Short Time	464	Bullion	484
Calico Printers' Results	464	Imports and Exports of Gold	484
William Beardmore	465	Gold and Silver Prices	485
Tankers	465	Company News—	
Indian Gold Mine Dividends ..	465	Oil Outputs	476
Transvaal Output in August ..	465	Dividend Announcements ..	476
Overseas Correspondence—		Analysis of Balance-sheets ..	485
United States	466	Railway & Tramway Traffic ..	486
France	467	Profit and Loss Accounts	487
Germany	468	Mining Outputs	487
Canada	469	Reports and Notices	487
Argentina	470	Commercial Reports—	
Sweden	472	Corn Trade	488
Norway	472	Overseas Trade Returns	488
Letters to the Editor—		Iron and Coal Trade	489
America's Claim - Our Counter-Claim	473	Cotton Trade	489
Books and Publications—		Wool Trade	490
The Structure of French Finance	473	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds ..	490
Canada and British Goods	474	Hide and Leather Trades	491
For Next Summer	474	Overseas Produce Markets ..	491
Books Received	474	Price Current	492

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market quiet, but prices closed firm. Bo'd Bombay, afloat, £19 10s. Small Bombay, ditto, £18 10s. Calcutta, afloat, £18 7s 6d; August-September, £18 7s 6d; Sept.-Oct., £18 7s 6d to £18 10s. Plate afloat, £16 15s; August-September, sold, £16 17s 6d to £17 1s; January-February, new crop, £16 5s. Rapeseed dull. Toria, September-October, quoted £17 5s; real bold Ferozepore, September-October, quoted £16 15s. Cotton-seed weaker. Egyptian black, October, quoted £10 10s. Bombay, August-September, £8 5s, sellers. Gingly quiet. Chinese, new, October-September, £22 10s; large Bombay, August-September, £21 5s. Castor, Bombay, August-September, £17 5s, to Hull. Ground nuts easier. Coromandel, machine-dried, August-September, £19 10s; ordinary, £19; East African, £18 10s; Nigerian, £20 15s; bold Bombay, £19 10s. Chinese, November-December, sold £21. Soya beans, Manchurian, August-September, £12 10s per ton.

OILS.—Linseed market irregular. Spot, net, naked, 34s 6d; September, 33s 9d; September-December, 33s 6d; January-April, 32s 6d. Rape dull. Crude, spot, nominally 40s; refined, 44s. Cotton lower. Crude Egyptian, spot, 33s; common edible, 44s; deodorised (in barrels), 49s. China-wood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 63s; shipment, 63s. Coconut steady. Ceylon, spot, 39s; August-September, 37s; Ceylon, ditto, quoted 43s. Soya quiet. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 36s. Japan fish quiet. July-August, cases, 22s. Cod steady. English, spot, 31s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, 45s; deodorised, barrels, 54s. Turpentine irregular and easier. American, spot, 99s 9d; October-December, 99s; January-April, 100s. Rosin steady but quiet. American, grade B, 14s; G, 14s 9d; H, 15s; N, 15s 6d; W, 18s; WW, 20s 6d. French, F/G, 15s; WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 4½d; and water-white, 1s 5d per gallon.

METALS.—Tin: The market opened the week with an easier tone due to selling pressure, though offers were fairly well met. Sales included standard September at £160 10s to £159 15s; October and November dates at £160 10s to £160, and three months £160 10s to £159 17s 6d to £160. Subsequent movements were attended by slight irregularity, and while cash and three months remained about steady, further weakness was noticeable with regard to intermediate dates. At the middle of the week standard September sold at £159 15s to £159 12s 6d, with November £160, £160 2s 6d, £159 17s 6d, three months being registered at £159 10s to £160, £159 17s 6d. At Thursday's session the tendency was firmer, but only moderate sales were effected in cash at £160 5s to £159 12s 6d, and three months £160 5s to £160 2s 6d to £160 5s. On Friday value tended easier. Standard, cash, sold, at £159 10s; October, £160 5s to £159 15s; and three months, £160 5s to £160 to £160 2s 6d. English ingots, £159 5s. Copper: After a quiet opening ruled fully steady, moderate dealing being chiefly confined to distinct positions. Business comprised standard, cash, at £63 5s; September, £63 5s; December, £63 7s 6d; and three

months, £63 10s. Values continued to rule weak, as buyers showed marked reserve, though holders were reluctant to give way to any material extent. Small dealings transpired on Wednesday to standard September at £63 7s 6d to £63 3s 9d, and three months £63 10s to £63 12s 6d, and finally at £63 8s 9d. At Thursday's session a very steady tone prevailed, with a fair inquiry. Standard, cash, sold at £63 5s to £63 3s 9d; and three months at £63 12s 6d to £63 11s 3d. On Friday the market ruled about steady, with fair trading. Standard, cash, sold, at £63 5s; October, £63 10s; and three months, a £66 to £68; strong sheets, £94; wire bars, £71 5s per ton. Lead firm at £24 5s to £23 7s 6d, as to position. Spelter firmer at £31 10s to £30 15s, according to position. Antimony, ordinary, £27 to £29 10s Aluminium, home, £100; export, £105.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on September 6th as follows:—The tallow market was quiet during the week, and prices are 6d lower to-day. There is insufficient demand to clear supplies as they come forward. The stock in London or ages, showing a decrease during the month of 571 packages. At auction to-day 1,706 casks tallow were offered, and 579 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 41s 6d; good to fair, 40s to 39s; dull to dark, 35s to 33s; hard, 40s 9d. Australian beef: Fine, 40s; good to fair, 38s 6d to 37s; dull to dark, 35s 6d to 32s 6d; sweet, 41s 6d. Present shipment from Australasia: 37s. The market letter is unchanged for tallow: stuff 6d. lower. Town tallow, 34s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 14d; melted stuff, 24s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 33s 6d net cash, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 35s to 34s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 30s; melted stuff, 29s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—SEPTEMBER 7.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal.	Sheep, per stone.
Beasts—Herefords	s d s d
Shorthorns	7 4 to 8 0
Dorsets	7 0 to 7 10
Norfolks	7 6 to 8 2
Scottish	7 0 to 7 10
Irish	nominal
Fat Cows	5 0 to 5 8
Sheep—Downs (clipped) ..	10 8 to 12 0
Ewes (clipped)	7 0 to 7 8
Crossbred (clipped)	10 0 to 11 4
Scottish (clipped)	11 4 to 12 8
Lamb—Downs	11 4 to 12 8

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—SEPTEMBER 7.

English Epicures	Per Cwt.	s d s d
" Eclipse	2 9 to 2 6	
King Edwards	2 9 to 3 3	
Sharpe's	2 9 to 3 3	
King Edwards	3 6 to 4 0	

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.			
20s. Ad. foreign 22s. cwt.	58	0	4
Trinidad, per cwt.	63	0	73
Granada	75	0	95
Ceylon, plantain	75	0	95
Guayaquil	55	0	67
Bahia, finest	52	0	64
COFFEE—British grown ..	25	0	0
25s. Ad. foreign 22s. cwt.	58	0	4
E. India fine good g.m.d. 81	103	0	8
Do good to fine	115	0	125
Costa Rica, ord. to mid 66	150	0	0
Good to fine	106	0	125
Central America, g.d.	76	0	85
ord. to mid	108	0	100
Mid. to fine	108	0	100
Columbian, ordinary 64	0	68	0
Do good to low mid 68	0	80	0
Do mid. to fine	85	0	95
CHEMICALS.			
Acid, citric	24	0	23
Nitric	24	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	4	0
Tartaric, English	1	4	0
Foreign	1	4	0
Alum lump, per ton 214/10	16/0	0	0
Ammonia, calc. lb 1 1/4	0	44	0
Muriate, White, ton 55	0	68	0
Sulphate	217	0	18
Arsenic, lump, per ton 65	0	70	0
Powder	42	0	47
Ashes, pot., per cwt 70	0	80	0
Pearl do	11	0	0
Bleaching pwr. p. ton 13/10	10/0	0	0
Borax, crystals, cwt 29	8	0	0
Do powder	30	8	0
Creosol Tartar	116	0	111
Calomel	1	1	0
Iodine, dry, per oz 1 1/2	1	1	1
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton 14/0	10/0	0	0
FERTILISERS.			
Chlorate, net	0	44	0
Do Foreign	1	5	1
Sulphate	23	0	25
Sal-Acetos	1	1	0
Sal-Ammoniac, per cwt 60	0	65	0
Soda Bicarb., per ton 210/0	12/0	0	0
Crystals, ex ship, p. ton	8/0	0	0
Alkali	28/10	0	0
Castile	28/10	0	0
Sugar of lead white, ton 0/0	0/0	0	0
Foreign white	42	0	45
FERTILISERS.			
English Brands	2	2	3
Foreign do	2	2	3
Sulphate Copper, p. ton 27/0	28/0	0	0
Zinc, cut	14	0	0
Sulphur Flour	14/0	0	0
Do Roll	13/0	0	0
Vermilion, Chinese, p. lb 1	4	4	4
Besthy, or Kieffer	8	94	0
Oil Pepper, H.G.H. 23	6	25	0
U.P.A. per ton, c.i.f.	8	0	0
Malabar, Sept.-Nov.	8	0	0
Ceylon	8	0	0
F.M.S. Singapore	23	5	0
Do Straits	28	10	0
COCHINEAL per lb 2/9	3	6	

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Fully Paid Lire 300,000,000
Reserve Lire 90,000,000
Deposits and Current Accounts at 31st Dec-
ember, 1921 Lire 4,419,768,340

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.
THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.
London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers: D. A. HORNER, F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London." Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

As 11d per cent. Yesterday monetary conditions were a little easier, and after the result of the Treasury Bill allotments was known, the three months' rate was lowered to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	..

Thursday's Bank Return showed a slight increase in the gold stock and a reduction of £817,000 in the active circulation, the Reserve being £826,000 higher. Repayment of advances to the market is reflected in a decline of £5 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions in Other securities, while Government borrowing has increased Government securities by £3 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions. Deposits were thus £1 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions lower, Public being reduced by over £3 millions, and the balance going on to Other. The circulation of currency notes declined by £1,503,000 to £291,584,900 which includes £1,563,500 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is now £241,871,400, or £68,117,000 below the maximum.

The monthly statement of average weekly balances for August of the London clearing banks, printed in full on a later page, is remarkable for a further heavy decline in deposits. As will be seen from the table below, which gives the aggregate figures for the nine English banks, deposits declined by over £41 millions, making a drop of nearly £67 millions in two months:—

(Million £'s.)

	June, 1921.	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.	Aug., 1922.
Capital and reserves	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9
Acceptances	57.7	65.3	57.7	41.2	53.2	50.3
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,768.4	1,818.6	1,746.9	1,755.2	1,729.7	1,688.3
Total liabilities	1,942.0	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,926.3	1,898.7	1,854.6
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	265.1	273.5	245.8	251.3	243.5	239.1
Money at call	98.0	105.7	102.5	115.0	110.2	105.0
Investments	355.9	343.3	327.7	312.2	312.2	312.2
Discounts	346.2	424.3	350.5	346.2	333.2	305.8
Loans and advances	815.4	762.3	746.2	723.3	721.2	714.3
Cover for accept., premises, &c. ..	8.14	90.7	82.2	80.5	78.5	76.0
Total assets	1,942.0	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,926.3	1,898.7	1,854.6

The reduction in deposits has been balanced principally by decreases of £27 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions in discounts, of £7 millions in loans and advances, and of £5 millions in money at call. Investments have increased slightly. The ratio of cash and money at call to deposit liabilities is the same as in July, namely, 20.4 per cent.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock Exchange has been unsettled and mildly depressed by developments in the Near East, and by the breakdown of negotiations between the Belgian delegates and the German Chancellor. There has been considerable selling of gilt-edged stocks, producing dullness which affected the House as a whole. In the foreign market Chinese bonds have been heavy, and Mexicans have reacted after last week's rise, but there was a little improvement in Russians, as a result of the Russo-Asiatic agreement. Apart from strength in Undergrounds and a small rise in some of the Southern passenger stocks, the Home Railway market has been featureless. Rubber shares have improved a little, and oils are mostly higher. Kaffirs have been affected by Paris selling.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

In the cotton trade merchants have been discouraged by the unsettled political situation, and quotations have been irregular. A demand for piece goods for India has been noticeable, but buyers and sellers cannot agree over prices. Wool values were well maintained at the London sales, in spite of the apparently adequate stocks already held by users. Our Bradford correspondent, however, hints out that the position "is one of some delicacy, and spinners are not disposed to add to their already heavy commitments," except at favourable prices. With the decline in the exchange wheat prices were inclined to firm. There has been a satisfactory demand for pig-

iron, and prices are firm, No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. being quoted at from 92s 6d to 95s per ton, and a slight improvement has been noticeable in the demand for manufactured iron and steel, but prices are nominal. Best Admiralty coal was lower in the Cardiff market, quotations ruling from 27s 6d to 28s 6d per ton, and our Cardiff correspondent reports a perceptible improvement in business during the week. Prices of vegetable oils and oilseeds fell a little.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

During the past week the volume of exchange business has again been on the decline. Speculators seem to be holding off pending the further developments of the Reparations question. The German mark opened on Monday at about 6,550, and after various fluctuations consequent upon favourable or adverse reports in reference to the vexed question of Reparations, now stands at 6,400, having been seen as high as 6,975. Conditions in Germany are undoubtedly bad, the cost of living having risen enormously during the last few weeks, and the winter months are looked forward to with a great amount of apprehension. Germany has notified the British and French Governments that on September 18th £500,000 will be paid on account of the Clearing House instalment due on the 15th, the payment of the balance being made as soon as circumstances allow. The Paris rate has fluctuated considerably since our last issue, when it stood at 57.60, and now stands at 58.25, after having been at 58.35 on the 13th. The Belgian franc has risen to 61.70. The weakness of sterling in New York, which we have predicted for some time past, was followed yesterday by a considerable rally, after an early movement adverse to this country, and the rate now stands at 4.43. The Italian rate has been influenced by the weakness of the franc, and has risen as high as 104. Apart from this influence, the usual autumnal demand for imports is bound to have its effect. Amongst the neutral exchanges Amsterdam has risen from 11.45 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11.45 $\frac{1}{2}$, but is now down at 11.43, and the Swiss rate has risen from 23.50 to 23.64. In Scandinavia, Stockholm has fluctuated considerably, and after rising to 16.77, is now at 16.74. Christiania has appreciated from 26.65 to 26.42, and Copenhagen has remained practically stationary. Hel-singfors has again appreciated; trade reports generally in regard to that country appear to be favourable, and it is possible that the rate may still further recover, in view of the loan of F. mks. 200,000,000, which has been arranged by the Finnish Government through Scandinavian banks. In Central Europe the Vienna rate has remained fairly steady on the rumoured loans, the latest being one from the United States. Warsaw again shows signs of improvement, and is 3,000 down, as compared with the quotation last Friday, viz., 32,000. It is, however, difficult to explain the cause of this appreciation. Prague, after being up to 134 during the week, is now seen at 131. We have already mentioned that the present appreciation is causing a great deal of uneasiness in Czecho-Slovakian business circles. As recently as August 10th the rate was 180, and the highest quotation during the first six months of this year was 275, in January last. Belgrade again shows a decided depreciation to 670. The Athens rate has fallen to 185, and this rate is purely nominal, very little business being transacted. The rupee rate is slightly dearer, at 15 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, while the yen is slightly cheaper. The Hong Kong-Shanghai rates have remained practically stationary. In South America, Buenos Aires is cheaper, at 43 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Monte Video, at 41 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Valparaiso is dearer, at 32.10.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 9, 1922:—

Receipts.	Min. £	Expenditure.	Min. £
From Revenue	13,818	Supply Services	7,116
Taken from Exchequer Balances ..	451	Interest on Debt	3,019
		Sundries	146
		Debt Reduction	3,988
	14,269		14,269

The principal contributors to Revenue were Customs, £2,590,000; Excise, £1,214,000; Estate Duties, £1,310,000; Property and Income-tax, £5,745,000; and

September 16, 1922.]

Special Receipts under Miscellaneous, £1,346,900. For the corresponding period last year Customs yielded £2,811,000, Excise, £1,520,000, and Property and Income-tax, £4,351,000.

The week's operations increased the National Debt by the sum of £3,987,678, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £	Advance Bank of England ..	Min. £
Treasury Bills	+ 1,741	Do Public Depts.	1,666
Savings Certificates	+ 300	Surrenders of War Loan ..	311
		Sundries	302
	+ 2,041		6,029

The floating debt was decreased by £3,661,000 to £875,077,500 during the week.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to September 9, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	318,922,486	Raised by revenue ..	361,508,341
Dec. in balances	8,319,339	Net repayments	50,905,194
Total	310,603,147	Total	310,603,147

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure ..	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure ..	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term. Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	17	17
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % War Stock	16	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,943	1,930	1,930
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Funding Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	360	357	348	346	346	346	346
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	266	266	479	479
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Year Treas. Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	380	310
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	61
Do by tender 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	882	715
Unfunded Debt	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,060	882	715	715
Treasury Bills	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	194	159
Exchequer Bonds	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	324	348
Natnl. Savings Certs. ..	..	23	..	..	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,090	1,081
War Expend. Certs.	..	944	1,241	1,246	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	51	51	51	51	..	..	..	..
American Loan	..	1	204	455	243	154	200	147	161
Temporary Advances ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,658	7,560
	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	50	50
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,708	7,714

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	Sept. 10, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Sept. 9, '22.	Movement Week ended Sept. 9, '22.
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..
Standing—					
Advances by Bank of England ..	49,000,000	..	..	3,750,000	3,750,000
Advances by Public Depts.	154,014,000	147,301,500	156,957,500	1,666,000	1,666,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,151,602,000	882,219,000	714,370,000	1,755,000	1,755,000
Total Floating Debt	1,354,616,000	1,029,520,500	875,077,500	3,661,000	3,661,000

THE CONTROL OF CURRENCY AND CREDIT.

At a meeting of the economic section of the British Association, whose sittings at Hull concluded this week, the report of the committee of economists and financiers on the effects of the war on credits, currency, finance, and foreign exchanges was delivered. This year the committee has devoted its attention to seven questions, and has arrived at a greater measure of agreement than was the case a year ago, when the report was largely a symposium of individual opinions on thirteen different controversial questions. Last week we referred to some of the opinions expressed by the committee on the subject of international debts and reparations. The second question is devoted to domestic finance, and relates to the problem of redemption of the National Debt. The committee think that immediate reduction is not very important, in view of the present heavy burden of taxation. But they think specific sinking funds useful because the Government "is forced to retrench somewhere" if it has to provide so many millions a year for these funds. Incidentally there are considerable sinking funds attached to more than one of the large Government loans, although their value as a deterrent to extravagance is minimised if provision for

them is met by borrowing and omitted from the ordinary budget. Little importance is attached to the argument that, as long as prices are above the normal level, there is an advantage in debt redemption at those higher prices, in so far as fewer goods have to be surrendered to effect a payment of a specified amount of debt expressed in money. "There is a certain amount of truth in this, in so far as the enhanced prices are wholly due to inflation of the currency." But it is claimed that the burden of the payment of the debt in goods is also related to the total quantity of goods comprising the national dividend. "As that quantity increases the burden of debt redemption (as also of the interest on debt) decreases, that is, if it be assumed that interest and debt redemption require in goods one-tenth of the national dividend, and if at a later date that dividend in goods is increased by one-third, then the proportion of such dividend required to meet the same debt charge will be reduced from one-tenth to about one-sixteenth." The arithmetic here seems slightly at fault, but the argument in brief is that as the quantity of goods produced increases the burden of the debt is lessened. Few will quarrel with the statement that reduction of debt is most intimately related with economy in public expenditure. "With economy reduction on a satisfactory scale is possible; without it such reduction will always remain subject to doubt." The method of the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. conversion loan is wholeheartedly condemned as "fundamentally bad," but the report does not make any suggestion as to what alternative the Treasury could have adopted at the time it was floated.

Four of the remaining five questions are connected with currency and credit problems, and here there is less sign of unanimity and definite conclusion. It must be admitted, indeed, that complete unanimity on these complex questions would be too much to hope for. Government manipulation of the currency is characterised as mischievous, and likened to "moving the regulator of a watch with a pitchfork," but the committee rightly points out that we have to face the results of such manipulation. How disturbing its effects have been, and how much more difficult it has become to attempt to read the future were at pains recently to point out. The committee thinks that to cause the minimum of disturbance further contraction of the currency should be gradual until an effective gold standard is restored, but to attain stability "it is really more important to act on credit than on currency, and accordingly the banks can do more than is possible by the Government." "If the banks as a whole could be brought to see the advantage of joint action in the control of credit at the beginning of a period of active trade considerable permanent advantages would be likely to result." The banks certainly made no conspicuous attempt to use their influence at the beginning of the post-war boom, and even encouraged inflationary borrowing in more than one instance which has been brought to our notice, but whether inflation could have been stopped by united action on their part is another matter. The committee considers a further limitation in the fiduciary issue of currency notes desirable, and tentatively repeats the suggestion made in 1915 that the currency note issue should be taken over by the Bank of

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN: The Right Hon. R. MCKENNA

JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS: FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital	10,860,852
Reserve Fund	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

OVER 1,650 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2AFFILIATIONS: BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

and, with a consequent fusion of the two gold reserves.

Considerable differences of opinion manifested themselves on the question whether all restrictions on the movement of gold coin and bullion, and on the melting of coin, should be removed at once, and the answer given is: "Only if conditions seem to be so favourable that we can re-establish a gold standard without grave risk of having our gold reserves too heavily depleted. Such a policy might be very risky if gold prices were likely to fall heavily, or if our balance of trade seemed likely to become unfavourable." This is certainly a cautious answer, but we should like to have seen some of the arguments on the point set out. On the question of devaluation the report is also rather non-committal. "Evidently there are some currencies—the rouble, the Austrian crown, the Polish mark, and the German mark—which have lost all relation to their pre-war value, and must undergo a process of devaluation. There are other currencies, such as the Greek drachma and the Italian lira, which still have a substantial value, though it does not seem conceivable they should ever again be worth 25.22½ to the golden sovereign. That the rouble, the crown, and the Polish and German marks must be scaled down to an enormous extent if they are to have any relation to gold seems beyond question. For complete recovery of the drachma and the lira appears highly improbable; but the real problem is that offered by the French (and Belgian) franc. On the whole, we think that the policy of the Bank of France, aiming at the ultimate restoration of the franc to its old gold parity, is an unwise and probably impossible one. When countries whose currency is depreciated on so considerable a scale see their way to balancing their budgets regularly they should consider means of giving the currency unit a gold value lower than its nominal gold equivalent." This last remark does not, of course, apply to this country, whose currency stands at a relatively small discount in relation to the dollar. Whether or not we could or should return to a gold par depends, as we have said before, upon the movement of prices in the United States.

A RAILWAY VIEW OF THE RAILWAYS ACT.

THE latest of the *Manchester Guardian* Reconstruction Numbers contains an interesting article by Mr R. L. Wedgwood on the future of British railways, which naturally deals mainly with the new order established by the Act of 1921. As Mr. Wedgwood was the chief organiser of the railway case in Parliament last year, and has since become general manager of the N.E.R., his views are of particular significance.

It is noteworthy, in the first place, that Mr Wedgwood attaches more importance to the rating and wages sections of the Act than to the amalgamation plan which compels the railways to do what they have desired to do for years past. In his view the answer to the question, "What saving will be made by grouping?" is both unanswerable and unimportant. Unanswerable because the only savings that really count must be spread over years, and cannot by any ingenuity be isolated; unimportant, because "savings" to be permanent can only flow from a sound basic organisation, and are entirely dependent upon the establishment of the industry in a satisfactory relation to the trading public on the one hand, and to its employees on the other. These relations are fundamental, and if they are neglected, "savings" realised in one year will be wasted in useless friction in the next, or swallowed up in the loss due to the progressive discrediting of the industry.

He does, however, recognise that there is uneasiness in the public mind as to the effect of the greater concentration of power in a few hands, and that the results have still to be tested by experience. "In these enlarged concerns there is an evident tendency for the central management to fall out of touch with local sentiments and requirements and to disregard local differences in the application of general rules of action. Moreover, big concerns, by reason of their strength, have it in their power to override the claims of smaller interests, without regard to the justice of the claims put forward.

"Let it be admitted at once that such developments are possible. It remains true, none the less, that they are improbable, if only because they are altogether against the interests of the group companies themselves. The difficulty of maintaining touch with local requirements and conditions is a real one, but for that very reason it cannot be overlooked, and it will become one of the most important tasks of the new managements to provide against it."

The difficulty Mr Wedgwood foresees is not merely a theoretical anticipation, but has already proved a stumbling-block, for in the negotiations with the traders the difficulty of maintaining touch with local requirements and conditions is a real one, but for that very reason it cannot be overlooked, and it will become one of the most important tasks of the new managements to provide against it."

With this sentiment we are disposed to agree, subject to one very vital proviso, namely, that public pressure will only be intelligently applied if the railway companies put the public in possession of the facts. We have still not been told the working costs and net revenue of the policy of publishing promptly monthly figures of net as well as of gross revenue, public criticism will be ill-informed and likely to do less than justice to the effect of the very real economic difficulties—the increased wages bill, road competition, &c.—with which the companies have to cope.

Mr Wedgwood's defence of the standard revenue clauses of the Act is not very convincing. Indeed, he starts by hinting at two very damaging criticisms. In the first place, he admits that "the provisions with regard to the fixing of rates are no doubt open to objection; the burden of railway charges is felt most keenly in periods of bad trade, and is least galling when times are prosperous; yet the Act, rigidly interpreted, would increase the burden in the first instance and lighten it in the second." It is suggested that this is, however, a matter of detail, and that the common sense of railways and bad and lowered when it is good. Probably. But it is for automatically securing a fixed revenue to say, in effect, that they will work reasonably well by being ignored. Secondly, Mr Wedgwood observes that "the establishment of the Railway Rates Tribunal, if, as is to be hoped, the Tribunal succeeds in maintaining its non-agree, but we are not quite satisfied that the condition will be fulfilled. If the Tribunal will put the Act out of its mind and endeavour to fix rates on a basis that will foster traffic and give the railways as much revenue as economic conditions permit, there is much to be said for Tribunal, with a legal chairman and with most elaborate becoming a second Railway and Canal Commission, and limiting itself to the task of trying to interpret an unwieldy Act of Parliament. On this point we can only take the plunge and bring the rates question before the Tribunal, and the Ministry of Transport has not seen fit unfortunately, increased by the sudden and tragic death of Sir Francis Gore-Browne, who has been equipping Rates Advisory Committee for his task as Chairman of the Tribunal. The success or failure of the Act will largely turn on the appointment of his successor.

But though we have grave doubts about the functioning of the Tribunal under the provisions of the Act, we entirely support Mr Wedgwood when he argues that "two things are wanting to complete the new structure—first, a principle in accordance with which the broad general movements of wages may be regulated, and

secondly, a procedure for linking the decisions of the Rates Tribunal with the findings of the National Wages Board.

"It is evident that the two bodies will deal with two sides of the same problem; other things being equal, increased wages can only be met by increased rates, and a reduction of rates will entail a corresponding reduction of wages. If this were all, the problem would be relatively simple; it would be a mere question of addition or subtraction. But it is common knowledge that you may increase charges without increasing revenue; the manufacturer and the traveller have the last word, after all, and no tribunal can compel them to use the railway if the charges are more than they are willing to pay. The old principle of 'what the traffic will bear' provides a very efficient maximum limit, which cannot be disregarded either by the railways or the tribunal. And at the other end of the scale contrary forces come into play. Wages may be reduced to a point where the reductions no longer give reduced costs. To fix charges and wages in harmony with these two opposing forces will be the joint task of the two tribunals; and it is not likely to be discharged to the best advantage of the public, the railways, and their employees unless some procedure is evolved which will enable the two tribunals to take full counsel with one another." We are under the impression that the traders proposed an amendment in Committee of the House to bring the work of these bodies more closely into harmony, but that the Minister of Transport was not anxious to risk his bargain with the N.U.R. by tinkering with the Wages Boards. But Mr Wedgwood is perfectly right in urging that the two problems cannot be settled independently, though we are not quite convinced that this flaw in the Act can be put right by agreement and without an amending Act.

The railways are fortunate in their advocate. Mr Wedgwood does not ignore some of the fundamental issues, such as the possibility that the field of transportation by rail may in the future be greatly diminished. But, in claiming that the new régime is a beneficent one, Mr Wedgwood is looking at the future rather than the present, for what it has, in fact, done is that it has given the railways practically a free hand within a maximum which is at the highest boom level, for the administrative machine which is supposed to adjust this maximum to changing conditions has not yet begun to function on the problem of either rates or fares.

OVERSEAS TRADE IN AUGUST.

THE August returns of overseas trade are as satisfactory as could be expected, in view of the fact that it was a holiday month and the number of working days were reduced by the Bank Holiday period. As compared with July imports were nearly one million higher in value, while British exports and re-exports were both down by about half-a-million each. The surplus of imports in August was thus £2 millions higher than in July at £15 millions. The comparison with August of last year makes a better showing, but it has to be borne in mind that twelve months ago the trade of the country was still suffering from the effects of the coal stoppage. Imports last month were valued at over £82½ millions, as compared with £88½ millions a year ago, a reduction of nearly £6 millions, while British exports were over £8½ millions higher at £60 millions. Re-exports declined by £2½ millions, total exports being thus £6 millions higher. This means a reduction of £12 millions in the visible adverse trade balance. A comparison of the August figures and of the totals for the first eight months of the year with those of the corresponding periods of 1921 reads as follows:—

	MONTH OF AUGUST.		Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
	1921.	1922.		
	£	£	£	%
Imports	88,554,663	82,661,405	- 5,893,258	- 6.6
British exports	51,346,307	60,032,237	+ 8,685,930	+ 16.8
Re-exports	9,997,779	7,503,925	- 2,493,854	- 2.5
Total exports	61,344,086	67,536,162	+ 6,192,076	+ 10.1
Excess of imports over total exports	27,210,577	15,125,243	- 12,085,334	- 44.4

EIGHT MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31.

			Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
	1921.	1922.		
	£	£	£	%
Imports	740,803,626	651,656,527	- 89,147,099	- 12.0
British exports	463,413,733	472,212,668	+ 8,798,935	+ 1.9
Re-exports	69,045,024	71,492,083	+ 2,447,059	+ 3.5
Total exports	532,458,757	543,704,751	+ 11,245,994	+ 2.1
Excess of imports over total exports	208,344,869	107,951,776	- 100,393,093	- 48.3

The decline in imports in August as compared with August, 1921, is due to a reduction of £12½ millions in the value of food imports, the bulk of which occurs under the head of cereals and meat. A reference to the detailed figures reveals the fact that this drop is mostly accounted for by the decline in prices, the quantities imported being but very slightly lower. Imports of raw materials increased by £4½ millions, principally as a result of higher takings of timber, cotton, and wool, while imports of manufactured goods rose by just over £2 millions, increases being fairly generally spread throughout the list. On the export side the bulk of the increase, namely, £7½ millions, is in manufactured goods. Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof rose from £2½ millions (an abnormally low figure, reflecting the coal stoppage) to over £5 millions; exports of cotton goods rose by over £4½ millions, and of woollen goods by nearly £2 millions. The value of vehicles exported, which includes locomotives and ships, declined by £3½ millions, of which ships account for £3 millions, the tonnage having dropped from 78,900 to 8,550 tons. Coal exports increased by £1½ millions, namely, from £5½ to £6½ millions, the tonnage increasing by nearly 100 per cent.

So far as the figures for the eight months are concerned, there is a decrease of nearly 50 per cent. in the total visible adverse balance, but this is, unfortunately, due not to a great increase in exports, but to a diminution in imports. The latter, however, has been made in the right direction, for while food imports have declined by £8½ millions, largely owing to declining prices, and imports of manufactured goods are £20½ millions lower on the period, imports of raw materials are £15½ millions higher, in spite of a reduction of £12 millions in coal imports. The increase shown in exports is largely due to an expansion of £20½ millions in coal, of £3½ millions in non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap, of £2 millions in wool, and of £8½ millions in cotton manufactures; these increases are counterbalanced by a decrease of £18½ millions in exports of machinery. The bullion and specie returns for August show imports of £5 millions, against exports of £3½ millions, gold to the value of £2½ millions having gone to the United States, as against £8½ millions in July and £6½ millions in August, 1921. The shipping figures for the eight months show an increase of 3½ million tons in ships entered with cargoes and of 17½ million tons in ships cleared, as compared with the corresponding period of 1921. Detailed figures of merchandise imports and exports are set out in a later page of this issue.

NOBEL INDUSTRIES.

INCORPORATED in November, 1918, as Explosives Trades, Limited, Nobel Industries, Limited, is one of our largest industrial undertakings. In it is merged the interests of shareholders in a number of companies engaged in manufacturing explosives, ammunition, chemicals, gas mantles, electric bulbs, varnishes, motor accessories, and various metal goods. According to a prospectus issued in October, 1920, the financial scheme of combination adopted "was an exchange of shares, a uniform method of capitalisation being applied to all the companies concerned in the merger; the values of pre-war plant and buildings were fully and systematically written down; goodwill was computed entirely upon pre-war results; and extensions for all purposes made during the war period were taken at one-fifth of their cost, and satisfied by the issue of deferred shares." The company now holds almost the entire capital of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, Kynoch, Limited, Bick-

ford Smith and Co., Limited, Birmingham Metal and Munitions Co., Limited, British South African Explosives Company, Limited, Curtis's and Harvey, Limited, "E.C." Powder Company, Limited, Eley Bros., Limited, King's Norton Metal Company, Limited, and many other companies which space will not permit us to mention. With a view to finding a wider basis for its industrial activities substantial interests were, however, acquired in a variety of undertakings, among which were the British Dyestuffs Corporation, the British Cellulose Company, and the Dunlop Rubber Company.

In a report issued by the directors in March, 1919, it was stated that if the whole of the shareholders of the various constituent companies surrendered their shares in exchange for capital in the new company the issued capital of the company would be £15,247,458, and the estimate of preliminary expenses was put at £145,200. In the balance-sheet published in June, 1920, preliminary expenses incurred to date amounted to £127,775, a figure, considerably under the estimate, which those responsible may well be proud of. Moreover, this item was written off out of profits in that year. The issued share capital was given at this time as £14,844,926, and the main item under assets—Investments—is recorded at £15,708,437, being further described as the "cost of shares in constituent companies and other allied interests." The capital exchanged has now reached, we are informed, over 98 per cent. of the maximum possible total. The issue of £3,000,000 8 per cent. notes in October, 1920, enabled those with an inquiring turn for details to glean a few further particulars about the undertaking, an informative statement of affairs being published. This prospectus was interesting, inasmuch as specific security was offered note-holders consisting of a big block of shares in one of the subsidiary concerns, namely, Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited. The shares which were to be transferred to a trustee for note-holders were valued at the date of their acquisition at £6,623,000, and, moreover, the company undertook to maintain the value of the security pledged. Instead, however, of the shares depreciating in value, they have appreciated. This prospectus also informed us that 60 per cent. of the capital of the company was at that time (October, 1920) employed in the manufacture of commodities other than explosives, and it was this fact that encouraged the directors to drop the old title of Explosives Trades, Limited, which they felt had become misleading.

The authorised share capital of the undertaking is £18,000,000, of which £15,818,654 has been issued. The issued capital consists of 7,958,872 ordinary, 6,414,305 6 per cent. cumulative preference, and 1,444,941 deferred shares, all of £1 each. The ordinary shares are entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 10 per cent., and then the deferred to a non-cumulative dividend of 5 per cent., remaining available profits being divisible *pari passu* between ordinary and deferred shareholders. The accounts of the company for 1921 have been published during the week, and it certainly must come as a surprise to many to find that the company has been able not only to maintain its position, but to make a distribution once again to ordinary shareholders. For 1919 ordinary shareholders received 10 per cent. and deferred shareholders five. The following table shows how the company has fared during the past two years:—

	1920.	1921.
	£	£
Amount brought forward	230,389	757,498
Profits	849,996	809,242
Total available	1,080,385	1,566,740
Interest on 8 per cent. notes, less tax	22,923	167,693
Writing off cost of note issue, &c.	38,266	37,285
Special investment reserve	..	350,000
Preference dividend	261,698	269,243
Ordinary dividend	..	279,170
Rate	..	(5%)
Brought forward	757,498	463,349
Carried forward	1,080,385	1,566,740

It is an important fact to remember that the above profits are after income-tax has been deducted. The results for 1919 are not included in our table, as

various dividends were included in that year's accounts received from constituent companies out of trading profits for 1918. In view of the figures given above it is only reasonable to find the directors consider that results for 1921 "as a whole give considerable ground for satisfaction." It should be noted that the interest on the 8 per cent. notes is shown less tax, and therefore the full weight of the burden of this note issue may escape attention. The company has to find £240,000 each year for interest alone on these notes, and in addition, beginning in 1923, it has undertaken to buy in notes to the extent of £200,000 per year. As the company has the right to redeem these notes at 101 at any time after November, 1922, on giving three months' notice, it will not be surprising to find that the directors will consider ways and means for lightening their present burden.

In an analysis of the balance-sheet which appears on another page in this issue, no striking changes are revealed. Total assets have fallen from £23,500,298 to £23,105,979 in the year. The secured bank loan of £307,232 has disappeared, although it is to be noticed that sundry creditors have increased from £132,006 to £241,736. Perhaps the most serious point about the balance-sheet is a reserve fund, which is noteworthy by its absence. It may be, however, that the constituent companies have their own reserves. Possibly the directors will enlighten shareholders upon this point. Investments now amount to £21,043,040, and are grouped under two heads: (1) Cost of shares in constituent companies, and (2) other industrial investments at cost. On the vexed question of valuing investments, it is better to quote the words of the directors. They state that: "While the market value of quoted industrial securities held by the company or its constituents as at December 31, 1921, stood materially below their cost to Nobel Industries, Limited, it has since been steadily recovering, and with improved conditions we anticipate a continuance of this movement. In order to be fully protected, however, against such temporary fluctuations in the market values of the company's permanent industrial interest, the directors have decided to recommend the building up of a special investment reserve account and the allocation thereto, out of the present amount available, of £350,000." At least, it must be admitted that the directors have been perfectly candid, although to what extent the actual assets of the controlled undertakings are represented by the present value placed upon the shares is a matter upon which more light may be shed at the third annual general meeting on Friday next.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.

TOBACCO was brought to this country in Elizabethan days, when the seeds of the smoking habit were sown. For many years smoking gained ground against opposition, until now tobacco cultivation and manufacture form one of the principal industries of the world. There are four broad historical epochs: one when tobacco was enjoyed by the merchant adventurers and Empire prospectors, who knew and appreciated its virtues, while at home it was looked upon as a medicine or a vice; another when King James thought to kill the noxious weed with his counterblast; a further period takes us up to the world war; and then we have the more interesting experiences of the present time. Men's taste for tobacco and the prevalence of the habit were enhanced by the war, and a very appreciable increase in output has come about through the conversion of women to the cult of the cigarette. The total effect of the war upon tobacco growing and manufacturing was expansive to a notable degree. Such civilians alike, during hostilities and in the uncertainty which followed, that it may be said that if Sir Walter Raleigh saw the angel of death less terrible through a cloud of tobacco smoke, so do modern men fly to the same panacea in their troubles. The war, so to speak, rediscovered tobacco; it increased the volume of business; it altered to a considerable extent the character of the output from the factories.

To give the matter a moment's statistical attention from the point of view of the volume of trade, between

1912 and 1913 (year ended March 31st) the unmanufactured tobacco cleared for consumption in the United Kingdom showed a slight drop from 93,269,277 lbs in 1912 to 92,913,652 lbs in 1913, although there was no duty change to account for this. The consumption went down from 2.05 to 2.02 lbs per head of the population. However, in the year ended March 31, 1914, there was some recovery. In that year the weight of tobacco cleared for consumption was 98,412,412 lbs, which mounted to 104,291,478 lbs in 1915 and 110,193,407 lbs in 1916. After a slight set-back in 1917 and 1918 it rose to 114,254,900 lbs in 1919 and 148,786,891 lbs in 1920, this being an absolute record, and the high-water mark which we look back upon now that the tide of consumption is receding. There was a drop to 136,746,683 lbs in 1921, and for the first six months of the present year the total amount of tobacco of all sorts retained for home consumption was 65,340,248 lbs. The marvel is, in view of the general trade depression which the country has been experiencing, that a more decisive falling-off has not to be recorded. Things are not what they were, and tobacco companies are now having to fight and to exercise constant care to make satisfactory balance-sheets. That these desirable documents are being produced speaks well for the business management of the companies concerned.

It is difficult to refer to the tobacco trade of this country as a whole; to mention it without making due reference to the preponderance of the Imperial Tobacco Company would be absurd. The Imperial Tobacco Company is credited with some 80 per cent. of the home trade, the other 20 per cent. being divided among independent firms. The great strength of the "Imperial" does not consist solely in its size and its assets totalling £63,380,108. The net trading profit of £6,927,641 for the last financial year (to October 31, 1921) compares with £6,659,791 for the previous year, an increase of £267,850. Investors will have agreed with the chairman when he stated at the annual meeting in February last that the profit could be regarded as a subject for congratulation, having regard to the difficult business conditions which obtained during the year throughout the country. The year's profits had been relieved of the burden of excess profits duty, the company's last accounting period being the year to October, 1920. It is only fair, however, to point out that the profits of the home trade suffered from the smaller spending power of the public. The company has the advantage of possessing many brands covering the whole gamut of choice which the smoking public enjoys; it can boast sound business management, together with a fine accumulation of technical experience. That sort of experience is not lacking, too, which, apart from factory processes, is gained by closely studying the leaf market, watching opportunities, and generally doing the "paying" thing at the right moment. The Imperial Tobacco Company is aided in its grip upon business by its bonus agreements with tobaccoists. A large number of wholesale and retail tobaccoists are signatories of a bonus agreement by which the tobaccoists make window displays of "Imperial" brands, and in their turn receive a bonus, which is paid twice a year in the form of a percentage on their turnover in bonus-bearing goods. For the origin of these bonus agreements we have to go back to the period preceding the formation of the Imperial Tobacco Company, when the Americans attempted to capture the market. The "tobacco war," as the struggle was called, was fought partly by rival bonus agreements. It will be remembered that the Americans, who had bought up the well-known house of Ogdens (now a branch of the Imperial Tobacco Company), directed operations from Liverpool, and obtained the signatures of tobaccoists to a generous bonus agreement. The agreements, which existed at the time of the liquidation of the American business, were considered to have ended with that liquidation. However, the tobaccoists who had signed this American agreement did not think so. The litigation, which reached the House of Lords, ended in a triumph for Sir Rufus Isaacs (now our Indian Viceroy) and the then Mr F. E. Smith (the present Lord Chancellor). They won the day for the tobaccoists. But many dealers preferred to sign the rival bonus agreement of the Imperial Tobacco Company, that company having been formed with the patriotic

object of repelling the American invasion. The bonus agreement has become a well-recognised part of the tobacco trade to-day, and it helps to build up prosperity for the great company, who would probably not have thought of instituting such agreements had they not been compelled to fight the Americans with a weapon somewhat similar to their own.

Outside the two giants, the Imperial Tobacco Company and the British-American Tobacco Company (the latter do export trade), substantial businesses run on independent lines keep the edge of competition keen. Unduly high prices, laxity of management, or partially thought-out experimentation are impossibilities. The firm who indulged in them would be snuffed out. The trade, during the war and immediately after it, experienced a fine time financially, because of increased turnover. The slump, however, which followed the post-Armistice prosperity, left some of the firms with heavy stocks of leaf bought, in many instances, at high prices. The carrying of these large stocks was a source of weakness. Now, however, stocks are being dealt with, and most of the companies are getting on to a more normal basis. Good dividends were and are being paid, and a conservative policy has been possible in most cases. What might be looked upon as a luxury trade, and as one which would suffer most in bad times, whether in war or peace, has proved that it can hold its head above the waves, whilst some of the industries producing what might be considered more essential commodities have had many of their units submerged.

An interesting bone of contention between the public and the tobacco trade is that of prices. The matter became the subject of acute controversy. The chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Company, at the annual meeting in February last, said that "failing a substantial reduction in the tobacco duty, which now stands at 8s 2d per lb, compared with 3s 8d at the beginning of the war, I see no possibility whatever of a reduction in prices." He might have added that had such a reduction been feasible it would already have taken place, a necessary corollary to the competition which exists. It has been stated by responsible people in the trade that if the Control Board existed the data upon which retail prices used to be fixed by them, including, as they did, the cost of the raw material, would have justified higher prices than those now ruling.

The character of the output has been modified in recent years. Before 1914 a very important trade in cigarettes made of Turkish tobacco was done both at home and for export. The demand for H.M. Forces and for the well-paid civilians depleted stocks; the raw Turkish tobacco went overland to Dresden for our ex-enemies. As a consequence, the Turkish cigarette in this country temporarily deteriorated. The larger stocks of American tobaccos enabled Virginian cigarettes to be kept up to something like standard quality. That state of things partly accounts for the fact that Virginian cigarettes took the lead. A more powerful reason is habit. Men got accustomed to smoking Virginian, and "carried on" even after the time when excellent Macedonian tobacco was available, as it is now. The Macedonian cigarette is in the hands of a number of high-class firms, whose task it is to woo smokers back to their old love. The phenomena outlined had a marked effect upon business. Firms who had made the Turkish variety only began to turn out cigarettes of American tobacco, and many installed machinery who had previously relied on hand work.

A recent chapter of tobacco trade history has to do with cigars from Cuba. For the first six months of this year 207,741 lbs of cigars were imported into this country from Cuba. In the corresponding period of last year the weight of Havana cigars brought in was only 18,939 lbs. These moderate figures compare with 671,491 lbs for the first six months of 1920. Students of taxation will be interested in this brief statement, because the variation in the figures is due in large measure to the 50 per cent. ad valorem tax imposed by Mr Austen Chamberlain on April 20, 1920. Added to this adverse influence was the trade slump and the consequent disinclination, or inability, to purchase cigars. The 50 per cent. was looked upon in trade circles as the death knell of the cigar trade, so far as imported

cars were concerned. Every endeavour is being put forth to recover the ground lost, and recent reports indicate a little more life in this branch of the trade.

It is anticipated that in the next Budget there may be a reduction in the tobacco duty. The arguments recently used by the brewers in favour of a reduced beer tax apply also in several respects to the tobacco trade. The revenue from tobacco was £60,857,917 in 1920, and only £55,520,658 in 1921. It is now accruing at the lower level to which it descended in that year. But nobody imagines for one moment that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will abate the duty unless he is convinced that cheaper tobacco would so increase the consumption of the article as to make the step financially wise. As the duty has, with one slight exception, consistently gone up for many years, there would have to be a material falling off in revenue before Sir Robert Horne or any other Chancellor of the Exchequer was converted to cheaper tobacco, brought about by a substantial duty reduction.

ELECTRICITY SHARES.

AMONG the various sections in the industrial market of the Stock Exchange, one of those which has kept most consistently firm during the past six months is that for electricity supply shares. Month by month it has become increasingly difficult to obtain stock in this department. Holders are disinclined to part with their investments, and, as a rule, it is only when deceased accounts come to market that anything like a reasonable amount of supply is available. There are, of course, smaller quantities which can be picked up from time to time as proprietors require the money, or are tempted by the high prices ruling. The principal quotations for the ordinary shares have now reached a level at which the yield on the money, as compared with that offered by a good many other industrials, is by no means liberal. The fact that prices keep up as they are doing is evidence of the faith which holders of the shares feel in the future of their industry, and it may be useful to set out the list of ordinary shares in the London electricity supply companies, with a table showing yields at to-day's prices. We take the middle quotations in each case, but must add that the prospective purchaser may find it difficult to get stock at these figures:—

	Nominal		Price.	Yield.
	Value.	Dividend.		
Ordinary Share, £	£	%	£	s d
Brompton and Kensington....	5	12	8	7 10 0
Charing Cross	5	9	7½	6 2 0
Chelsea	5	6	6½	4 16 0
City of London	1	14	42½	6 13 4
County of London	1	8	28/6	5 12 3
Kensington & Knightsbridge..	5	10	7½	6 13 4
Metropolitan	5	7	6½	5 14 3
St James's and Pall Mall	5	12	8½	6 15 2
South London	4	7	4	7 0 0
Westminster	5	10	7½	6 9 0

A number of companies increased their interim dividends last month, though this, according to some of the announcements, is not to be taken as affirming the certainty of an increase in the dividend for the full year. It is done with the intention of equalising the half-yearly payments in accordance with the wishes of the proprietors. The County of London company recently issued new ordinary shares at 22s 6d, which now stand at 26s 9d, and new preference at 20s, the present market value of which is 2s 3d premium, both issues being heavily oversubscribed. It is thought that in the near future there may be shares offered by some of the other companies.

In reviewing the outlook for the electric lighting industry of London, it is safe to assume that the present year will prove a good one for the companies, and for several reasons. In the first place, the cost of coal is substantially less. Labour also is cheaper, and material of all kinds no longer costs the famine prices that prevailed two years ago. Meanwhile, however, the companies are getting a good price for their supply, so that the probabilities point to some increases in the full year's dividends, in spite of the warnings which have been circulated in regard to a possibility of ultra-optimistic views being entertained on the subject. The addition of 1 per cent. to the above dividends would make, of course, a good deal of difference to the yields, and this has to be taken into consideration by those who are interested in this subject. Since

the appointment of the Electricity Commissioners, a good deal of speculation has been rife as to what will be the ultimate fate of the undertaking companies. According to the Act of Parliament under which they were formed in 1888, most of them can be taken over by an Authority in 1931, and the terms upon which the properties can be acquired have never been settled in such a definite manner as would enable the precise value of the undertakings to be determined from time to time. Developments of the past few years have, however, tended to increase the strong probability that the companies are not likely to be turned out of their present position when their rights expire in 1931. To take them over would mean the raising of an enormous sum of money, and although, in the past, some of the companies were very chary about spending fresh capital in view of the 1931 provision, of recent years a more courageous policy has been pursued by those who foresaw the striking developments of which electrical power is capable in London. It may be supposed, therefore, that there is a prospect of the companies' tenure being extended well beyond the time at which it is supposed to terminate. In spite of the strides made by the industry in London during the past half decade, it may be said that the field for further extension is wide enough to absorb all the knowledge, sagacity, and capital that can be applied to it. The various schemes for electrification of railway lines in and around London are yet in their infancy, but the London supply companies have given incontestable proof that they are capable of dealing with whatever claims may be made upon their resources in order that the required current can be supplied. Holders of electricity supply shares are justified in the attitude which they adopt of refusing to part with shares in an industry that, paying well at the present time, promises larger rewards in the future, although the cautious will recognise that conditions may not always be as favourable as those which the present year provides.

LATIN-AMERICAN NOTES.

(BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HONDURAS.—The decision of the Government to convert the Bank of Honduras into the Bank of the Republic and the fiscal agent of the nation, conferring upon it for a period of 25 years the right to supervise the collection of revenue and disbursements of expenditures, appears to have elicited far from unanimous approval. The opinion is expressed that, while official salaries were in arrears, the finances of the State were hardly of a sufficiently adverse character to warrant such exceptional privileges being conferred upon a monetary institution of whose capital the Government proposes to hold but 20 per cent. Upon its new capital of 2,000,000 silver pesos the bank has the right to receive from the State annually, for the service of interest and amortisation, a fixed sum equivalent to 10 per cent. until the debt is completely liquidated, although, in the preliminary agreement between the bank and the Government, 8 per cent. interest was decided upon. It would appear, however, that the Government had little option to accept the terms demanded, since it was in debt to the Bank of Honduras for nearly 450,000 pesos for advances made in the past. Under the new arrangement the bank agrees to open with the Government a current account of 552,189 pesos, with interest at 6 per cent., revenues collected will have to be deposited in the bank, its branches, or to its credit abroad, while all payments by the Government to the institution will be absolutely in silver currency in circulation in the Republic or in American gold, excluding all paper money, either convertible or inconvertible, even though it be legal circulation. The present minimum proportion of 50 per cent., with 5 per cent. additional in American gold, will be maintained in payment of import and export duties, while as national currency received and exchanged in the principal office at the rate of 50 cents American gold for each peso in bank-notes, exchange with the branches and agencies being regulated accordingly.

Official trade figures of recent issue are seldom to be expected from Central American Governments, the latest

available from Honduras being those of 1919-1920. From these, however, it seems that the adverse trade balance rose to £1,219,801 sterling, imports for that period having been £2,651,703 and exports £1,431,902, the total figures, £4,083,605, showing a considerable advance over those of 1917-1918, which, representing both exports and imports, did not much exceed £2,580,000. The adverse balance then was no more than £216,657, while that of the previous period (1916-1917) had been £82,093. Trade between Honduras and Great Britain has substantially improved since 1915, the imports from this country having risen nearly 100 per cent. Unfortunately, the exports to Great Britain are still negligible, although it would not be difficult to suggest in what direction they might be improved, since Honduras is possessed of valuable natural resources, not the least of which are its mahogany forests, which might be exploited to advantage.

URUGUAY.—Whichever of the two opposing candidates for the Presidency of the Banda Oriental (Señor Lussich and Señor Serrato) is elected will have to give prompt and careful consideration to the national finances, which must still be regarded as unfavourable. The 1921-1922 Budget shows the considerable deficit of 8,502,049 gold pesos, to cover which it is proposed to raise a loan of 10,000,000 gold pesos, or the equivalent thereof in pounds sterling or dollars. Any balance remaining would be used for the same purpose next year, when a deficit is also anticipated. In the meantime, the Banda Oriental is endeavouring to consolidate and extend economic relations with its immediate neighbours, especially Brazil. The National Administrative Council has recently submitted to Congress a Bill authorising the Bank of Brazil to establish a branch at Montevideo, and, at the same time, to so alter the charter of the Bank of the Republic of Uruguay as to enable that institution to establish a branch in Brazil. This measure of reciprocity, it is thought, will tend to stabilise the exchange rate between the two countries, which has lately proved a great detriment to their mutual trade.

COSTA RICA.—The default and disappearance of the Banco Comercial, already reported in these columns, have been followed by a new law, becoming immediately operative, providing for the unification of the paper currency of Costa Rica and the withdrawal from circulation of the bills of the defunct bank. The important financial position once held by the Banco Comercial has now been taken by the Banco Internacional, which at one time was under the direction of General Juan Bautista Quiros, lately appointed Chief of the Office of Public Control, established to regulate financial matters connected with the Government. The Banco Internacional has been authorised to increase its issue of bank notes by 4,282,250 colones (1 colón = 1s 10.9d). This new issue, it is stated, will be employed for the sole purpose of retiring the bills of the Banco Comercial and the silver certificates of 0.50, 1 and 2 colones denominations, bank bills being exchanged for those of the new issue. In November next these bank bills will cease to be regarded as legal tender, but the Banco Internacional will still be obliged to exchange them. Fractional currency of the denominations of 0.25 and 0.50 colón will cease to be accepted by the Government in payment of amounts of over 25 colones, nor one and two colón bills for sums over 100 colones, private individuals being likewise entitled to refuse acceptance of such payments. The position of Costa Rican exchange is still weak, the recent rate being round about 4.35 colones to the dollar against the normal rate of 2.15. Local speculation is thought to have accounted for this wide fluctuation; the drop in the value of the colón has prevented merchants from heavy buying where payments must be made in gold. The general conditions of the country may be described as prosperous, the banana industry, in particular, having proved this year exceptionally remunerative.

PERU.—The high hopes, entertained both locally and abroad, of the Reserve Bank of Peru, established about two months ago, seem to have been justified, more particularly in connection with the clearing-house system which it has inaugurated among the native banks participating as shareholders in the institution. A strikingly improved tone in the business situation has been noted, commercial transactions and local investments being

reported upon a wider and more active basis. These encouraging conditions are likely to lead to a successful termination of the Government's negotiations for a foreign loan, amounting to \$50,000,000 (£10,000,000), in addition to an irrigation loan of \$10,000,000 (£2,000,000) said to have been contracted through a New York firm, for which Congress had given the necessary authority. The Government has meanwhile received about £1,000,000 from various successful operations recently entered into, thus enabling it to meet some of its most pressing obligations, especially that contracted with the Peruvian Corporation, which has recently received the first payment of £80,000 on account of annuity arrears; apart from interest, these have now been satisfied up to and including January of the current year.

Notes of the Week.

Conditions in Ireland. — Our Dublin correspondent writing on Thursday, says:—Mr William Cosgrave has been appointed President of the new Dail Eireann and head of the new Government. His statement of policy, brief and businesslike, bore out his previous reputation as a skilful debater and an experienced administrator. The absence of the extreme Republican element was signalled by a marked contraction of the output of controversial, hysterical, irrelevant rhetoric, for which Ireland was duly grateful. The Government, rightly interpreting the desire of the electorate, insists upon getting on with the business of the community, and shows a praiseworthy disinclination to submit to bullying or blackmail. But its difficulties are enormous. The guerilla attacks of the rebel irregulars continue all over Ireland, and the destruction of property goes merrily on—in Dublin itself bombings and shootings are of daily occurrence. The political stock of the Republic is lower than ever, but its activist tactics furnish an opportunity and a pretext for everyone who has a private quarrel to pursue, or who covets his neighbour's goods, or who feels himself in any other way at odds with the Ten Commandments. In the Dail itself, Labour ostentatiously washed its hands of all responsibility for the measures taken since the end of June for the preservation of the embryo Free State. This was rather to be expected, but, singularly enough, some Independent members, elected by bumper majorities to support the Treaty, associated themselves with the Labour attack on Mr Cosgrave and his colleagues. However, Mr Cosgrave got his vote of approval by a majority of about three to one, and his Government emerged from its first debate with a marked increase of prestige at the expense of the malcontents. Scarcely had the Dail met when the whole postal, telegraph, and telephone services of the Irish Free State were paralysed by a strike. The Government had decided to reduce wages according as the cost of living reverted to the normal, and the usual negotiations had taken place, and an elaborately compiled "cost of living" Report was produced by the combined efforts of the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Economic Affairs, and Labour. Round this Report controversy wages. The Government takes its stand on the principle that civil servants must not strike, and that it will not permit such a strike. It also points out that the postal officials in Great Britain and in N.-E. Ulster have accepted greater reductions; that the Free State postal officials are paid at a considerably higher rate, and have better conditions as to holidays and sick leave, than the corresponding grades of railway employees; and that the Post Office cannot afford to pay excessive wages, as it is at present being run at a rate representing a loss of £1,500,000 per annum. The Dublin Chamber of Commerce has pledged the support of the sorely harassed business community to the Government, and the general public quite appreciates the irony, in a city of dreadful slums and heartrending poverty, of processions of prosperous-looking, well-fed, and well-clothed men and women bearing placards denouncing their "starvation wages." A strike has already been started in the building trade upon somewhat similar grounds. Wages are 4½d per hour higher than in London, and the master builders want reductions. It is admitted that the cost of living has fallen since the higher rate of wages

ted, but the Transport Workers' Union, the principal organisation of militant Labour, opposes any reduction. The builders' labourers went out on Monday; the tradesmen necessarily will follow. It is easy to realise how grave are the perils which may beset the Government, embarrassed in Dublin itself by masses of strikers, with armed revolutionaries behind them, using them at once as a screen, and as the potential fuel for a general conflagration. The Opposition in the Dail demanded, somewhat crudely, immediate schemes involving public borrowing for reconstruction enterprises which might provide work for the unemployed, of whom there are, according to Government figures, 250,000. The Government, in pointing out the futility of building up until the processes of blowing up and pulling down by the rebel irregulars have been summarily terminated, made certain facts clear. Firstly, peace and order are the all-important economic assets for Ireland at the present moment. Secondly, taxation is not being fully collected. "In one very important commercial centre not a shilling of income-tax was paid," said Mr Cosgrave. "Were they going to borrow on that security?" Thirdly, financial relief will be given to local authorities by paying to them the grants under the Local Taxation Account during the financial years 1920-21 and 1921-22, which had been withheld by the Local Government Board during the struggle with the British. The agricultural grant for 1921-22, however, was to be held up "in connection with the Land Purchase Act." This means the diversion of the agricultural grant for application under the Act of 1903 as a guarantee fund to meet defaults in Land Purchase annuities. The local authorities will thus have occasion to realise that ratepayers lose when farmers do not pay their debts to the State. It is, of course, notorious that, owing to the recent disturbances, there has been a very general abstention from payment of all lawful debts, whether taxes, rent, purchase annuities, or ordinary simple contract debts. The Government estimates are not due for a fortnight yet. To sum up, the most promising feature of the week has been that the Government is facing the facts and telling the truth to the public.

The League on Disarmament.—So far as they have gone the discussions at Geneva on the report on disarmament presented by Lord Robert Cecil on behalf of the Temporary Mixed Commission have been encouraging, but that is not very far. The plan outlined in the report is of a very limited character; although some measure of disarmament is posited as a condition precedent to the entry of any Power into the regional pact suggested, the emphasis is rather on the idea of international insurance against attack. The French representative, M. Jouvenel, made a conciliatory speech, which has done something to clear off the bad impression made by the earlier reply to the British Memorandum, but he had much to say on France's need for security—a security apparently conceived of throughout as based on material means. This is, perhaps, inevitable so long as Germany, Russia, and the United States remain outside the League; but it suggests that M. Jouvenel has not thought out the implications of his reiteration of the argument put forward by M. Noblemaire last year, that moral disarmament must precede material. The essence of moral disarmament is the recognition that not armies, but co-operative activities give security. The existence of great military and naval establishments helps powerfully to create the war mind. Nor can it be hoped that Lord Robert Cecil's scheme will appeal sufficiently to the people of the United States to induce them to resume European co-operation. They need—as to this all observers agree—to be convinced of something wider in scope: a readiness to make sacrifices in the sphere of land armaments at least as comprehensive as was shown by the U.S. and British representatives in the case of navies at Washington. It looks as though the main concrete result of the Geneva discussions were to be an agreement to summon an International Conference next year to complete the work of Washington in the naval sphere, with arrangements

for inquiries as to the facts of land armaments in the different countries, leading up to a later conference on that vital issue.

Turkey and the Allies.—Smyrna fell last Saturday and is now a scene of conflagration and massacre; the northern portion of the Greek Army has reached the Sea of Marmora, but the southern portion is cut off, and no armistice is yet arranged; the whole of Turkey, and, indeed, of Islam, is exultant; militarism in Germany and elsewhere has received a stimulus; Soviet Russia demands a voice in the settlement; and France, while understood to be supporting the British insistence on the freedom of the Straits, holds that the Turks may now reasonably demand much more favourable terms than the Treaty of Sevres gave them. France, moreover, profits considerably by the Turkish victory, not only because of its advantage to the financial interests which promoted the Franklin-Bouillon Agreement, but because the largest portion of the Turkish Unified Debt is in French hands, and its full service will be resumed much sooner if the Porte recovers all or part of its lost territories than if the bondholders have to await the partition of the obligation between the various States which have acquired Turkish territory since the conclusion of the Balkan wars. The Turks now claim full power over Constantinople, and propose to recover Eastern Thrace, by force if necessary. But Serbia and Roumania are claiming a voice in the settlement, and, obviously, if Turkey recovers Eastern Thrace on conditions difficult of enforcement by the Allied Powers, she may join hereafter with Bulgaria in imperilling both the safety of the other Balkan nations and the freedom of the Straits, which the Allies propose to secure. The stimulus given to Pan-Islamism by the victory sets up serious dangers for France in Syria and Morocco; and for Great Britain its possible consequences in Palestine, Egypt, India, and Irak may be even graver. On the northern border of Mesopotamia Kurd bands have been in conflict at intervals with King Feisul's Arab troops, which are under British officers and supported by the British Air Force; Turkish Irregulars have recently aided the Kurds to constrain the British forces to withdraw southwards; British and Indian troops are being sent to Irak to avert a possible recurrence of the religious and Nationalist rising of 1921, and, while the great bulk of the tribal population values the security and improvement in communications and production ensured by British advice and assistance, the Baghdad Nationalists and the fanatics of the holy cities desire to get rid of the mandate, and still cherish the delusion, recently exposed in the *Times* by Sir Arnold Wilson, that the native State can stand alone. The Franco-Turkish Agreement facilitates a Turkish invasion of Irak along the Baghdad Railway from Anatolia; and Turkish rule in Irak means a return to disorder, oppression, and partial anarchy, and eventually, in conjunction with Bolshevik influence and Greek army, used by the British Government as an instrument for overthrowing the Kemalist supremacy, has inefficient control by officers without war experience, and aided by artillery and munitions obtained from France through Mersina. Great Britain has now to avert as best policy—first, by maintaining the Entente; next, by securing Eastern Thrace, through other means than the use of Bulgaria; and, finally, by giving Greece such compensation as is now possible by the cession to her of Cyprus in themselves. Bulgaria may fairly be compensated for her claim on Thrace by giving her an unrestricted outlet to the Aegean Sea.

The Russo-Asiatic Agreement.—The agreement signed on September 9th at Berlin by M. Krassin and Mr Urquhart, chairman of the Russo-Asiatic Consolidated, is another Bolshevik compromise with "Capitalism." It also marks an important stage in the revival of Russian industry and trade. Full details will shortly be laid before

the shareholders, but the outline has been published, and subsequent interviews with the company's officials here, and in Berlin with M. Krassin, have more or less filled it in. It "saves the face" of the Soviet Government, first, by converting the Kyshtim freehold portion of the company's property into leasehold, while returning the whole on a 99 years' lease—an arrangement which liberates the freehold from the onerous conditions of its former tenure, and extends by about 39 years the leasehold term of the rest; and, secondly, by granting compensation for disturbance, disguised as aid towards the resumption of working, to an amount equivalent to £150,000 in cash and a maximum of £1,850,000 in 15-year gold bonds, the precise amount of which is to be determined shortly by a mixed Commission. These bonds may serve as a basis for borrowing here, and, in any case, will be receivable for the Russian royalties and taxes, which together are not to exceed 8 per cent. of the gross profits; and so, unless prices fall heavily, should not constitute a heavy burden. The Soviet Government take a percentage of the output, which comprises timber, copper, gold, silver, coal, steel and iron products, sulphuric acid, and dynamite; the company guarantees a certain minimum production, and expects to exceed the very large pre-war output at an early date. It accepts the wage-scales to be fixed by the local authorities, but it will have full freedom to engage and discharge its employees, and they are not to interfere with its management. Herein the Agreement differs from its abortive predecessor of last year, which the company eventually rejected as unworkable. But their sanitary and medical welfare and other conditions of employment will be subject to arrangement between their own consultative committees and the local managers. Disputes are to be submitted to an arbitration council of two Russians and two foreigners, with some eminent foreigner as chairman; apparently its operation will be extended to all foreign undertakings in Russia. Should private ownership hereafter be re-established, the property of the company will be returned. No legislation is to be introduced modifying the Agreement, but the Government reserves the right to buy back the property after 40 years on payment of 20 times the average net profits for the last five years of that period. Ratification (except possibly as to minor details) seems certain, as each clause has been passed by the Soviet Government, and M. Krassin has flown from Berlin to Moscow to hasten its conclusion. It has been said to mark the collapse of Bolshevism. It does not do that, for it gives the company, and by implication other foreign companies, a strong interest in maintaining the present Government of Russia, at any rate against a Communist revolution; and it shows both that the Government is sufficiently secure to be worth dealing with, and that it still hopes, like Socialists outside Russia, to convert private capitalism into State capitalism gradually hereafter. This interpretation is supported by the statement of the company's secretary that the Government does not desire to grant new concessions to Herr Stinnes, the Krupp works, or other foreign capitalists. But the realisation of the hope is postponed for 40 years or more.

A New Loan for China?—Civil war in China is not anything like so serious a business as it appears in the newspaper reports: the country is enormous, and armed demonstrations by rival generals are often hardly more serious in China than are political manifestoes by impassioned party-leaders in Europe. The great difficulty of the new Peking Cabinet, in which Wang-Chung-hui is Premier, is that of finance. The military chiefs have promised, according to a recent Peking message in the *Times*, not to interfere with the revenues of the Central Government, and to secure the resumption of the provincial contributions; but the Chinese treasury is depleted, and the burden of foreign loan obligations heavy. The other day, however, Mr Paul Reinsch, an ex-American Minister to China, speaking in Peking at a gathering of notables at the house of the Foreign Minister, Mr Wellington Koo, said, as reported by *Reuter*, that if Chinese financiers would bend their minds to self-help, they could count on international support. The report, on Thursday, that Chinese banks are arranging to lend the Government a million sterling as a short term loan on the security of the unencumbered portion of the Boxer

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

Indemnity, suggests that he was not speaking without his book. Moreover, Mr Reinsch made a positive suggestion: as to which it is inconceivable that he was speaking casually or without assurance that his words could be made good. He proposed a constitutional interim loan of two million gold dollars a month for ten months; such assistance given now might save China, which, without it, might relapse into a condition whence extrication would be impossible. Meantime, he suggested that the Financial Commission should, with the co-operation of national and foreign bankers, draw up a scheme of revenue reform and on its basis propose to the Consortium to make this loan. If the Consortium declined or delayed, banks outside would have to be invited. The difficulty about action by the Consortium is, of course, the attitude of Japan. There is reason for believing that the assistance which Mr Reinsch desires is available, and that those interested in the plan regard it as important that the Chinese Government should resume the obligations (on the Marconi and Vickers' bonds and the bonds floated contemporaneously in the U.S.) on which it was allowed to default. With regard to the Vickers loan, indeed, the Chinese Government has stated its willingness to secure payment on the increase in the Maritime Customs Duty; but its power to act in this way seems at present blocked by the delays of the International Commission. It looks as though China must seek help outside the official circle.

The Crops.—The monthly report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries states that wet, sunless weather generally prevailed throughout August, which retarded the ripening of the corn and hindered harvesting, while the ripening of the corn and hindered harvesting, while heavy crops have been badly laid in places. Roots have benefited, and aftermaths have made good progress, but dry, sunny weather is much needed for all crops and farming operations. Crops have ripened slowly and unevenly owing to the wet weather and lack of sunshine, and the grain is likely to be under-average both in quality and in condition. Wheat is less promising than a month ago in all parts of the country, and the average yield on the whole is now established at just under 31 bushels per acre. In the southern half of England the greater portion has been cut, but except in some districts in the south very little had been carried by the end of August. There are many reports of sprouting in barley, and the quality of the grain is expected, on the whole, to be only moderate. The average yield for the whole country is estimated at about 30 bushels per acre. Harvesting is more backward than in the case of wheat, and in the majority of districts very little had been cut at the end of August. Winter oats generally are a fair crop, but spring-sown are poor, and, as in the case of barley, there are many reports of sprouting. The yield on the whole is estimated at only 34.6 bushels per acre. Good progress has been made with the harvesting of winter oats. Winter beans, on the whole, are a fair crop, but spring-sown are poor, and yields on the whole will be light. Peas, also, are only a moderate crop. The forecasts given last month of the production of this year's corn crops have been revised in accordance with the later information available, and the revised figures are set out in the table below. It is to be borne in mind, however, that these forecasts are based on estimates made at the beginning of September, and are consequently subject to modification. The area of beans

104

and peas is that returned as being for harvesting as corn:—

	Area.		Production.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	Forecast, 1922.
	Acres.	Acres.	Quarters.	Quarters.
Wheat	1,976,000	1,969,000	8,722,000	7,600,000
Barley	1,436,000	1,362,000	5,309,000	5,110,000
Oats	2,149,000	2,161,000	10,035,000	9,350,000
Beans	237,200	272,000	778,000	890,000
Peas	105,700	123,000	313,000	310,000

Main crop potatoes are healthy and vigorous generally. In one or two districts, more particularly in the south-east, there are some reports of disease, which may become more prevalent unless drier weather comes. On present appearances, the yield of potatoes is expected to be over-average in nearly all districts, and on the whole is estimated at about 10 per cent. above the average of previous years. Roots improved during August, but sunshine is now much needed. Turnips and swedes, especially where sown late, are still backward and patchy in several districts. Owing to the continuous wet weather the hay harvest has been very protracted, and in most districts was not completed at the end of August. The yield of seeds hay is estimated at 20 per cent. and of meadow hay 15 per cent. below average. From most districts it is reported that dessert apples are slow in maturing and generally are not colouring well, while yields are likely to be below average. All varieties of cooking apples show a wide variation in different districts, and are generally below average, although average crops of most varieties are reported from the principal districts in the West of England. Crops of pears are generally above average. Plums are a very heavy crop in all districts except in Middlesex. Damsons are a prolific crop.

The U.S.A. Harvest.—The production of winter wheat in the United States is estimated at 569,000,000 bushels, 38,000,000 bushels less than was anticipated earlier in the season. In 1921, winter wheat produced 587,032,000 bushels. Spring wheat is estimated at 248,000,000 bushels, 1,000,000 more than was expected. Thus the total wheat production in the United States this year amounts to 817,000,000 bushels, 22,000,000 bushels more than in 1921, and 18,000,000 bushels more than the average for the last five years. Oats are estimated at 1,187,000,000 bushels, compared with the production of 1,061,000,000 bushels in 1921—an unusually small crop—and the average production for 1916-1920 of 1,413,000,000 bushels. Barley production is estimated at 182,000,000 bushels, 31,000,000 bushels more than in 1921, but 15,000,000 bushels below the average crop for the previous five years. Rye is estimated at 82,000,000 bushels, an exceptionally large crop. The average crop for the previous five years stands at 67,800,000 bushels. Maize is estimated at 2,860,000,000 bushels, compared with 3,080,000,000 in 1921, and an average of 2,831,000,000 for the five years 1916-1920. The enormous production of potatoes (white) is estimated at 429,000,000 bushels, the five-year average being only 373,000,000 bushels. Sweet potatoes are estimated at 111,000,000 bushels, compared with 88,800,000 bushels for the preceding five years.

Iron and Steel and Coal Output.—The monthly statistics of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show that the production of pig-iron in the United Kingdom in August reached 411,700 tons, the highest monthly total since the coal stoppage of last year, which compares with 399,100 tons in July and 94,200 tons in August, 1921. The monthly average this year for the first eight months is 370,000 tons, as against an average of 217,600 tons for the twelve months of 1921, 669,500 tons for 1920, and 855,000 tons for 1913. Furnaces in blast at the end of August numbered 126, or 9 more than at the end of July. Steel production for August was 520,800 tons, as against 473,100 tons in July, 434,100 tons in August, 1921, and a monthly average of 302,200 tons for 1921, 755,600 tons for 1920, and 638,600 tons for 1913. Coal output for the week

ended September 2 was 5,203,600 tons, the highest weekly figure so far recorded this year, and comparing with 5,148,000 tons for the previous week and 4,141,900 tons in the corresponding week of last year. Since the beginning of August the weekly output has four times exceeded 5 million tons, there being a drop to 3,623,200 tons in Bank-holiday week.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—At the end of last week there was a special meeting in Manchester of the general committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations for the purpose of considering the state of trade. It was reported that the recommendation to users of American cotton to close their mills during August for a full week of 48 hours, in addition to the holidays, had been generally carried out. The question of a further curtailment of production was then considered, and it was decided to take a ballot of the members spinning American cotton on the advisability of stopping the mills on Saturdays and Mondays for a month, beginning on September 23rd. The result of the ballot will be announced on Tuesday next. In order to put the scheme into operation, it will be necessary for the owners of 80 per cent. of the spindles in the American section to vote in favour of the proposal. Although most firms are doing very badly, and selling yarn at a loss, there is some doubt in trade circles as to whether the necessary majority will be obtained. There is jealousy between the owners of old mills and the proprietors of the reconstructed concerns on a high capital basis. The former contend that they should not be asked to make sacrifices in order to bolster up the extravagantly financed companies. The Masters' Federation has disclaimed responsibility for reports which have appeared in the Press relating to proposals for setting up a systematic organisation and control of the trade with a view so to regulating the supply to the demand that satisfactory profits might be assured. The inquiry which is now proceeding is simply to consider the advisability of still further sectionalising the mills spinning American yarns in any future short time movement.

Calico Printers' Results.—Again the directors of the Calico Printers' Association, Limited, publish accounts for two years. This is the twentieth report of the company, and covers the period of the two years ended June, 1922. As will be seen from the table given below, gross profits show a substantial reduction when compared with previous accounts. But allocations for depreciation have been on a generous scale. The reserve account obtains nothing, the small sum shown in our reserve column being set aside for the benefit of employees. The following table shows results since 1906:—

Year Ended June 30.	Gross Profit.	Maintenance and Depreciation.	Net Profit, Less Depreciation Interest.	To Reserve, &c.	Dividends.	Ord. Rate.
	£	£	£	£	£	%
1906.....	682,160	200,120	354,040	150,000	201,074	4
1907.....	776,752	224,711	424,041	150,000	276,476	6½
1908.....	383,612	212,237	93,375	150,000	150,805	nil
1909.....	448,880	207,565	163,315	Dr 50,000	150,805	nil
1910.....	723,953	201,615	394,338	200,000	201,073	2½
1911.....	612,630	208,860	403,771	185,000	226,208	3½
1912.....	463,904	205,020	130,884	Dr 80,046	226,208	3½
1913.....	718,851	216,174	374,677	150,000	226,208	3½
1914.....	443,786	210,276	105,510	Dr 50,000	150,805	nil
1915.....	210,818	261,994	Dr 179,176	Dr 200,000	nil	nil
1916.....	1,104,732	312,345	664,387	300,000	351,878	2½
1917.....	1,268,058	562,340	577,719	300,000	251,342	5
1918.....	1,271,559	573,606	569,953	310,000	251,342	5
1919 and 1920.....	3,040,392	1,567,432	1,216,961	350,000	603,221	10
1921 and 1922.....	2,418,777	1,659,200	503,542	50,000	552,952	7½

Some striking changes are revealed in the full analysis of the balance-sheet, which appears in another column. Stock-in-trade is down from £5,025,057 to £1,949,669, although sundry debtors show little change at £3,148,265. The debit side of the balance-sheet is difficult to analyse. In the previous account an item was shown of "Sundry creditors and reserve for contingencies" at £3,994,123 in addition to depreciation account, reserve account,

capital reserve account, and reserve for equalisation of dividends. In the fresh balance-sheet we get an item, "Sundry creditors and other credit balances" of £1,982,849, and the various reserves as enumerated above now total £2,517,208, as against £2,308,694 two years ago.

William Beardmore.—It may be recalled that the previous accounts of William Beardmore and Co., Limited, for the five years to December 31, 1920, were submitted in December, 1921, and that net profits for these five years were then shown as £2,411,020. The directors, however, getting back to more normal conditions, have now published accounts for one year only, and that the year ended December 31, 1921. The report strikes a pessimistic note by stating that "the extreme depression in trade generally, the unsettled conditions of foreign exchanges and the resultant effect upon export markets, the prolonged coal strike and other labour troubles, with their consequent effect upon production, and the abnormally heavy taxation which industry has been called upon to bear, have all combined to make the period under review one of the most difficult ever experienced in the history of the company's trading." But, in spite of these prefatory remarks, profits for the year, after providing for depreciation—which "necessitated heavy writing down of stocks and work in progress" to "realisable values" and allowing for other charges—amounted to £127,288. Fortunately the directors, with considerable prudence, had put by from the previous accounts £711,909, and the sum now brought forward gave them an available balance of £839,197. The preference dividend distribution, absorbing £86,400, has been maintained, and again the directors are showing reasonable caution in carrying forward the balance of £752,797. Total assets amount to £9,940,569, of which one item, "land, buildings, house property, fixed plant and machinery, docks, goodwill and patent rights," is valued at £5,450,407. It is a pity that the value of goodwill and patent rights could not be separately shown. There is a general reserve fund of £1,000,000 and a special "preference dividend reserve" of £250,000. As the preference issue only requires an annual service of £86,400, this fund forms a pleasant pool for preference shareholders, although there are £1,000,000 8 per cent. notes, loans for £1,396,571, and 4½ per cent. debentures for £485,400 outstanding.

Tankers.—In accounts which are not noteworthy for lucidity, the directors of Tankers, Limited, announce that the profits of the company for the year ended March 31, 1922, amounted to £93,308, which sum is, however, subject to income-tax and Corporation Profits Duty. The company has now taken over the undertaking of the Scottish American Oil and Transport Company, issuing in exchange 4,771,455 ordinary shares of 5s each. Under the chartering contract with the Scottish-American Oil for the period to June 30, 1921, £59,789 came into the accounts, profits on steamers' voyages, &c., brought in £32,118, while "interest on bank deposits, treasury bills, &c." yielded £25,158. It is proposed to carry the net profit forward. The report states that "owing to the depression in the oil market and the serious drop in the quotation for freights, the directors regret that it has been impossible to obtain continuous employment for the whole of the vessels of the company." Total assets now amount to £4,571,725. The chief item on this side of the balance-sheet is the cost of five completed steamers, which is given as £3,106,277, less £60,000 for depreciation to March 31, 1921. Included in the cost of steamers are "amounts paid in respect of four vessels under construction, including adjustments for cancellation of two other vessels." This item is further complicated by a note which states that "Four completed vessels are mortgaged, three to secure bills payable as per contra," and on the other side of the balance-sheet bills payable are given as £371,299 "secured by mortgages on steamers." It will be noticed that depreciation has only been budgeted for up to March 31, 1921, for the comparatively small amount of £60,000, and the auditors in their report specifically draw attention to the fact "that no provision has been made for depreciation on

steamers" for the year ended March 31, 1922. Surely it would be better if the directors could see their way clear to unravel this tangle. Amounts paid for cancellation of contracts are a direct capital loss. These might be divulged and written off. The steamers could also be revalued in accordance with to-day's values to enable shareholders to know how they stand with regard to their assets. The investments of the company also call for notice. The holding in the Southern Oil and Transport Corporation is valued at £774,821, while those in the British Equatorial Oil Co., Limited, appear as £123,478. The auditors pertinently point out with regard to these investments that "we have no evidence as to the present value of the investments in other companies." It will also not escape the attention of the discerning investor that the British Tanker Company who assumed the technical and commercial management of the company, representing Anglo-Persian interests, ceased to act as managers on March 31st last.

Indian Gold Mine Dividends.—In our issue of June 17th a leading article was devoted to the position and prospects of the Kolar group of Indian gold-mining companies. By way of conclusion, it was pointed out that reduction in earnings must follow the decline in the gold premium, and some figures were given showing the extent to which each of the companies would be affected. Investors who allowed themselves to be dazzled by the past performances of these undertakings have now had a somewhat unpleasant experience in the shape of a general reduction in the rate of dividend. The appended table contrasts the distributions just announced—or passed—with the three preceding announcements:—

	1921.		1922.	
	Sept.	March.	Sept.	March.
Balaghat Pref.	1/6	1/3	1/	1/9
Ditto Ordinary.....	1/6	1/1½	nil	1/9
Champion Reef.....	1/	1/4	1/	1/6
Mysore	1/	1/9	1/	1/6
North Anantapur Pref. ..	1/6	4/	1/	4/
Ditto Ordinary.....	1/6	1/	1/	1/
Nundydroog	1/6	1/	1/6	1/

It will be seen that the Nundydroog provides the only example of maintenance of the rate. The Orregram declaration is not due until next month. Any shareholder unable to comprehend the absence of the return on the part of the lately reconstructed Champion Reef Company will find a ready explanation upon working out the results on the basis of last year's costs and the present price of gold.

Transvaal Output in August.—A further marked improvement is noticeable in the August statistics of gold output in the Transvaal issued by the Chamber of Mines. The July output at 730,635 ounces of fine gold compared favourably with 675,607 ounces produced in June. But the August figures, at 752,490 ounces, are even better. The following table shows the production for a number of years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January..	787,467	782,634	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728
February	753,594	781,321	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	511,338
March ..	796,689	787,094	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	629,781
April	754,673	742,778	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	675,697
May	777,581	779,385	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	675,697
June	761,764	759,724	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	675,697
July	761,087	757,839	736,199	725,497	706,669	702,083	721,526
August ..	781,150	756,658	740,210	706,669	696,558	682,173	691,026
September	771,587	738,431	708,206	723,722	662,472	707,825	704,236
October ..	792,339	751,290	679,764	677,970	633,737	681,847	681,847
November	783,066	722,839	658,701	650,191	632,215	632,215	632,215
December	774,462	722,419	641,245	650,191	632,215	632,215	632,215
Totals ..	9,296,618	9,018,084	8,418,292	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	3,939,67

NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED at the End of Last Eight Months' Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association as Contractors.

	Nov. 1921.	Dec. 1921.	March, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.	Aug 1922.
Gold mines.....	176,410	177,836	184,169	138,277	155,425	170,464	172,886	175
Coal mines.....	13,420	13,230	11,385	11,385	11,525	12,117	12,371	12
Diamond	1,217	1,224	1,204	1,232	1,219	1,211	1,211	1
Total	191,047	192,290	196,558	150,894	168,169	183,792	186,468	188

Thus the number of natives employed at the gold mines also show a further improvement.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—GOVERNMENT COTTON CROP REPORT—ANTHRACITE COAL DISPUTE SETTLED—RAILWAY AND TEXTILE STRIKES WANING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 4.

THE Government's cotton report last Friday, giving the condition of the growing crop as 57 per cent. of normal on August 25th, and estimating the prospective yield as 10,575,000 bales, was about as unfavourable as the trade generally had expected. Both the condition percentage and the indicated yield came close to the average of recent private estimates. The cotton market's immediate response was a violent break of some \$4 or \$5 a bale, with irregular recoveries from the lowest points before the close. The sharp decline was attributed more to the technical position of the market itself than to anything in the Government's report, which could be construed as an argument in favour of lower prices. The report seems to have been discounted largely in the recent vigorous advances; the short interest had been practically eliminated, and the market, therefore, was in no position to absorb the flood of profit-taking and fresh short-selling which developed following publication of the Government's estimates. Furthermore, many speculative buyers had placed numerous "stop loss orders" to sell their cotton contracts at certain levels, in order to prevent all of their profits being wiped out by any sudden slump. The execution of such orders naturally increased the selling pressure, which caused a precipitate drop of about 100 points before the decline was checked. The condition of 57 per cent. compares with 70.8 per cent. on July 25th, with 49.3 per cent. on August 25th a year ago, and with the ten-year average, as of August 25th, of 65.3 per cent. The yield now forecast is 874,000 bales less than the Government estimated a month ago, and contrasts with last year's actual crop of approximately 8,000,000 bales. Much can happen to the growing crop between now and harvest, and it is, of course, impossible to tell how close the present estimate may come to the actual production. Even should the prospective crop of 10,575,000 bales be fully realised, it would fall about 2,500,000 bales short of the 13,000,000 bales of American cotton which trade authorities have figured will be needed this season by domestic and foreign mills. It will be recalled that the deficiency between last year's exceptionally small crop and actual consumption was met by drawing on the unusually big carryover from preceding crops. The surplus was accordingly reduced from around 9,300,000 on August 31, 1921, to 4,900,000 bales on July 31st this year. While the latter carryover is more than sufficient to meet the shortage in the new crop as now estimated, there would remain a much smaller reserve at the close of the season than the 4,000,000 or 5,000,000-bale carry-over which the trade usually counts on, assuming that consumptive requirements will be as large as estimated. Furthermore, it is by no means certain that the crop will be as large as now promised. A great deal depends upon weather conditions, but more, perhaps, upon the extent of the damage that may be done by boll weevils. Some interests are disposed to stress the fact that the Government has not infrequently underestimated the actual yield in its forecasts, and they call attention particularly to last season's yield, which proved to be about 1,000,000 bales larger than the Government's September prediction. That wide difference, however, was found to be due principally to the fact that the planted acreage had been underestimated by more than 15 per cent. It is quite unlikely that such a mistake has been made this year. The smallness of this season's prospective crop is giving much concern to cotton goods manufacturers and distributors who, quite generally, are now convinced that the price of the staple will continue abnormally high. Despite the sharp decline which followed last week's crop report, manufacturers of printcloths and gray goods continued decidedly firm at the higher levels recently established, and refused to accept orders at current prices

for deliveries much more than one month ahead, while many mills declined to sell anything but spot cloth. Some shrewd buyers made unusually large commitment for nearby deliveries before the Government report was published, evidently in anticipation of price advances in the near future. If raw materials, cotton, wool, and silk hold around present levels—there is nothing in the situation to encourage hopes of any substantial recessions—prices of finished textiles generally must of necessity be advanced, according to competent authorities. Manufacturers are no longer willing to sell at cost, or at a loss to keep plants running. Whether or not higher prices will check distribution, and to what extent, only the future can determine. One feature, however, which has an important bearing on the outlook for trade in cotton goods and other textiles is the fact that stocks, in many lines, have been greatly reduced, if not exhausted, as a result of widespread curtailment of production and steady absorption of surpluses in the past few months.

Labour troubles, which have been such a disturbing factor in this country for a number of months, and which have checked the revival in trade and industry in many directions, are practically over. Following closely upon the settlement of the prolonged controversy between bituminous coal operators and miners, and the resumption of activity in soft-coal mines, the anthracite coal strike has been settled and production is to begin within the next week. In New England the textile strike is now a small affair compared with what it was at the outset, as a result of the steady return of operatives to various plants which have held out for the 20 per cent. reduction in wages, and the recent action of several mills in re-opening under the same wage scale and working conditions that prevailed before the strike began. The railway shopmen's strike is still in progress, but the railroads, according to official statements, have made rapid progress in building up their shop forces since all peace talk and conferences came to an end, and they confidently predict that such forces will be fully up to normal, in point of numbers, within the next month, even if the strikers do not return to work. Despite present handicaps, the carriers are moving an increasing volume of traffic, as reliable statistics plainly show. Transportation service is steadily improving in all sections, and no serious difficulty was experienced in handling the big Labour Day crowds of passengers. It is becoming more and more apparent that the railway unions have lost their strike. In the New England textile controversy, some mills have virtually capitulated to the union strikers, but other manufacturers have not. In the coal strike, however, the operators failed in their efforts to reduce wages. In announcing the agreement which terminated the anthracite coal strike, the operators declared that while they were still of the opinion that wages should be reduced, and that even though the present emergency did not justify continuation of the old scale, nevertheless, in conformity with the insistent appeals of President Harding and of the public, they accepted the proposal which had been made with a view to ending the controversy. The main points in the agreement are as follows: The contracts that were in force March 31, 1922, are to be continued until August 31, 1923; the production of coal is to begin immediately; the organisations of operators and miners are to join in a recommendation to Congress that legislation be enacted forthwith creating a separate Anthracite Coal Commission, with authority to investigate and report promptly on every phase of the industry; the continuance of production after the extension date is to be upon such terms as the parties may agree to in the light of the commission's report. The date limiting the extension of the old wage scale, namely, August 31, 1923, was a compromise; the operators did not want an extension beyond March 31st of next year, while the miners wished to have the former wage agreement continued until March, 1924. It is noteworthy that the date fixed for the expiration of the agreement just entered into comes at an odd time of the year, which marks the end of the coal year in that industry, and contracts between producers and large consumers usually expire at that time. The new contract period is also said to be the shortest that has ever been proposed

in negotiations between the operators and the United Mine Workers of America. The definite settlement of the coal strikes is generally regarded as most welcome and timely. With production again under way, the serious shortage which has resulted from the prolonged strikes will gradually be relieved; but under the best possible conditions it will be a long time before available supplies of both soft and hard coal catch up with requirements. Fortunately, it will be about two months before really cold weather arrives, and a substantial amount of coal can be produced in that period, but it will be wholly inadequate to meet all needs, and many consumers will undoubtedly experience great difficulty in getting what they require during the coming winter.

FRANCE.—STATE FINANCE—THE COMING BUDGET—TOBACCO AND MATCHES—GERMAN TRADE AGREEMENTS—PRICES AND COST OF LIVING—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, September 12.

THE Chambers are now expected to be called together again on October 10th, by which time the Budget estimates will in all probability be ready. General opinion appears to be that, notwithstanding the fact that the Treasury will be badly in need of ready money between now and the end of the year, the situation is such that it would be very difficult to float successfully another national loan, while any renewed increase in the amount of paper money is not to be thought of. The total note issue, which on June 22nd last amounted to 35,852,000,000f., was returned last Friday as 36,959,000,000f. This increase may be explained as due, to a great extent, to purely temporary circumstances, and as part of the great system of robbing Peter to pay Paul that has become chronic not only in France, but in many other countries also. Nevertheless, although the aforementioned methods of raising money are at present regarded as impracticable, ready cash must be had, and the Finance Minister, in order to overcome the difficulty facing him, is understood to have found an ingenious way out of the dilemma.

It is reported that two large loans are to be authorised—one of six milliards, to be issued by the consortium that now controls the whole of the French railways, which will in this way mobilise the debt owed to it by the State, and in this way mobilise the debt owed to it by the State, and the other of four milliards, to be issued by the guarantee Foncier. As both loans will be backed by the guarantee of the State, their success is a foregone conclusion. As neither the railways nor the Crédit Foncier has any immediate need for these large sums, the Treasury will have a good deal of ready money at its disposal, which it will replace for the time being with Bons de la Défense, which, it is hoped, will in turn be liquidated later by the cash which it is still believed will be received either from Germany direct or out of the produce of the suggested great international reparations loan.

One of the most interesting features of the coming Budget debates is expected to centre round the proposal that has been put forward by one of the Parliamentary commissions to the effect that the Government match and tobacco monopolies should be transferred to concessionaires on a farming basis. Categorical reports have been circulated from time to time for several years past that important financial and industrial groups, generally American, were anxious to enter into negotiations with the Government with a view to "taking over" the tobacco and matches monopolies, and there is no doubt most of these reports have been well founded. The tobacco monopoly yielded some 900,000,000f in relief of the taxpayer during the first seven months of the current year, while matches produced about 60,000,000f. It is held in many quarters that these results might be largely improved upon if more efficient methods of manufacture, distribution and salesmanship were adopted.

A cry of alarm, as might be expected, has already arisen from tobacco-growers, the employees in the Government tobacco and match factories and the privileged holders of tobacco selling permits, who have just sent a deputation to the Minister of Finance to protest against

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital ... 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ... 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

any attempt to suppress the present monopolies. M. de Lasteyrie informed the deputation that the Government will in no event hand over these two monopolies to any foreign syndicate. He intimated, however, that far-reaching modifications are contemplated in the methods of working the tobacco monopoly, with a view to improving the process of manufacture and reducing the sale price. As to matches, the Minister regretted that, both in quality and price, the French Government allumettes compare very unsatisfactorily with foreign-made matches. In the circumstances, and in view of the resolutions passed by the commissions, an official inquiry is now in progress into the working of the match tax in other countries and the possibility of transforming the existing monopoly in this country.

Other agreements between French organisations in the devastated area and German trade associations are likely to follow the Lubersac-Stinnes entente. The Comité d'Action des Régions Dévastées has decided to accept an offer from one of the great German trade unions (Verband Sozialer Baubetriebe, of Berlin) for the supply of materials. An agreement is to be drawn up and submitted to the French Government. In this case there is no question of the payment of any commission of 6 per cent. or otherwise, as in the Lubersac-Stinnes arrangement, therefore the cost of the materials will be correspondingly lower.

The French index figure for wholesale prices for August, as compiled by the Statistique Générale (based on 100 as representing the general average of prices 1901-1910), after remaining stationary for June and July, shows a rise from 375.6 to 382.1. The following table shows the comparative figures for July and August:—

	July (Corrected).	August (Provisional).
General index figure (43 categories) ..	375.8	382.1
Foodstuffs (20 categories) ..	381.6	378.5
Vegetable foods (8 categories) ..	351.2	350.6
Animal foods (8 categories) ..	423.2	417.4
Sugar, coffee, cocoa (4 categories) ..	359.4	356.5
Raw materials (25 categories) ..	371.1	385.0
Minerals and metals (7 categories) ..	317.5	329.9
Textiles (6 categories) ..	459.0	493.1
Various (12 categories) ..	358.6	363.0

The general index figures for the four previous months (March-June) were 355.4, 362.6, 366.2, 357.7 respectively, those for foodstuffs alone being 366.9, 387.5, 387.3, and 394.8. The August figures, therefore, indicate that the appreciable fall in wholesale food prices that occurred during July only partially continued last month. The index figure of retail prices of 13 categories of foodstuffs in Paris, which was returned as 3159 in March (or an increase of 194 per cent. on that of 1914), after rising to 3413 (217 per cent.) in May, had dropped by the end of August to 3107 (or 189 per cent. increase on those of 1914).

The continued high cost of living—or "artificially high cost of food," as it is often termed in this country—is exciting a good deal of attention once more, particularly among employers of labour. It is now generally recognised that the recent serious strike at Havre, where the workers proceeded to extremities in their resistance to a proposed cut of 10 per cent. in the wages of men employed in the metallurgical industry, was at bottom a genuine protest by labour against onerous conditions of living. The question was seriously discussed by the local Chamber of Commerce, and from this discussion two facts emerged: (1) that certain of the Chéron decrees,

the export of certain foodstuffs and prohibiting importation of others, have proved absolutely beneficial to consumers in general, however beneficial they may have been to French agriculturists, and have contributed directly to increase the cost of living; (2) at part of "the excessive price of certain foodstuffs" is due to the excessive profits made by middlemen. The latter, for instance, are alleged to have been largely responsible for the high price of meat, which is purchased, as a rule, at very moderate prices from the cattle raisers, and sold to the butchers at rates that are universally recognised as excessive.

Experts in the Havre district complain that the farmers, who have profited largely since the war began, and now, in the majority of cases, own the land they formerly rented, systematically hold back their produce, and refuse to sell except at the top of the market, and even keep down production in order to keep up prices. Thus, potatoes were selling at the end of May as high as 100 francs per 100 kilos. On the arrival of the new crop at the end of June, old stocks fell suddenly to 10 francs per 100 kilos, and there is abundant evidence that many holders preferred to lose the sale of their stocks rather than sell at reasonable prices. Prices were held at such a figure during the earlier part of the year, indeed, that it was possible to import potatoes from Esthonia, in spite of the high freight rates, at a substantial profit. The same policy has been followed by the growers of beans and other vegetables, with the result that crops harvested in 1920 and 1921 are still being doled out for sale. It is urged that, in the general interest, free competition in foodstuffs should be restored at any cost, by the abrogation of the decree prohibiting imports, which would curb the speculative practices of the agricultural class. Another ground of complaint, particularly in the North of France, is that owing to the continued high price of meat a large area of what was formerly laid down in wheat has been transformed into grazing farms (which to some extent explains why France may have in the future to import larger quantities of bread-making materials).

The Bourse has well maintained its position, despite the fact that there were a number of sales in view of the approaching settlement. French rentes again showed a marked advance. Thus the Three per cents. improved from 60.25 to 61.75, the 1915-16 from 76.65 to 76.80, the redeemable Five per cents. from 88.80 to 89.10, and the Six per cents. from 90.75 to 91.20. Banks for the most part have remained unchanged, but Crédit Lyonnais moved up from 1,450 to 1,485, and Crédit Mobilier Français from 465 to 486. Railways have maintained their position, but there have been few dealings, and prices are virtually unchanged, with the exception of Metro, that improved from 425 to 460. Electrical undertakings have strengthened, Thomson rising from 813 to 825, and Electricité de Paris from 549 to 570, others acting similarly. Owing to optimistic statements as to the metal market, there has been a general improvement in metallurgical undertakings. Mines have been well in demand, Tintos advancing 50 points at 1,640.

GERMANY.—FINANCES—CURRENCY—BOURSE—PRICES—INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 12.

THE suspension of the Belgian negotiations concerning bond guarantees caused disappointment; but an understanding is hoped for. The Stinnes deal was taken fairly favourably. The official and private authorities on ruin have suggested numerous precipitate remedies; but the remedies, like the ruin, lost their public interest as soon as the dollar exchange lost its rise. The Government has forbidden the import of raw tobacco. The consumption of cigarettes has risen enormously; and as the people, according to the Chancellor, cannot afford bread, they nourish themselves (according to the counsels of Queen Marie Antoinette) on a costly narcotic. It will appear wrong to treat with levity the condition of a country where, in a certain class, there is real and terrible need; but the target aimed at is not the real misery of any

citizen, but the unheard-of exaggerations of the Federal Government, the Press, and foreigners. If the Government wants to alleviate the lot of the only ruined class, it ought to take measures against the wholesale transfer of real wealth from this class to others. As a result of laws and ordinances, a "Schieber" profiteer on the Kurfürstendamm pays a rent of 15s a year for a ten-room flat; and the gold price paid by me last week for a first-class sleeping compartment from Frankfurt-on-Main to Berlin (9½ hours, distance 539 kilometres) was 34d, and the first-class fare 1s 9d. The approximate £200 a year presented to the profiteer, and the approximate £5 presented to me, were taken out of the pockets of the particular class for which Dr Wirth, a week ago, expressed his compassion; and this happened not by accident, but by official design and by law. In order to replace the money so lost to the State, the Government, among other measures, has raised the gold supplement on customs duties from 28,900 to 33,900 per cent., which means that even the more fortunate producing citizens, whose earnings have risen 50-fold since 1914, must pay a 400-fold tax on their coffee and their cotton shirts. The Government now proposes a tax on excessive eating and drinking in public; and as this can only be based on the totals of restaurant bills, and as average totals of restaurant bills double in a week, the tax will, in two senses of the word, ensure a movable feast.

Lest it be feared that this official policy really spells ruin, it must be reported that the State finances show no sign at all of ruin. Whereas the estimated taxation revenue for all 1922 was 108 milliard marks, the revenue receipts for the first five months of the financial year, April-August, were 90,292,348,000 marks. The Floating Debt continues to increase; but the burden of the interest, being transferred to the unprivileged classes, is ever smaller on the State. The total for August 31st was 355,622,667,616 marks, whereof 316,945,535,300 marks were Three Months' Treasury bills. The Minister of Industry talks of issuing Treasury bills with an exchange character; and is being criticised for his vagueness; but a system of borrowing which would guarantee the lender against being repaid in worse money than he lent is honest in principle, and would probably revive the citizen's willingness to lend.

The first month-end Reichsbank report, after the mark touched bottom, shows, as was forecast, a new record in the credit pressure and in the inflation. This fact may be recommended to those foreigners who still believe that inflation causes a mark fall, and not vice-versa. Private bills discounted rose by 4,976,498,000 marks, to 21,704,341,000 marks; and now total more than 20 times the figure of a year ago; Treasury bills rose by 25,283,039,000 marks, to 249,765,773,000 marks; and the pressure on the Loan Bureau is shown by an increase of the Bank's holdings of Kassenscheine by 2,736,755,000 marks to 23,239,947,000 marks. Note circulation increased by 22,978,898,000 marks, which is about twice the former biggest weekly increase, to 238,147,160,000 marks, and Kassenscheine circulation by 888,700,000 marks, to 13,382,500,000 marks. As prices are still rising, the inflation must continue. The Reichsbank's note-printing capacity will be increased to 3 milliards daily by September 15th. Reichsbank clearings in August totalled 374.86 milliards, against 79.17 milliards in August, 1921. A party resolution declares for legislation forbidding use of foreign currencies in home business. This is a doubtful measure. When the French assignats and mandats were depreciated, as is the mark, to the extreme, the hoarded gold and silver coins came back into circulation; and for a time there was a dual currency, the paper currency's buying power being determined by its fluctuating metal exchange. This facilitated the return to a metal currency, at the expense of the mere paper-owners. Here the dollar plays the rôle of stable measurer of real values, and even as a second physical currency, with good results, as metal played in France; and this might prepare for the automatic expulsion of the paper mark. The French system was made possible by the withdrawal of draconic measures in favour of the assignats; whereas the German plan is to continue enforcing the assignat as the only currency.

Stocks have had a big fall. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for dividend payers shows on September 8th 64,879, as against 82,599 on August 25th and 40,250 on November 10, 1921. Since January 1, 1920, the stock index figure has risen 8-fold, whereas the mark's gold exchange has fallen to about 1-30th. Capitalisation increases would explain only a fraction of this disparity. Since 1914 the stocks of certain companies which have not increased their capital at all, and are therefore pure goldmark values, have risen only 15-fold, or to less than 1-20th of their theoretical paper-mark value. Federal Threes, at 468 yesterday, have made a new record; Fours, for years under par, quoted 238; 3½ per cents., 144; Colonial Fours, 140; and Savings and Premium, 79. None of the Prussian or other State Loans are above par. The big rise in Federal Loans is not a sign of belief that the mark exchange will be raised and stabilised; if that were the belief, the purchase of low-priced State and municipal loans would be more tempting. The rise indicates a probably mistaken belief that the State's theoretical currency debt will be repudiated by means of automatic depreciation to nothing, while Federal Loans will be redeemable at a certain reduced gold price. The numerous British subjects who have bought Threes in this belief are likely to regret their credulity. Neither on practical grounds, nor on grounds of justice, is there any likelihood of public-funded debts faring better than currency.

The price-rise in August was about double that of July, which was the greatest so far experienced. It followed, as usual, the mark-exchange decline, instead of preceding it, as would have been the case if inflation (bringing home depreciation) was the cause, not the effect. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* wholesale price index figure, which rose in July from 9,140 to 13,935, rose further to 28,919, or 290-fold that of 1914. As the dollar exchange index (basis also 100 in 1914) was 32,142, prices remained below world-market level. The food group rose from 13,961 to 29,175; textiles and leather, 21,910 to 36,398; minerals, 18,355 to 42,648; miscellaneous from 10,993 to 21,605; and standard finished articles, 8,549 to 19,352, or only 193½-fold 1914 level. The big rise of minerals is due to the great rise in native and imported coal and metals, and has been influenced by the fixing of iron prices according to the dollar in exchange. During the month the prices of most important commodities about doubled. Of Steel Syndicate products, ingots rose from (in marks per metric ton) 14,480 to 27,530, bars from 19,470 to 37,020, thick plates from 21,860 to 41,580, and other sorts proportionately; but there was a new rise on the 11th to 34,370, 46,930, and 52,750 respectively. Hematite pig-iron rose from 11,317 to 29,784, and is also due for a new rise. Coal rose from 1,530 to 4,105 marks.

Trade continues good. The Prussian Trade Ministry's monthly report shows that the selling boom during the present mark decline was not as active as in the great decline of last year. It is reported that only half of the food and raw materials credit of 140 million gulden granted by Holland in March, 1921 has been applied for by importers, and this agrees with the trade statistics to show that the officially alleged catastrophic inability to import, caused by the mark drop, is a fiction. To this matter I shall return next week. The *Kurven der Frankfurter Zeitung*, a statistical periodical, after noting the large increase (lost territory allowed for) in the number of producers, due firstly to the minimal unemployment, secondly, to the reduction of military establishments, and thirdly, to the enforced conversion of the ruined capitalist class into a producing class, gives figures to show that producers as a whole are increasingly efficient, and may be more efficient than before the war. The report of one large shipyard shows that efficiency fell to 100 in 1914, to 70 early in 1920, and is now 109. "This," says the authority, "is probably typical of a very considerable part of our industry. A leading cigarette factory reports: 1914, 100; 1922, 113; in another branch of this concern average productivity was 1914, 100; 1922, 196; and in a third branch, 100 and 750 (for this great increase there must be some special reason). Of sixteen different industries engaged in shipbuilding, six report production unchanged since 1914, five report an

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDÔME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

average decline of 5 per cent., and five report an average increase of 14 per cent. The journal issuing this report describes the improvement as extraordinary, and expresses the view that pre-war efficiency is approaching. The percentage of unemployed is 0.6, against a pre-war average of 2.3, but for the reasons above given the absolute number of employed (on present area) is greater than in 1914. It is as hard as ever to see how a nation with an increased number of permanently employed producers of wealth, producing as, or nearly as, efficiently as in admittedly flourishing times, can really have experienced, or is about to experience, a collapse which will drag down the whole world.

CANADA.—CROP CONDITIONS—COLLAPSE OF THE WHEAT BOARD PROJECT—FARMERS' DIFFICULTIES—FRAUDS IN THE EXPORT GRAIN TRADE—PLANS OF THE FINANCE MINISTER—LOAN CONVERSION—THE RAILWAY PROBLEM—FEDERAL REVENUES—TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND MARKETS—THE AMERICAN TARIFF—CANADA AND REPARATIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, August 28.

IN Eastern Canada the grain harvest is well advanced, except in high-lying regions like the valleys of the Laurentian range, and in the western provinces wheat cutting has been general for the past fortnight. New wheat is already moving to the seaboard, and the actual results of the harvesting have in no way falsified the calculations of a satisfactory crop. It is true that drought has reduced the yield in extensive areas in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia to very modest dimensions, but, on the other hand, in the territory surrounding Brandon in Manitoba, and other favoured localities, the crop will average about 30 bushels per acre and be as good as the historic yield of 1915. One grain trade journal claims that the whole Canadian wheat crop will this year exceed 350 million bushels, but more reliable agencies, like the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the C.P.R. Natural Resources Department, will not claim more than 320 million bushels. Ten days' good sunshine is required to ripen a lot of the uncut wheat, but if it is vouchsafed the harvest will be finished early and all danger of loss from September frosts be obviated. Despite reports of a crop shortage in Europe, grain prices have been inclined to sag, and the farmers in the outlying regions of the West complain that they will not be able to meet their costs of production. In Ontario and Quebec, however, the farmers have every reason to be satisfied with their crop and transportation charges take no such toll from their returns. The fruit crop in Eastern Canada is particularly good this year, and root crops are also in excellent condition.

No competent grain expert was found willing to undertake the management of the Wheat Board with its curtailed powers, and the project had to be abandoned for the present year. The Western farmers are exceedingly indignant at the fiasco, and their representatives have

ing the Government to secure by exhortation of banks and other creditor institutions a sort of moratorium which will prevent the wholesale dumping of wheat on the market in the autumn months by sellers who are being pressed for payment of debts. The Government have promised the usual sympathetic consideration, but will not provide any public funds to enable farmers to hold their wheat. Mr Robb, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, has just returned from Europe, where he has been inspecting the Canadian trade agencies and attending to some departmental business. A very successful miller himself, he has a special knowledge of the grain trade, and he has been conducting a quiet investigation into the charges that Canadian wheat shipped via American ports was frequently subjected to adulteration and mixing with inferior American grades, with the result that the value of the Canadian grain certificate was destroyed. Evidence of these practices was obtained at the places where they were committed, and now Mr Robb has procured confirmatory proof in London from purchasers of the "mixed" wheat. It happens that owing to the ice blockade of the St. Lawrence in the winter months, more than 50 per cent. of the Western grain crop reaches tidewater at American ports, and this through traffic is encouraged by the American railways. Mr Robb intends to solicit the co-operation of the American Government in bringing the fraudulent practices to an end, and if it is not granted, steps will probably be taken to confine the export of Canadian grain to Canadian seaports.

The Finance Minister is at present *en route* for Europe, where he will settle some outstanding matters with the British Treasury and try to bring to a head negotiations which have been set on foot for a new commercial treaty with France. Before he sailed he announced that holders of the Victory Loan maturing on December 1st of this year could convert their holdings for a new issue of five- or ten-year bonds at the same rate of interest—namely, 5½ per cent. The new issue will be, unlike the old, subject to income-tax, but an inducement of one month's interest as a bonus for conversion is offered. There are about 180 million dollars of this issue outstanding, and the Finance Department expect that about 70 or 80 millions will be converted. At least another 100 million dollars must be obtained from some other source, and it is uncertain whether the Finance Minister will issue a domestic loan or once more have recourse to the New York market. The deficit on the operations of the national railways is growing worse instead of better, and the problem surrounding them is a continual source of worry to the Government. The serious illness of the Minister of Railways is now available as an excuse for further delay in appointing a new directorate for the national system. The old directors, both of the C.N.R. and the Grand Trunk, have handed in their resignations to the Government, and the country is becoming impatient at the dilatoriness of the Government in providing a new board for the unified system. There was a rumour that the chairmanship of the C.N.R. directorate might be offered to Sir Eric Geddes, but it is officially denied, and the latest report is that it will be offered to a well-known American railroad man of British birth.

However, the Government, amid their difficulties, can derive some consolation from gratifying increases in the Federal revenues. There has been a steady rise in the Customs revenue, and the decline in the sum realised by the income-taxes proves to be much smaller than was anticipated. The new stamp taxes are proving an extremely fruitful source of revenue, and are realising on an average half-a-million dollars per day, which is about double the sum produced by the old stamp imposts. If the railway deficit can only be kept down to reasonable dimensions and the rapacity of members for public works in their constituencies checked, Mr Fielding ought, next April, to be able to produce a very hopeful budget.

Industry and trade have been maintained at a moderately good level during the summer months, and both wholesalers and manufacturers report that country merchants, now that a good crop is assured, are replenishing their stocks and buying freely, especially in the grocery and drygoods lines. The industrial situation is not altogether satisfactory. There is a serious shortage of coal,

which has been further accentuated by a strike in the Nova Scotia coal mines. The Cape Breton area, where the British Empire Steel Corporation and its subsidiaries are the dominant influence, is the black spot in the Canadian industrial world, and so serious had matters become last week that troops had to be sent in order to keep order and preserve property. Impartial accounts of the situation won a good deal of public sympathy for the striking miners, and a settlement, which is now being voted upon, has been arranged, wherein the company has been forced to concede very material increases in the miserable wages lately paid. But even if the Nova Scotia mines reopen, they can do very little to fill the gap caused by the withdrawal of the usual American supplies through the coal and railway strikes in the U.S. The coal reserves in Canada are at a very low ebb, and industries are now realising the benefits of the Hydro-Electric Commission's enterprises. Extensive orders are being placed for Welsh coal for domestic fuel, but serious fears prevail of a fuel famine, which is a very unpleasant matter in a Canadian winter. Owing to the large demand for harvest labour, unemployment is at present virtually non-existent, but the problem will reappear as soon as winter brings out-of-door work to an end. Despite the fuel situation and industrial troubles, the stock markets have been remarkably buoyant, and the paper stocks, since the threat of any fresh barriers on pulp and paper imports in the new American tariff has been removed, have been indulging in a miniature boom. The pulp and paper industry is still one of the bedrocks of Canadian prosperity, and fresh mills, the latest being financed by American capital in the East Kootenay region at Elk, are continually being started. There is also great activity in the Northern Ontario mining field, and the returns of the Hollinger and other well-known mines are amazingly good.

The latest news from Washington is that the Fordney tariff may not be allowed passage before Christmas, because the Republicans are afraid of its effect upon the Congressional elections in November. The hope in Canada is that these elections may reveal a strong swing to the Democratic side, and in that event the new duties, which are so adverse to the Canadian farmer, might undergo drastic revision. The effect of the duties imposed by the Emergency Tariff upon Canada's southward exports has been very serious, but the recent trade returns are also demonstrating to intelligent Americans that if they will not buy from Canada they cannot expect to retain her as an increasingly valuable customer.

Canadian interest in the reparations problem, which is now occupying the minds of European statesmen, is very slight. No Canadian politician of any standing or any reputable paper has ever encouraged the public to hope for any substantial sum from Germany, and there have been no expectations to disappoint. The Canadian Government still holds over 30 million dollars' worth of enemy property in various forms, but two Government officials are now in Europe working out a settlement of private claims.

ARGENTINA.—FOREIGN LOAN—PROPOSED BANKING CONSORTIUM—NEW BANKING LEGISLATION—TRADE CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Buenos Aires, August 21.

THE failure of the Argentine Government to receive serious tenders for its proposed loan of \$200,000,000 gold was not a surprise to local financial interests. Indeed, the subsequent official statement to the effect that henceforward nothing under 6 per cent. at 95 would be considered, was but a repetition of what had been said unofficially before the tenders were opened. Five representatives of American banking groups did tender, but the nearest being one of eighty million gold at 6 per cent. interest, and an issue price of 92. It is, therefore, safe to assume that nothing further will be done in the direction of seeking a foreign loan until the presidential change due on October 12th has been effected, and Dr Alvear has selected his cabinet ministers. Now that this gentleman

is actually *en route* for Argentina, there is much speculation as to who will accept the various portfolios, more especially that of the Ministry of Finance. It implies the immediate discharge of an almost Augean task in the shape of bringing the floating debt within measurable limits of control, and, to be successful, the minister must be strong enough to over-ride all parochial restrictions, and even party considerations, at need. Among the names mentioned for this post, that of the Argentine Ambassador to Washington, Dr Tomas le Breton, is at least probable. It has also been suggested that he would be best fitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, apparently because the National Petroleum Department comes under this section of the cabinet. Yet though it is clear that many reforms are overdue in connection with the extraction and marketing of the national oil wealth, the problems there presented are not so many, or so far-reaching, as those which must confront a capable and conscientious controller of the *res publica* during the next few years of Argentine development.

A fortnight after the abortive loan before mentioned news was received of a small private transaction sanctioned by H.E. President Irigoyen and his Ministers on behalf of the State railways. The British engineering house of Sir William Arroll and Co., Limited, advance £2,000,000 for 20 years at 6 per cent., free of all charges. It, however, reserves the right of supplying 50 per cent. of the amount named in goods, provided that its terms and prices are found satisfactory when tenders are sought by the department named. Even so, the offer is decidedly the best that Argentina has received for many a day, and it is to be hoped that Congress will place no difficulty in the way of sanctioning the business. For at present it is perforce *ad referendum* to that body, as is the purchase of the Central Chubut Railway for \$1,950,000 gold. This is a highly satisfactory figure for the owners of what, as it stands, is not an over-flourishing line, 105 kilometres long. Its value to the Argentine Government lies in the link with the coast at Port Madryn that it will provide for the internal connections of the Patagonian system—northern section. Payment will be spread over a period of two years from the signature of the contract, with \$487,500 gold in cash, and the balance at 12, 18, and 24 months, with interest at 6 per cent. Reverting to the subject of loans, it is interesting to mention the proposed formation of a consortium of Argentine banks, ostensibly designed to free this Republic from dependence on external accommodation. As yet this ideal is somewhat too vast for Argentine banking to be able to attain, especially having in view the fact that if the banks were to find for the Government all the funds whereof it stands in need, the general commerce of the Republic would be so severely handicapped as to be in sore straits for ready-money facilities. It is much more probable that what is actually in preparation is a workable scheme for discounting Treasury bills on a fairly large scale, until such time as the new President and his Cabinet have been able to treat the Argentine's national finance as a whole. There is a plethora of deposit funds in the Argentine banks to-day, and these latter would be only too glad to have them, the ability to encash such paper at will, and without loss, should the general situation make such a course advisable. Hitherto the Argentine banks have taken up these Treasury bills fairly freely, relying upon the Banco de la Nacion to rediscount them at need, but there is reason to believe that this latter establishment is feeling that its direct and indirect credits to the Government are gradually becoming larger than is altogether compatible with a thoroughly liquid position. The crisis in the cattle trade, though not quite as acute as it was a couple of months ago, still means the locking up of large sums in loans to big breeders, loans which must perforce be renewed either wholly or in part, and that without much higgling as to terms, if a catastrophe is to be averted.

What one is inclined to regard as the most interesting thing about the talked-of consortium is the proof which it affords of the ever-increasing tendency to draw a wide division between Argentine and foreign banking operations in the Republic; and this view is strengthened by the recent introduction of a so-called "organic" banking law, designed to regulate the general conduct of bank-

ing business in Argentina. Brought forward by a Cordoba deputy, Dr Arturo M. Bas, the Bill which has just been laid before Congress consists of 53 articles, covering the authorisation, administration, inspection, and liquidation of banks established in the Republic, both as Argentine concerns and as branches of foreign institutions. Among other items, it provides for the creation of local boards, consisting of a president and four members as a minimum. Half the board is to be composed of Argentines, and special attention is paid to the question of reciprocal treatment by other countries whose nationals may seek to establish banking offices in this Republic. Broadly speaking, one may say that the proposals are more patently aimed against the American institutions now working in this market, but at the same time, should Congress discuss and pass the Bill, it would undoubtedly mean a change of method, and to some extent of direction, in the case of other foreign banks here established. A pointer in the same direction is the recent emphasis laid by the Government on the need for early despatch of the Bill which is to grant pensions and annuities to bank clerks and their dependents. The Executive Power, after making a fairly obvious allusion to the abortive bank clerks' strike of 1920, emphasises the fact that banking is a public function, and that those who perform its manifold duties should therefore be treated in this matter similarly to other public servants. Reduced to its simplest terms, the measure will mean that bank employees must pay 5 per cent. and the banks 8 per cent. on the salary bill, the funds so raised being administered by a committee which is partly built up by ex-officio members and partly through election. While it may come as a boon to the clerks in a few small institutions, to the great majority of bank workers it offers little more than is offered by the private pensions funds of the banks themselves; less, indeed, when one takes into account the fact that as a rule the latter do not call for a contribution from members of the staff. There is, however, one advantage from the employee's point of view, namely, his ability to change employment without thereby forfeiting pension rights accrued through years of service. Better terms or a more convenient position will no longer have to be weighed against past employment, since the fund applies to all banking service; but such cases are not likely to be numerous, changes being as a rule confined to men of salient qualities or particular gifts. Here, as elsewhere, the good man fetches a good price, hence any tendency to change can always be countered, if deemed advisable, by improved remuneration. Indeed, while the exceptional man may benefit, the rank and file are not likely to be much better off in the long run, since it is reasonable to suppose that the immediate addition of 8 per cent. all round to salaries in the shape of a pension contribution will be automatically set off by a corresponding diminution of the sums annually apportioned to increases of pay.

Notwithstanding a natural anxiety over the commercial outlook in Europe, Argentine business in general is showing steady improvement. The news that hides have been put on the United States free list offsets to some extent the duty imposed on wool, while cereals, despite unfavourable weather conditions, have been moving freely. Wheat is weaker at \$11.70 Arg. paper p. 100 kilos, shipments to date reaching 3,058,000 tons, as against 1,700,000 tons last year. Maize shipments are backward, owing to abnormally warm, moist weather, which has rendered artificial drying necessary to condition even the relatively small quantities that have been shipped, a million and a quarter tons, as against 2,817,000 tons last year. Exchange is seriously preoccupying those engaged in export to the Continent. For the moment Germany is out of the question, save on the basis of contracts in dollars or sterling, and both francs and lire are depreciating faster than is commensurate with sound business dealings. Italian shipments hither are naturally benefited, but the small advantage there gained is more than offset by the doubt concerning export payments, and the threat of diminished importation both by France and Italy. Sterling remains fairly constant at a premium of 6 per cent. reckoned in Argentine currency, while the U.S. dollar, at 121 to the \$100 Arg. gold, is at 18 per cent. above par. Freights homeward have again been seriously affected by damp weather, and while ships can

for o.c., September cancelling, at 22s, San U.K./Cont., the parcel rate is down once more 6d for U.K. and French ports, with 15s to 6d for U.K. and 11s 6d to German ports. It must, however, be borne in mind that a fortnight of fine dry weather would materially improve these last quotations, save in the case of Hamburg, which is reported heavily unfavourable conditions, have been moving freely.

SWEDEN. — RUSSIAN AGREEMENT — RAILWAY STRIKE — TRADE CONDITIONS AND FIGURES — GOTHENBURG HARBOUR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

STOCKHOLM, September 9.

RUMOURS have been current of late regarding the resumption of negotiations between Sweden and the Soviet for a new trade agreement. Nothing official has been published in this matter, and the reports are more or less hearsay. It is understood, however, that the Soviet is very anxious to come to terms with Sweden, and is prepared to make concessions on points which previously have been stubbornly contested. On the other hand, the same anxiety does not manifest itself on the Swedish side; at least, not amongst Swedish business men. If, however, the Soviet is agreeable to guarantee to prevent the spread of red propaganda, the main obstacle for a treaty should be removed, and generally Sweden should then have no objections to an agreement with Bolshevik Russia.

For some time there has been a strike on the private railways on the question of wages. The agreement between the private railway companies and their employees expired on January 1st last, and ever since the wages have been paid on a basis, decided upon by the companies, according to which the war-bonus should follow the official index. Now, however, the railwaymen find the drop in their pay too heavy, and demand another basis; but as this would have involved the private railways in about 10 million crowns higher expenditure per annum, they refused, and the men answered with a strike. Of course, at present, when both the industry and the general public are most urgently claiming reduced freights and fares, it is not very likely that higher pay will be granted. How long the strike may last is difficult to say, as it seems as if none of the parties concerned will give in. The railwaymen's union declares that they will be able to keep on almost any length of time, as the strikers very well might be supported financially by funds and payments by the men not on strike. The outlook for a strike among the farm workers seemed pending, and would have been very disastrous under present circumstances, with the very late crop this year, owing to unfavourable weather; but there has been an agreement. There has been considerable anxiety for the crop, which has been suffering from constant rain, but the last week with its sunny weather has brightened the situation very much indeed.

The general outlook in trade and industry is not particularly bright, although there is some improvement. The textile industry seems to be best off, working at full speed. In the iron industry the outlook is rather gloomy, and the output at the iron and steel works is only about one-third to one-half of the normal production. New orders have recently been booked from various Government departments by different works, which have been possible, thanks to a sum of 25 million crowns which was granted by Parliament for helping the industry. A part of the money was raised out of the unemployment funds. The monetary situation, however, might be called brighter, even if private capital is scarce; but the output for our standard articles (iron-ore, timber, paper, and wood pulp) has been very good, and timber sales are proceeding favourably, the sold quantity now being about 675,000 standards, which is considered very good under present circumstances. The prices obtained might not

have given any great margin for profit, but stocks have been converted into ready cash all the same. It is reported that prices for craft paper are to be raised by 10 per cent., and it is expected the other kinds will follow.

The export figures for the first half-year of 1922, compared with those for last year, are much better. For the first six months of 1922 there was an import surplus of 103 million crowns, while the figure for the same period last year was 157 million crowns. (For the same period of 1913 the import surplus was 34.6 million crowns.) For June, 1922, there is an export surplus of 11.1 million crowns, the total value of exports being 104.2 million crowns, and that of imports 93.1 million crowns. Exports during June, 1921, were 68.5 million crowns, and imports 93.2 million crowns, thus giving an import surplus of 24.7 million crowns. The same figures for 1913 were: Imports 62.1, exports 73.4, and export surplus 11.3 millions.

It was a remarkable event in the history of the harbour of Gothenburg last week, when the free harbour was solemnly opened by the Crown Prince. It is expected that this harbour will be a very prominent feature in the transit-traffic, not only for the various parts of Sweden, but also in the transit-traffic with the States all round the Baltic. Gothenburg, which is the biggest and most modern harbour in Sweden, has regular connection with almost every big port in Europe, and with many all over the world. This free harbour, which, in all, has cost 30 million crowns, is meant to be extended if circumstances demand it. The total length of the quays is now 3,700 feet, and the basin has an area of 25 acres, the depth of water being 30 feet. The railway lines at the free harbour have a length of 40,000 feet, of which 16,000 feet are alongside the quays and sheds. There are 23 electric cranes.

NORWAY — AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN — REDUCED BANK RATE — EMPLOYMENT — COST OF LIVING.

(FROM OUR CHRISTIANIA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE political crisis mentioned in my last letter, caused by the tariff differences with Spain, was arranged through a compromise, whereby the present Government, for the moment, at any rate, remain in power. The Storting decided by a great majority that the arrangement made by the Government with Spain, according to which a quantity of 500,000 litres of wine of a certain strength was to be annually imported from Spain, was to be ratified, but only as a provisional measure. The Government as soon as possible (which was understood to mean in time for the result to be put before the Storting at the autumn session this year) was to resume negotiations with Spain as to an ultimate agreement, based either on a fixed limited quantity of wine, or on an unrestricted quantity.

The Bergen Ships' Hypothek Bank, which was established 3-4 years ago, but which has postponed operations on account of the abnormal times, is now going to work in earnest. It has just placed with a couple of our largest banks a loan for 10 millions kroner at 6 per cent. at par. Out of this amount, five millions were offered for public subscription and over-subscribed three-fold. Since the official discount was reduced recently from 5½ to 5 per cent., the demand for presumably safe investments has increased. The position of the Bank of Norway, though not particularly easy, was considered good enough to warrant this reduction, which was hailed with pleasure by the trading community.

The number of unemployed workmen has been steadily decreasing in the course of the summer, and is not at present strikingly high. The future is, however, looked forward to with some apprehension, especially since the general state of the world trade is so unsatisfactory. The cost of living has increased again, but only to a small degree, and the increase most likely is seasonal, and may be expected to go somewhat down again in the autumn.

Letters to the Editor.

AMERICA'S CLAIM—OUR COUNTER-CLAIM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Doubtless, according to the strict letter of our engagements, the money borrowed from the U.S. to sustain a war in which both were, in fact, equally interested, must, as *The Times* seems rather in a hurry to get settled, be repaid in full. On the other hand, war conditions still prevail—at least on the home front—and the so-called moneyed-classes, which include numbers of small investors in house property, who are prevented by war legislation from meeting the diminished value of our currency by raising their rents, are already taxed to the extreme of endurance. It is largely on their shoulders that this American tribute will be laid, and if, owing to the abnormality of the times, their clear right to their property is for good and sufficient reasons suspended, may they not, in common fairness, claim similar indulgence from a rich and flourishing creditor?

Anything meaner than the American attitude in this matter would be difficult to imagine. The enterprise we were engaged in was a joint one, and in the final settlement the contributions of the associated Powers, whether in treasure or blood, should be fairly estimated and allowed for. Though not so direct, the menace to American honour and independence was as real as to our own. The Americans knew this, otherwise they would not have joined us; as, indeed, they have frequently admitted. In the result, reckoned solely in money, each of the great European Powers contributed more than America, while, on the other hand, American nationals made enormous profits at our expense. Reckoned in human life, the 50,000 Americans, who bravely laid down their lives to save civilisation, are but a small, though a highly honourable band compared with the 3,000,000—the flower of European manhood—contributed by France, Italy, and England—their debtors! American farms and homesteads were not ravaged; their factories were not stripped of machinery; their women and children went safely to church. Had we not stood up at once against this world-danger, Kentucky and Kansas, by this time, might have shared the fate of Belgium. From this we saved them, and in return they try to obtain a monetary international advantage that will endure for a century—from which England at least, with her industrials working at low pressure, can never recover.

Let us, however, look back a little. Fifteen years ago, when the U.S. were at war with Spain, the fact—well established—that our Navy was ready to support the weak American fleet, had Germany, as she was anxious to do, espoused the cause of her European sister, saved our American cousins from a humiliating defeat—a far more important matter, historically and imperially, than the repayment of this loan. On the other hand, this action on our part inflamed the Kaiser's anger against us, as it was bound to do, and unquestionably we should never have given that support except on a clear understanding that similar assistance to us would be forthcoming in case of need. It seems safe to aver that, had the case been reversed, English statesmen, who, on fit occasion, are not too proud to fight, and have the instincts of gentlemen, would have felt this and not left their preserver to flounder on in a bog of blood and mire until the psychological moment arrived when intervention might be most profitable.

After this, for him, humiliating experience, the Kaiser felt that we stood between him and that world-empire he might otherwise aspire to, and we may very safely assume that it was largely to escape from this tutelage that, when he thought us so disorganised by the Socialistic and Separatist tendencies of Mr Asquith's Administration as to be unable to act rapidly, he made the plunge which cost him his throne, but which was almost successful and would have been entirely so but for the preparedness and heroism of the French, whom it is now the ignorant servile fashion of time-serving journalists to abuse.

For the first time in our history, during the late war, the majority of our soldiers were withdrawn from com-

mercial and industrial pursuits. They were men in the prime of life, and the half-million who fell represent a capital loss to the nation far in excess of the American claim. No court of international equity could possibly rule out so pertinent a consideration when striking a balance. Would it not be possible to constitute such a court composed of the leading Jurists and Divines in Italy, England, France, and Belgium? From such a court a moral sanction at least might be expected to withhold payments to America, at any rate until the trade balance is in our favour and the dollar value of sterling at par.

In conclusion, perhaps it may not be entirely beside the mark to inquire what use the Americans propose to make of the tributary millions they expect to levy upon us. Apparently the money will be devoted to building up a commercial fleet to compete with ours all over the world, and deprive us of half our carrying trade.

It is, of course, to the interest of England to set a high example of commercial and financial integrity, but this does not connote a disregard of the circumstances under which a covenant was exacted and the effect of its enforcement. Even the terrible law-courts of the middle ages refused to sanction removal of the merchant's flesh when it was pointed out that his life-blood would follow. We are able to pay the interest on War Loan and kindred obligations, because it is, as it were, paying from one pocket to another. To pay even the seventh part of such a sum to a foreign community, with the trade balance against us, is a very different matter.—I am, yours faithfully,

PORTIA.

London, September 2nd.

Books and Publications.

THE STRUCTURE OF FRENCH FINANCE.*

THIS little book has the merits and the defects of an "official" publication. It is not official, but if the French Finance Ministry had prepared a statement of its own position, admirably fortified by an imposing array of irrefutable statistics, it might have come out very much like this; the more effective for U.S. consumption in that there is no propaganda in it. There is no propaganda; there is something more subtly effective in the invincibly optimistic view of France's financial position which is everywhere taken. Mr Fisk's criticisms are sparing: he does remark that the Budget, being prepared very early, is often little more than a sketch of what actually happens in the way of expenditure; that the "automatic" method of estimating based "as to receipts on the actual results of the second year preceding, and as to expenses upon the appropriations made for the year preceding that for which the Budget is being prepared," is most unsatisfactory; that there is great temptation to make a budget which reads well; and that hardly has a budget law been enacted than the process of "amendment" begins—by way of supplementary appropriations. "There is, in fact," said an English writer so long ago as 1877—and Mr Fisk quotes the remark as still applicable—"an uninterrupted program of expenditure in each successive budget." But, in general, he accepts official figures in the official spirit.

A discussion of French public finance in realist terms is, at the moment, very difficult; so long as Reparations payments, of unspecified amount, complicate it, indeed impossible. Mr Fisk has made immense efforts to get together figures that will, at all events, make the debt position clear, and no part of his useful little book is more useful than this. French Governments in the last fifty years have not succeeded in inspiring themselves with the salutary theory of Napoleon, who declared loans to be "immoral" and disastrous, since borrowing "insensibly undermines the edifice of State, and exposes one generation to the curses of the next." When war broke out the French National Debt stood at about 34,000 million francs, of which two-thirds had been

* "French Public Finance." By Harvey E. Fisk. (New York) Bankers' Trust Company.

incurred on war purposes of various kinds. France financed the war to the extent of only 18.50 per cent. from taxation and other revenue collections, to 65.17 per cent. from borrowing at home, and to 16.33 per cent. from borrowing abroad, and, according to official figures, at the end of 1921 the Debt stood (at exchange par) at 267,743 million francs (on currency basis well over 300,000 millions). This makes unreal all comparisons of budgetary revenues and expenditures—e.g., that for 1920, which shows a deficit of 39,735 million francs, excluding receipts and payments on debt account.

It should be mentioned that Mr Fisk's volume contains a mass of material nowhere else accessible in anything like so convenient a form. He describes the machinery of local as well as that of central finance, and gives an excellently clear account of the banking system. Moreover, it is possible to understand from his pages what the system of taxation is, how the income-tax is worked, and who pays it.

CANADA AND BRITISH GOODS.*

This book will undoubtedly be of great assistance to business men who contemplate extending their activities to Canada, and, indeed, there is much information in it which would warrant careful study by firms already transacting business with the Dominion. It is an exhaustive summary of Canadian conditions, and the facts contained in it must be the result of careful and intelligent study of the resources and potentialities of the Dominion. The statistics with which the book abounds are well and carefully compiled, and enable a sound view to be formed of the trend of trade throughout Canada.

The author writes in an optimistic vein, and he is doubtless on the whole fully justified in doing so. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that great as are the potentialities of Canada, that country is at present suffering from certain disadvantages. In the first place, the crying need of Canada is for a greater population. The last census showed that the present population is in the neighbourhood of nine million people, and that the increase in population is not proceeding at a satisfactory rate. A country like Canada, which is in a comparatively early state of development, must depend for its future prosperity upon attracting a large volume of immigration. The Canadians very rightly are not prepared to accept immigrants unless they come from races and classes which in Canadian opinion would contribute to the strength of the country, and there is no doubt that, even with the prevalent unemployment in Europe, there is a considerable difficulty in attracting the right class of immigrant in large numbers. In the second place, Canada is suffering from a mistaken railway policy in the past. A country with nine million inhabitants did not show great economic wisdom in constructing three trans-continental railways. The railways which have been taken over by the Canadian Government are at present operating at a heavy loss, and until the population of the country is increased, it is difficult to see how they can be placed upon a self-supporting basis. Largely owing to the results of Canadian railway policy, allied to the general conditions arising out of the war, Canada's national finances are in an unsatisfactory condition in spite of the heavy rate of taxation which prevails. At the same time, in spite of these disadvantages, there can be no doubt that eventually the Dominion must develop into a great country. Time is needed for this, but the eventual prosperity of Canada must be considered as assured, and great opportunities should await British trade in that country, in spite of the very strong competition which exists from the U.S. This competition is only natural in view of the similarity of conditions in the two countries and the intimate knowledge which it is so easy for the American to acquire of Canadian conditions. Although strong competition must always be expected from the States and from the rapidly growing industries of Canada herself, which may in certain products render it very difficult for Great Britain to compete, many of the staple products of this country will undoubtedly continue to find a ready market in Canada. In other lines

* "Canada as a Market for British Goods." (London) Selwyn and Blount. 7s 6d net.

it may be necessary either to abandon the market or fulfil its requirements by manufacturing in Canada itself, preferably in conjunction with Canadian interests. There are many possibilities in this direction, and it would appear thoroughly desirable that British interests should participate in Canadian industrial development rather than to leave the initiative in this matter to the United States, which at the present moment is actively engaged in establishing branch factories throughout the manufacturing districts of the Dominion.

Both as a market for British goods and as a territory in which British capital can be employed for development work, Canada has great possibilities, and in view of the necessity for developing inter-Imperial trade and for encouraging business in countries which are free from political, social, and exchange difficulties, the publication of this book should be welcomed. It is to be hoped that those who read it will be sufficiently interested to consider the question of Canadian trade very seriously, and if possible to translate their interest into visiting the country themselves. This is a point upon which too much importance cannot be laid, since Canada is overrun by business visitors from America, whereas the British business man is comparatively rarely seen in the Dominion.

FOR NEXT SUMMER.*

This is a most engaging little guide book, resembling those issued by railway companies and tourist agencies, but much more thorough, and the introduction is far more informative and readable than those of most guides of a more formal and elaborate type. The geology, the climate, the history from the Viking period, the constitution, the educational and social conditions, the great personages in Swedish science and literature, the national sports, the economic life, the industries, are all sketched effectively, and the illustrations are charming. It should induce those who do not know the country to visit it as soon as they can.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Money and Foreign Exchange after 1914.* By Gustav Cassel. (London) Constable and Co., Limited. 10s 6d.
- Industrial Negotiations and Agreements.* (London) The Labour Party, 32 Eccleston square, S.W. 1. 2s.
- Tom Bryan, First Warden of Fircroft.* By H. G. Wood and Arthur E. Ball. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Limited. 5s net.
- The Liberal Magazine.* September, 1922. (London) Liberal Publication Department, 42 Parliament street, S.W. 1.
- Twenty-Seventh Annual Report. For the year 1921.* (Bulawayo) Rhodesia Chamber of Mines.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
September 20.	September 21.

BUSINESS in the Stock Exchange markets has been handicapped by the outbreak of war in the Near East. At first it was thought that war between Turkey and Greece would be a more or less local and short-lived affair, but as the aspect of affairs became more threatening, and other countries looked like being drawn into a struggle, the Stock Exchange markets had perforce to take notice of what was going on. The effect has been to bring about a mild depression over most parts of the Stock Exchange. Coupled with the expectation of a rise in the Bank rate and the approach of the end-September settlement, the Near-East problem unsettled the minds of men and markets, with the result that orders fell away and prices tended to decline.

On the news that the Bank rate was to be left at 3 per cent., the War Loan marked 100 several times, but later in the same day the price dwindled on a fresh outbreak of selling. Conversion 3½ per cents. are also coming to market in unexpected

* "A Book About Sweden." Published by the Swedish Traffic Association. Sold by A. B. Nordiska, Bokhandeln, Stockholm.

amounts, and this selling, which causes dullness in the Consol market, affects the House as a whole.

Greek bonds are lower as a matter of course, while Turkish Unified, the speculative stock of this group, has been moving in accordance with the news from day to day. Chinese bonds are heavy, partly in consequence of the further postponement of interest payments on the Chinese "Vickers" notes, partly on a somewhat disquieting speech made in the early part of the week on the financial position of China by Dr Wellington Koo. German bonds have varied within narrow limits, and French Government bonds moved erratically; French railway issues have weakened. Mexicans started to go back after their vivid rise of last week. Peruvian Corporation preference was hoisted on a variety of vague rumours, none of which seemed to be very reliable. A little improvement took place in Russians, both the Government and Government-guaranteed railway bonds, on the hopes of a renewal of trade between the countries, resulting from the agreement reached between the Russo-Asiatic Consolidated Company and the Soviet Government.

The only feature in the Home Railway market is the strength of Undergrounds. Metropolitans are being bought by people who talk of an alliance of the company with the Great Western. Districts are going up, in consequence of optimistic dividend anticipations. The Underground Electric Railways issues are a good, because of the expectation that, in the near future, a scheme will be published for rearrangement of the company's capital. Of the steam stocks, three of the principal Southern descriptions, Brighton, South-Eastern, and South-Western deferred stocks, advanced in consequence of the anticipation that the grouping plans will be made known within the course of the next week or so. The heavy stocks, however, are dull, and the general tendency of this market, apart from the exceptions just mentioned, is easier.

Mexican Rails remain tolerably cheerful, and in the Argentine railway market a sharp rise in Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary is linked to hopes that Lord St Davids will have a pleasant tale to tell of his recent sojourn in the Argentine Republic, and of the prospects for the line of which he is chairman. Cordoba Centrals went up with a rush, on statements that the Argentine Government may take over the line, but in the absence of confirmation prices reacted from the top. Leopoldinas spurred sharply when the news became known that the Brazilian Government had ratified the increased freight charges proposed by the railway. But the rise was followed by the usual reaction.

Rubber shares are better, thanks to the Rubber Growers' Association having requested the Colonial Office Commission to take steps for restriction of output in Malaya, irrespective of what the Dutch Government may do in Java and other Dutch colonies. Oil shares moved upwards as a whole, but the dullness which developed in the House later in the week was not without effect. Royal Dutch have been notably strong. Textiles are easier, on sales by people of whom some had apparently bought too many shares at the beginning of the account. Jutes are better on the week. The shipping market is inclined to be lower, P. and O. going back to 300. A few small rises occurred in the insurance market, but the banking list is placid as ever. Electric lighting shares again advanced, gas stocks being slightly lower. The catering group is firm. Marconis have enjoyed fair activity, which, however, left little change in prices on balance.

Paris has been selling Kaffir shares, and with no fresh support from the Cape prices gave way all along the line. De Beers, after being 13½, fell to 13 sellers before a slight recovery ensued. The market developed more backbone on Thursday afternoon. Rhodesians drooped, in company with Kaffirs. Broken Hill shares are not quite so good, Colonial buying orders having fallen off. Russo-Asiatics were a lively market, advancing sharply on the news of the arrangement concluded by the chairman with M. Krassin. This caused the various other Russians to harden, though cautious folk were inclined to ask whether the rise were not somewhat rapid. None of the tin shares show any changes worth mentioning. In the copper list, Rio Tintos, after a smart rise, went back on selling by French operators. Mexico Mines of El Oro went ahead on rumours of favourable developments on the property.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL - £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND - £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1922) - £321,167,218

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:

168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded	508,248,328	..	..	..
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender September 8, 1922)	None allotted	..	..	..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHANGERS WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 9, 1922.

April 1 to Sept. 9, 1922, £23,048,000	300,000	..	300,000
---	---------	----	---------

To the Public—

General Real Estates Investment and Trust 500,000 Pref. shares £1 at par	500,000	..	500,000	..	125,000	..	375,000
Do 500,000 Ord. shares £1 at par (Sept. 14)	250,000	..	250,000	..	62,500	..	187,500
Total to Public	..	..	750,000	..	187,500	..	562,500

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1922.....£509,298,328	1921.....£388,978,203
1921.....159,570,230	1920.....367,549,656
1920.....285,038,884	1919.....1,036,059,551
1919.....897,776,863	1918.....1,393,331,441
1918.....922,293,838	1917.....1,318,596,010
1917.....1,100,325,860	1916.....585,436,850
1916.....390,410,800	1915.....685,236,326
1915.....658,773,876	1914.....512,522,633
1914.....172,585,827	

General Real Estates Investment and Trust, Limited.—Authorised capital £3,500,000, divided into 500,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. The preference and 3,000,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. The preference and paid-up capital is stated as £2,711,003. This is an issue of 500,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference and 250,000 ordinary shares at par. The company has been formed mainly to acquire a portion of the Howard de Walden London estates. The consideration is the discharge of a mortgage of £364,456 and the payment of £3,999,904, of which £1,289,904 is in cash. The net revenue of the company for the year ended September 30, 1921, is given as £74,141. Surplus assets are valued at £2,220,163. Freehold property "at cost" figures at £2,827,127, but no independent surveyor's report appears in the prospectus to the effect that this is a reasonable market value to place upon the property. If the shares offered are all subscribed, the issued capital will apparently be £3,461,003. Although the dividends and capital for the preference shares appear to be at present well covered, the surplus revenue available for ordinary shares is by no means ample. Nor do we find any provision in the prospectus for safeguarding preference shareholders against prior charges.

African Theatres, Limited.—Authorised capital £500,000, divided into 400,000 ordinary shares and 10,000 founders' shares of £1 each, all of which have been issued. The rights attached to the founders' shares are set out in an announcement made in the Press to comply with the regulations of the Committee of the London Stock Exchange in connection with an application for leave to deal in ordinary shares of the company, and investors, before purchasing this latter type of share, should examine carefully these rights. The company was formed in March, 1921, to acquire a theatrical and cinema business carried on in South Africa. A balance-sheet is published, and profits of the old undertaking are shown from 1913. It should be noticed, however, that these profits are shown before charging directors' fees and depreciation. A decidedly speculative concern.

British Cellulose.—We are informed that the Cellulose Holdings and Investment Company, Limited, will shortly issue £500,000 7 per cent. participating first mortgage debenture stock. It is stated that no public issue will be made, and that the debenture stock will be offered to the shareholders of the British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Company, Limited. In addition to the fixed return of 7 per cent., the debenture stock will be entitled to one-third of the profits of the Holding and Investment Company.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price Latest.	Rise or Fall.
War (3½, 1925-28) .. 94½	94½	94½	—
Victory Bonds 4½ .. 97½	97½	97½	—
Loans 5½, 1929-47 .. 99½	99½	99½	—
4½, 1929-47 .. 101½	101½	101½	—
Funding Loan 4½ .. 86½	86½	86½	—
Victory Bonds 4½ .. 88½	88½	88½	—
Conversion Loan 3½ .. 73½	73½	73½	—
Consols 2½ .. 57½	57½	57½	—
Irish Land Stock 2½ .. 57½	57½	57½	—
Local Loans 3½ .. 63½	63½	63½	—

Banks.

Barclays B. (S.I. p.d.) .. 28	28	28	—
Chartered B. of India 17½ .. 17½	17½	17½	—
Lloyds (S.I. p.d.) .. 24½	24½	24½	—
London Joint City & Midland (S.I. p.d.) .. 8½	8½	8½	—
London County Westminister and Parr's (S.I. p.d.) .. 17½	17½	17½	—

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons. .. 68½	68½	68½	—
B. A. & Pacific .. 51½	51½	51½	—
B. A. G. Southern .. 73½	73½	73½	—
Buenos Ayres West. .. 164½	164½	164½	—
Canadian Pacific .. 64½	64½	64½	—
Central Argentine .. 64½	64½	64½	—
Grand Trunk Ord. .. 78½	78½	78½	—

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5½, 1886-7 .. 100	100	100	—
Belgian 3½, 1914 .. 71	71	71	—
Brazil 5½, 1895 .. 88	88	88	—
Chilian 4½, 1895 .. 106	106	106	—
Do 7½, 1912 .. 72½	72½	72½	—
Chinese 5½, 1912 .. 72½	72½	72½	—
Egyptian 4½ .. 36	36	36	—
French 5½ .. 28½	28½	28½	—
Do 4½ .. 28½	28½	28½	—

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" .. 23½	23½	23½	—
Marconi Wireless .. 24½	24½	24½	—

British Railways.

Great Central Pref. .. 23½	23½	23½	—
Great Northern Def. .. 44	44	44	—
Great Western .. 102	102	102	—
London, Brighton, "A" .. 62	62	62	—
London, Chatham .. 8	8	8	—
L. & N. W. (New) .. 101½	101½	101½	—
L. & S. Western, Def. .. 29½	29½	29½	—
Metropolitan .. 57½	57½	57½	—

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio .. 84	84	84	—
Erie .. 18	18	18	—
Do 4½ 1st Pref. .. 28	28	28	—

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (S.I.) .. 18	18	18	—
Anglo-Persian Oil (S.I.) .. 6½	6½	6½	—
Armstrong (S.I. W. G.) .. 146	146	146	—
As. Pind. Cement (S.I.) .. 16½	16½	16½	—
Barker, John (S.I.) .. 24	24	24	—
B. & S. Small Arms (S.I.) .. 9	9	9	—
Brazil Tractor (S.I.) .. 53	53	53	—
British American Tobacco (S.I.) .. 4½	4½	4½	—
Brit. & Arg. Meat (S.I.) .. 11½	11½	11½	—
Burmah Oil (S.I.) .. 54	54	54	—
Costs (J. and P.) (S.I.) .. 54½	54½	54½	—
Courtauld's (S.I.) .. 24	24	24	—
Onward (S.I.) .. 1	1	1	—
Dorman, Long (S.I.) .. 7½	7½	7½	—
Dunlop Rubber (S.I.) .. 7½	7½	7½	—
Fine Cotton Spinners (S.I.) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Forestal Land (S.I.) .. 1½	1½	1½	—
Furness, Withy (S.I.) .. 1½	1½	1½	—
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (S.I.) .. 1½	1½	1½	—

Mines.

Brakpan (S.I.) .. 22	22	22	—
Broken Hill Prop. (S.I.) .. 17	17	17	—
Chartered (S.I.) .. 17	17	17	—
Cons. Gold Fields (S.I.) .. 17	17	17	—
Crown Mines (S.I.) .. 24	24	24	—
De Beers Def. (S.I.) .. 13	13	13	—
East Rand Prop. (S.I.) .. 3	3	3	—
Geduld (S.I.) .. 3	3	3	—
Gov. Gold Areas (S.I.) .. 5	5	5	—

OIL OUTPUTS.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY.—Production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for the month of August amounted to 69,914 barrels.

KERN REEF OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LIMITED.—The total production during August amounted to 93,601 barrels, or approximately 13,372 tons, including 43,489 barrels from the properties of the St Helens Petroleum Company, Limited.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, September 6, 1922, amounted to 1,024 tons.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat. Pre-Year.
Banks.						
Alliance of Simla ..	..	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Australian of Commerce ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bank of Victoria ..	4½	..	..	..	9	9
Bank of India ("A," "B," and "C") ..	8½	..	..	Less tax	..	..
National of India ..	12½	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Royal of Ireland ..	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.						
London ..	28	..	Nov. 1	..	..	..
Mining.						
Amalgamated Zinc ..	1/ p.s.	..	Oct. 12	Less tax	..	..
Central Provinces Prospecting ..	10	..	Oct. 2	Tax free	..	..
Otavi Mines and Railway ..	6½	..	Oct. 19	Less tax 2/075	5	5
Railways.						
Barri Light ..	3	..	..	..	12	12
Ile of Man ..	5½	..	..	..	..	..
Manila Electric ..	8½	..	..	..	..	..
New York Central ..	12	..	..	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Bogawantalawa Tea, Pref. ..	6	..	Sept. 30	Less tax 5/ in £	..	..
Elia Tea ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
American Investment and General, Defd. ..	6	..	Sept. 30	..	..	..
Anglo-Siam Corporation ..	12½	..	..	..	30	25
Asbestos Corporation (Canada), Defd. ..	14	..	..	..	..	..
Bath and Portland Stone Firms ..	12½	..	..	..	..	..
Bexhill Water and Gas (1885, 1892) ..	4½	..	..	..	..	..
Do (1895, 1901, 1904) ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Bournemouth Hotels, Pref. ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Brazilian Warrant ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
British Steamship ..	10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
British Aluminium ..	5	..	..	..	15	20
British Gas Light ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
British Insulated and Heatby ..	9 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Cairn Line Steamers ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Calico Printers ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Chamberlain, King, and Jones ..	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Dominion Tar and Chemical ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Ext. & Co. Telegraph ..	5 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
East Kent District Water, Pref. ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign, American, and General ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
F. Steiner and Co. ..	10	..	..	..	..	..
Fullers ..	10	..	..	..	..	..
G. D. Peters, Pref. ..	6	..	..	..	..	..
Globe Telegraph and Trust ..	5 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Harper Piano, Ptg. Ord. ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Harrisons & Crossfield, Cum. Pri. ..	11½	..	..	..	..	..
Henry Hodson ..	10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Howard and Bullough ..	10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Hugon and Co. ..	10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Illinois Car and Equipment ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Do Bonus ..	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Irrawaddy Flotilla ..	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
James W. Cook and Co. ..	5 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
J. Mandelberg and Co. ..	8	..	..	..	..	..
Kelsall and Kemp ..	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
King Line ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Leeds & Liverpool Canal ..	3½	..	..	..	..	..
Leyland & Birmingham Rubber ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Libbie's Extract, Pref. ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Liverpool Exchange (S20) ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
London and Thames Haven Oil ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
McBirney and Co. ..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Mexican Petroleum ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Nobel Industries ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Owen Owen ..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Pan-American Petroleum ("A" and "B") ..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Parke's Drug Store, Pref. ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
River Plate Trust, & Co. ..	6	..	..	..	..	..
Do "B" ..	9	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish Mashonaland (in liq.) ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth ..	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
South Kent Water ..	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
St James's Buildings ..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Stothert and Pitt ..	7½	..	..	..	..	..
Tarapaca Waterworks ..	1/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Thornham Spinning ..	1/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
United Tobacco (South), Ord. ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Venesta, Pref. ..	2½	..	..	..	..	..
Whitehall Electric Investment, Cum. Pref. ..	7½	..	..	..	..	..
Winterbottom Book Cloth ..	5 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
W. of Scotland American Inv. ..	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..

CLAYTON WAGONS.—The directors greatly regret that, having regard to a loss of not less than £25,000, brought about by the engineering dispute, and also because of the necessity of writing down stock values, it is not possible to pay dividends for the year on the preference and ordinary share capital.

LAKE SUPERIOR CORPORATION.—Directors regret that results do not permit payment of interest on income bonds.

SELFRIDGE AND CO., LIMITED.—The half-yearly dividends will be paid on October 1, 1922, on the 6 per cent. (free of income-tax) cumulative preference shares, and 10 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY.—A distribution of assets of £35 per share will be made to those shareholders who were registered in the company's books on August 31, 1922, payable on September 26, 1922.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of the Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE AUSTRALIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, LIMITED.

FURTHER EXPANSION IN BANK'S FIGURES.

GROWING POPULARITY OF THE BANK.

LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the Banking House, George and King streets, Sydney, on Tuesday, July 25th, Mr F. N. Yarwood, the deputy-chairman of directors, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet for the year ended June 30, 1922, the Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The balance-sheet presented to you to-day shows the position as at June 30th last, with profit and loss account for the year's operations ended same date. The figures, the board are pleased to say, again show further expansion—the total, as you will see, now exceeds 13½ millions, an increase of some £456,000 over what it was twelve months ago.

On the liabilities side of the balance-sheet the figures call for little, if any, comment—beyond the fact that they show the growing popularity of the bank and its increasing usefulness to the public generally. On the assets side, the more liquid assets are on this occasion £4,631,671, an increase on the figures of the previous year of some £454,289.

This total figures out at 8s 11d in the £ of our current liabilities—a very strong and satisfactory position.

The bills discounted, loans, advances, &c., stand at some £8,172,000, a small advance on last year, but the tendency of lower values throughout trade, and the reduction and realisation of stocks that has been very wisely the general policy of the trading community, have naturally caused a decline in individual overdrafts all round.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Briefly stated, commerce in Australia, speaking broadly, continues in a satisfactory condition, due to the exercise of the good common-sense of our trading community. The financial pressure that we experienced for a brief period some two years ago, in consequence of imports being for a time largely in excess of our exports, has happily passed away without any very serious trouble arising. The figures are interesting and speak for themselves.

In 1920-21 Australian imports were 163 millions.

Exports .. 131

A balance against us of .. 32

while in 1921-22 the figures for the 12 months are:—

Exports .. 127 millions.

Imports .. 100

A balance in our favour of .. 27

Australia has need to export more than she imports, in order to pay the interest on her overseas debts and other necessary items. During this last year this has been done to a satisfactory extent.

BURDEN OF TAXATION.

Our profit and loss account on this occasion calls for little comment. Our total profits have been £235,906, as against £231,798 a year ago, reduced on this occasion by £45,061 paid in taxation to State and Federal Governments. During the last twelve months in taxation we have been called upon for £7,749 more than in 1921. It is sincerely to be hoped in the best interests of the community generally that the last of increase in taxation has been seen for many years ahead. Reduction is what is badly—very badly—wanted, and when the whole community realises that the present taxation is depleting any accumulations for development purposes—both wage-earner and investor will be able to join hands in insisting upon economies and reduction in Government expenditure, the gravity and importance of which is recognised by our present State Government.

Our shareholders will from these figures be able to see for themselves that the present position is, that the Governments, under whose control our operations happen to come, are taking in taxation from us an amount equal to 50 per cent. of the dividends which we consider it reasonable and prudent to distribute.

GRADUATED LAND TAX

The graduated land tax charged us is a mistake—it cripples our development and has led to the adoption of a policy by us with buildings which has been anything but a benefit to municipalities.

NET PROFITS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Our net profits for the year, after paying taxation and interest on inscribed deposits, amounted to £137,195. Six months ago we paid an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and propose for your consideration to-day to make a similar distribution, which will make the full dividend for the year 7 per cent., and this will take some .. £84,000

We suggest the transfer to reserve of .. 40,000

And to write off premises .. 10,000

Making a total of .. £134,000

And this will leave .. £3,195

To be added to the balance in profit and loss already .. 39,391

and thereby raise the carry forward to .. £33,586

This is the first occasion on which we have been able to distribute the full 7 per cent. for a year's working, and we trust this will be satisfactory to you.

BRANCHES AND RECEIVING OFFICES.

The following are the figures of branches and receiving offices we have been able to add for the purpose of extending this bank's activities during the past three years:—

1920 ..	8	Branches	8	Receiving Offices
1921 ..	3	"	2	"
1922 ..	2	"	1	"
	13		11	

These facilities are a convenience to the public, and also give us opportunities to offer openings to the younger deserving officers who show the necessary ability to manage and conduct the bank's business. Our development in this direction for the past two years unfortunately is less than usual—due to increased taxation demands and other causes over which the management has no control.

AMALGAMATION RUMOURS.

The tendency of the times undoubtedly is to bring about amalgamation of banking institutions, with a view to reducing expenses if possible—and as long as the public convenience does not suffer in consequence no one can complain—but shareholders will be wise in these days to beware of rumours that are sometimes

have to be renewed or otherwise dealt with by both this and the Queensland States within the very near future:—

	N.S.W.	Queensland.
1922-23	10,667,057	2,828,750
1924	6,901,009	13,140,634
1925	37,735,297	12,007,200
	£55,303,363	£27,976,584

To renew these loans, must as far as one can judge to-day, entail an increase in the present interest paid thereon.

PACIFIC TRADE.

The depression that has prevailed lately has given rise to a certain amount of public discussion here as to what can be done to improve matters and increase employment. That this subject should be fully ventilated is all for good—unfortunately too often the damage done first and the remedy looked for afterwards. As an illustration one has only to mention Australia's unfortunate attitude towards the Pacific trade.

We have always to remember that all trade is a matter of exchange—not exchange in the sense in which the word is used in banking (with bankers exchange is principally a matter of dealing with the difference in values of the goods delivered and those received)—and unless this principle of exchange of products is assisted by labour, and recognised and fostered by our Government authorities (instead of being harassed and penalised as it has been in the recent past)—in the very near future Australia bids fair to cut a very sorry and small figure in the world's affairs.

AUSTRALIA'S MINING AND RURAL INDUSTRIES.

As one sign of the change of opinion on the part of the authorities, New South Wales business men will welcome the proposal for the reduction of stamp duties in this State to the Victorian level, but beyond all this we can only hope that drastic economies of an all-round nature may be effected. The cattle industry in Australia will die out unless we can cut costs to such a point as will make it profitable to go on using the very large area of country we have that is only fit for beef production. At present the Queensland Government is still pursuing the unfortunate policy of carrying out to the letter the retrospective legislation against its lessees which it has been warned is very naturally regarded in all well-informed circles as not in the best interests of the country as a whole.

The following figures for the State of New South Wales will illustrate the need there is here, in the interests of everyone in the community, for every encouragement to be given to increased development of our production and trade:—

	Tons.
Tonnage shipping inwards and outwards in year ending June, 1913—Total.....	16,188,602
Tonnage shipping inwards and outwards in year ending June, 1922—Total.....	12,742,991
A decline of	3,445,611
The population employed in rural occupations	
In 1913 numbered.....	151,632
In 1921 numbered.....	136,283
A decline of	15,349
while the percentage of population in rural occupations—	
In 1913 was	8 per cent.
In 1921 it had declined to	6 per cent.
The number of miners employed—	
In 1913 was	38,880
In 1921 was	29,701
A decline of	9,179
or 23 per cent. in nine years.	

The rot in employment in mining has been very pronounced; it started in 1907 and has been almost continuous since.

These declines in numbers engaged in rural occupations and mining are all the more serious when one remembers that in the same time the public debt (the interest on which has to be provided out of the value of the production of the State) has increased as under:—

In 1913 it was 106 millions.
In 1921 it was 164 millions,
an increase of 55 per cent.

All these figures go to show the very grave need there is for less legislative interference, reduction and simplification of taxation, and last, but not least, increased population, while more care must be taken that our railways and civil services do not become an "old man of the sea" on the shoulders of the trade and production of the country.

POSITION OF EUROPE.

In conclusion, we should like to add a few words on the position in Europe. It is a matter of regret to us all that the recent Genoa and Hague Conferences did not end more satisfactorily for the world at large. Unfortunately, America does not yet seem to realise the need there is for her, great and wealthy as she now is, to take a more intimate interest in the settlement of affairs in Europe, without which trade must continue to stagnate in the United States as well as elsewhere. From reports, one gathers that many of the American people are at present of the opinion that they should not become embroiled in the politics of Europe—a short-sighted view, possibly, for a nation of the importance of the United States. It is pleasing, however, to note that lately the purchasing power of Europe is a matter of lively and intelligent interest to him—and that under existing conditions that purchasing power is greatly crippled, and will remain so until remedied. Trade at all times means swapping goods and services, and Europe can only buy from America to an extent commensurate with America's willingness to take goods from Europe. The same thing applies to Australia, and it cannot be too strongly impressed upon public opinion here that the secret of our relief from a "Slough of Despond" of unemployment is to encourage in any and every way possible the development of our country's natural productions and an increase of our population by making land settlement and occupation as profitable as possible to those engaged and investing therein. That so far penalisation of land owning by taxation has failed to attract any increase of investment or ownership is obvious to those who study the facts and statistics.

We can only hope that common sense (said by some cynics to be the rarest of all the senses) will prevail, and that as soon as possible.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, general manager and staff was carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

J. LYONS AND CO., LIMITED.

SCHEME FOR CONTROL OF STRAND HOTEL, LIMITED, APPROVED

An extraordinary general meeting of J. Lyons and Co., Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at the Trocadero Restaurant, London, to consider resolutions to increase the capital of the company with a view to purchasing a controlling interest in the Strand Hotel, Limited.

Mr Montague Gluckstein (chairman of the company) presided.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, September 18-September 23, were opened on September 15, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £60,610,000. Tenders for Monday to Saturday bills at £99 8s 1d will receive about 73 per cent. and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 7s 1.56d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, nil; in bills at 3 months, £45,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
June 30.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 84,230,000	2 2 11.55	98 4 4.8
July 7.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 18 4.65	98 5 10.8
July 14.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10.06	99 0 5.16
July 21.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10.4	100 4 11.4
July 28.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6.41	100 14 0
Aug. 4.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10.76	100 6 5.42
Aug. 11.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,795,000	2 2 0.09	100 3 1.44
Aug. 18.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 65,335,000	2 11 0.17	None allotted
Aug. 25.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,590,000	2 7 9.28	None allotted
Sept. 1.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 58,605,000	2 11 8.33	None allotted
Sept. 8.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 67,675,000	2 11 3.29	None allotted
Sept. 15.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 7 1.56	None allotted

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, September 22, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £60,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £10,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Banking Bank.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1914.....	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
Aug. 26.....	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	48.1	9,924	11,423
Dec. 30.....	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	..	9,286	..
1915.....									
Dec. 29.....	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536
Dec. 27.....	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868
1917.....									
Dec. 26.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486
1918.....									
Dec. 31.....	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566
1919.....									
Dec. 31.....	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802
1920.....									
Dec. 29.....	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134
1921.....									
Mar. 30.....	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	..	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141
June 29.....	323,884	14,965	3,000	..	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150
Sept. 28.....	314,382	14,830	3,000	..	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143
Dec. 28.....	325,584	14,658	3,000	..	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161
1922.....									
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	..	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	6,000	..	28,500	19,450	16.3	254,312	250
Aug. 30.....	295,130	12,927	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16.2	252,728	179
Sept. 13.....	293,311	12,747	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16.4	250,763	145
Sept. 13.....	293,088	12,666	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16.4	250,437	167
13.....	291,585	12,719	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16.5	249,007	147

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1922 fixed at £300,000,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1922, to Sept. 9, 1922.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1921, to Sept. 10, 1921.	RECEIPTS. Week Ended Sept. 9, 1922.	RECEIPTS. Week Ended Sept. 10, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England.....	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	..	1,210,106	483,855	..	..
..	..	11,173,530	3,074,906	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	112,250,000	55,824,000	56,078,000	2,590,000	2,811,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	65,022,000	78,960,000	1,214,000	1,520,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	2,884,000	2,488,000	102,000	114,000
Stamp, &c., Duties.....	48,000,000	29,471,000	19,856,000	1,310,000	308,000
Stamps.....	18,250,000	6,692,000	6,593,000	170,000	1,000,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	550,000	420,000	10,000	..
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax) ..	329,000,000	124,837,000	128,547,000	5,745,000	4,351,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	24,874,000	..	200,000
Corporation Profits Tax ..	19,750,000	7,517,000	4,820,000	330,000	230,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	23,550,000	19,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Crown Lands.....	350,000	750,000	280,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	3,584,908	4,305,703	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	22,000,000	15,402,984	10,235,900	..	558,720
Ordinary Receipts.....	90,000,000	25,069,449	43,255,384	1,346,937	2,250,000
Revenue.....	910,775,000	361,508,341	400,212,987	13,817,937	14,342,72
Total, Inc. Balance ..	..	372,681,871	403,287,493	..	..

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

Mr Geo. W. Booth, the secretary, having read the notice calling the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—At our last general meeting I indicated to you that suggestions had been made to the effect that the Lyons Company should acquire the large majority, 90 per cent., in fact, of the deferred shares in the Strand Hotel, Limited, as well as the option on the remaining 10 per cent. of those shares, the purchase price to be paid in 10s "B" proportional profit shares, having the same rights, share per share, as the existing proportional profit shares, except for repayment of capital, as to which they would rank as 10s shares. Since that time your board has given the scheme very careful consideration, and terms have been arranged which they think you will agree are highly satisfactory. We invited Sir William Plender—and you will agree, I am sure, that we could not have made a better choice—to act on behalf of the Lyons Company in making a valuation of the Strand Hotel deferred ordinary shares, having regard to the class of shares which it was decided should be issued in exchange. The agreement which is before you for ratification is based on his valuation.

TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

It provides for the payment to the vendors of £225,000, which is to be satisfied by the allotment to them of 450,000 fully-paid "B" proportional profit shares of 10s each in exchange for the 4,500 deferred shares in the Strand Hotel, Limited, and the right to purchase at a future date the remaining 500 shares, on terms defined in an existing agreement. It has been pointed out to you, in the circular letter which accompanied the notice of this meeting, that many of your directors are interested as vendors, but the board unanimously and unhesitatingly recommend the scheme to you as a sound business deal. Indeed, judging from the proxies which we have received from shareholders, our proposals appear to enjoy practically unanimous approbation.

ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHEME.

The shares we are acquiring command a virtual control of the Strand Hotel Company. That company is, I think, too well known to you all to need any discourse from me on the very satisfactory results of its past trading, and its position in the hotel world. I need only mention that its potentialities are very great. It has recently acquired, on very favourable terms, a magnificent site in Oxford street, facing Marble Arch, on which a new hotel will be erected, and there are other future developments under consideration which should mean a very profitable expansion of its business.

With regard to the option on the remaining 500 shares, I should like to point out that there is in this a considerable profit to the Lyons Company, as the terms on which those shares can be purchased are very favourable to the purchaser. Those terms are fully set out in the circular letter, and I do not think I need recapitulate them. The option is exercisable on the death of the present holder of the shares, or earlier if the present holder desires to sell the shares. The dividends which have been paid on the Strand Hotel shares during the past five years are also set out in the circular letter which you have all had before you. The effect of the transaction is to give the present holders of these shares approximately the same income as they are now obtaining. If anything, there will be a slight difference in favour of the Lyons Company in this respect.

"PERMANENT COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS."

I should also like to mention briefly a further advantage to this company of the transaction. At present the Lyons Company and the Strand Hotel Company work together, partly because of the similarity in the personnel of the boards, and partly because of the ownership of these deferred ordinary shares in the Strand Hotel Company. Circumstances, however, may change, and the advantages of co-operation might then be lost to this company. The proposed arrangement makes the community of interests permanent. It is, therefore, more than a matter of a profitable investment in the shares of another company. Before I conclude, though it is not quite to the point of this meeting, I think you will like to know that our business continues to be eminently satisfactory. I will now propose the first resolution appearing on the notice of meeting, that is, for the creation of 450,000 "B" proportional profit shares.

Mr J. Balfour, in seconding the resolution, said it would have been a very great danger if the deferred shares in the Hotel Company had ever fallen into alien hands. There were a good many people looking about in England with a view to bringing alien interests into the management of English companies, and he therefore considered that the acquisition of these shares by Lyons and Company was absolutely necessary in the interests of both companies.

The resolution was duly carried, and the agreement was approved.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		RECEIPTS.	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Sept. 9, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Sept. 10, 1921.	Week Ended Sept. 9, 1922.	Week Ended Sept. 10, 1921.
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Bullion	800,000	3,430,000	..	80,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,660,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 and 1921 (London)	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	13,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	1,450,000	3,930,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,310,430,000	1,960,592,000	61,636,000	74,505,000
(c) For other Issues—				
By Treasury Bills for Supply	35,198,000	16,580,000	700,000	900,000
By National Savings Certificates	20	5	..	..
By War Bonds—				
By Treasury Bonds—				
5-15 year, 1925-35	121,708	1,024,930	..	2,250,000
5%, 1927	61,422,074	19,990,000	..	..
5%, 1927	52,648,508	..	..	..
4%, 1928	..	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	11,869	5,902,049	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances—	339,724,500	585,374,000	6,234,000	18,350,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..
Repayment of Issues under Civil in respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1913—	..	5,000,000	..	1,000,000
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920—	180,460	34,538	..	..
Do Finance Act, 1920—	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920—	162,425	178,666	..	15,510
Total	2,187,175,407	3,009,053,241	82,387,937	111,443,230
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.				
Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.				
Apr. 1, 1922, to Sept. 9, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Sept. 10, 1921.	Week Ended Sept. 9, 1922.	Week Ended Sept. 10, 1921.	
EXPENDITURE.				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	6,574,226	6,518,104	144,652
Interest, &c., on War Debt	219,000,000	127,851,255	159,002,683	2,873,762
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	10,000,000	2,107,999	2,073,000	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	9,788,000	2,166,326	2,801,012	146,326
Land Settlement	2,500,000	673,638	..	260,380
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	509,626	1,698,956	72,558
Supply Services	2,650,000	1,074,315	759,659	10,260,277
Expenditure	593,999,000	177,965,101	276,965,426	11,494,587
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	3,050,000	..	150,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,530,000	4,805,000	300,000	465,000
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922	2,660,000	2,861,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	13,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	2,110,000	..	..	10,000
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,478,179,000	1,928,596,000	59,895,000	73,645,000
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	..	..	..	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919	6,063,507	18,153,031	..	..
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	4,582,816	..	310,678	578,124
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	12,150,000	7,600,000	400,000	600,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	7,500,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off, 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	9,446,601	25,066,743	2,000	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	326,518,500	536,789,000	11,650,000	22,700,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	13,300,112	..	1,160,023
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	..	8,065,000	..	600,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,184,321,216	3,005,803,609	82,838,654	111,402,734
Bank of Ireland	2,009,844	1,960,938	86,717	94,876
Total	2,854,191	3,249,432	450,717	40,496

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
ESTABLISHED 1824.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, September 13, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Notes issued	144,042,235	Government debt .. 11,015,100
		Other securities .. 7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion 125,592,235
	144,042,235	144,042,235

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Capital	14,553,000	Government securities 46,752,645
Reserve	3,617,784	Other securities .. 71,466,338
Public deposits*	10,404,619	Notes .. 21,980,165
Other deposits	113,436,470	Gold and silver coin.. 1,828,906
Seven-day & other bills	16,181	
	142,028,054	142,028,054

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Sept. 13, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,617,784	+ £ 427	+ £ 76,568
Public deposits	10,404,619	+ 3,180,489	+ 4,647,982
Government securities	113,436,470	+ 1,986,034	+ 16,111,144
Other securities	71,466,338	+ 5,323,265	+ 14,489,099
Reserve	23,809,071	+ 826,073	+ 2,155,912
Note circulation	122,062,070	+ 817,645	+ 3,145,485
Coin and bullion	127,421,141	+ 8,428	+ 989,575
% of reserve to liabilities	194%	+ 5%	+ 44%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excl. Post Bank Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.
1922.						
June 21.....	128,883,226	121,372,810	129,957,974	121,830,727	25,960,416	20%
28.....	128,946,693	121,048,010	131,435,286	124,946,319	24,348,683	18%
July 5.....	128,458,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	143,807,498	22,385,822	15%
12.....	127,900,698	124,248,705	124,987,104	120,766,661	22,101,993	17%
19.....	127,402,158	124,256,265	126,641,810	122,955,489	21,595,893	17%
26.....	127,403,930	124,757,630	121,873,106	118,748,150	21,096,300	17%
Aug. 2.....	127,399,880	125,774,190	123,325,355	121,260,295	20,075,330	16%
9.....	127,407,660	125,542,210	120,739,131	118,482,895	20,307,670	16%
16.....	127,407,660	125,542,210	120,739,131	118,482,895	20,307,670	16%
23.....	127,417,304	125,453,660	125,756,806	122,247,262	21,536,230	17%
30.....	127,411,172	125,918,885	124,325,071	119,616,305	21,413,644	18%
Sept. 6.....	127,412,713	125,879,715	125,035,544	120,478,247	21,942,387	18%
13.....	127,421,141	125,062,070	123,841,089	118,218,383	23,809,071	19%

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Sept. 11, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Sept. 15, 1920.	Sept. 14, 1921.	Sept. 13, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	28,959,275	28,933,380	125,164,800	125,207,555	122,062,070
Public deposits	15,513,133	19,014,809	15,201,579	15,052,601	10,404,619
Other deposits	47,355,484	41,248,964	122,575,386	129,547,614	113,436,470
Government securities	13,367,655	11,046,570	56,103,129	61,241,744	71,466,338
Other securities	36,088,331	41,461,280	83,390,829	79,809,956	71,466,338
Reserve of notes and coin	31,659,826	25,463,980	16,378,570	21,653,159	23,809,071
Coin and bullion	42,169,101	35,947,360	123,093,370	128,410,714	127,421,141
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	508%	424%	112%	15%	194%
Bank rate of discount	4%	4%	7%	5%	5%
Price of Consols	74 1/2	74 1/2	69 1/4	4 1/2	3 1/2
Price of silver per oz.	74 1/2	74 1/2	46 1/2	47 1/2	56 1/2
Average price of wheat.	28 1/2	26 1/2	60 1/2	39 1/2	35 1/2
Exchanges	Paris 100	35 1/2	90 1/2	58 1/2	41 1/2
on New York	25 1/2	25 1/2	53 1/2	52 1/2	50 1/2
on Amsterdam	12 1/2	84 1/2	83 1/2	83 1/2	84 1/2
on London	20 1/2	20 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Clearing house return	229,725,000	199,913,000	664,411,000	544,835,000	603,379,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1–September 6	£ 24,197,796,000	1,940,982,000	26,138,778,000
September 13.....	556,847,000	46,532,000	603,379,000
Total to date 1922.....	24,754,643,000	1,987,514,000	26,742,157,000
Do 1921.....	22,228,350,000	2,154,361,000	24,382,711,000
Increase or decrease in 1922.....	+ 2,526,293,000	+ 167,450,000	+ 2,693,743,000
	11.3%	7.7%	9.6%
Total for 1921.....	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920.....	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921.....	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8.6%	- 26.2%	- 10.7%

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.	London County Westm'r and Parr's Bank, Limited.	National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Willm's Deacons' Bank, Limited.	Total.
Average Weekly Balances. August, 1922.											
ASSETS.											
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	7,452	36,556	1,438	2,198	34,363	52,541	29,300	29,714	3,934	4,705	202,201
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom ..	1,934	6,227	400	900	6,786	9,241	7,627	6,665	193	1,037	41,010
Items in transit ..	4,362	21,952	2,016	4,863	15,368	15,950	20,624	17,187	5,071	2,722	110,115
Money at call and short notice ..	7,446	47,246	1,934	906	76,086	43,089	81,174	44,196	2,992	3,740	308,809
Bills discounted ..	12,248	82,939	4,633	9,931	92,185	64,831	57,448	57,570	19,119	8,106	409,010
Investments ..	35,894	128,472	7,286	4,899	118,077	176,626	102,362	121,949	17,667	18,722	731,954
Advances to customers and other accounts											
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c. ..	4,061	5,404	139	1,609	7,031	18,625	9,425	3,436	235	578	50,543
Bank premises account ..	1,460	4,754	346	370	4,953	4,957	4,040	4,149	571	689	26,289
Investments in affiliated banks ..		8,021			7,671	3,559	2,991	2,240	..	..	24,482
	74,857	341,571	18,192	25,676	362,520	389,419	314,991	287,106	49,782	40,299	1,904,413
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts ..	11.11	11.70	8.74	9.80	10.37	15.05	10.18	11.19	8.95	12.80	11.7
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up ..	2,349	15,592	800	1,000	14,373	10,861	9,004	9,309	1,500	1,875	66,663
Reserve fund ..	1,400	8,250	800	500	10,000	10,861	9,004	8,878	1,000	1,100	51,793
Current, deposit, and other accounts	67,047	312,325	16,453	22,411	331,116	349,072	287,546	265,484	43,953	36,746	1,732,153

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 20, 1922.	Aug. 10, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 20, 1922.	July 31, 1921.
Total cash	1,339,913	1,302,353	1,356,122	1,344,124	1,346,818
Inland bills	4,436,742	4,428,936	4,476,681	4,417,098	3,136,364
Foreign bills	9,725	9,756	9,758	9,780	9,780
Advances to	6,112,626	6,120,157	6,151,617	6,150,427	6,362,086
Treasury	2,461,852	2,496,122	2,496,122	2,477,777	2,477,777
Other advances	533,272	531,911	533,331	531,882	391,451
Securities	13,737,727	13,989,783	14,064,400	13,949,770	14,005,103
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	1,878,601	1,830,192	1,776,753	1,878,097	1,765,665
Deposits & drafts					193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Sept. 11, 1922.	Sept. 4, 1922.	Aug. 28, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.	Sept. 12, 1921.
Gold	605,955	605,955	605,954	605,954	605,959
Silver	370,113	377,526	356,349	365,590	427,146
Deots & advances	977,278	985,541	961,449	959,709	1,008,197
Notes in circulation	24,261	24,494	32,365	41,559	39,322
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					163,092
May 30, 1914					163,092

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	July 8, 1922.	July 30, 1921.
Gold	510,940	510,834	510,834	510,835	495,458
Silver	887	12,525,422	12,521,099	12,527,698	10,394,033
Deots & advances	12,531,636	2,895,145	2,874,957	2,798,791	3,212,055
Notes in circulation	2,958,273				11,447,773
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					6,299,244
May 30, 1914					6,299,244

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1921.
Gold	508,301	510,443	510,443	510,443	510,443
Silver	115,090	115,222	115,222	115,222	115,222
Deots & advances	11,248	11,242	11,186	11,235	14,025
Notes in circulation	357,653	373,514	358,155	335,074	352,080
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					103,000
May 30, 1914					103,000

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to August 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.19,259,684, of which Fr.11,241,750 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1921.
Gold	273,732	273,789	273,802	273,821	284,889
Balance abt. and foreign bills	77,797	78,165	78,835	78,678	109,011
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	73,464	73,409	73,038	72,991	20,310
Discount and loans	396,854	414,276	396,628	421,926	112,668
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					112,125
May 30, 1914					112,125

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1921.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	329,200	330,179	331,141	333,006	323,827
Securities	472,292	497,620	497,981	469,318	591,997
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					934,150
May 30, 1914					934,150

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1922.	Aug. 7, 1921.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	796	930	1,454	1,354	1,354
Silver coin	531,102,970	404,421,046	303,545,842	276,595,446	1,153,514
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	1,350,577	1,282,394	1,170,330	1,153,514	
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					833,471,496
May 30, 1914					833,471,496

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1921.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	13,010	12,868	12,858	12,953	12,953
Silver coin, &c.	39,514,557	37,617,052	34,332,991	31,777,141	1,760,530
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c	1,812,701	1,772,752	1,808,111	1,760,530	
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					42,016,259
May 30, 1914					42,016,259

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	July 31, 1921.
Coin and bullion	228,304	228,310	228,324	228,325	228,325
Loans & discounts	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	88,470
Deots & advances	25,939	23,459	16,215	18,741	24,102
Securities	16,298	14,014	14,521	15,843	11,888
LIABILITIES.					
Position May 30, 1914					157,266
May 30, 1914					157,266

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,291	147,292	147,292	147,292	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,415	37,610	39,707	32,061	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,780	9,780	9,780	8,545	8,816
Discounts and loans	438,257	445,100	438,312	419,898	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	380,415	384,683	375,403	416,614	113,484
Deposits at notice	131,936	133,062	137,419	79,968	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	July 28, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1921.
Govt. securities	13,17,88	13,17,88	13,17,88	12,93,85	13,58,76
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,51
Loans	16,69,84	16,31,65	1,28,31	14,48,49	12,65,62
Cash credits	26,09,33	25,58,01	25,58,01	25,44,95	22,39,57
Inland bills	3,72,97	4,07,56	4,12,33	4,02,24	8,74,12
Foreign bills	13,95	11,80	13,28	14,86	57
Dead stock	2,43,71	2,43,50	2,43,25	2,43,36	2,11,42
Sundries	27,95	29,55	30,80	25,00	25,67
Balances with other banks	26,57	16,73	19,87	20,14	17,29
Cash	43,61,64	42,84,30	42,07,74	43,23,34	31,41,15
Subscribed capital	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,04,72
Capital paid up	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,57,43
Reserve	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	3,83,53
Public deposits	32,06,07	32,06,07	32,06,07	32,06,07	32,06,07
Other deposits	64,81,32	63,09,97	61,52,21	63,09,97	68,50,69
Loans against securities	46,57	46,59	46,59	50,33	78,25
Sundries	63,96	56,18	56,26	50,84	47,52
The above included:					
Deposits in London	223	141	123	118	32
Advances in London	422	367	353	350	579
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	167	104	125	126	114

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	June 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914
Gold	3,359	3,362	3,358	3,364	1,571
Government securities	38,046	38,779	39,150	36,644	2,094
Notes in circulation	28,334	30,322	33,692	31,205	2,400
Government deposits	4,216	3,069	3,668	2,322	3,315
Other deposits	12,632	12,401	12,240	12,831	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	132,351	110,493	112,424	401,415	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	697,889	707,889	707,889	898,967	1,212,659
Discounts and loans	811,453	821,354	805,896	380,237	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,356,436	1,310,726	1,321,122	1,379,063	123,941
Deposits at notice	69,890	129,848	100,643	97,703	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	July 12, 1922.	July 5, 1922.	June 28, 1922.	June 21, 1922.	July 12, 1921.
Coin and bullion	26,701	26,747	26,695	26,714	27,751
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	4,412	3,543	3,545	2,583	1,814
Discounts	19,330	143,123	140,700	135,132	119,323
Government loans	720,099	720,099	700,099	700,099	608,111
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	829,095	831,274	815,017	808,413	656,217
Deposits	52,989	45,477	52,298	47,129	55,973

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Gold	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,138	38,044
Silver	19,563	19,703	19,868	19,935	20,585
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	111,535
Bills discounted	27,357	27,644	22,577	20,372	9,041
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,374	3,734,308	3,587,687
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,442,841

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.
Gold	31,625	31,535	30,824	30,121	19,430
Silver	44,132	44,121	44,058	44,015	43,660
Foreign coin	122,985	122,985	122,985	122,985	122,985
Foreign banks	1,771,433	1,669,586	1,394,265	1,322,770	775,300
Advances to the Govt.	285,000,000	285,000,000	285,000,000	285,000,000	285,000,000
Private loans and discounts	77,446,507	74,267,835	64,933,972	60,622,650	11,622,300
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	385,787,489	351,343,208	285,377,146	276,001,108	133,734,000
Deposits	59,293,859	62,296,256	50,060,676	51,649,766	34,648,400

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on		April 29, 1922.	May 9, 1922.	May 30, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 29, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	Selling. 1,490	Selling. 1,465	Selling. 1,465	Selling. 1,520	Selling. 1,520
New York	\$1	338	330	323	340	340.50
Berlin	100 Rmk	121	114	122	119	75
Helsingfors	100 Fmk	8,800	8,550	8,525	9,100	9,025
Stockholm	100 Kr	7,225	7,040	7,160	7,350	7,325
Copenhagen	100 Kr	3,100	3,030	3,010	3,250	3,225
Paris	100 Fmk	12,975	12,750	12,850	13,300	13,300
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	131	131	130	137.50	137
Riga	100 Lrbl	660	640	635	1,225	1,250
Prague	100 pmk.	—	—	—	—	—

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	Aug. 1, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.
London	£1	1,155	1,155	1,159	1,164
New York	\$1	260.4	259.2	259.2	259.2
Paris	100 fr.	2,100	2,125	2,075	2,075
Brussels	100 fr.	1,950	2,000	1,975	1,975
Switzerland	100 fr.	4,950	4,925	4,950	4,950
Stockholm	100 kr.	6,775	6,775	6,825	6,875
Copenhagen	100 kr.	5,575	5,575	5,600	5,625
Christiania	100 kr.	4,375	4,450	4,500	4,525
Prague	100 kr.	4,225	4,225	4,225	4,225
Amsterdam	100 gld.	10,050	10,050	10,075	10,125
Berlin	100 Rmk.	39	34	31	23
Helsingfors	100 Fmk.	541	547	547	554
Reval	100 emk.	81	75	75	73
Warsaw	100 pmk.	5	5	5	4

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	1% prem.	1% dis.
Demand	1% prem.	1% dis.
30 days	1% prem.	1% dis.
60 days	1% prem.	1% dis.
90 days	1% prem.	1% dis.
120 days	1% prem.	1% dis.

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	100% par	100% par
Right	100% par	100% par
Cable	100% par	100% par
On demand	97 1/2	97 1/2
30 days	97 1/2	97 1/2
60 days	96 1/2	96 1/2
90 days	96 1/2	96 1/2
120 days	96 1/2	96 1/2

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	26,42,10,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	55,64,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	82,06,10,000

The Government of India announced the resumption of the sale of Treasury bills, and invited tenders for Rs.50,00,000 of six months' bills on September 14th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended September 13, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £8,428 compared with the previous return.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on August 31, 1922:—

	£
In India	Nil
In England—	
Cash at the Bank of England	3,986
British Government securities—	
Value as on March 31, 1922	11,272,467
British Government securities since purchased (cost price)	29,348,840
	40,625,293
	40,625,293

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

India Office, September 11, 1922.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.
Countries from which Consigned.	Countries to which Exported.
British South Africa	Norway
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	Netherlands
British Guiana	Italy
Other Countries	U.S.A.
	British India
	Straits Settlements
	Total declared value of exports registered in the week
Total value of imports of gold	704,520
	831,859

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on September 14th as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue is £125,592,235, as compared with £125,587,650 last week. There was a delay in the arrival of the African gold this week, owing to the steamer carrying the consignment, "Kinfauns Castle," having stopped to render assistance to the sinking German liner "Hammonia." The moderate amount of gold on offer was taken for New York and India. Gold to the value of \$1,320,000 has arrived in New York from London. The Transvaal gold output for August, 1922, amounted to 752,490 fine ounces, as compared with 730,635 fine ounces for July, 1922, and 711,526 fine ounces for August, 1921. The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of August, 1922:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
Netherlands	735	3,782
Belgium	136,750	—
West Africa	—	—
Java and other Dutch Possessions in the Indian Seas	—	—
United States of America	21,387	2,207,242
Mexico	1,867	—
South American Countries	250	—
Rhodesia	175,772	—
Transvaal	3,602,653	—
British India	—	633,051
Straits Settlements	—	12,600
Other Countries	40,368	9,885
	3,979,782	2,887,029

SILVER.

The market has been quiet, and movements in the prices have been narrow. India has again figured as a buyer with China as the source of supply. Business, however, has not been on a large scale, as buying orders have been limited as to price, and sellers seemed willing only to supply the market at a rise. After a return to level prices, cash silver has been again prompt shipment. Supplies from the Continent have been on a small scale, and the trend of the American exchange has not been conducive to offerings from that quarter. Advice has been received from Bombay, dated August 25th, to the effect that from London by bears, who sold much below parity. This bought freely, following which came a desire on the part of the September settlement advanced from Rs.90.3 to Rs.91.8. China banks are said to be heavily overbought in Bombay, and it is believed in that city that in the event of silver being bazaars would resume buying in the London market. It is announced that the Director of the United States Mint purchased 300,000 ounces of silver on September 1st, making the 128,780,106 ounces. The output of the Burma silver mines during the month of July, 1922, is reported as 361,514 ounces.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	Aug. 22, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,198	18,226	18,142
Silver coin and bullion in India	8,709	8,832	8,795
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India	6,473	6,378	6,330
Securities (Indian Government)	584	584	585
Securities (British Government)	—	—	—

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 7th instant. The stock in Shanghai on the 9th instant consisted of about 40,200,000 ounces in sycee, 33,500,000 dollars, and sycee, 33,000,000 dollars, and 4,100 silver bars on the 2nd instant. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s 5 1/2d the tael.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

	Gold.	Silver.		Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.
1922.				
Sept. 9..	92 5	35 1/2	35 1/2	32 1/2
11..	92 6	35 1/2	35 1/2	31 1/2
12..	92 6	35 1/2	35 1/2	31 1/2
13..	92 9	35 1/2	35 1/2	31 1/2
14..	93 6	35 1/2	35 1/2	31 1/2
15..	93 1	35 1/2	35 1/2	31 1/2
Sept. 22, 1916				32 1/2
21, 1917				55
21, 1918				49 1/2
19, 1919				61 1/2
17, 1920				60
16, 1921				39 1/2

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that a branch will be opened on September 18th at 16 and 17 King street, Stroud, Glos., under the management of Mr F. Gittins.

The British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, Limited, announce that Major Maitland Kersey has resigned from the board, and that Sir John J. Jarvis, Bart., has been appointed to fill the vacancy; also that the Right Hon. the Earl of Mar and Kellie, K.T., has joined the board as local director of the corporation for Scotland, with offices at 8 Charlotte square, Edinburgh.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a branch has been opened at 290 Holloway road, N. 7, under the management of Mr H. F. Edgar.

London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, have opened a new branch at 5 High street, Cheadle, Cheshire, under the management of Mr W. G. Hannah.

The new Anglo-Czechoslovakian Bank, which has opened at 24-28 Lombard street, although strongly backed by British capital, has its capital in Czech crowns (120,000,000). Its head office is in Prague, and the office in Lombard street is, therefore, a branch. The chairman of the bank is Mr Kunes Sonntag, formerly Minister of Finance, and the board includes other well-known Czech and Bohemian industrialists. The British representatives are Mr M. Spencer Smith, Mr Peter Bark, and Sir Henry Strakosch. The new bank takes over all the branches of the former Anglo-Austrian Bank which are in the territory of the new Czechoslovakian Republic, and is, therefore, a going concern, with branches throughout the country and a large and old-established clientèle.

On and after September 18th the business of the Tata Industrial Bank, Limited, will be conducted at 31 Great St Helens, E.C. 3.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

NOBEL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	ASSETS.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
Amount.	£	Amount.	£
Ord. shares	7,958,872	Investments	21,043,040
6% cum. pref.	6,414,306	Property	241,186
Deferred shares	1,444,941	Office furniture	21,190
Fractional def. shares	536	Steamship cost	—
8% seven-year notes	3,028,000	Amounts due from assoc. companies	975,962
Amounts due to associated companies, &c.	2,790,299	Sundry debtors	377,351
Sundry creditors	241,736	Cash at bank and in hand	261,069
Bank loan—secured	—	Cost of note issue	186,181
Profit and loss	1,227,291		
Total	23,105,979	Total	23,105,979

CALICO PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	Compared with Two Years Ended June 30, 1922.	ASSETS.	Compared with Two Years Ended June 30, 1920.
Amount.	£	Amount.	£
Capital account	2,206,365	Cash and bills	1,379,603
Sundry creditors	1,982,849	Cash & securities	61,386
Debiture interest	53,333	Stock-in-trade	1,949,669
Depreciat'n acct.	1,257,208	Sundry debtors	3,148,265
Reserve account	1,050,000	Copper and other rollers	734,411
Capital reserve account	60,000		
Reserve for equalisation of divs.	150,000		
Profit and loss	513,579		
Total	7,273,334	Total	7,273,334



THE CHATWOOD SAFE

Successfully withstands seventeen days' attack!

"THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., LTD.

"BANKERS' ENGINEERS.

"BOLTON,

"ENGLAND.

"BUCHAREST.

"March 19, 1921.

"Gentlemen,

"Enclosed herewith I am forwarding you a photograph representing a band of 7 burglars and a gendarme in charge. These 7 men tried on January 2nd, 1921, to steal the contents of The Chatwood Safe (No. 32404) belonging to the Petroleum Refinery "Helios," Societe Anonyme, in Tirgoviste, Roumania.

"They broke through the wall of the house, took the Safe out and transported it per cart a distance of 9 miles, where they left it for some time buried in the sand and gravel of a river bed.

"They afterwards worked 17 (Seventeen) days on the Safe, exhausting all ordinary devices of safe opening known in this country trying to open it, but beyond succeeding in breaking off the hinges and the handle and severely battering the outside of the safe and the lock, they failed utterly in getting at the contents of the Safe, which, when it was opened, were found in perfect order.

"Yours faithfully,

"E. G. ROXSHALL."

THE NEW CHATWOOD SAFE BOOK recently issued, containing 58 pages and including full particulars of each model of The Chatwood Safe and Strong Room, will convey to you something of the aims as well as achievements of the firm. A Post-card brings a copy gratis.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., Ltd.

Bankers' Engineers,

Head Offices and Works, BOLTON, Eng.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Sep. 10, 1922.			Aggregate 36 Weeks 1922.		
	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total
Great Central (c)	67,632	136,600	204,232	1,834,900	4,677,800	6,512,700
Do Joint Lines	1,611	144,800	146,411	226,800	4,293,900	4,520,700
Great Eastern (c)	1,207,212	118,600	1,325,812	218,700	3,552,400	3,771,100
Great Northern (c)	1,050	357,000	358,050	698,000	1,861,000	2,559,000
Great Western (d)	2,633	480,000	482,633	869,000	1,802,000	2,671,000
London & North-Western (d) ..	427	149,300	150,727	1,482,100	4,072,800	5,554,900
London & South-Western (d) ..	487	121,870	122,357	1,461,131	3,481,958	4,943,089
London, Brighton & S.C. (d) ..	427	121,870	122,357	1,461,131	3,481,958	4,943,089
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	1,283	3,103	4,386	3,170	43,578	46,748
Metropolitan (c)	1,563	220,000	221,563	510,000	6,532,000	7,042,000
Midland (c)	63	1,883	1,946	3,205	1,195,153	1,198,358
Midland & N. Western (c)	1,850	151,000	152,850	384,200	4,183,100	4,567,300
North Eastern (c)	16	4,702	4,718	13,948	174,108	188,056
North London (c)	654	181,400	182,054	239,428	4,975,200	5,214,628
South-E. & Chatham (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	87,200	87,200	190,700	2,845,800	3,036,500
Caledonian	1,097	37,200	38,297	74,700	1,160,600	1,235,300
Glasgow & S.W. (c)	354	11,750	12,104	18,950	348,000	366,950
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	492 (a)	14,847	15,339	24,000	437,863	461,863
Highland (c)	1,377	78,300	79,677	190,500	2,397,800	2,588,300
North British (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belfast and County Down (b) ..	80	6,421	6,501	7,671	196,027	203,698
Dublin and S. West. (b) ..	160	..	160	..	..	..
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	..	538	..	..	..

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended September 8, 1922.
 (c) Week ended September 9, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	19 weeks	Aug. 12	1,043	Rs. 2,301,445	+ 70,946	Rs. 43,822,274	+ 20,558,608
Barelly	20 weeks	..	118	2,301,445	..	2,301,445	..
Bombay	19 weeks	..	67	5,34,740	- 32,704	1,26,07,417	- 1,78,047
Bombay Nagpur	19 weeks	..	12,703	11,79,000	+ 2,04,000	2,55,27,834	+ 25,05,064
Bombay Bar. & C.	22 weeks	Sept. 2	2,871	17,68,000	+ 69,000	4,88,64,000	+ 52,70,000
Burma	19 weeks	Aug. 12	1,542	4,87,912	- 65,361	1,28,09,024	- 1,79,033
Dahli, Umballa & Feroke ..	22 weeks	Sept. 2	239	93,000	- 8,009	21,73,762	- 1,78,047
East Indian	20 weeks	..	2,772	31,85,000	+ 44,000	6,75,73,000	+ 1,34,000
G. Indian	22 weeks	..	2,772	20,81,800	+ 53,200	5,78,55,570	+ 2,57,840
Madras & S. Mahr.	20 weeks	Aug. 19	3,028	13,50,000	+ 99,435	2,95,14,654	+ 30,58,508
Rohilk. & Kumaon	19 weeks	..	12	55,377	- 4,544	12,26,325	- 70,434
Do Lucknow-Bareilly	19 weeks	..	12	55,377	- 4,544	12,26,325	- 70,434
South Indian	19 weeks	..	12	55,377	- 4,544	12,26,325	- 70,434
Siam (Punjab)	2 mths	May 31	717	8,57,067	+ 21,012	14,84,039	- 2,24,875
Argentine (b).							
Argentine N.E.	10 weeks	Sept. 9	752	8,900	- 4,400	104,400	- 16,000
Argentine Trans.	10 weeks	..	111	1,940	- 353	14,370	- 1,044
B. A. & Pacific	10 weeks	..	9,348	124,000	+ 5,000	1,277,000	+ 53,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	10 weeks	..	9,347	143,000	- 11,000	1,417,000	- 155,000
B. A. Western	10 weeks	..	9,347	31,000	+ 8,000	297,000	+ 125,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	73,000	- 11,000	1,331,000	- 136,000
Central Argentine	10 weeks	..	9,347	15,000	- 4,000	158,000	- 9,000
Cordoba Central	10 weeks	..	9,347	43,180	- 6,678	547,041	- 11,081
Entre Rios	10 weeks	..	9,347	180,000	- 10,000	1,913,000	- 6,000
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	7 mths	July 31	1,005	Me 45,750	- 10,250	291,500	- 36,400
Gt. West. of Brazil	36 weeks	Sept. 9	1,005	9,000	- 2,500	446,000	- 25,000
Leopoldina	36 weeks	..	1,831	37,046	- 1,142	1,024,339	- 168,383
San Paulo	36 weeks	..	1,831	21,146	- 13,436	1,017,386	- 74,479
State of Bahia, S.W.	4 mths	Aug. 31	52	Me 10,000	+ 28,000	344,000	+ 127,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	35 weeks	Sept. 3	838	24,965	+ 9,045	715,515	+ 77,090
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	84	12,000	- 500	..	- 108,851
Nitrato (2 weeks)	35 weeks	Aug. 31	366	27,751	+ 14,416	..	..
Peruvian Corp.	2 mths	..	1,059	31,86,800	+ 408,570	2,54,90,000	+ 410,520
Talca	2 mths	Sept. 30	172	13,493	+ 4,230	25,583	+ 7,147
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,374	- 500,572	7,020,807	- 3,080,221
Havana Central	10 weeks	Sept. 9	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,192	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana	10 weeks	..	9,347	9,423	- 864	93,193	- 17,093
Uruguay.							
Central Uruguay	10 weeks	..	9,347	20,162	- 2,888	193,084	- 26,615
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	10 weeks	..	9,347	3,775	- 511	39,432	- 3,489
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	10 weeks	..	9,347	1,858	- 776	20,989	- 4,977
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	10 weeks	..	9,347	1,942	- 121	18,242	- 2,012
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	- 1,201	10,638	- 1,548
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	36 weeks	Sept. 9	33	Pe 20,000	+ 4,500	693,350	+ 133,450
Bilbao	8 mths	Aug. 31	15	8,959	+ 73	8,959	+ 5,992
Bolivar	8 mths	..	136	8,000	- 1,113	75,650	- 3,498
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 weeks	..	186	17,240	- 1,340	193,391	- 8,285
Costa Rica	12 mths	June 30	183	20,832	- 3,025	257,053	- 36,621
Dorado Extension	7 mths	..	31	14,500	- 9,500	77,250	- 54,500
Donado Extension	7 mths	..	31	45,000	- 1,000	35,750	- 6,000
Egyptian Delta	16 weeks	Aug. 10	559	7,796	- 2,786	105,436	- 16,612
Gt. Southern of Spain	35 weeks	Sept. 2	104	Pe 76,354	+ 15,355	2,721,385	+ 934,235
International of Central America ..	7 mths	July 31	233	10,100	- 860	81,250	- 2,780
La Guaira & Caracas	8 mths	Aug. 31	403	\$243,600	- 109,000	2,413,000	- 575,000
Mexican Railway	9 weeks	Sept. 7	403	\$1127,500	- 227,600	..	..
Do	1 mth	July 31	Net	\$201,000	- 20,600	63,574	- 14,850
Nearby Osoashan	6 mths	June 30	15	11,371	- 1,935	..	..
Osoashan Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	193	12,760	- 850	165,470	- 43,780
Paraguay Central	47 weeks	May 27	774	\$2,311,374	+ 414,841	18,380,765	+ 5,299,660
Pirassununga	9 mths	Feb. 28	35	3,750	- 1,000	35,000	- 2,500
Puerto Caballo, &c.	5 mths	Aug. 31	100	1,845	- 833	30,244	- 5,827
Salvador	2 mths	July 31	..	148,368	+ 3,099	..	..
San Francisco	8 mths	Aug. 31	..	9,070	- 184	72,060	- 12,964
Sanama & Santiago	7 mths	July 31	112	10,944	- 2,568	79,943	- 19,215
Zafra and Huella	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	- 75,301,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	235,653	235,395	400,430,580	- 4,772,834	76,705,840	+ 54,882,820
Mar.	235,653	235,395	473,433,886	+ 15,059,406	113,468,943	+ 54,837,199
Apr.	235,653	235,395	416,240,237	- 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May	235,653	235,395	447,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,555	+ 28,064,928
June	235,653	235,395	472,583,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Incr. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Incr. or Dec.
Algonia Cent. & Hudson Bay	12 mths	June 30	Gross \$101,381	- 101,209	1,156,513	- 883,114
Canadian N.W.	35 weeks	Sept. 7	Gross \$1,228,400	- 254,848	36,255,187	- 8,040,878
Canadian N.W.	7 mths	July 31	Gross \$4,433,800	- 798,676	30,189,794	- 6,791,863
Canadian Pac.	35 weeks	Sept. 7	Gross \$3,455,000	- 496,000	109,707,000	- 11,157,000
Canadian Pac.	7 mths	July 31	Gross \$14,494,000	- 1,309,000	90,759,000	- 9,070,000
Grand Trunk	35 weeks	Sept. 7	Net \$1,962,000	- 92,000	11,776,000	- 3,228,000
Temiscouma	1 mth	July 30	Gross \$441,317	- 55,273	14,183,009	- 40,213
			Net \$30,100	..	..	..

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.	Total Gross Receipts.
Bolton and Mashona-land	4 mths	Aug. 30	810	\$ 110,535	+ 7,822
Mid. of W. Aust.	1 mth	July 31	277	7,958	+ 474
New Cape Central	42 weeks	Aug. 19	205	2,233	..
Rhodesia Railways	4 mths	..	1,397	150,026	- 224
				732	85,363 +

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.	Total Receipts.
Anglo-Argentine	35 weeks	Sept. 9	329	\$90,407	+ 5,996
Calcutta Corporation	1 week	..	12	\$3,615	- 289
Chatham & District	35 weeks	..	353	\$118,250	+ 57,570
Egyptian Markets	35 weeks	Aug. 11	15	\$1,433	- 22
Glasgow Corporation	14 weeks	Sept. 9	101	\$43,912	- 3,795
Isle of Thanet	19 weeks	..	6	\$2,915	- 123
Liverpool Corporation	35 weeks	..	39	\$3,365	- 459
L.C.C. Tramways	35 weeks	..	9	\$29,937	- 1,587
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	34 weeks	..	13	\$24,449	- 8,233
Pernambuco Trams	35 weeks	Sept. 10	..	\$31,257	- 235
Singapore Electric	30 weeks	July 29	..	\$7,093	- 6,142

TRAMWAY & OTHER MONTHLY GROSS & NET RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month.	Total Receipts.
Barcelona Trac.	7 mths	July 31	7	Gross 3,708,509	+ 864,371
Brasilia Trac.	7 mths	..	7	Gross 1,217,200	+ 433,519
Brisbane Electric	8 mths	Aug. 31	31	Gross 16,555,000	+ 1,178,000
Brit. Columbia	1 mth	July 31	1	Gross 10,700,000	+ 1,829,000
Buenos Ayres La Crosse	2 mths	Aug. 31	51 1/2	Gross \$53,772	+ 4,585
Burmah Electric	11 mths	July 31	11 1/2	Gross \$22,659	+ 18,232

including £39,391 brought forward, £33,586.
BANK OF VICTORIA.—The net profit of the Bank of Victoria for
ended June 30, 1922, was £179,930 plus £35,845 brought in,
making £215,775. After placing to officers' provident fund £3,000
the directors recommend a dividend on the preference shares of 9 per
cent. for year, a dividend on ordinary shares of 9 per cent. for year,
and placing to reserve £50,000, carrying forward £29,754.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Weather conditions have been unsettled and showery, but good progress was made with the belated harvest during the past week, and it is to be hoped that work on the land will suffer no further interruption until crops have been safely secured. Official returns estimate the average yield of wheat at 31 bushels to the acre, while the total outturn for England and Wales is given 7,600,000 qrs., compared with 8,700,000 qrs. at corresponding period last year. Barley and oats are expected to show a better yield than anticipated a month ago. Offerings of native wheat was on a larger scale both here and at provincial markets, while quality showed

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended Aug. 31.		Eight Months Ended Aug. 31.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	14,188,277	10,062,027	91,488,179	68,899,110
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	555,520	544,931	4,241,610	3,357,261
C. Meat	12,990,977	8,971,681	98,171,128	70,213,014
D. Animals, living, for food	694,735	162,675	1,824,651	1,409,420
E. Other food and drink, non-durable ..	13,875,274	11,200,247	117,835,501	93,324,268
F. " " " durable	6,541,641	5,896,059	64,140,072	61,974,978
G. Tobacco	2,150,917	919,906	16,828,801	11,683,839
Total Class I.	50,557,841	37,762,326	594,599,742	531,871,890
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	592,779	..	12,056,145	20
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	378,355	396,312	4,727,505	3,417,553
C. Iron ore and scrap	102,478	377,944	3,839,093	3,035,105
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	378,465	783,701	5,332,804	4,492,690
E. Wood and timber	2,630,655	4,487,315	17,841,645	20,798,507
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	2,888,648	4,799,109	39,067,357	50,559,528
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	3,387,366	6,030,331	30,318,614	47,000,299
H. Silk, raw, knuts and noils	32,463	212,280	475,363	1,344,149
I. Other textile materials	308,847	547,751	6,761,179	6,195,902
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums ..	3,970,496	3,091,366	23,490,986	19,357,940
K. Hides and skins, undressed	842,972	1,036,013	5,812,634	9,177,203
L. Paper-making materials	2,830,368	977,324	9,339,162	7,157,138
M. Rubber	578,490	541,094	7,943,824	4,533,028
N. Miscellaneous, raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	769,631	861,763	17,717,116	5,715,635
Total Class II.	19,588,977	24,141,302	171,716,427	187,262,471
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	15,890	5,832	226,866	22,649
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c. ..	564,475	608,297	4,745,362	4,547,396
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,594,393	891,454	16,814,116	6,690,003
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,536,676	1,660,739	12,820,246	11,641,472
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	932,597	477,004	4,699,188	4,073,626
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	513,928	143,498	1,445,498	868,975
G. Machinery	674,600	764,336	8,528,072	5,416,440
H. Manufactures of wood and timber ..	6,541,641	265,715	36,793,731	24,922,527
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	476,349	565,796	3,687,219	4,454,027
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	577,863	68,924	5,925,085	5,879,265
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,194,208	1,768,647	13,024,921	14,161,071
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	560,748	898,318	5,327,827	6,891,863
M. Apparel	715,071	1,255,950	5,880,944	9,262,597
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colors ..	760,897	1,125,021	9,000,700	7,311,133
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured ..	4,340,074	3,746,461	42,963,366	29,251,255
P. Leather and manufactures thereof ..	621,736	938,175	4,782,271	7,143,367
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,106,317	1,193,843	7,813,659	7,663,113
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	467,636	512,275	5,222,076	4,477,585
S. Rubber manufactures	494,666	496,644	2,857,818	3,966,377
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	1,594,512	2,240,809	12,800,679	15,309,204
Total Class III.	18,194,143	20,825,711	172,645,810	151,563,968
IV.—Animals, not for food	23,045	29,028	239,338	227,452
V.—Parcel post, non-durable articles ..	191,157	403,038	2,002,309	1,770,746
Total	88,554,663	82,661,405	740,803,626	651,656,527

some improvement. Millers, however, showed little disposition to operate, and prices were again on a lower basis, though steady at the decline. Suitable milling samples ruled at 36s to 39s, with inferior samples at 34s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions moved off slowly, and while prices ruled steady for spot and near at hand lots, forward parcels were slightly dearer. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 51s 6d, ex ship, 55s landed. No. 1 hard winter 48s 3d, Australian 52s 6d, Rosafe 64 lbs 49s, all ex ship, and the latter 50s landed per 496 lbs. The cargo section displayed quiet features, but holders were not pressing, and rates were tolerably steady. Australian, on passage, sold at 50s 3d, and Rosafe 63 lbs arrived at 45s 4½d. Shipments and floating supplies to the United Kingdom show a falling off, but liberal quantities were shipped to Continental ports, while the floating supply was further increased. Exports from India are expected in the near future, but prices so far are out of line with market values here. There is not much improvement in the flour trade, though prices of home milled were advanced by 1s per sack for all grades. London standard straight run now quoted at 41s, 38s per sack, delivered to London bakers. Imported unaltered and still difficult to vend. Manitoba patents range from 38s to 41s, Pacific 36s, and Australian 37s to 38s per 280 lbs, ex store. Millers' offers quiet, and prices moved in buyers' favour. Barley remains steady, but trade does not expand. Chilean quoted 54s to 57s, Australian Chevalier 47s to 55s per 448 lbs, ex store, American malting 48 lbs 30s, Persian 20s, No. 4 Canada Western 32s 6d, all ex ship, per 400 lbs. English new grinding moves off quietly at 37s to 42s per 448 lbs, free on rail. Maize ruled firmer, with fair inquiries. Yellow La Plata, ex ship, quoted 40s 6d, ditto landed 42s 6d, American mixed ex ship 33s 9d, landed 35s 6d. No. 6 with slow support, but rates steady, and a steamer of La Plata, September-October, sold at 34s 9d, and ditto afloat at 37s 9d. Oats steady for native varieties at 23s to 28s per 336 lbs, according to sample, free on rail; imported somewhat irregular. La Plata f.a.q. clipped American 38 lbs, 25s 9d; ditto 36 lbs, 25s, all landed per 320 lbs. Oatmeal in good demand, especially for flaked descriptions.

EXPORTS of PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES of the UNITED KINGDOM
(Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended Aug. 31.		Eight Months Ended Aug. 31.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	225,096	200,178	2,365,443	2,065,239
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	175,620	170,118	1,985,368	1,274,466
C. Meat	68,937	73,351	498,506	636,154
D. Animals living for food	2,747	4,905	30,596	20,284
E. and F. Other food and drink	2,218,972	2,061,608	16,830,205	16,045,475
G. Tobacco	432,522	594,211	3,344,344	3,854,840
Total, Class I.	3,123,894	3,104,971	23,913,859	23,895,858
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	5,668,594	6,873,551	22,661,803	43,300,852
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	38,063	113,878	618,413	1,091,076
C. Iron ore and scrap	16,333	43,978	105,687	417,283
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	41,256	249,188	421,981	4,199,074
E. Wood and timber	24,011	32,179	268,018	232,435
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	38,710	97,416	320,038	671,873
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	376,044	631,784	2,884,172	4,965,601
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	1,769	2,938	13,388	10,487
I. Other textile materials	50,502	76,059	393,609	623,469
J. Oil, seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	536,300	391,362	3,299,091	3,645,396
K. Hides and skins, undressed	99,043	117,206	927,353	1,160,382
L. Paper-making materials	51,724	117,332	419,846	789,336
M. Rubber	6,124	7,667	81,049	63,866
N. Miscellaneous raw material and articles mainly unmanufactured	109,844	145,655	2,297,197	1,905,466
Total, Class II.	7,058,317	8,900,163	34,711,645	63,111,976
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	379,999	421,430	1,998,510	3,088,025
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	664,223	972,411	5,049,650	7,387,740
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	2,796,653	5,052,852	43,801,260	40,068,583
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	782,444	931,544	8,012,279	7,637,290
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	727,382	617,299	6,652,381	4,311,366
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	785,920	614,749	9,704,806	4,858,198
G. Machinery	5,152,705	4,363,798	52,405,812	33,528,524
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	131,329	136,049	1,184,123	844,646
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	11,218,006	16,111,542	115,749,361	124,955,199
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	3,633,070	5,515,042	39,285,285	39,369,288
K. Silk and silk manufactures	170,885	248,287	1,577,181	1,585,571
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,296,302	1,768,041	12,223,027	14,669,162
M. Apparel	1,337,117	2,303,132	12,814,553	15,845,942
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,171,241	1,662,609	12,976,231	13,592,810
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured	429,062	464,668	3,390,133	3,796,558
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	449,190	411,813	2,916,188	3,852,847
Q. Paper and cardboard	514,271	548,142	5,999,662	4,076,557
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	5,780,955	5,029,805	35,730,078	35,154,894
S. Rubber manufactures	293,885	443,472	3,152,799	3,427,137
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	2,101,032	2,504,573	18,447,786	17,855,426
Total, Class III.	39,935,627	47,149,278	395,870,168	377,153,038
IV.—Animals, not for food	301,749	145,375	2,460,567	1,001,854
V.—Parcel Post	920,720	732,450	6,452,094	7,049,849
Total.	51,346,307	60,032,237	463,411,727	472,112,668

at the recent advance. English peas steady, with a fair demand, while imported sorts for arrival move off freely at full to dearer rates. English beans quiet, but held for steady rates.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat— 1 week to September 9.....	Cwts. 206,284	Cwts. 362,275	Cwts. 291,830	Cwts. 83,467
Average price of English wheat per quarter.....	s 42 1	s 58 0	s 90 6	s 73 5
per cwt.....	d 9 7	d 13 7	d 21 1	d 17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921 :—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bah	qrs bah	qrs bah		s d	s d	s d
Sept. 2.....	38,086 5	4,477 1	16,223 1	43 4	37 0	25 7	
9.....	48,133 0	5,713 7	15,733 3	41 1	39 0	25 5	
1918	95,793 2	29,250 1	10,942 5	72 5	60 1	49 2	
1919	20,875 5	26,288 0	8,239 4	73 5	92 5	62 4	
1920	68,093 6	41,659 7	27,020 4	90 6	80 6	51 5	
1921	84,530 6	61,790 7	28,165 3	58 0	63 6	31 1	

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated September 14th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There is a very satisfactory demand for and pig-iron of ordinary Cleveland quality and special basic iron, and prices are firmer. In addition to the demand for export, home consumers are very anxious to cover their requirements. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is quoted 92s 6d to 95s per ton. Unfortunately the demand is not so good for East Coast hematite, and whilst the price of mixed numbers is nominally quoted at about 89s, this would be shaded for orders for prompt delivery as stocks in makers' yards are very heavy. Manufactured iron and steel: There is a slight improvement in the demand, but not sufficient to enable works to put in full operation, some being only partly employed, whilst other large works are idle entirely. Prices for home consumption are nominally as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 10s 6d; steel ship angles, £8 15s; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s 6d; but these are varied, and no doubt less would be taken for home consumption and export orders. Iron ore: Business is very slow, and prices have a tendency to weaken. Some sellers are holding out for 24s 6d for best Bilbao Rubio c.i.f. Tees, whilst others are prepared to take less for this quality, and still lower for good Mediterranean hematite ores.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—More signs of revival in trade are reported, but these mature with disappointing slowness, and the actual increase in trading activity this month has been insufficient to cause any real improvement in the situation. There is still a general lack of orders in bulk. Users refuse to buy forward, notwithstanding the favourable prices of many iron and steel materials, and the higher classes of steel are neglected. Owing to American buying, stocks of pig-iron at the furnaces are being reduced, and this demand is particularly welcome to makers of hematite pig, who have been unable for some time to get rid of their output, although it was limited. Several additional hematite furnaces are to be put into operation forthwith. There is a good demand for basic iron and basic steel, whereas home sales of foundry and forge pig continues at a low level. Unemployment is still serious in Sheffield. Thousands of skilled and unskilled men who have worked for years on armaments are now subsisting on doles or parish relief. Many of them could not take up efficiently any other kind of engineering work, and even if they could there is no call for their services. The existence of such a mass of unemployed men constitutes a grave problem in which armament centres as Sheffield and Barrow, as a general improvement in the trade of the country would leave most of them unabsorbed. Conditions in Germany have checked the buying of tools and cutlery in that country, and as stocks of these in British hands become exhausted there should be a good opening for Sheffield's products. The continued demand for coal from America is maintaining the stronger position of the market here, but prices for British consumption have not been advanced to any considerable extent as the large buyers are under contract at the rates of two months ago. The demand for household coal has not brisiked up so much as had been expected, and prices are not higher as a rule. Sales of industrial fuels are well maintained at their former level, and the heavy export demand causes coke to be rather scarce. Quotations per ton at pits are :—Best branch, 36s; best Silkstone, 33s; Derbyshire house, 21s; South Yorkshire hards, 21s; rough slack, 2s to 10s.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been very little change in the coal position at Cardiff during the present week. Prices are lower, but the pace of the reaction has been retarded.

There have been more inquiries for large coals than was the case last week. These inquiries have been neither numerous nor heavy, but they have been sufficiently plentiful to constitute a current of business slightly greater than that of last week, and it has prevented the stoppage of work at collieries which a week ago were practically without stems. The weakness of some of the small steam coals, however, has been accentuated. The tonnage employed in the heavy shipments on American account has provided an outlet for the best classes of bunker steam coals, and the prices of these have accordingly been fairly well maintained, but the inferior quantities have in some cases proved practically unsaleable, and they have been offered at figures ruling down to 13s and even less per ton. It is the execution of the orders placed by the United States and Canada that still gives the market its chief support. Last week no less than 36 per cent., or over 210,000 tons, of the coal exported from the South Wales ports was for trans-Atlantic destinations, and what the South Wales coal trade owes to this emergency demand from America may be gathered from the fact that under normal conditions there is not a ton of South Wales coal exported to the United States. In view of the probable discontinuance of the American shipments at an early date anxiety is felt concerning the immediate future prospects of the industry. It is probable that the audits for August and September will be among the best for the year. The revenue from the export trade in August was £500,000 greater than it was in July, and there is every reason to expect that the August proceeds will be equalled, if not exceeded, by those for September. Unless, however, there is a great expansion in the demand from normal markets the position after September will be a very serious one, and at a meeting of the joint board held this week Mr Evan Williams, the president of the owners' side, warned the workmen's representatives of the dangers of imposing any further burdens on the coalowners. The miners have demanded an increase of 1s per day under the subsistence wage clause of the national agreement. It is specifically provided for in that agreement that if the current rates of wages do not give a subsistence wage to low-paid day wage workers, such additions in the form of allowances per shift worked shall be made to the daily wage of those workers as, in the opinion of the district board, or the independent chairman, may be necessary for the purpose. The miners are, therefore, quite within their rights in submitting demands for what they consider to be a necessary subsistence wage, and in the event of a failure to agree the owners will be bound by the decision of the independent chairman. Such a decision, however, cannot compel the colliery owners to work pits that are unrenunerative, and Mr Williams informed the workers' representatives that the industry had not been able to pay even the present minimum wage without the sacrifice by the owners of nearly £3,000,000 since last November, and that any further increase in costs without a corresponding increase in prices would become intolerable, and would inevitably lead to the closing down of collieries. This matter will be further considered at a meeting of the joint board next week.

of the joint board next week.

Current market prices are as follows:—Best Admiralty large, 27s 6d to 28s 6d; seconds, 26s 6d to 27s 6d; best drys, 28s to 29s; best black venis, 26s to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 26s to 26s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 26s to 26s 6d; best bunker smalls, 17s 6d to 18s; ordinary cargo smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; coke for export, 37s 6d to 40s; inland blast furnace coke, 27s to 27s 6d at ovens; patent fuel, 29s to 31s; pitwood, ex shop, 23s 6d to 24s 6d.

The feature of the iron and steel trades this week has been the improvement in the market for galvanised sheets. The principal buyers are India and China. The tinplate market is steady, and orders have recently been placed for 600,000 boxes of oil plates. Prices are unchanged.

THE COTTON TRADE.

MANCHESTER, September 14,

An uncertain feeling has prevailed in the market throughout the week, and the conditions have not been at all favourable to a large turnover. Ups and downs have occurred in raw material rates, and merchants have been discouraged by the unsettled political situation. A persistent demand continues to be met with in piece goods for India, and although a large part of the inquiry has been quite unwelcome, fair lines have been booked for Calcutta and Madras at low prices. News from China is no better, and trade is undoubtedly being blocked at the moment by the financial situation abroad. Business for the Near East has been practically suspended, but some useful contracts have been booked for the outlets of Central and South America. There has not been much activity in home trade fabrics. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarns have been irregular when tested. Not more than a miscellaneous business has been done in home counts. Export numbers remain in rather improved request for India.

**The Most Progressive
Office for all Classes of
Insurance and Assurance**

**EAGLE, STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS
INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.,**

Head Office: BRITISH DOMINIONS HOUSE, ROYAL EXCHANGE AVE., E.C.3.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

ASSETS EXCEED £20,000,000.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Sept. 14, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Sept. 7.	Aug. 31.	Aug. 24.	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13.42	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair . . . per lb	17.50	17.25	18.00	18.00	17.75	16.75
— Egyptian . . . per lb	20	19½	20½	20½	19½	19
Yarns—32's twist . . . per lb	19	18½	19½	19½	18½	18
— 40's twist . . . per lb	28	28	28½	28½	28½	27½
— 60's twist (Egyptian) . . . per lb	s	s	s	s	s	s
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's . . .	32	31	32	32	31	30
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's . . .	32	31	32	32	31	30
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs . . .	17	17	18	18	17	17
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 16, 10 lbs . . .	16	16	17	17	16	16

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Sept. 14, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	13.42	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair . . . per lb	17.50	22.00	62.00	30.00	30.19	26.75
— Egyptian . . . per lb	20	21	50	41½	55½	24½
Yarns—32's twist . . . per lb	19	19½	45½	40½	55½	24
— 40's twist . . . per lb	28	37	80	61	68	42½
— 60's twist (Egyptian) . . . per lb	s	s	s	s	s	s
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's . . .	32	34	76	58	72	32
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's . . .	32	34	76	58	72	32
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs . . .	17	20	64	56	69	31
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 16, 10 lbs . . .	16	19	66	58	66	31

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 8, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
						Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American	Or	G	L	M	F	G	O	L	M	F	G
Brazilian	104	115	123	124	130	107	117	126	131	152	183
Pernam	1094	1244	1374	1404	1404	961	1211	1282	2474	1826	2474
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1094	1244	1374	1404	1404	961	1211	1282	2474	1826	2474
Maceio, &c.	1094	1244	1374	1404	1404	961	1211	1282	2474	1826	2474
Mossoro, &c.	1094	1244	1374	1404	1404	961	1211	1282	2474	1826	2474
Ceara	1094	1244	1374	1404	1404	961	1211	1282	2474	1826	2474
Maranhão, &c.	1094	1244	1374	1404	1404	961	1211	1282	2474	1826	2474
St. Paulo	1144	1224	1269	1300	1300	1000	1200	1400	2550	2850	4250
Egyptian	Fr.	G	F	G	F	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	F
Upper	1300	1375	1450	1500	1575	1450	1750	2000	2700	3600	4150
Sakellaridis	1450	1675	1750	1975	2200	1425	1825	2100	2700	3600	4150
Brown	1300	1425	1500	1625	1850	1425	1825	2100	2700	3600	4150
Peruvian	MF	Fr.	G	F	G	MF	Fr.	G	MF	Fr.	G
Rough	1400	1450	1525	1600	1675	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800
Moderately Rough	1300	1375	1425	1500	1575	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700
Smooth	1225	1375	1475	1525	1625	1085	1385	1511	2824	3274	3924
Tangui	1225	1375	1475	1525	1625	1085	1385	1511	2824	3274	3924
Mitafi	1150	1300	1450	1550	1650	1150	1300	1450	1550	1650	1750
West Indian, &c.	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800
Do Sea Island	950	1050	1225	1325	1425	1000	1200	1400	2550	2850	4250
African, East, &c.	Mid	G	M	F	G	Mid	G	M	Mid	G	M
Do West	1104	1154	1179	1225	1275	1104	1154	1179	1225	1275	1325
Machine Ginned Surtee	1015	1055	1085	1135	1175	1105	1130	1180	1250	1325	1385
Machine Ginned Broach	850	910	960	1000	1040	894	944	1013	1069	1139	1199
Machine Ginned Bhowangar	850	910	960	1000	1040	894	944	1013	1069	1139	1199
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 1	850	910	960	1000	1040	894	944	1013	1069	1139	1199
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2	850	910	960	1000	1040	894	944	1013	1069	1139	1199
Machine Ginned Khandish	850	910	960	1000	1040	894	944	1013	1069	1139	1199
Machine Ginned Complain	850	910	960	1000	1040	894	944	1013	1069	1139	1199
Machine Ginned Bengal	720	760	800	840	880	740	780	820	860	900	940
Machine Ginned Seinde	710	750	790	830	870	730	770	810	850	890	930
Machine Ginned Seinde	1145	1185	1225	1265	1305	1205	1245	1285	1325	1365	1405
Tinnivelly	920	960	1000	1040	1080	1020	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220
Madras, Western	1025	1065	1105	1145	1185	1025	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225
Madras, Northern	1025	1065	1105	1145	1185	1025	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225
M.G. Coconada, Red	Fr.	985	1025	1065	1105	1020	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220
China, Smyrna, &c.	1025	1065	1105	1145	1185	1025	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market for tops has been less active during the past week, mainly due to the cautious attitude adopted by both sellers and buyers. Wool values in London have been well maintained, but there is a general feeling that the position is one of some delicacy, and top-makers are not disposed to add to their already heavy commitments except at prices which will cover the cost of converting into tops wool bought at the Coleman Street auctions. That means that a really good 64's top would cost from 5s to 5s 2d per lb, but users are not prepared to do business on that basis. Most spinners want to buy at not more than 4s 9d to 4s 10d, and it is about on that level that orders have been put through this week for December delivery. Then, again, a new selling season opens in Australia next Tuesday, and most members of the trade here are waiting for the wool position to be thoroughly tested in the primary markets before launching out. In the circumstances business at the moment is more of less of a hand-to-mouth character. Fine crossbred tops are firm at late rates, but there is not a great deal doing in the lower qualities. Spinners complain that they cannot make prices for yarn commensurate with the increased cost of tops, and in this section, also, business is being conducted on restricted lines. More orders have come through from Germany,

however, and firms engaged in this trade are regaining some of the confidence which was so badly shaken when the recent financial crisis started. The piece goods trade is quietly steady, but new that values have again got to a level at which business is almost impossible.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The London sales have made very good progress, and finished most satisfactorily. The series have been shorter than usual, many buyers complaining that they might have been continued another week, but a sale will be held at Hull next Thursday, when the British Australian Wool Realisation Association will offer 32,000 bales. On Thursday week another similar offering will be brought forward at Liverpool, after which there is a sale at Antwerp, and the next series of London sales are expected to begin on October 10th. This shows that there is going to be a fairly decent quantity of Colonial wool available between now and the time when the next London sales commence, and that buyers cannot really complain that the market is being kept bare. A visit to the principal wool consuming centres in Yorkshire would give an opportunity to see hundreds of railway wagons on the sidings full of wool. This may be seen at most of the stations ten miles around Bradford, and the most striking feature of the Colonial wool trade to-day is the steady and persistent buying done by users in spite of the apparently adequate stocks they already hold.

The only danger associated with values for merinos is that prices are being pushed up too far. If the new Australian and other clips are lifted without a reaction taking place in the prices paid for merino wools, definite evidence will be given to show that trade is better than is generally supposed, and this may be said without in any way ignoring the fact that during recent months a steady improvement has taken place. The Board of Trade records during the first eight months of this year have been very well maintained. There was a slight decrease in the exports of able quantity, the increase in the amount sent to that destination during January-August, 1922, being approximately 3,000,000 lbs compared with the first eight months of last year. Giving due over 2,000,000 bales of 56's quality wool and upwards at current values. Putting the Australian and South African new merino clips together, we should say that there will be 1,800,000 bales of merinos, and including the whole of the Australian, New Zealand, and South African clips, the total must be approximately 2,900,000 bales. In addition to this, B.A.W.R.A. have around 1,200,000 bales of old wool to dispose of, and these figures force one to the conclusion that neither combs nor spindles are going to stand just yet for the want of raw material. Our conclusion, from a general survey of the position of wool supplies to-day, is that prices for fine wool in particular are quite high enough to be consistent with safety. There is no need for any section of the trade to adopt such forcing tactics as have been followed during past weeks, there being enough wool in sight to satisfy all trade requirements.

Good combing merino wool (64's-70's) is now anywhere from 90 to 100 per cent. more than in July, 1914, this advance exceeding Goldfinch forecasts a shortage of fine wool in twelve months. It is true that the trade have absorbed merino and even crossbred wool known before, but against this must be put the fact that stocks in consuming centres were allowed to fall almost to the vanishing point during the twelve months ended July, 1921, and that an up the reduction. It remains to be seen whether during the next year wool is absorbed as freely as during the past year. The ability to do so may be questioned, and for this reason it is not advisable to force the pace.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Market conditions generally may still be described as easy. Small buying interest and lower Argentine options have had the effect of further depressing linseed, Plate for shipment having dropped

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed	Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Y52,500,000
Reserve	Y11,780,000

Head Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office 25 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2.

BRANCHES: Amoy, Batavia, Bangkok, Bombay, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Kluang, Kobe, Moli, New York, Osaka, Semarang, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c. &c.
and Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

back to £16 7s 6d, with new crop quoting £15 15s, January-February loading. A fair trade in Calcutta to London has been done at £18 for seed on passage, and for shipment. Near-at-hand supplies, though not excessive, are apparently ample to meet present demand, crushers being well supplied, and not having need to increase commitments, in view of the slowness with which the oil product is going into consumption. Cottonseed has continued dull and neglected, Black Egyptian offering at Hull at £9 10s Bombay is about unchanged at £8 5s for spot. Rapeseed is mostly required for on Continental account, Antwerp paying £17 12s 6d for Toria first arrived. Soya beans neglected, old crop offering at £12 on passage, and new crop at £10 10s for shipment.

A fair demand for spot oil and a good enquiry for new delivery caused raw linseed oil to appreciate 20s per ton, but this has since been lost, and the market on Thursday closed steady round £35 for spot, £33 month, £32 September-December. The forward position, which showed some steadiness, has relaxed to £31, January-April, ex-Hull mill. Cotton oils are in poor demand, notwithstanding lower values, the Hull mill price of crude Egyptian being £29 10s, and soapmakers' grade, refined, £33. Soya bean oil and rape oil are both lower.

The imports of oilseeds and oil nuts into the U.K. in August were below the average at 89,088 tons, comparing with 109,995 tons in July, and 116,966 tons in August a year ago. Linseed arrivals at 21,802 tons were a little more than a third of those of a year ago, but most other seeds and nuts were at a good level. In the eight months January-August the aggregate imports of oilseeds and nuts and kernels were 910,219 tons, an increase of 79,882 tons over a year ago, the principal items being linseed 238,873 tons (41,295 tons less than a year ago), cottonseed 304,549 tons (an increase of 63,582 tons) and nuts and kernels 247,241 tons (a decline of 18,934 tons). Exports of unrefined vegetables in August fell to 5,662 tons, and refined to 344 tons. Exports of linseed oil to date are 50,693 tons, against 30,755 tons on August 31st a year ago.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Market hides were decidedly firmer at Thursday's Bermondsey sales, and advances were secured on last prices. Best made from 7½d to 9½d, with seconds selling from 5½d to 8½d per lb. Best cows sold from 6½d to 7½d, and kips from 3½d to 6½d. Calf were fairly steady, and sold from 7½d for heavy to 12½d for lights. Lambs made from 3s 2d to 9s, and pelts from 4s 4d to 7s each. The demand for imported hides remains quiet owing to high prices at the River Plate, but there has of late been a better inquiry for a low class of Nigerian hide. The American market remains firm, cabled advices quoting best heavy packers at Chicago at 21 cents, with native skins now selling at 19 cents.

Reports from the northern tanneries all agree that trade is still improving, whilst Bermondsey factors also have received more inquiries and orders. There is, however, an absence of speculation, and orders are for small parcels. Tanners are firm in their prices, and as hides have again taken an upward turn the concessions will be a thing of the past. Manufacturers seem to realise this, as there is nothing like so much haggling over a deal as was the case a month ago. Fears, however, are still expressed that large consignments may be expected from America. This seems possible from the fact that the imports of undressed leather from the United States have been 14,324 cwt and 85,378 cwt for the first eight months of 1921-22.

The demand for upper stock is improving, and as quotations for American stock have advanced it is giving our dressers a better chance. Prices of kip leathers, however, are very low, and the competition is such that some of the semi-chrome sold at 4½d to 5d per foot shows a loss on every foot turned out.

Orders are coming in better from the shoe factors and retailers, but many are now waiting for the Shoe and Leather Fair, which opens in October at the Agricultural Hall, London, before placing big orders. All space is booked, and the attendance will probably beat all records.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, September 15.

SUGAR.—The market opened the week with a very quiet tone, but later business proceeded with more freedom at lower prices, British makes being 6d per cwt easier. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, sold, 57s 6d to 58s 6d; crushed, 56s; nibs, 56s 6d; granulated, fine and coarse, 51s 3d, London; No. 1, also No. 2, 50s 9d; icing, 54s 9d; ditto, in drums, 54s; pulverised, 53s 3d; caster, 53s 9d to 54s 9d; granulated, October, 50s 6d; November-December, 50s. West India crystallised, 42s to 44s 6d, as to quality; muscovado, 33s to 37s. White Mauritius, spot, 47s to 47s 6d; ditto, Brazilian, 46s to 46s 6d; Costa Rica, 44s 6d to 45s. American granulated, spot, sold, 49s 6d to 49s 3d; afloat, 22s 9d to 23s and 22s 6d; white Java, spot, 47s to 47s 6d; afloat, 20s 1½d to 20s, c.f. and i., London. Belgian granulated, 47s 6d; afloat, 20s 1½d to 20s, c.f. and i., London. f.o.b., Antwerp, October-December, 19s 4½d; crystals, 19s 1½d, f.o.b., Hamburg, Czech granulated, November-December, 21s 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch granulated, prompt, 24s 6d, f.o.b., Amsterdam. Cuban, basis 95 per cent., September, quoted, 17s; Peruvian, ditto, September,

sold, 16s 6d; and Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., October-December, quoted 9s; near sold, 8s 4½d, c.f. and i., terms, U.K. Terminal market ruled somewhat unsettled. White, December, sold, 20s 9d to 21s 3d, 20s 7½d, and 20s 9d to 20s 7½d; May, 21s 4½d to 21s 3d, 21s 6d, and 21s. Cuban stocks, 397,700 tons, against 1,214,700 same time last year.

COFFEE.—A steady tone prevailed, and there was a moderate inquiry from the home trade. Nairobi, bold sizes, sold, 10s to 10½s; Salvador, foxy pale, 77s. Future delivery steady, but trade moved slowly.

COCOA.—Market quiet and featureless, both with regard to spot and forward positions. Accra, F/F quality, October-December, sold, 36s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—34,000 packages Indian were submitted to auction this week, and all the finer qualities sold readily at a steady range, but inferior proved rather quiet, with rates tending against sellers. 23,000 packages Ceylon received fair support, but common kinds ruled weak, otherwise a steady market resulted. Java and Sumatra realised full rates.

RICE in slow request, and quotations somewhat nominal. Two Stars, spot, 15s 3d; September-October, 14s 3d. Broken descriptions dull at late rates. Rangoon beans quiet, and spot parcels held for 7s 3d. Madagascar butter beans slow. Old crop, spot, 8s to 10s; new, 12s to 14s. Japanese peas steady. September-October sold, 26s 9d to 27s 6d; December-January, 26s to 26s 3d and 25s 6d.

SPICE.—Pepper market slow, but sellers adhered to steady asking rates. Fair black Singapore, spot, 3½d; October-December, 3½d; Aleppy, spot, 4d; Tellicherry, 4½d; Ceylon, 4½d; white Singapore, spot, 5½d; Muntok, ditto, 6½d; ditto, October-December, sold, 6d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 3½d; October-December, 7½d; pimento, spot, 2d; flake tapioca, spot, 2½d; ditto, September-October, sold, 23s 6d; October, 22s 6d. Fair Penang seed, spot, 19s; sago flour, September, sold, 14s to 14s 9d, and 14s 3d; October-December, 13s 6d. Desiccated coconut, spot, 32s 6d to 34s 6d paid; afloat, 31s 6d to 33s 6d; September-October, 33s to 34s 6d. Ginger in slow demand at previous quotations.

FRUIT.—A good inquiry continued, and market for currants ruled very firm. Quarter cases, 59s to 60s; Vostizza, 60s to 63s. Cape raisins, first grade, 58s; second, 50s; third, 40s to 42s. Australian sultanas, three crowns, 130s. Dates steady. New crop, Khredrowie, October, via Bombay, sold, 30s, landed terms, London.

JUTE.—Market hardened during the

there was a disposition to quote easier rates in some quarters, in view of an expected demand for bills maturing at the end of December, and the probability of easier monetary conditions after the turn of the month. As anticipated, the Treasury Bills went at a low rate, and when the result was known the market rate for three months' bills was quoted at $2\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. and under.

	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Bank Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses/Notice	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	..

The Bank Return showed an increase of £577,100 in the Reserve, as a result of a decline of almost that amount in the circulation, and a slight increase in the gold stock. Government securities were reduced by £2,205,000, but Other securities rose by £2,127,600, so that total deposits rose by half-a-million. Public being £5½ millions higher and Other £5 millions lower. There was a reduction of £1,828,900 to £289,756,000 in currency notes outstanding in the return dated September 21, 1922, which includes £1,560,193 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £240,045,800, or £69,942,600 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

During the week the stock markets have been under the influence of the political news, and prices at times fluctuated sharply, but although transactions have been numerous, the public has not been represented to any great extent in operations. The most noticeable weakness in the gilt-edged market was the Conversion Loan, which fell at one time to 72½. French Government and French railway bonds were marked down, but values of German issues were well maintained. The Home Railway market gave some indication of increased activity; prices of foreign railway investments, however, have been irregular. Even with the advance in price of the raw material, the quietness of the rubber market stands out in striking contrast to the liveliness of operators in the oil market. Changes occurred in the banking and insurance lists, although the Smyrna disaster is said to have had little effect on our insurance companies. Iron and steel shares are better; with the exception of a demand for Lyons and other catering shares, the industrial market is inclined to be dull. Mining issues are quiet.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Business in the cotton trade has been fitful, and transactions in piece goods are reported as on a smaller scale. Values remain unchanged in the wool trade, but users appear to be uneasy about the present high level of prices, and it is considered that quotations may be easier later this year. Makers of pig-iron are benefiting considerably by the American demand for foundry iron, and have been able to fill their order books up to the end of October; prices in consequence are firmer. Revival in the steel trade is slow, however. Our Glasgow correspondent writes hopefully, but our Sheffield correspondent reports that except in a few branches business is not appreciably better than it was three months ago. Best Admiralty steam coal is now down to 26s per ton, but a demand has been experienced in the Cardiff market for anthracite and dry steam coals. Wheat prices have been firm, although buyers are only satisfying immediate needs. Conditions in the vegetable oil and oilseed markets are unsettled, prices for early delivery tending to be higher.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Under the influence of unexpected political developments, the nervousness and uncertainty in the exchange market has continued unabated. Operators are naturally reluctant to commit themselves to any extent. New York, after its recovery to 4.43, relapsed to 4.41½, but slowly regained the former figure. The market, however, seems bare of dollars, and in the absence of unforeseen events any substantial demands would undoubtedly have a further weakening effect in the rate. At the time of

writing, dollars are quoted 4.42½, and forward New York is about ½ cent per month over spot. The British policy in the Near East must have a disturbing influence on sterling, and if continued will probably accentuate the present weakness. The more reassuring news and rumours regarding Germany's position with regard to reparations has had an effect on the mark, which has steadily appreciated from 6,550 a week ago to 6,150 at the moment of writing. The principal Allied currencies, under the lead of Paris, have, as usual, responded sympathetically to political events. French francs, which opened the week round 58.50, improved on Wednesday under the influence of more reassuring developments in regard to the Turkish position. The improvement, however, has not been maintained, and the rate has again gone back to 58.15. Forward francs are now 3 points per month over spot rates. Brussels, after fluctuating with Paris, is now quoted 61.50, while Italy, which at one time recovered to 104.62, has again relapsed to 105. Holland is now quoted 11.42, as compared with 11.43 a week ago, while Switzerland has remained fairly steady all the week round 23.69, and is now 23.70. The Spanish exchange has moved against this country, the present rate—29.02—comparing with 29.25 last week. The outstanding feature in Scandinavians has been the rise in the Danish exchange owing to the banking troubles in Copenhagen. The timely action of the Government and the National Bank has, however, prevented anything in the nature of a panic, and the rate has now slightly recovered, being quoted 21.20. Norway and Sweden, at 26.30 and 16.70, have both moved fractionally against us. As anticipated last week, an improvement is shown in Finnish marks, the rate, dipping at one time under 200, is now quoted 202. Vienna remains practically round last week's figures, with a weak tendency; but Warsaw has again depreciated to over 34,000. Amongst South Americans, Valparaiso is fractionally better at 32.10, but both Buenos Aires and Rio have shown weakness at 43½d and 6½d respectively. The Eastern exchanges have moved somewhat irregularly, the rupee being a shade firmer at 1s 3½d, while Hong Kong has also shown a firmer tendency. Shanghai, however, after remaining steady during the greater part of the week, is now slightly weaker at 3s 5½d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 16, 1922:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	Max. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £	Max. £
From Revenue	11,524	11,524	Supply Services	5,830	5,830
			Interest on Debt	406	406
			Sundries	230	230
			Debt Reduction	4,685	4,685
			Added to Exchequer Balances ..	373	373
				11,524	11,524

The total revenue during the week ended September 16, 1922, amounted to £11,523,943, as compared with £20,233,351 in the corresponding week a year ago. Expenditure at £6,466,410 compares with £12,082,214. Property and Income-tax yielded £4,197,000, against £4,207,000 in the same week a year ago. Receipts from Excise amounted to £2,085,000, against £9,135,000, while Customs yielded £1,699,000, against £1,606,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £4,685,000, and caused the following changes:—

Treasury Bills	Min. £	Max. £	Advance Bank of England ..	Min. £	Max. £
Savings Certificates	+ 1,863	+ 250	Do Public Depts.	3,750	3,750
			Sundries	234	234
				114	114
				6,798	6,798

The floating debt was decreased by £4,829,000 to £870,248,500 during the week.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to September 16, 1922).

Total spent	325,388,896	Raised by revenue ..	373,032,284
Dec. in balances	7,946,806	Net repayments	55,590,194
Total	317,442,090	Total	317,442,090

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1917.	Dec. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Sept. 16, 1922.
Red Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
War Stock	30	22	22	20	18	17	16	16	16
War Bonds	16	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
War Loans	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,980	1,980
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,503	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Funding Loan ..	..	..	..	360	357	348	346	335	335
4% Victory Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	24	24
5% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5% Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do by tender 5% ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do by tender 4% ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	712
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Nat'l. Savings Certs. ..	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	365
War Expend. Certs. ..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,078
American Loan	..	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Temporary Advances ..	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	154
Other Capital Liabilities	654	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	66
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,722

Figures for the year ended March 31, 1922, have now been adjusted in accordance with the Finance Accounts just published.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Outstanding—	Sept. 17, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Sept. 16, '22.	Sept. 16, '22.
Temporary Advances	£	30,250,000	147,501,500	154,023,500	3,750,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	£	149,024,000	147,501,500	154,023,500	2,934,000
Advances by Public Depts	£	1,165,322,000	882,319,000	716,225,000	1,859,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	£	1,165,322,000	882,319,000	716,225,000	1,859,000
Total Floating Debt	£	1,343,196,000	1,029,520,500	870,248,500	4,829,000

DOWNING STREET AND THE DARDANELLES.

THE fruits of the vacillating policy adopted in the Near East have ripened suddenly and quickly. Having allowed matters to drift for six months or more, the Government has become hopelessly entangled in its Greek policy. But a display of power may now be necessary to revive the little respect for Allied authority, and to restore the prestige of international agreements and decisions, thoroughly bad though many of them may be, it is unfortunate in the extreme that Downing Street, even when in the right, should continue in its determination to do things in the wrong way. Last week's notes showed an incredible lack of tact, and the question now arises, Can an immediate military collision between British and Turkish troops at Chanak be avoided? The issue was favourably affected by Lord Curzon's conversations with M. Poincaré and Count Sforza on Wednesday, the 20th. Obviously both the suggestions thrown up at these meetings were of a sedative character. A withdrawal of the British units from Chanak would place the "channel of deep salt-water that separates Europe from Asia" between the rifle-barrels and bayonets of the British and the Turkish troops, and would at least veil the yawning chasm in the Entente which had been displayed by the withdrawal of the French and Italian contingents from the Asiatic shore while the British remained behind. An immediate and definitive conference of all the interested Powers (among whom Bulgaria and Russia both ought to be, and could probably insist upon being included) would then reduce to a minimum the inevitable period of military tension which will continue until the status of the Straits and of Thrace is settled by agreement. But the clouds still hang low, and threaten to break into storm at any moment. There are indications that, on the question of Chanak, Lord Curzon, even if convinced himself, may be unable to carry his colleagues with him. The Prime Minister may not face such a humiliating confession of personal defeat, and it may also be the view of naval experts that, with Chanak in potentially hostile hands, even the naval command of the Straits by the Allies would become insecure. The conference, too, when it is summoned, is as likely to accentuate differences of outlook as to reconcile them.

The crux of the problem is that not only the freedom of the Straits (which Angora has, in principle, conceded), but the restoration of Eastern Thrace to Turkey (on which Angora will make no concessions) is at stake; and so far none of the diplomats concerned have discovered a formula by which these two strands of policy can be disentangled. The Turks, while prepared for the demili-

tarisation and neutralisation of the shores of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles under the control of the League of Nations, are not prepared to resign their claim to civil dominion and sovereignty over any portion of these shores, or over any portion of the European hinterland up to Adrianople and the River Maritsa. So far, however, they have received no assurances from the British Government that, even if they meet our views in regard to the Straits, their territorial and administrative claims on the European side will be granted them. On the contrary, the British Government's reference to the Gallipoli Peninsula as "soil hallowed by immortal memories," for the "defence" of which the Dominions have been invited to send contingents, would most naturally be interpreted as a refusal to contemplate the restoration of Turkish civil administration there, even if the "deep-water line" were adequately safeguarded. If one tries to look at the situation from the Turks' point of view, one must acknowledge that, on the facts before them, their prospect of recovering civil authority in any part of Europe without armed conflict with the British Empire must appear more than doubtful. In their eyes the British Government's conduct might almost seem like a piece of diplomatic sharp-practice, designed to put Turkey in the wrong. By loudly proclaiming that the Turks are menacing the freedom of the Straits, when they have already conceded it, our Government are certainly obscuring the fact that the Turks are claiming sovereignty in Thrace, and that we are standing between them and this perfectly legitimate objective. Meanwhile, every day that a settlement is delayed, our own naval and military position at the Straits will be strengthened, our great momentary inferiority to the Nationalist forces will first be turned into equality and then into superiority of strength, and therewith we shall arrive at a position in which we can not only set up whatever régime we think good at the Straits (whether or not it commends itself to Turkey), but can also deny Thrace to Turkey, and leave that province under Greek sovereignty, if we elect to do so. Time is all against the Kemalists, and in military matters a few days may be decisive. Before even the speediest conference can be summoned, the military situation at the Dardanelles may have turned irrevocably to Mustapha Kemal Pasha's disadvantage, if he holds his hand. It is no use minimising the temptation under which he has been placed (by Mr Lloyd George's policy) to fall upon Chanak immediately, to get his military pledges in hand, and to risk all the consequences that might follow. In similar circumstances, such a course would probably be advocated by the general staff of any Western Power. This is the peril that will continue to hang over us for the next few days.

It appears, indeed, that Kemal Pasha has already informed the Allies that he will respect the neutral zone of the Straits on condition that the satisfaction of the Turkish claims in Thrace is guaranteed. This was an obvious, and not an unreasonable, line for Angora to take, and the French Government evidently foresaw that it would be taken; for last week, before the publication of the famous British manifesto, they informed our Government that they would join us in maintaining the freedom of the Straits so long as reasonable Turkish claims on other points were satisfied. This was an allusion to Thrace, and the publication of a joint Allied assurance in regard to the destiny of Thrace, if a Turkish assurance in regard to the freedom of the Straits could be obtained in exchange for it, would be a fair and prudent piece of diplomacy. The moment these two points were settled in principle, the dangerous element in the military situation would be removed, and we could concentrate our energies on the Peace Conference, without the fear that it might be forestalled and stultified by the firing of some fatal shot.

However, we are still far from having reached these comparatively smooth waters. No British assurance about Thrace, and consequently no unconditional Turkish assurance about the Straits, has yet been given. An encounter between patrols, or the news of massacre and ill-treatment of Moslems at Rodosto or Adrianople, may still at any moment explode the powder magazine. On the home front, Mr Lloyd George has to some extent consolidated his position by silencing—temporarily, at least—the righteous indignation of a strong Labour deputation,

which paid him a visit on Thursday to protest against the sabre-rattling tactics of last week-end. No public announcement of what passed at the meeting has been made, and we are left wondering what particular piece of information it may be which the Prime Minister could produce to cause the deputation to retire so quietly and consider their position before making known the result of their efforts.

AUSTRIA AND THE LEAGUE.

THE world is, perhaps, a little sceptical of any great results emerging from the League of Nations until it has by slow and painful growth developed into a more powerful organ of international co-operation. Nevertheless, it is hoped that at the present Assembly some solution may be found for the deplorable condition of the new Austria. This hope is not based on the fact that all interested parties are now anxious to prevent any further political and social demoralisation which has already reached an advanced stage, and that it is difficult to see where to look for a solution if the League fails, for it is improbable in the extreme that private initiative would come forward in the present *débâcle* of Austria's finances.

It is, however, important not to ignore the difficulties of the task, which are partly financial, partly economic, and partly political. It may be some days or even weeks before any plan covering all these aspects can be put forward, but in the meantime it will be useful to recall some of the more fundamental issues.

Apart from the fact that the recent depreciation of Austrian currency has played havoc with the Budget, the dislocation of values has produced an entirely unstable economic condition in the country. Wages have perforce had to be regulated in proportion to cost of living by a scheme of index numbers, and these variations, hitherto taking place every month, are in some cases being made weekly, and even this is hardly adequate to keep pace with the meteoric movement in the value of money. But all prices have not moved in this proportion, a notable example being that of the railways, in which fares have increased perhaps two thousand fold, while wages have increased twelve thousand fold. The effect of this has, of course, been not only disastrous to the accounts of the railways, but has really meant that during the past season, when Austria has been full of foreign tourists, the railways have been transporting these visitors about the country at a gold price which is far less than is required to feed the staff of railwaymen who have been performing this service. In other words, Austria, instead of taking toll of its visitors, has been subsidising them; for the means of feeding its railwaymen, as other workers in the country, has had to be found by the various foreign loans which she has managed to secure during the past months, and by continued taxation through the inflation of the currency. This example shows the complicated reactions of an index-number system unless it is applied all round.

On the other hand, Austria has, in fact, a larger population than she can support by her own industry and commerce, unless and until there is a great recovery in the economic situation of Europe. This means she must face a reduced standard of living until a new equilibrium is established between her working population and the trade and production which she is enabled to do under new conditions. This problem would arise even if she were united in a customs union either to Germany, Czecho-Slovakia, or Italy, and must be faced by any population whose production is insufficient for its requirements. It is futile to imagine that any system of credits can save the country from facing this regrettable necessity, and it is perhaps unfortunate that the talk of foreign assistance has encouraged the country to imagine that it can be saved by such means from facing the realities of the situation.

A corollary of this is that any scheme of control which might be imposed either by the League of Nations, or by a group of creditors, would have to be very stringent, and would have to impose hardships upon the people if it is to be used as a means for bringing Austria into a solvent condition, and making her worthy of credit. Hence, adequate control of Austria's finances will involve action

to which there may be grave political consequences, and in considering whether it can undertake this task, the League must frankly face this very serious difficulty. It can well be imagined, for example, that if a control were established, and the scheme was found to press heavily upon real wages, impose burdens on the more prosperous peasants and agriculturists of the countryside, and involve for the first time heavy direct taxation, the controller or controllers would become extremely unpopular, and after some months political agitation would arise. What would be the attitude of the League or any other organisation of control if disorder arose, and if this developed into anarchy, or the population turned in despair to Communism or Bolshevism? The case of Russia and the futile attempts of Western Europe at intervention are, of course, not in any sense analogous. But with the history of Russia before their eyes, is the League of Nations prepared to prevent the Austrians by force from establishing a form of government which might deny the right of property or repudiate its debts? Even if the League answered this question in the affirmative, by whom is this intervention to be carried out? Assuming disorder in Vienna, are the neighbouring States to be free to intervene to defend their nationals, and what becomes of the right of self-determination? The invention of a financial scheme to save Austria is by no means an easy task, but it is less difficult than the solution of this thorny political problem.

But in any case an elaborate financial scheme, even if enforced, will not remove the fundamental difficulties of Austria, unless the League or the Allies, combining in control, also deal with the fundamental difficulties of the economic situation; and for this purpose the essential point is to remove the barrier which shuts off a large population from the free trade and commerce by which alone they can support themselves in Central Europe. The proposal discussed at Porto Rosa, but which failed to secure the support of Czecho-Slovakia and other neighbouring States, must be put into force before any plan can hope to succeed. Czecho-Slovakia is nervous that she puts down her tariff barriers she will become the dumping ground of goods exported by her neighbours with low exchange, while Yugo-Slavia is afraid of losing the food supply of her northern provinces. The scheme of the League will begin at the wrong end if it starts with finance, and postpones this most vital of all the outstanding questions.

WAGES AND PROFITS IN THE COAL TRADE.

(BY OUR CARDIFF CORRESPONDENT.)

AFTER the end of the present month it will be open to either the coalowners or the workmen in the British coalfields to terminate the National Agreement of June, 1921, and either to renew or revise it, or revert to the pre-war practice of independent district agreements. The terms of the settlement of June, 1921, were fixed for a period of fifteen months ending September 30, 1922, and thereafter until ended by three months' notice on either side. Both the coalowners and the workmen's representatives have recently been considering what action they shall take in the exercise of the freedom which the agreement confers upon them. Neither is satisfied with its operation during the past fifteen months. The agreement was one of the boldest experiments ever made in this country for the distribution of the proceeds of a great industry. No less by the workmen's representatives than by the Government it was described as an epoch-making innovation. The only quarrel Mr Frank Hodges had with it was that the underlying principle was given a district instead of a national application. It gave labour the first claim on the proceeds from the sale of coal; it established a standard wage equivalent to the actual average wage of July, 1914; and it secured for the workman the definitely fixed proportion of no less than 83 per cent. of the surplus proceeds of the industry after the cost of the standard wage and the payment as standard profits of an amount equal to 17 per cent. of that standard wage had been deducted from such proceeds. Moreover, in addition to that standard wage, the workmen obtained a guarantee that the actual wage during the period of the

operation of the agreement should not be less than 20 per cent. above the standard wage. In no other industry has labour been given so big a share of the profits.

Yet, the working of the agreement has been a disappointment to employers and workmen, for it has been unable to prevent wages falling to the minimum, thus leaving the miners with a wage of a purchasing power considerably less than that earned before the war, or to protect the colliery companies against unprecedented losses. The statistics of the industry are periodically published by the Mines Department of the Board of Trade, and from those statistics, and others compiled to a later date by the Mining Association of Great Britain, it is possible to give a general statement of the finances of the industry for the twelve months ended last June.

Before we give the figures, however, one or two explanations are necessary. It was the original intention of both sides that the payment of the standard wage and of the standard profits should go together—that the claim of capital to a standard profit of 17 per cent. of the amount of the standard wage should possess as much force as the claim of the workmen to the standard wage whenever the proceeds of the industry were more than enough to meet the cost of the standard wage and "other costs." Indeed, there was a provision that if the proceeds of the industry were not sufficient to pay the standard profit, as well as the standard wage and other costs, the deficiency in the standard profit should be carried forward as a charge against future surpluses and recouped out of those surpluses before the wages were raised above the standard. This arrangement necessitated the preparation of the returns in such a form as to show the standard profit, the surplus profit, and the actual profit.

Another point that needs to be explained is the incidence of the 20 per cent. minimum on both the surplus and the actual profits retained by the colliery owners. The undertaking to pay this 20 per cent. minimum was given at the last moment, and without regard to its bearing on the other clauses of the agreement. In June, 1921, no one foresaw the severity of the reaction during the following twelve months. Stocks were depleted both at home and abroad, prices were high, and there was no country in Europe in so favourable a position to relieve the European scarcity in coal than the United Kingdom. In the circumstances, as they then stood, the employers as a whole were confident that from the financial point of view the agreement would operate advantageously to them. It is now only too well known how these hopes have been unfulfilled, and the failure of the employers in June, 1921, to realise the possible effects of the 20 per cent. minimum clause on the other provisions of the agreement has been disastrous not only to individual collieries, but to whole districts. When the application of this minimum wage clause first became effective the independent chairman (Sir William Plender) was called in to determine whether the profits surrendered in the payment of the minimum wage could be carried forward as a charge against future surpluses. The ruling of Sir William Plender was that they could not be so carried forward. He laid down the principle that only those deficits could be charged against future surpluses which arose from a shortage in the proceeds to meet the standard wages, other costs, and standard profits. If the proceeds were only just equal to these three charges there was technically no deficiency under the terms of the No. 4, Recoupment Clause that could be carried forward; that deficiency only arose when the actual proceeds were not sufficient to meet the standard profit as well as the standard wages and other costs. The payment of the 20 per cent. minimum on the standard wage was an obligation into which the employers had entered without prejudice to the original terms of the Recoupment Clause. The effect of this ruling has been that the owners have been saddled with labour costs which they had not anticipated. In the twelve months ending June the total amount which the coalowners of the country had to surrender in order to make up the 20 per cent. minimum reached nearly £3 millions, and of that practically £1,730,000 was contributed in the South Wales coalfield alone.

It appears that the amount paid out during the 12

months in standard wages over the country as a whole was equivalent under the terms of the agreement to a standard profit of £15,735,000, and that the surplus of the proceeds left after the deduction of the standard wages, other costs, and standard profits, permitted the nominal retention by the coalowners, under the scheme for the distribution of 83 per cent. of such surplus to labour, and 17 per cent. to capital, of a further profit of £8,355,000. The minimum wage clause, however, gave the workmen the first claim on these surpluses, and in consequence of the absorption of such surpluses by labour, and of the surrender also of standard profits the actual profits retained by the industry in the 12 months ending June last was only about £9 millions compared with the £28 millions guaranteed during the period of control. It is not irrelevant here to point out that during the stoppage the colliery owners incurred a loss of approximately £12 millions, so that in the 15 months ending last June the industry suffered a dead loss of over £3 millions.

The incidence of this loss has been very unequal. As a matter of fact, more than one-half of the total profits of £9 millions was confined to the Eastern Federated area, and over 75 per cent. to the Eastern Federated area and the Lancashire, Cheshire, and N. Staffordshire area. In six of the fourteen wage administrative areas established under the agreement of June, 1921, the 12 months' working showed a loss. In Scotland the year's profit was only about £304,000, in Northumberland about £485,000, in Durham about £710,000, and in South Wales about £920,000. When it is borne in mind that the Powell Duffryn Company alone, with an output of less than four million tons, made a net profit of £625,000 in 1920, a total profit for the South Wales coalfield as a whole, on an output approximately of about 45 million tons, of only £920,000 is clearly not only wholly inadequate, but inhibitive of enterprise.

This survey shows that neither the workmen nor the owners are satisfied with the working of the present agreement, and the position at the moment is much worse than it is represented by the figures for the 12 months ending last June. The employers will probably demand a revision of the agreement on at least two points, namely, the 20 per cent. minimum, and the Recoupment Clause, while the workmen, suffering from an average wage which is from 35 per cent. to 40 per cent. below the purchasing power of the average wage earned in July, 1914, will probably make an effort to secure a higher minimum, or the introduction of such methods of price regulation as will increase proceeds to such an extent that the industry will be able to pay a higher wage without disturbing the present minimum clause. The National Board is to meet early in October to deal with these important questions.

POTENTIALITIES OF CHINA'S TRADE.

(BY A SHANGHAI CORRESPONDENT.)

FIGURES showing the foreign trade of China per head of its population, recently published by the Chinese Maritime Customs, suggest a number of comments. The figures are as follows:—

Year.	Value of Trade in Customs. Taels.	Value of Trade Per Head.	Average Exchange Per Year. s d	Trade per Head in Sterling. s d
1901 ..	437,959,675	1.09	2 11 ³ / ₄	3 2 ¹ / ₄
1911 ..	848,842,109	2.12	2 8 ¹ / ₄	5 8 ¹ / ₄
1921 ..	1,507,377,976	3.77	3 11 ³ / ₄	14 10 ³ / ₄

The comment of the Statistical Department of the Customs on these figures reads:—"There is a remarkable improvement noticeable in the figures for the three years given above, which may well be taken to prove that, given favourable environments, the potentialities of China's trade are enormous."

The accepted figure of China's population is the round one of 400,000,000. It has been the accepted figure for at least a quarter of a century, and in all probability, as there is no machinery for arriving at an accurate one, it will go on being the accepted figure for another 25 years. With equal confidence one may predict the continued characterisation of the country's commercial potentialities as enormous. I have never heard them referred to in any other way, and there is hardly a book or an article written

about China which does not endorse the description. Is it justified?

The answer depends upon the correct valuation of a number of different facts. The facts always turned to first are the import figures, which are usually quoted in values rather than quantities, and are apt to be misleading on account of fluctuations in exchange. It seems preferable, therefore, where possible, to quote the figures showing quantities, for they are a surer indication of demand. The figures for cotton goods are as follows:—

	1910.	1920.
Pieces	16,484,794	22,324,693
Yards	26,886,815	120,595,195
Dozens.....	2,702,532	1,873,096

The goods of which the import is recorded in yards are fancy muslins, yarn-dyed cottons, velvets and velveteens, and cotton goods not enumerated in the tariff, the big increase in the 1920 total being due mainly to imports of Japanese cotton cloth. The figures for dozens include handkerchiefs and towels.

Let us turn next to the figures for metals the import of which is for the most part recorded in piculs. The 1910 total was 4,174,297; the 1920 total 8,063,724. There being 16.80 piculs to a ton, the import of metals into China has increased by a little over 231,513 tons in ten years. Electrical materials and fittings are recorded by value. The figure in 1910 was Hk Tls 1,387,267; in 1920 it was 6,294,633. (In 1910 the average Customs or Haikwan Tael rate of exchange was 25 8½d, in 1920 it was 6s 9½d.) Machinery imports are also recorded by value. In 1910 they were classified under two heads (a) machinery and fittings, the net total value of which was Hk Tls 6,694,945, and (b) machines, sewing and knitting and accessories, the net total value of which was Hk Tls 202,000. The returns for 1920 are much more elaborate, and are divided under agricultural, propelling, textile, brewing, other kinds, and embroidering, knitting and sewing. The value of all classes lumped together was Hk Tls 23,291,538, the most noticeable increase being in machinery for textile industries, the value of which totalled Hk Tls 6,903,610, and "machinery, other kinds," the value of which was Hk Tls 11,983,101.

Other noticeable figures are:—

	1910.	1920.
Aniline dyes.....value in hk. tls.	2,711,438	7,730,291
Gasoline, benzine, naphtha, petrol, gallons	224,931	2,604,634
Kerosine oil	161,389,585	189,588,540
Leather	59,926	123,826
Cigarettes	6,902,246	22,029,585

Let us turn now to the export figures. In 1910 the value of China's export trade with foreign countries was Hk Tls 380,833,328; in 1920 it was Hk Tls 541,631,300. Comparative figures for the most important items are as follows:—

	1910.	1920.
Beans	10,925,451	10,281,220
Cotton (raw)	1,247,304	376,230
Eggs, fresh and preserved	305,810,040	646,700,000
Groundnuts	752,559	1,268,145
Oil (bean, groundnut, tea, wood, &c.)	1,460,234	3,256,986
Seeds	3,547,885	3,748,268
Silk	335,082	268,020
Strawbraid	135,206	55,065
Tea	1,560,800	305,906
Skins and furs	19,838,656	21,812,968

It will be observed from these tables that the export figures are not by any means as satisfactory as the import, especially in view of the decadence of the tea trade, and the absence of any increase in the quantity of silk exported. The cumulative adverse balance of China's foreign trade is now Hk Tls 304,866,902, which amount must be increased to nearly 321 million taels if the recorded movement of bullion and coin are taken into account. Granted that an adverse balance is not necessarily a bad thing, it may be questioned whether the "invisible exports" which have to be set against it are in China's case of a nature altogether reassuring. For if it is still true that the chief of them is "her export of brawn and brains in the emigration of a portion of her redundant population"—to quote Mr H. B. Morse, formerly Statistical Secretary of the Chinese Maritime Customs—the growing antipathy to Asiatic immigrants on the one hand, and trade unionism on the other, appear likely to diminish the value of this asset.

Other factors which have to be taken into account are the extremely backward state of the country's means of communication; the hopelessly untrustworthy nature of her judicial machinery which, in the last resort, has to be relied upon for the enforcement of contracts; the absence both of the knowledge of foreign business methods and of the credit facilities necessary for direct trade between the British exporter or manufacturer and the Chinese importer; the very rudimentary state of co-operative enterprise on modern lines in the shape of limited companies with substantial capital; the deadly streak of unreliability which characterises nearly everything that the Chinese do, write, say, or make; their colossal indifference to efficiency; their imperturbable satisfaction with their own ways and methods; the very small purchasing power possessed per head of the population, and, last, but not least, the smallness of the proportion who can read and write their own language.

Doubtless these are all factors that, as years go on, will inhibit trade development less than they do now, but in view of their strength at the present time, the description of China's commercial potentialities as "enormous" is only justifiable when the word "potentiality" is used strictly in its anticipatory and provisional sense.

MARKET RIGHTS.—II.

A CONSIDERABLE share of the wealth of modern communities consists of abstract privileges as monopolies, for which no service is, and in some cases has never been, rendered. How far charters and grants made by monarchs centuries ago to their favourites which fetter successive generations, and add to the cost of living, should be perpetrated is an academic question. These have been recognised by law. Some day the force of public opinion may compel action to terminate rights of this class, which are wrongs to the general body public, and secure for the nation a freedom which it does not now possess. What has hitherto prevented this desirable consummation are the huge amounts of money awarded as compensation where such interests have been abrogated or transferred, as in the case of Spitalfields Market.

At the same time, it is recognised that monopolies are often necessary as a stimulus to effort and development, the rewards of which are uncertain, or may be delayed, or where a service to the community is rendered. Railways, the Post Office, and Municipal markets are cases in point. In each of these there is entire or partial public control, and the general well-being is thus promoted. Much of the capital cost involved is represented actually by land, buildings, or plant, and by a business on which large sums of money have been expended. Although monopolies of the nature indicated are to some extent restrictive, where they are applied for the public benefit, and in a practical manner, the gains more than compensate.

The whole question of London markets must be regarded in the light of those vast changes which have taken place since the rights and privileges on which they are based were granted. In the reign of Charles II. the population of England was one and a-half million smaller than now to be found within the metropolitan area. At that time London, inclusive of the surrounding residential districts, was comparatively small in population if not in extent. What was enough for the requirements of that time is totally inadequate now, although even then the grant made by Edward III. to the City of London of exclusive market rights within seven miles was an injustice, and must have been severely felt by those who lived on the outer ring of the circle. So far as the wholesale branches of the trade are concerned, this is less serious. To meet the requirements of the great populations which have congregated around London supplies have to be drawn not only from many parts of the country, but from other lands, coming in large bulk. It is, therefore, a great convenience that there should be centres where buyers know they can obtain what they require. This should not involve any increase of cost to the consumer; in fact, it should save both time and money.

The dead meat trade may be cited as an example; whether the meat is obtained from Aberdeen or the

Argentine, it would be impracticable for senders to forward to the consuming districts around London. Even were such method carried out, the cost would be much greater than selling in wholesale markets. Profits and charges involved in reaching the consumer must be paid. Retailers have, also, greater choice as a result of concentration.

The restrictions imposed are often totally unsuited to present-day conditions, especially so in respect to home produce. The natural sources of supply to the eastern side of the Metropolis are the Eastern counties, whence goods are brought direct by rail. For products that come from other parts of the country or overseas the City markets are requisite. Whatever is derived from Eastern England can be more expeditiously distributed, and at less cost, if delivered to a common centre in the midst of the great districts comprising Eastern London and its suburbs. That is why the Great Eastern Railway Company established the Stratford Market, which has rendered a service for which the company has to pay tolls to the lessee of Spitalfields Market, although he did not contribute one penny to the cost of establishment or maintenance.

But for the City's market rights the same company would have developed Bishopsgate Station as a market when Liverpool Street Station was opened. When the Midland Railway built St Pancras Station a market was designed to occupy the adjacent land, but the project could not be carried out for the same reason. These are manifest abuses of a power granted at a time when conditions were entirely different from those now existing. Full freedom should be granted, so that on each of the great trunk lines markets to serve the areas in London in which they are immediately concerned could be opened, if railways and local authorities are prepared to establish them.

It has been said that "the London Central Markets are the pride of the City of London." This is undoubtedly correct in so far as the buildings are concerned. They are, however, close markets. No opportunity is afforded for growers and breeders to come into direct contact with buyers. Both parties are tied to the dealers and salesmen who have shops or stands. A sender of meat in Norfolk or Aberdeen, or a poultry fatterer in Sussex, who is dissatisfied with sellers has no opportunity of defending his interests by taking this part into his own hands. He can change his salesman, which is no real remedy. Competition is thus restricted. Factors which make for avoidance of abuses are almost entirely absent. The entire system works in favour of foreign produce. Those who hold positions in the markets are masters of the position, and, within limits, can dictate their own terms and conditions. It is recognised that anyone of ordinary business capacity obtaining a stand in the markets is practically assured of a fortune in a few years.

What is urgently required in the interests of the community is that the wholesale markets shall be considerably extended, and that anyone on payment of stated tolls shall be able to offer his goods for sale, independent of intermediaries, just as the farmer in provincial markets can sell his corn, or hay, or cattle, or the smack-owner his fish. Londoners suffer heavily because of the absence of these open markets which form an important feature of Continental cities.

The absence of retail markets in residential areas has led to a vast increase in the number of shopkeeper-retailers, and to an enhancement in the cost of food supplies owing to the huge expense of distribution. The system of calling upon householders for orders, and of delivering the goods, is an undoubted convenience, but it involves a cost estimated at from 10 to 30 per cent., much of which could be saved in the lighter classes of produce, and there would be a greater choice afforded. So long as the monopoly of the City of London continues, local authorities within the seven-mile limit are powerless to take steps in defence of their citizens.

Considering the small area ruled over by the London City Corporation, the time has fully arrived for dealing with the entire question of Metropolitan markets, and of transferring the control to some body which is as much concerned with Kensington and East Ham, with Islington and Brixton, as with the square mile surrounding the Guildhall.

THE NEW AUSTRIAN BANK OF ISSUE.

(BY OUR VIENNA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE new Austrian issue bank, the Austrian National Bank ("Oesterrische Nationalbank"), which is destined to replace the Austro-Hungarian Bank, now in process of being wound up, is a child of distress. It has been founded owing to the pressure of the present political and economical calamity, and from the beginning it has been clear to the Government as well as to political parties and financiers that its creation was only patchwork in the economic reconstruction of the country. The decisive impulse of its foundation was given by the terrific rise of the cost of living, caused by the appreciation in foreign rates of exchange, and by the fear of social disturbances. As the Government did not want to make the question of the issue bank a bone of contention between the political parties, a dense veil of mystery was spread over the preliminary work of its foundation. The draft of the statutes and the allotment of the participations in the share capital to the several banks and bankers was carried through in the most secret way. Only a small committee of Parliament deliberated on the statutes, and sanctioned them; most members of the House did not even know them. When finally, after manifold difficulties, the Bill was passed, and an agreement as to the several participations was reached, it turned out that some provisions of the statutes did not meet with the approval of the head office of the Anglo-Austrian Bank in London, and the head office of the "Laenderbank" in Paris. The objections raised by these two foreign banks were due, as will be explained later on, to excessive influence of the Government over the bank, and to the question of security for note issue. Here again the negotiations with these groups were kept so secret that the Viennese banks and the representatives of the political parties have not the faintest notion at the present moment as to what concrete alterations of the statutes have to be made. The result of all these lengthy negotiations is that the issue bank, which intended to start operations originally on August 15th, then on September 1st, finally on September 15th, is not even yet founded.

The nominal share capital of the bank is to amount to 100 million Swiss francs, of which 60 million shall be subscribed and fully paid up at once. Of this amount 24 million will be subscribed by the Viennese banks and bankers, while the remaining 36 million will be offered for public subscription in Austria and abroad. The statutes of the new bank, as they have been sanctioned by Parliament, grant the Government a great influence in the management of the bank. At the head of the bank is a president, then a general board ("Generalrat"), consisting of 15 to 20 members; 8 to 14 of these are to be elected by the general meeting, the remaining 7 or 6 will be nominated by the Government from representatives of industry, commerce, trade, agriculture, and the trade unions. Thus, if the number of members does not exceed the minimum of 15, the majority will be appointed by the Government. Only six members of the general board are allowed to be foreigners. Owing to the objections raised by the Anglo-Austrian and the Laender Banks, the aforementioned right of appointment by the Government has been restricted, but to what extent is not yet known. It is, however, important to note that the president and the general manager, in the appointment of whom the Government has a preponderating voice, will have much more influence in the management of the new bank than they had in the old Austro-Hungarian Bank.

For the bank notes issued by the National Bank, a "third" security is to be provided by the condition that the total bank note circulation must not exceed the treble of the value of the gold and the foreign bills held by the bank. As, however, the value of these foreign bills in Austria is continuously subject to great fluctuations, it is provided that for the period immediately after the foundation of the bank their value should be calculated at the average rate of exchange of the last two preceding months; the Finance Minister is entitled to check this ratio every six months, and to change it according to the fluctuations of the rate of exchange. Thus the bank has the right to issue as many more bank notes as the price of foreign currencies may have risen. As this might lead

to a constant inflation of the note issue, the representatives of the Anglo-Austrian Bank and the Laenderbank objected to this provision. Further differences of opinion arose from the question of where the gold and the foreign bills should be deposited; the afore-mentioned foreign banks demand that they should be deposited outside Austria, which, of course, might be considered to show a certain want of confidence.

The National Bank takes over the whole bank note circulation, plus the liabilities of the Austrian Department of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, and the assets corresponding to these liabilities; among these assets are the deposits of coin and bullion and of foreign bills and the commercial bills discounted. The transfer of the deposits of foreign money belonging to the "Devisenzentrale" (State Clearing House for the money market) to the new bank will be arranged by a special agreement.

The lines on which the new bank has to conduct its business do not differ very much from those of the old Austro-Hungarian Bank; a new feature is the right to issue debentures in foreign money and to accept deposits in foreign currencies. An important provision is that the Government is not allowed to make use of the Issue Department for the purposes of its own financing unless the bank notes to be issued on its behalf are covered by a deposit of gold or foreign bills. The Government, too, is not allowed to issue any sort of State notes which might handicap the bank in its obligation to keep the rate of the krone at a certain level. The two foreign banks have also raised objections to the condition which obliges the bank to stabilise the rate of the krone, failing which it would lose its privileges, as in view of the disorganised state of the Austrian finances the new bank may find itself confronted by an impossible task.

The Austrian Government guarantees the capital, together with dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. on the paid-up capital, payable in Swiss francs, and pledges as security the Customs duties. Five per cent. of the profits have to be deposited for account of the pension funds. Any profits after the payment of dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. on the paid-up capital shall be divided as to two-thirds to the State and one-third to the shareholders, while profits after the payment of dividends at the rate of 10 cent. shall be divided as to three-quarters to the State and one-quarter to the shareholders.

Notes of the Week.

The Fate of Smyrna.—The Kemalist army has done its best to complete the ruin of the richest part of the Turkish Empire. Smyrna, the chief port of Asiatic Turkey, and the only one possessing a really good harbour with modern equipment, had a population 12 years ago of some 300,000, more than half Christian, and comprising many Greeks and Armenians, together with foreign residents of every European nation. It was the natural outlet of a very fertile country, whose great agricultural and mineral resources were only partially developed; in the ten years preceding 1913 the revenue of the province had doubled; the population was industrious, and the modified crops, including cereals, beans, figs, raisins, cotton, opium, and tobacco, had never been known to fail all at once. The region was one of the chief sources of the supply of valonia, there was a very large export of Eastern rugs and carpets, and, with Naxos, it supplied all the emery of the world. It was well served by two railways, and it possessed—for Turkey—good and fairly numerous roads. In the four years preceding the great war the city had suffered considerably through the suspension of trade with Italy, and afterwards with Greece, and through the wholesale expulsions of Italian and Greek residents during the Tripoli and Balkan wars; and the competition of the Anatolian Railway and the transfer and extension of the Smyrna-Cassaba line seemed likely to divert part of its trade to the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora. But the extensions of the Ottoman-Aidin line had opened up new sources of traffic, and that company, which in 1899 had felt compelled to readjust the interest on its debentures, was paying 6 per cent. in 1913 on its ordinary shares. Even in the period of compara-

tive stagnation since 1918 the annual value of the imports had been about £4,000,000, and of the exports about £4,500,000. Latterly, after the interruption of the Greek steamer services, about a third of the shipping in the port had been British, and nearly half Egyptian. Of the imports of cotton goods, about 70 per cent. came from Manchester, and last year the second largest share of the whole of the exports came to Great Britain, the largest to Italy. Now the city is burnt down, the Greek and Armenian population refugees or massacred, the foreign commercial communities (including about 800 British residents) expelled and ruined, the inland towns, which acted as centres of collection for its export traffic, burnt and plundered, and its trade, and the revenues which went to the Porte and the foreign bondholders, cannot recover for years. And the recovery may be retarded by the growth of French and Italian export facilities respectively at Mersina and Adalia, and by the diversion of part of the traffic along the Cassaba extension to Panderma and along the Anatolian Railway to Constantinople. But the natural advantages of the city, including its excellent harbour, will probably ensure its revival hereafter.

The Porte and the Foreign Bondholders.—In addition to the payment of 6s per coupon on account of the arrears on the Unified Debt for 1920-21 and 1921-22, it is now announced that a further payment will be made shortly on account of the arrears on six loans not included in the settlements of 1881 and 1903. These loans are the Four per Cent. of 1890, the Five per Cent. of 1896, the Four per Cent. of 1902, the Four per Cent. of 1901-5, the Four per Cent. of 1908, and the Five per Cent. of 1914. They were issued in Paris and Constantinople, except that of 1908, a Baghdad Railway loan, which was issued partly to the concessionaires and partly to the Deutsche Bank. They are secured on revenues controlled by the Debt Council, which, speaking generally, consist of receipts from certain tithes, from the sheep tax in some of the provinces, and from Customs duties, or from one or more of these sources; and payments on account were made on them last April, ranging from 35c to 4f 40c on the "unitary coupon," i.e., the coupons of bonds of a nominal value equivalent to £20. The announcement, which appeared in Tuesday's *Financial Times*, is surprising, in view of the interception of revenue by the Kemalist Government and the state of Turkish foreign trade. Probably the payment comes out of the balance left after the distribution of last April; the precise amounts will be known about the middle of next month. Turkish bondholders in general may well be thankful for these small mercies, in view of the results to them of the destruction of Smyrna.

Finance Accounts 1921-1922.—The finance accounts for the year ended March 31, 1922, have just made their appearance. Although by this time general interest may have waned in the detailed accounts of the past financial year, yet there are still many items which call for notice. The publication of these enable us to revise our National Debt table, which appears on another page, and the most noticeable change here will be found to be an increase of approximately £17 millions in "Other capital liabilities." This is accounted for mainly by the inclusion of £13,950,000 on account of "Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921." The detailed statement of Miscellaneous Revenue is a welcome addition to our meagre knowledge of ordinary and special receipts, as briefly stated week by week in the income and expenditure return. Special receipts amounted to £170,805,948. Naturally the Treasury, with £48,463,516, were the principal contributor, this sum, of course, including the cash received from the Reparation Commission, amounting to £35,523,200. From the Board of Trade £25,417,833 came into the accounts; the chief item of £11,773,261 being for surplus receipts from the Food Department, while "Sale of coal imported during coal emergency" is given as £6,862,877. From the Disposals and Liquidation Commission £42,733,197 was received, and the Shipping Liquidation Commission contributed £31,408,668. Repayment of loans made to

Dominions and Allies provided £15,354,171, of which £6 millions came from Belgium for payment of the Post-Armistice Loan, and £4,289,089 from Australia. Greece also paid £2,379,064, in addition to the £12,000 instalment off the loan of 1832.

Cost of Living.—A further decline of 2 points is recorded by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* cost of living index figure for August, reducing it to 79 per cent. above the pre-war level. This is the lowest point touched since the Armistice, as may be seen from the following table:—

ALL ITEMS: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914. (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)					
	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January 1st	85-90	120	125	165	92
February "	90	120	130	151	88
March "	90	115	130	141	86
April "	90-95	110	132	133	82
May "	95-100	105	141	128	81
June "	100	105	150	119	80
July "	100-105	105-110	152	119	84
August "	110	115	155	122	81
September "	110	115	161	120	79
October "	115-120	120	164	110	..
November "	120-125	125	176	103	..
December "	120	125	169	99	..

The index number for food alone fell from 75 per cent. at the end of July to 72 per cent. at the end of August, the decline being mainly accounted for by a fall in the price of potatoes. There were also slight reductions in the average prices of meat, flour, and bread, but these were offset by advances in the prices of eggs and fish, and by other minor increases. The increase in the price of clothing as compared with July, 1914, is estimated at 135 per cent., as against 140 per cent. at the end of July last.

Employment and Wages in August.—There was a slackening during August in the rate of reduction of unemployment. The *Ministry of Labour Gazette* records that the percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns are received was 14.4 per cent. at the end of August, as compared with 14.6 per cent. at the end of July. Recent movements in the percentage figure may be seen in the following table:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.							
End of—	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January ..	2.2 ..	0.3 ..	1.0 ..	2.4 ..	2.9 ..	6.9 ..	16.8 ..
February ..	2.0 ..	0.3 ..	0.9 ..	2.8 ..	1.6 ..	8.5 ..	16.3 ..
March	1.9 ..	0.3 ..	1.2 ..	2.9 ..	1.1 ..	10.0 ..	16.3 ..
April	1.7 ..	0.3 ..	0.9 ..	2.8 ..	0.9 ..	17.6 ..	17.0 ..
May	1.9 ..	0.4 ..	0.9 ..	2.1 ..	1.1 ..	22.2 ..	16.4 ..
June	1.9 ..	0.4 ..	0.7 ..	1.7 ..	1.2 ..	23.1 ..	15.7 ..
July	1.9 ..	0.4 ..	0.6 ..	2.0 ..	1.4 ..	16.7 ..	14.6 ..
August	2.0 ..	0.5 ..	0.5 ..	2.2 ..	1.6 ..	16.3 ..	14.4 ..
September ..	2.3 ..	1.3 ..	0.5 ..	1.6 ..	2.2 ..	14.8 ..	..
October	2.2 ..	1.1 ..	0.4 ..	2.6 ..	5.3 ..	15.6 ..	..
November ..	2.0 ..	1.1 ..	0.5 ..	2.9 ..	3.7 ..	15.9 ..	..
December ..	2.6 ..	1.4 ..	1.2 ..	3.2 ..	6.0 ..	16.5 ..	..

* Excluding coal miners.

There was a marked improvement in the coal mining industry, and employment was a little better in the pig-iron and iron and steel trades. On the other hand, there was a decline in the cotton spinning industry, and in the jute, pottery, and glass trades. The percentage unemployed among workers insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act was 12.0 per cent. at August 21st, as against 12.3 per cent. at July 24th. The total number of workpeople registered at the employment exchanges as unemployed at August 28th was approximately 1,378,000, as against 1,400,000 at the end of July. In the industries from which statistics are collected by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in August resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £450,000 in the weekly full time wages of over two million workpeople, and in an increase of £15,000 in the weekly wages of over 90,000 workpeople. The prin-

cipal bodies of workpeople affected were coal miners in Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, workpeople employed in the engineering industry, and gas workers. In the case of coal miners, there were decreases equivalent to rather less than 1 per cent. on current rates in Durham and to over 14 per cent. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. On the other hand, the lower paid day-wage workers in coal mines in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire received increases up to 1s per shift in the form of subsistence allowances. Men in the engineering industry had their rates reduced by 5s 6d per week, and those in the gas industry by 1d per hour, or 4d per shift. Since the beginning of 1922 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £3,600,000 in the wages of 7,500,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £3,500 in the wages of 18,000 workpeople.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Owing to the severe trade depression, spinners of American yarns in the Lancashire cotton industry have decided to stop their mills on Saturdays and Mondays for a month. This decision was announced to-day by the Master Spinners Federation in Manchester, the ballot on the proposal having shown the necessary 80 per cent. in favour of the scheme. A circular has been sent out requesting the employers to make the necessary arrangements. The first stoppage will be on September 30th, and the curtailment of production will continue until October 23rd. This organised short-time will mean that during the four weeks the mills will run 140 hours instead of 192 hours, and the stoppages will result in a limitation of output equal to 27 per cent. Over five hundred firms, owning forty million spindles, are affected, and nearly one hundred thousand operatives will, of course, receive reduced wages. The crisis in the Near East is having a vital effect upon Manchester trade; less business has been done this week than for a long time back, and in weaving districts looms are running out of orders, and more machinery is being allowed to stand. Unemployment, therefore, in both spinning and manufacturing branches of the industry is increasing.

Occupational Diseases.—A Labour correspondent writes:—After the Whitehaven colliery disaster the Trades Union Congress, which was then in session at Southport, passed a resolution of condolence, and in support of this Mr Herbert Smith, president of the Miners' Federation, in a speech utterly devoid of rhetoric but forcible and poignant in its sincerity, dealt with the question of safety. The question of the protection of the workers from the peculiar risks incidental to their various callings is one which has always received a good deal of attention from the Labour movement. The general public even yet does not realise the prevalence of industrial diseases, some of them often fatal, to which workers in different industries are subject. Occupational diseases have in recent years become a special branch of medicine, and some steps have been taken to cope with the problem. The dangers of lead poisoning, and the horrors of "phossy jaw," are more or less familiar to the public, but of the wide range of diseases known to the Home Office the outside world is almost entirely ignorant. Yet if the deaths and non-fatal cases from occupational diseases each year were paralleled by the losses resulting from, say, British intervention in the Greco-Turkish war, public opinion would be stirred by the slaughter. This preamble is inspired by the fact that the Government is now contemplating against the view of the Home Office, it is believed, the closure of the anthrax disinfecting station at Liverpool, in order to cut a deficit of about £5,700. Anthrax poisoning is almost entirely confined to the woollen and worsted, horsehair, and hides and skins industries, and is most prevalent amongst persons handling wool. During the last four years (1918-21) 34 persons have died from anthrax, and in the previous 20 years there were 113 fatal cases reported; so that in a quarter of a century 150 people died as a consequence of a disease which is preventable. During that period the proportion of fatal cases

to total cases shows no decline. Towards the end of the war a Departmental Committee on the subject reported that "the existing regulations are unequal to the task of coping with the nature of the disease." Its view was that the principle of compulsory disinfection of materials likely to be infected should be substituted for regulations under the Factory Act. It expressed the opinion that these materials should be disinfected at the ports of embarkation, e.g., Karachi, Bombay, Basra, and Cairo. As an immediate policy it was proposed that a small experimental disinfecting station should be established in this country without delay in order "to settle the type of station to be used." In the following year the Anthrax Prevention Act was passed empowering a Secretary of State to provide "the necessary works for the disinfection of infected goods." Within 18 months a factory was established at Liverpool for the purpose of disinfecting certain classes of wool. Last year the deficit was about £5,700, due undoubtedly to the trade depression. The Geddes Committee cast its eye on this institution, and recommended that it should be closed, or made self-supporting. The Treasury is now anxious, it is understood, to close the factory. It is not surprising that the wool textile workers are perturbed at the thought that the Government should even be considering the possibility of closing the disinfecting station. A special meeting of the Joint Industrial Council has been called for next week, and protest meetings are being arranged. The need is not for the closing of the present station, but for the extension of the provision for disinfecting raw materials. The present factory is so small that it was possible to require compulsory disinfection only of the grades and types of wool particularly liable to infection, and there is no doubt that the Liverpool station has done good work. But more provision is necessary. Within the last month cases of outbreaks of anthrax among sheep and cattle have been reported as a result of these animals drinking from streams polluted with water which had been used for the washing of wool. It is clear that nothing but the compulsory disinfection of all suspected wool will effectually remove the risk of anthrax.

Land Drainage.—So encouraging were the results of the drainage schemes which the Government initiated last winter in order to alleviate unemployment, writes an agricultural correspondent, that, subject to the sanction of Parliament, funds will again be available during the coming winter. The quality of the work done was considerably better than was anticipated. Although it is impossible to state the exact acreage which has been relieved of flooding or waterlogging by the operations which were carried out last winter and spring, it is estimated that substantial benefit must have been derived in the case of not less than 340,000 acres. A far greater acreage, however, still suffers from permanent waterlogging or too frequent flooding. The bodies to which advances will be made are Drainage Authorities and County Agricultural Committees. The Ministry of Agriculture, in the case of each scheme submitted to it and approved, will be prepared to advance the whole of the money required, subject to certain conditions, among which are the following:—All the work done must, as far as possible, be carried out by hand labour. Seventy-five per cent. of the labour must be among ex-service men, if they are available. Of the remaining 25 per cent., the majority must be married men, if available. The ordinary farm labourer's wage of the district will be paid. All the work must be completed by the end of March next. On the conclusion of the work, a proportion of the net cost, up to 33½ per cent., will be refunded to the Ministry.

The Port of London Authority.—The report of the Port of London Authority for the year ended March 31st last shows a further increase in the trade of the port, the total net tonnage of vessels which arrived and departed with cargoes and in ballast from and to foreign countries in 1921 amounting to over 34 million tons, as against 32½ millions in 1920, 26½ millions in 1919, and 40 millions in 1913. The net register and deck-cargo tonnage of shipping which entered and left the Port of London and paid river dues during the twelve months ended March

31st last amounted to 25½ million tons, an increase of 5.8 per cent. as compared with 1920-21, an increase of 12.4 per cent. in the foreign trade being partly offset by a decrease of 12.3 per cent. in the coastwise trade. A summary of financial results in recent years is given below:—

	For Year Ending March 31.					
	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Total revenue	£ 3,494,453	£ 4,407,846	£ 5,723,690	£ 8,305,801	£ 10,043,731	£ 7,929,874
Total expenditure	2,217,822	2,910,599	3,532,604	5,531,726	7,101,601	5,801,217
Balance of rev.	1,216,631	1,497,247	2,191,086	2,774,075	2,942,130	2,128,657
Fixed charges	932,786	1,226,917	1,264,567	1,600,323	1,944,166	1,575,266
Surplus revenue	283,845	270,330	926,519	1,173,752	997,970	552,788
Brought forward	89,637	340,465	341,953	349,384	383,347	896,044
Written off, &c.	373,482	610,795	1,268,472	1,523,136	1,381,317	1,448,772
Carried forward	281,578	268,842	919,088	1,139,789	485,273	...
	91,904	341,953	349,384	383,347	896,044	1,448,772

The amount of nearly £1½ millions carried forward is subject to liability, if any, for excess profits duty. The reserve fund has been raised to £1 million by the addition of £16,663, a part of the income from investments during the year. Capital expenditure for the year was £1,472,800, while £500,000 Port of London 5½ per cent. Inscribed Stock was redeemed in August, 1921. Of the authorised Port Stock of £32½ millions, £30 millions has been issued and half a million redeemed, leaving a balance unissued of £3 millions. From the table below, which gives the value of imports and exports of the principal ports (excluding coastwise goods), it will be seen that London has regained its place at the head of the list so far as values are concerned:—

	1919.	1920.	1921.	Dec. in 1921.
London (including Queenborough)	£ 819,875,330	£ 1,005,276,386	£ 606,856,886	% 39.6
Liverpool	827,986,112	1,091,657,022	528,012,834	51.7
Hull	148,023,115	172,951,919	91,922,735	46.8
Manchester (including Runcorn)	146,890,745	207,683,045	86,515,435	58.4
Southampton	41,046,404	88,509,359	66,813,302	24.5
Glasgow	110,248,762	158,126,941	94,701,689	40.1

During the year ended March, 1922, the Authority landed or received 2,231,232 tons of import goods for warehousing or for immediate delivery, a decrease of 641,671 tons, or 22.3 per cent., as compared with the tonnage dealt with during the previous twelve months.

Nobel Industries.—We cordially welcome the steps taken in the interest of greater publicity in company affairs in the speech of Sir Harry McGowan, at the annual meeting of Nobel Industries, yesterday afternoon, giving the position of the constituent companies comprising the merger. It is stated, and rightly so, that a mere aggregation of the existing balance-sheets as they stand would be practically of no value. But in bringing the balance-sheets of the large number of constituent companies to a common basis by employing a uniform method of valuing companies' assets and liabilities, a more reliable picture of results is revealed. This is certainly a step in the right direction, and although the figures only relate to the year 1920, the directors are to be congratulated upon the innovation. According to this statement, shareholders in Nobel Industries had at the end of December, 1920, assets to the value of £18,754,561 to set off against a total share capital issued by Nobel Industries of £15,738,427. Thus a surplus of £3,016,134 is shown. Patent processes and goodwill are valued at £4,049,335, and land and buildings at £2,157,300. But the items which shareholders will examine most critically are the various investments of the undertakings. These amount to approximately £10 millions, and are divided into three classes. The first, investments in allied and subsidiary companies, at £3,944,054, is taken at cost. The third, "Other Investments" at £1,071,353, is taken at market values at December, 1920, while the second is a huge item, "Investments in Large Industrial Undertakings," amounting to £4,784,548, and valued at cost. The last sum includes the company's holdings in Dunlops, General Motors, and other concerns, which are known not to have fared well. If these holdings could be re-valued in accordance with the market

values of the assets of the companies concerned, it would be interesting to know how much would have to be written off the £3,016,134 surplus before mentioned. When we have the figures for 1921 in front of us we shall examine them with considerable interest to see how much the investment holdings in the big industrial undertakings have been written down, and incidentally if it has been possible to find a more equitable method of valuation than taking "at cost."

The Johnnies Report.—The report of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, for the year ended January 30th last, shows profits realised on stocks and shares, dividends and sundry revenue, of £305,780, which compares with £422,298 in the previous year. The dividend of 7½ per cent., free of tax, absorbs £296,250, as against £395,000 for the 10 per cent. dividend paid a year ago, and the balance forward is reduced from £184,400 to £162,200. The value of the gold produced by the company's group of mines was £7,995,300, the average price obtained being £5 2s 8d per fine ounce, as against £5 11s for the previous year. A reduction of £1,931,600 in the value of gold recovered is ascribed partly to the strike and partly to the lower price of gold. The balance-sheet shows an increase of over £15,000 in the holding of stocks and shares, and of £5,000 in mining properties and advances to mining companies, while there is a new item of £342,900 for loans to South African companies. Sundry debtors and dividends accrued, however, have been reduced by £372,000, and cash is £94,000 lower. With regard to the company's holdings in South African Diamond Mines, the directors state that "there is a decided improvement in the demand for rough diamonds, though as yet it is for limited quantities." America has reappeared as a buyer.

Conditions in Japan.—Cable advices from Tokyo state that after the half-yearly settlement money came back so freely from the provinces that the rate of short loans dropped sharply, day-to-day money having been freely offered at about 3½ per cent. Two months' credits were, however, still quoted as high as 8½ per cent., and the discount rate remains unchanged at 9½ per cent. The stock market was very inactive, and prices were generally lower. The weather has continued fine without any break even on those days on which the typhoon occurred very often, and with the favourable outlook for big crops the price of rice has fallen heavily. In the cotton yarn market demand continues inactive both at home and abroad, and stocks are gradually increasing. There was a fairly good business done in the silk market. The Imperial Silk Company is expected to be dissolved after the clearing out of its outstanding stocks in the near future. The allotment of the company's profits is now under consideration. The following statement with reference to the embargo on gold has been issued by the Government:—"The embargo on gold is naturally an abnormal measure which was introduced during the war, and it goes without saying that it should be removed as soon as possible in order to restore the normal course of things. It requires, however, deliberate consideration to decide whether now is the proper time to carry out its removal. The economic condition of the world has not yet settled down to stability; many countries have not adopted any definite policy with regard to gold; the international movement of gold has not generally returned to the former free condition; moreover, the economic condition of this country being not yet sufficiently stable, it seems that the immediate removal of the embargo may have an adverse effect on the economic position of this country, which might not be trifling. Under these circumstances, the Imperial Government do not think it proper to remove the embargo on gold now, but nevertheless hope to do so as soon as the time comes when the general economic condition becomes more stable and when there is no fear of inflicting sudden changes on the monetary market. It must, however, be added that the Imperial Government will give special consideration to the unfavourable effect of the embargo upon the exchange quotations, and will proceed on the lines of giving more facilities for the sale of as much gold held abroad as possible."

The programme of the University Extension lectures for the coming session, issued by the University of London, South Kensington, covers a wide range, and courses of great interest in the departments of literature, science, art, history, architecture, and economics are included in the list. In the direction of teaching of a non-vocational character, important work is being done by the board. In particular the attention of students may be directed to the very excellent group of courses arranged for the diplomas of history, literature, economics, and social science, and the history of art, which extend over a period of four years, and pursue to a high level the study of each subject.

PROFESSOR H. S. FOXWELL, F.B.A., will deliver a special course of ten lectures on "The London Stock Exchange," on Thursdays, at 6.15 p.m., beginning on Thursday, October 12th, in the theatre of the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury circus, by permission of the director. Further particulars can be obtained from the secretary of University College London, Gower street, W.C. 1.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—THE TARIFF—ESTIMATED CROP YIELD—RAILROAD EARNINGS—COMMODITY PRICES—MONEY EASY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 11.

MUCH sooner than had generally been expected, the Senate and House conferees have reached an agreement on the Tariff Bill, and present indications are that the measure will be passed by both branches of Congress, and signed by the President within the next fortnight. The compromise tariff, as decided upon by the conference committee, retains practically all of the extremely high rates of duty in the Senate Bill, especially those which were dictated by the so-called farm bloc. The strong opposition which it was thought would be encountered from the House conferees failed to materialise; they yielded all along the line, even on many of the most radical increases and changes made by the Senate in the measure that was first passed by the House of Representatives. Pressure upon the Republican leaders in Congress from protectionists and business men generally throughout the country, urging that tariff legislation, which has been dragging for more than a year, be expedited, is given as the main reason for the quick action of the conferees in reaching an agreement on matters that only a short time ago promised to be debated for weeks. It is suspected that a desire to stimulate contributions for the coming campaign—which thus far have been rather slow apparently—may also have been a factor. The tariff as agreed to by the conference committee has not yet been published, but some of its main features may be summarised as follows:—The foreign valuation system of levying duties has been accepted, instead of the American valuation plan, which was advocated by the House. The free tariff zone system has been eliminated. The compromise measure contains the elastic tariff provision, authorising the President, under certain conditions, and with certain limitations, to change the tariff rates after an investigation by the Tariff Commission; the President is also authorised to employ the American valuation plan in determining rates of duty, if such a course is deemed advisable. Among the principal rates decided upon are the following:—Scoured wool, 31 cents a pound, that rate being a compromise between the 33-cent rate in the Senate Bill and the rate of 25 cents a pound in the House measure. Sugar from Cuba is assessed 1.76 cents a pound, and that from all other countries 2.20 cents. The duty on wheat is 30 cents a bushel, while the rate on dye products is 50 and 60 per cent. *ad valorem*, in addition to a specific duty of 7 cents a pound. It is understood that the high Senate rates on all agricultural products were accepted by the conferees, but that the duty on vegetable oils was slightly lowered. The rate on potash has been fixed at 1½ cents a pound, equivalent to \$30 a ton.

Owing to the strikes of coal-miners and railway shopmen it was fully expected that railroad earnings for July would be somewhat less than those for June. Complete returns filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission, however, make a very favourable showing, all things considered, especially with respect to net operating income. Total gross earnings in July, for the first-class carriers, amounted to \$443,183,000, as against \$472,880,000, approximately in June, and representing a decrease of 4.3 per cent. from July, 1921. Operating expenses aggregated \$340,725,800, or 6.1 per cent. less than in July of last year; in June they amounted to \$363,335,000. Preliminary estimates had placed net operating income at between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000, but the final returns give that item as \$69,239,000, equivalent to an annual return at the rate of 4.04 per cent. on the tentative property valuation, as compared with 4.79 per cent. in June and 4.5 per cent. in July of 1921. The railroads in July fell \$33,618,500 short of earning a 6 per cent. annual return, and were \$29,332,800 below the amount necessary to show a 5½ per cent. return, which the Commerce Commission has decided is a reasonable figure. For the first seven months of the current year the railroads had a net operating income of \$418,271,000, as compared with \$214,713,400 in the corresponding period of last year. This is at the annual rate of return of 4.36 per cent. on their property valuation, as against only 2.24 per cent. for the first seven months of last year. Gross earnings for the period were \$3,054,531,000, showing a decrease of 2.6 per cent., while operating expenses totalled \$2,419,602,000, or a drop of 11.2 per cent., compared with the like period of 1921.

This year's leading crops in the United States, according to the latest estimates by the Department of Agriculture, calculated on September 1st farm prices, will approximate \$6,600,000,000, or about \$1,250,000,000 more than their value last year. Three crops alone, namely, corn, cotton, and hay, will exceed one million dollars in value; combined, their value will amount to more than one-half of the value of all the important crops. Some of the present estimates are: Wheat, \$720,600,000; corn, \$1,801,900,000; oats, \$404,100,000; potatoes, \$385,400,000; hay, \$1,160,200,000; and cotton (exclusive of seed), \$1,064,400,000. The Government's latest crop report forecasts a corn crop of 2,875,000,000 bushels, showing a reduction of 142,000,000 during the past month owing to excessive heat and lack of moisture in various sections of the corn belt. The indicated yields, with comparisons, are shown below:—

	Final, 1921.	Aug., 1922.	Sept., 1922.
Corn	3,186,000,000	3,017,000,000	2,875,000,000
Wheat.....	795,000,000	805,000,000	818,000,000
Barley.....	151,000,000	192,000,000	194,000,000
Buckwheat ..	14,100,000	13,800,000	13,500,000
White potatoes	347,000,000	440,000,000	438,000,000
Sweet potatoes	98,700,000	112,000,000	108,000,000
Tobacco.....	1,075,000,000	1,425,000,000	1,353,000,000
Flax	8,100,000	11,400,000	11,700,000
Rice.....	36,500,000	38,700,000	38,800,000
Hay, tame.....	81,600,000	93,100,000	92,900,000
Hay, wild.....	15,200,000	17,200,000	15,800,000
Sugar beets ..	7,780,000	5,080,000	5,260,000
Apples	98,100,000	202,000,000	207,000,000
Peaches	32,700,000	56,000,000	55,600,000

During August, commodity prices showed an even narrower movement than in July. Bradstreet's index number as of September 1st, namely, \$12.0793, was only eight-hundredths of 1 per cent. higher than that of August 1st. The September index number, as compared with that of August 1st, included six groups of commodities which advanced, while six declined, the changes being slight in both, and one group remained unchanged. Of the 106 commodities contributing to the general price exhibit—96 of them being contained in the index number—30 advanced, 33 declined, and 43 remained stationary. The change from July 1st to September 1st was only two-tenths of 1 per cent.; such a narrow movement is probably unparalleled even during a dull mid-summer season. The authority mentioned comments on this "hesitation" of prices, remarking that this "almost utter absence of movement needs to be borne in mind when predictions are made of a general rise impending in all costs, but especially in prices of commodities and

wages of labour." The September index number, although showing scarcely any perceptible change from that of August 1st is 8.9 per cent. higher than on August 1st a year ago, and 14.7 per cent. above the low point of recent years touched on June 1, 1921, but is 32 per cent. below the peak of February 1, 1920, and 38 per cent. above the level of August 1, 1914.

The increase of 173,944 tons in unfilled orders on the books of the United States Steel Corporation during August is further evidence of the growing demand for steel products, although it is possible that some of the gain in that month was due to a falling off in production rather than entirely to an increase in the volume of new business. The corporation's unfilled orders on August 31st aggregated 5,950,105 tons, as against 5,776,161 tons at the end of July. It is noteworthy that this gain in tonnage is the only one thus far reported for August; production of both pig-iron and steel ingots decreased considerably in that month. In the steel industry generally operations have fallen off from about 75 per cent. in June to 55 per cent. at the close of August; they are now believed to be close to 60 per cent., with indications that they will be increased to 70 per cent. or more before the end of the year. The total of unfinished business reported by the Steel Corporation as of August 31st is the largest volume shown since March 31, 1921.

After a slightly firmer tendency, money rates have eased, following the return to the banks of the September 1st interest and dividend disbursements. Although money may stiffen at times during the next month or two, owing to crop-moving demands and a possible further revival in trade and industry, there is nothing in the present situation and outlook suggesting the likelihood of stringency in any section. Banks throughout the country have thus far met all seasonal requirements without signs of any strain. That the money market is expected to continue easy is indicated by the action of the Treasury Department in offering for subscription an issue of about \$200,000,000 of new Treasury certificates, dated September 15th, and bearing interest at 3½ per cent., as compared with the previous offering at 4½ per cent.

GERMANY.—CURRENCY—FINANCES—TRADE PROSPECTS—MARK AND IMPORTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 19.
The foreign exchanges fell sharply to-day on publication of the news that the Reichsbank had come to an agreement with the Bank of England, but later recovered, and the dollar official rate was 1,476. It is stated that the conditions of the agreement will not be published at present, as the transaction is private and between the two banks. The currency question last week continued to obscure all others. Cash is almost as short as ever. The Reichsbank announces that by October 15th it will be printing 7 milliards a day. Concerning the shortage, which, as already reported, is due to the great price-rise and the maintenance, or perhaps (according to precedent) increase, in the volume of business, the director of the Disconto-Gesellschaft, Dr Urbig, submitted how, despite the great increase in circulation, the buying power of the circulated money has rapidly fallen, and added that at the recent rate of inflation and price-rise the circulation at the end of this year will be 500 milliards, with a buying power of 500 millions, or only £25,000,000 gold. The table does not quite agree with my own calculations, but as it illustrates the principle I give it. All the columns represent milliards of marks; the third column (foreign buying power) is calculated on an exchange index compiled from the leading currencies. The gold (dollar) buying power of the circulated marks is, of course, considerably less:—

	Circulation.	Index.	Home Commod.	Exchange
January 31, 1920.....	70	5.4	5.15	
" 31, 1921.....	122	7.6	6.39	
" 31, 1922.....	158	4.5	3.3	
May 31	213	3.3	3.2	
June 30	238	3.3	2.6	
July 31	265	2.6	1.6	
August 31	337	1.9	0.82	

The controversy between friends and enemies of the mark currency continues. The first are led by the Reichsbank, which already in March last proclaimed against the threatened expulsion of the mark by stronger currencies. The Reichswirtschafts Ministry is considering a Bill legalising the (at present unallowed) discounting of bills drawn on foreign currencies. The Association of Footwear Wholesale Merchants has forbidden its members, under threat of fine, to use foreign currencies in home trade. The Wholesale Yarn-Dealers' Association has recommended the dollar as a basis for fixing home prices, but has fixed the dollar exchange rate temporarily at 1,000 marks, which is much below the current quotation. The effect of this arbitrary rate-fixing is to make the dollar's fluctuations the basis for calculating prices, but not to charge the full world-market price on a dollar-exchange basis. The question whether use of foreign currencies at home is legal is, it appears, doubtful. Debtors, reports the *Vossische Zeitung*, are refusing to pay undoubted debts, in order that by the time judgment is given against them they may pay more easily in worse money—as the taxpayer does when possible. An official authority states that, owing to the heavy loss which falls on sellers of real estate through the State's claim for Increment Tax two paper marks are worth 100 per cent. more than one old mark. The real price at which houses and land change and is fraudulently concealed in every single case of sale—illegally would be a better word than fraudulently. There have been several new *clausula rebus sic stantibus* decisions releasing merchants, on the ground of currency depreciation, from a contracted liability to deliver. These decisions may be regarded from a new viewpoint, which have hitherto ignored. They seem to be a repudiation of the paper-mark currency, and a refusal to recognise the law of August, 1914, enforcing the paper mark. The essence of a forced paper currency is that it shall be enforced regardless of its value, and heavy loss to certain interests is taken for granted. A paper currency that did not cause anyone heavy loss would not need to be enforced. It seems, therefore, that the Supreme Court decisions may prove, as did the abandonment of capital punishment as a means of enforcing the *assignat*, a death-blow to the mark. The Reichswirtschaftsrat has provisionally voted that the mark must be retained, and recommends that the prices of goods not containing foreign materials shall be reckoned only in marks, but adds that foreign material may be reckoned on a foreign exchange basis. A demand or prohibition of the use of foreign currency was defeated. In fact, nothing can prevent the use. An illustration of present conditions is that a new five-storied house in the prosperous Bavarian quarter, with six shops underneath and about 20 large and middle-sized flats, is advertised for sale, freehold and mortgage-free, for £800 (5,500,000 marks). The pre-war gold mark price would about equal £40,000. Of the £800, some £400 would go on Increment Tax. Foreigners buy houses up, and as houses, almost without exception, are mortgaged to three-fifths of their value, the foreigner can buy a house like that mentioned by paying down part of the price in the expectation that in a short time he will pay off the mortgage with a five-pound note. Whether such speculations are wise is a complicated question.

The revenue receipts in July show a large increase, the more remarkable because the new currency depreciation only began in that month, and had hardly time to express itself in taxation. Receipts from taxes only were 21,547,437,308 marks; receipts for the months April-July inclusive, 70,135,291,116 marks, or 47,325,209,830 marks more than in the same months of 1921. The 70 milliards in four months provide the greater part of the 108,724,000,000 marks revenue estimated for the whole financial year 1922-23. Railways and Posts brought 15,396,054,000 marks in July, and in the four months 48,338,835,000 marks (or 40,287,836,000 more than in the same months last year), or about half the estimated 100,883,618,000 marks for the whole financial year. In July income-tax yielded 6,320 millions more than in July, 1921, sales tax 3,938 millions more, coal tax 2,350 millions more, and Customs (including gold supplement) and taxes on consumption, 1,398 millions more. In the first four months income-tax yielded 23,344 millions, or 18,871 millions more than in the same months of 1921, and coal tax 8,158 millions, or 6,853 millions more. Postal rates

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over \$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



will be raised on October 1st, the home letter rate to be 6 marks, or 1-5d, foreign rate 20 marks, or 3d. Railway freight rates will be raised 100 per cent. (to include a 33½ per cent. rise earlier announced) on October 1st, and passenger fares will be raised on November 1st by 100 per cent. over October fares. All these increases will leave charges far below the currency depreciation, and heavy deficits are certain, although early this year the railways were yielding a profit for the first time since 1913. This is the Government's own fault. Experience has shown that railway charges could, without injuring traffic, always be put up in measure as the currency depreciates; but the Government neglected to do this in good time and gradually; and it now reasons that the big sudden increase which is necessary in order to adapt charges to other values is impracticable. The Reichsbank statement for September 7th shows new pressure for credit, and an increase in the note circulation by 14,226,578,000 marks to 252,373,738,000 marks. Of late, the statements for the first week of the month have not shown the usual relief.

Of increased difficulty in importing owing to the mark's lowness nothing is heard. The incessant question: How can a German merchant buy foreign currency for import when the dollar has risen from 4 marks to 1,500 marks? is best answered by the question: How can a German merchant buy pig-iron for export when a ton has risen from 79.50 (1914) to 29,722 marks? Both operations require expenditure of a vastly increased sum in marks; but nothing is ever heard of the second question. Both operations, when the rise is rapid, involve a greatly increased demand for credit; but here it is not the absolute sum in marks which counts most, but the commercial practicability of the proposed deal, which determines whether credit can be had. In fact, when the foreign exchanges have had a particularly long and bad drop, import orders are temporarily withheld; but the reason is that all such mark declines end (as the latest ended) in partial recoveries, and the influence causing the withholding of the order is the fear of loss through the mark

recovery. If the dollar reaches 1,500 marks, that means that people are paying 1,500 marks for it, and not that it is impossible to pay. As the proofs lately given that ability to import does not decline owing to mark depreciation have been questioned on the ground that coal imports make up the greater part of the actually recorded import increase, I give the following figures:—

	Metric Tons. Imports Without Coal.	Monthly Average Imports. 1.35 million.
1920	16,133,029	1.35 million.
1921 (eight months)	15,183,700	1.9 million.
1922 (seven months)	16,917,000	2.43 million

This shows that in seven months of 1922, with the dollar anywhere between 200 and 670, imports were greater than in twelve months of 1920, when the dollar varied between 35 and 104. Probably there is no reason for deducting coal imports (as these, too, must be paid for), but only for allowing for their low value. Imports of many unnecessary articles have increased, notably pottery, although home sales of home-produced pottery, reports the *Boersen Zeitung*, have of late trebled. The notion that a depreciating exchange checks imports under all conditions is as untrue as the notion that it encourages exports under all conditions. A falling German exchange, while reducing the gold production cost, does not encourage exporting (1) because export prices, with certain exceptions, have nothing to do with home production cost; (2) because a mark exchange drop always increases the home demand, and the Government then prohibits or rations export. One important reason why the falling mark does not check imports is that the passive total of the foreign payment balance is reduced by the reduction in the gold value of liabilities to foreign creditors other than the Ally Governments, and the foreign money—which the *Handel und Industrie Zeitung* rightly says is presented to Germany after every mark fall—is presented in the form of unpaid-for imports. Mr Keynes pointed this out long ago. In so far as that influence operates, a falling mark exchange favours importing.

POLAND.—MONETARY CRISIS IN UPPER SILESIA—SUGAR PRODUCTION—AERIAL COMMUNICATION—COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, September 14.

UPPER SILESIA is passing through a grave monetary crisis, which is the result of the financial régime in force in this new Polish province. According to the decision of Geneva, the German mark is the only legal currency in that area. In consequence, neither the Polish Government nor the Polish bank of issue has any influence on the quantity of notes circulating there. The whole economic life of this highly industrial province has been put at the mercy of the Reichsbank in Berlin. By simply cutting off the supply of German marks, this bank can stop completely the wheels of Silesian trade. This situation has already arisen only a few months after the partition of the province. The crisis, which in the long run could hardly be avoided, has been hastened by the collapse of the German mark. The German printing press was not able to keep pace with the rising prices, and in Hamburg and Berlin, for instance, some of the biggest institutions were short of cash and were unable to cash their customers' cheques for payment of weekly wages. Upper Silesia was confronted with the same troubles, only in a more acute form. The great mines and factories were unable to pay the wages to their workmen, because neither the branch of the Reichsbank nor the great private banks could supply them with the necessary cash. The angry crowd plundered shops in Katowice, in Bismarckshütte the employees tried to throw the manager of an undertaking into a blast furnace. The police were unable to cope with the situation, and it became necessary to resort to military aid. The soldiers, attacked by the crowd, which tried to disarm them, had to make use of their rifles. Twenty persons were killed and wounded. The Warsaw authorities sent a wagon with three milliard Polish marks to Katowice, and the employers and workmen have decided to pay and accept

wages in that currency at the rate of 4.60 Polish marks to one German mark. This rate is not stable, and it will be modified every day according to the quotations of the exchanges.

The present measures can, however, be considered also as a first step in the direction of the replacement of the German mark by Polish currency. According to the convention between Poland and Germany, signed on May 15th in Geneva, though during a period of 15 years the German mark remains the only "legal currency in Polish Upper Silesia," the Polish Government can replace the German currency at an earlier date. "This replacement can take place only on the first of every month, and it must be announced ten months in advance in the *Monitor Polski* (Polish Official Gazette), and it has to be notified immediately to the German Government." (Article 306.)

During the period of ten months which separates the date of the announcement and the final replacement of the German mark, the Polish Government may decide that debts contracted in German currency may be paid in Polish marks according to the rate of exchange established by the Chamber of Commerce of Upper Silesia. This rate is to be calculated daily on the basis of the average quotations of four exchanges (Berlin, Danzig, Katowice, and Warsaw). This provision, however, applies only to debts contracted after the announcement of the introduction of the Polish currency. All prior obligations are payable in German marks.

The area under sugar beet amounted in Poland before the war to 172,994 hectares, divided as follows:—

	Hectares.
Former Congress Poland.....	79,004
Former Prussian Poland.....	79,896
Former Austrian Poland.....	6,008
Eastern districts	8,086

In 1921-22 the respective figures were:—Congress Poland, 26,590 hectares; Prussian Poland, 52,617 hectares; Austrian Poland, 1,912 hectares; Eastern districts, 1,068 hectares. The total amounted to 47 per cent. of the area which was under sugar beet before the war. For 1922-23 the area has increased by 10 per cent. in Posnania and by 30 per cent. in the other parts of Poland. It may be expected that the quantity of sugar obtained during the present campaign will be greater than a year ago by one million metric centies. This will enable Poland to export a part of this year's production.

A new company, the "Aero-Lloyd," has opened the first Polish aerial communication between Livow (Lemberg) and Danzig. The journey from Livow to Warsaw takes 2½ hours, and from Warsaw to Danzig 2½ hours.

Negotiations for the signature of a commercial treaty between Poland and Japan will shortly be opened in Warsaw. New efforts are being equally undertaken for arriving at a commercial agreement with Russia. In a fortnight the Polish delegates are leaving Warsaw for Moscow, where the representatives of the two States will try again to arrive at an understanding.

CANADA.—CROP REPORTS—IMPROVING EXCHANGE—COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS—NEW IMMIGRATION POLICY—TRADE RETURNS—STOCK MARKETS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, September 10.

THE western grain crop is apparently destined to exceed the earlier estimates, which placed the wheat yield at 320 million bushels. A combination of abnormally propitious conditions has been available during the past fortnight, and areas where the crop was regarded as virtually ruined returns. As a result the Manitoba Free Press, which specialises in crop surveys and has a reputation for reliability in them, now estimates the western wheat crop at 371,900,000 bushels; in regard to other grain crops it predicts 413,539,000 bushels of oats, 61,080,800 of barley, 53,311,000 of rye, and 3,088,000 of flax. Grain prices have been falling, but at the current level, which is expected to hold, the *Free Press* calculates that the farmers of the prairie provinces will secure about 566 million dollars for their grain. There will also be a greater margin of net profit in the 1922 crop than in its predecessor, for it was

sown at a much lower cost. Seed was cheaper, the farm wage scale has materially fallen, and with the reduction in freight charges achieved at the end of last session the cost of transportation which in the end falls on the producer will be lessened. The wheat crop exceeds in volume the record crop of 1915, but as the acreage planted has enormously increased it falls far short of it in average yield, the *Free Press* figures showing an average of 25.97 bushels for 1915 and only 17.31 for 1922. However, there will be an abundant surplus for sale abroad, and unless the marketing problem proves insuperable it should bring in a flow of money and goods which will set Canadian commerce and industry on its feet. There is no expectation that the western farmers will be able to clear off all their accumulated debts through this crop, but it will materially assist the liquidation of credits everywhere. By a fortunate coincidence it also happens that Eastern Canada is blessed this year with equally abundant crops, and they are being reaped under favourable conditions. The fruit crop, which is an important factor, is especially good, and people in the cities are getting the benefit of very cheap fruit. One pleasant result of the good crop reports, to which other circumstances, like the American strikes, contribute, is that last week for the first time for many years the Canadian dollar has reached par in New York. It has since receded a little, but for practical purposes the exchanges between the two countries have been equalised, and American tourists in Canada have been complaining that Canadian hotels have begun to charge a discount upon the American dollar. Apart from the obvious commercial advantages this swift recovery of their dollar is a great source of pride to the Canadian people, and has given a great fillip to national confidence in the future. Another result is an improved tone in the business situation. With a substantial purchasing power assured for the rural community country storekeepers are now beginning to place orders with greater freedom. Stocks in the hands both of retailers and wholesalers are low, and manufacturers will benefit by fresh orders. As there have been substantial increases in the wages of unskilled labour in recent weeks a revival of demand is likely to be followed by a rise in prices, of which signs are already apparent. The industrial clouds have not been cleared, but the settlement of the American coal strikes has brought some improvement in the situation, and assures Canada of her winter's supply of fuel. We are still, however, threatened by a strike of the railway shopmen, which might have very serious consequences if it caused a traffic blockade and prevented the movement of the western crop.

The Federal Government have now announced an immigration policy by which it hopes to people the vacant lands of the western provinces and check the movement to the cities, where the problem of winter unemployment is almost chronic. There will not yet be any encouragement of city workers, but redoubled efforts will be made to secure immigrants who will engage in agriculture and domestic service. As a preliminary step, the Immigration Department will make a careful survey of conditions existing in countries from which efficient settlers might be secured. Later on a conference will be called at Ottawa of representative officials of the provincial Governments and field officers of the Immigration Department, at which the further details of the programme will be worked out. There has been in existence for some time a body called the Canadian Colonisation Association, which, with the backing of private capital, has been trying to settle lands lying adjacent to the railways in the west, and is now planning to conduct operations in consonance with the British Government's Overseas Settlement scheme. The association endeavours to provide the new settler with a variety of practical help, and to assist him in his early struggles with expert advice and welfare work. The Government will now make a substantial grant to the association and work in conjunction with it. Efforts will also be made to lure back some of the thousands of the Canadians who have in recent years emigrated to the United States, and a campaign to bring from Great Britain carefully selected boys and girls in their teens will also be instituted. Owners of vacant land are being invited to list their holdings with the association on the understanding that they are available to be sold on a 32-year term payment basis. The relations between the Govern-

ment and the association are at present rather obscure, and the criticism is offered that the latter body is too much under the influence of real estate agents who are anxious to make sales and earn commissions. The scheme would have more chance of success if powers had been secured to appropriate at a fair valuation vacant land in the west now being held for speculative purposes, and in the end, probably, some such steps will have to be taken.

Detailed figures of the trade returns for July indicate a continuation of a trend away from the United States and towards Britain, and for this feature the new American duties are held to be mainly responsible. The total exports for July were valued at \$70,430,235, as compared with \$54,518,036 in July, 1921, while imports were \$60,757,019, as compared with \$62,405,890 in July, 1921. The effects of the American tariff are shown by the fact that exports to the U.S. for the 12 months ending July 31st fell from \$477,347,273 to \$304,054,941. In the same period, exports to the United Kingdom rose from \$297,106,257 to \$306,792,308. Canada is still getting the bulk of her imports from the U.S., but while their value in July fell from \$43,786,570 to \$40,484,197, the British quota rose from \$7,115,991 to \$10,146,771. The situation from the British point of view is, therefore, visibly improving. The stock markets continue to be lively, and the pulp and paper and traction stocks have made substantial gains. C.P.R., despite the reduction in freight rates, has reached its highest point since 1919. The milling and textile stocks are more or less quiescent. Money is reasonably easy, and considerable sums are coming in from the United State for speculative investment. Some discussion has arisen in the financial papers about the establishment of a broader call-loan market in Canada. At present the Canadian markets, Toronto and Montreal, are only fair-weather markets in the eyes of bankers, and they prefer to place their spare funds on call in New York. The question will probably have further ventilation when the Bank Act comes to be revised next year. As a preparation for this event, the provincial Government have appointed a local professor of political economy as a special commissioner to hold sittings in the province, and take evidence about the working of the existing credit system. To judge by the sittings already held, the Progressive members from Alberta will not lack ammunition to attack the Act when it comes before Parliament.

AUSTRALIA.—TRADE—CROP PROSPECTS—TARIFF AGREEMENT WITH NEW ZEALAND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, August 12.

THE Australian trade returns for the financial year ended June 30th compare with those for the preceding year as follows:

	1920-21.	1921-22.	Inc. or Dec.
Imports—	£	£	£
Merchandise	163,320,278	101,028,179	— 62,292,099
Gold	10,862	36,482	+ 24,620
Total imports	163,331,140	101,064,661	— 62,267,479
Exports—	£	£	£
Merchandise	126,666,224	124,445,214	— 2,221,010
Gold (inc. premium) ..	5,258,867	3,504,241	— 1,754,626
Total exports	131,925,091	127,949,455	— 3,975,636

Imports for 1921-22 show a reaction nearly to the 1919-20 total of £98,974,292, as the effect of the restrictions on fresh ordering after the flood of imports in 1920-21. With the reduction in stocks, there has lately been a tendency to order with rather more freedom, and the imports for the month of June show an increase of £748,139, as compared with June, 1921. The large Government borrowings in London tend to encourage revival of Australian import trade, while the lower prices make the process a safer one for buyers, who have been able to make profits on recent business after the losses sustained a year ago. The reduction in exports is more apparent than real, as the exports for 1920-21 included a considerable quantity of wool and wheat paid for in earlier years by the British Government, while similar exports of wool included in the 1921-22 figures were smaller. As regards exports, representing fresh payments receivable by Australia, there was probably some increase in 1921-22.

The country has also received the benefit of Bawra distributions of 10 millions sterling (represented by priority certificates), as an instalment of the Australian half-share of profits on resales of wool bought in earlier years by the British Government. This 10 millions may be added to the excess of exports over imports for 1921-22, viz., £26,885,794, making together nearly 37 millions in favour of Australia for the past 12 months. After setting fresh Government borrowings against the annual interest and other amounts payable to British investors, the above figures explain the accumulation of Australian balances in London which has taken place during the first half of the current year.

Subject to the weather in the early future, prospects appear favourable for Australian exports for 1922-23. The realisation of the new wool clip will doubtless be spread over the greater part of the season up to June, 1923, but the quantity of wool remaining to be shipped on account of the British Government is now small. The great problem at the present moment is that of the next wheat harvest. So far the crops have made good progress, but the rainfall, though fair, has generally been below average, and the result will depend upon spring rains in September and October, which, if favourable, will mean a good yield, and enable steady shipments of wheat to be made after next Christmas. So far as the last wheat harvest is concerned, practically the whole of the surplus has now been shipped, the exports from the beginning of December, 1921, to early August, 1922, being over 80 million bushels, inclusive of flour. Butter exports during the first half of the new season promise well, the production already being somewhat larger than a year ago.

The following is a comparison of some of the principal exports from Australia for the last two financial years:—

	1920-21.		1921-22.
	£		£
Wool	33,774,032	....	47,975,498
Wheat and flour	39,422,224	....	34,164,092
Butter	11,067,076	....	7,987,558
Frozen meat	5,398,499	....	4,007,542
Ores, metals, concentrates	4,723,017	....	3,852,076

A tariff arrangement between Australia and New Zealand is now going through the two Parliaments. A similar arrangement was made, but not adopted, some years before the war. Recently it has been found that in the absence of arrangement, New Zealand was admitting British boots under the "British preferential" tariff at a much lower rate of duty than Australian boots under the general tariff. The proposed New Zealand duty against Australian boots is to be 35 per cent., instead of the general rate of 45 per cent., the "British preferential" rate being 25 per cent. As regards the Australian duties on New Zealand goods, butter and cheese are to be reduced from 3d to 2d per lb, and fish is to be made free, while the duty on grain remains at 1s 6d per 100 lbs. A number of other alterations are made in each case. There is a provision that goods imported into Australia, and thereafter transhipped to New Zealand, or *vice versa*, are to be charged at the British preferential rates, if otherwise eligible, in the same manner as if direct importation had taken place. This provision is calculated to assist Australian re-export trade with New Zealand in British goods.

Letters to the Editor.

THE RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have read with much interest both Mr Wedgwood's article in the *Manchester Guardian* on the "Future of British Railways" and your comments on it. May I venture to say that neither of them seems to me quite fair towards the Act of 1921. Surely it is not true that the Act, rigidly interpreted, would increase the burden of rates in times of prosperity, and lighten it in times of bad trade. No doubt the Act lays down the broad principle that rates are to be so fixed as to produce annually to the companies their standard net revenue.

But there are many qualifications. Section 58 provides that, when fixing charges, the Tribunal shall not only in-

sist on proof of efficient and economical management, but have regard to the means in their opinion best calculated to ensure the maximum development of traffic, and accordingly shall ascertain as far as practicable the effect which existing charges have had upon traffic, and "in particular whether the application of such charges has tended, or if continued would be likely to tend, towards causing the increase or diminution of the said traffic."

Further, Section 59 provides that the Tribunal shall not reduce rates when they are producing more than the standard revenue, if it is of opinion that, owing to change of circumstances, the excess is not likely to continue, and that a deficiency of standard revenue in previous years may be carried forward as a claim against excess in subsequent years. In other words, the Tribunal is required, not only to refuse to impose a scale of rates which would throttle trade, but to take a long view, and ignore trade fluctuations, while the companies are promised that, though they may have ups and downs, on balance their net revenue shall be maintained, always supposing that the general trade of the country keeps up and prospers.

I am sure it cannot have been to these eminently common-sense provisions of the Act that you refer when you suggest that it would be well for the Tribunal to "put the Act out of its mind." Nobody supposes that the rate-fixing provisions of the Act are either simple or perfect, nor that the scheme will be easy to work. But no one, as far as I know, has proposed a better scheme. And when we remember that both France and the United States have legislated on practically the same lines, we are entitled to believe that the best that could be done to meet the post-war *bouleversement* has been done.

But you have hit the nail on the head in saying that the crucial point is that the Tribunal shall succeed in maintaining its non-legal character. The tragic death of Sir Francis Gore-Browne is nothing short of a public calamity. No successor, however eminent, even if possessed of equal industry, patience, and genius for conciliation, can fill his place at the outset; for Sir Francis was not only an eminent lawyer, but had with his three years' experience become an expert in railway questions. Now it is up to the traders and the railway companies, by carrying on their methods of previous discussion and compromise, and bringing before the Tribunal only in the last resort the main outstanding issues, to make it clear to the new President that they are business men seeking to arrive at a fair business settlement; and that the last thing they desire is a second and less dignified edition of the Railway Commission.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

September 18th, 1922.

W. M. ACWORTH.

Books and Publications.

TWO BOOKS ON INDIA.*

"HAPPY INDIA," by an English engineer, owes most of its happiness to an unhealthy contempt for facts, while the "Indian Export Trade" depends so much on facts as to be dull. The author of "Happy India," having read a book with the sarcastic title of "Prosperous British India," found that all was not well with that great country, and decided to investigate for himself. This he did in some four months of the cool season.

He found India to be a land of great potentialities, inhabited by a people equal in ability to that of any other country. But, in spite of this, the country was poor, and many millions were normally underfed. Responsibility is laid chiefly at the door of the Government, which is accused of wasting money on useless things, such as guarding the North-West Frontier, spectacular receptions, and sporting expeditions. The poverty of India is only too true; so is the fact that millions are underfed, but whether the amount saved by abolishing receptions, &c., would go far to assist matters is doubtful. Certainly neglect of the North-West Frontier and Afghanistan would lead to disaster. History tells us what happens

* "Happy India." By Arnold Lupton. (London) George Allen and Unwin. 6s. "Indian Export Trade." By R. M. Joshi. (Bombay) Sydenham College of Commerce.

when the North-West is not properly guarded. One does not hold a brief for Delhi or Simla, but much of the present criticism is based upon an ignorance of facts.

Again, the author was shocked to learn that all the cowdung—the only available fertiliser in India—is used as fuel instead of manure. This is true. Any scheme whereby wood or coal could be substituted would be welcome, but the author's scheme sounds exceedingly costly unless very slowly developed.

Most of the contemplated happiness in this book depends upon the use of fertilisers, whether animal or mineral. The author is at pains to demonstrate that increased output must depend upon manuring the land. This is what all writers on Indian agriculture have already told us. How to do it is another matter. The writer's method is simple. Supply manure free. There will be a pleasant and friendly agreement, by which the cultivator will pay for the manure if he thinks the results warrant such payment. Supposing the plan works, why should the cultivator grow more produce only to enrich the village money lender? The solution depends upon more than manure.

And so with all other reforms. Waterworks are wanted to supply pure water to prevent cholera. They must be built irrespective of cost. Malaria must be abolished. What the Americans did for some thousands of disciplined workpeople must be done for the whole of India. Further, "every stream must have its banks made straight and smooth, so that there shall not be little corners where the mosquito may breed." A simple and inexpensive task for a country with an area of roughly 1,750,000 square miles! Similarly, by scientific methods, the excessive death rate will be reduced to a decent figure.

But the author nullifies much of his discussion of disease and its prevention by introducing (in Ch. XII.) the question of growth of population. He shows that Indians insist upon an excessive birth-rate. "It is the pace that kills." "In the last forty years the population of B. India has increased 48,000,000, and except for..... 'fevers,' would have increased 200,000,000, but that was impossible....." Imagine it in an already densely populated country! Even the author says it can't be done. They must die. So the death-rate is the result of the excessive birth-rate, and the nature of the death is secondary.

Chapter XII. should have been the first chapter in the book. It gives the key to most of India's troubles from an economic point of view. With such an uncontrolled birth-rate science will do little for India. Any surplus wealth due to better methods is immediately followed by a rapid growth of the population, and the standard of living is kept down to the bare sustenance level.

The Government might be improved—the recent reform and Indianisation of the services will remove one complaint in the book—better and more scientific methods should be welcomed, but the future happiness of India is bound up equally with changes in the social habits, as with the economic methods of the people.

Here the Government can do little except through education. And this must be slow. To educate almost 320 millions of people is a colossal task, which is not simplified by the babel of languages, by age-long prejudices, and great poverty. All the reforms proposed mean an enormous increase in expenditure. Where is the money to come from? "The curse of the poor is their poverty," and so it is with India. Improvement will be slow; there is no royal road. One need not be pessimistic, but a blind optimism and contempt for facts as shown by the author only hinders progress.

Mr Joshi's book, "Indian Export Trade," is dull, and will be of little use except to Indian students for examination purposes. Most of us will prefer to go direct to the Blue-books. The title is misleading, for the study only covers a period of 15 years—1899-1914. A very inadequate chapter brings us up to 1899, and nothing at all is said of the last eight years. Why this period should have been chosen is difficult to understand. The facts are made no use of beyond a few casual remarks. But perhaps this is inevitable in a treatment which isolates exports from imports, and which does not attempt to show the close connection between foreign and home trade. The charts are useful.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.

1-4, Great Tower Street, London, E.C.3.

Agents and Secretaries of Tea, Rubber and other Produce Estates and Companies.

INTERNATIONAL COTTON STATISTICS.

THE first issue of the Bulletin of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association has been published. The Bulletin will be issued quarterly, and will contain the usual half-yearly statistics relating to the consumption and stocks of raw cotton throughout the world. The secretary of the federation, Mr Arno S. Pearse, has produced a most valuable document.

Particulars are given of the amount of short time worked by master spinners throughout the world during the half-year ending July 31st last, with comparative figures for previous half-years. With regard to Great Britain, it is stated that the stoppage of machinery during the past six months was equal to 4,539 weeks of 48 hours, against 6,037 weeks in the half-year ending January 31st last. The comparative figures for France are 1,147 weeks against 2,876 weeks, Germany 1,745 weeks against 3,257 weeks, Japan 12,541 weeks against 16,521 weeks, Belgium 4,322 weeks against 7,712 weeks, and Switzerland 3,113 weeks against 2,538 weeks.

The officials of the federation have obtained returns from the owners of 132,085,210 spinning spindles, out of a total throughout the world of 154,555,267. The consumption of all kinds of raw cotton in the six months ended July 31st was 9,487,245 bales, against 9,322,213 bales in the previous half-year. With regard to American cotton the world consumption for the six months was 5,946,711 bales, as compared with 5,803,626 bales. It is of interest to mention that these figures, after allowance is made for the amount used by spinners who have not made any returns, confirm the consumption estimate of Mr H. G. Hester, of New Orleans, of 12,800,000 bales for the season 1921-22. The consumption of American cotton in Great Britain during the half-year was 1,034,791 bales, against 1,003,772 bales in the previous six months, whilst the consumption of all kinds of raw cotton in Great Britain is given as 1,319,099 bales, as compared with 1,247,464 bales in the previous half-year.

Some interesting statistics are given relating to mill stocks of raw cotton. The federation gives the supplies throughout the world of all kinds of cotton on July 31st last as 4,286,315 bales, as compared with 3,926,619 bales twelve months previously. Spinners in Great Britain held on July 31st 274,667 bales of cotton, against 296,997 bales at the end of July, 1921. Spinners' stocks of American cotton on July 31st last were 161,942 bales, as compared with 204,523 bales a year before.

It may be pointed out that out of the 132,085,210 spindles that have made returns 55,670,665 are mule spindles and 76,414,545 ring spindles. In Great Britain the owners of 50,135,638 spindles made returns. Mule spindles are given as 38,964,670 and ring spindles 11,170,968. The number of spindles in Great Britain using Egyptian cotton is given as 14,419,329.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Scottish Canals and Waterways. By Edwin A. Pratt. (London) Selwyn and Blount, Limited. 10s 6d net.
Premier Eléments d'Economie Politique. By Luigi Cossa (Paris) Marcel Giard.
Histoire des Doctrines Economiques et Sociales. By V. Th. Totomiantz. (Paris) Marcel Giard. 10f.
Marine Insurance for the Shipper. By Joshua Lea. (Manchester) The Manchester Guardian, Limited. 1s.
The Economic Journal, September, 1922. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited. 6s net.
Protectorat Français au Maroc. Annuaire Economique et Financier, 1921-1922. (Paris) Office du Protectorat Français au Maroc.
Thirty-second Annual Report, Year 1921. (Johannesburg) Transvaal Chamber of Mines.

The Journal of Insurance and Financial Statistics. Vol. I., No. 3. September, 1922. (Newark, N.J.) 763 Broad street.

Foreign Branch: 168, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
October 4.	October 5

In the Home Railway market, both North-Westerns and Great Westerns fell to 100 before any recovery occurred.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

Amount previously recorded		\$	Shy
$\frac{1}{2}$ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender ..)	.. \$509,211,328 ..	..	..
September 15, 1922)	None allotted	..	..
	* Adjusted figures.	..	..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 16, 1922.
April 1 to Sept. 16, 1922. \$23,208,000

To Shareholders only—					
Duff Development	\$60,000	8%			
Prior Lien Deb. Stk. (red. at 105%) 1935, issued at par.....			60,000	..	6,000
Cellulose Holdings and Investment Co., Ltd., \$500,000 7% Prg. 1st Mort. Deb. Stk. (rep. at par Dec. 31, 1942), offered first to shareholders of British Cellulose & Chemical Manufacturing at par.....				..	54,000
	500,000				

Total offered for subscription to date	Total offered for subscription for whole year—	560,000	125,000	375,000
1922	1921		429,000	
1922	1920	\$10,021,328		
1922	1919	166,203,642		
1922	1918	290,810,798		
1919	1917	900,639,363		
1919	1916	1,002,778,331		
1917	1915	1,103,324,860		
1917	1914	394,327,860		
1916	1913	658,773,676		
1914	1912	172,634,447		

Kaye's Rubber Latex Process, Limited.—Authorised capital £12,000, divided into 10,000 10 per cent. ordinary shares of £1 each and 40,000 deferred shares of 1s each. All the ordinary shares have been issued, and 10s per share has been called up. Of the deferred shares 18,000 have been allotted to the vendor, and 22,000 "have been paid up in full in cash." The division of profits between the two classes of shares is fully set out in an advertisement inserted in the Press to comply with the regulations of the London Stock Exchange. The object of the company is mainly to acquire a patent process of paper making which presumably utilises rubber latex. Some names well known in the rubber world are associated with the company, and the progress of the concern will be watched with interest. It is, however, a speculative proposition.

ACTIVE SECURITIES

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

[illegible]

Ban

Barclays B (£1 f.p.d.)	28.	28.	Nat. Bank of Egypt	20s.	20s.	— 1
Chartered B (£1 f.p.d.)	17s.	17s.	(£10)	20s.	20s.	— 1
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.)	24s.	24s.	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	10s.	10s.	— 1
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2 paid)	8s.	8s.	(£10)	10s.	10s.	— 1
London County West- minster (£20 with £5 paid)	17s.	17s.	Nat. Prov. & Trans. England (£20 with £4 paid)	10s.	10s.	— 1
Standard of S. Africa (£20 with £5 paid)	11s.	11s.	Standard of S. Africa (£20 with £5 paid)	11s.	11s.	— 1

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Colonial and Foreign			
Antofagasta Cons...	68	66	14
B. A. & Pacific	52	54	2
B. A. Gt. Southern	71	73	14
Buenos Ayres West	65	66	1
Chaparral Pacific	169	166	3
Central Argentine	62	62	1
Grand Trunk	61	61	1
Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	61	61	1
Leopoldina	33	37	4
Mexican Railway	134	134	1
Do 1st Pref.	40	40	1
Do 2nd Pref.	27	26	1
San Paulo	125	119	6
United Havana	63	63	1

Foreign Government Securities.

Foreign Government Securities				
Argentina 5%, 1886-7	100	100	34	33 1/2
Belgian 3%	69	69	107	106 1/2
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914-7	69	69	68	68
China 4 1/2%, 1885	105	104	59	60
Chinese 4 1/2%, 1912	105	104	238	239 1/2
Egyptian 4%	72	70	79	79
French 5%	33	35 1/2	97	96 1/2
Greek 4%, 1888	100	100	105	105 1/2
Japanese 4%	100	100	107	106 1/2
Mei Wo 4%, 1910	100	100	68	68
Mexican Consol, 1893	100	100	59	60
Peruvian Corp. Pref.	100	100	238	239 1/2
Russian 5%, 1906	100	100	79	79
Spanish 4%	100	100	97	96 1/2
Suez Canal 5%	100	100	105	105 1/2
Siam 5%	100	100	107	106 1/2

Telegrams.

Anglo-American "A" 231 .. 231	Marconi Canada.....	17:18 .. 17:18
Marconi Wireless 211 .. 211	Marconi Marine.....	17:18 .. 17:18

British Railways.

Great Central Pref.	23	241	+ 1	Metropolitan District	424	42	—	9
Great Eastern Def.	368	368	—	Metropolitan Deferred	66	66	+	4
Great Northern Def.	105	105	—	North British Def.	18	18	—	—
Great Western Def.	1014	1014	—	North-Eastern	1174	117	—	—
Great Brighton "A"	62	62	—	South-Eastern "A"	35	37	+	2
London, Chatham & Dover	8	9	+ 1	Underground Electric				
L. and N. W. (New)	1012	1012	—	£10		3	+	3
L. & S. Western, Def.	304	304	—	Do "A" (7)		84	+	34
London & South-Eastern	56	56	—	Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	86	86	—	—

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio ..	85	82	3	Southern	30	29	1
Erie ..	18	18	..	Do Non-cum Pref. ..	72	70	2
Do 4% 1st Pref.	28	28	..				

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (£l)	12	12	
Anglo-Siam Co. (£l)	5 1/2	5 1/2	
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) and Co. (£l)	15 1/2	15 1/2	
Ass. Plind. Cement (£l)	15 1/2	15 1/2	
Barker, John (£l)	23	23 1/2	+ 1/2
Pharmalind Arms (£l)	23	23 1/2	+ 1/2
Brass Traction (£100)	53	49	- 4
British-American Tobacco (£l)	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Burmah Oil (£l)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Costs J. and P. (£l)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Courtaulds (£l)	23	23	
Cunard (£l)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Dorman, Long (£l)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Dunlop Rubber (£l)	16	16	
First Cotton Spinner (£l)	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Forestral Land (£l)	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Furness, Withy (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Highlands and Lowlands (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Hudson's Bay (£l)	7 1/2	7 1/2	
Imperial Tobacco (£l)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Lingti Plannu (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Lipton (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Lever Bros' Co. (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
18% Cm (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
20% Cm (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Lister (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Lobitos Oilfields (£l)	5 1/2	5 1/2	
Lyons J. & Co. (£l)	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Magma Co. (£l)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Mexican Eagle (£10)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Pekin (2)	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Rubber Plantations Investment (£l)	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Shell Transport (£l)	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£l)	4 1/2	4 1/2	
United Berdang (2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
United Tobacco (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Vallambrosa (2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Vickers (£l)	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Wanney Def. Skt.	22 1/2	22 1/2	

Mines.

Brakpan (£1)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +	Knights	4 ^{rs}	4 ^{rs}	+ +
Broken Hill Prop. (£1)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +	Modderfontein (100)	4 ^{rs}	4 ^{rs}	+ +
Chartered (£1)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +	Modderfont. "B" (5)	1 ^{rs}	1 ^{rs}	+ +
Cong. Old Field (£1)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +	Modderfont. Deep (5)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +
Crown Mines (100)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +	Premier Del. (4/6)	5 ^{rs}	5 ^{rs}	+ +
De Beers Del. (£24)	12 ^{rs}	12 ^{rs}	+ +	Rand Mines (5)	3 ^{rs}	3 ^{rs}	+ +
East Rand Prop. (£1)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +	Rio Tinto (25)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +
Geduld (£1)	3 ^{rs}	3 ^{rs}	+ +	Spring Mines (£1)	2 ^{rs}	2 ^{rs}	+ +

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR AUGUST, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
British Platinum			412(p)	atium	89(g d) ..		652
Jumbo-Tip Top	1,450	" "	" "	" "	498	\$300,290	\$160,990
Mexico of El Oro	13,380	" "	" "	" "			" "
Mining Corp. of Canada ..	7,304	" "	" "	" "	129,717	\$75,195	" "
Oriental Cons.	17,863	" "	" "	" "	2,660	(a) 11,460	" "
Planet Arcturus	6,100	" "	" "	" "	" "	37,179	11,400
Shamva	54,950	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "

(a) 90s per oz

(a) 90s per oz

		Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.		Tons.	
Filani		22	..
Gurum River		8	..
Renong		30	First half of September.
Coal.			
East Kent	2,172		Week ended Sept. 16th.
Chinese Engineering	68,063		Week ended Sept. 16th.
Chislet Colliery	4,671		Week ended Sept. 16th.
Witbank	54,318		

Withbank 54,316

BURMA CORPORATION, LIMITED.—During the month of August 16,430 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 9,002 tons of leady concentrate. 11,447 tons of lead-bearing material were smelted in the blast furnace, producing 3,982 tons hard lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were:—
Lead, 3,401 tons; refined silver, 368,704 ozs.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD.—Cable:—Regret to have to report that rockburst occurred this morning, Sept. 21st, 40 level North Garland's Shaft; 39 to 42 levels damaged; 40, 41 levels choked. Stopping temporarily suspended this area. It will be some time before this return may not be able to maintain October.

CORNISH KAOLIN.—Production of china clay for August:—Washed, 1,102 tons; not washed, 1,500 tons; sold, 896 tons.

The BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY report for four weeks ending July 19, 1922.—Iron and Steel Works, Newcastle: The whole of the company's plant at Newcastle being shut down, with the exception of the steel foundry, which produced during the period under review 17 tons of castings, production has entirely ceased. Iron Knob: No limestone was transported to Newcastle from this source, suspended. Broken Hill: Underground—Operations suspended. Ore dressing mills, 304,107 tons of tailings were treated, producing 302 tons of lead concentrate and 4,431 tons of slime. Zinc separation plant—2,422 tons of zinc concentrate and 4,491 per cent. lead, and this plant, the assay value being 48.16 per cent. zinc, 47.86 per cent. lead, and 10.77 oz. silver. Slime flotation plant—Bastard process—1,535 tons of lead concentrate were produced from slime, assaying 45.89 per cent. zinc, 47.86 per cent. lead, 82.48 oz. silver, total value 3,516 tons of zinc concentrate, assaying 51.07 per cent. zinc, 47.86 per cent. lead, and 12.41 oz. silver. Sulphuric acid plant: 50,000 gallons of acid were produced; no sales were made to outsiders.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with June 30, 1921.	ASSETS.		Compared with June 30, 1921.
	£	£		£	£
Ord. shares	1,108,500	..	Properties	869,674	.. + 16,015
6% pref. shares	350,000	..	Investment acct.	1,773,227	.. + 1,250,818
6% prof. shares	250,000	..	Mine rents sub-		
Debitures	1,000,000	+ 1,000,000	pense account..	21,069	+ 5,144
Accrued interest	24,953	+ 24,953	Stock	363,674	.. + 52,981
Reserve fund	350,000	..	Sundry debtors..	392,174	.. + 291,398
Loan	..	+ 14,300	Cash and bank..	266,070	.. + 60,584
Local	510,890	+ 70,773	Debiture issue		
Creditors	110,730	- 19,755	expenses..	73,485	+ 73,485
Profit and loss..	110,730	- 19,755			
Total	3,749,373	+ 1,061,671	Total	3,749,373	+ 1,061,671

Mr Shailer Weston seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the Chairman and general manager having replied, the proceedings terminated.

Before proceeding with the business before the meeting the Chairman, on behalf of the shareholders, congratulated Sir Robert Black, a director of the corporation, upon his well-deserved baronetcy, and having mentioned that the corporation owes much to his valuable advice and assistance, added that, as chairman of the Mercantile Bank of India, Sir Robert has done much by the broad views he has taken throughout the difficult times we have come through to stabilise and carry on Anglo-Indian trade and finance.

After a vote of thanks to the directors and the staff in London and the East had been passed, the proceedings terminated.

515

As you are aware, we are still interested as shareholders in the Dunlop Rubber Company. That concern has had a very trying time and they could not cope with the demand for tyres,

Chilian Explosives Company.—Another of our investments is in the Chilian Explosives Company, in which we have taken up 300,000 shares, or 50 per cent. of the capital, the other shareholders being the duPont Company, of America, and the Atlas Powder Company, of America. About 18 months ago, as a result of investigations by a committee appointed by the duPont Company and ourselves, we agreed that the time had come to consider the erection of a factory for the manufacture of explosives in Chile. Chile and Bolivia with their nitrate fields, their great copper and other metal deposits, are large consumers of explosives, and with certain of the raw materials used in the manufacture of explosives to be found on the spot and with an expressed desire on the part of the

Chilian Government that Chile should be self-contained in this direction, we decided after various investigations and mature deliberation to erect a factory at a spot convenient for the supply required by the above demands. During my recent visit to South America I found great interest in this enterprise on the part of the President of the Chilian Republic and other officials, and so far as one can humanly foresee this investment should be a profitable one, and I think will give us results which could not have been possible to us by exporting from this side in competition.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENTS.

Such financial interests as we possess on the Continent are strictly limited, and consist, apart from the Near Eastern interests to which I shall refer later, of investments in companies carrying on similar business to our own in Belgium, France, and Spain, totalling less than £100,000. In addition we have trading relations with important groups in those and other Continental countries which are working quite satisfactorily, and to your company's benefit. We have so far no direct interest, financial or otherwise, in Russia, Poland, Germany or Austria, except our small pre-merger connection in the last-named country.

Steps are being taken to conserve and extend our former interests in the production and sale of industrial explosives, &c., and cognate commodities in the Near Eastern States, notably Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Roumania, which will involve an ultimate financial interest of about £100,000. I have recently returned from a visit to those States after making a survey of the whole position, and we are satisfied that the measures taken will ensure that we shall share in the profitable development of trade in those countries which will follow every improvement in political conditions.

We are giving special attention to exploiting trade in our own Empire and South America and the Far East, as there is a wide field in these countries still awaiting development.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE MERGER AS A WHOLE.

It is frequently stated as a matter of complaint that the balance-sheet of a company like ours does not tell the full story about the position of the business, and that shareholders are quite in the dark as to what is really behind such an item as "Cost of Shares in Constituent Companies, £17,334,564." It is said that Parent or holding companies are able to screen the true position of affairs, and that such a document as this gives no indication as to whether the business of the operative companies is prosperous or the reverse. I need hardly point out to you that, although we may in fact own practically the whole of these businesses, so long as they remain separate legal entities as distinct companies, we are not entitled to put into our balance-sheet the land, buildings, &c., they own, but can, perforce, only indicate the shares we hold at what was given for them in our own share capital and cash. But, while this form of legal balance-sheet is thus narrowly prescribed for us, and we have no option in the matter, we have every desire that shareholders should have the fullest information as to the real position, and know what actually constitutes their assets.

Now that we can get an aggregate of all these balance-sheets— which, as they are upon a uniform basis may properly be done—they represent the real state of the merger companies taken as a whole, and by watching the progress thus disclosed from year to year, we are able to ensure not drawing upon the balance of assets over liabilities which existed (either as a carry forward or reserve) when we purchased, and also to see that all losses since merging are fully taken into account against profits before our dividend policy is determined. This annual aggregated document is invaluable to us, and is kept up on the lines following those on which the original valuation was determined, and is approved by, and under the criticism and examination of, our auditors. The preparation of it for each company naturally follows later than that of its own legal balance-sheet, and the aggregation of all the companies must obviously wait upon the last completed account. I am, therefore, not in a position yet to deal with the summarised position for December, 1921, but I propose to give you the salient features as at December, 1920, in a statement which I think is practically an innovation for large concerns so far as this country is concerned. In this statement we have replaced the item "Cost of Shares of Constituent Companies" by the actual detailed assets and liabilities of those companies, and included the other separate assets and liabilities of Nobel Industries, Limited, while all inter-debtedness of the constituent companies and ourselves is naturally cancelled out, making one consolidated balance-sheet as at December, 1920.

STATEMENT.

Assets:	
1. Land and buildings (as written down)	£ 2,157,300
2. Plant magazines, ships, cars, office fittings and fixtures (as written down), and including all war capital expenditure written down to 20 per cent. of cost	2,563,022
3. Patents, processes, and goodwill	4,049,335
4. Investments in allied and subsidiary companies	3,944,054

5. Investments in large industrial undertakings	4,784,548
6. Other investments	1,071,353
7. Stocks	5,042,435
8. Debtors	3,353,813
9. Cash at bankers and in hand	772,338

Total assets (not including cost of note issue) 28,338,198

Liabilities:	
10. Debentures in certain constituent companies	£ 1,148,504
11. Note issue and interest due	3,022,923
12. Bank loans	1,203,046
13. Sandry creditors (including provision for final dividends)	3,885,871
14. Portion of surplus applicable to shares of constituent companies not exchanged at December, 1920 (<i>i.e.</i> , not belonging to Nobel Industries)	323,293
	9,583,637

15. Surplus belonging to Nobel Industries	18,754,561
16. Against Nobel Industries' share capital issued	15,738,427

17. Surplus above share capital at December 31, 1920 ... 3,016,134
(After providing for all capital losses on realisation of physical assets through liquidation and concentration as known at that date.)
The Nobel Industries "carry forward" at December, 1920, of £757,000 is, of course, included in this surplus.

We know sufficient about the position which will be disclosed by this consolidated balance-sheet at December, 1921, to be able to state that it will prove no less satisfactory.

CASH POSITION AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

With regard to our present cash resources, I will content myself by saying that after meeting the obligations arising through the various operations and investments I have referred to, and after taking up a substantial amount in our own 8 per cent. notes, we are in the happy position to-day that the parent company and our constituent companies have a sufficiency of working capital without any one of those companies or ourselves being indebted to banks in any part of the world.

The reduction of our book debts, due to lessened trade, has had an effect on our cash, but the principal reason for our comfortable position is a determined and successful effort during the past two years to bring our stocks of raw materials, semi-manufactured and finished products, to the lowest possible level consistent with safety. There is no more prolific waste in public companies than the holding of too large stocks, which means unnecessary tying up of capital and grave risks during times of falling prices.

I would add that the bearing of the present conditions of the money market upon our note issue finance is not being overlooked. After considerable delays through hindrances in the building trades, with which you will be familiar, our offices at Nobel House have been completed and our head office organisation is now concentrated there. We have thus been able to give up a large number of separate smaller offices in London, and the consolidation of the staff is already yielding results of great value.

THE FUTURE.

Now, what can one say as to the future? So far as we can judge at the moment, notwithstanding general conditions so far as this company is concerned, the present year should not be worse than its predecessor, and I am hopeful that it will be somewhat better. Let us hope we are nearing the end of industrial disputes, which are so disturbing to the trade of the country. The unsettled condition of the Continent prevents a rapid restoration of the world's commercial equilibrium.

One must not be over-optimistic with so much unsettlement so near at hand, not hepled by abortive political conferences. It looks as if the recovery from the effect of the war must be accomplished by natural laws, and the lesson has been, and will be, a stern one. Until the Continental nations show a disposition to economise and to balance their Budgets they cannot look for outside financial help by means of international loans. I look with much more confidence to the commercial people and bankers to help this recovery than to Government interference. What we must do is to reduce the cost of our products, correspond our selling prices thereto, and thus do our share towards the restoration of buying movements even in those countries impoverished by the effects of the war.

I have endeavoured to give as much detail as can properly be made public, and I hope that the information given showing the financial strength of your company will, in these anxious times for investors, reassure you all. Industry has come through trying times, but, thanks to the fundamental soundness of your business and an efficient organisation and a loyal and enthusiastic staff

your company has weathered the storm, and I finish my remarks by an expression of continued confidence in its future.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the usual formal business transacted.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS, LIMITED. COMPANY'S STANDING "NEVER HIGHER."

The twenty-first annual ordinary meeting of the shareholders in Raphael Tuck and Sons, Limited, was held, on the 19th inst., at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Sir Adolph Tuck, Bart., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was well known that business in the course of the year had not been the easiest in the experience of the commercial world, nor in the history of the company. However, if the actual net results of the last year did not come up to the figures of some of their previous years, he could confidently say that the company had had its full share of the business that had been going in its particular branch of trade. Certain it was that the standing of this company had never been higher, nor the number of its regular customers greater. Given more normal conditions of trade, its net earning power was bound to be considerably augmented. Happily, the efforts put forth by the Picture Postcard Committee, specially appointed to combat the unjust increase of postage on picture postcards, and of which committee he had the honour to be chairman, had proved successful, and on May 31st last the postage on picture postcards was again reduced to 1d, and in the case of five words, to ½d. Unfortunately, however, the Postmaster-General had seen fit to limit the five-word message, which entitled the sender to the ½d rate of postage, to phrases of courtesy or of a conventional character only. He (the chairman) had already approached the Postmaster-General on behalf of the picture postcard industry, and, in the interests of the public, and no less so of the postal revenue itself, to remedy this state of affairs, but so far without result.

POSTAGE COMPETITION.

He was, however, not altogether without hope that the Postmaster-General might relent, and in order to bring this seemingly small but highly important question, with its full import, before the public, the directors had inaugurated an important postage prize competition, limited, of course, to Tuck's postcards, with prize awards amounting to £5,000, of which £3,500 would go to competitors, £1,000 to hospitals, and 500 guineas to the trade for the best window displays of Tuck's postcards. The practical nature of such a competition, which might well claim to be of national import, was well evidenced by the fact that Viscount Knutsford, chairman of the London Hospital, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Editor of *Truth*—all eminent men—had kindly consented to act as judges. The competition itself was of the simplest possible character, and consisted of but three questions, any one, or all three, of which might be replied to by competitors. The first question was: (a) Why do you like receiving or sending picture postcards? and the second was: (b) What message would you send to the Postmaster-General to urge him to allow any five words to be sent for a halfpenny on a picture postcard? The company hoped to be able to prove to the Postmaster-General, by the nature of the replies sent in by competitors, how strong was the feeling of the public in favour of the rescinding of this harassing, impractical limitation of the permitted five words to phrases of courtesy or convention only. He was glad to say that the competition was being enthusiastically taken up by the entire trade, which was naturally anxious to safeguard the future of the picture-postcard industry, and that it had already evoked a considerable number of responses on the part of the public, and would naturally gather volume during the six months of its progress. He trusted that every shareholder in the company would do his best, both by personal participation and by recommendation to friends, to assist the directors in their efforts to make Tuck's postcards postage competition a success for all concerned.

YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

The chairman then proceeded to deal in detail with the various other departments of the company's business, and remarked that, as they were in the fifth month of the new financial year, he was able to give a fair indication of their prospects. These, he was glad to say, were of a most favourable character, and the independent trade Press had also spoken very favourably of the company's productions. With reference to the company's claim against the German Government, he, the chairman, said that he had been to Berlin and had arranged a basis of settlement. They had received a payment of £6,800 from funds already in England, but from what they could gather it might take some years before full payment was made. The chairman then dealt in detail with the items in the account, and concluded by moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and remarked that the directors recom-

mended the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the six months at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making, with the interim dividend of 8 per cent. already paid, a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in seconding the motion, said that he hoped the trade would play their part in making the success of the competition which had been initiated by Sir Adolph Tuck a great success. It was in their hands to do so, and he hoped they would see the force of his suggestion. As the chairman had said, the results during the first four months of the current year were better than in any previous year in the history of the company, and in his opinion they had a most successful future before them.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

VEREENIGING ESTATES, LIMITED. "ASSETS MUCH UNDERVALUED."

At the annual meeting of the Vereeniging Estates, Limited, held at Lewis and Marks' building, Johannesburg, on August 10th, Mr Julius Weil, who presided, pointed out that the chairman of the company, Mr Isaac Lewis, was in London in connection with business that might result in important developments at Vereeniging. Their profits for 1921 were £31,165, compared with £55,640 for the preceding year, the reduction being due almost entirely to the abnormal slump in the price of all farming produce. A dividend was declared on May 15th at the reduced rate of 2½ per cent. They regretted the reduction, but they felt the only sound policy was to write down the farming assets to such a figure as would ensure for future years an assured profit.

Their company's position was exceptionally sound, as a glance at the balance-sheet would show. There was not a concern to which temporary upheavals or times of depression could do permanent harm. The intrinsic value of their assets was incomparably greater than the figures at which they stood in the balance-sheet. Their farms consisted of 127,277 acres, over which huge area the company owned the mineral as well as the surface rights of 126,121 acres, three-quarters of this ground being computed by Dr. Hatch to be coal-bearing. The actual river frontage of their farms was over 50 miles. The Rand Water Board hoped to close its barrage within a few months, when there would be 40 miles of perpetual navigable water, 18 miles below and 22 miles above Vereeniging. The potentialities of the district had been enormously increased; it was impossible to measure the extent of the benefit of this water to the town of Vereeniging, and to the company's farms. As to the forest, the 4½ million trees stood in the balance-sheet at about 3½d each!

The Cornelia Colliery equipment stood in the books at about half its actual value to-day. The company, he reminded them, had an agreement with the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company in perpetuity to supply their Vereeniging power station with all its coal requirements at a price giving their company an agreed profit per ton. Last year the Victoria Falls Company purchased 452,215 tons of coal. Such an agreement, providing for an assured output, obviously largely increased the value of their collieries.

He was sure they would agree with him on such evidence as this that the company's position was far stronger than a casual glance at the balance-sheet disclosed, and that it gave promise of a very much larger return to the shareholders in the near future.

The Chairman pointed out that the loss on the farming operations was due to conditions prevailing all over the world. Steady improvement, however, was now noticeable, and he was hopeful of their being back before long to normal conditions.

With a view to stabilising profits and ensuring payment of a

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

regular and increasing dividend, the directors had decided gradually to discontinue farming operations in the Transvaal and to lease the land to desirable tenants.

The Cornelia Colliery had again produced a record output for the year, the sales having risen steadily from 296,706 tons in 1912 to 581,296 tons in 1918, and 646,994 tons in 1921. When the European workmen returned to duty after the strike the opportunity was taken to reorganise the working conditions, and the colliery was now producing the pre-strike tonnage with a reduced complement of workmen.

The report and accounts were carried unanimously, without discussion.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1922, to Sept. 16, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Sept. 16, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Sept. 17, 1922.
REVENUE.				
Customs	112,250,000	57,523,000	1,699,000	1,606,000
Excise	180,750,000	88,095,000	2,085,000	9,135,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	10,600,000	2,884,000	2,488,000	2,488,000
Stamps	48,000,000	30,271,000	800,000	920,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	560,000	420,000	10,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	329,000,000	129,034,000	4,157,000	4,207,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	24,974,000	100,000
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	7,647,000	5,200,000	380,000
Post Office	24,300,000	20,500,000	750,000	1,000,000
Crown Lands	750,000	350,000	280,000	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	14,000,000	3,767,925	4,305,703	183,017
Miscellaneous	22,000,000	15,882,310	10,586,240	479,926
Special Receipts	90,000,000	25,069,449	45,756,395	2,501,011
Revenue	910,775,000	373,032,284	420,446,338	11,523,943
Total, Inc. Balance	384,205,814	423,520,844	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion	800,000	3,530,000	..	100,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	2,660,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	13,000	25,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,450,000	3,330,000	..	..
(c) For other issues:—				
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,374,438,000	2,023,983,000	64,008,000	63,391,000
By National Savings Certificates	35,948,000	17,430,000	750,000	850,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds:—				
5-15 year, 1920-25	1,101,708	1,024,990	..	4,420,000
5%, 1927	61,422,074	..	..	..
4%, 1932	52,648,508	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,869	5,902,049	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	344,224,500	588,424,000	4,500,000	3,050,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	..	6,000,000	..	1,000,000
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	180,460	34,538	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	178,666	..	..
Total	2,267,957,350	3,102,097,592	80,781,943	93,044,351

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Sept. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Sept. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Sept. 17, 1922.
EXPENDITURE.				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	6,574,226	6,569,090	50,986
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	128,257,222	159,970,084	405,967
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,334,999	2,073,000	967,401
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities	9,788,000	2,166,326	3,164,839	363,827
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	673,638	..	..
Land Settlement	3,500,000	513,029	1,698,956	3,403
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,074,355	759,659	40
Supply Services	589,999,000	183,795,101	287,665,426	5,830,000
Expenditure	893,437,000	325,388,896	461,901,054	6,466,410

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Sept. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Sept. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Sept. 17, 1922.
OTHER ISSUES.			
Temporary Advances:—			
Bullion	3,200,000	150,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	84,909	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,630,000	4,805,000	100,000
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure:—			
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922	2,660,000	3,561,474	700,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	27,500	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	35,000	14,000
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	2,110,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,540,324,000	1,979,561,000	62,145,000
Repayment of amounts borrowed	6,063,507	18,797,977	644,946
Treasury Bills for Supply	4,582,816	..	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919	12,650,000	8,100,000	500,000
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	..	7,500,000	500,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates:—			
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	19,612,208	..	..
(b) Repaid otherwise	9,446,601	25,056,743	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	337,502,500	536,639,008	11,184,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	399,521	13,300,112	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	243,012	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—			
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	..	8,065,000	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200	..
Balances in Exchequer—	2,264,730,626	3,097,695,969	80,409,410
Bank of England	2,181,416	2,007,956	171,572
Bank of Ireland	1,045,308	2,393,667	200,961
Total	3,226,724	4,401,623	372,533

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Receivable Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Bankers.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govern- ment Secur- ties.	Balance	Bank of England.
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£		
Aug. 26.....	21,535	..	6,302	3,810						11,423
Dec. 30.....	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	48.1	9,994		9,286
1915.										
Dec. 29.....	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	276	54,621		20,536
1916.										
Dec. 27.....	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	190	118,102		6,868
1917.										
Dec. 26.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	134	186,637		5,486
1918.										
Dec. 31.....	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	89	305,133		4,566
1919.										
Dec. 31.....	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537		2,809
1920.										
Dec. 29.....	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504		134
1921.										
Mar. 30.....	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.		28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334		141
June 29.....	323,884	14,965			28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750		150
Sept. 28.....	314,382	14,830			28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119		145
Dec. 28.....	325,584	14,658			28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131		161
1922.										
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255			28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479		177
June 28.....	295,374	13,338			28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312		250
Aug. 30.....	293,311	12,747			27,000	21,150	16.4	250,763		145
Sept. 6.....	293,088	12,666			27,000	21,150	16.4	250,437		167
13.....	291,585	12,719			27,000	21,150	16.5	249,007		147
20.....	289,756	12,475			27,000	21,150	16.6	246,918		163

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,000, and for 1922 at £309,388,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £60,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, September 25-September 30, were opened on September 22, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £74,355,000. Tenders for Monday bills at £99 9s 9d and above in full; Tuesday bills £99 9s 4d above in full; Wednesday to Saturday bills at £99 9s 5d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 os 11.97d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, nil; in bills at 3 months, £59,555,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
1922.				
July 7	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,260,000	1 18 4/65	98 5 10/8
July 14	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 80,385,000	1 13 10/66	99 0 5/16
July 21	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	1 16 10/8	100 4 11/4
July 28	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6/41	100 6 5/42
Aug. 4	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10/78	100 3 1/44
Aug. 11	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,335,000	2 2 0/99	None allotted
Aug. 18	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,590,000	2 7 9/28	None allotted
Aug. 25	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 58,605,000	2 11 8/33	None allotted
Sept. 1	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 67,675,000	2 11 3/29	None allotted
Sept. 8	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 7 1/55	None allotted
Sept. 15	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 74,355,000	2 0 11/97	None allotted
Sept. 22	(a) 60,000,000	(a) 74,355,000	2 0 11/97	None allotted

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, September 29, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £55,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, September 20, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	144,044,765	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	125,594,765
144,044,765		144,044,765	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital	14,553,000	Government securities	44,547,645
Reserve	3,636,859	Other securities	73,593,972
Public deposits	15,786,053	Notes	22,554,125
Other deposits	108,534,592	Gold and silver coin	1,832,046
Seven-day & other bills	17,284		
142,527,788		142,527,788	

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Sept. 20, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,636,859	+ £ 19,075	+ £ 91,208
Public deposits	15,786,053	+ 5,381,434	+ 1,825,942
Other deposits	108,534,592	+ 4,901,878	+ 6,669,181
Government securities	73,593,972	+ 2,205,000	+ 4,857,316
Other securities	24,386,171	+ 577,100	+ 11,526,182
Reserve	121,490,640	+ 1,295,369	+ 1,295,369
Note circulation	127,426,811	+ 5,670	+ 990,486
Coin and bullion	198%	+ 8%	+ 2%
% of reserve to liabilities	127%	+ 8%	+ 2%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%	
June 28	128,946,693	123,048,010	131,435,226	124,946,319	24,348,683	18 1/2	10 1/2
July 5	128,458,962	124,523,140	148,316,424	143,807,498	22,385,822	15 1/2	10 1/2
12	127,900,698	124,248,705	124,987,104	120,766,661	22,101,993	17 1/2	10 1/2
19	127,402,158	124,256,265	125,691,810	122,955,489	21,595,893	17 1/2	10 1/2
26	127,403,930	124,757,630	125,774,190	118,748,150	21,096,300	17 1/2	10 1/2
Aug. 2	127,399,580	125,542,210	125,325,355	121,260,295	20,075,330	16 1/2	10 1/2
9	127,399,580	125,542,210	120,739,131	118,482,895	20,507,670	16 1/2	10 1/2
16	127,407,660	124,261,430	125,756,806	122,247,262	21,586,230	17 1/2	10 1/2
23	127,417,304	123,453,660	123,974,385	119,616,305	22,413,644	18 1/2	10 1/2
30	127,411,172	123,918,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	17 1/2	10 1/2
Sept. 6	127,412,714	124,379,715	125,035,544	120,237,248	22,368,998	18 1/2	10 1/2
13	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,218,983	23,809,071	19 1/2	10 1/2
20	127,426,811	124,090,640	124,320,645	118,411,617	24,366,171	19 1/2	10 1/2

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	7,389	7,021	6,916	6,714	6,427
Bankers' deposits	5,091	5,471	5,439	5,515	5,555
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	255	253	252	252	248
Gold certificates	9,637	9,438	9,287	9,183	8,927
Subsidiary coin	546	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic)	250	310	313	321	318
Do (foreign)	7	..	..	..	..
Loans and advances to the Government	1,700	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other loans and advances	514	467	279	49	57
Investments	600	600	800	1,000	1,000
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	81.2 %	79.5 %	79.2 %	79.1 %	78.6 %

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)

	July 13, 1922.	June 28, 1922.	June 13, 1922.	May 27, 1922.	July 13, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances abroad	1,372,632	1,385,350	1,389,171	1,388,159	1,367,465
Government loans and securities	2,693,084	2,701,399	2,702,164	2,850,974	1,829,116
Discounts and loans	921,611	873,786	815,290	792,232	760,718
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,708,004	1,426,046	1,484,387	1,484,387	1,758,441
Government deposits	761,521	372,924	1,099,050	1,356,000	1,119,410
Private sight deposits	982,328	885,466	862,331	793,327	855,349
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,011,446	1,009,955	1,010,817	1,010,745	838,077

BANK OF JAPAN.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	July 29, 1922.	July 22, 1922.	July 15, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.							
Cash and bullion	1,281,013	1,280,588	1,278,380	1,283,602	1,283,275	1,275,765	221,320
Discounts	84,461	88,056	109,594	70,714	68,502	44,325	41,740
Advances	138,122	143,798	153,021	145,796	162,103	81,786	70,549
LIABILITIES.							
Notes	1,098,506	1,121,960	1,206,439	1,128,056	1,150,171	1,105,943	362,270
Govt. deposits	756,693	730,971	703,394	711,566	718,694	1,364,356	87,340
Other deposits	42,127	40,641	49,045	60,796	60,131	42,264	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	1,004,860	1,004,861	1,004,859	1,023,707	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	..	321,920
Silver	26,866	23,082	22,656	22,656	943,460
Treasury notes	27,801,686	23,875,507	23,239,947	2,505,156	60,780
Bills discounted	310,140,280	279,026,861	271,470,114	88,076,788	..
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	271,597,757	252,373,738	238,147,160	81,469,690	2,013,860
Deposits	67,409,768	50,576,422	56,124,454	14,314,155	842,340

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 20, 1922.	Aug. 10, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	July 20, 1922.	July 10, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Total cash	1,339,915	1,302,393	1,356,122	1,344,124	1,346,218	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,436,742	4,426,936	4,476,681	4,417,038	3,136,364	418,400
Foreign bills	9,725	9,756	9,756	9,756	19,375	61,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,112,626	6,120,157	6,151,617	6,150,427	6,362,086	..
Other advances	2,461,852	2,496,122	2,579,513	2,585,935	2,477,777	79,175
Securities	533,272	531,911	533,331	531,882	391,451	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,737,727	13,989,783	14,064,400	13,949,770	14,005,103	1,556,925
Deposits and drafts	1,878,501	1,830,192	1,776,733	1,878,097	1,765,665	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 18, 1922.	Sept. 11, 1922.	Sept. 4, 1922.	Aug. 28, 1922.	Sept. 19, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	605,954	605,955	605,955	605,955	605,959	163,092
Silver	8,502	8,778	8,762	8,888	10,267	8,436
Docts. & advances	364,451	370,113	377,526	356,349	419,170	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	968,147	977,278	986,541	961,449	999,361	316,632
Deposits	22,249	24,261	24,494	32,365	36,305	6,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	Aug. 27, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold	511,032	511,032	511,032	510,983	495,459
Silver	381	368	375	418	504
Government loans	12,553,278	12,541,736	12,547,458	12,548,474	10,701,040
Assets & advances	3,132,118	3,123,826	3,012,674	2,961,973	3,069,311
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	14,448,142	14,411,813	14,313,919	14,310,935	11,853,557
Deposits	6,079,632	6,100,509	6,093,826	6,049,446	6,257,229

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	507,317	508,301	510,445	515,089	544,670	171,175
Silver	115,090	115,090	115,222	115,328	110,531	18,350
Darlehens-Kassen	11,199	11,248	11,242	11,186	14,450	..
Other advances	358,870	357,653	373,514	358,155	349,319	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	749,205	757,738	771,113	725,028	903,808	275,925
Deposits	290,219	280,655	271,840	294,022	139,801	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskassen) shows that up to August 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.19,259,684, of which Fr.11,241,750 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 16, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Sept. 17, 1921.	May 24, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold	273,662	273,732	273,789	273,802	284,778	104,918
Balance abrd. and foreign bills	78,482	77,797	78,165	78,835	108,672	112,174
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	74,007	73,464	73,049	73,038	20,477	34,485
Discounts and loans	385,070	396,854	414,276	383,617	419,075	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	538,873	543,183	569,155	512,607	612,878	226,555
Deposits at notice	208,642	221,804	209,024	230,285	157,744	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 14, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver)	330,994	329,200	330,179	331,141	324,492	322,650
Securities	489,623	472,292	497,680	497,981	533,584	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,501,105	6,490,324	6,527,662	6,412,398	6,182,521	934,150
Current accounts	531,120	537,318	517,683	625,078	909,309	112,126

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	729	796	930	1,454
Silver coin	21	21	21	21
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	610,457,600	531,102,970	404,421,046	303,545,842
Loans	1,682,277	1,350,577	1,282,394	1,170,330
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	1,517,179,852	1,353,403,632	1,147,586,970	913,932,437
Deposits	122,420,962	116,011,372	136,629,297	85,376,128

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	13,010	12,868	12,858	12,953
Silver coin, &c.	597	597	597	597
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	29,514,557	37,617,052	34,332,991	31,777,141
Loans	1,812,701	1,772,752	1,808,111	1,760,530
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	48,839,762	46,242,206	43,934,866	42,016,259
Deposits	4,704,919	4,516,557	4,391,212	4,115,167

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin and bullion	228,310	228,310	228,310	228,310	228,310	228,310
Loans & discounts	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	506,152	76,644
Debtors abroad	25,939	23,459	16,215	14,830	18,470	88,470
Securities	16,298	14,014	14,521	15,433	50,160	24,102
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	430,305	441,940	438,743	451,790	481,581	157,266
Deposits	142,399	119,028	114,766	128,857	75,256	6,696

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,291	147,291	147,292	147,292	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	39,857	38,415	37,610	32,580	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	9,415	9,780	9,780	8,545	8,816
Discounts and loans	433,144	438,257	445,100	420,925	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	376,396	380,415	384,683	407,626	113,844
Deposits at notice	130,929	131,936	133,062	89,211	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Aug. 4, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1921.
ASSETS.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Govt. securities	12,40,78	13,17,88	13,59,27	13,67,64	13,44,24
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,51
Loans	16,96,12	16,69,84	16,31,65	14,20,74	12,25,82
Cash credits	25,57,96	26,09,33	25,58,01	25,27,69	22,20,81
Inland bills	3,61,98	3,72,97	4,07,56	4,12,13	8,47,89
Foreign bills	8,36	13,95	11,80	13,28	39
Dead stock	2,44,51	2,43,71	2,43,50	2,43,25	2,11,55
Sundries	23,32	27,95	29,55	30,80	21,78
Balances with other banks ..	25,92	26,57	16,73	19,87	17,27
Cash	44,98,48	43,61,64	42,84,30	42,07,74	33,05,99
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,04,84
Capital paid up	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,57,89
Reserve	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	3,83,55
Public deposits	27,37,28	32,05,07	32,68,92	31,43,56	11,82,00
Other deposits	69,47,37	64,81,82	63,95,91	61,52,21	70,81,42
Loans against securities	69,71	46,57	46,39	46,39	77,37
Sundries	57,15	63,96	56,18	55,26	43,30
The above includes—					
Deposits in London	218	223	141	123	26
Advances in London	520	422	367	353	576
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	162	167	104	125	161

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Sept. 22, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.
Call money.....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Time money (90 days mixed coll.)	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Intelligible, 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.
London—					
Cable.....	4/8666	3/69	4/4325	4/4287	4/40
Cheques.....		3/74	4/457	4/4287	4/4282
Paris.....		19/30	7/13	7/6150	7/595
Brussels.....		19/30	7/13	7/22	7/30
Switzerland.....		19/30	17/27	19/02	19/01
Italy.....		19/30	4/1650	4/3350	4/3650
Spain.....		23/83	0/53	0/06000	0/0750
Vienna.....		20/26	0/90		0/0014
Madrid.....		13/05	15/51	15/52	15/50
Amsterdam.....		40/195	31/76	39/01	38/89
Copenhagen.....			17/78	21/41	20/90
Christiania.....		26/80	12/62	16/67	16/64
Stockholm.....			21/83	26/51	26/49
Athens.....		19/30	5/05	2/85	2/90
Montevideo.....			98/50	99/99	99/98
Yokohama.....		49/85	37/875	47/80	48/00
Hong Kong.....			54/75	57/70	57/30
Shanghai.....			76/50	77/60	77/90
Calcutta.....			27/75	28/90	29/00
Buenos Aires.....		103/65	145/50	121/50	124/25
Rio de Janeiro.....		32/42	12/80	13/25	12/60
Valparaiso.....		20/60	11/75	14/50	14/25

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador.....	Soles to £1	10/00	Sight London	Sept. 16 20/50
Venezuela.....	Bolivares to £1	25/25	"	Sept. 14 24/40
Colombia (Bogota).....	Dollars to £20	100	"	Sept. 19 97/00
Nicaragua.....	Cordobas to £1	4/8665	"	Sept. 18 4/60
San Salvador.....	Colonos to £1	9/75	"	Sept. 8 9/30
Guatemala.....	Pesos to £1	90/23	"	Sept. 16 23/25
Costa Rica.....	Colonos to £1	10/45	"	Sept. 1 19/70
Bolivia.....	Pence to Boliviano	19/20	"	Aug. 12 15/4

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	April 29, 1922.	May 9, 1922.	May 30, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 29, 1922.
London (cheque).....	£1	Selling. 1/492	Selling. 1/465	Selling. 1/520	Selling. 1/520
New York.....	\$1	1/38	1/350	1/323	1/340
Berlin.....	100 Rmk	121	114	122	119
Helsingfors.....	100 Fmk	695	698	687	733/50
Stockholm.....	100 Kr	8/800	8/550	8/525	9/025
Copenhagen.....	100 Kr	7/225	7/040	7/180	7/345
Paris.....	100 Fr	3/100	3/010	2/590	2/625
Amsterdam.....	100 Flr	12/975	12/750	12/500	13/300
Riga.....	100 Lrbl	131	131	130	137
Prague.....	100 pmk.	660	640	635	1,225

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles to	Aug. 1, 1922.	Aug. 8, 1922.	Aug. 15, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.
London.....	£1	1/156	1/156	1/159	1/164
New York.....	\$1	260 1/2	259 1/2	259 1/2	259 1/2
Paris.....	100 frs.	2/100	2/125	2/075	2/075
Brussels.....	100 frs.	1/950	2/000	1/975	1/975
Switzerland.....	100 frs.	4/950	4/925	4/950	4/950
Stockholm.....	100 kr.	6/775	6/775	5/82	6/875
Copenhagen.....	100 kr.	5/575	5/575	10/075	5/625
Christiania.....	100 kr.	4/375	4/450	51	4/525
Prague.....	100 kr.	622	701	547	803
Amsterdam.....	100 flr.	10,050	10,050	73	10,125
Berlin.....	100 Rmk.	39	34	5	83
Helsingfors.....	100 fmk.	541	547	6,825	554
Warsaw.....	100 emk.	81	76	5,800	73
	100 pmk.	5	5	4,500	4

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
	London on South Africa.	South Africa on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T. Demand.....	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 dis.
30 days.....	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 dis.
60 days.....	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 dis.
90 days.....	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 dis.
120 days.....	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 dis.

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £10.

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 14, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.
Amsterdam.....	Florins to 100 mark.	59/26	2/89	0/197	0/165
Switzerland.....	Francs to 100 mark.	123/45	5/32 1/2	0/42	0/34
Copenhagen.....	Kroner to 100 mark.	88/88	5/17	0/3714	0/289
Stockholm.....			4/20	0/3007	0/332
Christiania.....			7/25	0/4791	0/368

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Aus. traill.	New Zealand.
T.T. Demand.....	100 1/2	100 1/2
30 days.....	98 1/2	98 1/2
60 days.....	97 1/2	97 1/2
90 days.....	96 1/2	96 1/2
120 days.....	95 1/2	95 1/2

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended September 20, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £5,670 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.
Countries from which Consigned.	Countries to which Exported.
Week Ended Sept. 20, 1922.	Week Ended Sept. 20, 1922.
Germany.....	Netherlands.....
U.S.A.....	Belgium.....
British South Africa.....	U.S.A.....
Other Countries.....	British India.....
	Other Countries.....
Total value of imports of gold.....	Total declared value of exports registered in the week.....
991,811	374,833

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on September 21st as follows:—

GOLD.

A substantial amount of gold came on offer, and was mostly taken for New York, Indian inquiries not being on a large scale. It is reported that gold to the value of \$500,000 has been received in New York from London, and that a similar amount has been exported from New York to Canada.

SILVER.

The market has again been steady, and movements in prices have been narrow. Buying orders continued to come forward from the bazaars, but many remained unexecuted, as, owing to the poorness of supplies, prices rose over the limits at which the orders were effective. Bear covering and buying on China account carried quotations to 35 1/2 for spot and 35 1/2 for forward delivery on the 10th inst., but on the whole the market has been subdued, and business has not been on a large scale. It is announced that the total amount of silver purchased under the Pittman Act up to the 7th inst. is 128,828,506 ozs, including a purchase of 48,000 ozs on that date. It will be remembered that in our letter of the 7th inst. it was pointed out that an eminent New York authority estimated the time required for completing the purchases under the Pittman Act (now about 80,000,000 ozs) as about 15 months from July 25th last. Should this estimate prove correct, price of silver will improve over 43 per cent. before the end of October, 1923, based on yesterday's New York quotation of 60 1/2 cents per oz. Exports of silver from New York for the month of August were as follows:—To England, 66,090 ozs; to India, 1,139,216 ozs.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.
Notes in circulation.....	18,226	18,142	18,121
Silver coin and bullion in India.....	8,832	8,795	8,870
Silver coin and bullion out of India.....	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion in India.....	6,378	6,330	6,235
Securities (Indian Government).....	584	585	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 16th inst. consisted of about 40,100,000 ozs in sycee, 35,000,000 dollars, and 4,260 silver bars, as compared with about 40,200,000 ozs in sycee, 33,500,000 dollars, and 4,660 silver bars on the 9th inst. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s 5 1/2 the tael.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.	Silver.	1921.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.		Cash Per Ounce.
Sept. 16..	93 1	35 1/2	Sept. 29, 1916	32 1/2
18..	93 4	35 1/2	28, 1917	49 1/2
19..	93 4	35 1/2	28, 1918	49 1/2
20..	93 2	35 1/2	26, 1919	63 1/2
21..	93 0	35 1/2	24, 1920	59 1/2
22..	93 2	35 1/2	23, 1921	41 1/2

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank Limited announce that the Executor and Trustee Department has been removed from 3 Bank buildings, Lothbury, E.C. 2, to larger premises at the Head Office, 54 Lombard street, E.C. 3 (entrance 58 Lombard street). They also announce that they will open on Tuesday next, September 26th, a new sub-branch at High street, Highworth, Wilts, under the control of Mr E. Roberts, manager of Swindon branch.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a branch in High street, Sittingbourne, Kent, under the management of Mr L. Clarke, and an office at Leg of Mutton Corner, Yelverton, South Devon, under the supervision of Mr Cyril G. Chard, manager of the Tavistock branch.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank is now open at Potter street, Willington, Quay, under the management of Mr C. M. Johnson, of the Wallsend branch.

The Banco Nacional Ultramarino announce that they will remove their principal London office at 27B Throgmorton street, as well as their offices at 6 Austin Friars and 13 Copt-hall court, established later to meet increasing business, to larger premises at No. 9 Bishopsgate.

Tenders for Rs. 50,00,000 six months' Indian Treasury bills were opened on September 14th. The total amount applied for was Rs. 3,66,00,000. Tenders at Rs. 97 1/4 were accepted at rate was Rs. 97 1/4 9p per cent., equivalent to accepted rate of discount of 4.2445 per cent. per annum. Inter-a rate of discount will be offered for sale in India during the week mediate bills will be offered for sale on Friday, at Rs. 98 1/4 per cent., and tenders will be received on Friday, September 22nd, for Rs. 100,00,000 six months' Treasury bills. The amount of Treasury bills outstanding on September 16th was Rs. 78,71,65,000, of which Rs. 23,82,65,000 were in the hands of the public and Rs. 54,89,00,000 were held in the paper currency reserve.

The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 26 Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea.

We are informed that the formal consolidation of two of the oldest banking institutions in the United States took place on Thursday, when the Bank of New York, place on Thursday, when the Bank of New York Life founded by Mr. Alexander Hamilton, and the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company were merged under the name of the Bank of New York and Trust Company. The consolidated concern begins business with a capital of \$4,000,000; the surplus and undivided profits exceed \$11,500,000, and the aggregate deposits exceed \$75,000,000. Mr Edwin G. Merrill, president of the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company, is president of the consolidated institution, and Mr Herbert L. Griggs, president of the Bank of New York, is chairman of the board of trustees.

The Banque Belge pour l'Etranger announce the opening of an office at Braila, Rumania, as a sub-office of the branch established at Bucarest. The principal object of the new office is to facilitate all transactions connected with the export of Rumanian grain.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.
	Interim or Final.	Date of Pay-ment.	Method of Payment.	
Railways.				
Bilbao River and Cantabrian	3 1/2	Sept. 21	Less tax	%
Buenos Ayres Central	2 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	4 4
Buenos Ayres Great Southern	2 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	4 4
Buenos Ayres Western	2 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	4 4
Central Argentine	2 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	4 4
Hudson and Manhattan	3 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	6 6
N.-Eastern of Uruguay	3 1/2	Sept. 30	Less tax	6 6
San Paulo (Brazilian)	2 1/2	Oct. 24	Tax free	6 6
Banks.				
Bank of England	5 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	..
Eastern	4 1/2	Oct. 25	Less tax	..
International Banking	4 1/2	Oct. 25	..	..
National City Co., N.Y.	4 1/2	Oct. 25	..	..
National City Bank, N.Y.	4 1/2	Oct. 25	..	..
Insurance.				
Atlas	5 p.s.	Oct. 26	Tax free	..
London Guarantee and Accident ..	20 p.s.	Oct. 21	Less tax	..
Yorkshire, £5 (10s paid)	2/6 p.s.	Oct. 20	Tax free	..
Do £1 (fully-paid)	5 p.s.	Oct. 20	Tax free	..
Mining.				
Gopeng Consolidated	79 p.s.	Sept. 20	Less tax	..
Kerr Lake	12 1/2 p.s.	Oct. 16	..	..
Natal Land and Colonisation	5	Oct. 2	Less tax	..
Utah Copper	50c p.s.	Sept. 30	..	..
Tea and Rubber.				
Assam Doorga Tea	5 1/2	..	..	10 nil
Bertam Consolidated	7 1/2	Sept. 30	Less tax 5/3 in £	5 nil
Dimbulu Valley Tea	10 1/2	..	Less tax	30 10
Hope Tea	10 1/2	..	..	10 10
Kalidjereok Rubber	..	..	Tax free	1 p.s. nil
Kamuning (Perak)	..	..	..	40 25
New Dimbulu Tea	30 1/2	Oct. 24	..	..
Scottish Ceylon Tea	4 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Other Companies.				
Aird and Coghill	21 1/2	Oct. 16	Subject to tax	7 1/2
Alliance Trust	1 1/2	Oct. 2	..	..
American Cyanamid, Pref.	1 1/2	Sept. 30	..	..
Ben Evans	5 1/2	..	..	..
Benrimes-Glenlivet Distillery ..	20 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Byrthe, Green, Jourdain	10 1/2	..	Less tax	..
British and Argentine Meat	5 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Brown, Lindley, and Co.	4 1/2	Sept. 30	Less tax	..
Bruce, Peebles, & Co., Cum. Pref. ..	7 1/2	Oct. 1	..	..
California Petroleum, Pref.	25 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Coliseum Syndicate	3 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax	..
Cons. Water of Rosario	10 1/2	Oct. 2	..	..
Court Line	10 1/2	Oct. 2	..	6 6
Crossing Steamship	3 1/2	..	Tax free	..
Direct West India Cable	7 1/2	..	..	..
Electrolytic Zinc of Australasia, ..	7 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Cum. Pig. Pref.	7 1/2	..	..	..
Facit Spinning	7 1/2	..	Tax free	..
Furness, Withy, and Co.	3 1/2	Oct. 1	Less tax	..
General Investors and Trustees ..	..	..	..	..
Hackney and Shepherd's Bush ..	10 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Empire	3 1/2	..	Tax free	6 6
Halifax and Bermudas Cable ..	5 1/2	Sept. 26	Tax free	..
Hendon Electric	22 1/2	..	Tax free	..
Henry Briggs, Son, and Co. "A" ..	15 p.s.	..	Tax free	..
Do "B" and "C"	..	..	Tax free	..
Henry T. Jones	3 1/2	Sept. 15	..	6
John Davenport & Sons' Brewery ..	4 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Joseph Nathan and Co ("Glaxo") ..	4 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Leicester Palace Theatre	4 p.s.	..	..	8
Lodge Mills	5 1/2	..	Less tax	..
London United Laundries	1 1/2	Oct. 2	..	10 10
Mackay Companies	10 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Manchester Hippodrome, &c.	10 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Mazawattee Tea, Cum. Pref.	5 1/2	Oct. 9	Less tax	..
Midland Electric Corporation	8 1/2	Oct. 2	..	..
Mississippi River Power, Pref.	3 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax	..
Montevideo Waterworks	2 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Municipal Trust, Def.	2 1/2	..	..	..
Parker, Winder, and Achurch	5 1/2	..	..	nil 10
Partington Steel and Iron	5 1/2	Oct. 2	..	..
Price Jones	12 1/2	..	..	10 10
Raphael Tuck and Sons	8 p.s.	Oct. 31	..	..
Rio de Janeiro City Improvement ..	5 1/2	..	Less tax	..
Samuel Webster and Sons	5 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax	..
Shanghai Electric Construction ..	6 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax 5/3 in £	..
Shanwaning Water and Power	13 p.s.	Oct. 10	..	6 (a) 7 1/2
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron	3 1/2	..	..	7 1/2
Spanish River Pulp, &c.	..	..	..	..
St. Augustine's Parade Hippo- ..	10 1/2	..	Less tax	..
drome, Bristol	10 1/2	..	..	..
Staffordshire & Worcester Canal ..	2 1/2	..	Tax free	7 1/2 10
Staveley Coal and Iron	..	..	Less tax	12 1/2 12 1/2
Steel Company of Scotland	10 1/2	..	Tax free	12 1/2 12 1/2
Swan Brothers	..	..	..	nil 7 1/2
Timber Preproofing	..	..	..	8 1/2
W. and H. M. Goulding	4 p.s.	Dec. 31	Less tax	..

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

	Miles. Open.	Week Ended Sep. 17, 1922.			Aggregate 37 Weeks 1922.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total For Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Ireat Central (c) . . .	6763	63,100	125,600	188,700	1,898,000	4,303,400	6,701,400
Do Joint Lines . . .	1611	..	..	41,100	..	..	1,302,400
Ireat Eastern (c) . . .	1,2073	134,300	82,500	216,800	4,428,200	3,402,200	7,830,400
Ireat Northern (c) . .	1,050	103,600	118,700	222,300	3,556,000	5,080,200	8,756,200
Ireat Western (d) . . .	3,657	344,000	340,000	684,000	1,937,000	1,164,700	3,878,700
London & Westm. (d) .	2,633	413,000	416,000	829,000	4,420,000	3,500,000	8,369,000
London & South-Western	963	133,400	149,000	282,400	4,981,500	2,127,700	7,109,200
on, Brighton & S.C. (c)	487	113,780	24,909	138,689	3,595,738	1,040,144	4,635,882
arryport & Carlisle (c)	422	1,203	1,256	3,159	44,721	68,762	113,483
etropolitan (c) . . .	794	33,238	3,195	36,433	1,228,391	129,029	1,357,420
idland (c)	1,585	215,000	305,000	520,000	6,747,000	117,000	18,447,000
idland & S. W. Inc. . .	63	15,000	..	15,000	56,061	53,063	109,124
orth-Eastern (c) . . .	1,851	150,500	238,800	409,300	4,983,600	9,020,600	14,004,200
orth London	166	4,703	8,957	13,660	178,811	360,500	539,311
outh-E. & Chatham (c)	654	166,500	44,800	211,300	5,141,700	1,584,900	6,726,600
nderground E.R. (c) .	..	..	..	251,761	..	..	8,388,666
..	..	..	..	92	..	..	-397,585
..	..	..	..	44,676	..	..	1,805,558
..	..	..	..	9,656	..	..	2,266,377
on. & Sub. Group (c) .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
aledonian	1,097	75,500	101,300	176,800	2,721,300	3,562,800	6,350,100
lasgow & S. W. (c) .	476	33,800	28,000	72,000	1,194,400	1,620,900	2,555,300
th. N. of Scotland (c) .	334	10,380	8,360	17,740	358,380	335,860	694,240
Highland (c)	492	14,228	9,258	23,486	452,091	376,422	828,514
orth British (c) . . .	1,372	73,400	117,500	190,900	2,471,200	2,499,800	6,711,000
elfast and County Down (b)	80	6,264	1,000	7,264	202,291	49,214	251,505
ublin (b)	160	7,072	3,062	10,134	..	..	349,441
idland, Gt. West. (b) .	538	12,485	18,709	31,194	356,635	534,561	891,196

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended September 15, 1922.
 (c) Week ended September 16, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Millage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	or —	1922.	or —
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	20 weeks	Aug. 19	1,043	Rs. 2,37,643	+ 61,879	Rs. 45,68,740	+ 20,65,910
Barst Lk. Ry.	21 weeks	26	118	19,400	+ 3,280	80,400	+ 2,58,100
Bengal & N. Western	16 weeks	17	167	100,190	+ 35,194	1,31,67,007	+ 14,72,104
Bengal Nagpur	16 weeks	19	2,703	5,749,000	+ 1,13,500	2,66,28,000	+ 26,16,000
Bombay, G. & C. L.	24 weeks	Sept. 16	66	17,900	..	24,24,000	+ 54,28,000
Burma	19 weeks	Aug. 12	1,342	4,87,912	+ 65,361	12,09,000	+ 17,99,033
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	23 weeks	Sept. 9	239	85,000	+ 11,249	22,58,762	+ 1,89,290
East Indian	21 weeks	16	2,772	32,77,000	+ 552,000	7,08,50,000	+ 3,58,000
G. Indian Peninsula	23 weeks	9	5,321	20,31,400	+ 51,700	5,99,02,667	+ 26,27,071
Madras & B. Mahr.	20 weeks	Aug. 19	5,028	13,50,000	+ 94,435	2,95,14,636	+ 50,58,908
Madras & K. Mahr.	16 weeks	26	253	55,011	+ 1,280	17,93,356	+ 69,154
Mo Lucknow-Breilly	20 weeks	19	302	52,540	..	15,35,780	+ 36,88,200
South Indian	21 weeks	26	1,852	8,91,097	+ 1,44,783	20,00,051	+ 27,77,466
Sikh. Punjab (month)	2 mths	May 31	717	8,37,067	+ 21,012	14,84,039	+ 2,37,873
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	11 weeks	Sept. 16	752	8,300	+ 5,200	112,700	+ 21,200
Argentine Trans.	11 weeks	16	1,111	2,220	+ 570	16,590	+ 470
B. A. and Pacific	11 weeks	16	5,428	125,000	+ 12,000	1,402,000	+ 1,400,000
B. A. G. Southern	11 weeks	16	3,947	147,000	+ 8,000	1,564,000	+ 143,000
B. A. Western							
	11 weeks	16	1,882	35,000	+ 3,000	814,000	+ 136,000
				Net 26,000	+ 10,000	184,000	+ 19,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	43,180	+ 6,678	547,041	+ 11,081
Central Argentine	11 weeks	Sept. 16	5,305	181,000	+ 6,000	2,094,000	+ 3,600,000
Cordoba	11 weeks	16	1,205	55,000	+ 12,500	706,700	+ 12,000
Entre Rios	11 weeks	16	811	15,200	+ 5,900	177,700	+ 50,400
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	7 mths	July 31	..	Ms 45,750	+ 10,250	291,500	+ 36,400
Gt. West. of Brazil.	37 weeks	Sept. 16	1,005	11,200	+ 2,300	457,800	+ 21,400
Leopoldina	37 weeks	16	1,831	34,213	+ 2,485	1,058,552	+ 170,885
San Paulo	37 weeks	16	1,533	28,531	+ 7,865	1,045,917	+ 82,344
State of Bahia, S.W.	4 mths	Aug. 31	52	Ms 100,000	+ 28,000	344,000	+ 127,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	37 weeks	Sept. 17	838	27,495	+ 12,505	768,055	+ 56,385
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	+ 500	..	..
Nitrato (2 weeks)	35 weeks	Sept. 15	366	24,589	+ 14,292	..	+ 94,555
Peruvian Corp.	2 mths	Aug. 31	1,059	813,880	+ 408,570	2,544,900	+ 410,520
Taitai	2 mths	30	172	13,495	+ 4,230	25,583	+ 7,144
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross 1,102,974	— 500,572	..	7,020,807	— 3,680,222
			Net 847,495	+ 18,378	..	1,412,632	+ 1,404,322
Havana Central	11 weeks	Sept. 16	..	9,615	+ 263	10,908	+ 17,365
United of Havana	11 weeks	16	1,210	49,078	+ 1,198	535,342	+ 108,500
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	11 weeks	16	273	21,416	+ 61	219,504	+ 26,555
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	11 weeks	16	511	4,324	+ 420	43,756	+ 6,066
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	11 weeks	16	1,605	1,683	+ 381	22,672	+ 5,335
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	11 weeks	16	319	2,222	+ 222	20,482	+ 1,799
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	919	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	+ 1,201	10,638	+ 1,544
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	37 weeks	Sept. 16	33	Ps 16,000	+ 1,000	715,350	+ 134,455
Bilbao	8 mths	Aug. 31	15	939	+ 73	8,500	+ 5,998
Bolivar	8 mths	31	136	8,200	+ 1,115	73,800	+ 8,225
Colombian Nat. Ry.	10 mths	Oct. 31	183	19,237	+ 1,370	19,207	+ 3,523
Costa Rica	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,250	+ 54,500
Dorado Extension	7 mths	31	45	7,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 20,495
Dorado Roperv Ext.	19 weeks	Aug. 10	559	8,899	+ 2,214	122,340	+ 20,495
Egyptian Delta	19 weeks	Aug. 10	104	78,566	+ 21,315	2,799,949	+ 955,540
Gt. Southn. of Spain	16 weeks	Sept. 9	Gross 59,445	+ 1,812	603,128	+ 1,812	
International of			Net 15,700	+ 2,000	2,810	+ 1,508	
Central America.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net 15,700	+ 2,000	860	+ 1,508	
La Guaira & Caracas	8 mths	31	403	823,800	+ 115,400	2,663,800	+ 690,400
Mexican Railway	10 weeks	Sept. 14	403	112,500	+ 227,600	..	..
Do	1 mth	July 31	Net 403	+ 20,000	20,600	..	..
Nasejo Oscarshamm.	6 mths	June 30	..	11,371	+ 1,933	63,574	+ 43,878
Ottoman Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	193	12,760	+ 850	165,470	+ 14,785
Paraguay Central	9 weeks	May 27	274	3,310	+ 418,841	16,580,765	+ 5,895,840
Piraeus-Athens, &c.	4 mths	Feb. 28	D 3,111	+ 3,745	1,000	35,000	+ 1,000
Porto Cabello, &c.	8 mths	Aug. 31	35	3,745	+ 833	30,244	+ 5,833
Porto Cabello	10 weeks	Sept. 9	30	148,568	+ 3,069	..	..
Santo Fe & Portoviejo	2 mths	July 31	..	9,070	+ 184	72,060	+ 12,920
Samana & Santiago	6 mths	Aug. 31	112	(a) 10,944	+ 2,568	79,343	+ 19,943
Zafra and Huéla	7 mths	July 31	112	(a) 10,944	+ 2,568	79,343	+ 19,943

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.			\$		\$	
Feb.	235,653	235,395	393,889.599	- 75,303.279	57,421.605	+ 29,089.675
Mar.	234,202	236,625	400,430.580	- 4,772.834	54,882.840	+ 54,637.71
Apr.	234,338	234,986	417,433.886	+ 16,659.426	56,882.840	+ 54,882.840
May	235,333	235,355	416,240.237	- 15,866.411	51,368.943	+ 54,637.71
June.	235,208	234,831	407,299.150	+ 4,069.755	52,931.565	+ 54,637.71

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	RECEIPTS.			
			Receipts for Week or Month.	Ino. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Ino. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	July 31				
Canadian Pac.	36 weeks	Sept. 14	Gross	\$192,037 + 8,353	192,037 + 8,353	
Canadian Pnc.	7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$1,304,600 - 188,649	37,559,587 - 8,229,571	
Canadian Pac.	36 weeks	Sept. 14	Gross	\$1,433,000 - 798,676	30,189,794 - 6,791,818	
Canadian Pac.*	7 mths	July 31	(Gross)	\$1,464,000 - 150,000	11,481,000 - 11,697,070	
Grand Trunk & Temiscouage	36 weeks	Sept. 14	Net	\$1,962,000 - 92,000	90,779,000 - 9,070,000	
	1 mth	July 30	Net	\$437,864 - 38,160	1,620,673 - 78,860	

OTHER BRITISH CARRIAGES

BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.							
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Year or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-							
Mid. of W. Angl.	4 mths	June 30	810	£ 110,335	+ 7,822	£	£
New Cape Central.	1 mth	July 31	277	" 7,822	+ 474	"	"
Rhodesia Railways.	4 weeks	Aug. 26	205	" 2,273	+ 738	"	"
	4 mths	June 30	1,397	150,026	- 738	87,636	+

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	37 weeks	Sept. 16	329	\$88,247	+ 5,230	3,089,405	+ 151,747
Burnley Corporation	37 weeks	26	12	\$3,602	+ 139	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	37 weeks	16	35 ¹ / ₂	Rs123,377	+ 31,508	..	..
Chatham & District	36 weeks	7	15	£1,839	..	..	+ 10,995
Egyptian Markets	38 weeks	16	..	£1,545	22	60,207	+ 11,000
Glasgow Corporation	37 weeks	16	101	£43,628	- 2,181	62,318	- 11,000
Isle of Thanet	50 weeks	13	..	£2,377	- 273	647,017	- 51,500
Leicestershire United	37 weeks	12	39	£3,241	- 445	58,835	- 16,000
Liverpool Corporation	37 weeks	16	124	£29,873	- 166	112,740	- 15,000
L.C.C. Tramways	37 weeks	16	124	£29,873	- 166	1,089,078	+ 22,000
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	25 weeks	20	160	Rs52,401	+ 6,334	2,321,191	+ 204,000
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	36 weeks	15	..	£85,092	+ 1,437	838,524	+ 149,000
Pernambuco Trans.	37 weeks	17	..	24,182	+ 435	133,475	+ 10,000
Singapore Electric	30 weeks	July 29	..	£7,995	- 6,142	365,372	- 22,000

OTHER MONTHLY GROSS & NET RECEIPTS

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage	Receipts for Month.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Barcelona Traction Co., repts. in ptas.	7 mths	July 31	Gross	3,708,595	+ 864,371	26,223,728	+ 5,278.
Brazilian Traction Co., repts. in ml.	7 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	2,127,200	+ 433,519	15,814,212	+ 2,473.
Brisbane Electric Brit. Columbia Electric, &c.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net	16,655,000	+ 1,178,000	101,70000	+ 13,494.
Buenos Ayres La Grosze Trams	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$3,832,280	+ 4,585	396,960	+ 19.
Buenos Electric Trways & Lights.	2 mths	Aug. 31	Net	\$222,659	+ 5,383	..	..
Cape Elec. Trams	1 mth	July 31	5 1/2	\$55,873	..	113,100	+ 5.
Canadian Western Natural Gas	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$57,864	+ 2,696	..	..
Carthage and Hietarias Trams	10 mths	Aug. 31	Net	\$32,669	..	..	..
Catalinas Wrenh.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$27,053	+ 6,547	828,723	+ 115.
Cities Service Co.	3 mths	Aug. 31	12	..	..	..	..
Cordoba Light & Elec. Sup. of View.	4 mths	July 31	Gross	\$2,890	+ 107	19,088	+ 31.
Havana Electric Rl.	16 weeks	Aug. 16	Net	\$1,042,478	+ 358,261	13,844,852	+ 4,476.
Light & Power La Guaira Electric	5 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$27,118	+ 3,502	104,133	+ 11.
Light & Power Kalgoorlie Electric	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$1,087,916	+ 72	16,784	..
Tramways	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$599,513	+ 12,201	5,453,542	+ 117.
Keystone Tele. ...	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$20,817	+ 1,166	2,922,221	+ 588.
La Guaira Harbr. Lima Light, Pwr and Tramways	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net	\$6,340	+ 1,691	..	..
Manila Electric Railroad, &c.	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$2,437	..	14,214	..
Para Electric	1 mth	Aug. 31	Net	\$13,531	+ 7,549	826,138	+ 42.
Rangoon Electric	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$5,958	+ 1,528	327,220	+ 57.
Shanghai Electric Union Electric T. of Montevideo	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$6,470	+ 473	52,424	+ 13.
Veracruz Electric	7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$64,985	+ 12,398	406,596	+ 49.
Victoria Falls & Transvaal Pwr.	9 mths	Aug. 31	Net	\$20,508	+ 7,709	13,493	+ 39.
Winnipeg Electric	5 mths	July 31	Gross	\$21,035	+ 14,033	2,015,633	+ 69.
	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net	\$26,678	+ 184	876,384	+ 41.
	5 mths	July 31	Gross	\$10,034	+ 3,160	208,012	+ 5.
	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net	\$3,13,650	+ 5,015	82,742	+ 16.
	10 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$1,37,700	+ 26,941	12,450,401	+ 2,555.
	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$177,000	+ 6,261	1,394,583	+ 2,463.
	Quarter	Mar. 31	Gross	\$46,463	+ 1,791	465,926	+ 10.
	7 mths	July 31	Net	\$37,100	+ 24,700	303,100	+ 35.
			Gross	\$82,559	..	..	..
			Net	\$39,584	+ 7,575	3,102,644	+ 78.
			Gross	\$97,727	+ 21,966	933,183	+ 15.

§ Approximate receipts

Reports and Notices.

Mr W. L. Griffith, the permanent secretary of the Canadian Government office in London, has joined the committee of Roumanian Government bill holders to represent the Canadian interests.

BANKS.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.—The balance-sheet and profit and loss statement for the year ended March 31, 1922, shows that the profits, after providing for expenses of management, all bad and doubtful debts, and other contingencies, and after making provision for the annual donation to the provident fund, for special grant to increase pension benefits, also for bonus to staff, are £703,242. From this has to be deducted:—Interest on guaranteed stock, £21,199; leaving £682,043. Of this sum the directors have allocated in reduction of bank premises and furniture, £50,000; leaving balance of profit for the year, £632,043; to which has to be added balance brought forward from last year, £361,276; making £993,319; from which there has been paid:—Dividend on preference "A" shares, £50,000; interim dividend on preference "B" shares, £21,875; interim dividend on ordinary shares, £131,250; leaving available for distribution, £790,194. This the directors propose should be disposed of as follows:—Dividend on preference "B" shares, making £62,500 for the year, equal to 25 per share, £40,625; dividend on ordinary shares, making £300,000 for the year, equal to 25 8d per share, £168,750; transfer to reserve fund (making reserve fund £1,675,000), £150,000; leaving balance to be carried forward, £430,819. During the year branches have been opened at Hamilton North and North End (Wellington), an agency has been re-opened at Avondale, and the agency at Normanby has been closed.

MINES.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES GOLD MINING COMPANY, WITWATERS.
RAND, LIMITED.—The directors have authorised their London agents to receive tenders of sale for £91,900 of the first mortgage debentures, such tenders to include all accrued interest. Tenders to be sent to the London agents of the company (The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, 10-11 Austinfriars, London, E.C.2), so as to be received not later than October 2, 1922. Payment will be made on October 9, 1922, in respect of all accepted tenders.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH GAS LIGHT.—The net revenue of the British Gas Light Company for the year ended June 30, 1922, after providing for interest on debentures and debenture stock, was £67,339, making available, with the balance brought forward, £124,097. The directors have transferred £15,000 to general reserve (London), and recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for year, also a bonus of 2s 6d per share, both less tax, and carrying £58,983 forward. The report for the

THE ANGLO-SIAM CORPORATION, LIMITED.—The report for the year ended March 31, 1922, states that:—Including the amount brought forward from the previous year, and after providing for all necessary depreciation and all known bad and doubtful debts, the balance at the credit of profit and loss account is £124,848, out of which interim dividends absorbing £13,864 have been paid, leaving a balance of £110,984 at disposal. The directors have placed £15,000 to the general reserve funds, £5,000 to the reserve for British Government taxes, and £3,000 to provident fund, whilst they have written down the cost of acquiring the Indian business by £13,666, and out of the balance of £74,316 they recommend the payment of a final dividend of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares and a final dividend of 12½ per cent., with a bonus of 10 per cent., on the ordinary shares—all less income-tax—and that the balance of £33,772 be carried forward to the current year, subject to any taxation that may be payable. The report states that the timber business yielded only moderate profits; but as the 1921-2 floating season was one of the worst on record, and prices of teak continued to fall, whilst the cost of extraction continues to rise, this was to be expected, and as the Siamese Government are proposing a very substantial increase in royalty, the outlook is not encouraging. The results of the general business have been satisfactory on the whole; but it has been necessary again this year to provide for further losses, and as, apart from the poor demand for Eastern produce in Europe and other countries, some old stocks in the East have yet to be liquidated, it is too soon to expect a material revival in trade.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.—
The profits for the year ending June 30, 1922, after making all necessary provisions, amount to £40,918, and the balance brought forward from last year is £80,750, making a total available balance of £121,668.

An interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the first preference and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the second preference shares, less tax, has been paid. The directors now recommend that a final dividend be paid of 3 per cent. on the first preference shares, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the second preference shares, and of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, all less income-tax, making a total distribution of £61,755 for the year, leaving a balance of £59,913 to be carried forward. Mr Frank W. Cooper retires from the board in compliance with the articles of association, and is eligible for re-election. The auditors, Messrs Blease and Sons, also retire and are eligible for re-election.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS.—The report for year ended April 30, 1922, shows that the trading for the year after providing for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation, income-tax, and all expenses, has resulted in a profit of £48,163; from this has to be deducted for directors' and management remuneration £6,027, leaving £42,136, add to this the amount brought from last report, £5,136, making £47,273 for disposal. From this amount there has been paid one year's preference dividend to January 1, 1922, £13,750. Ordinary dividend of 10 per cent. for year absorbed £25,000, leaving £8,523. The directors further recommend that this balance be appropriated as follows:—Transfer to special dividend reserve fund as provided by the articles of association, £2,795; leaving to be carried forward £5,728. The reserve accounts will then stand as follows:—Capital reserve, £8,845; special dividend reserve, £54,322; general reserve, £35,042. The report states that the various departments of the company's business maintain their sound and healthy condition. The investments, consisting of War Loan Stock, English corporation, colonial and other high-class securities, as also similar investments of the special dividend reserve fund, have been taken at the official quotation for these securities at April 30, 1922, the close of the financial year of the company.

SHEEPBRIDGE COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED—The report for the year ended June 30, 1922, shows that the net profit amounts to £70,632; add balance brought forward from last year, £42,310; making £121,943; less interim dividend ($\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.) paid on February 1, 1922, £33,403; balance for disposal, £88,480. It is recommended that this sum be appropriated as follows:—Final dividend of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, making 6 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, payable on October 2, 1922—£121,275 preference shares fully paid, at 8d. each, £3,029; 137,725 preference shares 8s paid, at 3 30d each, £1,929; 1,171,157 ordinary shares fully paid, at 8d. each, £40,990—£46,948; balance to be carried forward, £41,631. The report states that in consequence of the stoppage of the collieries during April, May, and June, 1921, there was a strong demand for coal at the beginning of the last financial year, and prices were for a time well maintained. Owing, however, to the general stagnation of trade, blast furnaces, steel works, and other large consumers of coal were not able to resume operations on a sufficiently large scale to enable collieries to work full time; and notwithstanding an improvement in the export trade, prices fell rapidly. Under the terms of settlement arranged in July, 1921, wages are regulated according to the profits in each of the prescribed areas, and, as a consequence of the fall in prices, wages have been reduced in the eastern federated area (in which the company's collieries are situated) to the lowest level permitted by the agreement. This level was reached in the wages for August, 1922, which were based on the results for the month of June. The iron-works have suffered severely from the unprecedented depression of trade during the year, and have been only partially employed. There is an indication of improvement in some departments. The prices of all iron products are at a low level, having regard to the working costs, and the wages of the men have been reduced to a considerable extent.

THE STAVELEY COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED—The report states that the trading results for the year ended June 30, 1922, have been the worst experienced during the whole period of the company's existence, but substantial sums have been received as a refund of excess profits duty and for coal award, which mainly account for the profit of £176,124. To this is added £47,278 brought forward from preceding year. Whilst trivial strikes have affected the company's operations internally to a minor degree, the national strikes and lock-outs have had a most disastrous effect on the company's operations. It is pleasing to record the amicable relationship that exists with our employees at the present time, and further to announce the fact that 700 of the company's workmen's names appear on our list of shareholders. An interim dividend was paid on March 30, 1922, of 6d per share on the fully paid shares, 4½d per share on the 15s paid shares, and ½d per share on the 5s paid shares, and your directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 1s per share on the fully paid shares; 9d per share on the 15s paid shares, and 3d per share on the 5s paid shares, making 7½ per cent., free of income-tax, for the year, carrying forward a balance of £42,760. The whole of the company's plant and machinery has been maintained in good working order at the various works and collieries.

OIL OUTPUTS.

COMMONWEALTH OIL CORPORATION, LIMITED.—Advice from Sydney reports for four weeks ending September 8th:—Shale mined, 1,675 tons; shale retorted, 1,653 tons; crude oil and naphtha produced, 168,864 gallons (equal to 102.1 gallons per ton of shale).

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, September 13, 1922, amounted to 1,047 tons.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distribu- tion.	Appropriation.						Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.	
					Prefce.	Ordinary.	Rate.					
												Amount.	Amount.	Rate.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Banks												
Bank of New Zealand	Mar. 31	361,276	682,043	1,043,319	112,500	300,000	13½	£	200,000	£	430,819	
Breweries.												
Tennant Brothers	June 30	8,369	59,315	67,954	8,319	35,546	12½†	15,000		9,089	48,750	
Iron, Coal, and Steel.												
Pearson and Knowles	June 30	80,750	40,918	121,668	22,878	38,878	5	..	59,912	78,919	10	
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron	June 30	42,310	79,632	121,942	..	80,311	{ 6 Ord & 6 Prf }	..	41,631	109,138	{ 7½ Or & 10 Prf }	
Staveley Coal and Iron	June 30	47,278	176,125	223,403	..	180,641	7½†	..	42,762	232,740	10†	
Rubber, &c.												
Kalidjeroek Rubber	Mar. 31	7,418	5,020	12,438	1,000	5,250	10	..	6,188	5,271	10	
Padang Jawa	Mar. 31	11,956	979	12,935	..	..	..	..	12,935	Dr 4,305	..	
Telegraphs, &c.												
Direct West India Cable	June 30	96,050	15,941	111,991	..	3,600	6†	..	108,391	8,214	6†	
Halifax and Bermudas Cable	June 30	61,557	4,885	66,442	..	3,000	6†	..	63,442	15,961	6†	
Other Companies.												
Aird and Coghill	June 30	1,895	6,707	8,602	1,058	1,069	7½	3,500	2,975	8,915	7½	
Anglo-Siam Corporation	Mar. 31	30,170	94,679	124,849	1,050	53,360	30	36,666	33,773	44,074	25	
Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire	June 30	67,243	3,525	70,768	..	7,763	10	..	63,005	31,866	10	
Raphael Tuck and Sons	April 30	5,137	42,136	47,273	13,750	25,000	10	2,795	5,728	41,508	10	
Schill Brothers	Dec. 31	42,638	98,962	56,324	..	..	..	Dr 60,155	3,832	9,907	8	
Stoll Picture Productions	June 30	29,321	9,925	39,246	15,522	..	..	..	23,724	39,858	..	
Timber Fireproofing	Mar. 31	3,061	3,272	211	6,875	25,200	8	7,000	7,939	45,218	8	
W. and H. M. Goulding	June 30	8,504	38,510	47,014	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

† Free of tax.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to September 16	219,051	469,141	396,208	167,145
2 weeks to September 16	455,335	831,416	688,038	351,569
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
quarter.....	38 6	57 1	90 5	73 4
= per cwt.....	8 9	13 4	21 1	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bush	qrs bush	qrs bush	qrs bush	s d	s d	s d
Sept. 9.....	48,133 0	5,713 7	15,733 3	41 1	39 0	25 5	
16.....	58,112 0	16,454 3	17,026 0	38 6	37 7	24 5	
1918	76,764 7	30,813 3	10,777 1	72 6	60 4	49 11	
1919	39,000 5	84,907 1	16,240 3	73 4	94 7	61 3	
1920	92,448 6	61,308 3	35,025 0	50 5	80 7	54 11	
1921	109,466 2	94,778 1	25,356 6	57 1	68 9	30 1	

The WORKS and LIFE of WALTER BAGEHOT

Edited by Mrs. RUSSELL BARRINGTON.

10 Vols. (Works 9 Vols., Life 1 Vol.), 8vo. £3 15s. net.

The 'Works' only will also be supplied, £3 7s. 6d. net.

* * The Life of Walter Bagehot.
* *

By his Sister-in-Law (Mrs. Russell Barrington). With Portraits and other illustrations. (*In the Original Binding.*) 8vo. 14s. net. (1914.)

Prospectus Sent on Application.

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO., 39, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 21st, is as follows:—Pig-iron: As far as pig-iron is concerned, our makers are benefitting considerably by the American demand for foundry iron. They have been able to fill their order books up to the end of October. Prices are firmer at 95s for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B., whereas mixed numbers East Coast hematite are 89s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: The steel trade revival is very slow in arriving. We are at a considerable disadvantage as against Continental works. The principal quotations for home are as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9; steel ship angles, £8 15s; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s net. Iron ore: There is rather more pressure to sell imported ores, and prices are barely maintained. Best Bilbao Rubio is about 24s per ton, c.i.f., East Coast.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—A survey of the industrial situation in Sheffield shows that except in a few branches things are not appreciably better than they were three months ago. An increasing tonnage of the cheapest classes of steel are being exported, the business being secured by quoting prices which do little more than cover the costs of production, but this material is not typical of Sheffield's steel trade. As regards the best qualities of alloy steel business is rather worse than better, and the expectations of an improvement following the close of the holiday season has failed to materialise. The optimist prophecy now defers the revival to the beginning of the new year. America has been buying moderate quantities of alloy steels to anticipate its new and higher duties. The Tariff Act of that country is now law, and will come into force next month. It provides heavily increased duties on high-grade steels and cutlery. These are aimed at Germany, but they are calculated to reduce further the limited business in those commodities which Sheffield has maintained with the United States until the present time. Inquiries for railway steel are on a more liberal scale than of late, but the quantities only represent a small percentage of the output of the plants. For foreign railways Sheffield has been underquoted by Continental countries, and lost some valuable work. Local prices have been brought down substantially, and our makers could have plenty of work for export if they could quote approximately the same figures as Germany and Belgium are doing. Business in numerous classes of hand and engineers' small tools has quietened down considerably, and makers report very little doing either for home or export. The file and saw branches are also extremely slack. The coal trade is now fairly active, and exports are reaching the pre-war level. The position of best South Yorkshire steams has improved considerably, and are being appreciated to an increasing extent. They command 21s or more at the pits. Best Tyne steams are quoted at 23s or 24s. The improvement in the textile trades is responsible for a larger call for small fuels. Gas and railway companies are taking increased tonnages. The coke trade continues brisk.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Wednesday) says:—A better time is in evidence this week. Several decent contracts for engineering material have been secured by leading firms in the Clyde Valley, and one or two tenders have been invited for new constructional work. The orders booked include one, to the Fairfield Company, for a large liner, which was projected a couple of years ago. The Albion Motor Car Company, Scotstoun, has received a contract from the India Office for 50 30-cwt motor lorries, said to be the forerunner of many heavier lines contemplated. Sir William Arrol, Limited, have added another to the numerous orders booked by them since the beginning of July—the latest constituting the erection of a series of bulk stores of large capacity, and involving a large expenditure, at new synthetic ammonia works at Stockton-on-Tees. It is reported that motor engine builders keep very busy, and are booking more orders than has been the experience for years, including departures in construction that promise to work out nothing short of a revolution in this department of engineering. Proceedings in the steel trade still lean to the quiet side, but there are individual instances of producers realising more activity than of late, especially in the rolling of light plates and of rails, fish-plates, &c. Rumours are current of further cuts in heavy plates being in contemplation, but producers are indisposed strongly to do anything in that direction if it can be at all avoided. They are still commanding £12 10s for boiler plates, £9 for ship plates, and £8 15s for sections—all delivered at Glasgow stations. Export quotations are called 5s to 10s a ton lower. The Scotch pig-iron position is practically unaltered on the week. On home order a small trade only is being put through, yet a more hopeful estimate as to the future obtains here and there amongst founders, who are meeting with a better export outlet in bars. Pig-iron makers are arranging for the re-lighting of some 10 furnaces, a movement which will issue in a much-needed expansion in supplies. There is said to be more doing in black sheets (heavy and light), and there is a greater turnover advised in iron

and steel hoops, bolts, nuts, &c., in blooms, billets, &c., and in all sizes of hoops. Pig lead is off 5s a ton at £24 15s. Scotch hematites slow of sale round £5 7s 6d f.o.b. at the steel works. Coals keep fairly steady, though home demand is to the quiet side. Foreign (Continental) inquiry is well sustained, especially from Germany, Denmark, and other Northern ports.

Our Workington correspondent writes:—The outlook has brightened considerably during the past few days, business on American, Continental, and home account now being on such a substantial scale that an increase of work is inevitable, and if the demand is maintained the early relighting of three to five additional furnaces is more than likely. Practically all the stocks in workyards have been exhausted. The only fly in the ointment, as far as the continuance of a substantially increased production is concerned, is the weakness of the heavy steel trade, which in times of severe pressure in the hematite pig-iron trade is such a large user of metal. The wants of this industry are comparatively small at the present time, and while the steelworks in Cumberland and the Furness district are idle there cannot be a restoration of the activity witnessed before the coal strike came. The situation is developing, however, rather more satisfactorily than was anticipated; two months ago there was little expectation of stocks being cleared before the end of the year. How long American buying will go on cannot, of course, be said, but orders have been placed freely, and the shipments for a few weeks to come will be not inconsiderable. Germany, France, and Belgium are all taking parcels up to 500 tons. There is a brisker market for special qualities of iron, the Midlands for the first time for some period having started to take supplies. Scotch requirements of ordinary iron are larger. Prices have stiffened, and Bessemer mixed numbers are on their way back to the old figure of £5 5s per ton, delivered at Glasgow and Sheffield. In August they dropped almost to £5 per ton. America is a keen buyer of ferro-manganese at £15 per ton f.o.t., but spiegel is not in much request at £7 per ton f.o.t. There is little doing at the moment in the steel trade, and the rolling mills at Workington, which on Saturday completed orders for railway material for South Africa and India, are idle this week. The shortage, it is believed, will be only a temporary one, but at the moment there are not many new orders on the books. The iron ore industry is better employed, and some of the mines began on Monday to raise full outputs. Ordinary sorts command up to 15s per ton, superior grades up to 22s 6d per ton, while special qualities, of which there is a market in Sheffield, are quoted at 25s per ton to 27s 6d per ton. The coal trade is very busy, the demand from the North of Ireland being extremely strong, and all the collieries are working full time. There is no change in prices. Local coke is in sharper request, and it is hoped that the necessity to work the plants at top pressure will shortly arise.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Anthracite and dry steam coals have been the only strong features of the Cardiff coal market this week. For these qualities there is a good demand, and Canada is continuing to place orders. The supply of anthracite is very scarce. The outputs of the collieries in the Western area are relatively small, and are fairly fully absorbed by the normal demand. The drier qualities of steam coals are a little more plentiful, and these are the coals that are benefiting most from the demand from Canada. Big vein large anthracite is ruling up to 60s per ton, and French nuts up to even 73s per ton, while best dry steam coals are quoted up to 28s 6d, f.o.b. For ordinary steam coals the demand is comparatively inactive, and both production and prices are suffering in consequence. The latest returns show a slight fall in the output of coal in the South Wales coalfield, although the figure is still over one million tons per week, and prices are, in some cases, already back to the low level out of which they were raised in the latter half of July under the pressure of the demand from the United States. Best Admiralty large steam coals are now down to 26s, and the best classes of Monmouthshire semi-bituminous down to 25s, while cargo smalls have receded to 13s and less. Moreover, there is trouble brewing in the coalfield. The joint board has been unable to agree on the question of a subsistence wage to the lower-paid day wage workers, and Lord Buxton, as independent chairman, has been called in to determine the issue. It is anticipated that Lord Buxton will grant the miners some increase in wage, for he is bound by the terms of the national agreement to provide the worst-paid workmen what he may consider to be a subsistence allowance, but what effect his decision will have upon the financial position of the collieries will depend upon the conditions of trade. At the moment these are very unfavourable, and there is a real peril of the closing down of pits if costs of production are increased. The executive council of the South Wales Miners' Federation last week contemplated the service of a fortnight's notice on October 2nd on the non-unionist question, but this extreme course was condemned by some of the districts, and the matter is to be reconsidered at another coalfield delegate conference. The following are the current market prices of representative coals:—Best Admiralty large, 26s to 27s; seconds, 25s 6d to 26s; best dries, 28s to 28s 6d; best black veins, 25s to 25s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s to 25s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 24s to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 14s to 16s; big vein anthracite large, 57s 6d to 60s; machine-made cobbles, 65s to 70s; French and stove nuts, 70s to 73s; rubble culm, 13s 6d to 14s; coke for export, 35s to 37s 6d; inland blast-furnace coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 27s to 29s 6d; pit wood, ex ship, 28s to 29s 6d. In the iron and steel trade the position is easier, and prices of tinplates a shade lower. A restriction in output by the closing down of some of the mills is contemplated unless the position improves.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market is distinctly quiet, but values are nominally unchanged. It is manifest that some users are uneasy about the present level of prices, and although the raw material market shows no sign of weakness, there is a strong impression in some quarters that more favourable conditions for buying will be found later in the year. As most firms have covered the bulk of their requirements for the next three months, there is no need for them to rush in at the present time, and the majority appear to be quite willing to stand aside in the meantime and let things simmer. Wool bought at the opening sale in Australia on Tuesday last will bring in warp 64's tops at about 4s 10d to 5s per lb, and there is a feeling that that basis is dangerously high for the opening of a new season, especially as there are some very big weights of wool to be offered here and in the primary markets during the next few weeks. Apparently everybody is determined to go slow for the time being, the more so in view of the fact that spinners and manufacturers frankly assert that they find it impossible to sell their products on anything approaching current quotations based on the cost of wool and tops. In the circumstances trade in tops is being conducted on hand-to-mouth lines, and a broader outlet is required in order to place business on a sound foundation. Some spinners appear to be taking rather more interest in fine crossbreds, but medium and low qualities are slow. Business in yarns does not show much bulk, but there are more offers from Germany, though some firms are a bit dubious about the position, and are not inclined to carry much liability. The piece goods trade is steady, with some manufacturers better employed than others.

COLONIAL WOOL.
(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

After the activity seen in Coleman Street Wool Exchange during the past two weeks, interest has largely been shifted to consuming centres and overseas markets, chiefly the latter. Last Tuesday saw the opening of a new selling season in Australia, where at Brisbane the first day's catalogue consisted of 13,000 bales of new clip wools. The show would certainly be one of the best, for the early sheds in Central and North-West Queensland always clip good wool, and as the season has been moderately favourable, we expect some good wool during the next 12 months from the Northern State. If some of the sellers in Brisbane with branches in London would cable the clean scoured cost of good combing, either ex warehouse or c.i.f. London, it would greatly help matters to see what buyers are actually paying, and so help some reliable information to get abroad regarding the actual state of the market. It seems to the writer that Brisbane has opened sensibly, and we say this notwithstanding that 10 to 15 per cent. advance is advised. This about lifts prices on to a parity with the figures ruling in London, but, as already said, it would have been still better if Dalgety's or Kreglinger and Fernau's would state what is the clean scoured cost for good 70's and 64's combing fleece. Several Bradford firms cabled out buying orders on a basis of 4s 6d to 4s 8d for 64's in the top, delivered Bradford, but apparently prices are higher because all reports agree that the home trade did practically nothing. We are not surprised at this, for there has not been the least response in consuming centres to the last advance, and unless an important change comes over the situation we shall see rather lower, and not higher, prices for merinos. During the past two years no advance has been received with so much indifference as the last one, and all buyers of yarns and pieces will have to radically alter their attitude if they agree to pay prices in harmony with the present cost of wool and tops. There is in consuming centres

a very unanimous opinion that wool must come back to a basis of about 4s 6d in the top before buying recommences, while it would be better still for the entire trade of the world if good combing wool reverted to a basis of 4s 3d for good 64's tops. We say this in all seriousness, recognising that merinos are outrageously dear compared with other qualities, and still much too dear to induce the outside world to buy piece goods, and so ensure the prosperity of the industry. We see no necessity whatever for anyone to fear a shortage of raw material supplies, and reaffirm that the interests of the entire trade would be best served if fine wools went back to a basis of 4s 3d in the top.

A sale took place in Hull last Thursday, when something like 32,000 bales were offered on B.A.W.R.A. account. The selection was anything but choice, and while there was some useful top-making wools among the merinos, the bulk were more suitable for the Continent than home trade account. There was a particularly good show of scoureds from Australia and New Zealand, and the greasy crossbred fleece was likewise of a useful character for Bradford. The attendance of buyers was fairly good, and when valuing was proceeding the opinion was expressed that there would be no change compared with the close in London, certainly no higher prices, while a slight setback need surprise no one on account of the character of the offerings. New business in manufacturing centres continued to be markedly absent.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 15, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
							Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do.....	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do.....	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American.....	1152	1202	1287	1332	1352	1447	1041	756	931	1904	2339	2969
Brazilian.....	Mid	MF	Fr.	G	F	Gd.	Fr.	Gd.	MF	Fr.	Gd.	MF
Pernam.....	1142	1222	1422	1422	1422	1422	566	816	1116	2244	2894	3694
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.....	1142	1222	1422	1422	1422	1422	566	816	1116	2244	2894	3694
Mossoro, &c.....	1142	1222	1422	1422	1422	1422	566	816	1116	2244	2894	3694
Ceara.....	1142	1222	1422	1422	1422	1422	566	816	1116	2244	2894	3694
Maranhão, &c.....	1142	1222	1422	1422	1422	1422	566	816	1116	2244	2894	3694
São Paulo.....	1142	1222	1422	1422	1422	1422	566	816	1116	2244	2894	3694
Egyptian.....	Fr.	G	F	Gd.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Gd.	MF	Fr.	Gd.	MF
Sakellaridis.....	1300	1400	1450	1500	1550	1550	950	1250	1550	1850	2150	2450
Brown.....	1300	1400	1450	1500	1550	1550	950	1250	1550	1850	2150	2450
Peruvian.....	MF	Fr.	G	F	Gd.	Fr.	Gd.	MF	Fr.	Gd.	MF	Fr.
Rough.....	1400	1450	1500	1550	1550	1550	1000	1300	1600	1900	2200	2500
Moderately Rough.....	1300	1375	1425	1475	1525	1525	675	925	1175	1425	1675	1925
Smooth.....	1277	1427	1502	1552	1652	1652	666	966	1091	1391	1691	1991
Tangia.....	1277	1427	1502	1552	1652	1652	666	966	1091	1391	1691	1991
West Indian, &c.....	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1500	700	900	1100	1300	1500	1700
Do.....	2300	2600	2900	3200	3500	3500	2300	2600	2900	3200	3500	3800
African, East, &c.....	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1400	625	825	1025	1225	1425	1625
Do.....	1152	1202	1287	1332	1352	1447	1041	756	931	1904	2339	2969
Machine Ginned Burtlee.....	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1355	835	1035	1235	1435	1635	1835
Machine Ginned Broach.....	1065	1105	1145	1185	1225	1225	730	755	805	830	855	880
Machine Ginned Bhowmuggar.....	885	935	985	1035	1085	1105	569	619	669	719	769	819
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 1.....	895	945	995	1045	1095	1115	575	625	675	725	775	825
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 2.....	895	945	995	1045	1095	1115	575	625	675	725	775	825
Machine Ginned Khandeish.....	1035	1075	1115	1155	1195	1215	500	550	600	650	700	750
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	1035	1075	1115	1155	1195	1215	500	550	600	650	700	750
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	720	760	800	840	880	920	430	470	510	550	590	630
Machine Ginned Scinde.....	710	750	790	830	870	910	420	460	500	540	580	620
Tinnivelly.....	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1355	835	1035	1235	1435	1635	1835
Madras, Western.....	970	1010	1050	1090	1130	1130	695	720	745	770	795	820
Madras, Northern.....	1035	1075	1115	1155	1195	1215	500	550	600	650	700	750
M.G. Cocanada, Red.....	Fr.	G	F	Gd.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Gd.	MF	Fr.	Gd.	MF
China, Smyrna, &c.....	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1355	835	1035	1235	1435	1635	1835

MANCHESTER, September 21.

A limited business has been done in all quarters of the market during the past week. The political situation abroad has been very disturbing, and most merchants have adopted a waiting policy. Scattered sales have occurred in piece goods for India, most of the demand having run on light fabrics. No improvement can be recorded in the turnover for China. Firms with connections in Turkey and the Levant are wondering what is happening to their goods. Trade advices from South America continue rather better. Goods suitable for home consumption have been purchased in limited quantities. There is a tendency for manufacturers to lose ground. A dull tone has prevailed in the yarn section. Restricted operations have occurred in both home counts and export numbers. The position of spinners is getting worse.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, Sept. 21, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Price, Sept. 14.	Price, Sept. 7.	Price, Sept. 31.	Price, Aug. 24.	Price, Aug. 17.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....	13.24	13.42	d	d	d	d
Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair.....	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70
Yarns—32's twist.....	17.50	17.50	17.25	18.00	18.00	17.75
—40's twist.....	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1
—50's twist (Egyptian).....	19.1	19.1	18.1	19.1	19.1	19.1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	31.0	32.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	31.0	32.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.....	17.6	17.9	17.9	18.3	18.3	17.9
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs.....	16.0	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.6

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, Sept. 21, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....	13.24	15.18	23.28	20.15	24.58	18.62
Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair.....	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70
Yarns—32's twist.....	17.50	26.00	57.50	30.00	30.19	27.00
—40's twist.....	19.1	22.1	49.1	42.1	56.1	25.1
—50's twist (Egyptian).....	19.1	21.1	45.1	41.1	56.1	25.1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	31.0	35.0	74.6	59.0	73.6	33.0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	31.0	35.0	74.6	59.0	73.6	33.0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.....	17.6	22.0	44.6	35.0	41.9	19.3
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs.....	16.0	21.0	35.6	30.6	36.3	17.3

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Trade conditions continue dull and unsettled, and another week has passed with only a small business done. Plate linseed is scarce in near positions, and spot and afloat are about 10s per ton dearer on the week. Seed for shipment, however, has been in but poor demand, and has fluctuated, with Argentina shippers' quotations now being round £17 for September-October, while new crop is offered at £15 15s for January-February loading. Some business has been done in Calcutta to London at £18 2s 6d, October-November. Favourable reports as to the new Plate crop indicate good supplies, but further trade is retarded, English crushers being content to hold their hand, and business with the Continent continues to be handicapped by the difficult financial conditions. The American crop, estimated to yield 295,000 tons, is likely to satisfy crushers in the United States until the Plate crop is well under way. Cottonseed, following a depressed oil market, is lower, and down to £8 15s has been accepted for old Sakellaridis, with further sellers at that figure. New crop Egyptian is arriving at Alexandria, and the quality is described as good. Black offers at £10 for shipment to Hull. Bombay cottonseed has been done at £7 15s, September-October. Rapeseed continues quiet, and but little trade done on U.K. account. Manchurian soya beans, new crop, November-December loading, are quoted by shippers at £10 7s 6d, but crushers here are not responsive.

Scarcity of raw linseed oil on spot and for early delivery has led to an appreciation to £36 for spot and £34 15s month at Hull, but forward the position is somewhat easier, current value for October-December delivery being round £32 10s and for January-April £31 per ton naked, ex Hull mill. America is reported to have again been in the market, but it is not known to what extent. The high import tariff to be levied on linseed oil by the United States new Bill, which is before the President for signature, is, however, a serious hindrance to the development of American demand on anything approaching the scale of recent months, and much support for the market from this quarter is not anticipated. Egyptian cotton oil has rallied somewhat, trade having been stimulated by the low level of value, crude Egyptian now being quoted £31 and soap-makers' grade of refined £33, ex Hull mill. Other vegetable oils quiet, and in cases inclined easier.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The advance in hides still continues, and at the Bermondsey sales held on Thursday many classes showed further advances. Best heavy ox sold at 9½d, and lights from 7½d to 8½d. Best cows at 7d to 7½d were firmer, kips selling from 3½d to 6½d. Calf in the heavy weights sold at 8d, lights making as high as 12½d per lb. Business in imported hides is better, and several large transactions are reported. Frigorifics have advanced at source of origin, whilst the Liebig Co. have sold 20,000 hides, partly for Liverpool, at 9½d to 10d per lb. Drys are also firmer, whilst the latest cable from New York describes the Chicago position as firm, with best heavy packers selling at 21 cents.

The demand for leather still continues moderate, although Bermondsey merchants do not seem very contented, as some report a falling off. Bends are, however, selling in fair quantities, but speculation is absent, and users inclined to wait for the Shoe and Leather Fair before placing winter requirements. American sole is coming in small quantities, whilst a new departure is an import of sole leather from Sweden.

Upper leathers are still a dull sale, although inquiries are frequent for sampling winter grades of chrome sides, calf, and glacé. Prices are firm, as America has advanced her quotations very considerably.

Reports from the shoe centres are cast in rather a pessimistic mould; few factories are working full time, and unless the export trade looks up I fear many operatives will be more or less idle during the winter.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mining Lane, Friday, September 22.

SUGAR.—The market opened the week easier for most descriptions of refined, and general tone ruled quiet, but later a fairly liberal volume of business was carried through. Of British, Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes sold 55s 6d to 56s 6d; crushed, 53s 6d; nibs, 55s; granulated, fine and coarse, 50s 3d, London; also No. 1 and 2, 49s 9d; caster, finest, 54s 3d; A, 52s 6d; B, 52s; yellow crystals, 44s 3d; pieces, 34s 6d to 39s; fine white, 44s 6d; granulated, October, 49s 9d; and ditto November-December, 49s. Crystallised West Indian sold quietly at 42s to 44s 6d, as to sample. American granulated, spot, changed hands at 49s; afloat parcels, 23s 3d; September, 23s 3d; white Java, spot, 47s to 47s 3d; ditto afloat, 19s 6d, c.f. and 1. terms, London. White Mauritius, spot, 47s; ditto Brazilian, 46s 3d to 46s 6d. Czecho granulated, October-December, 21s, f.o.b., Hamburg. Belgian crystals, October-December, 19s; and granulated, 19s 3d, f.o.b., Antwerp. Cuban basis 96 per cent., September, nominally, 16s; Brazilian ditto, 15s 9d; ditto 80 per cent., November-December, 8s 9d. Java No. 17, Dutch standard, 16s 9d, c.f. and 1. terms, United Kingdom. Terminal market showed fair animation, but selling pressure led to lower rates. December delivery, sold, 20s 4½d to 19s 10½d and 20s; May, 20s 9d to 20s 3d. Cuban stocks stand at 364,800 tons, against 1,205,320 at same time last year.

COFFEE.—Spot market steady, though actual trade pursued a quiet course. Bold colour Vera Paz, sold, 102s 6d to 103s 6d; washed Dumont bold, 89s. A steady but very slow market resulted for future delivery.

COCOA.—Market quiet, and small sales include Grenada, on spot, at 52s; Accra, October-December, 35s, f.o.b. terms. In auction line Trinidad, sold, 71s; ditto Grenada, 53s to 53s 6d. Butter quiet at 1s 9d per lb.

TEA.—44,650 packages Indian were offered this week, and with active and well distributed competition a very firm market resulted on balance. Fannings, however, were barely steady. 18,440 packages Ceylon also engaged brisk competition at full rates, some of the finer qualities being a shade dearer.

RICE.—Market slow and featureless. Rangoon two stars, spot, 15s 3d; September-October, 14s 3d. No. 1 garden Siam, afloat, 16s 6d; September-October shipment, 16s double bags. Broken kinds in but retail support. Rangoon beans, spot, 7s 3d. Japanese peas, September-October, sold, 25s; December-January, 23s 6d.

SPICE.—Pepper market again quiet, and prices in several instances easier. Fair black Singapore, spot, 3½d; October-December, 3½d, sellers. Aleppy, spot, 4d; Tellicherry, 4½d; white Singapore, spot, 5½d; Muntok, 6½d; ditto October-December, 5½d; Ceylon, black, on spot, 4½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 3½d; October-December, 7½d. Pimento, spot, 2d; flake tapioca, spot, 2½d; September steamer, London, 23s 3d; fair Panang seed, spot, 19s 3d; sago flour, September, 13s 10½d; October-December, 13s 4½d; desiccated coconut, spot, 35s; afloat, 34s; September-October, 34s 6d. Ginger quiet, unaltered.

FRUIT.—The market for currants steadily hardened under sustained buying, and quarter-cases quoted 61s to 68s; Vostizza, 66s to 70s. Choice Smyrna sultanas, 165s to 170s; medium to good, 150s to 160s. Cape first grade, 105s. Raisins firm, with moderate inquiries. Valencia, September shipment, sold, 68s. Cape, first grade, spot, quoted 62s to 65s. Dates steady, quiet. Siar, spot, 27s. First tide, Hallowee, 32s; Khredrowie, 27s; Siar, 22s.

JUTE.—The market opened the week with a firmer tone, a good many orders on covering account being in circulation, and after further hardening prices developed some irregularity and weakness. First grade, October-November, usual continental ports, sold, £32 10s to £34 and £33 10s; November-December, £33 to £34 5s and to £34 and £33 10s; £30 10s to £31 5s and £31. 10-oz Hessians, £33 15s; lightning grade, £30 10s to £31 5s and £31. 10-oz Hessians, spot, sold, 36s; 8-oz, spot, quoted 25s 6d to 26s. A twills, spot, 79s 6d; B, 67s 6d; salts, 62s; sugars, 78s 6d.

HEMP.—A firmer market resulted for Manila qualities. F grade, October-December, quoted £40; G, £34 10s; H, £33 10s; J, sold, £32 to £32 5s; K, £31; L, £30, and M, £29. New Zealand slow, but held steadily. African sisal, No. 1, G.E.A., October-December, held for £35 10s, and B.E.A., £35.

SHELLAC.—Market quiet, and prices rather unsettled in forward positions. T.N., spot, 300s; October, sold, 270s; and December, 265s to 260s.

COPRA was again quietly dealt in, and the market for the chief part of the week ruled featureless. F.M.S. Straits, October-December, Rotterdam, sold, £23 5s; Ceylon, ditto, £24 10s, sellers, and earlier positions, sold, £24 7s 6d; Cebu to Hamburg quoted £22 10s; Java, £23 12s 6d; Dutch East Indies, September-October, sold, £23 7s 6d; mixed, excluding Padang, quoted £22 7s 6d. Palm kernels quiet, and October-December, Liverpool, sold, £16 7s 6d to £16 5s.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 28s 6d; forward, 24s 3d. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 6s 6½d; forward, 6s 1½d. Aniseed, spot, 2s 2½d; forward, 2s 3d. Slab camphor, spot, 3s 7d; forward, 3s 5d; crude, spot,

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT CO., LTD.,
24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1332 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £800,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £

3s 4d; forward, 3s per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 80s; forward, 74s per cwt.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market dull and prime hen liquid yolk, on spot, sellers, 95s; forward, 90s per cwt. Albumen, spot, sellers, 3s 1d and forward, 3s per lb.

OILS.—Lined seed irregular, closing firm. Spot, net, naked, 35s 6d; September, 35s 9d; October-December, 32s 9d; January-April, 31s 4d. Rape dull. Crude, spot, nominally 40s; refined, 43s. Cotton weak. Crude Egyptian, spot, 32s; common edible, 43s; deodorised (in barrels), 46s. China-wood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 62s; shipment, 62s. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 38s; September-October, 36s 9d; Ceylon, ditto, quoted 42s. Soya quiet. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 33s. Japan fish quiet. July-August, cases, 22s. Cod steady. English, spot, 31s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, 45s; deodorised, barrels, 54s. Turpentine irregular. American, spot, 100s 6d; October-December, 99s 6d; January-April, 99s 6d. Rosin firm for common and medium grades. American, grade B, 14s 9d; G, 15s 3d; H, 15s 3d; N, 16s; WG, 18s; WW, 20s 6d. French, F/G, 15s 6d; WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 4d; and water-white, 1s 5d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Lined seed, but tone steady. Bold Bombay, afloat, 117s 6d. Small Bombay, ditto, 118 7s 6d. Calcutta, afloat, 118 7s 6d; August-September, 118 7s 6d; September-October, sold, 118 5s. Plate afloat, 117; August-September, 116 17s 6d; January-February, new crop, 117 5s 6d. Rapeseed easier. Toria, September-October, quoted 117 5s; real bold Ferozepore, September-October, quoted 116 15s. Cotton-seed inactive. Egyptian black, September, quoted 119 15s, and white, 118 12s 6d. Bombay, September-October, sold, 117 15s. Gungelly quiet. Chinese, new, October-December, Continent, 122 5s; large Bombay, August-September, 122. Castor, Bombay, August-September, sellers, 116 15s, to Hull. Ground nuts dull. Coromandel, machine-dried, September-October, 119 10s; ordinary, 119; East African, 118 10s; Nigerian, 121; bold Bombay, 119 10s. Chinese, November-December, 120 5s. Soya beans, Manchurian, August-September, 112; new crop, November-December, 110 7s 6d per ton.

METALS.—Tin: The market opened with a quiet tone, but sellers were in no way anxious to press sales, though rates showed slight weakness. Only small sales resulted in cash at 159 5s to 159 2s 6d; October, 159 10s to 159 12s 6d and 159 7s 6d; December and three months, 160 5s. Advices from the East report sales at 161 10s to 161 12s 6d, c.f. and i. Subsequent movements were attended by a slight irregularity due to selling pressure. Distant positions ruled about steady, but cash easier. Dealings included cash at 158 12s 6d to 158 15s; October, 159 7s 6d to 158 17s 6d, while finally registered at 159 5s; and three months, 160 to 159 10s to 159 17s 6d. Some improvement occurred by the middle of the week, and the market showed an upward tendency owing to a good inquiry

for forward dates. Standard cash sold at 159; October up to 159 15s; and three months, 160 5s. The improvement was upheld at Thursday's session with a good demand. Cash sold at 160 to 160 7s 6d; and three months, at 161 10s to 161 15s. Copper commenced the week with a dull and easier tone, buyers being reserved, and only small sales were effected in standard, cash, at 63 2s 6d to 63; October, 63 5s, and three months, 63 11s 3d to 63 10s. The downward movement continued until Wednesday, though steady at the decline, including standard, cash, at 62 15s; October, 63, and November, 63 3s 9d to 63 1s 3d. No material alteration in values occurred at Thursday's session, and a good business transpired in cash at 62 12s 6d to 62 15s, and three months, at 63 5s. Lead easier, at 23 17s 6d to 23 6s 3d, as to position. Spelter irregular, at 31 10s to 30 18s 9d, according to position. Antimony, ordinary, 27 to 29 10s. Aluminium: Home, 100; export, 105.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on September 20th as follows:—The tallow market was steady during the week, and prices are partly 6d dearer to-day. The decline in values attracted tallow from Australasia during August amounted to 7,400 tons. At auction to-day 1,557 casks tallow were offered, and 785 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 41s; good to fair, 40s 9d to 39s; dull to dark, 35s to 32s 6d; hard, 40s 9d. Australian to 32s 6d; sweet, 41s. Present shipment from Australasia: 37s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 34s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 14d; melted stuff, 24s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 33s net cash, naked, 24s 6d per cwt. Frail casks, 32s 6d; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 34s to 33s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 30s; melted stuff, 29s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—SEPTEMBER 21.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal.	Sheep, per stone.
Beasts—Herefords	8 d 8
Shorthorns	7 4 to 7 8
Devons	7 0 to 7 6
Norfolks	7 4 to 7 6
Scottish	nominal
Irish	nominal
Fat Cows	5 0 to 5 6
Sheep—Downs (clipped)	8 d 0
Ewes (clipped)	7 8 to 7 10
Crossbred (clipped)	9 2 to 9 4
Scottish (clipped)	11 2 to 11 8
Lamb—Downs	12 0 to 13 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—SEPTEMBER 21.

English British Queens	Per Cwt.	Sharpe's	Per Cwt.
" Eclipse	3 0 to 3 3	2 6 to 3 3	3 6 to 4 6

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY		INDIA RUBBER.—lb.		PROVISIONS.—		SPICES.—Pepper, per lb.	
COCOA—Duty, British grown	s d	Para, fine, hard, spot	s d	Butter—per cwt.	s d	Singapore, fair white	s d
23s 4d, foreign 22s cwt.	8 7 0	Benzon, cream, 100	10 7 0	Irish creamery	10 2 0	Black Singapore	8 0
Trinidad, per cwt.	65 0 0	Plantation crepe	9 7 0	Do factory	10 0 0	White Blam	8 0
Granada	60 0 0	INDIGO—per lb.	s d	Australian	10 2 0	Pimento	8 0
Ceylon, plantation	75 0 0	let to fine	9 0 10 0	Argentine	10 2 0	Cinnamon—1st sort	11 0 0
Guayaquil	55 0 0	Mid. ord. to good	7 9 9 10 0	Dutch	10 2 0	Do 2nd	10 0 0
Bahia, finest	62 0 0	Low to good, ord.	5 6 7 6 0	New Zealand	10 2 0	Do 3rd	10 0 0
COFFEE—British grown	s d	Med. try leaf	5 6 7 6 0	Danish	10 2 0	Do 4th	10 0 0
22s 4d, foreign 22s cwt.	8 7 0	Do low to ord.	1 6 4 6 0	Bacon, engd.—Irish	14 2 15 0	Chile	10 0 0
E. India fine ord. m.d. 81	0 103 8	Kurpah, g.d. mid. to g.d.	6 0 7 0	Do	15 4 15 0	Cassia lignum	10 0 0
Do good to fine	115 0 120 0	Low to mid.	3 6 5 6	Canadian	12 14 0	Oleum—Zanzibar	45 0 0
Do extra ord. to mid	66 0 100 0			American	110 0 122 0	Ginger—per cwt.	3 0 0
Good to fine	105 0 125 0			Hams—Irish	nom	Cochin, cut	100 0 120 0
Central American, g.d.	80 0 85 0			Do factory	10 2 0	Do washed	57 6 0 0
ord. to mid	78 0 100 0			Lard—Irish bladders	72 0 80 0	Jamaica, small	45 0 0
Mid. to fine	88 0 100 0			American boxes, 50lb	66 6 68 0	Nutmeg, good to fine	1 14 2 7
Columbian, ordinary	64 0 68 0			Port per 8 lbs	8 4 10 4	Small to medium	1 14 2 7
Do g.d. ord. to mid	68 0 80 0			Beef—Frozen, per 8 lb	8 4 10 4	Chillies—per cwt.	10 0 10 0
Do mid. to fine	85 0 95 0			Scotch	8 0 9 4	TALLOW—per cwt.	40 0 5 6
GUMMIS.		JUTE.		Cheese—per cwt.		Good mutton	40 0 5 6
Acid, citric	2 0 2 2	Native first marks,	s d	Do factory	10 2 0	Beef	38 0 8 6
Nitric	0 24 0 4	Sept. ord. 1st grade	34 10 0	Chese-cwt.—Canadian	88 0 94 0	TAPIOCA—per lb.	1 10 0 0
Oxalic, net	0 0 0 0	Leather, per lb.	s d	New Zealand	88 0 94 0	E. I. Flax, spot	2 8 0 0
Tartaric, English	1 4 0 0	Sole Belms 6s lb.	1 3 2 0	Eng. Cheddars	88 0 94 0	Pearl	per cwt 19 6 0
Foreign	1 3 1 4	Do do 10/12	1 6 2 2	Cheshire	nom	TEA—duty 6d, British	10 0 0
Alum lump, per ton 214 10/0	12 0 0	Do do 12 1/2	1 10 2 6	Eggs, pr 12—English	48 0 56 0	Foreign 8d per lb.	10 0 0
Do ground	215 10/0	Do do 17 1/2	2 0 3 0	Irish	22 0 24 0	Indian and Ceylon	s d
Ammonia, carb. N. 10 4 44	0 0 0	Do do 18 1/2	2 0 3 0	Flour—28 lb	40 0 0 0	Pekoe	s d
Muriatic, White, ton 33 0 43 0	0 0 0	Do do 19 1/2	2 0 3 0	RICE—per cwt.	37 0 430 0	Broken Pekoe	1 10 1 1
Sulphate	217 0 18 0	Do do 20 1/2	2 0 3 0	Eng. Cheedars	88 0 94 0	Orange Pekoe	1 0 2 2
Arsenic, lump, per ton 65 0 70 0	0 0 0	Do do 21 1/2	2 0 3 0	Cheshire	nom	Broken Orange	1 0 2 2
Powder	42 6 47 6	Do do 22 1/2	2 0 3 0	Eggs, pr 12—English	48 0 56 0	Pekoe Souchong	1 0 2 2
Athen, pot	70 0 80 0	Do do 23 1/2	2 0 3 0	Irish	22 0 24 0	Timber—Timber & Hewn Wood	s d
Pearl do	nom	Do do 24 1/2	2 0 3 0	Flour—28 lb	40 0 0 0	E. I. Teak (load)	15 0 0 37 0 0
Bleaching pwdr. p. ton 14 0 0	0 0 0	Do do 25 1/2	2 0 3 0	RICE—per cwt.	37 0 430 0	Kauri Pine cubic ft.	7 0 14 0
Brax, crystals	29 0 0 0	Do do 26 1/2	2 0 3 0	Broken la.	11 9 0 0	Cedar	8 0 6 0
Do powder	30 0 0 0	Do do 27 1/2	2 0 3 0	ROBIN—per ton	14 15 0 20 10 0	Japanese Oak sup.	8 0 10 0
Oil—Tallow	109 0 110 0	Do do 28 1/2	2 0 3 0	American	14 15 0 20 10 0	American Ash, sup.	8 0 10 0
Salmon, per lb 4 11 5 0	0 0 0	Do do 29 1/2	2 0 3 0	French	15 10 0 18 5 0		
Lard, dry, per ox 1 0 1 1	0 0 0	Do do 30 1/2	2 0 3 0	GAGO—Pearl, per cwt 25 0 27 0			
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton 14 0 0	0 0 0	Do do 31 1/2	2 0 3 0	Sago flour	2 0 0 0		
Potash	0 44 0 44	Do do 32 1/2	2 0 3 0	SHELLIAC—per cwt.	s d		
Chlorate, net	1 6 1 6	Do do 33 1/2	2 0 3 0	Orange, first marks	37 0 430 0		
Prussiate	1 6 1 6	Do do 34 1/2	2 0 3 0	Second, fair to fine	25 0 250 0		
Do Foreign	1 6 1 6	Do do 35 1/2	2 0 3 0	TN Orange	280 0 230 0		
Sulphate	23 0 25 0	Do do 36 1/2	2 0 3 0	Garnet, Lac, AG	315 0 323 0		
Sal-Acetone	1 12 2 0	Do do 37 1/2	2 0 3 0	Buttton—Pure	359 0 0 0		
Sal-Ammoniac, pr. cwt 60 0 65 0	0 0 0	Do do 38 1/2	2 0 3 0	Blocky (TN)	275 0 315 0		
Sal-Bicarb., per ton 48 0 10 10 0	0 0 0	Do do 39 1/2	2 0 3 0	SILK—per lb.	26 0 34 0		
Crystall, ex ship, p. ton 5 1 0 15 0	0 0 0	Do do 40 1/2	2 0 3 0	China—Blue Elephant	26 0 34 0		
Alkali	2 5 0 23 0	Do do 41 1/2	2 0 3 0	Tussah	15 0 16 0		
Sugar of lead white ton 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	Do do 42 1/2	2 0 3 0	Ro-reelcd	15 0 16 0		
Foreign white	442 10 45 0	Do do 43 1/2	2 0 3 0	Japan	26 0 36 0		
English Brands	2 2 2 3	Do do 44 1/2	2 0 3 0	Isab. fr. Milan 40 0 0			
Foreign do	2 2 2 3	Do do 45 1/2	2 0 3 0	SHELLS—M. & P. per cwt.	210 0 0 0		
Spate-Copper, p. ton 27 0 0 28 0 0	0 0 0	Do do 46 1/2	2 0 3 0	Manila, bold	210 0 0 0		
Zinc, cut	2 0 0 0	Do do 47 1/2	2 0 3 0	Macassar	15 0 0 0		
Sulphur Flour	2 0 0 13 0 0	Do do 48 1/2	2 0 3 0	W. China	30 0 0 0		
Do Roll	11 10 0 12 0 0	Do do 49 1/2	2 0 3 0	Bombay	8 10 0 10 15 0		
Vermilion, Chinese, p. lb 1 4 4	0 0 0	Do do 50 1/2	2 0 3 0	STUGAH—per cwt duty 25s	6 10 0		
Verdigris	2 0 0 0	Do do 51 1/2	2 0 3 0	Do cent. polarisation	35 0 37 0		
Oil Peppermint, H.G. 11.23	6 25 0	Do do 52 1/2	2 0 3 0	B.W. L. mucovado	50 0 50 0		
U.P.L.A.—per ton c.f. 4 4	0 0 0	Do do 53 1/2	2 0 3 0	Crystallised	42 0 45 0		
Malabar, Sept. Nov.	nom	Do do 54 1/2	2 0 3 0	Java c.f. white, Aug. 20	40 0 0 0		
Oil Cakes, Sept. Nov.	nom	Do do 55 1/2	2 0 3 0	Yellow Crystals	45 0 3 0		
Oil Singapore	25 2 6	Do do 56 1/2	2 0 3 0	Crushed	57 0 58 0		
Oil Straits	22 7 6	Do do 57 1/2	2 0 3 0	Crushed	57 0 58 0		
COGNAC—per lb 2/9 3/6	0 0 0	Do do 58 1/2	2 0 3 0	Crushed	57 0 58 0		

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

REPORT OF DIRECTORS to be submitted to the Shareholders at a Meeting to be held in the Board Room, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, Consolidated Building, Fox Street, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, the 21st day of November, 1922, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

1. The Company's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts for the financial year ended 30th June, 1922, are submitted herewith.

2. After making provision for depreciation, English and Colonial Income Tax, and other charges, the profit for the year, including £184,411 13s. 8d. brought forward, amounts to £458,402 5s. 7d.

3. On the 21st June the Directors declared a Dividend of 7½%, free of Income Tax, payable to Shareholders registered in the books of the Company on the 30th June, 1922. Excluding the provision made for Income Tax this distribution absorbs £296,250, leaving a balance of £162,152 5s. 7d. to be carried forward to next account.

4. As the Company's principal sources of income are its mining interests in South Africa it will be readily understood that the recent prolonged miners' strike on the Rand involved the Company in a heavy loss of revenue.

5. The financial position of the Company continues to be satisfactory. During the year under review the opportunity was taken to participate in the purchase of ex-enemy shares from the Custodian of Enemy Property for the Union Government of South Africa. The number of shares in the various Companies thus acquired were relatively too small for pro rata distribution.

6. The position of the various Gold Mines under the Company's control is made clear from the Annual Reports and from the Chairman's Speeches at the Annual Meetings recently held. It may, however, be of interest to refer to the following points:—Government Gold Mining Areas (Moffatfontein) Consolidated, Limited.

Operations on this property continue to be most successful, and the results obtained are highly satisfactory. During 1921 the ore crushed was 1,625,500 tons, an increase of 110,500 tons as compared with the previous year. The profit gained, in spite of the lower price of gold, amounted to £1,762,490, being an increase of £54,326 over that obtained in 1920. The Ore Reserves are maintained at over 10,000,000 tons, which are of an average value of 8.5 dwts. over a stopping width of 77 inches.

7. The value of the gold produced by the Company's Group of Mines during the year under review amounted to £7,995,283, the average price obtained being, approximately, £5 2s. 8d. per fine ounce, as compared with £5 11s. 6d. per fine ounce for the previous year. The reduction of £1,931,654 in the value of gold recovered was mainly due to the stoppage of crushing operations during the recent strike, and in part to the lower price of gold.

8. The position of the South African Coal Industry during the year under review has been difficult owing to keener competition with England. The Coal Industry throughout the world is at present somewhat depressed.

9. The Collieries in which the Company is interested are now well equipped, and as no further expenditure of a substantial nature is anticipated, it is hoped that the recent profits will accrue to the benefit of the Company's activities.

10. Your Company's holdings in the leading Diamond Mines remain unchanged. There is a decided improvement in the demand for Rough Diamonds, though as yet it is for limited quantities. It is a satisfactory feature that America, which the past has been the most important customer for Rough Diamonds, has again appeared as a purchaser.

11. Progress continues to be made in the sale of Building sites on the Company's residential estates.

12. Your Directors have to report with deep regret the loss the Company has sustained during the year by the deaths of their colleagues, Mr. Charles Marx and Mr. H. A. Rogers. Both these gentlemen have been Members of the Board for many years, and have rendered valuable and faithful services to the Company.

13. Messrs. W. Ferguson and S. Thomson, the Auditors of the Company in Johannesburg, and Messrs. Kemp, Chatteris, Nicholls, Sendell & Co. the Auditors in London, retire from Office and offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Board, THOMAS HONEY, Secretary.

Dr. BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1922.

Capital and Liabilities.

Authorised Capital—(Under Resolution of 23rd November, 1905) £ 4,500,000 0 0

Of which £4,545,000 is Registered Capital.

Capital Issued 3,950,000 0 0

Reserve Fund 250,000 0 0

Sundry Creditors 1,215,990 18 9

Dividend (No. 25) of 7½% per cent, free of Income Tax, declared 21st June 296,250 0 0

Appropriation Account—Balance 162,152 5 7

Contingent Liabilities—Unallocated Capital on Investments, etc. 307,022 10 0

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30th June, 1922.

To Directors' Fees, Salaries and other Expenses, less Amounts received from other Companies. 31,789 18 1

To Balance being realised profit for the year carried to Appropriation Account 273,990 11 11

By Balance of Profit and Loss Account at 30th June, 1922. £305,780 10 0

Dr. APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

To Dividend No. 25 of 7½%, free of Income Tax, declared 21st June, 1922. 296,250 0 0

To Balance carried to Balance Sheet. 162,152 5 7

By Balance of Profit and Loss Account at 30th June, 1922. £458,402 5 7

THOMAS HONEY, Secretary.

We report to the Shareholders that we have audited the accounts of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, dated the 30th June, 19

quiet. The Treasury bills tendered for yesterday run into January, and went at a considerably higher rate. When the result was known the market rate was adjusted to 2½-5.

	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½-5	2½-5	2½	2½	..

The Bank return showed increases of £4,800 in the gold stock and of £976,500 in the circulation, making the Reserve £971,800 lower. Government securities rose by £485,000, and "Other" securities by £2,207,700, so that Deposits were £3,660,000 lower, £4,703,400 coming off "Other," while over a million went on to Public. There was a reduction of £629,000 to £289,127,000 in currency notes outstanding in the return dated September 28, 1922, which includes £1,556,459 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £239,420,600, or £70,567,800 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

In spite of the uncertainty aroused by the disturbed political situation prices have remained, on the whole, fairly steady, the smallness of movements in quotations being evidence both of the restraint of sellers and of the absence of buyers. French and German bonds gave way on the weakness of the exchanges, and Home Rails, apart from the southern lines, which were active in anticipation of amalgamation details, were lower. Argentine Rails show some improvement, but Brazilian Rails were heavy. Rubber shares have hardened a little on a rise in the price of the raw material, but oils have not benefited from the cut in the price of petrol. The industrial list has shown irregular movements, and Kaffirs have been flat on selling from Paris.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The political situation continues to dominate markets, and merchants in the Manchester cotton trade appear to be determined to adopt a waiting policy; in consequence in all sections of the cotton industry a dull feeling has prevailed. The wool trade in this country has been following with much interest the steady trend of values of the Australian clip. In the pig-iron market, Cleveland No. 3, G.M.B., is now 92s 6d per ton, makers having little to offer on account of the scarcity of coke, and though there is stated to be a little more inquiry for steel, orders are still very difficult to obtain. There has been a slightly improved demand for coal from abroad, but our Cardiff correspondent reports no striking change in quotation. Wheat prices are slightly higher, on account of the unsettled political atmosphere.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The exchanges have naturally been affected by the Near Eastern crisis, and a great amount of nervousness still exists on the part of operators, who are waiting for the war clouds to clear. At the time of writing the outlook appears somewhat grave, and Wednesday's development in Greece has rendered the situation temporarily more chaotic. The New York exchange has been the centre of interest during the past few days, and the probable weakness which we have predicted for some time past has shown itself; the rate is now 4.39 after being 4.43½ on the 25th. Heavy offerings of sterling and other grain and cotton bills are reported from New York. The German mark improved considerably to 6,150 at the beginning of the week on the report of the satisfactory solution of the guarantee question which was outstanding between Germany and

Belgium, but a decided depreciation has occurred since, the rate rising at one time to 7,350, though recovering later to 7,100. The French franc has been affected by the position in the Near East, and after being 58.05 on the 23rd, is now 57.98; last week the highest quotation reached was 58.54 on the 18th. The franc has been seriously affected by the weakness of the New York exchange. The Belgian franc is now 61.50, after having been back at 61.20. The lira has not fluctuated very much, and is now 104, as against 104.75 at the time of our last report. Holland is now 11.34, after having been 11.40 at the beginning of the week, whilst Switzerland is 23.55, as compared with 23.62. The peseta has risen to 29.05 compared with 28.84 a week ago. Last week's rise in the Danish exchange has still been maintained to a certain extent, the rate now being 21.25, but it is contemplated that owing to the settlement of the Danish banking difficulties, an appreciation may be seen shortly unless something unforeseen occurs. Christiania is down at 25.80, after having been seen at 26.15, but Stockholm has fluctuated very little, being round about 16.66. The Finnish rate has again improved, and is now 198, but the market shows very little activity. Vienna is round about 320,000, showing a slight improvement on the former rate. The Polish rate is about 38,000, showing a fall of about 3,000, no doubt caused by the Polish Finance Minister's speech, which foreshadowed a continuance of inflation. Prague is 140, and Belgrade 286, the former rate showing a slight depreciation, and the latter an improvement. Drachmæ are a purely nominal market, and can be purchased at 200, and the Turkish exchange is about 750. Amongst South Americans, Valparaiso has again improved, and is 31.50, but very little alteration is shown in Buenos Aires and Rio at 43½d and 6 17-32d. Amongst the Eastern exchanges rupees have remained fairly steady at 1s 3½d, and Hong Kong has also remained at round about 2s 6½d. In India the restrictions on exports of wheat, and other food grants have been removed. Shanghai is slightly firmer at 3s 5d. The silver market has been very quiet, India continuing to be the chief supporter of the market, while China appears to take very little interest in it.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 23, 1922:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	18,025	Supply Services	6,750
		Interest on Debt	324
		Sundries	433
		Debt Reduction	10,069
		Added to Exchequer Balances ..	999
	18,025		18,025

The total revenue during the week ended September 23, 1922, amounted to £18,025,000, as compared with £14,968,079 in the corresponding week a year ago. Expenditure at £6,966,822 compares with £9,610,750. Property and Income-tax yielded £3,912,000, against £3,083,000 in the same week a year ago. Receipts from Excise amounted to £9,022,000, against £4,219,000, while Customs yielded £2,941,000, against £3,583,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by the sum of £10,059,456, and caused the following changes:—

Savings Certificates Sales....	Min. £	Advances by Public Depts. ..	Min. £
	+ 250	Treasury Bills	2,400
		Savings Certs. Housing	2,286
		Funding Loan, &c.	5,000
		Unemployment Insurance ..	193
	+ 250		430
			10,309

The floating debt was decreased by £4,705,000 to £865,543,500 during the week.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to September 23, 1922).

Total spent	£ 332,355,718	Raised by revenue ..	£ 391,057,284
Dec. in balances	6,948,084	Net repayments	65,649,650
Total	325,407,634	Total	325,407,634
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.			

Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 820,775,000
Special Expenditure ..	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	15	15	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,980	1,980
4% Funding Loan	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,090	1,090
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	360	357	348	346	335	335
3½% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year Treas. Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	31	40
5½% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	381	411
D. by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	69
D. by tender 4%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	714
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	368
War Expend. Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,078
American Loan	..	51	51	51	51	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	151
Other Capital Liabilities	654	57	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,721

* Figures for the year ended March 31, 1922, have now been adjusted in accordance with the Finance Accounts recently published.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Temporary Advances Out- standing—	Sept. 24, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Sept. 23, '22.	Week ended Sept. 23, '22.
Advances by Bank of England ..	8,500,000..	147,301,500..	151,623,500..	2,400,000
Advances by Public Depts ..	147,783,000..	882,219,000..	713,920,000..	2,305,000
Treasury Bills outstanding ..	1,168,287,000..	1,029,520,500..	865,543,500..	4,705,000
Total Floating Debt	1,324,570,000..	1,029,520,500..	865,543,500..	4,705,000

THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

It is the general impression that the third Assembly of the League gives evidence of definite growth in the power and prestige of the League of Nations. The meetings of the Assembly do not and never will possess the spectacular features of the Supreme Council, for whereas the latter are short and charged with crises from beginning to end, the meetings of the international Parliament at Geneva share much of the dullness and routine of ordinary national Parliaments. Indeed, the fact that everything has to be translated tends to make the proceedings even more prolonged than in ordinary legislative assemblies, but, on the other hand, there is to be set the fact that the standard of speaking is much higher, since all the delegates are picked representatives, and there is the interest and colour due to the presence of many varied nationalities. It is sometimes thought that the fact that the League has to discuss and to perform many tasks of secondary importance, or perhaps one should say of a less exciting character than political crises—such as co-ordination of health activities, labour legislation, transit questions, opium traffic, the international white slave traffic, intellectual co-operation, and a dozen other such topics—tends to clog the wheels of the League machinery, divert attention from more urgent questions, and give the impression that the League is a debating society for philanthropists. The fact is, however, that quite apart from their intrinsic importance, these activities are greatly assisting the League to deal with the major questions. The experience which the Secretariat has gained in organising conferences on these matters has enabled it to perfect the mechanical part of its organisation, a matter of no small importance, as those who were present at Genoa and other international gatherings will fully realise. It has helped to gather together a staff of very high efficiency, which is truly international in character and trained to take an international view of all questions, and even in the Assembly itself the fact that there is this miscellaneous work going on enables its corporate life to run on in spite of any clashes that may occur on the big questions. When representatives of two Powers fail to agree, leave the matter in suspense and continue for two or three days to discuss points on which there is no vital difference, opportunities are created for quite informal mediation and for reflexion in an atmosphere which tends to promote agreement.

But the present Assembly has grown in importance in respect also to the major questions. The failures of the Supreme Council have left the League as the one hope of international co-operation, and as the big outstanding

questions between the nations are perforce referred to the League the world's Press has begun to take its discussions more seriously, while the Assembly itself has responded to this sense of greater importance by more boldly facing the discussion of really vexed questions. There has, moreover, been less tendency to veto debate on vital issues, since the Governments of the great Powers themselves are increasingly anxious not to leave so many problems to drift unsolved. Hence the Assembly has discussed freely the question of disarmament, reparations and inter-Allied debts, the condition of Austria, and the situation in the Near East. It is too soon to say what part, if any, the League will play in this last question, but the significant fact of the debate is that the Western Allies appreciate that the voice of Europe must be heard on such a question. A significant incident occurred when the international measures undertaken by Dr Nansen and his international organisation for the relief of the refugees in Smyrna was facilitated by the intervention of the Persian delegate with the Turks.

The discussion on armaments has had an auspicious beginning. The problem of land forces does not lend itself to the prompt and dramatic solutions of the Washington Conference, but the Disarmament Commission is endeavouring to feel its way towards a solution, or at all events to throw up into sharp definition the obstacles in the way of agreement. The progress made on the actual question of armaments themselves has been chiefly in regard to the extension of the Washington Conference resolutions to other naval Powers. The League is taking steps to call a special Conference of nations interested for this purpose. In regard to land armaments, it has not done anything more at the moment than urge the restriction of armaments to the war power of 1913. This is not a heroic measure, but it is only intended as a stop-gap. It is also actively endeavouring to secure the suppression of the traffic in arms, a matter which was left unsolved by the failure by several nations, including the United States, to ratify the Arms Convention of 1919. This point is itself an example of the value of a permanent institution to deal with matters of this character, for it is almost certain that it would be allowed to drop if further discussion were left to the initiative of any individual State. But the armaments discussion has brought out once more the fact that agreement can only be found if the conditions of real peace are present, and the League is discussing and slowly forming opinion in diplomatic circles on the vital question of future international relations, namely, the form of guarantee to be entered into by various States to protect one another against aggression. The importance of this issue cannot be over-estimated, for it really goes to the root of the problem of the sanctions for the preservation of international law and order.

The disarmament discussion has, however, also been made the ground for raising the question of an international financial settlement, on which, after a good deal of discussion and constant reference by the respective delegates to the French and British Governments, a formula has been agreed upon which is of considerable significance. After asserting that the machinery of exchange of products by means of which European nations have always lived cannot be reinstated until the problem

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT-MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital ..	- £38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	- 10,860,852
Reserve Fund ..	- 10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	- 368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,600 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

has been settled, and that though it may be possible that a full solution cannot be hoped for without the assistance of the United States, there is no reason for doing nothing until that assistance is forthcoming, the Assembly declared:—

"That such confidence cannot be attained so long as the world continues to suffer from disorganisation of the exchanges, economic chaos, and unemployment, and that the only method of remedying these evils is to put an end to the uncertainty which prevails regarding the means for the restoration of the devastated regions and the settlement of the inter-Allied debts."

It expresses the hope that, "in so far as these questions can be regulated by the unaided efforts of the European nations, the Governments signatories of the international treaties and agreements which deal with these questions, and within the framework of which they must be envisaged, will achieve as soon as possible a general settlement of the problem of reparations and inter-Allied debts."

And it further recommends:

"That the Council shall devote constant attention to every effort made in this direction by the Governments concerned, it being understood that it can only usefully assist in the solution of these problems if requested to do so by the Governments in question."

This resolution may not at first sight seem to say very much, but it has a certain significance, for the British Government is committed to the view that negotiations must continue without American participation, and that Europe must endeavour alone to find a general settlement—a view which indicates some relaxation of the more rigid tone of the Balfour Note—while France has formally agreed to a resolution which opens the door to a reference of the Reparations question to the League—a reference which she has hitherto always refused to admit.

On the problem of Austria, the concurrence of Great Britain in the guarantee which is required greatly increases the probability that a complete scheme will shortly be made public, and submitted for Austrian acceptance. For various reasons it would, however, be unfortunate if public opinion made the success of the Austrian problem the touchstone in considering the work of the third Assembly. The terms offered to Austria will be far from pleasant, and even if she accepts them the League will be entering on one of the most difficult experiments in external control of a nation's internal affairs which has ever been attempted.

Not many new reputations have been made at the present Assembly, and the discussion has to a considerable extent been led by men who had already made their mark in previous Assemblies. It is indeed of great value that the work of the League of Nations is producing a group of diplomats and public servants in various countries who are becoming fully acquainted with this method of international co-operation, and this is one of the reasons why the proceedings are becoming more effective and business-like. On the other hand, it is important that this *personnel* should increase. There are already in many countries an increasing number of persons who have practical experience of the machinery of the League at Geneva. This is in itself a great factor in developing national opinion and confidence in the League's decisions. Of the newcomers, M. de Jouvenel stands in a class by himself. He has been the spokesman of France in most of those discussions in which his Government has displayed an increasingly sympathetic attitude towards international action. He has been careful to show that he has always been in touch with his Government, but his speeches have created an impression of statesmanship and a more Liberal standpoint. M. de Jouvenel has added his name to the list of Frenchmen with an international reputation, and his political career will in future be followed by a very wide circle.

A picturesque and possibly a significant incident of the past week has been the meeting, while the Assembly was in session, of a small committee of medical experts to discuss the problem of standardisation in connection with serums used in fighting epidemics. The meeting has been attended by an official of the Bolshevik Government, and by representatives of Germany and America, as well as by the representatives of the Health organisation of the League.

STABILISATION.

It is natural enough that, in an earthquake, stability should seem to be the *summum bonum*. It is less reasonable, but still excusable, that a stormy crossing should reduce Channel passengers to such a state of desperation that they would welcome the end of all motion, even though they have set out to reach the further shore. So long as one economic upheaval follows another, we may expect the same reactions in a different sphere. Storm-tossed humanity will dream of bringing prices, wages, exchanges, competition—everything, in fact, but trade and profits—to a standstill; and professors of dynamics (or economics) will become professors of statics (or stabilisation).

That is the fate which has overtaken Professor Cassel, whose latest contribution to the current problems of money and foreign exchange has just been published.* Everything, he tells us, is in a state of flux, as someone said three thousand years ago; but a more modern faith in the powers of man over Nature now adds the rider that everything must therefore be stabilised. "The only quality demanded of a monetary system, which is of any importance for promoting the trade and general welfare of the world, is stability" (p. 254). Professor Cassel relies on the agonies of our time to make this fundamental premiss seem axiomatic. He never doubts or defends it, but proceeds at once to an analysis of the methods by which stability must be secured. His conclusions are somewhat as follows.

Everything in the economic world depends on everything else, except the bank rate, which depends on the humour or caprice of the Bank Court. The whole machine is governed by the single lever of rediscount rates, which is operated in a central control station, inhabited since 1914 by incompetent people—"the cause of the Central Banks' weak discount policy naturally lies first and foremost in the extremely vague notions as to the true import of the monetary phenomena entertained by bank managements" (p. 111). First inflation, then deflation, have sent prices, wages, and exchanges rocketing and tumbling the world over, and the whole process has been due, not to any irresistible economic forces sweeping from one country to another, but to simultaneous attacks of mania which afflicted the various control stations, by a curious accident, at the same time and in the same manner—"if there exists any connection between the processes of deflation in different countries, it is a psychological and not a material connection," p. 232). The way to put things right is to organise an international service of statistics which, at frequent intervals, will supply Professor Cassel promptly and accurately with index numbers of the volume of purchasing power and the volume of purchasable goods in every country in the world. He will then do a series of sums in simple division, and so arrange matters that the answer will be in every case the same. So we shall have achieved stability, and everyone will enjoy continuous employment, except the people whose business it is to write books on economics, who will have none.

This crude parody of Professor Cassel's views must not be taken to imply any lack of appreciation of his book, which disposes, neatly and effectively, of more economic fallacies to the square inch than any book published for a long time. The parody is intended to make prominent, by deliberate exaggeration, the weaknesses on the constructive side, of this and every other plea for the rational control of economic forces on an immense international scale. No one will deny that everything is in flux, nor quarrel with the contention that a frantic state of flux is insufferable. But when Professor Cassel goes on to demand complete equilibrium, assent will not be universal; when he offers his own explanation of the causes that produce instability, he stirs up a whole hornet's nest of contention; and when he prescribes his remedies, he must not be surprised if he provokes nothing but a rather wistful smile.

There is, in fact, a very good reason why it will always be possible to find fault in theory with the monetary con-

* "Money and Foreign Exchange After 1914." By Gustav Cassel. Pp. 87. Constable, 1922.

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

trol exercised by the central authorities, and to sigh for a more "rational" system—(the use, by the way, which Professor Cassel makes of the words "rational" and "normal" is not altogether innocent of *petitio principii*). The reason is this: that in order to be effective, as it admittedly might be, monetary control of wages, exchanges and commodity prices would, in the first place, have to be unhampered by any considerations not purely economic; and, in the second place, it would have to be based upon correct *anticipation* of the future. The first condition is one which will never be complied with so long as human interests are more than purely material; the second condition is one which would make it impossible in practice for any central financial authority to exercise an entirely confident and consistent control, even in a purely materialist society. For it means that the fate of the community must be entrusted, before the event, to the unfettered judgment of financial specialists, who are required first to arrive at an agreed policy among themselves, and then to impose it upon their fellows. At the very moments when control by anticipation is alone effective and is most required, agreement is least likely to be reached; and if the doctors did agree on their diagnosis, the patient would never willingly acquiesce in the treatment they prescribed. Only the manifest evidence of accomplished facts can afford a firm basis for monetary policy, and for this reason alone it is inevitable that instead of governing events by anticipation we should follow them, or adapt ourselves to them *ex post facto*. "The most serious faults in banking policy in all countries during the past year seem to have been due to the necessary steps having been taken too late" (p. 273). Of course. Until we have a financial dictatorship, it will not be possible to apply the "new rule for a true bank policy" (p. 103), which is that "the supply of credit must be so regulated that no rise in prices and, naturally, no fall in prices either, takes place."

No one has a clearer vision than Professor Cassel of the causes and consequences of instability. It may be doubted, perhaps, whether they are all so measurable, so easily reduced to mathematical equations, as he would have us believe. But it seems highly improbable that a practical or practicable policy is ever likely to be based upon a formula, however convincing the proof of it may be. It is not enough to show that all our present discomforts could be cured by intelligent and deliberate monetary control, for until humanity is prepared to surrender itself to the experts, the shocks of unfettered economic and natural forces will be preferred to the gentle, salutary guidance of a few men of genius manipulating the world's machine.

The long and short of it is that "equilibrium" was a better word to describe the proper goal of monetary policy than "stabilisation." Let us by no means despair of moderating the violence of financial and monetary disturbances. Let us, with the invaluable help of Professor Cassel, attempt (if that is our business) to understand the

why and wherefore of the forces whose interplay we have to deal with. But let us abandon dreams of an incredibly efficient all-inclusive world control that sets our lives in order for us, for such cannot be fully realised, and if they were, would only have the doubtful advantage of giving us stagnation instead of chaos.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PROBLEMS.

Two topics of practical interest have been put down for discussion at the conference in London of the Comité Maritime International commencing on October 9th. They are (1) the immunity of State-owned ships from the obligations to which privately-owned ships are subject, and (2) negligence clauses in bills of lading, or, in other words, those clauses freeing shipowners from responsibility, in substitution for which standardised conditions—known as the Hague Rules, 1921—holding shipowners responsible for safe carriage and delivery, have been brought into use. Both matters have been the subject of a good deal of recent discussion, and a summary statement of the developments leading up to the holding of this conference may be interesting.

First of all, it should, perhaps, be explained that the Comité Maritime International is a voluntary association, of which the members are shipowners, underwriters, merchants, and other business men interested in shipping, and also commercial lawyers. These are grouped in national committees, delegates from which attend the conferences held from time to time. The Comité was founded in 1896 by M. Louis Franck, of Antwerp, and has, as the result of numerous international conferences, at which differences between the laws of the various maritime States have been compared and adjusted, succeeded in bringing about, through diplomatic conferences for which it has prepared the way, the international unification of maritime law in several important respects.

As was explained in an article in the *Economist* on May 6th, the Comité took up the immunity question as the main subject for its conference now to be held at the suggestion of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom. Shipowners have found themselves unfairly handicapped in competition with State-owned trading ships. Before the war the problem, which has now become important, seldom arose, but since Governments have entered the shipowning business the immunity of their merchant ships from ordinary legal obligations stands in the way of obtaining settlement of just claims. A striking instance was that of a Portuguese steamer which went ashore in the Mersey and was saved by local tugs. The Portuguese Government entered the plea to a claim for salvage, that, though engaged in trade, this was a public vessel of the State. The judges of the Admiralty Court and Court of Appeal expressed themselves strongly but were clear that they could give no redress by way of awarding payment for salvage. The case showed that many interests may be concerned: cargo owners, the owners, dock authorities, underwriters, bankers, an

others, as well as shipowners, may find themselves with unrealisable claims.

The reports on various national laws which have been drawn up for comparison in preparation for the conference show considerable diversity of rule. In some Continental countries the English law that subjects cannot sue their own State does not prevail, but, in most instances, courts will not assume jurisdiction over a foreign State-owned ship because of the generally accepted rule that States respect each other's independence. In some countries, notably Belgium and Italy, the courts are inclined to ignore the immunity where even a foreign vessel engaged in trade, and not in a public service, is in question, but, amidst the confusion, one point is quite clear. This is that those engaged in shipping business, which is in its nature international, may at any moment find their right to enforce a claim barred so long as the immunity of States in respect of their maritime property exists in some countries. Thus in Norway the State does not claim any immunity—anyone may sue the Government for damages caused by its trading vessels or by its warships—but the Norwegian shipowners point out that they "have had large claims, the promotion of which has been blocked and interfered with on account of the present unfortunate rules of procedure, according to which the State as such could not be sued except with the permission of the proper authorities." They therefore emphatically endorse the opinion that the immunity of the State, in those countries where this still exists, should be altered.

For remedy there must be an international convention. States must therein lay down a principle into conformity with which they will bring their national rules. That principle must be the entire abolition of the present immunity—at least, this appears to be the view endorsed by the Chamber of Shipping. The courts must have unfettered jurisdiction. As to the further question of the liability of maritime property to arrest, it may be necessary to provide a means whereby warships shall be free if general security is given beforehand, as bail is now commonly given in individual cases in respect of ordinary merchant ships to secure freedom from arrest. That would be the only qualification. Continental jurists are apparently inclined to propose the maintenance of the immunity, and the inclusion within its protection not only of warships, but of State-owned ships engaged in a public service, but to introduce classification in this way would mean that conundrums—border-line cases—would arise to be the subject of tedious and costly litigation.

The other problem for the conference of the Comité—that of the Hague Rules—also raises the question of an international convention. Business men, after formulating, in agreement with shipowners, this code of standard conditions for inclusion by reference in bills of lading in the same way as the York-Antwerp Rules are incorporated, seem to be doubting their own wisdom, and pining for State control of the form of the contract of carriage by sea. The steps whereby a revised version of the Hague Rules was evolved in order that it might be scheduled to a Bill to be introduced by the Board of Trade were described in the *Economist* on June 3rd. The understanding was that the Bill should be brought in before Parliament adjourned in August, but it failed to materialise, much to the distress of representatives both of cargo interests and of shipowners, who combined in a letter of protest to the Board of Trade, in which they referred to the hampering effect on trade of uncertainty.

Meanwhile the French view apparently is that while the adoption of the Hague Rules by voluntary agreement should be approved, their sanction by an international convention would be desirable. In Belgium an international convention is favoured, but in Holland the opinion that the Hague Rules should be tested in practice before being officially crystallised finds favour. Incidentally, that is being done pending the taking of legislative steps. Both in this country and America legislation has been discussed, but it is clear that the matter is one for general international agreement, and, if there is to be legislation, it should be based on an international convention. Whether British shipowners will agree to their hands being first of all tied by national legislation, and to other countries being afterwards asked to imitate our statute, remains to be seen.

BREWERY SHARES AND RESULTS.

It would appear from a perusal of the reports and accounts of a number of brewery companies that the directors of these undertakings have not concerned themselves with achieving uniformity in methods of issuing accounts as has been the case in other industries not so well organised. The financial years of companies end, and accounts are published on, such varied dates that it is difficult to find a group of undertakings of any size showing accounts for similar periods, and while Whitbread and Co. can publish their accounts for the year ended July 6, 1922, on the 25th of the same month, the accounts of the Cannon Brewery Company for the year ended December 31, 1921, are dated March 16, 1922. On account of these vagaries we are compelled to omit from our group several of the most important concerns. These, however, are dealt with separately in the *Economist* as the figures are issued.

However, we have selected the companies comprising the following group, showing net profits and the amounts placed annually to reserve in the last three years. Figures for 1914-15 are appended for comparative purposes:—

Company.	1914-15.		1919-20.		1920-21.		1921-22.	
	Net Profit.	To R's'v, &c.	Net Profit.	To R's'v, &c.	Net Profit.	To R's'v, &c.	Net Profit.	To R's'v, &c.
A. Guinness	£1,511,678	£585,000	£3,363,092	£735,000	£3,729,803	£519,407	£2,925,755	£235,000
Bacley, Perkins	81,073	40,000	339,043	250,000	150,582	50,000	175,564	25,000
Bass, Ratcliff	256,789	50,000	454,220	160,000	403,515	100,000	386,063	100,000
Bent's	43,443	15,000	78,071	20,000	39,058	2,000	38,868	2,000
Boddington's	45,381	2,500	75,958	6,747	71,107	5,000	70,731	5,000
Cannon	159,341	22,000	125,931	10,000	157,439	10,000	157,240	10,000
Chester's	53,373	25,000	95,517	35,000	84,622	22,500	104,219	32,500
Huggins and Co.	20,466	5,000	46,463	10,000	58,324	10,000	32,464	10,000
Mitchells & Butlers	208,533	50,000	505,617	175,000	430,089	100,000	430,049	100,000
Newcastle	56,067	15,468	177,043	101,000	113,990	46,566	61,999	31,000
Watney, Combe	233,211	73,606	278,000	281,524	73,111	45,000	61,464	100,000
W. B. Reid	38,159	20,000	90,656	40,000	73,111	45,000	31,007	20,000
Whitbread	75,680	193,834	161,339	177,788	177,788	45,137	10,000	
William Hancock	37,836	3,000	71,143	15,000	56,116	10,000	45,137	10,000
Total	2,820,970	840,968	6,352,864	1,835,747	5,821,319	920,473	5,251,898	680,500

In considering the totals shown in the group, allowance should be made for the differences in the financial years, but over a period of years these totals give an approximate guide to the trend of the industry. A perusal of the directors' reports reveals a common reticence as to the reasons for the handsome profits made in a period of severe industrial depression.

Auditors' certificates and reports are mostly on conventional lines, although it is pointed out in the case of Newcastle Breweries that the auditors have no means of arriving at the value of 5,000 £10 ordinary shares in another brewery concern. Also the auditors' report of Mitchells and Butlers carries us a little further in the activities of accountants. It states that "The conveyances of the properties have been produced to us in conjunction with the solicitors," and proceeds to observe that "We have verified all other securities."

Our next table shows dividend distribution from 1913. This will probably convey a better picture of the progress of the brewing industry in this country than the previous table:—

Company.	Dividends.											
	1912-3	1913-4	1914-5	1915-6	1916-7	1917-8	1918-9	1919-20	1920-1	1921-2	1922-3	1923-4
Arthur Guinness	16½	14	14	16	16	16	16	20	25	29		
Bacley, Perkins	5	7½	5	nil	10	15	40	40	10	10		
Bass, Ratcliff	10	15	10	12	14	15	16	11½	11½	11½		
Bent's	nil	nil	nil	nil	5	10	15	15	15	15		
Boddington's	6	6	6	6	6	11	12	15	15	15		
Cannon Brewery	7	15	16	16	16	36	28	36	36	32		
Chester's	8	10	11	10	11	20	25	20	20	20		
Huggins and Co.	..	3½	nil	5	nil	15	15	15	10	10		
Mitchells & Butlers	15	15	15	15	15	12½	15	10e	10	10		
Newcastle Breweries	6	8	8	10	10	15	15	15	15	15		
W. B. Reid	9	10	10	9	10	10	10	15	15	15		
Watney, Combe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Reid, def. stock	nil	nil	nil	nil	8	16	24	24	24	32		
Whitbread and Co.	1	1	2	2	7	7	7	10	10	7		
Wm. Hancock	8	8	6	6	6	12½	15	15	13	10		

+ Bonus paid tax free. : Free of tax. (a) Also 20% in War Loan. (b) On increased capital. (c) Paid on an ordinary capital of £2,040,000, against an ordinary capital of £1,360,000 in 1918. (d) Paid on an ordinary capital of £2,691,180, against £1,345,599 in previous year. (e) Ordinary capital increased from £200,000 to £400,000. (f) Final dividend of 12½% paid on the £400,000. * Also distribution of fully paid shares through capitalisation of reserves. (i) 5% of this is paid free of income-tax.

Mr W. Waters Butler, the chairman of Mitchells and Butlers, at the general meeting of the company, in the course of a lengthy speech in which he reviewed the position of the industry, stated that the demand for beer "fluctuates with the state of industry generally, although the decline in the output of beer falls more rapidly than the reduction in the earning power of the consumer, for the reason that whether the consumer is earning much or little, the first claim upon those earnings is the cost of the home, and this is further accentuated if his requirements during the time of short earnings are being sold at the same unit of price which prevailed when his earnings were much higher." The chairman also referred to the position of consumers who may consider that they are not benefiting by the reduction of working costs, and pointed out that his company was mainly concerned at present in improving the quality of beers, and that during the year £150,000 had been spent in this direction "without any increase in the prices to retailer or consumer." On this same question of cheaper products Mr Cosmo Bonsor, the chairman of Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., made some interesting remarks at the annual meeting of the undertaking. He said that at the moment it was impossible to assist in reducing the price of beer to the consumer. "Taxation was too high. In 1914 the taxation was 7s 9d per standard barrel; now it was £5. The company's sales amounted, in round figures, to 900,000 barrels a year, or 250,000,000 pints. The demand was that there should be a reduction of 1d a pint, which would mean something over £1,000,000 a year. Their income was £770,000, out of which they had to pay debenture interest, preference interest, and dividend on their ordinary stock."

In the next table we show the quotations of the most important public issues of these concerns at intervals over a period of years, together with the present yield based on recent dividends:—

Company.	Share.	Price July 27, 1914.	Price Sept. 30, 1920.	Price Sept. 30, 1921.	Price Aug. 31, 1922.	Present Yield.
Arthur Guinness	Stock	380	315	380	470	6 3 9
Bass, Ratcliff, &c.	1	..	1½	1½	1½	6 4 0
Bacley, Perkins 10% cm. pf.	100	44	38	48	65	5 6 9
Do 3½ % deb.	100	66	46	48	1x	14 11 0
Bent's ord.	1	2½	1½	1½	1½	6 7 0
Do 6 % cum. pref.	1	6½	4½	4½	4½	6 17 3
Do 4 % irred. deb.	Stock	66	54	53	68	5 18 0
Boddington's	10	84	9½	9½	12½	10 18 0
Do 5 % cum. pref.	100	82	6½	5½	7½	5 16 6
Do 4 % deb.	Stock	83	61½	5	61	8 0 0
Cannon 5 % cum. pref.	100	7	5	5	6	5 17 0
Do 4 % "B" deb.	Stock	83½	61	58	69½	6 0 3
Do 4 % mort. deb.	Stock	75	52½	51½	65½	10 3 0
Chester's	1	14½	1½	1½	1½	6 13 0
Do 6 % cum. pref.	1	10½	8	8	9	6 1 6
Do 5 % deb.	100	98½	88	90	1	10 0 0
Huggins and Co. ord.	1	58½	47½	47½	60½	5 16 9
Do 3½ % deb.	1	3½	1½	1½	1½	7 12 6
Mitchells and Butlers ord.	1	3½	1½	1½	1½	10 0 0
Newcastle ord.	1	..	1½	1½	1½	6 17 0
Do 6 % cum. pref.	10	8½	6½	6½	8	6 8 6
W. B. Reid 5 % 1st mort. db.	Stock	78½	65	67	132½	14 5 0
Watney, Combe, Reid def.	Stock	31½	155	132½	224½	6 18 6
Whitbread 4½ % cm. pf. ord.	Share	60½	51	49½	65½	10 0 0
William Hancock def. ord.	10	8	12½	9½	10	10 0 0

† £10 shares.

As shown in our list, a substantial improvement in brewery investments has taken place during the past year. Guinness stock, in spite of Irish troubles, has reached the high-water mark of 470, as against 380 in July, 1914, and other remarkable price increases will be found. The wide yields in many cases, however, denote that public confidence in the brewing industry is yet tempered with some doubts as to the future.

In the absence of the figures formerly issued by the Liquor Traffic Control Board it is possible to obtain an approximate statistical view of the industry from figures published by the United Kingdom Alliance. These figures are estimated, and though the society's object is the suppression of the liquor industry, the following table showing a decrease in the consumption of alcoholic drink generally in Great Britain is probably not unfairly coloured by partisan views. This table shows the estimated consumption of alcohol in Great Britain and

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000

Paid Up Capital ... 1,050,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ... 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

Ireland over a comparative period of six months in four successive years. An estimate of cost to the consumer is added, but this we should imagine is a very approximate figure:—

	HALF-YEAR ending JUNE 30TH, estimated CONSUMPTION and EXPENDITURE (000's omitted).			
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Beer (standard barrels)	8,710 ..	13,089 ..	12,103 ..	10,402 ..
.. (bulk barrels)	14,443 ..	17,242 ..	15,526 ..	13,191 ..
Spirits (proof gall.)	8,669 ..	10,880 ..	8,473 ..	7,824 ..
Wine (gall.)	9,713 ..	9,035 ..	5,354 ..	5,712 ..
Cider and perry (gall.)	2,271 ..	2,795 ..	2,698 ..	3,447 ..
Cost to consumer	£169,000 ..	£215,000 ..	£196,000 ..	£171,000 ..

It is stated that the approximate cost in 1920 is given, the figures being affected by the change in taxation owing to the Budget. The secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance has explained that the decreased consumption recorded by these figures was due, in his opinion, to the continuance of high prices, coupled with unemployment and scarcity of money. He had no theories regarding the cause of the rise in the figures of the consumption of wine and of cider and perry. Nevertheless, these latter figures indicate an interesting development. Taking the above figures as our guide, and comparing alcohol consumed with the table of companies' profits, it is reasonable to assume that while accounts for 1922-23 may not be as good as the two previous years, they should at least show results as good as those recorded for 1919-20. Indeed, it is possible that these results may even be better. For, as already mentioned, the selling price of the product has been maintained, although it is evident that in many cases wages and salaries have been reduced.

TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

It is now possible to state with some definiteness the extent of the decline of trade union membership which, it is common knowledge, has recently taken place. The *Morning Post* appears to regard the numerical weakening of the trade union movement as an evidence of its final extinction—the result, we are given to understand, of its intervention in politics. But students of trade unionism are well aware that in times of industrial depression trade union membership falls off, for reasons which are obvious. The present decline followed on the heels of the collapse of trade. The peak of trade union membership was reached in 1920. In that year the total number of organised workers, according to the official figures of the Ministry of Labour, was nearly eight and a-half millions. The provisional returns of the Ministry, which may be subject to some slight revision, show that the total figure had fallen to 6,793,000 at the end of last year, a decline of 20 per cent. In 1921 the combined membership of the unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress reached the record figure of 6,417,910. At the recent Trades Union Congress the delegates represented 5,127,308 members, a fall of 20 per cent. during twelve months.

Apart from the teachers, amongst whom union membership increased slightly last year, there was during 1921 a general decline in trade union membership. The fall was by no means uniform. The following table shows

the trades in which the decrease in membership was about the average :—

Group of Unions.	Percentage decrease at end of 1921 compared with end of 1920.
Shop assistants, clerks, warehouse workers, &c.	44.3
Builders' labourers.....	43.1
General labourers	36.3
Leather (other than boot and shoe)	33.7
Tailoring and other clothing	32.2
Agriculture	29.1
Shipping	26.3
Woollen and worsted.....	24.5

In some trades and callings the drop in the membership of employees' organisations was much less than average, as is seen below :—

Group of Unions.	Percentage decrease at end of 1921 compared with end of 1920.
Bricklayers and masons	1.5
Food, drink, and tobacco	1.8
Mining and quarrying (not coal)	4.5
Banking and insurance	4.9
Cotton	5.1
Carpenters and joiners	6.7
Ironfoundry, engineering, and shipbuilding.....	9.2

In every group there was a bigger relative decline in women's membership than in men's membership of unions. In the case of men, there was during 1921 a fall of 19.2 per cent., but the number of women members of unions dropped by 24.2 per cent.

These figures throw some light on the slump in trade unionism. Between the end of 1920 and the end of 1921 there was, according to the records of the Ministry of Labour, a drop of 1,700,000 in trade union membership. Of this number nearly 340,000, or a fifth, were women. In 1920 the general labour unions had a combined membership of 1,353,530; at the end of last year they had 862,645 members. Here is a fall of close on half a million. This is not surprising, as the general labour unions include the worst paid workers, casual workers, and workers among whom unemployment has been exceptionally heavy. Nearly a third of the total leakage of union membership is due to the loss of members by these unions. Builders' labourers, an allied group—many of them are, in fact, members of general labour unions and included in the figures just given—showed in 1921 a decrease of nearly 76,000 members. The group of shop assistants, clerks, warehouse workers, &c., lost nearly half their women members last year, and suffered a total loss of 166,000 members. Trade unionism has never been a very powerful influence amongst these workers. It is of relatively recent growth, and it has not stood the strain of the present time of difficulty. This is true again of agricultural workers, who lost 61,000 members last year. Other trades where the proportionate drop is below the average have nevertheless lost a considerable number of members. The coal miners' membership is down by 200,000, a fact which should occasion no surprise. The groups to which reference has been made above, and where existing circumstances might be expected to affect trade union membership adversely, account for two-thirds of the lost membership; in other words, the unions of general workers, shop assistants, agricultural workers, and miners, &c., have lost a million members, leaving a loss of half a million to be distributed amongst the remainder of the trade union movement.

It will be seen, therefore, that over the greater part of industry, commerce, and the public services the trade depression has not inflicted a shattering blow on the workers' organisations. The greatest inroads have been made where trade unionism is not firmly established, or where, as amongst the miners, there were special circumstances—a serious defeat, drastic wages reductions, and unemployment—to account for the slump.

But this is not all. The backwash must not be considered apart from the great wave of trade unionism which preceded it. The trade union movement was at the end of 1921 numerically stronger than it was at the end of the war, and 50 per cent. above its strength in the year before the war. The total figures are as follows :—

End of year—	End of year—
1913	4,189,000
1918	6,664,000
1919	8,081,000
1920	8,493,000
1921	6,793,000

Even if the decline has not yet fully run its course, it is clear that trade unionism will emerge from the crisis much stronger than it was immediately before the war. It is not anticipated, however, that there will be a further substantial decrease in trade union membership, and consequently the Trades Union Congress will remain a much more powerful body than ever it was before the war. The affiliated membership of the Congress at intervals during the past 20 years is shown below :—

Year.	Members.	Year.	Members.
1902	1,400,000	1919	5,284,000
1907	1,700,000	1920	6,505,000
1912	2,002,000	1921	6,418,000
1917	3,082,000	1922	5,127,000
1918	4,532,000		

Even if organised labour were somewhat further weakened numerically, the proportionate gain in membership during the last decade will be at least as great as that in the previous decade.

Moreover, the effect of the trade depression has been to weed out the "weaker brethren," and the real strength of the trade union movement has not been seriously impaired. Further, as the Ministry of Labour's statistics show, there was during 1921 a decrease in the number of trade unions from 1,425 to 1,296, due mainly, it is pointed out, to amalgamations. This consolidation of forces offsets to some extent the temporary decline in trade union membership. It is, of course, true, on the other hand, that the trade depression and such important national stoppages as those in the mining and engineering industries, have seriously depleted the financial resources of the unions, and that it will be some time before the unions recover the financial position they held before the collapse of trade. Nevertheless, a comprehensive survey of the position of trade unionism to-day shows that it is not so desperate as some of its friends and most of its critics imagine. It has lost in numbers and money, but not beyond possibility of recovery. It is expected that as employment increases trade union membership will revive, whilst existing circumstances are giving an impetus to the more effective consolidation and organisation of trade unionism. Consequently we may expect the movement to emerge from the present crisis stronger in organisation, if temporarily weakened in numbers.

THE QUARTER'S NEW ISSUES.

The past quarter has lived up to its reputation of being the slackest period of the year in the new issue market, our statistics of new capital applications for the three months ending September 30th showing a total of only £62 millions as compared with £162½ millions in the second quarter and £286½ millions in the first quarter. In the corresponding period of 1921 the total was slightly less at £57¼ millions. Of the past quarter's total over £42½ millions represented borrowing by the British Government, leaving some £19 millions for other purposes. New issues quarter by quarter in recent years are set out in the table below :—

Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total for Whole Year.
	£	£	£	£	£
1910.....	99,355,600	88,721,400	28,111,600	51,250,500	267,439,100
1911.....	61,245,000	56,238,800	14,914,500	59,361,100	191,759,400
1912.....	47,966,100	62,377,500	40,687,100	59,819,300	210,850,000
1913.....	50,344,700	70,014,900	29,961,800	46,216,000	196,537,000
1914.....	97,610,200	54,739,100	20,265,200	339,908,100	512,522,600
1915.....	46,313,500	25,693,200	586,772,500	26,462,500	685,241,700
1916.....	156,251,200	131,022,500	111,578,000	186,584,700	585,436,400
1917.....	825,925,200	221,254,300	57,054,400	214,362,100	1,318,596,000
1918.....	475,258,700	220,921,500	329,674,000	567,527,200	1,393,381,400
1919.....	291,901,400	93,879,000	536,502,200	113,776,800	1,036,059,400
1920.....	135,094,500	98,011,700	61,195,600	73,247,800	367,549,600
1921.....	63,382,100	65,281,900	57,890,600	202,423,600	388,978,200
1922.....	286,207,100	162,567,100	61,920,200	..	..

These figures include British Government borrowing, with the exception of money raised by Treasury bills and Ways and Means Advances. During the past quarter £39½ millions was raised by 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, the last of which were sold in the week ended August 11th, and £2¼ millions from the sale of National Savings Certi-

ificates. Out of a total of £510½ millions in the nine months the British Government has been responsible for borrowings of £346½ millions, a large proportion of which represents conversion of floating debt into short dated bonds. The following analysis shows the purposes for which the remaining new issues were made in the quarter and in the nine months :—

Description.	Total, First Half-year, 1922.	Third Quarter, 1922.	Total Nine Months to September 30.
	£	£	£
British Government Loans	304,258,900	42,493,300	346,752,200
Colonial Government Loans	41,582,300	nil	41,582,300
Foreign Government Loans	13,066,600	nil	13,066,600
British Municipal and County Loans	5,555,300	nil	5,555,300
Colonial corporations	2,883,100	2,950,000	5,833,100
Foreign corporations	6,107,500	nil	6,107,500
British railways	2,872,000	nil	2,872,000
Foreign railways	14,687,500	nil	14,687,500
Australian mines	16,500	nil	16,500
South African mines	409,200	nil	409,200
Other mines	1,131,000	132,500	1,263,500
Exploration, financial, & investment trust	3,902,300	1,483,000	5,385,300
Breweries	784,000	nil	784,000
Merchants, importers, &c.	100,000	nil	100,000
Manufacturing	5,690,000	562,500	6,252,500
Stores and trading	170,500	nil	170,500
Estate and land	125,000	487,500	612,500
Rubber	120,700	5,000	125,700
Oil	16,490,000	275,000	16,765,000
Iron, coal, steel, and engineering	5,385,000	3,903,800	9,288,800
Electric lighting and power	1,715,500	1,651,500	3,367,000
Framways, omnibus, &c.	490,000	87,000	577,000
Motor traction and manufacturing	nil	nil	905,000
Gas and water	1,247,600	439,700	1,687,300
Hotels, theatres, and entertainments	1,103,900	525,000	1,628,900
Patents and proprietary articles	nil	116,200	116,200
Docks, harbours, and shipping	12,109,700	2,000,000	14,109,700
Banks and insurance	2,870,700	50,000	2,920,700
Miscellaneous	3,893,600	2,839,900	6,733,500
	448,774,200	61,920,200	510,694,400

Under Colonial Corporations there were three loans: Port of Bombay, £1,600,000 in 6 per cents. at par, Johannesburg, £1,000,000 in 5½ per cents. at par, and Auckland Electric Power, £350,000 in 5½ per cent. stock at par. In the industrial section the largest group is iron, coal, steel, and engineering, in which two companies are responsible for nearly £6 millions—Tata Iron and Steel, with an issue of £1,960,000 in 7 per cent. debenture stock at 98, and Platt Bros. and Co. with £3,444,300 in ordinary shares and £534,000 in 7 per cent. preference shares. Both these issues were made in the early part of July. Three companies in the electricity section made new issues, the larger part of which was accounted for by the County of London Electric Supply Company, with an offer of £562,500 ordinary and £500,000 6 per cent. preference shares. There were five small issues in the gas and water group, but the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was responsible for the total in the shipping section, with an issue of 6½ per cent. preference stock. In the miscellaneous list the principal issues were £1,238,300 by Crosses and Heaton's Associated Mills in 6 per cent. debenture stock at 98, £400,000 by Thos. de la Rue and Co. in 8 per cent. debenture stock at par, and £617,500 in 6½ per cent. debenture stock at 95 by the Empire Paper Mills.

From the final table, in which the destination of the new capital issued is given, it will be seen that a very much larger amount has gone abroad during the past nine months than in the corresponding periods of the previous two years :—

Destination of New Capital.	First Nine Months				
	1912.	1913.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom.....	36,533,400	25,595,200	264,582,900	118,101,400	405,012,000
British Possessions.....	35,501,800	26,948,700	95,002,600	46,478,900	55,110,800
Foreign countries	78,995,500	67,778,200	4,716,500	21,884,900	50,571,600
Total	151,030,700	150,322,100	364,291,000	186,465,100	510,694,400

If British Government borrowings be excluded it will be found that nearly two-thirds of the money raised here in the past nine months was for use outside the United Kingdom, a very much higher proportion than in the corresponding period of 1921. The manner in which the amount going to foreign countries in the last three years has grown is noteworthy. The latest total, however, is much below the pre-war figure, without making any allowance for the alteration in purchasing power. In the case of British Possessions, the figure for 1922 is considerably in excess of the pre-war average.

Notes of the Week.

Maritime Trade and the Near Eastern Crisis.—The revolution in Greece comes too late to re-establish her as one of the guardians of that freedom of the Straits which is the avowed object of the Powers—unless, indeed, the situation should be transformed by the obstinacy of the Kemalists or their treatment of the refugees at Smyrna. At present they seem bent on completing the ruin of that port and its hinterland begun by the Greek army during its retreat. At the Ottoman Railway meeting, on Tuesday, Lord St Davids stated that, though the terminal equipment of the line at Smyrna had not suffered, the retiring Greek forces had completed the destruction of the towns of Aidin and Nazli, burnt a number of stations, looted and destroyed the Turkish villages, deported Turkish notables to Athens, and devastated the rich district on which the trade of the port depends; and that there was reason to apprehend grave damage to the line beyond a point some 70 miles from Smyrna. He insisted also on the harm done by the division of Asia Minor into spheres of influence—a division for which France and Italy are to be blamed rather than our own Government. It remains to be seen what securities are to be found for the freedom of the Straits. A Greek Thrace seems unlikely to be one of them. Should Eastern Thrace be returned to the Porte, Bulgaria will at least have an outlet through Constantinople less obstructed than that which she should rightly have through Salonika. But she needs the unrestricted access to the Aegean, promised, but not yet accorded, by the Powers. Professor Toynbee suggests in Wednesday's *Times* that it may be secured to her by the partition of Thrace into an Eastern and a Western section with the Maritza as the dividing line, the Eastern portion being returned to Turkey, and the Western made autonomous, like Dantzig, under a High Commissioner appointed by the League of Nations. This would secure the protection of the racial minorities in the Western section better than Greek rule could; and Dedeağatch would then be included in the Western portion, and would serve as the promised outlet for the overseas trade of Bulgaria. Dedeağatch, however, is still a long way by rail from Bulgarian territory, and its harbour is an open roadstead, where ships cannot lie during a southerly gale. The proposed partition would revive the project of 1914 for a sheltered harbour at Porto Lagos at the mouth of the Burukol lagoon, with a direct railway connecting it through Gumuldjina with Karadjik, some 40 miles east of Philippopolis, on the Orient Railway to Constantinople, and a short line from Karadjik, giving direct access to the Bulgarian railway system through Stara Zagora. The engineering difficulties might be considerable and the scheme costly, but it is necessary for the development of Bulgaria, and it is not likely to be carried out while Western Thrace remains part of the Greek kingdom.

Conditions in Ireland.—As we go to press our Dublin correspondent telegraphs that the postal strike has been ended by the acceptance of the Government's last pre-strike offer. Writing on Thursday he said:—It is satisfactory to record definite progress on the road towards settled government, and a certain ripening of public thought. Dail Eireann, which combines the functions of a Parliament of the Provisional Government and of a Constituent Assembly, has settled down to work. Standing orders for the regulation of its own procedure have been framed; a very modest scale of salaries for Ministers and for payment of members fixed; progress made in the debate on the draft Constitution, which has been conducted with moderation and a temperate discussion of differences of opinion; measures authorised for adjusting the incidence of the financial burden of the recent destruction as between the local authorities and the National Government; special powers conferred upon the military authorities to enable them to use some of the most effective weapons of martial law against the rebel irregulars. The Labour Party, prudently mindful of the clear wish of the mass of the people, is settling down into an orthodox Opposition, and, under the same impulsion, the free-lances who started by showing a disposition to harass a Government misguided

enough to have omitted them from its official ranks, are showing themselves less troublesome. Mr Cosgrave, as President of Dail Eireann and Minister of Finance, has been firm, able, and urgent for the despatch of business. Mr O'Higgins, as Minister for Home Affairs, has already earned a reputation for his clearness of exposition, his command of his subject, and effectiveness in debate. Mr Mulcahy, as Minister of War, is firmly established in general esteem as a high-minded personality of much practical ability. The good work done and the improved situation are both attributable to the firmness of the public temper. It has definitely determined that it must have the Treaty, and that it must have order and settled government, and that it will allow no side issues to deflect its purpose. Apparently passive as to expression, it is unshakeable now in its conviction. The attempt to bully it has failed, and the rebel irregulars, should they persist in it, will find to their cost how bitterly it has been resented. The damage that has been done is enormous. Mr Cosgrave provisionally mentioned £40,000,000—and the bulk of this huge sum will become a national charge in relief of the local authorities, which are primarily liable. But the local authorities are to remain partly liable. Mr Cosgrave aims at linking together the local authorities' rates with the Government taxes, in order to furnish the maximum of security for the necessary public loans. It was made clear also that this local liability should lead to increased zeal in local resistance to sabotage, and to a closer local scrutiny, before endorsement, of local claims for compensation out of public funds. On the other hand, the local authorities are to receive, on Local Taxation Account, the grants and arrears thereof which had been withheld by the British Government for their contumacy towards the L.G.B., but as these were portions of the guarantee fund for the payment of land purchase annuities, certain deductions must be made. Thus each locality will realise the convenience of getting the purchase farmers to pay their debts. These measures are just and practical, and will tend to stimulate the sense of civic obligation amongst country ratepayers and voters. Dublin during the three weeks since Dail Eireann met has had a postal strike on the grand scale, but has made shift, almost cheerfully, with most defective—almost non-existent—postal, telegraph, and telephone services; it has had a building trade strike, and a shut-down of its two shipyards, and it is threatened with a printers' strike. The Government, with the full approval of the public, is adamant. Its position is that civil servants have no right to strike, and that after the cut has been made, wages will be higher here than for the corresponding grades in England and N.E. Ulster. The latest Exchequer returns show a balance on September 23rd of £2,822,610, as against £2,380,907 for the previous week, and a sum of £250,000 Ways and Means Advances has been paid off. Receipts suddenly accelerated, coming up to the half-year period—£1,394,277 being collected. Apparently President Cosgrave's public reproaches affected some income-tax payers, for, after being motionless for three weeks, the item "Property and Income-tax" moved from £1,017,000 to £1,091,000. All but £90,000 of the week's receipts were Customs and Excise. Readers of the *Economist* will recollect that these figures represent Revenue as "collected," and not "true" Revenue. No new fiscal arrangements will come into operation until after the ratification of the Constitution in December next.

The Iron and Steel Outlook.—The autumn outlook for the iron and steel industries is very different from that of a year ago. Then the industry was just starting up after the disastrous coal stoppage, and at the end of September only 68 furnaces were in blast, while pig-iron, instead of being exported, was being imported at the rate of about 100,000 tons a month. Progress during the past year has been painfully slow, and there are even now only about 130 furnaces blowing out of a total of about 480, and the production of pig-iron is only 60 per cent., and of steel 70 per cent., of the average monthly production in 1920. At the same time, although the most sanguine observer does not expect to see the number of furnaces blowing reach the 300 that were operating in September, 1920, there are indications of an improvement in the trade this

autumn. Prices, which had been falling continuously for a year, until many works were operating at a loss, now show a tendency to harden. There has been a distinct improvement in the home demand in certain directions, while in some of the chief export markets for iron and steel, notably India, Australia, and South America, signs of increased purchasing power are apparent. While it is true that shipbuilding, on which the iron and steel industry normally depends for about a third of its outlet, shows little signs of improvement, negotiations are in progress to curtail still further the labour cost of production, which may enable shipbuilding once more to become an economic proposition. It is clearly recognised by iron and steel interests that a complete return to normal is impossible while the situation on the Continent and the Near East remains so involved, and while railway rates remain at their present high level, but in spite of these handicaps some fairly substantial improvement is looked for this autumn.

The Ebbw Vale Stoppage.—The depression in the coal trade has hit few colliery undertakings more severely than that of the Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal Company, Limited. In the financial year ending 1920 the gross profits amounted to £1,448,632, and in 1921 to £633,247. In 1920 the dividend paid was 15 per cent., and in the following year 5 per cent. Last year, however, the gross profit was only £49,500, and after deducting general and legal expenses, as well as interest on debentures and loans, there was a net loss of £320,870. Under these conditions the company found it imperative to carry out drastic economies in costs of production, and one of the forms which these economies took was that of the withdrawal of allowances which from time to time had been made to supplement the day rates and the piece rates earnings of the miners. The withdrawal of these allowances, however, was strongly resented by the workmen, but they were persuaded by the South Wales Miners' Federation to refer the dispute to arbitration, and Professor Galloway, an arbitrator of their own choice, was appointed. He recently gave his award, and it had been contemplated to put that award into operation as from November 1st next. The Federation officials were agreeable to that course and to give the award a three months' test. Mr Evan Davies, M.P., however, the advisory agent of the district, but not the agent who had been in control of the local negotiations, condemned the award root and branch, and expressed his determination to refuse to allow it to take effect. In this course he was opposed by the miners' agent, and the dispute, therefore, embittered not only the relationships between the company and its employees, but also those between the leaders and the workmen themselves. Last week an exchange of letters between Mr Evan Davies, the advisory agent, and the management apparently left on the agent the impression that his authority to act on behalf of the workmen was disputed, and as a reprisal Mr Davies, on Wednesday, September 20th, called out not only the miners, but also the workmen employed at the by-product works upon which the company's iron and steel establishments are dependent for their coke supplies. A mass meeting of the miners on the following day confirmed the authority of Mr Davies, and that day intimidation was given to the company that the employees were prepared to resume their duties immediately. The management replied that as the workmen had again broken their contracts of service, and closed down the pits, it was not intended to reopen them for the present. The records of disputes in the coalfield show that stoppages, irregular and regular, have been more numerous at Ebbw Vale than in any other district, and in a statement which he made on September 23rd Sir Frederick Mills, the chairman of the company, complained that that was the fifteenth occasion when the Ebbw Vale by-product plant had been stopped as the result of unauthorised strike action. The stoppages at the collieries have been even more frequent, and the action taken by Mr Evan Davies last week had been threatened on other occasions this year. In these circumstances, the company have decided to keep their works closed until they are given greater security against these stoppages than they have possessed in the past.

Approximately 12,000 men have been thrown out of employment, and distress in the district, after a long period of depression and low wages, is very acute. The South Wales Miners' Federation has taken control of the dispute out of the hands of the local miners' agents, and has offered to give the Galloway award a three months' trial. The demand of the company is that that award be applied unconditionally, and as the steel furnaces have been raked out, and the pit ponies and workmen's tools removed from the mines, it is feared that the stoppage will be prolonged until an improvement in the coal and iron and steel trades affords a reasonable prospect of remunerative production.

Stock Exchange Values.—The *Bankers' Magazine* statistics of stock exchange values show a decrease of nearly £44 millions from August 18th to September 18th, 387 representative securities falling in value from approximately £6,192½ millions to just over £6,148½ millions. It is stated that "the depreciation is wholly accounted for by the setback in gilt-edged or fixed interest-bearing securities," the fall being particularly pronounced in British Funds. In variable dividend securities, in spite of the fact that British railway ordinary stocks fell about £9 millions, a net gain of £25 millions is recorded. American railways have risen nearly £24 millions, while Colonial railways are higher, but South American rails, it is stated, "have been somewhat depressed." The selected 13 British bank shares have fallen slightly, but 18 Colonial and foreign have made a small upward move. Insurance shares also record an improvement.

Co-operative Trading Results.—The decrease in the sale of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Limited, continues, but the loss which startled the movement a year ago has become a matter of history. The report to be presented at the October meetings shows sales of £32,175,883 for the half-year, a decline of 24 per cent. following the decrease of 17 per cent. reported in 1921, as compared with 1920. The productive enterprises have had a turnover of £10,000,000, against £14,000,000 in the first half of 1921. The deposits and withdrawals in the C.W.S. Bank indicate the lessened business, being £43,689,024 less than in the former period, that totalled only £252,833,323. This is due to the altered conditions of trade union finance, as well as to the straitened resources of many co-operative societies, for the C.W.S. now deals with the current accounts of 7,748 trade unions and friendly societies, as well as of 2,698 workmen's clubs. Amalgamations of co-operative societies have lessened the number of co-operative accounts, which now number 1,026. After providing for all expenses and paying £619,666 interest on share and loan capital and £374,968 for depreciation on land and building, the result is a net profit or "surplus"—as the co-operators now term their gains—of £23,521. This is being added to the reserve fund of £614,988. Among the trade details which make up the C.W.S. returns are the sale, during the six months, of 23,146,802 lbs of tea valued at £2,553,136. The supplies for the society's eleven flour and provender mills were £4,591,947, as compared with £7,086,863 in the first half of 1921. But although the values declined 35 per cent., the output of flour was only 5 per cent. and of offals 9 per cent. less than in the earlier period. Of flour, 1,574,760 sacks were produced, and 1,185,452 sacks of offal, the result being a profit of £104,746. The total capital of the C.W.S. is now £33,025,898, having increased by three millions in the six months. There are 1,199 shareholding societies in the federation, with a membership of 3,480,168, an increase of 1 per cent. Evidently the co-operative movement is in the throes of a great struggle, but it is better off than was the case a year ago. The committees of retail societies are being urged by the directors of the C.W.S. to give them all the trade they can, in order to lessen the ratio of standing charges which cannot be reduced, and to make possible a return to the old days, when a dividend can be declared on trade. It should not be forgotten that throughout the whole period since the war the Co-operative Wholesale Society has maintained its interest on capital—so that it has really done better

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

for the shareholding societies than many private concerns have done for their investors. The fact that much of their own capital is invested with the C.W.S. has been a source of financial strength to the retail distributive societies throughout the country.

Conditions in South Africa.—According to information received by the Standard Bank of South Africa, business in the Union of South Africa is proceeding on very quiet lines, although prospects generally are favourable. The demand for agricultural implements is increasing, and the outlook is brighter owing to the favourable climatic conditions. But the mining material and iron and steel markets are dull, although an early improvement is foreshadowed. Prices are slightly firmer. The quotations at Johannesburg are:—Imported iron and steel flats 25s 6d to 35s per 100 lbs, and steel plates 20s to 25s. In the electrical trades, business is quiet and prices are unchanged. It is recorded, however, that the building trade maintains steady progress, heavy shipments of timber having recently arrived, although stocks in most lines are ample. The tinplate market is dull, and while the soft goods and clothing business shows a slight improvement, in the hardware and cutlery market little business is passing. In boots and shoes the volume of business shows little change. The first instalments of the new wool clip are now arriving, and are eagerly competed for. There is keen demand for long super clips. The mohair market is quiet, with some business passing in summer fairs. Business in the sheepskins market is brisk, and there is keen demand for all descriptions. Prices for hides are firm, but it is reported that the wattle bark market is weak, small sales of chopped bark having been effected at 117s 6d to 120s per ton, Durban. The ostrich feather market shows no improvement, and the Cape wheat market is weak. Large supplies of Canadian and Australian wheat are expected shortly. The maize market is rising, and supplies are difficult to obtain at the current quotations at Capetown, which are, for Grade 2, 12s 3d, and for Grade 6, 11s 3d. The trade figures for British South Africa during the six months ended June, compared with the corresponding period of 1921, are as follows:—

	January-June, 1921.	January-June, 1922.
Imports	£ 33,810,877	£ 24,731,768
Exports, including re-exports ..	30,337,550	26,707,706

Figures for the Transvaal gold output during August have already appeared in a recent issue of the *Economist*.

Labour Trouble in Australia.—From time to time of late considerable purchases of the shares of Australian base metal producing companies have been made on behalf of capitalists residing in the Commonwealth. It has been understood that the buying has been induced by the belief that economic conditions were improving, more especially on the score of labour. Certainly, a few small concessions had been granted by the Arbitration Courts, but it would seem that the optimistic conclusions were premature, cables to hand this week reporting fresh strikes, with the threat of a general strike, in connection with the proposed restoration of the 48-hour week, the abolition of compulsory arbitration, and other matters. It might have been thought that the prolonged stoppage of work at Broken Hill, the dismissals in Western Australia, and

other like currencies, would have induced labour to take up a more conciliatory attitude. In some quarters, the view is put forward that a "fight to a finish" will provide the only satisfactory settlement.

Petrol and the Oil Market.—The announcement of a cut in the prices of petrol has caused fresh searchings of heart amongst holders of shares in oil companies, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, and it had the effect of accentuating the dulness in oil shares, though there was nothing in the shape of a pronounced fall in prices. No doubt shareholders are wondering how it will affect the profits of their undertakings, and if there had been any pronounced weakness in the market probably prices would have given way more noticeably throughout the list. The mere fact of the market remaining tolerably steady, however, served to reassure holders, and the dulness which developed was not sufficient to arouse more than uneasiness in the minds of holders. The reason advanced in the market for this comparative steadiness, in the face of the petrol cut, is that the price of crude oil has been coming down for a long time past, and that the new scale to consumers of petrol, while it will rejoice the heart of the motorist and others interested as retail purchasers, can hardly be expected to make much material difference to the profits of the oil-producing concerns, although it is likely to cause a temporary diminution in most cases. For some months past the oil market has been in a subdued condition. It may be assumed that the majority of shareholders in oil companies acquired their interests at prices higher, and in many instances substantially higher, than those which rule to-day. The proprietors see no particular reason for cutting losses, but, at the same time, the outlook for the oil business is not sufficiently bright to encourage fresh purchases of shares to average others bought more expensively. The consequence is that the market has arrived at a stage in which interest is largely academic on the part of the public, and mainly professional on that of speculators. The Shell Company, it may be recalled, made an issue of 7 per cent. preferences early in the year at 20s, and the price is now 23s 3d. The issue was well over-subscribed, and on the strength of this there was a rush for the Mexican Eagle 7 per cent. preference shares, offered soon afterwards at 20s 6d. The lists closed promptly, but stags found themselves left with considerably more shares than they required. Hence Mexican Eagle preference stand at a discount of 9d per share, in spite of the fact that there is a dividend due at the end of next month. The present cut in petrol is held in the market to be unpleasant for the producing concerns, though, for the reason above stated, it is thought that profits may not be permanently affected. So far as the Shell Company is concerned, its interests are so many and so widely spread that oil production pure and simple is by no means the only source of revenue; the distributing part of the company's business is sufficiently profitable to enable shareholders to regard the fall in the price of the spirit without apprehension. With regard to the Burmah Oil Company, the shares have eased off in sympathy with others in the group, for it is assumed that, although a cut in petrol in England need not affect the price of the spirit in India, a reduction is probable to Indian consumers, who will point to the example set by the trade in this country. Mexican Eagles have given way, owing to the fact that the company is a producer almost entirely, and therefore dependent for its principal profits upon the price of crude oil. The Trinidad companies have been getting on none too happily for some time past, as recent reports have shown. Shortage of pipe-line facilities in the island and disappointments in connection with output have contributed to bring about dulness in the shares of most of the Trinidad companies, and this is accentuated by the dulness of the oil market as a whole. Royal Dutch shares have come down a little with the rest, but the price is tolerably well maintained, and shareholders no doubt congratulate themselves upon their company having received £4 11s 6d from a pool for its large holding of Shell shares. The smaller fry of the oil market are affected more by gambling considerations than by output, but, speaking broadly,

the effect of the cut in the spirit has been to give the market a dull appearance and to divert speculative attention into other sections.

Indian Fiscal Commission.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Lancashire traders have this week displayed considerable interest in the report of the Indian Fiscal Commission and the recommendations have been closely studied. It cannot be said that the report of the Commission has caused any surprise, in view of its composition. Lancashire has realised for some time that the Indian Government is determined to adopt a policy of protection for her industries. The Commission condemns the excise duty on cotton goods, and it may be taken for granted that this tax will be removed at an early date, whatever may be done with regard to the import duty. It is feared that the protection which is now being established will injure to a considerable extent Lancashire's trade, but most merchants are not down-hearted. It must be expected that more and more mills will be built in India during the coming years, and imports of textile machinery are on a large scale. The factories, however, are being put up at a big cost and the capital outlay is much larger than Lancashire mills. Labour difficulties in our Dependency are increasing, and the mill owners will have to be prepared to pay higher wages and provide better conditions for the operatives. It is suggested that a fair rise in the value of the rupee would destroy the benefit which now accrues to Indian manufacturers as a result of the duty on imported goods. If a long view of the situation is taken, the opinion prevails that as the years go by the standard of living of the natives in India will be raised and they will not be content to be clothed with coarse materials such as those made in the local mills.

Van den Berghs.—It may be recalled that in the accounts for 1920 of Van den Berghs, Limited, the auditors drew attention to the stocks of raw material held by the company, "which were considerably in excess of the market values ruling at the date of the balance-sheet." In the accounts for 1921, now issued, it is significant to find that the directors refer "to the unprecedented fall in the price of raw materials, which began to take place towards the end of 1920, and which continued till well into 1922." The reduction, however, in stocks, as revealed in the balance-sheet, from £3,022,615 to £755,787, is certainly a matter which will compel shareholders' attention. Claims in respect of enemy pre-war debts still figure under assets at £407,233. The previous accounts covered a period of 18 months, and, including the balance brought forward, profits amounted to £1,624,873. Of this sum £468,750 was appropriated for a bonus share issue, bonuses were handed to the managing directors and a dividend of 25 per cent. paid on ordinary shares. For 1921 a loss of £176,867 is recorded, without taking into consideration £37,169 paid to directors. Goodwill account remains unchanged at £656,463, but the 6 per cent. notes, amounting to £343,954, and loans from bankers of £646,363, have now disappeared from the balance-sheet. Fortunately the company had a balance in hand of £635,930, and after the demands for dividend of preferential shareholders have been met, £166,566 is left to be carried forward to the next accounts. The balance-sheet will be found analysed in our usual column.

A Kafir Quartette.—Our mining correspondent writes The great majority of the annual statements of the Transvaal gold mining companies are made up to December 31st, but a few strike their balances at June 30th. Of these, four—all belonging to the Rand Mines Central Mining group—have made their appearance this week. Naturally, each reflects in a greater or lesser degree the decline in the gold premium and the strike of January-March last. Of the quartette, the most important is the New Modderfontein, which has already distributed dividends totalling nearly 8½ millions, besides devoting a large proportion of its profits to outlay upon plant, &c. The net earnings of 1921-22 fell appreciably short of the

record total of 1½ millions declared in respect of the preceding year, when the dividend was raised from 32½ per cent. to a round 100 per cent.; hence the rate was reduced to 70 per cent. But with the current price of gold at approximately last year's average, and costs coming down month by month, there is reason to anticipate a restoration of the distribution to the "cent per cent." level. The cost, however, will be spread over a series of years. The partial stoppage of work naturally exerted a slightly adverse effect upon the ore reserve position. Still, the tonnage even now exceeds 8½ millions—or, say, eight years' supply for the mill; while the value has been more than maintained. On the basis of 100 per cent. dividend the yield on the shares at the current price of 4½ would be about 12 per cent. Appended is a tabulation of the salient features of the reports for the past three years of the Modder and of the other three companies:—

	Year Ended June 30th.			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	
NEW MODDER.				
Tons milled	968,500	1,083,000	947,000	
Costs per ton	21/11	23/5	22/10	
Profit per ton	30/10	31/5	24/8	
Total working profit £	1,493,850	1,699,050	1,167,300	
Dividends	£ 1,155,000	£ 1,400,000	980,000	
Carried forward	£ 344,000	£ 306,850	345,500	
Ore reserves	8,869,700	8,884,600	8,577,600	
Value	8.4	8.4	8.6	
MODDER EAST.				
Tons milled	39,500*	297,800	237,100	
Costs per ton	18/8	30/5	37/2	
Profit per ton	4/4	14/1	3/2	
Total working profit £	700†	209,800	37,700	
Carried forward	£ 45,500	£ 126,900	63,700	
Ore reserves	1,755,400	1,611,700	1,962,800	
Value, dwts	7.75	8.1	7.1	
CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF.				
Tons milled	557,500	561,800	465,870	
Costs per ton	29/2	32/3	33/4	
Profit per ton	8/1	7/1	3/1	
Total working profit £	227,000	199,100	70,600	
Dividends	£ 155,950	£ 155,950	62,400	
Carried forward	£ 193,600	£ 188,500	157,150	
Ore reserves	1,186,000	1,176,500	1,141,900	
Value	7.6	7.5	7.3	
NOURSE MINES.				
Tons milled	477,300	508,700	429,650	
Costs per ton	29/5	30/10	31/6	
Profit per ton	3/8	4/8	1/1	
Total working profit £	89,900	118,350	22,400	
Dividends	£ 62,100	£ 62,100	50,700	
Carried forward	£ 134,000	£ 116,300	61,100	
Ore reserves	1,550,250	1,589,000	1,650,260	
Value	7.0	6.9	6.9	

* About two months. † Loss.

The report of the Modder East shows that in 1920-21, when the gold premium was at its height, the revenue averaged 44s 6d per ton, and costs 30s 5d. Operations in the first half of 1921-22 showed a profit of £64,100; in the second a working loss of £26,400, due to the labour trouble, which accounted for nearly 3s of the increase in the cost ratio. The company is on the horns of this dilemma. All the while the ore is transported to and crushed at a hired battery, the output must be relatively small and the expense average high. To alter this state of affairs the removal and re-erection of the Simmer-Jupiter plant is necessary, entailing heavy expenditure—and the finances are weak. The consulting engineer gives a frankly unfavourable account of the mining position, and states that working costs under present conditions can only be met by encroaching on the high-grade reserves. The Consolidated Main Reef owns a large area in the Central Rand, but as both the eastern and western sections of the mine offer little prospect of the discovery of any considerable quantities of payable ore, the middle section has naturally to bear the whole burden of finding material for the mill. This involves a considerable and disproportionate expense in shaft-sinking. The extent to which the company is dependent upon a reduction in working expenses is vividly brought out by the statistics, showing that at the normal price of gold last year's operations would have resulted in an operating loss of £63,200, or 2s 8d per ton. The ore reserves tend to decrease both in quantity and value; the present tonnage represents only about two years' supply for the mill. Last year's dividend of 5 per cent. compares with 12½ per cent. in

respect of each of the two preceding periods. There appears to have been some foundation for the reports as to the developments in the Nourse Mines, the manager stating that, in the eastern section of the mine, blocks of South Reef and Main Reef Leader were exposed "of a slightly higher value than the ore reserves." Nevertheless, the value of the latter, as a whole, remains unchanged. The company will shortly have the benefit of an additional shaft for the exploitation of its deep level area.

Restitution under Article 238.—Notice is given by the Board of Trade that no claims against Germany for restitution under the provisions of Article 238 of the Treaty of Versailles of cash, securities, or other property seized or sequestered in occupied territory will be entertained, except in cases which have been notified to the Reparation Claims Department, Cornwall House, Stamford street, London, S.E.1, and full particulars of which have been furnished before October 28, 1922. All claims for restitution which have been notified to the Reparation Claims Department, but in respect of which all the particulars and information which have been asked for by the Reparation Claims Department have not been furnished before October 28, 1922, will be presumed to have been abandoned.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—NEW TARIFF—CAPITAL ISSUES—JULY FOREIGN COMMERCE.—TRADE RECOVERY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 18.

WHILE many business and financial interests seriously doubt the wisdom of enacting such an extraordinarily high tariff as that now pending in Congress, the prospect of an early passage of the measure, after nearly two years of agitation and uncertainty, has had a decidedly beneficial effect upon most lines of trade and industry concerned. Whatever the results may be, the rates of duties and the provisions of the new tariff are practically settled, and final action, which appears imminent, will give merchants, manufacturers and bankers at least something definite in that respect upon which to base operations for the future. It had been expected that the House would promptly adopt the compromise Tariff Bill agreed to in conference, but the action of the conferees in inserting the dye embargo provisions after the latter had been rejected previously by both branches of Congress, together with the imposition of the duty on potash for three years, caused a revolt among the Republican members. The Bill was recommitted to the conferees, who revised their report by putting fertiliser potash on the free list, eliminating the dye embargo provisions, and lowering the *ad valorem* rates after two years to 40 per cent. on intermediate dyes and to 45 per cent. on those in the finished state. With those changes made, the House passed the measure as submitted by the conference committee.

In order, apparently, to meet the autumn investment demand, new bond issues were offered on an exceptionally heavy scale last week. The total of such offerings, amounting to \$172,529,100, exceeded that of any other week in the history of new financing in Wall Street, with the single exception of the week of April 28, when new bonds aggregating \$232,228,995 were offered, and barring, of course, the Government's war issues. During the past month or so the weekly offerings have reached only about \$10,000,000. By far the largest portion of the new issues (\$93,000,000) consisted of industrial bonds; public utility concerns put out \$29,500,000 worth, while State and municipal offerings accounted for \$21,242,000 of the week's total, the balance being made up of railroad, foreign and miscellaneous bonds. The State and municipal bonds, carrying interest rates of 4 to 5½ per cent., were offered at prices to yield returns ranging from about 3½ to 5½ per cent., although most of the yields were below 5 per cent. Public utility issues, with interest

rates of 5 to 6 per cent., were priced to return 5.47 to 6.60 per cent. on the investment, while railroad bonds bearing 5 and 6 per cent. interest were offered at figures to return from 4½ to 5½ per cent. Interest rates on the new industrial bonds vary from 5 to 7 per cent., and the yields from 5.40 to 7½ per cent. A comparatively small issue of Province of Saskatchewan 5 per cent. gold bonds was offered at 99½ to yield 5.05 per cent., and another of Greater Winnipeg Water District 5 per cent. bonds was priced to investors at 98½, yielding 5.10 per cent.

According to Washington advices, the Government of Haiti has invited American bankers to submit bids for an issue of \$16,000,000 bonds—the first portion of the \$40,000,000 loan provided for in the protocol between the United States and Haiti concluded in October, 1919. The bonds are to bear interest at 6 per cent. and mature in 1952, and are to be secured by a first lien on the internal revenues of the republic and by a second lien on the Customs revenues. The principal purpose of the \$40,000,000 loan, it is said, is to take advantage of the present situation in the foreign exchange market in order to refund the French exterior loans of 1896 and 1910, aggregating 87,000,000 francs approximately. The balance remaining, together with a contemplated issue of \$5,000,000 internal bonds, will be used for the settlement of the interior debt, amounting to about \$3,275,000, and for the economic development of the country, public roads and schoolhouses. Haiti's total public debt is stated to be \$17,871,471. The average annual income of the republic for the past six years is given as \$4,776,447, while revenues for the first eight months of the 1921-1922 fiscal year are reported as amounting to \$3,922,558.

An offering of 600,000,000 German marks, divided into 60,000 common shares, par value 10,000 marks each, of the "United European Investors, Limited," has been extensively advertised here recently. According to the announcements, the company, incorporated under charter of the Dominion of Canada, is headed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and now a vice-president of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland. William Schall and Co., New York, the Deutsche Bank and the Norddeutsche Bank, Hamburg, are given as the company's bankers and depositors, and the Bank of America, New York, as its transfer agents. The purpose of this company, it is stated, is "to exchange its shares for German marks held by American investors, and to invest these marks in actual values in Germany. Carefully selected investments will be made," it is added, "in real estate, mortgages, securities and participation in industrial and commercial enterprises." Attention is called in the advertisements to the fact that the company "does not, in any case, advocate the further purchase with American dollars of German marks; its purpose is solely the placing of actual values behind marks already owned in America." What the response will be to this offering cannot be predicted. Obviously those who subscribe will do so in the hope of getting back eventually at least some portion of the funds they have invested in depreciated German currency.

The Department of Commerce statement of our July foreign trade by countries of origin or destination presents several interesting features, especially the statistics showing the value of the merchandise and commodity movement to and from European countries and South America. Exports to Europe in that month aggregated \$159,600,000, representing a decrease of more than \$27,000,000 from June, and of \$20,700,000 approximately from July, 1921; imports, amounting in value to \$75,000,000, were slightly less than in June, but some \$8,200,000 greater than in July of last year. Our exports to Great Britain, \$62,000,000, were \$9,000,000 less than in July of 1921, but imports, valued at \$28,000,000, were nearly double those of the corresponding month a year ago. For the seven months ended with July, exports to Europe aggregated \$1,155,000,000, as against \$1,476,000,000 in the like period of 1921, while imports were \$517,000,000, as compared with \$433,000,000.

Practically all lines of trade and industry are now rapidly recovering from the serious depression caused last month by the coal shortage and railway strike. How extensive was the setback may be judged from the fact that pig iron production dropped 25 per cent. from that

of July, ingot steel output fell off about 11 per cent., steel mill operations generally declined to less than 50 per cent. of capacity, as against 75 to 80 per cent. prior to July 1, automobile manufacturing operations were threatened, the output of various building materials decreased, bank clearings slumped, and shipments of merchandise and commodities were interfered with. In all those fields of activity there has been marked improvement within the past few weeks. It is noteworthy, also, that while some industries last month were showing increasing depression, others were making new high records. For instance, August building expenditures topped those of July; cement production exceeded the best previous record; cotton consumption in August was the largest in more than two years, and car loadings, with the exception of fuel, increased, a notable gain being reported in merchandise and miscellaneous loadings which in normal times constitute more than one-half of the total freight movement. As Bradstreet's aptly remarks, these showings contain two lessons that might be borne in mind in the event of threats of future strikes—namely, that "the most serious strike situation in American history did not halt the improvement which was under way when the strikes began, and that, owing to the resourcefulness of American business and industry, the improvement, though confessedly slowed down, was not brought to a complete stop as was predicted and hoped for by the men responsible for imperilling the 1921-22 rally in trade."

FRANCE.—THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE GERMAN BONDS—THE LUBERSAC-STINNES CONTRACT—DEVASTATED AREAS—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, September 27.

THE eleventh-hour decision of the German Government to comply with the request of the Reparations Commission and agree to hand over to Belgium six months' Treasury bonds, covered by the guarantee of the Reichsbank, for the 270,000,000 gold marks due on account of reparations in cash down to the end of the current year, was put into execution this afternoon so far as the payments for August and September are concerned. Ten bonds, representing a total of 96,000,000 gold marks, payable in American dollars, at the fixed rate of 4,197,865 marks to the dollar, to the order of the Belgian Minister of Finance, at the Bank of England in London, half on February 15th, and the rest on March 15th, were handed over to M. Delacroix, the Belgian delegate, by the President of the Reparations Commission. The bills—or, rather, as they are officially described, promissory notes—are drawn by the German Government, and endorsed by the Reichsbank. Similar Treasury bonds, it is understood, will be handed over as the payments become due on October 15th (50,000,000 gold marks), November 15th (60,000,000), and December 15th (60,000,000). Extraordinary secrecy seems to have been preserved both in Brussels and London as to the conditions under which, as the result of Herr Havenstein's mission to London, the Bank of England has agreed to guarantee these bonds on behalf of Germany. According to unofficial reports received here, however, Herr Havenstein has informed the leaders of the German political parties that the Bank of England has undertaken to discount two-thirds of the whole series of bills for 270,000,000 gold marks forthwith, and the other third in six months. The Bank of England, according to Herr Havenstein, again, is guaranteed by the gold and silver reserves in the vaults of the Reichsbank, supplemented by a fund in cash which the German Government has undertaken to constitute by drawing on the 25 per cent. which it has secured the right to levy on export invoices. The Reich will have 18 months in which to reimburse the Bank of England, the exact date of the expiration of this period being June 15, 1924. It is understood that the Belgian Finance Minister proposes to discount immediately the bonds for 96,000,000 gold marks which have been handed over to him in respect of the payments due on August 15th and September 15th respectively. Some nervousness is expressed here as to whether these arrangements, as set

forth by Herr Havenstein, do not suggest that Germany does not propose to pay anything more than this 270,000,000 gold marks in cash until after June 15, 1924.

The statement has been published that, with the payment of the 270,000,000 gold marks covered by these bills, Belgian priority rights will be exhausted. This is apparently inaccurate. It is difficult, in view of the payments that have been made in kind, to ascertain exactly how these priority rights now stand. There is good reason to believe, however, that there will still be something in the neighbourhood of 400,000,000 gold marks due to Belgium after she has discounted the bills for the payments due to the end of 1921.

The signing of the Lubersac-Stinnes contract for the supply of German materials to the devastated regions, under the Wiesbaden and supplementary agreements, is only one of several operations of a similar character that have been carried through recently by the combined efforts of French and German capitalists. The Sichel group, of Mayence, has entered into an agreement, for instance, with a concern known as the Société Co-operative Française de Travaux. Another contract that has been entered into is between the powerful Lehrer-von Siemens group, of Berlin and Dusseldorf, and a French group headed by M. Brice, the chairman of the Chambre Syndicale Française de Béton Armé (reinforced concrete). The object of the Lehrer-Brice combination is not only to furnish materials under the system of payments of indemnities in kind, but also, later on, to provide labour under the same system. For the purpose of carrying out the Lehrer-Brice agreements two important companies have been formed, the Société Internationale de Reconstruction, with a capital of 1,000,000f, and the Société Internationale d'Importation, the capital of which is 500,000f. Sixty per cent. of the capital of each company is French and the balance foreign, the registered offices of each being in France.

The promoters of these companies are working on the principle that direct agreements between French *sinistrés* and German industrial firms are difficult, if not impossible, to carry out, unless some machinery is provided to furnish the purchaser with expert and financial assistance. Further, it is argued that it is inadvisable that the *sinistré* should himself have to order the materials required, which can be done much more satisfactorily by the contractor who will have to utilise them. The contractor, on the other hand, requires financing, while the German manufacturer, unless he can cover himself against exchange fluctuations, would find it difficult to book orders for forward delivery. The function of the Lehrer-Brice Franco-German combination will be to furnish this intermediary machinery. The group proposes to bring into its operations as large a number of German firms, both large and otherwise, as possible, in order to stimulate competition. The principle, therefore, is quite different from that of the Lubersac-Stinnes agreement, under which the whole of the merchandise supplied will be furnished through firms under Herr Stinnes' own control. Nor will there be any question in these cases of the addition to the amounts to be credited to Germany of commission at the rate of 6 per cent. (which is the amount the Stinnes group has stipulated to receive in respect of all purchases effected through its medium). The Bemelmans agreements, which extended to Great Britain and the rest of the Allies, and the benefits of the Wiesbaden agreements regarding reparation payments in kind, came into operation, it is now announced, on September 15th.

The Lubersac-Stinnes contracts, if accepted by the two Governments and fully carried out, will enable France, according to M. Le Trocquer, to accomplish reconstitution work in the devastated regions to a total value of between 20,000,000,000f and 25,000,000,000f. The question is, however, whether the German undertakers will be willing, even if they are in a position to do so, to operate on a scale of this magnitude. M. de Lubersac has recognised, with characteristic frankness, that the contract he has signed with Herr Stinnes involves no guarantee on the part of the latter that he will furnish a single franc's worth of materials, but merely places him in a position to do so. "Nothing in the contract," M. de Lubersac has stated, "gives us the right to insist on the Germans delivering us any materials at all." This view

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

PARIS OFFICE

3 & 5, PLACE VENDÔME

CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

appears to be in direct contradiction with the Treaty of Versailles, which gives the Allies a general mortgage over the whole of Germany's resources, but may be regarded as exact so far as these private Franco-German arrangements are concerned. Opinion here is now much less optimistic as to the practical value these contracts may have in the completion of the work of reconstitution. "The Lubersac-Stinnes contract," says the *Journée Industrielle*, "even if it is followed by numerous similar contracts between other groups, will not amount, for some time, to more than the proverbial drop of water in the hole represented by the word 'reparations'; consequently they bring little or no improvement in the immediate difficulties characterising French public finances." The problem of labour shortage in this country is again attracting close attention, by reason of the fact that the delivery of materials by Germany to the value of, say, 1,500,000,000f will involve the recruitment of labour to the value of at least 750,000,000f. Where is this labour to come from? Obviously only from Germany, as no further calls can be made on that required by French agriculture and industry, while all the imported labour—Belgian, Polish, Spanish, Italian, &c.—that France can obtain is required in other directions. Logically, therefore, the solution is only to be found in the direct employment of German labour. This principle it will be remembered, was foreseen even before the signature of the peace treaty, but was objected to by President Wilson, on the ground that it would be equivalent to reducing the German people to a state of slavery. M. Le Trocquer, however, has since taken up the same principle again in connection with his proposals for the carrying out of great French public works at the expense of Germany, and even the French trade unions have expressed themselves in favour of this solution, under certain conditions.

Reports from the devastated regions show that the reconstruction of roads, railways, and canals, &c., may now be regarded as completed, while the reconstruction of factories and industrial plants is well on the road. The clearing of the unexploded shells and other obstacle (barbed wire, &c.) from the soil is also practically finished. Only a small area now remains to be dealt with, and the surface devoted to wheat and beetroot either has been or is now in a condition to be again put under these crops which are the principal ones in these regions. Practically the whole of the French sugar crop prior to the war came from the devastated departments, the Aisne being the largest producer of sugar beet. As might have been expected, in view of the scarcity and high prices of materials and the still very high cost of building, far less has been able to be accomplished in the direction of rebuilding the destroyed dwelling-houses than in any other section of the work of reconstitution. The situation in this respect at the end of the war was as follows:

Houses completely destroyed	222,132
" seriously damaged	128,197
" partially destroyed	214,011

The latest figures available at the Ministry for the Liberated Regions, when I called there a few days ago, showed that out of this total of over 564,000 totally

partially destroyed houses, 3,348 had been "completely rebuilt," 180,417 "repaired provisionally," and 214,422 "definitely repaired." The fact that so far, three years after the end of the war, it has been found possible to rebuild only 3,348 (or about 1½ per cent.) of the 222,132 houses completely destroyed during the hostilities, furnishes an eloquent explanation of the reasons why the recently concluded arrangements for the utilisation of German materials in the restoration of the devastated regions have been so warmly approved of here.

There has been a marked downward tendency on the Bourse this week, partly owing to the events in Asia Minor and partly because it is common knowledge that there will shortly be a large number of fresh issues of capital. French rentes have fallen back, the 1914 3½ per cents. declining from 79.30 to 78.85, the 1918 4 per cents. from 65.70 to 64.45, and the rest behaving similarly. Banks, after various fluctuations, ended on a drop, the Banque d'Algérie losing 40 points, the Banque Nationale de Crédit 7 points, the Union Parisienne 9 points, the Crédit Lyonnais 20, the Banque de Paris 35, and the Crédit Mobilier 20. Railways, after a long period of sustained prices, are notably weaker. Est has fallen from 800 to 794, Nord from 1,235 to 1,211, Orleans from 960 to 950, and P.L.M. from 950 to 940. Shipping has behaved similarly. In electrical undertakings, Thomson at 784 is weaker by 27 points, and Electricité de Paris at 550 by 5 points. The metallurgical group has followed the general tendency of the market.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—REICHSBANK—CREDIT AND CASH—COMPANY TRANSACTIONS—INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 26.

THE Majority-Socialist and Independent-Socialist parties decided on September 24th for union. This is not the first time there has been only one German Socialist Party, and more than once there have been two. The united party will be much the strongest in the Reichstag. The party proclamation announces an effective struggle against the shameless exploitation of the people, but does not mention the fact, which is easily demonstrable, that the manual working-class has increased its earnings more or less in accord with the currency depreciation, while the intellectual workers earn not only relatively, but sometimes absolutely less than the manual workers, and the pure capitalist has been almost wholly expropriated. So far the manual worker has escaped entirely or almost entirely the burden of the war and of the peace, which must necessarily be borne by some German class or classes. The Government proposes raising customs duties on luxuries, which were lately doubled, by another 50 per cent. This would mean a three-folding of the pre-war rates, and, with the present gold supplement of 360-fold, would mean that 1,080 paper marks duty would be paid for every former one gold mark. The Jugo-Slav Government has accepted a proposal that Germans should deliver machines, instead of cattle, for Reparations. Of the catastrophe less is heard every day, and business is settling down on the new values basis. A competent writer, Herr Erich Dombrowski, at last ventures to say (in the *Berliner Tageblatt* of September 24th) what was long ago plain—that the mark currency depreciation is no index either of State-financial or of private-economical conditions. "If one regards things as a whole," writes Herr Dombrowski, "the extraordinarily low exchange of the mark is incomprehensible when taken as a reflection of Germany's state finances and of her private economy. Private industry is at work as hard as it can work; the process of regeneration of agriculture, which decayed during the war, is making good progress; and the Budget can be balanced, so that if Reparations payments cease the further increase of the Floating Debt will not be necessary. If Germany gets an international loan, the moment for stabilisation of the currency will come; and if that is achieved, the at present inconceivable total of the Floating Debt, 340 milliards, will shrink to a few milliard gold marks." The foreign payment balance, equilibrium in which would be necessary for stabilisation, is by no means so passive, Herr Dombrowski shows, as

is generally believed. This picture may be optimistic, but it is nearer the truth than the wild nonsense about catastrophes which Germans and foreigners indulge in every time the mark has a bad drop.

The Reichsbank's increase of its discount rate to 8 per cent. is explained by the continuing credit demand. Between August 15th and the date of the new rate increase, discounted Treasury Bills increased from 218.44 to 274.70 milliards, and private bills from 12.27 to 27.47 milliards. The Bank's statement for September 15th shows, for the third time in succession, an abnormal swelling of the credit and circulation totals. Private bills discounted rose by 8,180,170,000 marks to 35,441,997,000 marks (which is 35-fold the total of one year ago), Treasury Bills by 22,933,229,000 marks to 274,698,283,000 marks, and circulation by 19,224,019,000 marks to 271,597,757,000 marks. The three weekly statements issued since the mark exchange touched bottom show a total circulation increase of over 56 milliards, which is more than the whole circulation of two years ago. As such inflation causes mistaken impressions abroad, it should be stated that the increased circulation is not only inevitable, but also desirable and even indispensable if business is not to stop. As long as the mark-exchange leads and determines the price-level, the currency in circulation must adapt itself to the price-level. The only threat, a slight one, of a real crisis occurring during or immediately after the last heavy mark fall lay in the doubt whether credit and cash could be manufactured fast enough. The Loan-Bureaux (*Darlehenskassen*) have now more than regained their war-time position as important credit institutions. Loans outstanding, which at the beginning of 1921 totalled 30 milliards, and sank to 10½ milliards last October, have risen to 41.7 milliards. Most of these loans are upon security of interest-bearing papers, about one milliard are upon stocks, and three to four milliards upon wares.

Money early this week suddenly became relatively plentiful. The reason is not known; probably large deposits came to the banks from sales of crops by farmers; and some citizens in their fear before the coming month-end settlements appear to have got more money than they needed. The Reichsbank has advised citizens to postpone or temporarily to reduce their month-end payments. High money rates continue to prevail. The private banks propose to double their various fees and charges, but here the aim is to cover the increased administration expenditure caused by the price-rise. The Finance Ministry proposes to authorise the issue of local emergency currency, which was forbidden by a law of July 17th. Several industrial organisations have expressed willingness to support the Reichswirtschaftsrat's resolution against the general use of foreign currencies in home business.

The Bourse, under influence of easier money, has taken a firmer tone. Stocks last week and on the first two days of this week were strong. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for dividend-payers for September 22nd shows 65,576 against 64,200 a week earlier, but home loans dropped from 1,429 to 1,342. Announcements of big company transactions encouraged the bull movement. The aniline concern, consisting of Badische Aniline, Hoechst Dyeworks, Friedrich Bayer, and four other dyes and chemicals concern, will double its capital. The last all-round increase, in December, 1921, left the ordinary stock at 1,764 milliards, preferred at 110 milliards; the new rise leaves the former at 3,529 milliards, and the latter at 220 milliards. The gold value of the capital is, of course, smaller than ever, and this applies to all capitalisation increases, so that even the most watered companies' capitals are small when measured in terms of the properties owned and the business done. A still more important transaction is the creation, under Herr Otto Wolff, of Cologne, of a new metal, electrical, and shipping concern resembling in character and in dimensions Herr Stinnes' Electro-Metal Trust. Herr Wolff, who is primarily an iron merchant, and who controls 80 per cent. of Germany's tinplate production, is with Herr Haniel, the chief man in the big Phoenix Corporation. Into the combine the Phoenix Company brings nine companies, including the Reiherstieg shipyard, in which it is interested. The Rhenish Steel Company, which together with the Phoenix constitutes the metal wing of the combine, brings

in five companies. The electric wing consists of the Dessauer Gas Company, which has an interest in 14 electrical and gas companies, and in the Rheydt electro-technical company, and this group is joined by exchange of shares with the Sachsen Light and Power Company, the biggest concern of its kind in Saxony. At the same time Herr Wolff has acquired representation on the boards of the Roland Line and of the North German Lloyd, which controls the Roland Line, and it is expected that the important overseas trade of the fused companies will become a N.G. Lloyd monopoly. With exception of the Stinnes combine, the new Wolff combine is the most important recorded. Bond prices to-day were: War Loan 77.50, Federal Fours 130, 3½ per cent. 90, Threes 412 (460 on the 25th, maximum of last week 508), Colonial Fours 130.50, Savings and Premium 79.30.

Industry continues active. The first Northern Fair, held last week at Kiel in connection with the proposed free harbour and with the now nearly completed conversion of naval workshops to productive aims, was a very great success. In particular, crude oil motors, yachts, and motor-boats were sold, largely to English buyers, and producers of electrical and telephone material, boots, leather goods, and textiles sold all they could turn out for long ahead. One textile mill reports having received orders of 120 millions in value. A couple of years ago Kiel, which has a population of 200,000, all formerly almost entirely dependent upon the large navy, was stated to be threatened with ruin and desolation. To-day there is no unemployment in the city, and the entirely new industries are working smoothly. This successful transformation gives a better picture of German conditions than the eccentricities of the Reichsmark, and emphasises the often forgotten but always vindicated fact that the impulse to live, and therefore to create and to trade, is far stronger than the petty obstacle raised by currency instability. The report for 1921 of the Industrial Inspectorates confirms this, showing that since 1920 the number of producing concerns (employing more than 10 persons) increased from 300,434 to 324,169, and that the number of workmen in such concerns increased from 6,967,000 to 7,461,407.

SOUTH AFRICA.—OFFICIAL MINING STATISTICS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, August 30.

AN annexe to the Union of S.A. Mines Department's statistics for July presents the detailed figures of capital involved in the various mining industries as at December 31, 1921. The net issued capital of Rand gold mines is returned at £59 millions, of which only £27½ millions is in receipt of dividend, which amounted to £7,164,000 last year. Nearly £19 millions was embarked in non-dividend producing mines, nearly £3½ millions in developing mines, while upwards of £9 millions were locked up in non-working mines. The specification of issued capital was:—

	Property, Equipment, &c.	Cash.
Dividend paying	18,261,000	9,233,000
Non-dividend	13,578,000	5,290,000
Developing	473,500	3,215,000
Not working	5,477,500	3,430,000
Totals	37,790,000	21,168,000

Debentures total £12½ millions, but the net amount redeemable has been reduced to £5,335,000, the amount in respect of producing dividend-paying mines having been reduced to £432,000, or less than a sixth of the amount originally issued. Prosperous mines do not usually require to issue debentures. In the case of mines producing but not dividend-paying, the position is very different. These concerns have issued nearly £9½ millions, of which nearly half remains outstanding. No debentures at all have been issued by developing mines, but the non-working mines have a net debenture liability of rather over half-a-million.

The producing dividend-paying mines received £11¼ millions in premiums on shares, the non-dividend payers over £5 millions, and the non-working nearly £1½ million. But in each instance there have been considerable writings off, and the net amount outstanding for all classes is now under £8 millions. Temporary advances to all Rand companies totalled £2¼ millions, sundry creditors £5½ millions, while the outstanding credit balances, including gold reserve appropriation accounts, and so forth, figured at £30½ millions. The total debts of the Rand gold mining industry amount to rather over £110 millions.

The net present book value of mining property is slightly under £32 millions, and of shafts and mine development £23 millions, the dividend-paying mines being responsible for about half in each case. Of equipment, the net value is £31¼ millions, the figure against dividend concerns being £18½ millions. There is deficiency of cash assets in the non-dividend-paying and non-working mines totalling over four millions.

Of gold mines in the outside districts, the issued capital is £5½ millions (roughly about one-tenth of that for the Rand itself). Of this only about a million is in receipt of dividend, while the capital of developing and non-working mines taken together is nearly £3¼ millions. Upwards of a quarter of a million was received as premiums on shares. Mining property is valued at £3½ millions, shafts and development at £600,000 (net), and equipment at £1,310,000.

The net issued capital of all gold mines in the Transvaal is given at £64,673,000, while the dividends paid thereon last year figured at £7,259,600. As regards the Rand, the admitted total of working capital for amortisation purposes as determined by the Inland Revenue Department is £69,000,000. The amount to be deducted is £3,960,000 a year, leaving a net amount of £3,203,000 as the return on £59 millions of issued capital for all classes of Rand gold mines, and some ten millions more as actually expended.

Coal mines come next in importance. For the Transvaal collieries the issued capital amounts to just upon £5 millions—about £3½ millions for the properties, and the balance for cash. There are also £317,000 debentures outstanding. Dividends paid amounted to £383,300. For Transvaal diamond mines the issued capital is given at £212,000. There is only one concern of importance, the Premier Mine, and the total dividend paid was £100,000, representing that company's two preference dividends of 125 per cent. While the nominal capital of the Transvaal base metal industry is as much as £5½ millions, there is a considerable amount of it uncalled, so the issued capital is but £3 millions, of which the considerable proportion of but £1½ millions was represented by cash. No dividends at all were paid by these mines last year, a natural result of the depressed state of the base metal markets. The entire mining industry of the Transvaal has a capital of £72½ millions, the dividends paid last year aggregating £7½ millions.

Mining concerns in the Cape Province have a net issued capital of just over eight millions, those in the Orange Free State three and a-half. In both cases the bulk is represented by diamond companies, De Beers Consolidated in the one case, Jagersfontein and Roberts Victor in the other. Coal mines in the Free State return an aggregate capital of £1,343,000, which includes a considerable amount representing State property of the Vereeniging company. Natal's mining activities are centred on coal, some £3½ millions being invested in collieries, on which £275,000 was paid in dividends last year.

In a year in which the gold mines made nearly the whole of their profits from the currency premium on the metal, when sales of diamonds at 530,106 carats was only about a fifth of the normal, and when both copper and tin were being sold below the cost of production, it is perhaps not unsatisfactory that the dividends paid in respect of the entire mining industry of the Union should have reached £8½ millions, only a shade under 10 per cent. on the combined capital of £88½ millions. This yield is by no means adequate for a wasting asset like mining, and would, of course, represent a much smaller percentage on the market valuation of the share capitals.

DENMARK.—TRADE CONDITIONS—PRICES.

(FROM OUR COPENHAGEN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUSINESS conditions in Denmark have not undergone any material change since my last report. Some anxiety is being felt in agricultural circles, where prospects of lower wheat prices are being spoken of. The harvest has, on the other hand, been completed without severe difficulties, and the comparatively fine weather of late has no doubt proved of favourable assistance. The quality of the crops is considered to be somewhat below the average. As an indication of the improvement of agricultural conditions, it may be mentioned that the latest statistics concerning the number of swine slaughtered at the recognised export slaughter-houses has now reached 83 per cent. of the pre-war figure.

At a time when Denmark is taking part in the "Nations' Food Exhibition" in London, a few remarks regarding this year's agricultural exports may perhaps be of interest. During the first seven months of the present year Denmark has exported 62 million kilograms of bacon, of which 61.9 million went to Great Britain. At the same period last year the figures were respectively 44.6 and 77 million kilograms. The export of Danish butter in casks and cases has amounted to about 55 million kilograms, which is 2.4 million kilograms more than during the period from January to July last year; 36.2 million kilograms were exported to Great Britain, against 34.9 million last year. The export of fresh eggs was 19.8 million score, against 18.7 million score during the period mentioned in 1921, and Great Britain imported respectively 17 and 16.2 million score of this quantity. As regards agricultural products, the situation clearly continues to adapt itself to the changed conditions, and the solidity which exists in the main department of Danish commerce is mainly responsible for the present stability of trade conditions as a whole.

The manner in which the import of coal is progressing also shows that trade conditions have entered into a more favourable period. During the first seven months of this year 1,352,000 tons of coal were imported, against 793,000 tons during the same period last year. The import from Great Britain has shown a distinct increase, while the United States have now gone out of the market as far as Denmark is concerned.

The statistical department's index figure for the cost of living has now fallen to 199, and is only 99 per cent. higher than before the war (July, 1914). Six months ago the index figure was 212. Finansstidende's wholesale index figure has fallen 2 points during the course of August to 178, which is exactly the same figure as at the beginning of the year. It would appear, therefore, that the purchasing value of money has reached a certain degree of stability. Prices are now 56 per cent. lower than in the autumn of 1920, when the boom in prices culminated in Denmark, and are now 78 per cent. higher than before the war. The fall in the month of August was due without exception to feeding stuffs, in which group, however, such goods as butter and eggs are not included.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—THE EXCHANGE AND UNEMPLOYMENT—TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, September 19.

IN his report on the industrial and economical situation in Czecho-Slovakia, Mr Bruce Lockhart, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation in Prague, states that the export trade of the Republic constitutes "the very vitals of her existence." Foreseeing the crisis which was looming in the near distance at the time of writing, he states that two alternatives were before the Government—artificial inflation by resort to the printing press, or making sweeping reductions in the cost of living and generally in prices. At the time of the publication of the Report in May the crown had remained at the same value for several months, and most people were of opinion that it had been more or less stabilised at 200 to 230 crowns to the pound sterling, or about ten centimes on the Swiss exchange. It was in July that the crown entered upon a new career of

ascend, and before long gained as much as 50 per cent. on its then figure. This new rise came as a surprise as much to the general public as to probably the Government itself, and has resulted in a very rapid development of the crisis which has now set in with all its consequences. The number of unemployed has risen to 700,000, or about 5 per cent. of the whole population. Many of the larger concerns dealing with glass and textiles have altogether closed their works, miners are being dismissed daily, and at the same time workers are everywhere threatened with reduced wages.

While the price of living does not go down, the proposed reduction will certainly not be agreed to without a struggle, and if the clouds are to lift while the crown maintains its high value, the lowering of prices is an absolute necessity. This lowering of prices of foodstuffs will be, and is being, bitterly opposed by the Agrarian Party in Parliament, who are even now calling out for some protection for the produce of their soil and less protection for manufactured articles. This party is the most solid and richest in the country, and the Government will need to have a very stiff front to conquer in the encounter which it will surely have to undergo.

The Socialist Party have taken up the cause of the consumers, and are very insistent upon the necessity of opening up the frontiers. Here, it may be said that a general abolition of import dues is not considered practicable, and, therefore, out of the question. Certain articles may be admitted. The coal tax will probably be reduced by one-third.

Meantime the Government can justify their attitude by pointing to the trade figures for the first six months of 1922, which show that, while imports have decreased by four million quintals, exports are actually two million quintals higher than during the same period in 1921. The figures have been discredited and attacked by an ex-Minister of Commerce, but the Ministry of Commerce, in reply, maintain their correctness, and there the matter remains. That such figures are not always correct is to be gathered from Mr Lockhart's report, where he states that the figures given in his report for 1920, though emanating from the same source, were proved to be incorrect. The figures, however, are very instructive and worth examining. The imports for the month of June amounted to 2,373,000 quintals and 70,860 pieces, out of an import for the six months from January to June of 17,590,000 quintals and 382,232 pieces. The total imports for the same period in 1921 were 21,359,000 quintals and 133,460 pieces, a remarkable difference considering the increased purchasing power of the crown.

The total exports amounted to 47,266,000 quintals and 2,200,000 pieces, against 45,790,000 quintals and 1,780,000 pieces last year. The export of glass ware has increased by over 50,000 quintals in the six months. Iron and iron goods amount to one million quintals, against one million last year, while machinery shows a decline. The proportion taken by Germany, Austria, Poland, and Hungary remain the same as before, these four Powers absorbing over 40 millions out of 47 millions. The bulk of the exports is wood, coal, and fuel, which amounts to over 36 million quintals, the four countries named taking well over 30 million quintals. It is worth noting that France, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, and even Great Britain have all increased their importation of these items. While France has doubled her exports to the Republic, Holland increased hers by 50 per cent. The reflection on reading the figures is that the price must have been very low to be able to compete with Sweden and Archangel in the matter of wood. It is clear also that Germany must be using her credits bought some time ago to be able to pay for her share. Austria probably followed the same plan, but has other ways of payment, as we know. Poland and Hungary have no doubt resorted to barter.

Apart from the direct effect the slump in the export trade is exercising upon the industrial position of the country, the fact must also be taken into consideration that there is very great danger of Czecho-Slovakia losing her old markets. While, owing to high prices, she is unable to export manufactured goods to the neighbouring countries with a low rate of exchange, Germany and Italy are busy selling their articles in Austria, Yugoslavia, and

the Balkans. Unless matters in Czecho-Slovakia are speedily adjusted, she will have her work cut out in trying to regain a footing in the Succession States, which, after all, form the natural outlet for her surplus production. In this connection high hopes are placed on Austria, for it seems probable that this country will be brought into closer economic contact with Czecho-Slovakia, Italy, and Switzerland, which should prove of advantage to all parties concerned.

Letters to the Editor.

THE MONETARY POLICY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your leading article on "South Africa, Australia, and the Gold Standard," published in the *Economist* of July 29th, which has just come to hand, you write:—

"Even Mr Samuel Evans, whom Professor Cannan singled out for special commendation as the one mine-owner who had 'risen to the height' of advocating a sound gold policy, has now recanted, and declares that 'what was within the bounds of practical politics two years or 18 months ago is out of the question now,' and is content to satisfy his 'nothing like gold' proclivities in the promoter field of European problems by deploring the projects for 'managed' and gold-economising currencies, emanating from Professor Cassel and Mr J. M. Keynes."

I venture respectfully to submit that that is not a correct or a fair description of my position as disclosed in my memorandum on "The Monetary Policy of South Africa." If you will take the trouble to glance again at the memorandum you will observe that I recommended:—

- (1) The immediate removal of the embargo on the export of gold, and the establishment in South Africa of an absolutely free market in gold; and
- (2) The restoration at as early a date as possible of the old-fashioned gold standard with gold coins in circulation.

I, however, questioned the advisability of attempting to force, regardless of the consequences, the complete restoration of the gold standard by June 30th of next year, and I explained that a policy which was within the bounds of practical politics at the beginning of 1920 was out of the question at the end of 1921, chiefly because in the course of 1920-21 there had been an enormous increase in wages and expenses generally in the Government services and in all industries in South Africa. I wrote in paragraph 38:—

"The total annual disbursements (excluding war expenditure) of the Union Government, the Provincial Governments, municipalities, and the railways of the Union have increased from £41,000,000 in 1915-16 to over £82,679,000 in 1920-21, and of the increase £19,000,000 took place in 1920-21. Obviously, the deflation of the currency to the pre-war level will involve very drastic reductions in public expenditure. Can the necessary economies be effected in the time allowed for in the proposed plan?"

I added in paragraph 39: "It seems to me that we are justified in concluding that it would be inadvisable at present to lay down a definite policy for the deflation of the currency within such a short period as that contemplated" (by June 30, 1923). "It is, however, important that a period should be fixed. It is, also, most important that the South African Reserve Bank and the Treasury should pursue steadily and unflinchingly a policy directed towards the complete restoration at as early a date as possible of a self-regulating gold standard, without embargoes and without Government interference.—Yours, &c., SAMUEL EVANS."

153 Nugget-street, Johannesburg, August 28th, 1922.

THE MARK AND INFLATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Two gentlemen, both, no doubt, careful observers of the facts as they see them, have recently given us two diametrically opposite explanations of the depreciation of the mark. Your Berlin correspondent

(*Economist*, of September 2nd, p. 395) states that, "A mark exchange fall causes (is not caused by) internal currency depreciation and prices rise"; while the City Editor of the *Times* (September 8th) attributes the fall in exchange, together with "all that is happening in Germany to-day—economically, politically, and socially"—to the policy of inflation. That is to say, the external depreciation is caused by the internal depreciation.

Such fundamental disagreement between doctors proves that all is not well with the study of this branch of economics. Indeed, it is two centuries behind other sciences in the methods which its adepts use. Chemists, physiologists, biologists, naturalists are content to spend laborious days and years in patiently trying to extract from Nature her secrets. They build up their theories on a foundation of investigation of minute details. Writers on money, on the other hand, fill their pages with arm-chair theories and positive assertions without any of the long preparation necessary for their task.

We talk of prices "rising" and "falling" as if these were automatic actions, instead of being, as they are, the result of deliberate decisions.

To arrive at the point of origin of changes of price, it would be necessary to follow the life history of batches of a considerable number of commodities, noting not only the changes of price, but the direct causes and influences which led producers and dealers to change the price, and again following these causes and influences to their source.

A detailed inquiry of this kind would require much time and patience, but it is probable that there exists in Government archives, both in Germany and in this country, a mass of information which might be utilised.

If one of our learned societies could undertake the investigation, it would be invaluable to future students.—Yours, &c., A. MITCHELL INNES.

Bedford, September, 1922.

Books and Publications.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL REFORM.*

THIS massive work, by a veteran and eminent Italian economist, demands the careful attention of all students of economics and of all promoters of social reform. They will find it difficult reading, and full of hard sayings. The subject is approached from an unusual standpoint, necessitating a novel mechanism of concepts and terminology which recalls Comte's condemnation of the scholastic and metaphysical attitude of the economists of his time. The book should be read as a sequel to the author's other works; its mathematical method of exposition involves the detailed statement of inferences which ordinary readers would leave unanalysed, and in which support of his conclusions Signor Loria ranges over all history, citing, for example, the laws of Hammurabi, Moses, and Solon, the decrees of Roman Emperors, the legislation of mediæval Italian Republics, the judicial interpretations of the Inter-State Commerce Act, and the effects of price control during the late war. He surveys in parentheses the whole field of economics—except international trade and the foreign exchanges—by the light of pure theory, and we note with satisfaction that much of his information on contemporary history comes from our own columns. Unfortunately, a reviewer cannot well verify references, or find space to summarise the elaborate analysis of production and productivity with which the book begins. Only the main positions can be briefly given here.

Wealth is purely material; the producing agent is "complex labour," compounded of labour, capital, and land, and their several shares in production are undistinguishable. The practical aim of economics is the provision of the maximum wealth per inhabitant—a conclusion anticipated by Adam Smith in the second paragraph of the "Wealth of Nations." But actual wealth is far less than it might be. Putting aside the effects of physical

* "I Fondamenti Scientifiche della Riforma Economica." Studio sulle Legge della Produzione. Da Achille Loria. (Torino) Fratelli Bocca. 1922. Pp. viii-576. Lire 60.

and mechanical hindrances, the deficiency or "under-product" is either "hypernormal" or "normal." The latter will be dealt with later; the former is set up by the increase, on the part of one or other of the groups which share the product, of its own share at the expense of the others, whether in the course of production, circulation, distribution, or redistribution. In all these it takes many and various forms: the commonest is the limitation of output so as to raise price; but it also occurs when the producer sacrifices future production to present profit, e.g., by neglecting repairs, or paying low wages, or reckless deforestation, or when financiers concerned with production hamper the management for their own profit, or wages or rent are so forced up as to discourage enterprise, or the State discourages it by misplaced taxation, and in multitudinous other ways, some of which, when stated, provoke the reader to exclaim with Mill that production is not the sole aim of human existence. Under-production, Professor Loria remarks, has occasionally been noted by economists, and sets up many evils—low wages, a submerged class, reckless multiplication and also artificial limitation of population, are among them; and efforts to remedy them are made empirically, e.g., by fixing wages, by public works for the unemployed, workmen's insurance, and so forth, but their root—"the underproduct"—is ignored. They are only possible where the product is relatively large; they often tend to lessen it, and even before the world-war it was beginning to decline. Hence the tendency to Protectionism and to "Imperialist" adventure. We may note in passing that the Taylor system of increasing output by "scientific management" is rejected as tending ultimately to decrease it, being itself both coercive and exhausting. But "the underproduct" diverts a certain amount of capital and labour into unproductive employments. Professor Loria proposes to force it back again by taxing its yield, and so to strike at social evils through the "underproduct" which is their root.

But even were this "hypernormal underproduct" eliminated, and production carried on in the spirit (the expression is the author's) of the prudent father of a family rather than of the profiteer, there would still be a "normal underproduct of the first degree," set up by the conditions of the persistence of the actual economic system. Commodities, for instance, would not be produced if their abundance brought down the profit to zero; but a more conspicuous example is found in the non-cultivation of land because it is overvalued; were it accessible, the labourer would work it, and escape from bondage to the capitalist. Here, again, the injurious political and social effects of "the underproduct" (given in great detail) are usually attacked empirically and unsuccessfully by so altering the social system as to recognise the right to employment, or to a share in capital or in land. But all these remedies, in fact, tend to intensify under-production, the last-named by substituting isolated for associated cultivation. Collectivism, while increasing the number of producers, would, in Professor Loria's opinion, reduce the product, because the labour would be compulsory; the guild-system would be worked by trade unions, which are in essence not constructive, but defensive. As before, his remedy is to tax the yield of the capital forced into unproductive employment, so as to bring it back to production. This, indeed, would tend to destroy the existing social system; it would get the labourers on to the land, but it would substitute their isolated labour for conjoint and more productive labour; so it would bring back underproduct and hasten revolution, of which underproduct is a necessary condition. The revolution, however, would eliminate "the underproduct of the second degree," i.e., the difference between the product of this system of society and the next, and would tend to initiate what Professor Loria regards as the future constitution of society—a system of co-operative productive associations, in which the State would take a large share, and which would exchange their respective products on the basis of cost of production. But there would still be a normal underproduct of the second degree, viz., the difference between the maximum product obtainable respectively in that stage of society and in the next; and a third, a fourth,

and so on to the *n*th degree, as new phases of social organisation successively arise.

We trust this is a fair summary of the essence of a very difficult and very stimulating book. We should like to deal with many of its details, and in particular with its insistence on the State as the sole possible agent of reform, with the distinction of "quantitative" and "qualitative" reform, each of them either "empirical" or "rational," and the interesting parallel between the effect of "rational qualitative reform" on society, and that of human selection in producing new varieties, but not new species, of living beings. One cannot but feel rather hazy about two underproducts which, though "perfectly measurable," consist of totally heterogeneous commodities, reducible ideally to terms of "complex labour," and themselves existent only in idea. However, Professor Loria's two most substantial and unquestionable conclusions are, first, that society needs more production, and, secondly, that economics needs a theory of production instead of the few scattered and fragmentary remarks of economists. His pathetic preface seems to suggest that this book is his final legacy to the world. We trust he may yet develop the theory of production, and so begin to fill up one of the lacunae of economic science.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Industrial Relations and the Churches. (Philadelphia) American Academy of Political and Social Science.

Secretarial Work and Practice. By Alfred Nixon and George H. Richardson. (Longmans, Green, and Co.) 6s.

The Future of Exchange and Indian Currency. By H. Stanley Jevons. (London) Humphry Milford 18s 6d.

The European Commercial. An Organ of World-Wide Commerce. (Vienna) 1 Hohenstaufengasse 7.

This is the first issue of the "European Commercial," a trade paper in English, published in Vienna, and contains 100 columns of commercial information gathered from all the leading European countries. Special correspondents in France, Sweden, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Turkey, Sweden, Roumania, Poland, Italy, and Russia, to name only a few, set out from a commercial point of view the exact position for the week in each of these territories. Sir Ernest Benn is responsible for this publication, which should appeal to the business community of the world.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1
Liverpool Foreign Branch 42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch Corner York St. & Fountain St., Manchester.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.
October 4.

ACCOUNT.
October 5.

ONCE more the calm course of Stock Exchange markets has been badly disturbed by currents of apprehensions, rumours, and possibilities of war in the Near East. This incessant turmoil of politics has the effect of putting a heavy brake upon business. People would rather keep money on deposit than venture it even in such securities as the War Loan and other gilt-edged investments. In the circumstances, it must be said that prices hold their ground with tolerable strength, and the slightness of the changes shown in the Consol market is evidence as much of the restraint of the sellers as it is of the absence of buyers. Several new Colonial loans are rumoured as being on the stocks, but having regard to the unsettled state

of politics at home and abroad, the borrowers are likely to defer their operations as long as they conveniently can.

German bonds are flat, as the natural sequel to the fresh outbreak of weakness in the mark. French issues, after a display of strength, gave way to an extent which hardly wiped out the previous improvements. In Brazilians the heaviness is attributed, of course, to the melancholy fall in the milreis. Argentines are dull on the talk of a possible new loan. The Far Eastern group is steady, Chinese 8 per cent. Notes holding their dramatic rise of the previous week. The little improvement in Russian Railway guaranteed bonds is barely maintained. Peruvian Preference continue to be the sport of professional speculation, which is stimulated by a liberal supply of rumours as to what is likely to happen in regard to the accrued dividends on the stock. Paris was a liberal seller on Thursday.

The Home Railway market found a little business, in consequence of the optimism engendered by hopes of what may be the terms of grouping arrangements in connection with the southern railways. The Isle of Wight Central stocks rose substantially when the terms were published of the proposals under which the company will be taken into the southern group. Other stocks in the Home Railway market, however, are lower. Undergrounds, Scottish, and heavy issues going back in sympathy with the prevailing sentiment engendered by the fears of war with Turkey.

Argentine Rails have been better again, despite the conservative dividend declarations. Expectations arose of a material improvement in earnings, consequent upon higher freight rates. Brazilian Rails go heavily. Mexicans and Grand Trunks are practically unchanged, nor is there any vitality at the moment in Mexican Government bonds.

Rubber shares have hardened up, owing to a rise in the price of the product, but oil shares gave way upon the announcement of the cut in the price of petrol. Electric lighting shares are a trifle easier, apparently on the idea that the companies may have to reduce their prices, but gas stocks, in which a decline has already taken place, are somewhat firmer. A few of the lower-priced shipping shares show a better tone, and the banking list is steady, except for a fresh fall in Hongkong shares. The insurance group is characterised by an advance in General Accidents, on the doubling of the interim dividend, 10 per cent. being declared, as against 5 per cent. a year ago. A mild amount of speculation centres around Courtaulds, where the price gave way; the textile market as a whole is easier, holders appreciating that at present prices the returns to be obtained on the basis of the current dividends are very moderate.

Catering shares are better, with Lyons a good spot. Last week's dramatic jump in Aerated Breads brought in sellers ready to take advantage of the unexplained rise. Van den Berghs are little the worse for the poor report just out. Iron and steel shares are weighed down by reason of the labour trouble at Ebbw Vale. The wireless market, together with that for cable stocks and shares, is placid, but holders of Marconi are on the *qui vive* for developments in connection with the broadcasting extension. Profit-taking caused falls in tobacco shares. Dunlops and some of the motor issues are inclined to be a little harder, owing to the near approach of the Motor Show and the indirect benefit which the industry is likely to receive from the fall in petrol.

Kaffirs are flat, on a heavy outbreak of selling, which started in Paris, to be taken up on this side by speculative holders apprehensive of the political outlook. A break in Rand Mines led a general decline throughout the list. Diamonds and Rhodesians dropped with the rest. Copper shares have been included in others pressed for sale from France. Russo-Asiatics yielded on fears that there may arise difficulties in the way of carrying out the agreement recently concluded by the company with the Soviet Government. Mexicans, Broken Hills, and other miscellaneous mining shares failed to escape the effect of the weakness apparent elsewhere.

We are officially informed that Mr Edgar Augustus Harper has ceased to be a member of the Stock Exchange.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	£	£	£	£
Amount previously announced	510,030,700	..	..	..
4½% Treasury Bonds (by Tender September 22, 1922)	..	None allotted	..	..
.. .. .	* Adjusted figures.	..	..	..

NATIONAL SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHANGERS WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 23, 1922.

April 1 to Sept. 23, 1922, £23,548,000	250,000	250,000
--	---------	---------

The United States and General Trust Corporation, Limited.	£	£	£	£
£250,000 4½% Deb. Stk. (red. at par 1922, or at 102½% after 1937 on 6 months' notice), issued at 87½% (Sept. 27th)	250,000	218,750	25,000	193,750
The Tyre Investment Trust, £200,000 7% First Mort. Deb. Stk. (rep. at 102½% July 1, 1925-34), issued at 97½% (Sept. 29)	200,000	195,000	20,000	175,000

Total offered for subscription to date	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1922 £510,694,450	1921 £388,978,203
1921 186,465,047	1920 367,549,656
1920 224,301,839	1919 1,036,059,951
1919 903,535,300	1918 1,393,341,491
1918 1,025,595,237	1917 1,318,596,010
1917 1,104,327,360	1916 585,436,850
1916 398,851,300	1915 685,235,326
1915 658,988,006	1914 512,522,633
1914 173,023,446	

The United States and General Trust Corporation, Limited.—Authorised share capital £700,200, of which £500,000 has been subscribed, and is fully paid. This is an issue of £250,000 4½% per cent. debenture stock at 87½%, being the remaining part of a total issue of £500,000. The stock is redeemable at par in 1962, or at any time after January 1, 1937, at the option of the company, at 102½% per cent. The whole £500,000 of debentures is secured by trust deeds, rendering the issue a first floating charge upon assets which are mainly investments. When the proceeds of the present issue have been invested, the security for this £500,000 debenture stock should, on the basis of a recent valuation, exceed £1,200,000. The prospectus points out that this valuation of investments was made at a recent date, when upwards of 85 per cent. had a published quotation, and that the valuation showed a substantial appreciation over the book cost of the investments. A useful table of dividends paid on deferred stock is also given, but a similar table of net revenue would have also been appreciated by intending investors. These debentures are fairly attractive at the price.

The Tyre Investment Trust, Limited.—Authorised capital, £1,650,000, all of which has been issued and is fully paid. This is an issue of £200,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, being part of an authorised issue of £240,000, at 97½% per cent. The stock is to be secured by a trust deed, constituting a first specific charge upon "the debentures, mortgages, royalties, and shares owned by the company." The stock is repayable in 1934 at 102½%, but the company has the option of redemption at any time after July 1, 1925, on giving three months' notice. The company was formed in 1917, mainly to acquire the Dunlop Rubber Company (Far East) and an interest in the Dunlop Tire and Rubber Goods Company (Canada). At the date of the last balance-sheet the trust had expended upon these interests £1,601,677, and this sum represents the cost to the company of the specific security pledged. The company's holding in the Canadian company consists of \$3,150,000 fully-paid common stock, out of a total issue of \$4,962,500. It is the sole owner of the Far Eastern company, including the debentures, and the royalties payable by that concern, the annual payment on which amounts approximately to £90,000. The service of the present debenture issue will require approximately £34,000 per annum, and though the revenue of the trust fell from £328,658 for 1920 to £83,862 for 1921, there is still a comfortable margin. The security for capital, however, is not particularly attractive.

Harwich Gas and Coke Company, Limited.—Authorised capital, £60,000, of which there has been issued, including premiums, £34,583. The authorised loan capital is £30,000, of which only £8,045 has been issued. Established in 1854, the company supplies gas in Harwich, Parkeston, and Dovercourt. This is an issue by tender of 3,000 £5 6 per cent. irredeemable preference shares, the minimum price of issue being par. The net revenue for the year ended December 31, 1921, was £1,966, but it is stated that the coal dispute involved the company in an additional expenditure of £1,750. As, however, the interest on the borrowed capital takes but £483, and ever, the interest on the borrowed capital takes but £483, and the above-mentioned preference shares rank immediately after the loan capital, the necessary £900 for preference dividends can easily be found. Subject to the narrow market for so small an issue, the preference shares, if obtainable at par, are a good investment.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—
British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War (3½% 1925-28)	97	97	97	—
4½% 1925-45	97	97	97	—
Loans 5½% 1929-47	99½	99½	99½	—
4½% 1922-42	99½	99½	99½	—
Do 5½% 1932	97½	97½	97½	—
Funding Loan 4%	88½	88½	88½	—
Victory Bonds 4%	88½	88½	88½	—
Conversion Loan 3½% 72½	72½	72½	72½	—
Consols 2½%	56½	56½	56½	—
Irish Land Stock 2½% 57½	57½	57½	57½	—
Local Loans 3%	63½	63½	63½	—
Aust. 6% 1931-41	105	104	104	—1
Canada 4½% 1920-25	101	101	101	—
India 3½% Stock	65½	65½	65½	—
Do 7½% 1926-31	111½	111½	111½	—
N.R.W. 5½% 1922-32	102	102	102	—
Nigeria 6% 1949-79	112	112	112	—
U.S.A. 6% 1930-40	106	106	106	—
Victoria 5½% 1924-34	101	101	101	—
W.Aust. 6% 1930-40	104	104	104	—

Banks.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest	Price	Week.	Latest	Rise or
							Fall.
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.)	23	23	23	Nat. Bank of Egypt	20	20	..
Chartered Bk of India	17	17	17	Chartered Bk of India	20	20	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.)	21	21	21	Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.)	10	10	..
London Joint City & Midland (£21 with £24 paid)	8	8	8	London Joint City & Midland (£21 with £24 paid)	10	10	..
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid)	17	17	17	London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid)	11	11	..
Colonial and Foreign Railways.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Antofagasta Cons.	66	66	66	Grand Trunk 1st Pref.	6	6	..
B. A. & Pacific	54	54	54	Leopoldina	37	37	..
B. A. Gt. Southern	73	73	73	Mexican Railway	13	13	..
Buenos Ayres West.	69	69	69	Do 1st Pref.	40	40	..
Canadian Pacific	166	166	166	Do 2nd Pref.	26	26	..
Do 7th 1912	104	104	104	San Paulo	114	114	..
Chinese 5%, 1912	76	76	76	United Havana	63	63	..
Egyptian 4%	70	70	70				
French 5%	35	35	35				
Do 4%	28	28	28				
Foreign Government Securities.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Argentine 5%, 1886-7	100	100	100	Greek 4%, 1888	33	33	..
Belgian 3%	69	69	69	Japanese 4%	106	106	..
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	69	69	69	Do 4%, 1910	68	68	..
Chilian 4%, 1895	86	86	86	Mexican Cons. 1899	60	60	..
Do 7th 1912	104	104	104	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	23	23	..
Chinese 5%, 1912	76	76	76	Russian 5%, 1906	11	11	..
Egyptian 4%	70	70	70	Spanish 4%	79	79	..
French 5%	35	35	35	Seine (Dept.) 7%	98	98	..
Do 4%	28	28	28	Siam 7%	105	105	..
Telegraphs.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Anglo-American "A"	23	23	23	Marconi Canada	1	1	..
Marconi Wireless	2	2	2	Marconi Marine	1	1	..
British Railways.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Great Central Pref.	24	24	24	Metropolitan District	42	42	..
Great Eastern	36	36	36	Midland Deferred	66	66	..
Great Northern Def.	42	42	42	North British Def.	18	18	..
Great Western	101	101	101	North-Eastern	117	117	..
London, Brighton, "A"	62	62	62	South-Eastern "A"	37	37	..
London, Chatham	9	9	9	Underground Electric	1	1	..
L. & N. W. (New)	101	101	101	Do "A" (1/2)	3	3	..
L. & S. Western, Def.	31	31	31	Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	86	86	..
Metropolitan	56	56	56				
American Railroads.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Chesapeake & Ohio	82	82	82	Southern	29	29	..
Erie	18	18	18	Do Non-conv Pref.	70	70	..
Do 4% 1st Pref.	28	28	28				
Miscellaneous.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Aerated Bread (£1)	1	1	1	Hudson's Bay (£1)	7	7	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	5	5	5	Imperial Tobacco (£1)	3	3	..
Armstrong (Sir W. G.)	15	15	15	Linggi Plants (£1)	1	1	..
Ass. and Co. (£1)	15	15	15	Lipton (£1)	1	1	..
Ass. and Co. (£1)	15	15	15	Liverpool & Co. (£1)	1	1	..
Barker, John (£1)	2	2	2	Do 8% Cmp (£1)	1	1	..
Bham's Small Arms (£1)	8	8	8	Do 20% Cmp (£1)	1	1	..
Brazil Traction (£100)	49	49	49	Lister (£1)	1	1	..
British American Tobacco (£1)	4	4	4	Lobitos Oilfields (£1)	5	5	..
Bria & Arg. Meat (£1)	1	1	1	Lyons (J. & Co.) (£1)	4	4	..
Burmah Oil (£1)	5	5	5	Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.)	3	3	..
Coast (J. & P.) (£1)	2	2	2	Mexican Eagle (£10)	3	3	..
Courtauld (£1)	2	2	2	Pekin (2)	1	1	..
Cunard (£1)	2	2	2	Rubber Plantations	1	1	..
Dorman, Long (£1)	2	2	2	Investment (£1)	1	1	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	2	2	2	Shell Transport (£1)	4	4	..
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	2	2	2	Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1)	1	1	..
Forestral Ltd (£1)	2	2	2	United Herdard (2)	1	1	..
Furness, Withy (£1)	1	1	1	United Tobacco (£1)	1	1	..
Highlands and Low- lands Rubber (£1)	1	1	1	Vallambrosa (2)	1	1	..
				Vickers (£1)	1	1	..
				Watney Def. Stk.	220	220	..
Mines.				Price			
	Price	Week.	Latest		Price	Week.	Latest
Brakpan (£1)	2	2	2	Knights	4	4	..
Broken Hill Prop. (8)	1	1	1	Modderfontein (10)	4	4	..
Chartered (£1)	1	1	1	Modderfont. "B" (5)	1	1	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	2	2	2	Modderfont. Deep (5)	2	2	..
Crown Mines (10)	12	12	12	Premier Def. (26)	5	5	..
De Beers Def. (£2)	12	12	12	Rand Mines (5)	2	2	..
East Rand Prop. (£1)	3	3	3	Rio Tinto (25)	2	2	..
Geduld (£1)	3	3	3	Spring Mines (£1)	2	2	..
Gov. Gold Arcas (£1)	5	5	5				

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Lat'st Year.	Pre-vious.
Railways.					
Assam, "B" Stock	3 1/2	(and bonus 4%)	"	nil	5
First Light	2 1/2	"	"	12	12
Cleveland and Pittsburgh (Inc. Bonds)	2 1/2	"	"	"	"
Hudson and Manhattan	2 1/2	"	"	"	"
Do (for arrears)	2 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax	"	"
Banks.					
Banco Nacional Ultramarino	6 1/2	Oct. 9	"	"	"
Insurance.					
Consolidated.	10 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax	"	"
Eagle, Star, and B. D.	30	Oct. 2	Tax free	"	"
General Accident Fire and Life.	10 1/2	Nov. 1	Subject to tax	"	"
Licenses and General	5 1/2	Oct. 7	Tax free	"	"
New Zealand	2 1/2	Oct. 5	Tax free	"	"
World Marine and General	2 1/2	Oct. 5	Tax free	1 1/2 p.s.	1 1/2 p.s.
Tea and Rubber.					
Bajoo Kidool Rubber.	5 1/2	"	Less tax 6/ in £	5	nil
Galaha Ceylon Tea	6	Oct. 16	Less tax 5/3 in £	"	"
Kelani Valley Rubber, Pref.	"	"	Less tax	"	"
Zaloni Tea	"	"	"	"	"
Mocha Tea of Ceylon	10 1/2	Oct. 5	"	5	"
Mining.					
Consolidated Main Reef	2 1/2	Oct. 2	Less tax 5/ in £	5	12 1/2
Kinta Tin	2 1/2	"	"	"	"
New Jagersfontein	2 1/2	"	"	"	"
New Modderfontein Gold	2 1/2	"	"	"	"
Nourse	"	"	"	70	100
Ostavia Mines and Railway	1 1/2	"	"	6 1/2	7 1/2
Siamese Tin	5 1/2	"	"	15	30
Other Companies.					
Achille Sorre, Limited	6 1/2	Sept. 30	Less tax	"	"
Acme Tea Chest, Pte. Pref. and Ord.	15 1/2	"	Tax free	20	"
Alliance and Dublin Gas	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
American Car and Foundry	\$3 p.s.	Oct. 2	Less tax	"	"
Antwerp Waterworks	5	Oct. 20	Less tax	"	"
Bethlehem Steel	5	Oct. 2	Less tax	"	"
Bombay Gas.	14 1/2	Nov. 1	Less tax	"	"
British Borneo Timber.	8 1/2	"	Less tax 6/ in £	3	5
Burnley Paper	2 1/2	Oct. 12	Tax free	5	"
Canada Permanent Mortgage	3 1/2	"	"	"	"
Carlton Hotel	2 1/2	"	"	8	8
Central Canada Loan	5 1/2	"	"	"	"
Charles Baker and Co.	13 p.s.	Oct. 11	Less tax	"	"
Crown Spinning	5 1/2	Oct. 12	Tax free	"	"
Cuba Submarine Telegraph	16 p.s.	"	Tax free	"	"
Dalmington Iron	14 p.s.	"	Tax free	"	"
Dee Spinning	5 1/2	"	Subject to tax	"	"
D. H. Evans and Co.	20 1/2	Oct. 2	Tax free	"	"
Dobson and Barlow	\$3 p.s.	"	Less tax	"	"
Dominion Textile	7 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet	10 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Dundee, Broughty Ferry Trams.	7 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Edinburgh Invest. Trust, Dtd.	10 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Elder, Smith, and Co.	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Fleming and Ferguson	10 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Freehold Assets	10 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Goldsbrough, Mort	10 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Herrburger, Brooks	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
H. Holdron, Limited	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Hickleton Main Colliery.	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Hope Spinning	13 p.s.	"	Less tax	"	"
House Property and Investment	4 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Huron and Erie Mortgage	14 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Imperial Continental Gas	5 1/2	"	Less tax 5/3 in £	"	"
International Harvester	14 1/2	"	"	"	"
International Linotype	23 1/2	"	"	"	"
Jabez Johnson, Hodgkinson, Dtd.	10 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
John Barker and Co.	10 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Kern River Oil	10 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Lancashire Elec. Light, Cm. Pref.	3 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Las Cabezaz Estancia	7 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Leigh Mills	10 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Manchester Liners	10 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Manvers Main Collieries	1 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Martinez, Gassiot, and Co.	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Montana Power	5 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Nevett Book Binding	3 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Nottingham Manufacturing	10 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Ogilvie Flour Mills	13 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"
Page and Overton's Brewery.	13 1/2	"	Less tax	"	"
Philadelphia Co.	750 p.s.	"	Less tax	"	"
Queen Anne Mansions	8 p.s.	"	Less tax	"	"
Reckitt and Sons.	1 p.s.	"	Less tax	"	"
Robert Allen and Co.	1 p.s.	"	Less tax	"	"
San Spinning	1 p.s.	"	Tax free	"	"
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	"	"	"	"	"
Thos. W. Ward, Lim., First and Second Pref.	"	"	"	"	"
Wall Paper Manufacturers, Prof.	5	"	"	"	"
Woodward, Grosvenor, and Co.	5	"	"	"	"
Workington Brewery	6 1/2	"	Tax free	"	"

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Sept. 23, 1922, to Sept. 24, 1921.	Receipts Week Ended Sept. 23, 1921.	Receipts Week Ended Sept. 24, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—				
Bank of England	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
REVENUE.				
Customs	112,250,000	60,464,000	61,267,000	3,583,000
Excise	160,750,000	76,129,000	92,514,000	4,219,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	10,600,000	2,884,000	2,488,000	..
Stamp	48,000,000	31,011,000	21,748,000	740,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	18,250,000	7,732,000	6,853,000	226,000
Property & Income Tax (Including Super-Tax)	329,000,000	132,946,000	135,837,000	3,912,000
Excess Profits Tax	329,000,000	132,946,000	135,837,000	3,912,000
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	7,957,000	5,460,000	310,000
Post Office	54,625,000	25,200,000	21,750,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands	750,000	380,000	290,000	10,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	14,000,000	3,767,925	4,305,703	..
Miscellaneous—				
Ordinary Receipts	22,000,000	16,092,910	10,737,119	150,879
Special Receipts	90,000,000	25,069,449	46,260,595	504,230
Revenue	910,775,000	391,057,284	435,414,417	14,968,079
Total, Inc. Balance		402,230,814	438,488,925	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Bullion	800,000	3,680,000	..	150,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,660,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 and 1921	1,650,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	13,000	25,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,450,000	3,930,000	..	..
(c) For other issues:—				
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,427,262,000	2,071,242,000	52,824,000	47,259,000
By National Savings Certificates	36,598,000	18,180,000	650,000	750,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—				
5-15 year, 1925-35	121,708	39,190,000	..	14,750,000
5% 1927	61,422,074	..	..	..
4% 1932	52,648,508	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,869	6,990,529	..	1,088,480
(d) Ways and Means Advances	349,224,500	647,657,000	5,000,000	59,233,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company	243,012	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired	..	7,250,000	..	1,250,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	180,460	34,538	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	178,666	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	2,341,456,350	3,241,546,151	76,499,000	139,448,559
Total		4,388,488,925	..	..
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	6,574,226	7,485,550	917,460
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	128,587,832	160,878,852	323,670
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,334,939	2,073,000	..
Payments to Local Tax Authorities	9,788,000	2,458,302	3,164,839	291,976
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	736,042	122,404	..
Land Settlement	3,500,000	538,051	1,723,728	30,772
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,128,105	813,409	53,750
Supply Services	529,993,000	189,945,101	295,365,426	7,700,000
Expenditure	893,437,000	332,355,718	471,511,804	9,610,750
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances	..	3,400,000	..	200,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	84,909	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	3,060,000	4,805,000	430,000	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	2,660,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	27,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	2,110,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Unfunded Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	1,595,434,000	2,022,416,000	55,110,000	42,855,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (5) War Loan Act, 1919	6,063,725	19,310,853	218	512,876
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	4,776,051	..	193,238	..

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Sept. 23, 1922, to Sept. 24, 1921.	Issues Week Ended Sept. 23, 1922.	Issues Week Ended Sept. 24, 1921.
Principal of National Savings Certificates—			
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	13,050,000	8,700,000	400,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	7,500,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—			
5% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	9,416,601	28,263,659	3,206,916
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	341,902,500	645,863,000	7,400,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	13,800,112	500,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	8,715,000	5,000,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200	..
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	2,340,230,904	1,938,055,511	75,500,278
Bank of Ireland	1,165,904	2,028,772	878,126
Total	4,235,416	3,490,640	998,722

Note—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.
Treasury, September 25, 1922.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
ESTABLISHED 1824.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, September 27, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	144,047,195	£
Government debt	11,015,100	£
Other securities	7,434,900	£
Gold coin and bullion	125,597,195	£

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital	14,553,000	£
Reserve	3,633,462	£
Public deposits*	16,829,386	£
Other deposits	103,831,200	£
Seven-day & other bills	16,307	£

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Sept. 27, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£3,633,462	+	£3,397
Public deposits	16,829,386	+	1,043,333
Other deposits	103,831,200	+	4,703,592
Government securities	44,062,645	+	10,702,316
Other securities	71,386,295	+	9,108,145
Reserve	23,414,415	+	971,756
Note circulation	122,467,180	+	1,522,628
Coin and bullion	127,431,595	+	2,505,400
% of reserve to liabilities	198%	+	198%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

	July 5, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1921.
Rest	£3,633,462	£3,397	£3,397	£3,397
Public deposits	16,829,386	1,043,333	1,043,333	1,043,333
Other deposits	103,831,200	4,703,592	4,703,592	4,703,592
Government securities	44,062,645	10,702,316	10,702,316	10,702,316
Other securities	71,386,295	9,108,145	9,108,145	9,108,145
Reserve	23,414,415	971,756	971,756	971,756
Note circulation	122,467,180	1,522,628	1,522,628	1,522,628
Coin and bullion	127,431,595	2,505,400	2,505,400	2,505,400
% of reserve to liabilities	198%	198%	198%	198%

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Sept. 25, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Sept. 29, 1920.	Sept. 28, 1921.	Sept. 27, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	28,828,140	28,933,380	127,490,935	124,972,583	122,467,180
Public deposits	16,869,991	19,014,809	16,139,467	12,231,323	16,829,386
Other deposits	44,040,546	41,248,564	111,027,414	105,420,329	103,831,200
Government securities	34,570,252	41,461,280	109,312,765	80,494,440	71,386,295
Other securities	31,315,104	25,463,980	14,073,780	21,891,787	23,414,415
Reserve of notes and coin	41,693,244	35,947,360	123,114,715	128,414,367	127,431,595
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	51%	42%	11%	18%	19%
Bank rate of discount	5 1/4	5 1/4	7 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Market rate, 3 months' bills	7 1/4	7 1/4	6 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4
Price of Consols	74 1/4	74 1/4	46 1/4	48 1/4	56 1/4
Price of silver per oz.	29 1/4	26 1/4	59 1/4	43 1/4	56 1/4
Average price of wheat	32s 7d	33s 0d	30s 5d	57s 1d	37s 5d
Exchanges	25-27-30	25-27-30	52-00-25	52-20-75	57-60-50
London	\$4-82 1/2	\$4-77 1/2	\$3-49 1/2	\$3-72 1/2	\$4-40-41 1/2
New York	12-05-10	11-19-24	11-55-62	11-34-37 1/2	11-34-37 1/2
Amsterdam	20-4 1/2	20-4 1/2	212-217	460-490	660-7350
Clearing house return	242,766,000	199,913,000	694,924,000	585,196,000	610,352,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—September 20	25,299,441,000	2,039,738,000	27,339,179,000
September 27	564,063,000	46,289,000	610,352,000
Total to date 1922	25,863,504,000	2,086,027,000	27,949,531,000
Do 1921	23,338,629,000	2,257,566,000	25,596,195,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,524,875,000	+ 828,461,000	+ 3,353,336,000
	10.8%	36.7%	13.1%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	+ 3,018,303,000	+ 1,070,041,000	+ 4,088,344,000
	8.6%	26.2%	10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to September 23.			
BIRMINGHAM	93,803,700	82,481,400	- 11,322,300
BRISTOL	57,031,000	52,394,000	- 4,637,000
DUBLIN	267,051,400	231,781,900	- 35,269,500
HULL	42,577,900	41,214,100	- 1,363,800
LEEDS	28,395,500	29,954,500	+ 1,559,000
LIVERPOOL	336,843,700	313,856,700	- 22,987,000
MANCHESTER	531,251,800	564,520,200	+ 33,268,400
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	69,805,600	69,883,800	+ 77,200
NOTTINGHAM	25,177,500	24,743,700	- 433,800
SHEFFIELD	43,268,400	34,905,300	- 8,363,100

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1921.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,061,870	3,067,230	3,060,840	2,711,130
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	128,000	130,200	125,850	151,970
Bills discounted for member banks	423,910	381,170	405,080	1,387,240
Bills bought in open market	220,270	204,660	188,370	33,510
Government obligations owned	438,980	496,880	558,190	231,530
All other resources	63,070	67,070	66,530	54,480
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	57,020	39,290	37,730	74,180
Other deposits	1,796,770	1,832,810	1,819,070	1,617,430
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,218,760	2,213,620	2,211,890	2,474,670
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	46,830	50,220	52,790	103,590
All other liabilities	23,080	22,770	22,230	20,290
Capital and surplus	321,580	321,470	321,480	316,840
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	78.3%	78.3%	78.3%	68.7%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.
--	----------------	----------------

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Aug. 5, 1922.	Aug. 27, 1921.
Gold.	511,032	511,032	510,993	510,983	495,459
Silver, &c.	381	368	375	418	304
Government loan	12,553,278	12,541,736	12,547,458	12,548,474	10,701,040
Other advances	3,132,118	3,123,826	3,012,674	2,961,973	3,059,311
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	14,448,142	14,411,813	14,313,919	14,310,935	11,853,557
Deposits	6,079,632	6,100,509	6,093,826	6,049,416	6,257,229

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 16, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Sept. 24, 1921.	May 24, 1921.
Gold.	273,626	273,662	273,732	273,789	276,012	104,918
Balance abrd. and foreign bills	79,012	78,482	77,797	78,165	117,473	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	74,086	74,007	73,464	73,049	20,276	32,465
Discount and loans	363,052	385,070	396,854	414,276	401,260	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	522,859	538,873	543,183	569,155	598,497	225,555
Deposits at notice	201,370	208,642	221,804	209,024	146,436	69,560

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Sept. 14, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	332,778	330,994	329,200	330,179	325,355	322,650
Securities	492,973	489,629	472,292	497,620	497,236	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,483,141	6,501,105	6,490,324	6,527,662	6,132,502	594,150
Current accounts	547,845	531,120	537,118	517,683	932,588	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, silver coin, &c.	751	729	796	930
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	21	21	21	21
Loans	683,238	610,457	531,102	404,421
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	1,700,865	1,517,795	1,353,403	1,147,586
Deposits	164,157	122,427	116,011	136,629

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, silver coin, &c.	13,199	13,010	12,868	12,858
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	597	597	597	597
Loans	42,270,842	39,514,597	37,617,052	34,332,991
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	52,404,972	48,839,762	46,242,206	43,934,866
Deposits	5,360,531	4,704,919	5,416,557	4,391,212

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 29, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
Coin and bullion	228,304	228,310	228,324	228,325	227,564	76,644
Loans & discounts	415,941	398,400	420,186	461,386	306,152	88,470
Advances to Govt.	25,939	23,459	16,215	14,830	18,741	24,102
Securities	16,238	14,014	14,521	15,843	50,160	11,988
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	432,305	441,940	438,743	451,790	481,581	157,266
Deposits	142,399	119,028	114,766	128,857	75,256	6,696

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Aug. 11, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1921.
Govt. securities	10,477.71	12,407.78	13,177.88	13,592.27	14,192.27
Other securities	1,78.31	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,35.25
Loans	17,19.40	16,96.12	16,69.84	16,31.65	11,43.68
Cash credits	26,56.90	25,57.66	26,09.33	25,58.01	22,25.01
Inland bills	4,18.26	3,61.98	3,72.97	4,07.56	8,62.17
Foreign bills	7.47	8.36	13.95	11.80	5.6
Bullion	2,44.35	2,44.51	2,43.71	2,43.50	2,11.31
Dead stock	29.59	23.32	27.95	29.55	29.07
Sundries	28.46	25.92	26.57	16.73	16.75
Balance with other banks	44,37.33	44,98.48	43,61.64	42,84.30	32,50.66
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24.52	11,24.52	11,24.52	11,24.52	11,04.80
Capital paid up	5,63.38	5,63.38	5,62.38	5,62.38	5,57.45
Reserve	4,11.85	4,11.85	4,11.85	4,11.85	3,85.55
Public deposits	25,06.60	27,37.28	32,06.07	32,83.97	9,36.25
Other deposits	70,33.12	69,47.37	64,81.32	63,09.91	72,81.67
Loans against securities	1,21.21	69.71	46.57	46.39	77.66
Sundries	62.62	57.15	63.96	56.18	57.43
The above issues—					
Deposits in London	215	218	223	217	27
Advances in London	849	520	422	367	576
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	180	162	167	104	106

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold.	3,360	3,359	3,362	3,369	1,571
Government securities	36,801	36,046	38,779	34,414	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	26,631	28,334	30,322	30,123	2,400
Government deposits	4,636	4,216	3,069	2,142	2,315
Other deposits	12,528	12,632	12,401	13,578	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,291	147,291	147,291	147,293	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	41,718	39,857	38,415	32,226	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	9,415	9,415	9,780	8,545	8,816
Discounts and loans	430,040	433,144	438,257	409,793	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	373,662	376,396	387,415	402,443	113,484
Deposits at notice	132,034	130,929	131,916	87,074	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold.	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,625	35,093
Balance abroad and foreign bills	261,704	170,530	132,351	424,743	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	695,536	697,511	697,889	876,284	21,826
Discounts and loans	802,726	813,435	811,453	390,371	105,153
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,362,803	1,360,281	1,356,436	1,401,880	123,341
Deposits at notice	161,310	116,271	69,890	89,938	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 16, 1922.	Aug. 9, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	July 26, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1921.
Coin and bullion	26,660	26,665	26,660	26,665	27,841
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	3,143	3,355	3,661	3,352	4,154
Discounts	152,747	151,349	150,417	147,451	115,865
Government loans	720,097	720,097	720,097	720,099	608,109
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	849,511	847,286	843,659	832,079	649,102
Deposits	41,418	42,602	44,869	49,788	52,926

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Gold.	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,138	38,101	38,044
Silver	19,563	19,703	19,868	19,935	20,292	20,583
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613	111,535
Bills discounted	27,357	27,644	22,577	20,372	17,292	9,041
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489	3,587,627
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,325,322	1,442,811

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 10, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1922.	June 20, 1922.	May 31, 1922.
Gold.	31,719	31,625	31,535	30,884	30,121
Silver	44,132	44,132	44,132	44,132	44,132
Foreign coin	99,185	122,985	122,985	153,658	130,179
Foreign banks	2,261,276	1,777,433	1,669,586	1,394,265	1,322,770
Advances to Govt.	304,500,000	285,000,000	278,500,000	225,000,000	217,000,000
Private loans and discounts	79,131,072	77,446,507	74,267,835	64,932,972	60,622,050
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	409,266,102	385,787,489	351,343,208	285,677,146	276,001,10
Deposits	66,030,146	59,233,859	62,296,256	50,056,676	51,649,76

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 1, 1922.	August 16, 1922.	August 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
Total cash	241,245	124,880	282,165	281,851
Foreign bank	78,091	72,882	61,667	487,879
Discounts and loans	355,634	316,793	327,555	293,520
Other assets	1,212,110	642,314	1,045,167	763,151
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Reserve	4,929	4,929	4,929	4,929
Deposits	819,827	688,289	769,327	565,430
Other liabilities	1,469,324	828,661	1,192,268	934,993

BANK OF ESTHONIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.
Gold, for coin, and notes	102,120	227,708	217,670	192,212
Total cash	206,858	264,859	315,451	291,096
Discounts and loans	2,552,533	2,350,793	2,305,754	2,305,864
Foreign banks	1,229,764	1,949,373	1,187,923	869,984
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,770	37,771	37,771
Notes in circulation	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Deposits	2,544,837	2,530,524	2,997,241	2,621,064

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 22, 1922.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1921.
Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,096,713	10,096,713	10,096,713	10,096,713	9,798,394
Discounts and advances	1,894,484	1,885,803	1,877,583	1,877,583	3,373,581
Gold and silver holdings	725,432	724,352	724,352	724,352	1,396,976
Foreign bills & balances abrd.	1,736,393	1,631,901	1,727,831	1,727,831	722,766
Other assets	667,045	724,745	729,113	856,085	1,260,974
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circulation	9,837,009	10,066,720	10,171,383	9,647,573	11,253,828
Deposits	3,125,080	2,945,631	2,904,680	3,444,175	2

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From April 25, 1922.		From May 8, 1922.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
Demand ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
30 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
60 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
90 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
120 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.Ts. or demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.		Australia and New Zealand on London.	
	Buying.		Buying.	
	Aus.	New Zeal.	Aus.	New Zeal.
T.T.	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
Demand ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
30 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
60 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
90 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
120 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	24,70,35,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	54,14,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	78,84,35,000

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended September 27, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £4,784 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended Sept. 27, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended Sept. 27, 1922.
Latvia	£ 836	Denmark	£ 300
British West Africa	34,019	Netherlands	2,800
British South Africa	624,698	U.S.A.	395,300
Other Countries	1,153	British India	185,000
Total value of imports of gold	660,976	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	583,400

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on September 28th as follows:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold came on offer, and was divided between India and the United States of America. Gold to the value of \$2,720,000 has arrived in New York—\$1,720,000 from London, and \$1,000,000 from France. The Indian balance of trade in August was 296 lacs in favour of India, as compared with 32 lacs in July. The net import of treasure included in the August balance was 196 lacs. In August, 1921, the balance of treasure was quite the other way, for there was a net export of 281 lacs.

SILVER.

The market has been very quiet during the week. China has furnished most of the supplies. The Indian bazaars have figured both as buyers and sellers, but the offerings of the Continent have been small, and America has been neutral. The outlook is uncertain. It is remarkable that, with the exception of one day (September 5th), the cash price has been quoted within 1d either side of 35½ ever since August 24th last. Yesterday for the first time since October 30, 1919 (64½ for two months' delivery), the price of silver was fixed with a fraction of a sixteenth. The Bombay Mint will offer for tender on October 2nd

10 lacs of tolas silver on behalf of the East African Currency Board. This, be it observed, is a new quarter, where demonetisation has arisen. As two tenders of silver, derived from the same source, have been made before, it is possible that there is some connection between those tenders and the deflation to which the preceding paragraph refers.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,142	18,121	18,089
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,795	8,870	8,909
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	6,330	6,235	6,163
Securities (Indian Government) ..	585	584	585

No silver coinage is reported during the week ending 22nd inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 23rd inst. consisted of about 38,900,000 ounces in sycee, 35,500,000 dollars, and 3,870 silver bars, as compared with 40,100,000 ounces in sycee, 35,000,000 dollars, and 4,260 silver bars on the 16th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Per Ounce.	Silver.		Date.	Silver.
		Cash Per Ounce.	Forward Per Ounce.		Cash Per Ounce.
Sept. 23..	93 2	35 3/4	35 3/4	Oct. 6, 1916	32 1/2
25..	93 2	35 3/4	35 3/4	5, 1917	46 1/2
26..	93 5	35 3/4	35 3/4	5, 1918	49 1/2
27..	93 5	35 3/4	35 3/4	3, 1919	63
28..	93 10	35 3/4	35 3/4	1, 1920	59
29..	93 10	35 3/4	35 3/4	Sept. 30, 1921	42 3/4

NOTICES.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank announces that it has reopened at Smyrna in temporary premises.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they will open on Monday next, October 2nd, a new branch at Cornhill, High-bridge, under the management of Mr H. W. Heymer (also manager of Bridgewater branch). On the same date they will open a new sub-branch at 35 Splott road, Splott, Cardiff, under the management of Mr J. P. Morgan (also manager of Queen street and 92 Newport road branches).

Tenders for Rs. 100,00,000 six months' Indian Treasury bills were opened on September 22nd. The total amount applied for was Rs. 3,82,25,000. Tenders at Rs. 97 1/4 were allotted about 15 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs. 97 1/4 1p per cent., equivalent to a rate of discount of 4.2010 per cent. per annum. Intermediate bills will be offered for sale in India during the week at Rs. 98 1/4 per cent., and tenders were received on September 28th, for Rs. 100,00,000 six months' Treasury bills for issue during the first week in October.

The London office of the Union Bank of Canada announces that a branch of the bank has been opened at King street East and Spadina avenue, Hamilton.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

VAN DEN BERGHS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	ASSETS.		Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
Amount.	£		Amount.	£	
6% cum. pref. shs.	450,000	..	Goodwill	656,463	..
6% "B" cum. pref.	1,000,000	..	Properties	645,940	..
7% "C" cum. pref.	1,000,000	..	Associated and	..	..
15% pref. ord.	937,500	..	subsidiary cos.	2,065,907	..
Ord. shares, 5s.	187,500	..	Sundry debtors	1,178,214	..
Loans from	..	..	Stocks	755,786	..
bankers	..	..	Bills receivable	6,255	..
Bills payable	598,840	..	Cash	197,132	..
Sundry creditors	874,787	..	Investments	149,299	..
Do associated	..	..	Reserve fund	..	..
cos.	96,705	..	investments	106,651	..
6% notes	500,000	..	War stocks, &c.	..	..
Reserve	166,566	..	Expenditure car-	..	..
Profit and loss	..	..	ried forward	50,251	..
Total	5,811,898	..	Total	5,811,898	..

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR AUGUST, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Grande Works.	Mill.	Grande Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Frontino and Bolivia	2,200	..	..	..	7,439	..
London and Rhodesian	2,981	..	..	..	3,396	..
Oroville Dredging	..	..	..	..	26,137	..
Nechi	..	..	..	..	836,741	..
Pato	..	..	..	..	..	..
Copper.	Output.	Other Notes in Return.				
Mount Lyell	571	Copper, 12,074 ozs silver, 180 ozs gold.				
Chislet Colliery	4,536	Week ended Sept. 23rd.				

BRITISH BROKEN HILL.—Mill returns for fortnight ended Sept. 23rd:—7,515 tons crude ore produced 1,290 tons lead concentrates, containing 793 tons lead and 33,624 ozs silver; also 110 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 9 per cent. lead, 10.5 ozs silver per ton, and 44.5 per cent. zinc. 205 tons carbonates raised. One day's stoppage.

MOUNT MORGAN.—Four weeks ended Sept. 19th:—Treated 6,294 tons Mount Morgan ore, 4,964 tons concentrate, and 9 tons of purchased ore and secondary products; produced 445 tons blister copper, containing 141 tons copper and 5,329 ozs gold; also 5 tons of copper from purchased ore and secondary products. Concentrator treated 15,838 tons ore for a production of 5,481 tons of concentrates, containing 281 tons copper and 3,581 ozs gold. In addition to above production have milled on hand containing 46 tons copper and 460 ozs gold.

TEHRUM MINERALS.—Production of china clay for August:—Washed, 800 tons; dried, 1,170 tons; sold, 1,082 tons.

Reports and Notices.

Messrs Donald McMillan and Mott, solicitors, have removed their offices from 11 and 12 Clements lane to Stafford House, 14 King William street, E.C. 4. New telephone No. Central 6258.

The address of Wm. Cory and Son, Limited, and its associated companies is now Cory buildings, Fenchurch street, London, E.C. 3, instead of 52 Mark lane as hitherto. The telephone numbers will be changed to Avenue 9240 (14 lines).

Branches of the Meadow Dairy Company, Limited, have been opened at 217 Seven Sisters road, London, N., 60 Lower Richmond road, Putney, and 226 The Broadway, West Hendon.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

3 PER CENT. DIPLOMATIC DEBT OF VENEZUELA, 1905.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the receipt of a sight draft for £4,390 15s 4½d, being the moiety of the fourth fortnightly instalment of the Debt Service payable to the Council in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1922.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT 4 PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK.—Holders of stock and debentures maturing October 1, 1922, are reminded that the offer of conversion into Victorian Government 5 per cent. inscribed stock will be closed to-day.

RAILWAYS.

ALGOMA EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY BONDHOLDERS COMMITTEE.—We have received the following:—"On the 1st instant the committee received information that negotiations were taking place in reference to the sale of the company's lands, and on the 13th place in reference to the sale of the company's lands, and on the 13th instant a cable was received saying that the agreement for sale had been signed, subject to examination of title. The committee immediately endeavoured to secure confirmation of this, and on the 23rd inst. a cable was received stating that the Bank of Montreal had been instructed to pay the coupon due on March 1st last, on October 2nd next. A further cable has been received stating that this coupon is being paid out of the cash deposit on the sale of lands. Holders of 5 per cent. first mortgage 50-year gold bonds who have deposited their bonds with the Bank of Montreal should present their deposit receipt to that bank, when the same will be endorsed with as they prefer. The committee would point out that, owing to the state of exchange, holders will benefit if the coupons are presented in Canada or New York. The committee will in due course report to the bondholders when full information is received from Canada as to the sale of the lands."

MISCELLANEOUS.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.—The report for the year ended March 31, 1922, shows that the gross earnings for the year compared with those for the same period of 1920-21,

show an increase of Rs. 1,28,159. The expenditure shows a decrease of Rs. 21,008. The train miles run were 255,690, as against 250,836 in 1920-21, while the number of passengers carried was 645,374, a decrease of 22,289. The general revenue account shows a profit for the 12 months of £86,192. The expenditure in the colliery account has continued to increase, and is chiefly responsible for this poor result. In order to pay the preference dividends, the board have brought into the accounts a sum of £22,131, representing sundry credit balances from previous years, which were held in abeyance and are no longer required. After payment of debenture interest, and a lowering for all the preference dividends paid or accrued to date of the balance-sheet, there remained a balance at credit of net revenue account of £2,521 10s 5d, which the directors recommend should be carried forward. They regret that the accounts do not permit the payment of a dividend on the "B" stock.

BRITISH GLUES AND CHEMICALS, LIMITED.—The report for the year ended May 31, 1922, shows that the balance on profit and loss account subject to taxation carried forward from the last year's accounts amounted to £149,872; deduct preference dividend paid October 1, 1921, £20,999, leaving £128,873; deduct net loss for the year, after due allowance has been made for depreciation (£31,274) and bad and doubtful debts, and after making provision for the reduction of stocks to market values, £64,177; leaving a balance, subject to taxation, of £64,696. The directors regret that no settlement has yet been reached with the Inland Revenue Authorities with regard to the company's liability for excess profits duty, corporation profits tax, and income tax, though these matters have been the subject of negotiations throughout the past year. Their efforts to arrive at a fair basis of settlement have been unsuccessful, and the matter has been placed in the hands of their legal advisers. The difference in the taxation liability as between the basis upon which the company claims to be assessed and the basis upon which the Inland Revenue Authorities claim to make assessments amounts to a very large sum, and in view of this and the manifest unfairness of the Revenue claims the directors have decided that the question must of necessity be carried further. In view of the trading loss sustained during the year and the outstanding liability for taxation the directors do not recommend the payment of dividends on the preference and ordinary shares, and they have waived their fees from August 31, 1921. The improvement in trade which was hoped for at the time of the last annual meeting unfortunately did not materialise, and the year was one of difficult trade conditions and constantly falling values. These conditions necessitated the writing down of the company's stocks to little more than pre-war values, which, together with the coal strike during the first two months of the year, are the main causes of the company's loss. Considerable improvements have been made in the company's factories, and the cost of production has been materially reduced.

DEBENHAMS, LIMITED.—In the report for the year ended January 31, 1922, the directors state that they regret that it has been impossible to hold the ordinary general meeting of the company earlier, but the final settlement of excess profits duty was effected with the Inland Revenue only in August last. The amount available for dividend, as shown by the balance sheet, amounts to £442,150, which is divisible in the manner prescribed in clause 111 of the articles of association as follows:—Dividend on cumulative first preference shares, £110,500; dividend on cumulative second preference shares, £66,600; reserve fund, 20 per cent. of balance (subject to income-tax), £53,010; dividend on cumulative preferred ordinary shares, £100,000; participation dividend, 30 per cent., after deduction of preference and preferred ordinary dividends, £49,515; dividend on "A" 10 per cent. ordinary shares, £50,000; dividend on "B" ordinary shares, £12,525—shares, £50,000; dividend on £53,010 (less income-tax) is transferred to reserve fund the company's reserve funds (including debenture to reserve fund) will stand at £420,628. The directors further state that (sinking fund) will stand at £420,628. The general trade conditions existing during the season half of 1920, in values remained more constant during the latter part of the year, in consequence of which the results for this period were more favourable than in the corresponding period of the previous year. Full provision has been made for all losses incurred in overseas trading, and in accordance with previous practice the whole of the company's stocks have been taken at cost or market value whichever is the lower. The present balance-sheet shows an approximate diminution of £1,000,000 in liquid assets and in liquid liabilities, which may, therefore, be said to have regained their normal proportions.

MANCHESTER LINERS, LIMITED.—The report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1922, states that, notwithstanding that trading conditions during the year have been difficult, necessitating a certain amount of laying up of steamers, the company's services have been well maintained. The steamers of the company, as hitherto, have been kept in a state of complete efficiency out of revenue. During the year the balance of the "A" debentures have been redeemed, leaving the company's assets entirely free of charges of any kind. Since last report, in response to the representations of shareholders and to bring the capital denomination of the company's shares more into keeping with present-day practice, each of the £10 5 per cent. preference and £10 ordinary shares of the company have been divided into ten shares of £1 each. Since the year ended a new oil-burning fast turbine steamer has been added to the fleet. The vessel has been named *Manchester Regiment*, and should prove a valuable acquisition. After providing for all charges (including debenture interest, preference share dividend, and taxation), and including the balance brought forward from last year, the amount of profit available is £131,250. Out of this your directors propose to pay a dividend of 15 per cent., free of income-tax, on the ordinary share capital of the company, absorbing £66,780, leaving a balance of £64,470, which your directors deem advisable to carry forward to the next account.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended Sep. 24, 1922.			Aggregate 38 Weeks 1922.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	6763	50,700	130,100	180,800	1,948,700	4,933,500	6,882,200
Do Joint Lines	1612	131,800	84,400	216,200	4,560,000	5,486,000	10,046,000
Great Eastern (c)	1,2072	131,800	84,400	216,200	4,560,000	5,486,000	10,046,000
Great Northern (c)	1,050	87,800	120,800	208,600	3,743,800	5,201,000	8,944,800
Great Western (d)	3,657	349,000	341,000	690,000	11,306,000	13,944,000	25,250,000
London & N. Western (d) ..	2,633	373,000	419,000	792,000	14,588,000	15,896,000	30,484,000
Lon. & South Western	968	135,200	56,700	191,900	5,116,700	2,184,000	7,300,700
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c) ..	487	110,110	25,160	135,270	3,705,848	1,065,304	4,771,152
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	423	1,294	2,074	3,368	46,015	70,836	116,851
Metropolitan (c)	794	33,394	3,104	36,498	1,261,785	132,135	1,393,918
Midland (c)	1,5854	194,000	304,000	498,000	6,941,000	12,004,000	18,945,000
Midland & S.W. Jnc.	65	1,605	1,171	2,776	58,566	54,224	112,790
North Eastern (c)	1,850	154,200	227,100	381,300	5,137,800	9,247,700	14,385,500
North London	16	4,663	9,082	13,745	183,474	369,582	553,056
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	654	162,000	47,100	209,100	5,303,700	1,632,000	6,935,700
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	234,559	..	234,559
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	..	45,028	..	45,028
Caledonian	1,097	79,700	101,300	181,000	2,801,000	3,730,100	6,531,100
Glasgow and S.W. (c) ..	476	39,500	37,200	76,700	1,233,900	1,398,100	2,632,000
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	3344	10,360	8,360	18,720	368,740	348,230	716,970
Highland (c)	492(a)	16,393	12,596	28,989	468,484	413,900	882,384
North British (c)	1,3772	77,200	114,100	191,300	2,548,400	4,113,900	6,662,300
Belfast and County Down (b) ..	80	5,530	1,054	6,584	207,821	50,268	258,089
Dublin and S. East. (b) ..	160	6,358	2,678	9,036	..	..	358,479
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	12,196	18,329	30,525	368,831	552,890	921,721

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended September 22, 1922.
(c) Week ended September 23, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	20 weeks	Aug. 19	1,043	Rs. 2,37,643	+ 61,879	Rs. 45,68,740	+ 20,65,910
Barri La Ry.	22 weeks	Sept. 2	118	16,200	+ 2,500	8,29,600	+ 2,60,600
Bengal & N. Western	21 weeks	Aug. 26	67	5,13,890	+ 711	1,36,21,497	+ 14,71,393
Bengal Nagpur	20 weeks	Aug. 26	19,2703	11,00,000	+ 1,13,000	2,66,28,000	+ 26,16,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.L.	25 weeks	Sept. 23	2,871	17,13,000	+ 5,000	5,41,72,000	+ 54,23,000
Burma	19 weeks	Aug. 12	1,342	4,87,912	+ 65,361	1,28,09,024	+ 17,99,033
Delhi, Umballa & Kalke ..	24 weeks	Sept. 16	239	95,000	+ 2,375	21,92,947	+ 1,47,736
East India	25 weeks	Aug. 26	3,772	32,20,000	+ 2,32,000	7,40,70,000	+ 5,30,000
G. Indian Peninsula	24 weeks	Aug. 16	1,521	21,59,500	+ 2,95,500	6,21,01,967	+ 27,48,505
Madras & S. Mah.	21 weeks	Aug. 26	3,028	13,50,000	+ 68,339	5,08,64,654	+ 31,27,247
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	21 weeks	Aug. 26	259	50,394	+ 8,340	13,29,730	+ 77,494
Do Lucknow-Breilly	21 weeks	Aug. 26	302	59,681	+ 3,179	15,95,461	+ 33,703
South Indian	21 weeks	Aug. 26	1,852	8,91,097	+ 1,44,783	2,00,17,551	+ 21,77,462
8thn. Punjab (month)	2 mths	May 31	717	8,37,067	+ 21,012	14,84,039	+ 2,24,873
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	12 weeks	Sept. 23	752	9,900	+ 4,800	1,21,700	+ 26,000
Argentine Trans.	12 weeks	Sept. 23	111	2,690	+ 1,010	19,280	+ 5,360
B. A. & Pacific	12 weeks	Sept. 23	3,428	126,000	+ 19,000	1,528,000	+ 22,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	12 weeks	Sept. 23	3,947	147,000	+ 4,000	1,711,000	+ 139,000
B. A. Western	12 weeks	Sept. 23	1,882	84,000	+ 8,000	898,000	+ 125,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	13,300	+ 6,678	547,041	+ 11,693
Cordoba Central	12 weeks	Sept. 23	1,205	180,000	+ 15,000	2,274,000	+ 27,000
Entre Rios	12 weeks	Sept. 23	811	16,000	+ 1,900	193,700	+ 52,300
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	8 mths	Aug. 31	..	Me 44,500	+ 11,750	336,000	+ 48,150
Gt. West. of Brazil	38 weeks	Sept. 23	1,005	12,700	+ 700	469,900	+ 22,100
Leopoldina	38 weeks	Sept. 23	1,831	34,178	+ 3,569	1,092,730	+ 174,237
San Paulo	38 weeks	Sept. 23	24	1,118	+ 1,118	1,076,834	+ 86,466
Estado de Bahia, S.W.	4 mths	Aug. 31	62	Me 100,000	+ 28,000	344,000	+ 127,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	38 weeks	Sept. 24	838	21,090	+ 6,670	789,145	+ 49,715
Arauco	1 mth	Mar. 30	644	12,000	+ 500	..	..
Nitrato (2 weeks)	35 weeks	Sept. 15	366	24,589	+ 14,292	..	..
Peruvian Corp.	2 mths	Aug. 31	1,069	913,800	+ 408,570	2,544,900	+ 410,520
Taitai	2 mths	May 30	172	13,493	+ 4,320	25,583	+ 7,147
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,680,221
Havana Central	11 weeks	Sept. 16	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana	12 weeks	Sept. 23	1,210	9,615	+ 263	102,808	+ 17,362
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	12 weeks	Sept. 23	273	18,478	+ 1,345	237,982	+ 27,895
C. Urug. (East Ex.)	12 weeks	Sept. 23	311	3,644	+ 311	47,400	+ 3,380
C. Urug. (North Ex.)	12 weeks	Sept. 23	185	2,173	+ 66	24,845	+ 5,292
C. Urug. (West Ex.)	12 weeks	Sept. 23	211	1,970	+ 147	22,452	+ 1,613
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	+ 1,201	10,638	+ 1,548
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	38 weeks	Sept. 23	33	Pa 20,000	+ 2,000	735,350	+ 136,450
Bilbao	8 mths	Aug. 31	15	9,939	+ 73	8,300	+ 5,992
Bolivar	8 mths	Aug. 31	136	8,500	+ 1,113	73,650	+ 8,285
Costa Rica	1 mth	July 31	189	19,207	+ 1,370	19,207	+ 1,370
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,250	+ 54,500
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	7 mths	July 31	45	7,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 6,000
Egyptian Delta	23 weeks	Sept. 10	5594	(C) 7,824	+ 2,501	130,164	+ 22,993
St. Southn. of Spain	37 weeks	Sept. 16	104	Pa 102,461	+ 33,379	2,902,410	+ 988,327
International of Central America ..	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net	59,445	+ 1,812	603,128	+ 1,823
La Guaira & Caracas	8 mths	Aug. 31	232	15,707	+ 2,239	233,810	+ 15,061
Mexican Railway	11 weeks	Sept. 21	403	\$236,700	+ 90,800	2,900,500	+ 781,200
Do	1 mth	July 31	403	\$1127,500	+ 227,600	..	..
Nasajo Ocasarhamn	6 mths	June 30	193	11,371	+ 1,933	63,574	+ 14,850
Ottoman Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	274	3,310	+ 850	165,470	+ 43,780
Paraguay Central	47 weeks	May 27	274	2,311,374	+ 414,841	16,380,765	+ 5,289,660
Piraeus-Athens, &c.	9 mths	Feb. 28	..	D 2,311,374	+ 414,841	16,380,765	+ 5,289,660
Puerto Cabello, &c.	8 mths	Aug. 31	35	3,750	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Salvador	11 weeks	Sept. 16	100	2,162	+ 277	35,067	+ 6,365
Santa Fe Province	1 mth	Aug. 31	31	14,056	+ 4,283	72,060	+ 12,964
Santiago & Santiago	8 mths	Aug. 31	112	9,070	+ 184	93,209	+ 19,487
Zafra and Huella	8 mths	Aug. 31	112	(A) 13,265	+ 73	93,209	+ 19,487

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,599	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	234,202	234,986	400,430,580	+ 4,772,834	76,706,840	+ 54,822,820
Mar.	234,338	234,955	473,433,886	+ 16,093,426	113,468,843	+ 54,837,199
Apr.	235,333	234,931	416,240,237	- 15,866,410	80,514,941	- 13,040,083
May	235,208	235,310	477,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,565	+ 28,064,928
June	234,556	235,082	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678
July	..	..	424,736,397	+ 19,960,589	102,258,414	+ 1,964,485

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Ino. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Ino. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	July 31	Gross \$192,037	+ 8,353	192,037	+ 8,353
Canadian N.W.	37 weeks	Sept. 21	Gross \$1,529,700	+ 36,451	39,089,487	+ 8,193,675
Canadian N.W.	7 mths	July 31	Gross \$4,433,800	+ 798,576	30,189,794	+ 6,791,863
Canadian Pac.	37 weeks	Sept. 21	Gross \$4,230,000	- 690,000	117,771,000	- 12,301,000
Canadian Pac.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross \$5,918,000	- 114,000	106,677,000	- 10,216,000
Grand Trunk	37 weeks	Sept. 21	Net \$2,946,000	+ 370,000	14,722,000	+ 2,859,000
Temiscouata	1 mth	July 30	Gross \$445,548	- 24,529	15,064,421	- 103,842
			Net \$30,100	..	..	..

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.	Total Gross Receipts.
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	July 31	810	111,582	+ 7,838
Mid. of W. Aust.	1 mth	July 31	277	7,968	+ 474
New Cape Central	44 weeks	Sept. 2	305	2,297	+ 102
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	July 31	1,397	151,081	+ 4,778
					89,933 + 182

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.	Total Receipts.
Anglo-Argentine	38 weeks	Sept. 23	329	\$88,317	+ 7,233
Burnley Corporation	1 week	Sept. 23	12	\$3,411	+ 217
Calcutta Tramways	38 weeks	Sept. 23	354	\$124,762	+ 27,033</

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.					
					Amount	Amount	Rate.				
Gas.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Alliance and Dublin	June 30*	263	47,295	47,558	..	38,796	5	4,850	3,912	26,977	3 1/2
Rubber, &c.											
Bernam-Perak	June 30	3,580	116	3,696	..	..	..	..	3,696	Dr 7,647	..
Martapora Estates	Mar. 31	Dr 491	Dr 163	Dr 643	..	..	..	..	Dr 613	Dr 1,456	..
Seaport (Selangor)	June 30	23,279	3,524	26,883	..	..	..	..	26,803	6,222	..
Shipping.											
Dundalk & Newry Steam-Packet	July 31	7,684	6,459	14,143	..	3,789	7 1/2	5,000	5,354	7,488	10
Manchester Liners	June 30	68,847	85,290	154,137	22,886	66,780	15 1/2	..	64,471	160,333	15 1/2
Shops and Stores.											
Debenhams	Jan. 31	..	442,151	442,151	277,100	62,525	10	102,526	..	303,565	..
Tea.											
Zaloni Estates	Dec. 31	334	2,431	2,765	..	1,725	5	..	1,040	..	..
Tramways.											
Dundee, Broughty Ferry, &c.	July 31	474	3,859	4,333	2,150	1,442	7	500	241	..	..
Other Companies.											
British Borneo Timber	Dec. 31	1,492	9,234	10,726	..	9,000	3	..	1,726	..	..
British Glues and Chemicals	May 31	128,873	Dr 61,177	64,696	..	..	..	..	64,696	241,722	..
Elder, Smith, and Co.	June 30	152,817	123,772	276,589	..	87,700	10	57,720	131,149	104,561	12 1/2
Goldsbrough, Mort, and Co.	Mar. 31	10,427	174,437	184,864	..	137,527	15	16,040	31,297	61,410	10
Van den Berghs	Dec. 31	635,930	Dr 256,583	379,045	272,081	..	..	..	106,964	..	..

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to September 23	Cwts. 353,278	Cwts. 449,295	Cwts. 372,441	Cwts. 231,555
3 weeks to September 23	808,613	1,280,711	1,080,480	583,124
Average price of English wheat per				
quarter	s d 37 5	s d 57 1	s d 90 5	s d 73 0
= per cwt	8 82	13 4	21 1	17 0

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.						
Sept. 16	qrs bsh 58,112 0	qrs bsh 16,434 3	qrs bsh 17,026 0	s d 38 6	s d 37 7	s d 24 5
Sept. 23	82,431 4	26,479 0	20,234 1	37 5	36 11	24 1
1918	65,218 5	31,422 1	12,244 3	72 7	60 3	50 3
1919	54,029 4	159,966 5	18,297 7	73 0	95 2	60 2
1920	91,569 6	63,915 7	36,965 4	90 5	80 2	55 5
1921	104,835 4	117,547 5	23,544 2	57 1	63 3	29 6

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 28th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Makers are well sold in Cleveland foundry pig-iron for next month, and have practically no iron to offer. At the same time the output could not be increased owing to the scarcity of coke. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is now 92s 6d. Stocks of East Coast hematite are still considerable, and the price of mixed numbers is 90s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: There is little more inquiry for steel, but orders are still very difficult to obtain. Quotations to home consumers are as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: A few cargoes of Mediterranean ore have been sold for early delivery, and there has been some business in Swedish ore. Prices, however, are barely maintained. Best Bilbao rubio is nominally 24s per ton, c.i.f. East Coast ports.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—In several important branches of local industry conditions, instead of improving, appear to be going from bad to worse, and the position as a whole shows no improvement upon three or six months ago. Everything points to a winter of widespread unemployment and hardship. The large sums which are being paid out of local resources every week to maintain the army of out-of-works is piling up a heavy burden to be borne by those engaged in trade. Local rates have already reached 22s in the pound, and are certain to go higher. Such a tax adds to the difficulty of producing goods at prices to compete with rival countries, and constitutes a grave menace to the future of industry. Such revival as is to be found is limited for the most part to the cheaper steels, which find a market in foreign countries. Business is almost dead in Sheffield's special alloy steels. A considerable quantity of this material was shipped to the United States to escape the new and higher tariff, but some of the consignments arrived too late. The same remark applies to cutlery.

The new charges make the cost of Sheffield steel and cutlery almost prohibitive in the United States unless the British exchange depreciates—a not unlikely event. A spell of depression has overtaken the building trade in most parts of the country owing to the completion of a number of housing schemes. Apart from these, there is no speculative building, although there are on hand the erection of a number of villas for individual owners. Prices generally in the heavy and finished steel branches are at an unremunerative level, and the chairman of one of the big companies asserted this week that not a single blast furnace in the country was working at a profit. A brisk inquiry is maintained for steel strip, whether hot or cold rolled, common spring steel, and basic steel billets. Engineering and iron-foundry continue quiet, with little change for the better, while the shipbuilding industry is furnishing only a meagre amount of support to the steel trade. The railway steel departments are still quiet, but collieries are buying tools, stores, and equipment on a more liberal scale. Coke is scarce, and in substantial demand abroad at enhanced prices, namely, 30s f.o.b. American buying of steam coal is easing off, but there is an increased demand from the Continent. Householders show no haste in getting in their winter supplies of coal. Home consumption of industrial fuel keeps on a restricted basis, although expanding slightly. Best hand picked branch is quoted 36s at pits, and best Barnsley Silkstone 33s. Best South Yorkshire steam is about 21s, and best Tynes 24s.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—This has been a rather quiet week in steel trade connections, only a moderate quantity of material having been contracted for. Bar-iron makers are the turn better off than they have been of late, but they fail to see any distance ahead. Several black sheet makers keep well employed on export account, and inquiries, while not plentiful, keep well up with satisfactory prospects. Demand emanates largely from the Far East. There is said to be some promise of development in bridge building. Scrap iron and steel in fair request at firm rates. Pig-iron very quiet at regards home demand, but at the moment the feature remains, as it has been for weeks, the extent of the business offerings from the United States. Consumers there continue to buy Scotch foundry sorts freely, and rumour has it that the engagements entered into (on to the end of the year) cover 10,000 tons. Supplies are better than of late, but there are 23 blast furnaces blowing on Scotch ordinary, as compared with a couple two months ago. There are also a couple of furnaces running hematite. Prices are unaltered on the week at 105s for Scotch No. 1 and 100s for Scotch No. 3—f.o.t. at makers' works. Scotch hematite unchanged at 107s 6d. Crown bars are called £10 10s; boiler plates, £12 10s; ship angles, £9; sections £8 15s; sheets, £10 5s. Good Continental export trade passing in coals, but on home order the business is on narrower lines than could be desired.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The most disturbing event in the South Wales coalfield this week has been the stoppage of work at the mines and iron and steel works of the Ebbw Vale Company, which has had its effect on the market. It has coincided with a slightly improved demand from abroad, and if this improvement is maintained, the loss of 300,000 tons of Monmouthshire coals may quite possibly have a very appreciable influence on prices. There has been very little change in quotations, but the large steam coal collieries are well stemmed, and towards the end of the week 28s was asked for coals which were selling a week ago at 26s 6d. Second-class large steams are relatively easier, and ordinary smalls are a glut on the market. The outstanding feature is the strength of washed smalls, particularly those anthracitic in quality. The demand for these coals is due chiefly to the scarcity of pure anthracite, and for washed nuts, beans, and peas 28s 6d to 29s 6d is obtainable. The demand of the workmen for subsi-

tence wages was considered this week by Lord Buxton, who made his first visit to South Wales as the Independent Chairman of the Joint Conciliation Board. The colliery owners protested against the application on the ground that the industry was even at present the unremunerative, and argued that, in the event of the wages of the lower-paid day wage workmen being increased, the higher wage should be paid only to married men and single men supporting families. The latest returns of outputs and exports show slight decreases. The production of the South Wales coalfield in the week ending September 16th amounted to 1,033,600 tons, compared with 1,054,800 tons in the preceding week, and with 1,082,500 tons in the week ending September 2nd; while the exports in the week ending September 22nd amounted to 578,126 tons, compared with 596,710 tons in the preceding week, and with 606,422 in the week ending September 1st. The demand from the United States is being slowly exhausted, and in the week ending September 22nd the proportion of the total represented by the exports to the United States and Canada had declined to 21 per cent. from the proportion of 36 per cent. reached in the week ending September 8th.

The following are the current approximate quotations for representative coals:—Best Admiralties, 26s to 27s; seconds, 25s 3d to 25s 9d; best drys, 28s to 28s 6d; best Black Veins, 25s to 25s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s to 25s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 24s to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 14s to 16s; Big Vein large, 55s to 57s 6d; machine made cobbles, 65s to 70s; French and stove nuts, 70s to 72s 6d; Rubby Culm, 12s 6d to 13s; coke, for export, 35s to 37s 6d; inland blast furnace coke, at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 26s 6d to 28s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 27s to 28s.

In the iron and steel industry, the easiness I referred to last week has become more marked. Prices are falling, with tin plates selling at 18s 6d to 18s 9d, I.C., f.o.b., and it is feared that some of the works will be closed down in the course of the next few weeks unless the position improves.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Users of wool in this country are following with more than ordinary interest the course of values in the Australian markets. It was generally expected that the new clip would come on to the market at a high level, but it is doubtful if the majority of importers and users thought that the new season would open with 64's wool selling on a basis of nearly 5s in the top. Some big weights have been bought in Australia at prices which will enable topmakers to produce a really good top at less than 5s per lb, but the fact remains that many are refusing to sell at a lower price, although the majority find the greatest difficulty in making the quoted price, except perhaps in the case of spot lots. Spinners are simply holding off as long as possible in the hope that more advantageous terms may be got later on, but a certain amount of covering for urgent requirements is in progress, and the market generally presents a more active appearance than at any time since the close of the last London auctions. The great trouble at present is that both spinners and manufacturers assert they cannot sell their products at prices commensurate with the cost of fine wool and tops, and so the matter resolves itself into a question of whether and how they can afford to stand aside and wait for more reasonable values. Those engaged in the wool end of the industry appear to have the utmost confidence in the position of the raw material, but whether current prices can be maintained in face of a restricted demand for cloth and the big weights of wool to come on to the market during the next few months. Meanwhile, the yarn trade is well employed on old orders, and rather more inquiry is reported for various classes of yarn. Some activity is also noticeable in the mohair section, orders having been received from Germany and America for some fair weights of mohair yarn. The piece goods trade presents no new feature.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The numerous cables from Australia published in the daily Press during the past week show that the new selling season in Australia has opened splendidly. Sales have been held at practically all the centres, and competition has been keen, the prices registered showing an average advance of 10 to 15 per cent. compared with those ruling early in July. Apparently both sellers and growers are satisfied with the results, and the former are acting wisely in meeting the market. Sir Arthur Goldfinch stated recently that those who sold last would sell best, but experience has proved over and over again the wisdom of selling when prices were good, and not waiting in the hope of a still further advance being made. Wool values are always subject to fluctuation, and there is a strong element of uncertainty about the prices now ruling. We cannot see much sign of any extensive decline in merino values, but it would be all to the advantage of the trade if they were to come down gradually 20 per cent. In saying this, we are not thinking simply about the consuming end of the trade, but have in mind the good of the entire industry. The only real advantage that is likely to accrue from merinos remaining on the present high level is that the public may be compelled to show greater interest in lower qualities, and if that could be brought about it would be a real good thing for everybody.

One of the most amazing features of the trade is the existence of a desire for the maintenance of high prices for merinos. Fine wool is now practically 100 per cent. dearer than it was in 1914, and yet commodity prices generally are only about 60 per cent. higher.

There are those, however, who are not hesitating to forecast a further advance in merinos, it being anticipated by some that 6s will be realised for 64's tops before Christmas. We cannot see how this can be brought about, and even if it is possible do not think it desirable, for the trade cannot stand such a figure. We are as much in favour as anyone of growers being paid prices for their wool which will leave them a good profit, but no one acquainted with the facts will deny that the production of fine wool is a lucrative business, even without prices advancing still further. It may be open to question whether greater profits are being made than before the war. The probability is that a question to growers on this point would be answered in the negative, and no doubt the only things that are no dearer to-day for Australasian pastoralists than before the war are rain and sunshine. We repeat that in our opinion the buying basis on which the new season has started is too high to be really safe, but time will prove whether to-day's prices can be maintained, or whether they will advance. Granting that there is sufficient buying power to lift the new clips of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, the latter is admittedly within the range of possibility.

We are treading upon somewhat slippery ground in saying that Colonial prices are not on the same high clean scoured costs as at the last London sales. We are frankly of opinion, however, that this is the case, and whereas warp 64's tops were often costing 5s 2d in London, wool has been bought in Brisbane to bring in a super 64's top at 5s, whilst a good 64's can be made out of Adelaide wool at 4s 9d, and out of Sydney and Melbourne wool at 4s 11d. It is still possible to buy in Bradford for January delivery at 4s 10d to 5s, and the firm opening of the sales at all the selling centres in Australia has stiffened the attitude of topmakers in Bradford, who are not now as willing to sell forward at 4s 10d as they were a fortnight ago.

THE COTTON TRADE.

MANCHESTER, September 28.

There has not been any increased activity in the market this week. In all sections a dull feeling has prevailed. There continues much uneasiness with regard to political events abroad, and merchants seem determined to adopt a waiting policy until the outlook is clearer. Occasional transactions have been put through in piece goods for India, chiefly for Madras. Operations for China have been very restricted. Printed and dyed goods have attracted some attention for South American outlets. Some Near Eastern firms are having to face severe losses. The requirements of the home trade have been easily satisfied. Ground is being lost by manufacturers, and more looms are running out of work. The decision to run short time in the American spinning section has

PITMAN'S FOR STANDARD WORKS

BANKERS' ADVANCES AGAINST PRODUCE.

By ALFRED WILLIAMS.

BANKERS' SECURITIES AGAINST ADVANCES.

By LAWRENCE A. FOGG.

MONEY, EXCHANGE AND BANKING.

By H. T. EASTON.

EACH

6s.

NET.

NEW BOOK BY WM. F. SPALDING

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET

"There are many who will be glad to possess themselves of this very instructive and painstaking work."—*The Times*.
 "A work which is alive with interest. We commend the work to everyone who has an interest in the London money market."
Evening Standard.
 "It is a book that every business man ought to read."
Stock Exchange Gazette.

10/6

NET.

THE BANKERS' CLEARING HOUSE.

By P. W. MATTHEWS.

ENGLISH PUBLIC FINANCE.

By HARVEY E. FISK.

THE FUNCTIONS OF MONEY.

By WM. F. SPALDING.

EACH

7/6

NET.

Write to the publishers for a copy of their
HANDY GUIDE TO STANDARD WORKS ON BANKING AND FINANCE.

Sir ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway
 London, W.C.2.

had no effect upon the yarn market, and purchases have been of a limited character. Only a retail business has been done in Egyptian yarns. Export descriptions remain slow.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Sept. 28, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Sept. 21.	Sept. 14.	Sept. 7.	Aug. 31.	Aug. 24.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	12-78	13-24	13-42	12-70	13-76	13-88
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	17-25	17-50	17-50	17-25	18-00	18-00
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	19 1/2	19 1/2	20	19 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2
— 40's twist .. per lb	18 1/2	19	19	18 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28	28	28	28	28 1/2	28 1/2
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	30 0	31 0	32 0	31 6	32 6	32 6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	30 6	31 0	32 0	31 6	32 6	32 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	17 3	17 6	17 9	17 9	18 3	18 3
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	15 9	16 0	16 3	16 3	17 0	17 0

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Sept. 28, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	12-78	15-71	20-90	20-02	25-24	20-37
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	17-25	28-25	54-00	30-00	29-40	33-00
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	19 1/2	23	47	42 1/2	56 1/2	27
— 40's twist .. per lb	18 1/2	21 1/2	43	41 1/2	57	25 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28	45	70	61 1/2	69	44
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	30 0	37 0	72 0	59 0	74 6	34 6
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	30 6	37 0	72 0	57 6	71 3	33 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	17 3	22 6	43 0	35 0	42 0	20 3
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	15 9	21 6	34 0	30 6	36 3	18 3

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 22, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
							Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island ..	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do ..	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml
Georgia do ..	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml
American ..	Or	3	OL	M	Mid	G	W	F	G	O	L	M
Brazilian ..	1108	158	124	128	131	140	1265	1370	1600	1410	1755	2485
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c. ..	1108	1258	1388	..	..	..	1255	1455	..	1685	2335	..
Maceio, &c. ..	1108	1258	1388	..	..	..	1255	1455	..	1685	2335	..
Mossoro, &c. ..	1108	1258	1388	..	..	..	1255	1455	..	1685	2335	..
Ceara ..	1108	1258	1388	..	..	..	1255	1455	..	1685	2335	..
Maranhão, &c. ..	1108	1258	1388	..	..	..	1255	1455	..	1685	2335	..
São Paulo ..	1158	1258	1388	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian ..	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	F
Upper ..	1300	1400	1450	1500	1550	..	1900	2200	..	nml	3150	..
Sakellaridis ..	1450	1675	1750	1975	2200	..	1875	2275	..	nml	4250	..
Brown ..	1300	1450	1550	1625	1800	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peruvian ..	MF	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	MF	Fr.	G	MF	Fr.	G
Rough ..	1300	1450	1550	1625	1800	..	1225	1400	..	2000	2900	..
Moderately Rough ..	1243	1393	1468	1518	1618	..	1403	1680	1855	2485	2935	3585
Smooth ..	1243	1393	1468	1518	1618	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanguis ..	1100	1300	1450	1525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mitafis ..	1225	1325	1400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Indian, &c. ..	2300	2 00	2900	3000	..	..	2600	3200	..	7500	8500	..
Do Sea Island ..	9-75	10-75	12-50	13-50	14-50	15-50	1200	1400	1600	2200	2500	3900
African, East, &c. ..	1118	1168	1193	nml	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do West ..	G	F	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	F	Fr.	G	F	Fr.
Machine Ginned Surtex ..	1040	1080	1120	1160	1200	..	1205	1230	1305	1610	1660	1760
Machine Ginned Brown ..	9-60	9-10	9-60	10-00	10-40	10-80	9-69	10-19	11-19	12-69	13-69	15-29
Machine Ginned Osmra. No. 1 ..	8-70	9-20	9-70	10-10	10-50	10-90	9-75	10-25	11-25	12-75	13-75	15-35
Machine Ginned Osmra. No. 2 ..	8-70	9-20	9-70	10-10	10-50	10-90	9-75	10-25	11-25	12-75	13-75	15-35
Machine Ginned Khandish ..	1010	1050	1090	1130	1170	1210	1095	1135	1175	1215	1255	1295
Machine Ginned Compab. ..	6-95	7-35	7-75	8-15	8-55	8-95	8-15	8-65	9-05	9-55	10-05	10-55
Machine Ginned Bengal. ..	6-85	7-25	7-65	8-05	8-45	8-85	8-03	8-53	8-93	9-43	9-93	10-43
Machine Ginned Seinde ..	1170	1210	1250	..	..	..	1355	1380	..	1860	1910	..
Tinnivelly ..	9-15	9-85	10-25	10-65	..	..	1095	1120	..	1410	1460	..
Madras, Western ..	1050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madras, Northern ..	1050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M.G. Cocoonada, Red ..	Fr.	1010	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China, Smyrna, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

There has been some little demand for linseed, and, in sympathy with Argentine options and the advance in oil, old crop Plate is firm, and about 15s per ton dearer on the week. As much as £18 10s is demanded for seed on spot at Hull, and £17 10s to £17 15s has been paid for shipment. Linseed (Plate and Indian) on passage to the United Kingdom has dropped to 27,000 tons, while that to the Continent is returned at 68,000 tons, together 95,000 tons, against 118,000 tons a week ago. Crushers in this country are buying very moderately indeed, and little fresh trade has been done in new crop Plate, which is now quoted £16 5s for January-February shipment. Calcutta linseed to London has been done at £19 2s 6d to £19 5s, September-October. Rather more interest has been evinced in Egyptian cottonseed, £10 5s having been conceded for new black, first half of October loading, to Hull, and £10 7s 6d to London. Bombay cottonseed quiet at £8. Soya beans quiet, sellers offering new crop at £10 15s without finding takers. London has bought Toria rapeseed at £16 15s for shipment. Palm kernels quiet and easier. Nothing doing in ground nuts.

A shortage of September linseed oil has caused values for prompt delivery to advance to £38 spot, ex Hull mill. The October-December position has also advanced somewhat, £35 10s, but however, is small, and next to nothing is doing on export account. The recent extensive business with North America in this commodity has little chance of reviving with a tariff equal to £17 and over per ton against it. The political situation in Europe generally is also having a depressing effect. Cotton oils have been in better request, and, on scarcity, crude Egyptian has advanced 60s per ton to £34, while soap-makers' grade of refined is 40s dearer at values about unchanged. Some improvement in the demand for linseed cakes is reported. Cotton cakes and meals are steady and more inquired for.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Bermondsey hide market was again slightly firmer on Thursday last, as several classes advanced in spite of the fact that many hides sold from 7½d to 9½d, and the demand for secondary hides was shown by the fact that second ox and heifer advanced ½d to 1d in many cases. Kips also advanced in similar ratio, but cows were steady at last prices. Calf were fairly steady at last high prices, slight advances being noted in one or two classes. Lambs and pelts were practically unaltered. Imported hides reflect the domestic strength of the market, and advanced prices have been paid by unwilling tanners. Prices in the River Plate are round about 1½d to 1½d, and sales are reported at this figure to America and Canada, but are above our tanners' ideas of value. Dry hides of all classes have also been sold at advanced prices.

The demand for sole leather has fallen off this week, but whether this is due to poor trade or a "wait and see" policy in view of the next week's Shoe and Leather Fair is uncertain. Dry hide bends of 8/10 lbs are the best selling lines, with 10/12 for repairs' use. Tanners are firm in prices, but any talk of advance is at once turned down by likely buyers. Rough dressing leather is slow, as the French exchange is still unsettled. Split hides are firm. Upper leather is quiet, but both producers and importers have advanced prices, and are content to wait for results at the Fair, when the real tug-of-war will be felt.

The shoe section is none too well employed, and short time is still prevalent in some centres. Stocks in factors' hands are said to be low, and orders may be placed in bulk at the Agricultural Hall next week.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—There was a moderate amount of business effected in spot lots of refined, and after opening the week at 9d to 1s per cwt decline prices ruled steady. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes sold 54s 6d to 55s 6d; granulated, 48s 9d to 49s 3d; cas er, 51s to 53s 3d; pulverised, 51s 3d; pieces, 33s 6d to 39s, for yellows and fine white, 44s; yellow crystals, 43s 3d. Granulated, October, 48s 9d; and November-December, 48s 6d. Crystallised West India ranges from 41s to 44s, as to quality. American granulated, spot, sold from 48s 3d to 47s 9d; September, steamer, 21s, c.f. and i., London. White Java, spot, 46s to 46s 3d; afloat, 19s, c.f. and i., London. White Mauritius, spot, 46s; Brazilian, 45s 6d. Cuban basis 96 per cent., 15s 3d; and ditto basis 80 per cent., October-November, 8s 3d, all White, December, sold 19s 10½d to 17s 9d, 20s 3d; March, 20s 3d to 20s 6d; May, 20s 7½d to 20s 3d, 20s 7½d. Cuban stocks stand at 356,000 tons, against 1,195,600 same time last year.

COFFEE.—Business was on a moderate scale, and prices on balance show little or no alteration. Good bold Costa Rica sold, 116s 6d; Nairobi, 100s. Future delivery market slow, and small transactions include March at 59s 6d.

COCOA.—Spot market steady, quiet, and sales include some fine Grenada at 53s. Accra, F/F quality, November-January, sold, 35s to 35s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

GIRARD TRUST COMPANY PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



Chartered 1836.

Equipped to perform all kinds of fiduciary service—under appointment by courts, corporations and individuals.

Correspondence invited.

Capital and Surplus - \$10,000,000.

Member of Federal Reserve System.

TEA.—Offerings of Indian at public sale this week embraced some 49,300 packages. With active competition for all descriptions, the market showed general stability, with rates frequently ½d to ¾d per lb dearer. 15,300 packages Ceylon were also briskly competed for at full to dearer rates. Fine broken orange pekoe sold, 2s 10d per lb in bond. Java and Sumatra realised much higher prices.

RICE.—Market quiet, and prices barely steady. Two stars, spot, 15s 3d; October, 14s. No. 1 garden Siam, October, double bags, 16s c.f. and i. Broken descriptions quiet, but held steadily. Rangoon hand-picked beans, on spot, quoted 7s. Japanese peas, September-October, sold, 25s; December-January, 23s.

SPICE.—Pepper market steadier on the week with increased buying orders. Fair black Singapore, spot, 3½d; October-December, steamer, sold, 3½d; Aleppo, spot, quoted 4d; Tellicherry, 4½d; white Singapore, spot, 5½d; October-December, 5½d; Muntok, spot, 6½d; October-December, done 5½d. Zanzibar cloves, on the spot, 2½d December, 7½d. Pimento, spot, 2d; flake tapioca, on the spot, 2½d per lb; ditto, September steamer, London, 23s; October, 22s; December, 21s. Desiccated coconut, spot, 34s 6d; September-October, 33s. Sago flour, September, quoted, 13s 3d; December, 13s.

FRUIT.—Currants were firmly held, with sustained inquiries, and new Panaxiti, spot, sold, 8s; Vostizza, 90s to 93s. Sultanias met with quieter support. Smyrna, good average, quoted, 145s to 148s; choice, up to 170s. Raisins received fair patronage, and market ruled steady. Valencia, halves, 90s to 92s; quarters, 105s to 125s. Dates steady. Siar, spot, 23s; first tide Hallowee, 30s; Khredrowie, 27s; and Siar, 22s. Hallowee second tide, sold, 28s.

JUTE.—The market hardened during the week under improved buying orders and firm cables to hand from Calcutta. First grade, November-December, continental ports, sold, £33 to £34 5s; lightning grade, November-December, £31 to £31 10s. Hessians steady, quiet. 10 oz, spot, 36s; 8 oz, 25s 6d; A twills, spot, 80s 6d; B, 67s; sugars, 77s 6d; flour, 77s.

HEMP.—Manila in quiet request, but prices fairly steady. G grade, October-December, quoted £34; J sold, £31 10s; K quoted, £30 10s; L, £29 10s; M, £28 10s. New Zealand nominally unaltered. H.P.F., October-December, £33 10s; fair, £31 5s. African sisal, No. 1 G.E.A., October-December, £35 10s.

SHELLAC.—Market unsettled, and prices lower on balance, while rather unsettled forward. T.N., spot, 285s; October, sold, 250s to 260s; December, 240s to 252s 6d.

COPRA.—Market quiet, and prices ruled easier for most descriptions. F.M.S. Straits, September-November, Rotterdam, sold, £22 16s 3d to £22 13s 9d; October-December, £23 5s to £22 15s; Ceylon, October-December, £24 2s 6d; Java, September-October, £23; Dutch East Indies, £22 16s 3d; South Sea Islands quoted £22 5s; mixed, excluding Padang, £22 5s. Palm kernels, October-December, Liverpool, done, £16 7s 6d to £16 6s 3d.

RUBBER.after being in good support and prices dearer, disclosed a quieter tone. Standard plantation crepe and sheet, spot, sold, 8d to 8½d and 8½d; October, 8½d to 8½d, 8½d; October-December, 8½d to 8½d, 8½d; January-March, 8½d to 8½d; April-June, 9d to 9½d and 8½d.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market quiet but steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot, 97s 6d; forward, 95s per cwt. Albumen, spot, 3s 1d; forward, 2s 1½d per lb.

MENTHOL. spot, 32s; forward, sold, 25s 3d. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 7s 6d; forward, 6s 5d; aniseed, spot, 2s 3d; forward, 2s 0½d; slab camphor, spot, 3s 7d; forward, 3s 4d; crude, spot, 3s 4d; forward, 3s per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 80s; forward, 74s per cwt.

OILS.—Linseed market firmer. Spot, net, naked, 39s; September, 38s; October-December, 35s 9d; January-April, 32s 6d. Rape dull. Crude, spot, nominally 41s; refined, 43s. Cotton steadier. Crude Egyptian, spot, 33s; common edible, 41s; deodorised (in barrels), 46s. China-wood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 62s; shipbarrels, 62s 6d. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 38s; September, October, 36s 9d; Cochin, ditto, quoted 41s. Soya steady. Oriental, barrels, October-November, 34s. Japan fish easier. July-August, cases, 20s. Cod inactive. English, spot, 29s to 30s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, 44s; deodorised, barrels, 53s. Turpentine dearer. American, spot, 103s 3d; October-December, 103s 6d; January-April, 104s 3d. Rosin firmer for American. American, grade B, 15s; G, 15s 6d; H, 15s 6d; N, 16s 9d; W, 19s 6d; WW, 21s. French, F/G, 15s 6d; WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum easier. American standard white, spot, 1s 2d; and water-white, 1s 3d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed quiet, but tone firmer. Bold Bombay, afloat, £20 10s. Small Bombay, ditto, £19 10s. Calcutta, afloat, sold, £19 10s; August-September, £19 7s 6d; September-October, £19 2s 6d to £19 5s. Plate afloat, £18; August-September, £17 17s 6d; January-February, new crop, sold, £15 17s 6d. Rapeseed, easier. Toria, September-October, quoted £17; real bold Ferozepore, September-October, quoted £16 12s 6d. Cotton-seed firmer. Egyptian black, October, sold, £10 5s, and white, £9 5s. Bombay, September-October, quoted £8. Ginglyly quiet. Chinese, new, October-December, Continent, £22 5s; large Bombay, August-September, £22. Castor, Bombay, August-September, sold, £16 15s, to Hull. Groundnuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, September-October, £19 15s; ordinary, £19 5s; East African, £18 10s; Nigerian, £21; bold Bombay, £19 10s. Chinese, November-December, £20 5s. Soya beans, Manchurian, August-September, £12; new crop, November-December, £10 7s 6d per ton.

METALS.—Tin opened the week with a firmer tendency in sympathy with stimulating advices from the East and good buying orders, sellers being reserved in their offers. Standard, October, was dealt in at £161 15s to £162, December up to £162 12s 6d, and three months, at £161 15s to £162, December up to £162 12s 6d, and three months, at £161 15s. In the East sales occurred on the basis of £164 5s, c.f. Slight weakness was apparent later, though liberal offerings were readily absorbed. Standard, cash, sold at £161 5s; October, £162 2s 6d; December, £162 5s; and three months down to £162 10s. The downward movement continued during the middle of the week, but a fair business transpired at the decline. Standard, cash, sold at £160 17s 6d, and three months £162 2s 6d. At Thursday's session values ruled

dearer. Standard, cash, sold at £161 15s, and three months at £162 10s to £162 17s 6d, while finally registered at £162 15s. On Friday tin was accorded active support, and market ruled dearer. Cash, sold, at £162 17s 6d to £163 2s 6d, and three months £163 10s to £164 12s 6d. English ingots, £163 to £163 10s. Copper commenced firmly on higher American cables, and a moderate demand prevailed, chiefly for distant positions. Standard, cash, sold at £63 5s; December, £63 15s; and three months, £63 15s. The upward tendency was maintained, with sellers showing more reserve, and a fair amount of trading ensued. Standard, cash, on Wednesday touched £63 7s 6d; November, £63 12s 6d; and three months, £63 18s 9d. At Thursday's session rates were firmer to the extent of 5s on balance for cash and forward. Standard, cash, sold, at £63 12s 6

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATE, LTD.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)
Extracted from the Annual Report for the year ended
30th June, 1922.

Capital, £1,247,602 in 1,247,602 Shares of £1 each (all issued).
NOTE.—Of the above Issued Capital of 1,247,602 Shares, the Company
has purchased to date and holds 22,065 ex-Energy Shares.

DIRECTORATE.

M. HONNET (Chairman). P. DREYFUS.
MAJOR C. S. GOLDMAN, J. L. JOURDAN, F. RALEIGH.
A. A. AURET, J. MUNRO, J. H. L. MANISTY.
SIR EVELYN, SIR ABE BAILEY, Bart.,
WALLERS, K.B.E. K.C.M.G., M.L.A.

Tonnage Milled, 465,870.

	£	s	d	Per ton milled.
Total Working Revenue ..	£847,902	15	7	£1 16 5
Total Working Costs ..	777,326	1	2	1 18 4
Working Profit ..	£70,576	14	5	£0 3 1
Total Profit for the year ..	£79,880	17	7	
Balance unappropriated at 30th June, 1921 ..	188,481	17	6	
Unclaimed Dividends forfeited ..	138	6	4	
	£268,481	1	5	

This amount has been dealt with as follows:—
Expended on Equipment .. £31,755 14 5
Consolidated Main Reef
Mines and Estate, Ltd.—
22,065 ex-Energy Shares,
purchased at 7s. 3d. per share .. 7,998 11 3
Expenses in connection with
the purchase of ex-Energy
Shares .. 454 18 2
Government Taxes .. 8,739 14 10
48,948 18 8

Dividend declared during the year:—
No. 27 of 5 per cent. .. £219,532 2 9
Leaving a balance unappropriated of .. £157,152 0 9

ORE RESERVES.—The ore reserves as at 30th June were estimated
as follows:—1,141,900 tons, having an average value of 7.3 dwts.
per ton over an average stoping width of 49 inches.

The full Report and Accounts (with plan of workings) may be
obtained from the London Secretaries, A. MOIR AND CO.,
No. 1, London-wall-buildings, London, E.C.2.

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD PRIVATBANK,

Fredriksstad.

Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21,000,000.

Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCV.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1922.

No. 4,128.

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)

BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

Capital and Reserve Fund - Kr. 112,000,000.00

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.
BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.
MESSRS. COX & CO.
LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK,
LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business
transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1884.

Capital (paid up):
Esc. 24,000,000

Reserve Funds:
Esc. 27,200,000



Branches as Under.

32 offices in Portugal.
23 " " East and West Africa.
7 " " Brazil.
6 " " India and China.
Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
New York Office—93, Liberty street.
Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—9, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up ... " 348,786,000
Reserve ... " 180,000,000
Deposits ... " 5,079,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.
Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucarest.

London Office - 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. CONSOLO.
Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market ..	563	The Revenue ..	581
Leading Articles—		Stock Exchange News—	
Mr McKenna on Inter-		The Stock Markets ..	591
Governmental Debts ..	571	New Issues ..	592
High Protection in America	572	Active Securities ..	592
Position in the Coal Trade	573		
Our Index Number ..	574	Company Meetings ..	593
The Stock Exchange and		Government Returns—	
Its Functions ..	575	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
New Zealand's Taxation		by Public Tender ..	596
and Budget ..	575	Currency Notes Account ..	596
Latin-American Notes ..	576		
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
The Conference at Mudania	577	Bank of England ..	596
The League's Plan for Austria	578	Clearing Returns ..	597
Government Trading ..	578	Overseas Bank Returns ..	597
The Outlook for Shipping ..	578	Loan and Discount Rates ..	599
Freights for Cotton Goods	579	Rates of Exchange ..	599
American Cotton Crop ..	579	Overseas Bank Rates ..	599
The Economics of Land		Indian Treasury Bills ..	600
Drainage ..	579	Bullion ..	600
United Steel Companies ..	580	Imports and Exports of	
Clerical & Medical Life Office	580	Gold ..	600
North Broken Hill ..	580	Gold and Silver Prices ..	600
British-Canadian Mining ..	580		
Gaika Gold ..	582		
Japanese Trade and Finance	582		
Overseas Correspondence—		Company News—	
United States ..	582	Mining Outputs ..	593
France ..	583	Dividend Announcements ..	601
Germany ..	584	Railway and Tramway	
Italy ..	586	Traffics ..	602
Roumania ..	587	Analysis of Balance-sheets ..	603
Soviet-Russia ..	587	Reports and Notices ..	603
Australia ..	588	Oil Outputs ..	604
Letters to the Editor—		Profit and Loss Accounts ..	604
Stabilisation ..	589	Commercial Reports—	
German Treatment of		Corn Trade ..	604
Foreigners ..	589	Iron and Coal Trade ..	605
Books and Publications—		Cotton Trade ..	605
Labour Policy at Home and		Wool Trade ..	606
Abroad ..	590	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	606
The Russian Outlook—a		Hide and Leather Trades ..	607
Banker's View ..	590	Overseas Produce Markets	607
Cargo Insurance ..	591	Price Current ..	608
Books Received ..	591		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £3 18s 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.
Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at
Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons,
6 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar
Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street;
Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 53 Finsbury
pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's
37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad
street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

LOMBARD STREET has lately dealt largely in surprises, but
surprise became almost amazement on Monday, when it
found itself in the Bank of England borrowing a consider-
able amount. In view of the payment of the Conversion
Loan interest and the maturing of National War Bonds,
considerable creation of fresh credit had been expected, or
which the market had hoped to see itself in ease and
plenty. But a number of special withdrawals, and the
slowness with which official disbursements find their way

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS—		INDIA RUBBER—		PROVISIONS—		SPICES—	
0000A—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Aloes, E.I., p. cwt. 120	0 150 8	Para, fine, hard, spot	9 104 8	Butter—per cwt.	190 0 204 0	Pepper, per lb.	0 54 8
0000B—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Cape, good to fine, 20	0 150 8	Plantation crepe	0 78 8	Do factory	150 0 204 0	Black Singapore	0 54 8
0000C—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Balsam Peru, per lb.	0 150 8			Australian	190 0 204 0	White Siam	0 54 8
0000D—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Cajuputi	0 150 8			Dutch	210 0 204 0	Pimento	0 54 8
0000E—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Camphor	0 150 8			New Zealand	210 0 204 0	Cinnamon—1st sort.	0 54 8
0000F—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Japan, refined	0 150 8			Danish	220 0 204 0	Do 2nd	0 54 8
0000G—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Cardamom, Ceylon	0 150 8			Bacon, engd.—Irish	130 0 153 8	Do 3rd	0 54 8
0000H—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Canth. rid. China prlb	0 150 8			Danish	125 0 153 8	Do 4th	0 54 8
0000I—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Castor-oil, p. cwt. 85	0 150 8			Canadian	120 0 153 8	Chile	0 54 8
0000J—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Gum Benj. Sum. cwt. 5/6	0 150 8			Hampshire	95 0 153 8	Cassia Lignea	0 54 8
0000K—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil nutmeg	0 150 8			Canadian	95 0 153 8	Cloves—Zanzibar	0 54 8
0000L—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Cassia	0 150 8			American	95 0 153 8	Penang	0 54 8
0000M—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Sesame	0 150 8			Scotch	95 0 153 8	Cochin, cut	0 54 8
0000N—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Olive	0 150 8			Lard—Irish bladders	72 0 103 8	Do small rough	0 54 8
0000O—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Palm	0 150 8			For—per lb.	72 0 103 8	Do washed	0 54 8
0000P—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Rape	0 150 8			Beef—Frozen, per lb.	8 10 8	Japan	0 54 8
0000Q—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Sunflower	0 150 8			Scotch	7 9 8	Mace	0 54 8
0000R—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Tallow	0 150 8			Cheese—cwt.—Canadian	92 0 94 8	Do small	0 54 8
0000S—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Linseed	0 150 8			New Eng. Cheddar	92 0 94 8	Nutmegs, good to fine	1 6 2 7 8
0000T—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Mustard	0 150 8			Eng. Cheddar	92 0 94 8	Small to medium	0 104 8
0000U—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Sesame	0 150 8			Cheese—cwt.	92 0 94 8	Chilies—per cwt.	150 6 8
0000V—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Olive	0 150 8			Do	92 0 94 8	TALLOW—per cwt.	40 9 8
0000W—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Palm	0 150 8			Do	92 0 94 8	Beef	38 9 8
0000X—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Rape	0 150 8			Do	92 0 94 8	Good mutton	40 9 8
0000Y—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Sunflower	0 150 8			Do	92 0 94 8	Do	38 9 8
0000Z—Duty, British grown	23s. 4d. foreign 22s. 6d.	Oil Tallow	0 150 8			Do	92 0 94 8	Do	38 9 8

into the usual monetary channels, combined to produce the result recorded. From the figures of the Bank return it appeared that the amount borrowed by the Government, as indicated by the increase in the Government securities, had either been considerably reduced by Wednesday night, or had been much less than the market had looked for. Monday's spasm, however, was quickly followed by ease, and the tendency of the discount market quickly responded, though the demand for bills was not over-keen, except in the case of November Treasury bills, which were wanted at $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.

	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$

The Bank return showed a decline of £9,300 in the stock of gold, and an increase of £732,600 in the circulation, with a consequent decrease of £742,000 in the Reserve. Borrowing by the Government and the market was reflected in increases of 16 millions in the Government securities and 2 millions in the Other. There was thus a net increase of 18 millions in the deposits, the whole of which had gone to Other. There was an increase of £2,015,700 to £291,142,700 in currency notes outstanding, which includes £1,554,300 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £241,438,400, or £68,550,000 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

International complications have not greatly affected stock market prices this week. War Loan, in fact, has gone over par, and other stocks in the gilt-edged market have been quiet. In the foreign section, German bonds have been flat, and French bonds have been erratic. Home Rails have been better. Rubber shares continue to show a slight improvement, but oils are irregular. Iron, coal, and steel issues have hardened a little, and there have been a few advances in other sections of the industrial market. Mines have attracted a little more attention than recently.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Although favourable reports have been received relating to the trade outlook in India, Manchester cotton merchants are not apparently taking an optimistic view of the immediate future. The wool market retains all the recent strong features, and a fair amount of business has taken place; manufacturers, however, are hoping for lower values. Cleveland foundry pig-iron continues to be in demand for America, and although the strikes in that country have been settled, it is stated that it will be some time before conditions return to normal. There is a slightly improved demand for Welsh steam coal, and our Sheffield correspondent reports that steam coal is going freely to the Continent. The tone in the wheat markets is steady, and prices of vegetable oil and oilseeds are firm. Leather values are maintained. Fuller particulars of markets will be found in later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchanges have again been dominated by the Near Eastern crisis; consequently transactions have been comparatively few. The American exchange has again been the centre of interest, and after the rate had fallen to 4.36 $\frac{1}{4}$ on the 29th ult. on the bad Near Eastern news, a gradual recovery occurred in sympathy with the more favourable political outlook, the rate now being 4.42 $\frac{1}{2}$. We have predicted a fall for some time past, and we do not anticipate any great improvement in the near future in view of the large seasonal offering of cotton and grain bills which will appear on the New York market during the next two months. The German mark has fallen from 7,100 to 9,600, and it is somewhat

difficult to give any definite reason for this collapse. Hitherto a sensational depreciation like this has been attributable to some outstanding cause. No doubt the increased note circulation has a great deal to do with it, and the fact that Germany has been purchasing raw materials. The French franc has fluctuated between 57.80 and 58.18, and any improvement in the rate would not appear to be warranted in view of the political and economic conditions prevailing in France at the moment. The Belgian franc has moved in sympathy with the French franc; it has varied between 61.63 and 62.10. The lira has moved very slightly, being now 103, as compared with 102.88 a week ago. However, the rate rose to 103.40 on the 4th inst. Holland is now 11.38 $\frac{1}{2}$, after being as low as 11.28 on the 29th ult., the rate having moved to a certain extent in sympathy with the dollar. Switzerland is 23.62, showing a slight rise, and it is considered improbable that the discounting by a Swiss banking consortium of the German Treasury Bills handed by that country to Belgium on account of the Reparation payment due on August 15th and September 15th will disturb the exchange to any appreciable extent, as Switzerland is a holder of large amounts of American dollars. The total of the bills in question amounts to 96 million gold marks, and according to the arrangements these marks will be converted into gold dollars at 4.197865 gold marks to the dollar, and the dollars into Swiss francs at 5.20 per dollar, the total amount involved will therefore be 118,917,518 Swiss francs. The peseta is round about 29.05, compared with 28.92 last Friday. Copenhagen rose to 21.53 on the 2nd inst., and, after various fluctuations, is now 21.49. Christiania is 25.10, after being about 27.00 a month ago; this appreciation is attributed to the more favourable political outlook and to the trade possibilities which may accrue owing to the settlement of the commercial agreement between Spain and Scandinavia. Stockholm has fluctuated slightly, and is now 16.60. The Finnish rate is 195, showing a still further appreciation on the favourable trade news received from that country. The Austrian exchange has been sympathetically affected by the announcement of the League of Nations Credit Scheme, and the rate is approximately 300,000. The Polish mark quotation is now approximately 40,000, after considerable fluctuation during the past week. In this connection it may be mentioned that a report from Warsaw dealing with the Polish Minister's proposal for the restoration of more stable currency conditions, states that it is proposed to use Poland's gold reserve, amounting to 100 million gold francs, as a basis for a new currency. A scheme has been drawn up for the issue of a loan, half of which is to be issued in Polish marks and half in "Zlotys" (a monetary unit equal in value to the Swiss value), the coupons being payable in gold currency. The reform in the exchange will, it is anticipated, extend over a period of three to five years, during which time the equilibrium of the Budget should be re-established. Prague is 125, showing a further appreciation. Belgrade is 270, on the reports of a slight improvement in the general economic situation, and the financial position of the country is believed to have been strengthened by the good crop reports. The drachma is 155, and the Turkish pound 740, both markets still being nominal. The Roumanian lei is 713, showing a steady depreciation since September 23rd, when the rate was 650. Business conditions in the country still remain unsettled, and the crop prospects are reported not to be quite so satisfactory as at first anticipated. Bulgaria is 725, the financial position being practically unchanged, but the favourable reports as to a good crop yield continue, and as the country is primarily agricultural, a bumper harvest should tend to lessen the uneasiness caused by the present general economic situation. Among South Americans, Valparaiso is back at 32.20, after having been 32.40, and very slight alteration has been seen in the Buenos Aires rate. Rio is 6 13-32. It is generally anticipated that there may be a rise in the quotation on account of the large supplies of coffee which the country is holding, and the possible demand caused by the world shortage in this commodity. This, coupled with a better political outlook, may have a favourable effect. The Eastern exchanges have varied very little during the past week.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The return of revenue and expenditure for the first six months of the current financial year is quite as satisfactory as could have been hoped for in the circumstances. Revenue amounted to £403,893,412, as compared with £456,163,160 in the corresponding period of 1921. This is a net decrease of £52,269,748 for the half-year, and compares with the Budget estimate of a decline of £214 millions in the full year. Estates duties at £32,071,000 show an increase of £9,681,000, and corporation profits tax improved from £5,590,000 to £8,277,000. The telephone service is responsible for £6,900,000, as against £3,000,000, a contribution which will be viewed with mixed feelings by many subscribers. The principal decreases were Excise £16,209,000, Excess Profits Duties £26,110,000, and Special Receipts £26,419,550. The half-year's expenditure is down by £150 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions—namely, from £497,993,849 to £347,423,844, and though it is as yet too early to draw satisfactory conclusions, it may be recalled that the Chancellor budgeted for a decline in expenditure of only £169 millions in twelve months. For the first half of the financial year there is a surplus of £56 millions, which compares with a deficit of £41 millions at the same time last year.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to September 30, 1922).

Total spent	£ 347,423,844	Raised by revenue ..	£ 403,893,412
Dec. in balances	3,342,316	Net repayments	59,811,884
Total	344,081,528	Total	344,081,528

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 820,775,000
Special Expenditure ..	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.*	Mar. 30, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
34% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,031	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,980	1,980
National War Bonds ..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,050	1,050
4% Funding Loan ..	...	...	409	409	405	405	401	401	401
4% Victory Bonds ..	...	...	350	357	348	346	335	335	335
34% Conversion Loan ..	...	...	...	...	...	266	266	279	279
5-15 year Treas. Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	273	381	311	311
5% Treasury Bonds ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	40
Do by tender 5% ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	8
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,050	878	724
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs. ..	138	287	267	274	285	294	294	342	365
War Expend. Certs. ..	23	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,076	1,076
Other Debt	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
American Loan	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	148
Temporary Advances ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,660
Other Capital Liabilities	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	66	67
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,727

* Figures for the year ended March 31, 1922, have now been adjusted in accordance with the Finance Accounts recently published.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	Sept. 30, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Sept. 30, '22.	Sept. 30, '22.	Movement Week ended
Temporary Advances ..	£ 7,750,000..	£ 147,301,500..	£ 148,199,500..	£ 3,424,000		
Advances by Bank of England ..	153,433,000..	147,301,500..	148,199,500..	3,424,000		
Advances by Public Deposits ..	1,159,407,000..	882,219,000..	723,725,000..	9,805,000		
Treasury Bills outstanding ..	1,320,590,000..	1,029,520,500..	871,924,500..	6,381,000		
Total Floating Debt	£ 2,457,180,000..	£ 2,066,342,500..	£ 2,062,348,500..	£ 4,009,000		

MR McKENNA ON INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DEBTS.

At the American Bankers' Association Convention held this week in New York, an address was delivered by the Chairman of the London Joint City and Midland Bank on the subject of Reparations and International Debts. Mr McKenna began by explaining the reasons for his choice of this subject in preference to some professional topic of special interest to bankers. He did so by laying stress on the great difference between the law and practice of banking in America and England, which made it difficult for an Englishman to discuss banking matters without being constantly involved in obscurities caused by this

difference. "This very meeting," he said, "will illustrate the point. I understand that there are over 30,000 separate banks in the United States, a large number of which are represented here. In the whole of Great Britain we have only 39, but with us the branch system is so highly developed that these few banks have no less than 9,650 branches, of which 6,800 belong to five banks alone." Many other essential differences, touched on by Mr McKenna, convinced him that it was impossible to discuss a technical banking subject, and it was all to the good that he came to this conclusion, since the problem he proceeded to handle is one that is at present of world-wide importance, the elucidation of which, both in America and on this side of the Atlantic, is eminently desirable. He quoted the report of the Bankers' Committee, which sat early this summer in Paris, as laying stress upon the need to resume normal trade conditions between countries and to stabilise exchanges, and its conclusion that neither of these aims could be accomplished without a definite settlement of the reparation and other international debts. These conclusions are obviously sound, and they mean that without this settlement real trade recovery cannot be achieved.

Mr McKenna was careful to observe that he spoke as a banker expressing his personal views, anxious to determine the limit of the debtor's capacity to pay and the effect of payment upon the world's trade. He also referred to the difficulty with which he, as a member of a nation that is one of the debtors of the United States, spoke to an American audience upon international indebtedness. But he dealt with this difficulty with complete success, and in a manner which will be heartily endorsed on this side of the water. He did so by stating that in the course of his argument he would show that England has the ability to pay, and that he could unhesitatingly assert her determination to honour her bond in full. "I believe," he said, "I am justified in asking you to treat England's debt to the United States as certain to be provided for, and, if this be conceded, we shall be free to consider the question of the remaining international debts as one in which America and England are equally concerned, and in which both have the same interest as creditors."

Broadly, Mr McKenna's conclusions are in accordance with those of most people who have given serious thought to the problems that he handled, but we cannot doubt that his clear exposition of them and of the arguments that have led him to them, was a most useful incident of the American Bankers' Conference. In his view Germany can pay nothing now, except the foreign balances owned by her citizens, if they can be secured by her Government, which, as he admitted, cannot be done without the consent of the holders. This consent, however, could, in his opinion, easily be got, if their foreign assets could be sold for an assured profit. "It must be remembered," he said, "that to a considerable extent they are the proceeds of sales of marks which have been flung by Germans on the foreign market under the well-founded apprehension that the pressure of reparation payments would rapidly depreciate their value. Remove this pressure, and the mark would immediately improve. It has still a far greater value in Germany than it has outside, and the German holders of foreign assets would have a clear advantage in selling them for marks to their Government." As to the extent of those assets, Mr McKenna believes it would be safe to put them at not less than a billion dollars. It may be noted that this estimate, though far below some of the wild imaginings that have been current concerning the mass of wealth that Germans have piled up abroad, is also considerably above the sum arrived at by Mr Keynes, after elaborate calculations set forth in Section Eight of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial's* "Reconstruction in Europe." In the article referred to Mr Keynes concludes that the net assets—after allowing for short-term credits owed—held abroad by Germany are of a value below £100 millions sterling and quotes on his side an answer given by Sir Rober Horne in the House. But whatever be the amount of these foreign assets Mr McKenna thinks that Germany could pay it, "provided the fall in the mark was arrested"—a rather substantial proviso. More than that he does not think that Germany could find at least for some years, and he expressed the belief that, "looking mere"

at the amount to be received, the creditors would gain by abandoning the attempt to obtain other money payments for at least three years." The need for this rather protracted breathing time seems to have impressed itself on Mr McKenna for reasons which are not quite convincing. Firstly, because though Germany has only paid \$375,000,000 in cash, the mark has been divided in value by 70; secondly, because in spite of Germany's efforts during the past three years to develop her export trade, her exports, "long after the immediate deficiency in essential foreign commodities due to the war was made good, are still barely equal to the imports." From these premises he concludes that Germany has at present no capacity to obtain a surplus from the export of goods. But surely both of them have been to some extent caused by the condition of political and economic uncertainty and disorganisation that has been forced on Germany by the handling of this reparation problem by her late enemies. By delaying to name a fixed and possible sum, the Entente has invited and obliged Germany to leave her finances in a state of chaos, and her currency in a condition of growing depreciation. The consequence of this chaos was that her citizens, anxious above all things to have anything but marks in their possession, have spent their money as fast as they could. If the mark were once stabilised—an assumption that Mr McKenna was ready to make in considering the German Government's power to acquire its citizens' foreign assets—it is at least possible that the reckless consumption that one hears of as rampant might be checked, and that before three years are out an export surplus might be established. Mr McKenna doubts if a Government can increase an export surplus by taxation. But of this there can surely be little doubt. For if means were found of securing more of the German taxpayer's income and transferring it to foreigners, German imports and home consumption would fall, and German export industries be stimulated. The weakest link in Mr McKenna's argument was the assumption that an export surplus cannot be artificially created, for he adds that at the end of three years of grace future demands must be "limited to the annual amount of Germany's exportable surplus at that time." But, in fact, such a surplus appeared in France in 1871, and it is really begging the question to suggest that the amount of reparation can be indicated by a realised export surplus.

The general tenour of Mr McKenna's speech was very pessimistic for France, and it may be, as Mr Keynes suggests, that profound changes, political and economic, which are in progress to-day as compared with pre-war conditions will render obsolete our old ideas as to the trading relations of European nations, not only with one another, but with the rest of the world, and that we are entering a new and more difficult phase of historical development. If this is so, the whole discussion of reparation and debt is of no practical importance. But, if anything like pre-war conditions are to be expected in Europe, it is still possible to hope for a solution of the Reparation question somewhat less vague and illusory than Mr McKenna suggests.

With regard to the other international debtors, Mr McKenna considers that England has the capacity to pay to the United States interest and sinking fund on her debt, but that the other debtors are none of them in a position to meet more than a small part of their external liabilities; that they should be granted indefinite postponement at present, and that the amount that they could ultimately pay should, as in the case of Germany, be "ascertained by inquiry into their exportable surplus at a full and frank conference between creditors and debtors." England's exceptional ability to pay he ascribes to our possession of a large accumulation of foreign assets, which he believes to be still, in spite of an immense sale of securities to the United States during the war, sufficient to cover our debt to America two or three times over. He seems to believe that only a nation possessed of such a stock of foreign assets can "discharge external obligations to anything more than a comparatively small amount." He shows that the American nation, thanks to the war, in a few years almost entirely discharged a capital liability which had been growing for over two centuries, and so proves that, though a debtor nation may in certain circumstances pay off its foreign debt with remarkable ease and rapidity,

"the indispensable condition for such rapid repayment is that there should be an extraordinary demand for its goods, a demand which is a natural accompaniment of war, but does not exist in peace." Arguing along the same line, Mr McKenna shows that if we were at war and France were at peace, "she might pour upon our shores war material and stores equal to the whole amount of her debt to us." From all which it seems to follow that the simple solution of the international debt problem is war between America and England, which would enable all our European debtors to make profits out of the two belligerents so fast that they could pay all debts to us and to one another! Surely Mr McKenna is proving too much. There is no question of any of the debtor nations being asked to pay the whole capital sum forthwith. Even the Entente has not been guilty of this absurdity in its demands on Germany. Meeting the service of a debt, with a reasonable sinking fund, is a very different matter from paying it off at one blow. But if Mr McKenna has weakened a good case by overstating it, at least he has made a timely utterance on the side of good sense and moderation, which is particularly valuable in bringing out the many common characteristics of Reparation and the inter-Allied debts.

HIGH PROTECTION IN AMERICA.

THE United States "Tariff Act of 1922," which came into operation on September 21st last, does not attempt to conceal its purpose. There is no pretence about it. The intention is to prohibit the competition of foreign goods with similar goods produced in the United States, and to give the President powers to make the prohibition effective should the high rates laid down in the tariff prove to be inadequate for the purpose. What is more, the principle of the "American valuation" of imported goods, though considerably modified, is not wholly in abeyance; it remains in the background as a weapon protectionists regard as an emergency. Thus we see the United States at a stage in their history when they have become a creditor nation and show an indisposition to remit debts owing to them, displaying at the same time a disposition to make it more difficult for their debtors to make payment. The Americans, who were quick to perceive the illogic of France, have displayed a greater illogic themselves. They described France's eagerness to exact penalties and reparations from Germany as combining a desire to squeeze the last drop of milk from the cow, with an insistence that its turn insist that foreign debtors shall pay their debts, but deny to them the one form, goods, in which these debts can be paid.

The peculiarity of this new tariff is that, even after its long and stormy passage through Congress, and after its signature by the President, its form is not final. Merit rates of duty as determined and make the best of them, to the "American valuation" and changes in regard duties remain suspended, like some sword of Damocles, ready to descend and cut the thread of business operations. The original scheme of the "American valuation," applicable to all imports, was to assess the *ad valorem* duties on imported goods, not on the foreign values as declared, but on the wholesale selling price in the open market of the United States of "comparable and competitive" domestic products. If such valuation could not be paid was to be an imaginary "constructive selling to the appraisers. This scheme was subjected to intense criticism, and was cut about a great deal in the Senate designed, in the words of the President, "to make for flexibility and elasticity, so that rates may be adjusted to meet unusual and changing conditions which cannot accurately be anticipated."

As finally adopted, the Tariff Act authorises the President to increase or decrease duties, and to change classifica-

tions, whenever necessary to equalise the ascertained differences in costs of production in foreign countries and the United States. No duty may, however, be increased or decreased more than 50 per cent. of the duties specified in the tariff, and no duties may be changed from specific to *ad valorem*. Goods may not be transferred by the President from the dutiable list to the free list, or *vice versa*. The differences in costs of production are to be ascertained in the United States and in the principal foreign country from which competing goods may come. The "American valuation" may be substituted by the President for the foreign declared value whenever necessary to equalise ascertained differences in costs of production of all products (not only of certain classes of goods) in the dutiable list. It is, however, stipulated that the rates of duties on articles for which the American valuation is adopted may not be increased above those laid down in the Tariff Act. These discretionary powers allowed to the President are obviously very extensive, and in themselves constitute a complete departure from precedent. In no previous American tariff has the President been empowered to alter the statutory scale of duties or valuations.

We have, then, in this new tariff two embarrassing uncertainties which can scarcely endure for long—the President's powers to vary the duties and to apply the "American valuation." It may be true—an exact comparison between tariffs is most difficult to make—that the general scale of duties in the tariff, though higher than those of 1913, are little, if at all, more severe than those enacted in the Payne-Aldrich Tariff of 1909. That may be true, but there is little consolation to be got from it. For this new tariff is "elastic" and "flexible," it is not definitive, as were the tariffs of 1913 and 1909, and no one can tell where he is in regard to it. If the President can vary the rates up or down by 50 per cent., and can apply the "American valuation" as an emergency measure, the effect is to make business with the United States practically prohibitive in goods which compete with American products. If the tariff itself does not shut them out, then the President can himself apply the desired stop. That is unless the Supreme Court of the United States declares that the emergency powers allowed to him are unconstitutional. There is sufficient opposition to the tariff in the United States to ensure that the best legal advice will be taken, and that the constitutional issue will be fought out if there be any prospect of success in the Supreme Court.

THE POSITION IN THE COAL TRADE.

(BY OUR CARDIFF CORRESPONDENT.)

THE outlook in the coal trade has not been in any sense improved by the important meeting of the National Joint Board held in London this week. In July last the workmen's representatives on that body submitted to the employers the following proposals for the improvement of the financial position of the industry:—

1. That selling arrangements should be made between colliery owners on a district, if not on a national, basis, so as to secure an increase in the average selling price of coal.
2. That arrangements should be made for the co-operative buying of timber, stores and materials.
3. That costs of production other than wages should be scrutinised with a view to their reduction.
4. That the owners should join the workmen's side in approaching the Government for assistance.

These proposals, it will be seen, were only less revolutionary of the prevailing organisation of the industry than that of the National Pool advocated and fought for unsuccessfully by the Federation in the three months' strike of 1921. The principles of commercial policy contained in the first two of the above proposals are at present in actual operation in the industry on a restricted scale. In some of the districts methods of combination or of consultation are adopted in the regulation of the prices of certain special qualities of coal of which the supply is limited, and the control of such supply is in the hands of a comparatively small number of colliery owners. The principle of the collective purchase of pitwood, stores and other materials is also adopted by some, at any rate, of

the combines created in recent years. Indeed, the conviction that economies in the cost of management could be effected by this method has been one of the considerations which has stimulated the absorption of smaller by bigger undertakings and the fusion of adjoining big properties. The overwhelming opinion, however, among employers in the mining industry is that, while these expedients may be practicable and desirable in special cases on a limited scale, they are inapplicable to the conduct of the industry as a whole on an efficient basis. The council of the Mining Association came to the conclusion that (1) arrangements for the fixing of selling prices either on a whole district or national basis was impracticable; (2) that arrangements for the co-operative purchase of timber, stores, and other materials was undesirable, inasmuch as such co-operative action would stimulate similar combinations among the sellers of such commodities; (3) that the scrutiny of the costs of production other than wages was a matter for individual undertakings, and was already the subject of close attention on their part; and (4) that there appear to be no common grounds on which the owners and the miners could approach the Government.

These conclusions were approved by the district associations of coal owners. One or two of the smaller coalfields were prepared to experiment on the lines suggested by the Miners' Federation if general agreement was attainable, but all the greater coalfields were uncompromisingly hostile. The complaint of the workmen's representative that coal was being sold at too low a price owing to underselling by middlemen and merchants was met by the argument that the present pithead price of coal was only about 60 per cent. above the pre-war price, and that that was approximately also the Board of Trade index number showing the increase over the pre-war level of wholesale prices. In so far, however, as the regulation of prices was practicable by the interchange of opinions between colliery salesmen as to current market prices, both within a district and between colliery owners in various districts, the employers were prepared to do all that was in their power to maintain prices, and in the South Wales coalfield action on these lines had already been taken with a certain measure of success.

In view of this rejection by the employers of the scheme submitted to them in July, the Miners' Federation suggested the alternative proposal of raising the minimum from the present figure of 20 per cent. on the new standard to such a new figure as would secure the workmen a wage equal to the increase in the cost of living. The present minimum is 20 per cent. on the new standard; a minimum equivalent to the increase in the cost of living would be approximately 50 per cent. on that standard, and the raising of the minimum to that level would involve an addition to the base labour cost of production of many shillings per ton. In the South Wales coalfield it would render imperative a large coal price of over 30s per ton. The coalowners opposed this demand on the ground that the industry could not bear the cost of it; that even the present minimum was entailing the majority of collieries in a loss, and that cheaper and more abundant coal was demanded by the industry of the country. Moreover, the employers complained that the miners' representatives were exaggerating the depressed economic condition of the workmen, and drew attention to the following among other facts:—(1) That the mining industry was to-day employing nearly as many workmen as in 1913; (2) that these workmen were employed on an average over 5.33 days per week, compared with 5.4 days per week; (3) that the wages of pieceworkers had been advanced by over 14 per cent. to compensate those workmen for the reduction in working hours from eight to seven; (4) that the day wage workers had been granted subsistence allowances in addition to their ordinary rates; (5) that the average wage in the industry was about 45 per cent. above the pre-war level without taking into account the indirect benefits of cheap coal, low or free house rents, &c.; and (6) that it was within the power of the workmen to increase the net proceeds available for distribution as wages by agreeing to the restoration of the eight-hour day system. Moreover, the owners intimated that it would be necessary in the near future to reconsider the terms of the national agreement relating to the distribution of the proceeds of the industry, and to the recoupment of deficiencies in

periods in which the standard profit of 17 per cent. provided for in the agreement was not realised.

It will be seen that the differences between the two sides of the joint board were fundamental and irreconcilable, and the miners' representatives have now decided to appeal to the Government for financial assistance. The Government, however, is opposed to the reintroduction of any form of subsidy, and, anticipating that the appeal to the Prime Minister will be ineffective, the executive committee of the Miners' Federation has decided to leave the decision in regard to the adoption of any further measure aiming at the improvement of the wage position to a delegate conference to be convened in the course of the next few weeks.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

THERE has been a further fall in wholesale prices in September, but the decline is considerably smaller than that recorded in August, our Index Number dropping by 68 points in September, which compares with a fall of 139 points in August. The latest total is now 4189, the lowest touched since March, 1916. September's decline is mostly due to changes in the miscellaneous section, movements in the other four groups having offset one another. The actual changes are shown in the following table:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.)	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tin, Lead, Oils, &c.)	Total.	Percentage Change.
Basis (avg. 1901-5)...	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914....	579	352	616½	464½	553	2568	116.6
" Dec., 1915....	897	446	731	711½	848½	3634	165.1
" Dec., 1917....	1286½	686	1684½	839½	1348½	5845	263.2
" Nov., 1918....	1289	782½	1848	903	1389½	6212	282.6
" Dec., 1918....	1303	782½	1805½	866	1337	6094	277.0
" Dec., 1919....	1441½	881½	2442½	1145	1453½	7364	334.7
" Mar., 1920....	1508	914	2974½	1246	1709½	8352	379.6
" Dec., 1920....	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
" Dec. 1921....	921½	636	1106	762	931½	4357	198.0
" Jan., 1922....	907½	654½	1066½	730	925½	4284	194.7
" Feb., 1922....	948	640½	1037½	696½	936½	4259	193.6
" Mar., 1922....	980	687	1038	700	892	4297	195.3
" April, 1922....	1008½	667	1010	709½	885	4372	198.7
" May, 1922....	1040½	657	1079	710½	885	4372	198.7
" June, 1922....	1000½	676½	1135	690	887	4389	199.5
" July, 1922....	994½	669	1120	712½	900	4396	199.8
" Aug., 1922....	880½	674	1123½	691½	887½	4257	198.5
" Sept., 1922....	873½	682½	1116	699	818	4189	190.4

There has been a larger number of changes during the past month than usual, there being only 10 out of the 44 quotations which have not moved. A rise in foreign wheat was offset by a decline in home-grown wheat. Flour and barley were slightly higher, but oats and potatoes declined. Beef dropped sharply, but there was an advance in mutton, while pork was unchanged. Among subsidiary foodstuffs tea and butter were higher, but there was a slight decline in sugar.

In the textile group cotton quotations are lower, but other changes are all upwards. In spite of a bullish crop report, the price of American cotton has fallen away, while the manufacturing side has been very quiet. According to Messrs. Robt. Barbour and Brother, Limited:—

The feeling of uncertainty is just as apparent as ever, whilst the Near East menace has not only brought business for that important outlet to a complete standstill, but has affected all markets and added to the complete lack of confidence which is so marked a feature in every direction. Inadequate bids from India have continued to come along with frequency, but only occasional sales of dhooties have been made for Calcutta. Madras has taken a certain quantity of light goods, and Bombay and Karachi have inquired for white shirtings. Singapore and Java have only bought from hand to mouth, and the same may be said of Central and South America. With the exception of a few lines of fancies China has practically done nothing. It was hoped that by now most of the old dear stocks had been cleared, but recent advices show that

liquidation both in India and China is still going on, and the forced sales made from time to time are no doubt responsible for much of the irregularity in values as conspicuous as it is misleading.

Australian wool is higher, and there was a sharp advance in jute. Other textiles were slightly higher.

In the minerals section quotations for pig-iron and steel rails were advanced, and the minor metals were slightly higher, but coal declined a little. The large decline in the miscellaneous group results chiefly from substantial reductions in petroleum, tallow, and soda crystals. In the table below we show the month's changes of each commodity's index number as compared with the level at the end of August, the figure 50 in each case representing the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For... 96	+ 10	Cotton, A... 115½	— 9½	Copper... 53½	+ ½
English... 57½	— 10	Cotton, B... 119	— 5	Minerals... 699	+ 7½
Flour... 84	+ 4	Yarn... 118	— 4½		
Barley... 81	+ 1	Cloth... 120½	— 10		
Oats... 70	— 3	Wool, Eng... 113	+ 7	Baltic timber... 103	..
Potatoes... 47	— 2½	Aus. Wool... 104½	+ 1	Amer. timber... 89	..
Rice... 107½	— 2½	Silk... 134½	+ 2½	Leather... 76	..
Beef... 87½	— 6	Flax... 45	+ 10½	Petroleum... 116½	— 20½
Mutton... 107½	+ 6	Hemp... 113	+ 10½	Oils... 77½	..
Pork... 125½	— 7	Jute... 1116	— 7½	Tallow... 62½	+ 7½
Cereals & Meat... 873½	— 7	Textiles... 1,116	— 7½	Indigo... 113	— 14
Tea... 113½	+ 5½	Pig-iron... 99½	+ 5½	Crystals... 93½	— 31½
Coffee... 89½	— 3½	Steel rails... 84½	+ 6	Rubber... 11	..
Sugar cane... 152½	— 3½	Iron bars... 84½	+ 6	Miscellaneous... 818	— 69½
Sugar beet... 106	— 6½	Coal, steam... 120	+ 5		
Butter... 104½	+ 6½	House coal... 94	+ 2½	Total... 4,189	— 68
Tobacco... 116½	+ 8½	Lead... 64	+ 2½		
Other foods... 682½	+ 8½	Tin... 64	+ 1		

The net result of these changes is that the increase in the total index number as compared with July, 1914, has dropped from 66.4 per cent. to 63.5 per cent., as may be seen from the next table, which also shows the movements in each group:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914....	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918....	226	222	293	186	241	237.5
Dec., 1919....	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
March, 1920....	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
June, 1920....	261	263	415	278	281	305.9
Dec., 1920....	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
June, 1921....	203	188	158	210	185	187.5
Dec., 1921....	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
March, 1922....	169	195	168	151	161	167.5
June, 1922....	174	192	184	149	160	171.1
July, 1922....	172	190	181	153	163	171.4
Aug., 1922....	153	192	183	149	160	166.4
Sept., 1922....	151	194	181	150	148	163.5

The sharp drop in the miscellaneous group now brings it down to the position of nearest to the pre-war level, but primary foodstuffs and minerals are not far above. Subsidiary foodstuffs are still the furthest from the normal.

In the final table we show the percentage changes in the indices of wholesale prices of commodities as compared with the pre-war level for several foreign countries:—

	United States.	France.	Italy.	Germany.	Switz'r. land.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Japan.
Nov., 1918....	205	358	438	..	325	367	292	214
Highest, 1920..	227	591	679	..	325	403	373	332
End 1921....	123	326	594	..	325	366	278	208
End Jan., 1922	124	314	577	3,585	176	172	177	208
" Feb., 1922	126	307	562	3,955	171	170	177	208
" Mar., 1922	125	308	562	4,888	170	166	182	208
" Apr., 1922	127	315	527	5,899	161	165	178	208
" May, 1922	129	318	524	6,572	160	164	178	197
" June, 1922	131	326	537	7,841*	161	164	180	197
" July, 1922	131	326	558	9,140*	163	165	180	201
" Aug., 1922	131	332	..	13,935*	163	165	180	201
				28,919*	163	165	180	201

* Altered to include 16 finished industrial products.

American prices remain very steady, but in France and Italy there is a distinct rise. In Germany the adjustment of prices to meet the decline in the mark has been speedier than might have been expected.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND ITS FUNCTIONS.

THE President of the New York Stock Exchange, Mr Seymour L. Cromwell, recently delivered an address in New York on the conditions under which dealings in securities are warranted. He discussed the matter of contracts between brokers and clients, and went at some length into the explanation of the necessity for such contracts. The lecture itself was subsequently printed by the Committee on Library of the New York Stock Exchange, an enterprising branch which collects and publishes information, views, lectures, addresses, and the like, which are available for members of the New York Stock Exchange, and copies of which are sent to other countries likely to be interested. In the particular address just mentioned, the President held that the fundamental purpose of the Stock Exchange is to provide an open market for the free and untrammelled purchase and sale of the securities in which its members are authorised to deal. That short sentence opens a very wide field for debate. In not far distant days, the subject will be considered sufficiently important to warrant a Conference of representatives from the various stock exchanges of the world, in order that some of the questions may receive the close attention of those who have sufficient foresight to recognise how closely the wheels of international finance interlock with each other, and the progress of which makes so considerable a difference to the smooth running of international relations, as well as to those of millions of individual investors. The Stock Exchange, as such, of the world, is slowly marching from the position of second or third-rate importance which it has been hitherto content to occupy, as its various members went about their business of earning bread-and-butter, making and losing fortunes, and playing subsidiary parts in the world's economy. The war demonstrated how much greater than it had been supposed is the consequence of the stock exchanges, but it remains for the latter themselves to give such a lift to their business—even yet it is not regarded as a profession—as will place Stock Exchange work on a plane with banking and other branches of what, for lack of a better term, may be called high finance. To the minds of many, the true function of the Stock Exchange will be seen to provide a market in which securities can be, first of all, readily bought. Selling comes into it as a matter of course, but sales are a minor part of the matter. The investor wants channels in which to utilise spare capital. In his dealings with stock-brokers, he looks for every protection that can be afforded to safeguard him from accepting spurious bonds, forged transfers, and the wiles of unscrupulous share-sellers. The London Stock Exchange has a code of rules and of honour that stands above the laws of the land. In a recent case, for instance, a firm of Stock Exchange dealers bought stock from a broker, who sold on behalf of a client, at a price much in excess of the proper value. The Stock Exchange Committee declared that they saw no reason for interference with the transaction. The bargain had been done; that was sufficient. The client received a higher price than he was properly entitled to get for stock bought by dealers under a misapprehension as to what the true quotation was. But the bargain stood under the House rules, and while the individual firm suffered heavily, the honour of the House is maintained.

The President of the New York Stock Exchange lays down certain basic rules of procedure that must be enforced if the Stock Exchange is to provide an open market, and he sets out a few propositions which may be very briefly stated as follows:—

"1. Any security offered for sale shall be sold at the best possible price which any member of the Exchange is willing to pay at the time the offer is made, and, conversely, any purchaser of securities shall obtain them at the lowest price at which anyone is willing to sell.

"2. Every transaction shall represent a *bona-fide* purchase and sale, this fact to be made manifest by the prompt publication of the transaction and reporting to the principals on both sides of the name of the broker on the other side.

"3. Both sides of every transaction shall be responsible and good for their bargains. The moment there is the slightest doubt on this point, the facilities of the Exchange must be immediately withdrawn."

It has frequently been claimed that when members of the Stock Exchange are bound by strict rules and regulations in the manner enforced by the principal establishments, those members are entitled to the protection that would be afforded by incorporation of their body, since this would preclude competition from outsiders, even when the latter may be honest. London, however, definitely declined the offer of a Royal Charter when it was held out to the Stock Exchange by the Commissioners some 40 years ago, and in New York the same considerations are held to apply in regard to freedom of dealing being of greater importance to such an institution than could be possible under a method whereby governmental interference would have the right to make itself felt.

NEW ZEALAND'S TAXATION AND BUDGET.

(FROM OUR CHRISTCHURCH CORRESPONDENT.)

THE most important financial document presented to the Dominion Parliament for many years is the report of the Taxation Committee recently set up by the Prime Minister to inquire into the taxation system of New Zealand in all its aspects. The Committee was selected by the Government from names submitted by various business interests, and consisted of five members representing Chambers of Commerce, three the farmers' unions, two the Sheep-owners' Federation, and one each representing the Society of Accountants, the Law Society, and manufacturing interests. No order of reference was provided, but the committee submitted a statement in the widest possible terms, and that statement of the ground to be covered was approved by the Minister.

Naturally, the first aspect of the financial situation to which attention was drawn was the serious disproportion between revenue and expenditure in the present state of the country's prosperity. Attention was drawn to the point made in a previous communication to the *Economist*—the fact that prices of New Zealand exports have fallen considerably more than the prices of the commodities which the Dominion must import, so that the purchasing power of the Dominion has fallen to an extent which is not at first realised, because of the heavy production of the good season just past.

The heavy increases in Governmental expenditure are next set out as between 1914 and 1922. In this period the public debt (apart from sinking fund) has grown from £100 millions to £217 millions, and expenditure from £11,825,863 to £28,466,838. Much of the increase both in the public debt and the public expenditure is attributable to the war; but, the Committee point out, the ordinary expenditure has grown from £8,494,530 to £17,344,235, an increase of 104 per cent. Partly this is due to over-expansion of the administrative services, partly to the fact that the various Government enterprises are leaning heavily upon the taxpayer. In the case of the railways, in the last financial year out of a gross revenue of £6,683,986 there was a net revenue of £210,753 which was the only amount available to pay interest on the capital invested in the railways, amounting to over £41 millions.

The Committee, therefore, came to the conclusion "that the limits of taxation that this country can bear have been reached—indeed, exceeded—and that there is now practically no reserve of taxable capacity"; and in another part of the Report advocate that the annual Budget, instead of determining expenditure and then endeavouring to raise the necessary revenue, should assess the taxable capacity and adjust expenditure thereto.

An interesting table shows the manner in which (apart from borrowing, which the Committee sternly discountenance for the future) the great increase in expenditure has been met. In the last pre-war Budget the Customs and Excise duties accounted for 60 per cent. of the total taxation, land tax for 13 per cent., death duties for 10 per cent., and income-tax for a little more than 9 per cent. In the financial year ending March, 1922, however, the income-tax provides nearly 37 per cent., Customs 34 per cent., land tax 10 per cent.

It is plain, therefore, that the outstanding problem of the present taxation system in New Zealand is the collection and incidence of the income-tax, which for the financial year 1920-1 showed an increase of 1,388 per cent. over 1914, and even in 1921-2 showed an increase of 982 per

cent., despite the reduction in income owing to the slump. Indeed, the rate of tax was actually increased in that year 1921-2.

The present rates of income-tax in the Dominion are considerably higher as regards their incidence on companies than in any other part of the British Empire, while, on the other hand, the rates of taxation on small incomes are lower, and the exemptions more generous than usual. New Zealand stands alone in levying taxation from joint-stock companies as if they were individuals, with the result that any company in a fairly large way of business (with an annual income of over £10,000) pays tax at the high rate of 8s 9 3-5d in the £. Where such companies have a monopoly and the business is efficient only in large units (e.g., meat-freezing), such a tax results in a very heavy burden being passed back to the producers or forward to the consumers. Where private firms compete with companies it is almost impossible for the latter to continue trading.

The further anomalous position is reached that wealthy individuals, by distributing their capital through many small concerns or by investing in tax-free securities, are able to secure the advantage of much lower rates of taxation, while the small shareholder who invests in a large company pays the highest rate of taxation.

The Committee unanimously agreed that it was imperative to reduce the present rate of taxation to a maximum not exceeding 5s in the £; but on the question of levying taxation from companies as at present, or from individuals as in other countries, the Committee disagreed. The majority recommend that as soon as possible the change should be made, but they recognise the administrative difficulties in the way. The over-taxed shareholder would be relieved by this change to such an extent that the present rates of tax on individual incomes between £300 and £2,000 would have to be doubled to compensate for the loss. The minority, however, consider such a change inexpedient, and report against it. Of the other recommendations of the Committee, most are concerned with minor improvements, such as provision for the carrying forward of losses, the taxation of Government and public body trading operations, and the setting off of losses against profits in other branches of business.

The most important recommendation, besides the proposed lowering of the income-tax, is that the super-tax imposed on land as a war measure should be removed, and this has already been done by the Government. The farming industry has been passing through a time of serious difficulty, as is evidenced by the latest bankruptcy returns, published just after the Committee rendered its report. The number of bankruptcies rose in the first five months of 1922 to 407, as against 160 in the corresponding period of 1921. Of the industries represented, farmers are easily first (110), the motor trade, which is connected closely with farming, next (38), then labourers (34), and Maoris (24). Evidence is accumulating also concerning the extent to which land is either going out of productive use or is being less utilised than formerly. The Committee reports, also, that last year the importation of fertilisers showed a distinct falling-off. The Government's decision to repeal the super-tax will, therefore, be regarded with relief by the farming community.

In a country where the State undertakes such a great variety of functions, and where the level of taxation is high, as it is in New Zealand, the delivery of the annual Budget is an occasion of more than ordinary importance. In the financial statement delivered by Mr. Massey in the House of Representatives on August 15th, following as it did a few days after the publication of the report of the Committee of business men on the taxation system of the country, there is much of public interest. The general feeling seems to be one of disappointment that no mention is made in the report of any reduction in the burden of taxation, and of dismay at the continued high level of expenditure, despite the Government's measures of economy. Mr. Massey claims that economies have been effected amounting to the (for New Zealand) large annual sum of £5,190,419.

Despite these economies, however, the expenditure is still slightly higher than in the previous year, though it is something to have checked the enormous increases previously recorded. For the last six years the expenditure has been :—

1913-4	£ 11,825,864
1916-7	14,058,770
1917-8	15,120,287
1918-9	18,673,599
1919-20	23,781,524
1920-1	28,068,730
1921-2	28,466,838

For the forthcoming year the expenditure is estimated as £27,938,215.

The increase in expenditure has come partly as a result of the growth of such fixed charges as the interest on the public debt, and pensions. The public debt has grown from £100 millions in 1913-4 to £219 millions; and the interest charge has grown more than in proportion, till it now amounts to £9,604,393, to which must be added an annual charge of over a million and a quarter for sinking funds. Within the next few years large amounts of the debt fall due, and New Zealand is likely to be frequently seeking accommodation for these maturing liabilities. Partly, however, the increased expenditure has come from the growth of the ordinary administrative charges, and while some retrenchment has been made here, there is room for much more.

The revenue for the year just past shows clearly the effect of the depression through which the country has passed. The total revenue has fallen from £34,260,962 in 1920-1 to £28,127,007. The main items of decrease have been a drop of nearly £3½ millions in the Customs receipts, and a drop of £2½ millions in the income-tax. In both these cases the rates of taxation have been increased slightly, so that the drop is due to reduced purchasing power and reduced trade.

For the ensuing year the revenue is estimated as £26½ millions, after allowing for further decreases in income-tax, but not in Customs duties. The Minister of Finance is, therefore, departing from the New Zealand tradition, and budgeting for a deficit of rather less than two millions. This deficit, however, will be more than covered by the remainder of the accumulated surpluses carried forward from this year. Owing to the prosperity of the Dominion during the war and the after-war boom, a large accumulated surplus had been built up by the year 1920-1, amounting to over £23½ millions. Of this amount £13½ millions has been used in settlement of returned soldiers on the land, and £2½ millions in other ways, leaving a balance still available of £7½ millions.

Beyond the recital of retrenchment now under way, the announcement of a Public Works loan following the successful £5 million loan already issued this year, and the abandonment of hope of reparation money from Germany, the Budget is nothing more than a rather colourless and tedious statement of the present position of the national accounts. This is election year, and any further rigid economy is hardly to be expected with such a large Civil Service vote and so few financial interests. Of the recommendations of the Taxation Committee, the only one likely to carry many votes—the remission of the super-tax on land—has already been carried out.

LATIN-AMERICAN NOTES.

(BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CUBA.—Notwithstanding the proffered intercession of influential financial interests and the threats of forcible interference by the United States Government, the economic affairs of Cuba still leave much to be desired. The end of the fiscal year finds the national Treasury practically empty, with a current indebtedness variously estimated from \$60,000,000 to \$140,000,000, mainly consisting of back salaries due to Government employees, bills for supplies, and claims for work done on public contracts. To meet these and other substantial obligations, heavy taxation, such as a gross sales tax of 1 per cent., is impending. The 1922-23 Budget estimates the total revenue for the fiscal year at \$55,638,800, and the total expenditures for the same period at \$54,852,102; few expect that these figures will be realised, but that, on the contrary, there will still be a deficit. On the other hand, late advices show that part of the floating debt has been retired, and that current expenses are now being met from income, by arrangement with the banks of the Habana clearing-house. Unrest among the working classes recently threatened to interfere with the prosperity

of the British-owned railway system known as the United Railways of the Havana and some American-owned transport lines. The Cubans insist that further dictation from the United States is unwarranted, and declare, moreover, that "vicious commercial legislation at Washington has added materially to their financial difficulties without in the least degree benefiting them." The declared desire of the President, Dr. Alfredo Zayas, to introduce financial reforms is being continually frustrated by the decision of Congress, the majority of the members of the Senate having declared themselves in opposition to foreign interference. On August 31st the House of Representatives passed five important financial reform measures, recommended by General Crowder, of the U.S.A., but the Senate has yet to endorse them. Even the lure of a further large loan of \$50,000,000, to be granted by American bankers, by means of which outstanding Government obligations could be met, has tended to alleviate the situation but little, while it has been aggravated by the disclosure of official thefts from the public Treasury. One of the delinquents has already committed suicide, while others would have fled but have been impeded from doing so.

Apart from railway systems and some large tobacco estates, British interests are concerned in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar. They will learn with some concern that the United States Senate has recently passed a Bill increasing the import duty on this product; if carried out, this measure must seriously affect the prosperity of the sugar refineries which find in America their chief market. Until this announcement was made the prospects of the industry appeared decidedly brighter, in view of the sensible reduction in costs and the increased operating efficiency of many of the mills. The present sugar crop, previously estimated at no more than 3,500,000 tons, has already exceeded expectations; in all probability, when the last of the mills has ceased to grind, something over 4,000,000 tons will have been produced. The greater part of the crop has already been sold at favourable prices, while little or nothing of last season's crop remains undisposed of.

EL SALVADOR.—The loan contract completed, at length, between the Republic of El Salvador and Mr. Minor C. Keith, a well-known American financier controlling considerable interests in Central America, acting through Mr. René Keilhauer, his representative, is in furtherance of the arrangement for a settlement of the External Debt entered into at the end of 1921 between American financiers and the trustees of the loan, first rejected but subsequently approved by the bondholders. According to the new contract, the Republic of El Salvador sanctions and creates an issue of bonds to be issued in three series, designated "A," "B," and "C" respectively. Of these the "A" bonds will aggregate the principal amount of \$5,000,000 (£1,000,000), and bear interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, to be placed in the United States; the "B" series, £1,050,000, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, to be exchanged for the existing External bonds; and the "C" series, \$6,500,000 (£1,300,000), at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, to be at the disposal, apparently, of the Government. Mr. Keith has also secured for his nominee the important appointment of Fiscal Agent and, possibly, later on, of General-Collector, with head offices in New York and a salary of \$15,000 (£3,000) per annum, an influential appointment, it would appear, which is likely to bring about the complete—if gradual—Americanisation of El Salvador. It seems hardly likely that the Agency, once established, will stop short at the simple duty of "certification and supervision of the Republic's Customs collections," regarded as security for the loan. Powers are taken for the creation of a foreign-directed Customs Administration and the appointment of a General-Collector (of American nationality) "should the Salvador Government fail in any of its obligations under the new contract." This chance may be measured from what has previously occurred. The position of British bondholders, however, under the above cited conditions, has been adequately considered. It may be recalled that in 1915 the Salvador Government was obliged to compound with these holders of its bonds, and has since failed to provide the funds required for the coupons falling due in

February, 1921, on both the 1908 6 per cent. loan and the 7 per cent. Funding Bonds.

With slight exceptions, the steamship and railway transport arrangements in Central America, including El Salvador, have passed under the domination of North American interests, at the head of which stand Mr. Minor C. Keith, president of the International Railway of Central America, and his associates. During the lifetime of Mr. Mark J. Kelly, for many years chairman and managing director of the Salvador Railway Company), (and formerly of the Salvador Steamship Company), strenuous efforts were made to exclude these enterprises from American domination; hitherto the railway has been spared absorption. It would appear, however, that this British-owned enterprise may ultimately be engulfed by irresistible North American interests, which have ever regarded the system (the first to be constructed in the Republic) with envy, and as destined to form part of the Pan-American Railway project. In 1919-20 the Salvador Railway made a profit of £93,254, as compared with £64,138 in the previous year, but showed a heavy decline in 1920-21. To date, the receipts are a few thousand pounds up on balance. The Government still owes the railway company £44,000 on account of arrears in payment of the £24,000 per annum subsidy, originally granted to extend over a period of eighteen years.

Notes of the Week.

The Conference at Mudania.—As we go to press comes the grave news that the Mudania Conference has collapsed. Alarmist deductions from this news may, we hope, be discounted, but obviously a situation of fresh danger has arisen, and the obstacles are apparently political rather than military. If the position as it appeared yesterday morning can be regained, the danger would be practically over. The danger then centred, and presumably still centres, round the local problem of Eastern Thrace, rather than round the ultimately far more important questions connected with the Straits. The Turks, it then appeared, were willing to retire from the Asiatic shores of the Dardanelles and from the immediate neighbourhood of Chanak, and to keep behind a line during negotiations. This point once achieved, the exact whereabouts of that line becomes a matter of secondary importance. Nor was there need to be harassed by rumours of a partial or complete withdrawal of the British force at Chanak. If that were to be agreed to on our side, we might be satisfied that the simultaneous withdrawal of the Turks would have made our presence at Chanak no longer necessary in the opinion of those British military authorities who are in the best position to judge. The points to be settled about Thrace are more complex, for while the first and last steps are virtually agreed upon, there are several alternative means of traversing the interval between them, and the well-being, or even the life, of the inhabitants of the province may depend upon the choice made at Mudania. In the first place, the Greek military forces are to retire forthwith, under Allied supervision, to the west bank of the River Maritsa, and in the end, when the peace treaty has been drafted and agreed upon in detail, the Turks are to recover the full rights that restitution of sovereignty carries with it (saving always in certain zones reserved for demilitarisation). But what civil administration, and above all, what gendarmerie is to be installed in the province during the intervening period? The Turks apparently demand that their own civil administration shall return at the heels of the retreating Greek forces. This may not be an unreasonable stipulation on their part, but at the same time, if we are to be stake-holders, we have to keep some asset temporarily in our own hands, and the asset indicated in the circumstances is surely the gendarmerie control. Anyone who has studied the calamities to which Near Eastern populations are exposed when their homeland (generally the common homeland of several intermingled nationalities) passes from one sovereignty to another, must realise the great desirability of effecting the transfer through the agency of some third party. In Western Anatolia both the Moslem and the Christian civilians, Greeks, Armenians, and Turks, have undergone the maximum amount of suffering, and in the process of

hanging hands politically the country has been ruined economically. It is a common interest of all the inhabitants of Eastern Thrace that this tragedy should not be repeated there. It must be emphasised, however, that this is not a possible *casus belli*, nor would suffering be saved in the long run if, in attempting to postpone the complete restoration of Turkish sovereignty, we broke the confidence of the Turks in our good faith. It is not a question of irreconcilable desiderata, but a case for compromise. In spite of the breakdown of the Mudania Conference, the elements of the situation remain such that a real will to secure peace should find plenty of scope for effective exercise.

The League's Plan for Austria.—The signature at Geneva on October 4th of the three protocols which form the Agreement for granting financial help to Austria is a notable achievement that will give Austria new hope, and will also enhance the prestige of the League of Nations. The Austrian Chancellor, Dr Seipel, admitted his doubts of success—doubts which, incidentally, were widely shared—when the London Conference, in despair, turned the Austrian question over to the League. "Thank God, we can say to-day," remarked Dr Seipel, "that the League of Nations has not failed us." The three protocols are capable of brief summary. In the first, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Czecho-Slovakia, the four guarantors of the service of the projected Austrian loan, undertake in no way to compromise the independence, territorial integrity, or sovereignty of Austria, and, should occasion for dissatisfaction arise, to appeal to the Council of the League. Austria, at the same time, undertakes not to compromise this independence. This protocol remains open for signature by all States that may desire to adhere to it. Under the second protocol, the Austrian Government is empowered to create a loan of not more than 650 million gold crowns. The service of the annuity of this loan is to be guaranteed by the four Governments mentioned above up to a maximum of 84 per cent. Under the third protocol, Austria is to furnish as securities for the loan the gross receipts of Customs and of the tobacco monopoly, "and, if the Commissioner-General should deem it necessary, other specific assets determined in agreement with him." Mention of the Commissioner-General brings us to the vital question of the form of control to be exercised over the measures which Austria undertakes to introduce with a view to achieving financial reform and a Budget equilibrium two years hence, which include increases in railway, postal, and telegraphic rates and in the sale prices of monopoly products, the surrender of all right to issue paper money or to contract loans, "except in conformity with the programme set out above and with the authorisation of the Commissioner-General." The important point is that the Commissioner-General is to be appointed by the Council of the League, and is responsible directly to that body. The original proposal of the Italian Government was that the control should be exercised by the guarantor Powers. This, obviously, would have created a very dangerous precedent, and that this demand has been waived is one of the most satisfactory features of the Austrian Agreement. The difficulty was surmounted by means of a compromise, through which an advisory council of the four guaranteeing Powers (apparently with an Italian chairman) is set up to sit periodically at Geneva and to consult with the Commissioner-General. Through this arrangement, Italy's concurrence has been secured, while the vitally important principle of control being vested in the League itself is preserved. Although the signature of this Agreement is an achievement of first-class importance from many points of view, it must not be supposed that the path of Austria towards financial and economic rehabilitation is thereby magically rendered easy and pleasant. Of the difficulties in store we wrote in some detail in an article in the *Economist* of September 23rd. We are glad to see, therefore, that the Financial Committee of the League points out to the Government and people of Austria in strong terms the necessity for energetic action. The Committee says: "At the best, the conditions of life in Austria must be worse next year, when she is painfully re-establishing her position, than last year, when she was devoting loans intended for that purpose to current consumption without reforms. The alternative is not between continuing the conditions of last year or improving them.

It is between enduring a period of perhaps greater hardship than she has known since 1919 (but with the prospect of real amelioration thereafter—the happier alternative), or collapsing into a chaos of destitution and starvation to which there is no modern analogy outside Russia. There is no hope for Austria unless she is prepared to endure and support an authority which must enforce reforms entailing harder conditions than those at present prevailing, knowing that, in this way only, can she avoid an even worse fate." These are strong words, but they do not overstate the task which faces the Government and people of Austria. We hope the Austrian Chancellor is justified in saying that "after a few weeks at the most the Austrian people would be ready to make every sacrifice that is necessary." If this view is justified, then Dr Seipel may realise his dream of coming to the League a few years hence and saying, "Austria is rehabilitated.....You may now set her free from financial control." At the eleventh hour Austria has been given a new chance; but the road before her people is stern, painful, and long.

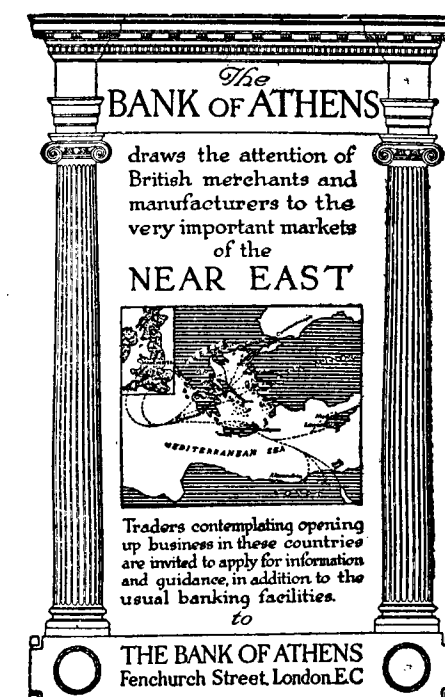
Government Trading.—Some of us condemn Government trading as undesirable on principle, and maintain that the less the Government dabbles in commerce and industry the better for the country. Others are content to judge by results, but they also will be led into the paths of condemnation by the report of the Auditor-General on the accounts and balance-sheets of Government trading or commercial services, which has been issued this week as a Blue Book (No. 126, price 6s net). The report gives results of some services from their initiation during the war up to March, 1921, and the critic must make allowances both for the stress of war conditions and for the difficulties of the post-war period, which every private business has encountered. Moreover, permanent Civil Servants eagerly point out that many of the transgressions which catch the public eye were committed by "temporary" officials. But when all allowances have been made, there is much in this document that makes disquieting reading for the taxpayer. A few illustrations of the fact will suffice. Considerable imports of Chinese bacon were paid for by the Ministry of Food at the rate of £40 instead of £30 per case, with the result that a certain importing firm received £250,000 in excess of the proper figure. "The two officers primarily responsible for the oversight in question have now left the Department." But only a portion of the public money has apparently been recovered. As the result of a "most unsatisfactory transaction" in cattle-feeding stuffs a loss of £143,000 was incurred, and the Treasury "consider that the proceedings showed a lamentable lack of precision, for which it is impossible to relieve the officers of the Ministry of Food of responsibility." We are not told whether these same officers are or are not still in some position of authority where they can continue to play ducks and drakes with public money. The re-control of currants appears to have been a bad business for the taxpayer, a loss of £962,606 being recorded in 1920-21 on the disposal of stocks valued at £1,849,767. The accounts of printing works under control of the Stationery Office make a poor showing. In the case of Dugdale street a loss of £8,000 was incurred, while the Harrow printing works showed a trading loss of £32,839 in nine and a-half months. We refrain from increasing the list of illustrations, nor have we referred to the loss of £162,000,000 on the bread subsidy, which was, of course, a loss deliberately incurred as a matter of Government policy. But the instances quoted from the report are perhaps sufficient to support the contention that business men are more likely to conduct with success businesses in which they have been thoroughly trained than Government officials whose training has been on very different lines. The work of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is of great practical service, not merely in disclosing past faults and irregularities, but in its implicit reminder of this important fact.

The Outlook for Shipping.—With the coming of October the outlook for shipping has improved considerably, and all the homeward markets have of late been showing signs of more activity after the dull period experienced from June to late in September. There is still too much tonnage offering, but the elimination of most of the Greek

steamers from the open market has helped matters considerably, and the supply of carrying space is now more equally distributed over the various sections. The loading of grain from the Canadian ports continues brisk, and numerous steamers are under engagement to take in wheat right up to the close of navigation. Chartering interest from the Gulf and Northern Range has been somewhat restricted, but as soon as the American railways are working on normal lines again a very busy period is assured. Rates from the Northern Range to the United Kingdom or Continent are kept down by the competition met from the liners which are willing to take grain parcels at cheap rates in order to fill up. Philadelphia/United Kingdom-Continent has this week been done at 3s per qr, which compares with 2s 6d taken in July, 1914. In the homeward River Plate market there has been a good recovery, and now that the supply of steamers has been reduced somewhat, values have lifted, with 25s secured for November engagements, against 17s 6d and 18s done a few weeks back, when the market was depressed by the weight of seeking tonnage. Nitrates from Chili offer prospects for shipowners, and 35s Chili/Continent for November-December should soon be obtainable. In the East the outlook is decidedly better, and the Indian and Australian markets should soon be enjoying their full measure of activity. Neither is over-supplied with tonnage, and now that the Indian Government has removed the embargo on the export of wheat, flour, &c., 20s to 22s 6d per ton from Bombay to the United Kingdom or Continent should be possible. Several steamers have already been engaged to load wheat from Western Australia at 38s 9d to 40s to the United Kingdom/Continent or Mediterranean, and thus owners are looking forward to freight money of 45s per ton from South Australia as soon as chartering for the new season's wheat comes on. With an improved tone in the iron and steel markets, ore receivers have been showing more interest in tonnage from the Mediterranean and Bay ports, and now that the position in the Near East is better, chartering for grain from the Danube may go ahead, some business having been done this week on the basis of 20s 9d to 21s per ton to the United Kingdom/Continent. Cottonseed from Alexandria will soon be needing steamers to lift the new season's crop, and business should start at round about 11s to 12s London/Hull. In the outward coal markets there is a steady demand from South Wales to South America, Algiers, Constantinople, and Genoa, and the general tendency of rates is harder, with an expanding inquiry.

Freights for Cotton Goods.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Considerable satisfaction has been expressed in Manchester trade circles this week at the report that, owing to representations of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, steamship owners had decided to make a reduction in freight rates between this country and Bombay for cotton piece-goods and yarn. The concession of 37½ per cent. reduction has been granted in return for an undertaking on the part of Manchester exporters to ship their goods by the lines of the Bombay Steam Trade Conference for a period of five years. The new rate will be 50s per ton, as against the old charge of 80s per ton plus 10 per cent., and less 10 per cent. deferred rebate until December, 1923. It is understood that the revised freights will mean a saving of about 2½d per piece on cloths known as shirtings, which are shipped extensively from this country to India, and a saving of 1½d per lb on yarn. Merchants believe that anything that can be done to cheapen the cost of placing goods in outlets abroad will be to the benefit of Lancashire.

American Cotton Crop.—The Agricultural Bureau of the United States Government has this week published important information relating to the cotton crop for the season 1922-23. The condition of the growth on September 25th is given as 50 per cent., against 57 per cent. a month earlier, 42.2 per cent. at the same time last year, and the ten-year average of 59.5 per cent. The statement indicates a yield for the season of 10,135,000 bales. The amount of cotton ginned so far this season up to September 25th is given as 3,883,000 bales, against 2,920,392 bales at the same time last year, and 2,249,606



bales in 1920. These reports when published were about equal to the expectations of market operators, and the figures did not result in any particular change in values. There is a disposition in some quarters to reduce forecasts of the consumption this season in view of the continued unsettled conditions throughout Europe.

The Economics of Land Drainage.—Although the occasion was nominally private, the paper which Mr C. H. Clayton (principal adviser in engineering to the Ministry of Agriculture) presented to the Society of Engineers on Monday evening last is before us in print, and the facts adduced invite attention far beyond that of a limited gathering, however distinguished, in a room at Burlington House. Briefly stated, there are some millions of British acres where the saturation level, as it is called, lies only six inches below the surface, thereby rendering the land unfit for all but the most purely surface-rooted of growths. First-class agricultural land should have this saturation level 30 inches down. Now, apart from one consideration, which lay beyond Mr Clayton's point of view, the economics of making a saturation level of six inches beneath the surface into one of 30 inches are absolute. But, in any economic consideration, the cost of transport must be included. So long as the freight of potatoes from Lincolnshire to London is higher than from Rotterdam and Esbjerg to London no dividend can attach to converting a Lincolnshire field of grass and rushes into a potato-growing area. None the less, the areas which lie within easy distance of crop-consuming centres of population are very considerable, and it is probable that Mr Clayton could take half a million of the unemployed into immediate work, which would in forty years have paid for itself, leaving the yearly production of the future at an average of two guineas per acre, where it had previously been at seven shillings. This sixfold increase would remain as a permanent enrichment of British soil. The economist happily has little difficulty in locating "the bad lands," and the Land Drainage Act of 1918 gives him considerable powers of intervention. In nine cases perhaps out of ten we shall find quite near these lands, with their reeds and coarse grasses, a watercourse whose normal level is too high to permit of the successful drainage of the affected areas. All interests, therefore, must be concentrated on getting rid of this excess water, on conveying it safely past and on its way to its eventual sea outfall. No single owner is likely to have the means to do the entire work, but those who undertake it might safely look to a profit wherever they could levy a charge on land near enough to a market for its produce. The British Ministry of Agriculture in this matter almost cer-

tainly fears its fate too much. In India 50 million acres of agricultural land have now been drained and irrigated, and the rents of these treated lands are the most secure in the world; as the tenants fear to be replaced, there are often six or seven applicants on the rota for "safe soil." In England and Wales a fiftieth of what India has done would be greeted as a considerable economic step forward. The strange thing is that next to nothing has been done in a juncture when unemployment has been rife and the number of hands available almost unprecedented. Another point. The application of drainage always increases the carrying power of an artificial manure—that is to say, that, whether we apply one ton of sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda or of any other fertiliser, the stimulating and enriching ingredients added invariably go further and produce more effect in drained land than in undrained. Thus with every acre of land brought into a drained state, with saturation point low down instead of high up, we wipe out the possibility of waste and make every case of high farming more likely to be a success. Of course, the best drainage works begin at the sea outfall and proceed upwards, but if economical working be postponed until that ideal is achieved, all the impetus and momentum of local effort will be lost. One would, therefore, encourage a frank attack on all "bad cases" felt and seen to be scandalous, and leave the drainage of the countryside on an ideal basis to a golden age.

United Steel Companies.—No doubt shareholders next week will have something to say at the annual meeting of the United Steel Companies, Limited, about the uninformative nature of the report and accounts which have just been published. It is quite intelligible, as the company mentions in its report, that it "has suffered from the great trade depression which has existed during the whole of the period under review," but the position as shown in the balance-sheet is by no means clear. Here are the results set out for the past four years as revealed by a cryptic profit and loss account:—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22
Gross revenue	1,164,585	930,521	711,146	388,034
Administration expenses and income-tax	48,133	38,007	81,485	148,026
Interest	209,820	146,853	146,254	148,026
Net profit	906,632	745,661	483,407	240,000
Brought forward	64,674	80,381	308,293	440,743
Reserve and written off	906,632	810,335	563,788	548,301
Preference dividend	41,822	119,369	32,021	79,890
Ordinary dividend	79,024	79,051	55,356	27,568
Carried forward	721,112	507,042	168,138	(nil)
	(10 %)	(10 %)	(3 %)	(nil)
	64,674	104,873	308,293	440,743

Readers may, however, probably be intrigued by these figures, after reading in the report that "the losses for the year of the branches already liquidated amount to £156,675, and if the loss of £348,856 made by the associated companies, for which they possess ample reserves in hand, is added, there was a total loss for the whole undertaking of £505,531." Further details of the accounts of the constituent companies are revealed when it is stated that "in arriving at this loss stocks have been written down altogether by £208,667, and the charge of maintenance of idle plant has amounted to £312,321." It would be interesting to know if the value of the shares in associated companies has been written down in accordance with these losses. At present the balance-sheet conveys little to the inquirer. The process of liquidation of various interests continues, and though we know that total assets are down from £16,687,593 to £16,340,947, the items comprising the total are obscure. Property and plant, less depreciation (the amount of which is unstated), which formerly figured at £2,324,685, now stands at £4,174,145, and goodwill at £253,369 to £816,825. Holdings in associated companies, taken at cost, are down from £8,934,025 to £6,766,179, and advances to associated companies are also down from £4,221,587 to £2,774,702. The merger is an interesting development of our times for bringing into closer co-operation financial and industrial interests, but it is highly desirable that assets and liabilities of constituent companies should be valued on some common basis, and the figures published for shareholders as supplementary information. The balance-sheet is analysed in our usual column, but the most intelligent

observer will find considerable difficulty in drawing any satisfactory conclusion from the items as set out.

Clerical and Medical Life Office.—As expositions of life insurance finance the reports of this company are always of great interest. The new report, for the year ended June 30 last, shows the promise of the valuation report of last year well on the way towards fulfilment. It will be remembered that for the seventh time in succession the company valued its liabilities at 2½ per cent., provided for all depreciation in securities and other war losses, and maintained its rate of bonus at the high level of 1911 and 1916. Two or three years ago the directors took the drastic step of realising a large amount of long-dated securities, upon which there had been heavy and continuous depreciation, and reinvesting the proceeds in short-dated assets. This involved an immediate book loss, which was written off, but it materially helped towards the improvement in values which was seen at last year's valuation. During the year ended June 30th last there was a profit on securities realised of no less than £61,212, and at the close of the year the value of Stock Exchange securities held exceeded the book value by £206,495. The next most striking feature in the new report is the advance in the net rate of interest realised by the invested funds. The net rate was £4 7s 8d per cent., £1 17s 8d per cent. more than the rate assumed at the valuation, and representing a profit from interest of over £130,000 in the year. The death claims remain low, and the profit from a favourable mortality should also be considerable. The death rate experienced was less than 60 per cent. of that "expected" by the mortality tables employed. We have more than once had occasion to point out that the low rates of mortality experienced by the best life offices since the war ended tend to make nonsense of the British offices tables, which deal with the experience of the later Victorian England. In these nineteen hundreds we are becoming every year healthier and healthier.

North Broken Hill.—The accounts of this important Barrier Range undertaking for the year ended June 30th last make a very different showing from those of the preceding period. In 1920-21, not only were operations in abeyance for nearly seven months, but during the remainder of the year work proceeded on a small scale only owing to the low price of lead; moreover, there was a disastrous fire at the smelters. But for substantial receipts in respect of concentrates produced in earlier periods a considerable loss would have resulted, instead of a small profit. Last year the output largely expanded and metal prices improved, giving the company a net profit of £43,000, after allowing £10,000 for depreciation. Of this £13,300 has been placed to debenture sinking fund, leaving exactly sufficient to provide a dividend of 1s per share. A further like distribution is declared on account of the six months ending December 31st, from which the inference is obvious. The current price of the shares, however, makes allowance for dividends much in excess of 2s per share per annum. The surplus liquid assets have expanded to £452,650. It may be mentioned that the Broken Hill South Company paid 2s in August, and will disburse another 2s early next month.

British-Canadian Mining.—This subject has been rather to the fore the past few days. Statistics for the first half of the current year issued by the Ontario Department of Mines reveal a noteworthy increase in the output under several headings. Thus the gold production totalled 476,300 ounces, as against 286,000 ounces in the corresponding period of 1921, presaging a large gain for the whole year; nickel oxide, 437,300 lbs in place of 331,100 lbs; unseparated cobalt-nickel, 647,250 lbs, as compared with 26,600 lbs; and pig-lead, 1,993,900 lbs in place of 1,505,800 lbs. Metallic nickel and copper record large decreases; still, the value of the whole figures at \$14,448,300, an increase of \$3,084,700. It was an open secret at the time that the prospectus of the Porcupine-Davidson Gold Fields met with a poor response, investors on this side considering that the element of speculation was too great. At the informal meeting, of which a

THE REVENUE.

I.—An ACCOUNT of the TOTAL REVENUE of the UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1923, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

	Quarter from July 1 to September 30, 1922, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.				Period from April 1 to September 30, 1922, compared with the corresponding Period of the preceding Year.			
	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1922.	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1921.	Increase.	Decrease.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1922.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1921.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	31,241,000	34,973,000	..	3,632,000	62,650,000	63,318,000	..	668,000
Excise	40,478,000	48,529,000	..	8,051,000	77,216,000	93,425,000	..	16,209,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	1,181,000	1,067,000	114,000	..	2,884,000	2,488,000	396,000	..
Estate, &c., Duties	15,480,000	11,466,000	4,014,000	..	32,071,000	22,390,000	9,681,000	..
Stamps	5,060,000	4,689,000	371,000	..	8,502,000	7,386,000	1,116,000	..
Land Tax, House Duty, and Mineral Rights Duty	100,000	30,000	70,000	..	570,000	420,000	150,000	..
Property and Income Tax (including Super-tax)	80,931,000	76,157,000	4,774,000	..	138,364,000	140,057,000	..	1,693,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	..	9,950,000	..	9,950,000	954,000	27,064,000	..	26,110,000
Corporation Profits Tax	4,460,000	3,570,000	890,000	..	8,277,000	5,590,000	2,687,000	..
Postal Service	8,950,000	10,400,000	..	1,450,000	16,600,000	17,750,000	..	1,150,000
Telegraph Service	1,250,000	1,250,000	..	..	2,500,000	2,500,000	..	..
Telephone Service	3,500,000	2,100,000	1,400,000	..	6,900,000	3,000,000	3,900,000	..
Crown Lands	160,000	160,000	..	..	380,000	290,000	90,000	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	1,903,219	4,673,823	..	2,770,604	3,836,680	6,628,660	..	2,791,980
Miscellaneous—								
Ordinary Receipts	2,845,451	4,770,741	..	1,925,290	16,391,187	11,639,405	4,751,782	..
Special Receipts	11,099,589	38,209,211	..	27,109,622	25,797,545	52,217,095	..	26,419,550
	208,739,259	251,994,775	11,633,000	54,888,516	403,893,412	456,163,160	22,771,782	75,041,530
			Net Decrease, £43,255,516.				Net Decrease, £52,269,748.	

II.—An ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Period ending September 30, 1922, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1922.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1921.	ISSUES.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1922.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1921.
	£	£		£	£
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			Expenditure—		
Bank of England	9,963,424	2,591,051	Permanent Charge of Debt	6,955,570	7,486,550
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	Interest, &c., on War Debt	132,021,546	163,773,585
	11,173,530	3,074,506	Road Fund	2,334,992	2,075,000
Revenue, as shown in Account I.	403,893,412	456,163,160	Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	1,603,797	3,550,358
Temporary Advances Repaid—			Land Settlement	796,042	1,729,728
Bullion	800,000	3,680,000	Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,209,480	865,799
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	2,660,000	150,000	Supply Services—		
			Army, Navy and Air Force	52,200,000	92,860,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—			Civil Services	120,657,044	189,815,168
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—			Revenue Departments and Post Office	28,071,910	35,841,861
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474	Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue	347,423,844	497,993,849
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	Temporary Advances—		
Under the Housing Act, 1914	27,000	35,000	Bullion	..	3,600,000
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	4,655,000	Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	84,909	84,909
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,450,000	..	Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	3,060,000	4,805,000
(c) For other Issues—			Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—		
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,498,488,000	2,117,452,000	Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474
By National Savings Certificates	37,248,000	18,980,000	Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500
By National War Bonds	20	5	Under the Housing Act, 1914	27,000	35,000
By Treasury Bonds—			Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..
5-15 Year, 1925-35	..	1,024,990	Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—		
5 per Cent., 1927	121,708	50,410,000	Repayment of Amounts borrowed	2,110,000	..
5 per Cent., 1932	61,422,074	..	Redemption of Debt—		
4 per Cent., 1932	52,648,508	..	Treasury Bills for Supply	1,656,864,000	2,077,531,000
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,869	6,990,529	Securities surrendered under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1919	6,064,055	20,022,241
(d) Ways and Means Advances	456,214,000	666,957,000	Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	4,776,211	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—			Principal of National Savings Certificates—		
Dividends on Shares Acquired	243,012	..	(a) Repaid by Issues under Sec. 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	13,450,000	8,700,000
Repayments—			(b) Repaid otherwise	..	8,500,000
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	..	7,250,000	Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—		
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	180,460	34,538	5 per Cent., 1922, £2,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	1,677,000	Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	11,254,348	30,513,659
Interest—			Ways and Means Advances Repaid	455,316,000	660,263,000
Received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	178,666	Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	14,300,112
			Anglo-Persian Oil Company—		
			Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..
			Proceeds of National Savings Certificates—		
			Issued under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	5,000,000	9,490,000
			Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—		
			Issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200
				2,630,050,764	3,339,488,944
			Balances in Exchequer—		
			Bank of England	1922. Sept. 30. 6,603,310	1921. Sept. 30. 2,035,883
			Bank of Ireland	1,227,934	776,541
				7,831,244	2,812,424
				2,537,881,978	3,342,301,368

	£	£
Mem.—		
Floating Debt outstanding March 31, 1922	1,029,515,500	
	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
Ways and Means Advances outstanding—		
Advances by Bank of England	148,199,500	7,750,000
Advances by Public Departments	723,785,000	1,159,407,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	871,924,500	1,320,590,000
Total Floating Debt outstanding	1,743,909,000	
Net Decrease	157,591,000	

* Includes £44,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account. Treasury, September 30, 1922.

last, the total payments made by Germany, both in cash and in kind, were as follows:—

	Gold Marks.
Payments of all kinds down to May 1, 1921	5,099,753,000
Payments of all kinds from May 1, 1920, to April 30, 1922	1,877,567,729
Total	6,977,567,729

From this statement it is apparent that the assertions made by Mr Lloyd George to the Supreme Council meeting that took place in London on August 7th last was seriously inaccurate. In that statement the British Premier insisted that Germany had already paid to the Allies, on account of reparations, cost of the Allied armies of occupation, &c., over ten milliards of gold marks, "in spite of three revolutions and the weakness of its Government." This statement, it will be remembered, was made in reply to M. Poincaré's arguments against the granting of a moratorium to Germany. The figures contained in the statement just issued merit close study on the part of those whose duty it is to keep public opinion informed as to the exact situation of the reparation question, and it is admittedly for this reason—"for the information of the public"—that it has been issued.

The Chambers are to be called together for the customary autumn session next week, and all parties in both Houses are now focussing attention on the most serious financial situation that the country has been called on to face for many years. M. de Lasteyrie's Budget proposals for 1923, to sum them up in a nutshell, foreshadow a deficit, when all is taken into consideration, of something like 24,000,000,000f. This colossal deficit is made up as follows:—Estimated excess of expenditure over revenue on the ordinary Budget, 4,500,000,000f; estimated deficit on the Budget for recoverable expenditure (in other words, projected expenditure on reconstitution work in the devastated regions), 10,000,000,000f; arrears on Crédit National loans for the devastated regions, about 9,000,000,000f. The explanation of the deficit lies in the fact that it corresponds appreciably in amount to the total of the arrears of the loans contracted by France on account of Germany.

M. de Lasteyrie, on his appearance before the Finance Commission of the Chamber, stated frankly that he did not propose to put forward any suggestions for the purpose of meeting the deficit, and that he proposed to confine himself to "immediate problems." For the rest, he expressed the hope that a solution of the essential problem facing the country would be found in November, after the pending conference at Brussels, at which, it is hoped, both the Reparations question and that of the inter-Allied debts will be settled. In view of his belief that the limit of taxation has been reached, M. de Lasteyrie intimated that he adheres still to his decision not to propose any new taxes, and to get over immediate difficulties by an issue of 6 per cent. Treasury bonds, redeemable in three or five years at the choice of subscribers. These bonds will have a nominal value of 500f, and will be issued at 497.50. They will be redeemable at par on September 25, 1925, or at 507.50 on September 25, 1927. The interest will be free of all taxation, and will be payable half-yearly. In view of the success of last year's issue of 6 per cent. two-year Treasury bonds, the Minister is distinctly optimistic as to the prospects of the new issue, the lists for which will be opened on October 9th, and will remain open not later than November 10th (subject to an earlier closing should circumstances direct).

So far as the ordinary Budget is concerned, M. de Lasteyrie proposes to make certain minor modifications in the tax on turnover, which will be collected in certain cases (such as agricultural products and coal) not at the moment of consumption, but at the time of production or importation. As to the Government monopolies (on which there have been many categorical reports) the Minister informed the Finance Commission that "for many reasons, both technical and social," he has no intention of modifying the present régime in regard to tobacco. He was favourable, however, to the suppression of the match monopoly; but he vouchsafed no information as to what proposals he will bring forward for the future handling of this interesting source of public revenue. In

the absence of specific proposals, the discussion that followed the Minister's statement was necessarily lacking in interest. The best the Commission found itself able to suggest, for the purpose of dealing with the deficit, was that the adverse balance of four milliards odd in the ordinary Budget—which represents, approximately, as I have stated, the arrears of loans for the Liberated Regions—should be carried to the extraordinary Budget. Obviously, such a device is purely artificial, and can in no way transform a deficit into hard cash. M. de Lasteyrie, indeed, has himself already condemned the idea as inadmissible, in his own preliminary Budget statement. In the circumstances, however, something had to be done. "When a patient feels uncomfortable on one side," one of the deputies remarked, apologetically, "he turns over on the other!" and the Finance Minister offered no objection to the adoption of the suggestion. This apparently is to be the sole method adopted for getting rid of the estimated deficit of four and a-half milliards in that portion of the national burden for 1923, which is known as the ordinary Budget.

Another interesting announcement made by M. de Lasteyrie was that he proposes to raise the level of abatement allowed in respect of income-tax on wages or salaries by another 2,000f. As the law stands at present, persons in receipt of incomes from wages or salaries are exempt from income-tax if resident in the smaller communes, unless the amount exceeds 4,000f a year, the limit of exemption in important towns being 5,000f, while in Paris it is 6,000f. The Minister announces that he proposes to introduce a Bill raising these abatements to 6,000f, 7,000f, and 8,000f respectively. It may be said without hesitation that M. de Lasteyrie's decision amounts to an admission by the French Treasury that the attempt to extend the incidence of direct taxation, by the imposition of a universal impost on incomes, has proved a failure. The income-tax, as I have more than once stated, is a novelty in this country, and has not yet got beyond its teething stage. It came into operation for the first time only a year or so before the war, and it was only under the stress of the nation's need for every franc that could be extracted from the taxpayers that its tentacles were lengthened out, some three years ago, to reach the working classes. It is from the working classes that has come the revolt that has compelled the Treasury to confess the tax a failure.

After a relatively long period of high prices on the Bourse there has been this week a marked decline, not so much on account of the Eastern question as for purely financial considerations. In view of the general tendencies towards a rise there has been a considerable amount of speculation, and the news that there will shortly be large issues of capital has resulted in depression. Royal Dutel is one of the few securities that have avoided the slump but even it has fallen back, dropping from 23,400 to 23,050. French funds are lower. The 3 per Cents at 60.55 have lost 1f 30c, the 1915-16 5 per Cents at 77 1f 20c, and the rest similarly. Banks for the most part have fallen, but not seriously, though Banque de France has dropped from 5,820 to 5,755, and Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 640 to 632. Railway have lost much of their previous advance, Nord falling from 1,211 to 1,190, Est from 794 to 778, and Orléans from 950 to 910. Shipping, as a result of strikes act and threatened, have weakened, Chargeurs Reunis dropping from 390 to 375, Chargeurs Français from 6 to 652, while Messageries Maritimes have remained unchanged at 181. Both electrical and metallurgical undertakings have shared in the general depression, and have followed suit, Tintos falling from 1,580 to 1,5 Bolée from 470 to 460, and Penarroya from 885 to 830.

GERMANY. — CURRENCY, BUREAUCRACY, AND "SOCIAL JUSTICE."

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 2.

As recent days passed without any event of importance and as State financial and business developments are mostly mere reflections of mark exchange movements, may be useful to give a picture of one evil of present German administration, which is a cause of over-offici-

dom, of waste of private citizens' time, and of Budget deficits. Most of the evil arises from official theory (ignored when convenient) that "a mark is a mark." An efficient Government, after observing for years the phenomena of currency depreciation, would begin to take into account the progressive diminution in substance of nominal mark currency values. Every business man follows this rule; if he kept ten clerks to manage a turnover of 1,000,000 marks worth £50,000, he would not keep ten clerks to manage 1,000,000 marks worth, as now, £130. Normally, the business man avoids this by maintaining the real substance of his business, and therefore largely increasing his mark turnover. Official business is also in general maintained in volume; and mark revenue and expenditure grow rapidly. But while the business man continually adapts the details of his methods to the new currency values, the State has not yet learned this elementary principle; and the expenditure of official time and money is very often not justified by the values involved. Of late this abuse has reached the extreme of farce and public scandal.

The Sickness Insurance Bureaux of all Germany to-day issued circulars demanding information from employers. The circular which came to your correspondent as a mere employer of domestic labour is signed by a "President" and a "Director," and embraces two large printed papers of calculations, instructions, and demands for information. After an elaborate table of premiums and policy amounts, from which it appears that the kinsmen of a deceased employee of the lowest rank will receive a capital payment of 60 marks, or 2d, if a premium of 27 pfennigs, or 1-100th of a penny, is regularly paid, the President and Director give precise rules for calculation of the premiums. The premiums of employees who are housed, boarded and clothed must be calculated according to the values so given, and the law lays down the values. After stating separately what is the daily value of free housing and free heating and lighting for each of three classes of employees, the highest value being 3 marks, or 1-10th of a penny, the President and Director present a table showing on what basis should be calculated the value of each of five daily meals. They state that for an employee of class A the first breakfast should cost 6 marks, or 1-5th of a penny, for an employee of class B 5 marks, for an employee of class C 3½ marks, and so on. Listed altogether are 30 different kinds of meals, of which the most costly is 21 marks, or 3/4d. Clothing is worked out with the same minute care. The employer, under a threat of fine, is required to make his return after mastery of all these figures. (There are a great many more.) Every employer knows that weeks, if not months, have been expended on compiling and printing this surprising circular, and knows also that the circular has no meaning whatever, because during the weeks or months the whole standard of values has changed, so that it is impossible, even in a cheap country, to house and feed an adult male on the 60 marks, or 2d a day, which the President and Director proclaim to be the maximum legal amount. The officials, to be fair to them, realise the difficulties which these computations create for normally educated citizens, because the circular ends with an example, the first part of which may be quoted textually: "Example: 900 marks wage, divided by 30, gives the quotient 30."

That is only one example. The *Berliner Tageblatt* lately reported that a large Government fund accumulated for house-building has disappeared without one house being built. While the officials were honestly administering a fund of unchanged nominal total, their nominal salaries had risen so much that they swallowed the whole capital up. The municipal regulations under the new House Rents Law make this occurrence comprehensible. The principle is that the houseowner gets in paper marks instead of gold his exact pre-war net rent. As the tenants live practically rent free, and are *de facto* owners of the houses, they are naturally required to pay management costs, taxes, repairs, and so on. The net rent falling to the landlord from a five-storey flat-house may be £2; the payments falling on the 15 to 25 tenants may be £8 or £10. The authorities have decreed that every single item in the administration and repair of a flat-house with such insignificant finances

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve Funds - - £1,350,000

Head Office: EDINBURGH.

R. G. THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.
160 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.

JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAWE, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

shall be apportioned separately between the tenants; and that, though rents are usually paid quarterly, the landlord shall present every tenant with a separate monthly statement of every single liability. The landlord is compelled to calculate separately for every flat, according to its rent or floor area, the taxes, the drainage rate, the street-cleaning rate, the water rate, the garbage-removal rate, the ash-removal rate, the lighting of staircases, three different kinds of insurance, and, finally, the chimney-sweeper's bill. Each of these items, mostly paid quarterly, must first be reduced to months, and then apportioned between 15 to 25 flats, in proportion to the varying rents and floor areas. Further, the landlord is to demand in advance varying percentages of the estimated, but unknown, cost of each item. The chimney-sweeper's last quarterly charge in your correspondent's house was 105.70, at exchange then about 2s; and the 8d charge per month must be divided up between 23 flats, and a statement of the fraction payable by every tenant must be rendered to the tenant. Already there was a complicated and fearfully costly system of Housing Offices and Rent Conciliation Offices; but under the new law the authorities have seen fit to create yet a third organ, the Arbitration Office, with the special function of deciding whether the chimney-sweeper's eightpence has been correctly apportioned between 23 flats of varying rents and sizes. And, again, every citizen knows that this regulation, which took from July 1st until late September to prepare, is wholly meaningless, because most of the legal charges are limited to a fixed percentage of an unchanging nominal rent, and have therefore no meaning whatever since the last price-rise took place. A Minister lately expounded the rent-calculation system with approval, declaring that it was required by "social justice." If the tenant is to pay the exact administration cost, said the Minister, social justice requires that the accounts shall be exact. The manager of your correspondent's house, having laid in all the dozen commentaries and numerous housing ready-reckoners, goes about declaring that "Deutschland ist ein Tollhaus"—"Germany is a lunatic asylum"; and as he himself owns three houses worth £70,000—from which his income, as limited by law, must not exceed £7—he has not the least respect for social justice.

Other public authorities conduct their business on similar principles. Some accounts are worked out to 1 pfennig, which is the 1-3,000th of an English penny; and as no one has seen a pfennig coin since 1918, citizens must always pay several pfennigs too little or too much, and social justice is perverted. The income-tax bailiff appears (a concrete case) to distrain for 147 marks, or 5d, and explains that the debtor was not first asked to pay because the warning would have cost the State the postage fees. The comedy of the 1,000 mark forced loan to the telephone administration continues. The 1,000 marks were originally worth about £5; they are now worth 3s. But in its zeal for social justice the State keeps on paying 4 per cent., or 1½d. a year, interest; in its zeal for revenue it deducts from the 1½d. 10 per cent., or the 3-20ths of a penny; and in its zeal for accuracy it delivers to every creditor a special account and a special acknowledgment of payment of the annual 3-20ths of a penny tax.

That social justice would not revolt if the 3s debt and 1½d interest were repudiated, if the 3-20ths of a penny tax were remitted, and if the hundreds of bureaucrats who are

kept busy administering the Telephone Loan were put to useful work, no official seems to dream. The thinking citizen says that such minutely scrupulous social justice is out of place in a country where every extra official means extra deficits and currency depreciation, as a result of which hundreds of thousands of citizens are ruined. Newspapers report that, including the social-insured, 1,250,000 millions of Germans classed as "petty capitalists," mostly savers of the working-class, have been beggared. But the bureaucrats are remorseless. At present they are campaigning against alleged profiteers. Old women from the country are punished for selling eggs at 25 marks, the ground being that social justice and natural law have fixed an egg's price at 20 marks; and the Price-Testing Board of Upper Silesia, a telegram relates, suggests that persons who charge too much for eggs be sent to penal servitude in the mines for five years. Yet the citizen who borrowed £10,000 on mortgage and pays his debt with £250, is acclaimed as a wise man. Further, the Government continues to put heavy taxes on the unprivileged citizens in order to provide luxury for the privileged. This month, after railway fares have been raised 50 per cent., a first-class journey from Berlin to the Lake of Constance, which is the same distance as from London to Aberdeen, costs under 5s; and the *Frankfurter Zeitung* shows that it cost 55 per cent. more to send 200 lbs of apples by rail than to carry a passenger, with his hand luggage, first class for the same distance. The Government neglected to put up fares when it ought to have put them up, and, having been caught unawares by the new currency depreciation, it now declares that it cannot put them up too much at once. But Berlin theatres, which six months ago charged 200 marks for a seat, are now able to charge 1,500 marks; and the theatres, despite the increase, are full—the trains, naturally, are even fuller.

For the system above described nothing can be said. In principle the difficulties which the currency depreciation raises for State administration are precisely the same as the difficulties which it raises for private business. In degree, the difficulties are a little greater, because even the most vigilant State cannot adapt its charges to a varying currency as rapidly as the business man. The almost complete cessation of bankruptcies shows that business men have learned from experience to overcome currency depreciation obstacles. But the officials learn nothing, or rather, having the inexhaustible resource of the printing press, do not apply in practice what they learn. It is because business men have not the resource of a private note-printing press that they act with speed and intelligence, and leave social justice alone.

ITALY.—CENSUS OF POPULATION—SULPHUR AND SHIPBUILDING QUESTIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, September 30.

THE Central Department of Statistics publishes the final results of the Census taken on December 1, 1921. Population statistics at various dates are as follows:—

	Population.	Average Annual Increase per 1,000.	Inhabitants per Square Kilometre.
1770	16,477,000	2.51	57.5
1816	18,383,000	8.89	64.1
1848	23,618,000	3.95	82.4
1862 (January 1)	25,000,000	7.66	87.2
1901 (February 10)	32,475,253	6.00	113.3
1911 (June 10)	34,671,377	7.51	121.0
1921 (Dec. 1), old territory ..	37,276,738	..	130.0
Territory with the new provinces	38,835,941	..	125.7

The war and the influenza epidemic have not left very marked traces on the Italian population; the growth between 1911 and 1921 is not appreciably lower than the average of the best periods of the past. The density of population per square kilometre is increasing fast, and is a most potent cause of emigration in an agricultural country like Italy, which is not capable of absorbing the annual surplus of births over deaths.

In the new provinces acquired from Austrian Empire the population decreased between the two last censuses from 1,592,278 to 1,559,203 (2.08 per cent.), but the

decrease is very easily explained as a consequence of the war.

Two problems are being keenly discussed at present—sulphur and shipyards. Interested circles petitioned the Government with the object of obtaining Royal decrees in favour of these industries, which are said to be gravely hit by the economic crisis. Sicilian sulphur is not freely sold. All producers are obliged to consign sulphur to a compulsory Consortium, which fixes prices and advances immediately a provisional sum, settling accounts every year. At the end of 1921 the official price was 750 lire per ton, and the provisional advance 500 lire. Producers hoped that the residual 250 lire would be paid in due time, subject to a deduction of 90 lire for taxes and Consortium expenses. But for the whole of 1922 sales have been much restricted. The Louisiana producers are underselling Sicilian sulphur, and the menace is growing, thanks to better situation and better appliances of American sulphur mines. Stocks of 270,000 tons had been accumulated by the Consortium at April 30, 1922, and this stock, though now somewhat reduced, is obstructing the sale of new sulphur. The Consortium had continued up to September to accept new sulphur, making advances on it by means of funds accumulated in the past and of loans from the issue banks. But now banks have refused to go on with new loans; the Consortium in their turn had to stop advances on new sulphur, and producers, who cannot sell to the public, are obliged to stop production. To avert unemployment the Government has been persuaded to recommend to Parliament a Bill for a State guarantee of a loan of 120 millions lire, with which the Consortium would start a sort of sulphur-valorisation scheme. The old stock of 200,000 tons would be put aside and left unsold until better times and better prices.

The production would go on, and the Consortium, free from the care of the old stock, would endeavour to sell only the new production. The affair is a wild gamble on the continuance of the present high foreign exchange rate and on the probability of a pool with American producers. If the lira improves and American competition becomes keener, internal prices would tumble down and the bubble explode. The Chamber, however, has voted the Bill, which is awaiting discussion in the Senate. During the recess producers, growing impatient, have petitioned Government to sanction the State guarantee of the 120 millions loan by means of a Royal decree. Ministers and Under-Secretaries of State backed this unconstitutional request, the acceptance of which would cancel Parliamentary control of public money. In the face of a vigorous newspaper campaign started against the abuse of Royal decrees, the Government have not dared to issue the decrees.

Another decree, which is from time to time mooted in the public Press, is one which would aim at giving orders for from 35 to 40 thousand tons of steamers for goods and passenger service in the State-subsidised lines. In pre-war times Italy possessed 10 private shipyards capable of turning out 80,000 gross tons annually. They should have had plenty of work, for, as the mercantile fleet was 1,500,000 tons, the demand of new ships should have been greater than the production. But shipowners did not renew the fleet in the rational proportion of 1/15 every year; moreover, they preferred to buy old ships sold in foreign markets or to order more cheaply in foreign shipyards. The normal national production was limited to a few tens of thousands of tons. Practically the only shipyards which were sometimes busy with work were the Ligurian ones.

The war changed things. In 1918, and in the two years after the Armistice, shipbuilders screamed for Government aid, obtained it, and sank in the improvement of old and the building of new yards a sum not less than 250 million lire. To-day there exist in Italy 27 shipyards, with a total productivity of 250,000 gross tons. The fleet, it is true, has doubled to 3,000,000 tons, and should furnish a theoretical sum total of orders of 200,000 tons annually. But this figure is to-day purely theoretical, owing to the shipping crisis. Building has been begun on 74 ships for a total of 436,520 gross tons, but is proceeding only on 34 ships for 210,890 tons, mostly in an advanced state of construction. In a year the work in hand will be terminated, and no new work is forthcoming.

Shipbuilders are therefore clamouring for Government orders, to be equally distributed among all shipyards, old and new. As the number of 27 shipyards is evidently excessive, only the best equipped and best managed ones should survive, and the survival of the 12 or 15 best ones would be greatly beneficial to the shipbuilding industry and the nation. But the technically or financially weak yards die hard; and as they possess influence through their banking and political connections, they hope for a new lease of life, if only the State can be persuaded to give their orders to all yards, bad and good alike. These are the circumstances under which, during parliamentary recess, the Government is asked to issue a Royal decree placing 35 or 40 thousand tons of shipbuilding orders.

ROUMANIA.—THE NEAR EAST CRISIS—TIMBER TRADE BOOM—DEVALUATION RUMOURS—FOREIGN CAPITAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRASOV, September 25.

THE Near East crisis is causing much uneasiness in financial circles, as well as in public opinion, for everybody is aware that this country cannot remain an indifferent observer should the war be transferred to European territory. There is hardly another country for which the freedom of the Straits, from both a political and commercial point of view, would be of such an importance as for Roumania. Political events have naturally reacted on the financial situation of the country. Everybody is adopting a reserved attitude, with the result that the scarcity recently prevailing in the money market has been accentuated, and that the Bucharest Bourse is experiencing a marked downward trend. Foreign rates have undergone a slow, but steady, appreciation during September, in spite of the considerable increase of exports, the favourable effect of which has been thus more than counteracted by the unfavourable effect of the international situation.

While in the past the hopes of those interested in the improvement of the lei were directed to corn trade, their attention is now being attracted by timber trade, which, apparently, is going to enjoy within a short time an extraordinary boom. According to recent rumours, the Stinnes group will purchase large quantities of Roumanian timber for the purpose of carrying out the Stinnes-Lubersac agreement. The Hungarian market is nearly completely conquered by Transylvanian timber; the Hungarian State railways contracted an agreement with the Roumanian State railways, in virtue of which the former will lend to the latter a great number of railway trucks in order to accelerate the delivery of timber purchased in Roumania for the needs of the Hungarian State railways. The countries on the north coast of Africa are placing important orders in Roumania. A few weeks ago an important quantity of timber was shipped for South America—an event entirely without precedent. A rapid development of the port of Constanta, to the detriment of Galati and Braila, is to be expected, but Constanta requires much improvement in order to be able to swallow the traffic of the two other ports.

In the Press, as well as in banking circles, there is much talk about the alleged intention of the Government to devalue the lei to the proportion of 1:25—i.e., approximately the actual value of the gold lei in paper lei. Although it is certain that no Roumanian Government will attempt the impossible task of restoring the lei to its mint parity, still, it is hardly possible to believe in the accuracy of rumours of fixing such an unfavourable proportion as 1:25. The internal value of the lei is much superior to its external value, therefore a stabilisation on the basis of its present external value would necessitate a huge increase of inland prices, with all its detrimental consequences. Apart from this, gold standard could not be re-established, even if the note circulation be reduced to 1/25 of its present volume (i.e., to about 550,000,000 lei), and even if the gold stock of the National Bank be restored from Moscow, for the resumption of cash payments would result in the immediate depletion of these gold stocks by holders of notes. Even a gold exchange standard could hardly be maintained under the present fluctuations of foreign trade and international prices, so long as Roumania remains isolated. A devaluation of the lei is only

desirable if it takes place as part of a general European devaluation and stabilisation scheme, and if it takes into account the internal value of the lei, as well as the extent of improvement which may reasonably be expected in the near future.

Foreign capital continues to come into the country. The cement factory of Torda has been bought by a French group for 80,000,000 lei; the Berlin banking house of Bleichroeder intends to establish a branch in Roumania, according to the report of a local financial newspaper; the "Mok," a syndicate of several important Czechoslovak timber enterprises, has established a branch, and several big foreign timber firms intend to follow its example. Negotiations recently carried on with several English promoting houses concerning the participation of English capital in some big industrial enterprises, fell through, for English investors insisted on fixing the joint-stock capital in sterling.

A memorandum signed by every important oil undertaking of the country has been addressed to the Government, demanding the re-establishment of the freedom of the oil industry and the reduction of export duties. The Bucharest-Paris air line was opened a few days ago by the Compagnie Franco-Roumaine, for passengers, small parcels, and letters. A journey between Bucharest and Paris takes about 15 hours.

SOVIET-RUSSIA.—CROP OUTLOOK—PETROLEUM PRODUCTION—FINANCES.

(FROM OUR WARSAW CORRESPONDENT.)

THE statisticians of the different Government departments have tried to estimate the amount of this year's crops. Though the figures at which they have arrived differ sometimes widely, the results of their investigations can be summarised as follows:—Area under cultivation, 55–60 million dessiatines; yield per dessiatina, 50–55 poods; total crop, 2,750–3,300 million poods.

For supplying the rural population with corn, 2,560 million poods are necessary, divided as follows:—Food, 1,740 millions; seed, 520 millions; reserve, 300 millions. In estimating the crop at 3,000 million poods, 440 would remain for the rest of the population. Of this one-half goes to the Government as "corn tax," the remaining 220 millions could be sold on the free market. Last year only 100 million poods were available for this purpose, so that according to the data which are now available, an improvement in the supply of towns with food may be expected.

The statistics of petroleum production for the first half-year reveal a marked increase of the output, as shown by the figures below:—

	ROCK OIL PRODUCTION. (000's omitted.)		
	First Half-year, 1921.	First Half-year, 1922.	Increase in 1922.
	Poods.	Poods.	Poods.
Baku	79,470	92,827	+ 13,357
Groznyj	40,813	45,067	+ 4,254
Emba	761	3,962	+ 3,201
	121,044	141,856	+ 20,812

The output has increased by 20.8 million poods in comparison with the same period of last year. This improvement is due in the first instance to a greater quantity of wells which are being exploited actually. In this respect there is a steady upward tendency, as may be seen from the figures below:—

	WELLS IN OPERATION.		
	January, 1921.	January, 1922.	June, 1922.
Baku	804	1,133	1,170
Groznyj	88	160	162
Emba	8	33	38

The boring operations are equally showing signs of development. During the first half-year 1921 1,116 sashen have been broken up, while during the same period of 1922 this area was five times greater (5,655.2 sashen).

The Soviet Government is trying to put its new financial programme (see the *Economist*, August 12th, page 276-277) in execution by introducing high taxes. The revenues from this source were in June 62 times greater than in January. The taxes collected by the Central Government and by the local authorities, expressed in the new roubles

of the type 1922 (the new rouble equals 10,000 old roubles) amounted to:—

	Million Roubles.	Index.
January, 1922	45.1	100
February, "	104.7	232
March, "	279.2	603.5
April, "	589.9	1,038.0
May, "	2,298.0	5,084.4
June, "	2,811.8	6,234.6
July, "	937.7*	2,079.1
	7,050.2	

* Provisional figures.

Of this total 4,962.2 millions, or 74.4 per cent., were collected for the Central Government, and 29.6 per cent. for the local authorities. The revenues of the Central Government were divided according to the different groups as follows:—2,096.6 millions, or 42.2 per cent., Customs duties; 1,864.4 millions, or 37.6 per cent., direct taxes; 1,001.2 millions, or 20.2 per cent., indirect taxes. From nationalised undertakings and from other sources 6,773 millions were obtained.

The heavy increase of taxes enabled the Soviets for the first time to put the brake on the policy of paper inflation. The percentage of total expenditure covered with the help of the printing press amounted in January to 90.5 per cent., in February to 80.7 per cent., in March to 74.9 per cent., in April to 70.5 per cent., in May to 63.3 per cent. While in January only 9.5 per cent. of the whole expenditure was covered by other revenues than the issue of paper roubles, this percentage amounted in May to 37 per cent. This financial policy, however, had a very detrimental influence on the whole economic life. The high industrial impositions forced a great number of undertakings to stop work. The traffic on the railways decreased, the lack of a sufficient amount of currency caused a severe economic crisis. In consequence, the Government is obliged to resort again to the printing press for saving industry. Lately 5 million roubles have been brought to the Southern coal district (Donbas) for the payment of wages and the purchase of food. Great credits have been opened to the National Trusts, and important exemptions from taxes have been accorded to them. Russia affords us only one more example of the fact observed everywhere, that the return to a sound monetary policy is a very painful process.

AUSTRALIA.—THE NEW BUDGET—REDUCED TAXATION—QUARTERLY BANKING FIGURES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, August 26.

THE Commonwealth Budget for the financial year ending June 30, 1923, shows that on an unaltered basis of taxation there would be an estimated surplus of £494,557, after including a sinking fund of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on local war debt (inclusive of the war indebtedness to the British Government, for the reduction of which provision is also made on the scale arranged). The corresponding sinking fund for 1921-22 was $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent., and the difference of $\frac{1}{6}$ per cent. is equivalent to over half a million. With an estimated surplus of £494,557, and with an accumulated credit balance of £6,408,424 brought forward, together £6,902,981, the Government propose to reduce taxation, and make other alterations to a total extent of £3,200,000, leaving an estimated credit balance of £3,702,981 at June 30, 1923. A comparison of the estimated Commonwealth revenue and expenditure (excluding payments to the States) with the actual figures for the previous year reads as follows:—

	Actual. 1921-22.	Unaltered Basis. 1922-23.	Modified Basis. 1922-23.
Taxation	£ 49,678,842	£ 47,800,000	£ 44,850,000
Other revenue	15,218,204	14,718,250	14,468,250
Gross revenue	64,897,046	62,518,250	59,318,250
Deduct payments to States	7,035,535	7,155,000	7,155,000
Net revenue	57,861,511	55,363,250	52,163,250
Expenditure	58,071,414	54,868,693	54,868,693
Deficit for year	209,903	..	2,705,443

The remissions of taxation include £2,100,000 from the Federal Income-tax, £400,000 from Federal Land Tax, £100,000 from Entertainments Tax, and £350,000 reduction in duties on wire netting, fencing wire, galvanised iron, and traction engines, making altogether £2,950,000. To compensate the local manufacturers of wire, &c., for a loss of protection, they are to receive bounties estimated at £250,000, making up the total of £3,200,000. The changes in the Income-tax include a 10 per cent. reduction and a number of readjustments, the general exemption being raised to £200, and the tax on companies' undistributed profits being reduced from 2s 8d to 2s 5d.

With the remissions in taxation, the Budget is generally regarded as being intended for display, in view of the approaching general election, the means being provided by drawing on the accumulated surplus. This surplus has been built up by including in former years the earnings of German shipping in Australian possession during the war, to which any German claim was waived under the Peace Treaty, and by including last year the German payment on account of the army of occupation.

In addition to expenditure out of revenue, as above, loan expenditure for 1922-3 is estimated at £17,250,924, including £10,340,893 for soldier land settlement, war service homes, and other expenditure due to war. Loans to be raised are estimated at £10,087,952, part of which, according to the figures presented, will be raised by a loan of £4,000,000 in Australia, and by drawing on the general trust fund and Australian notes fund, and part by a London loan. The Commonwealth public debt at June 30, 1922, was £416,070,509, including £16,750,000 borrowed in London on behalf of the States. The total includes £367,574,753 war debt, of which £266,121,465 is held in Australia.

The quarterly average returns to June 30 of banking liabilities and assets within Australia and New Zealand (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) show an increase of £4,460,271 in deposits as compared with the previous quarter, and a decrease of £1,354,810 in advances (inclusive of Government securities). The movements are those usual after realisation of wool, wheat, and other articles, supplemented in the case of wool by the distribution in May of about $\frac{1}{4}$ millions sterling by the British Australian Wool Realisation Association to complete the retirement of its priority certificates. The following is a comparison of the principal totals with those for the previous quarter and the June quarter, 1921:—

	June Quarter, 1921.	March Quarter, 1921.	June Quarter, 1922.
Deposits—			
Australia	£ 218,936,020	£ 217,672,828	£ 219,600,338
New Zealand	53,699,629	44,866,839	47,399,600
Total deposits	272,635,649	262,539,667	266,999,938
Advances—			
Australia	192,742,752	183,675,755	182,758,449
New Zealand	61,112,085	52,415,359	51,977,855
Total advances	253,854,837	236,091,114	234,736,304
Cash items—			
Coin and bullion (Australia and New Zealand)	27,435,031	27,557,996	27,333,068
Australian notes	29,564,235	29,604,826	25,577,119
Legal tender notes of other banks (New Zealand only)	971,180	1,312,967	1,109,907
Total cash	57,970,446	58,475,789	54,020,094

As compared with twelve months ago, Australian deposits show an increase of £664,318, but New Zealand deposits a decrease of £6,300,029, leaving a net decrease of £5,635,711. Advances show a decrease of £9,984,303 in Australia and £9,134,230 in New Zealand, making a total decrease of £19,118,533, due largely to the reduction in trading overdrafts as the heavy stocks of imported goods held in 1921 have been realised, and also to the reduction of War Loan advances.

The principal figures (within Australia) of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia compare as follows:—

	June Quarter, 1921.	March Quarter, 1922.	June Quarter, 1922.
Deposits	£ 26,638,879	£ 22,628,567	£ 30,048,727
Savings Bank deposits	34,324,917	36,144,999	36,097,731
Discounts, loans, &c.	14,896,362	15,141,497	14,130,679
Govt. and municipal securities	33,640,763	34,693,610	34,760,870
Coin and bullion	1,857,556	2,207,552	2,349,869
Australian notes	4,922,840	2,299,336	4,730,492

These figures of the Commonwealth Bank are not included in the previous tables.

Letters to the Editor.

STABILISATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I am much surprised by your article under the above heading upon Professor Cassel's recent book. You make game, not merely of Professor Cassel's particular arguments and suggestions, but of currency and exchange stability as an ultimately feasible or desirable ideal. It appears to strike you as fundamentally absurd, as a shallow refusal to recognise the "dynamic" character of "unfettered economic and natural forces," and even if it could be realised, it would only have, in your opinion, "the doubtful advantage of giving us stagnation instead of chaos."

Surely this is to misconceive altogether the place of money in the economic system. Money is a measure, a standard of value; and stability is not only an appropriate but an essential attribute of any measure or standard. A stable standard of value is no more connected with stagnation or inconsistent with progress than a stable standard of length or weight or force. Nor is there anything ridiculous in the idea of ultimately realising it. Stability of the foreign exchanges was effectively realised before the war over the greater part of the world. Did this make for stagnation? Would "equilibrium" (whatever that may mean in this connection) have served us better? The idea of ultimately stabilising the commodity value of money is no more fantastic (though less familiar) than that of the re-establishment of gold standards. It would involve the arbitrary definition of the combination of commodities which the unit of money was to represent; but all standards involve such arbitrary definitions. The particular definition adopted might become unsuitable in the course of time, and we might decide to change it, as we sometimes change the standards of our weights and measures. The administrative difficulties of making such a standard effective would be great; certainly, but here there is some confusion.

Monetary stabilisation of any kind, new-fangled or old-fashioned, is not possible to-day, and will not be possible for several years. It requires as an essential condition some approach to "equilibrium" (I see your phrase has its uses) in international trade and international payments, to say nothing of internal finances, which is not at present within sight. This cannot be too strongly emphasised. It is premature to formulate in detail, as though they were immediately practical propositions, elaborate schemes for stabilising the European exchanges; and I have always regretted the serious attention given to such schemes at the time of the Genoa Conference. This has served to distract attention from such questions as Reparations, which must be settled first, to suggest that a settlement of these questions is not so very urgent, that we can make progress while we have them on one side, that the root of the trouble is some defect of the monetary mechanism to be set right by the monetary expert. A minor misfortune is that, when nothing comes of such projects, the unduly exalted monetary expert becomes

French American Banking Corporation

67 William Street
NEW YORK CITY

Cable Address - FRENAMBANK

Capital, Surplus & Undivided Profits - \$2,845,000

We transact a general foreign and domestic banking business and solicit your inquiries.

unduly depreciated as a monetary crank. Even as regards this country, it is in my judgment foolish to think of re-establishing an effective gold standard, either at the old parity or at a lower one, until we have seen what happens when we begin to pay our debt to the United States, and can judge more clearly the future trend of prices there. The only sensible monetary policy for the immediate future is "to wait and see."

But, when stabilisation of the exchanges becomes a practical proposition, the question of the stability of the commodity value of gold will inevitably arise. We shall have to reckon with the effect on the value of gold of a general return to the gold standard, which if "unfettered," might so seriously disturb price-levels, as to outweigh the advantages of exchange stability. Accordingly, no one proposes to have this economic force "unfettered." It is agreed on all sides that, when the world returns to gold standards, special measures must be taken, involving co-operation of the central banks, to prevent an undue appreciation of the value of gold. Since we thus mean to control the value of gold, the only issue appears to be whether we shall set about it half-heartedly and confusedly, or try to make a good job of it by having the definite objective of stability. Meanwhile, the practicability of such a policy is being tested by a unique experiment which is being undertaken in the United States. If the United States, with their vast accumulations of gold, succeed in preventing a great increase in their price-level during the next few years, they will go far to demonstrate the feasibility of making gold our servant and not our master. It is too early to judge the success of that experiment; the real test will not come until trade is more active. But it is certainly premature to dismiss the idea as impracticable. It is well to pour cold water on the notion that there is any monetary panacea for our economic ills; but this does not require us to deny that stability is "the proper goal of monetary policy."

Yours, &c.

H. D. HENDERSON.

Clare College, Cambridge, October 3rd, 1922.

GERMAN TREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The misconduct and illegality of the German minor authorities in their relations with foreigners are a matter of discussion here. If abuses are not checked by publicity, they will probably be checked after a violent explosion, which nobody desires. In reporting it to the *Economist*, I bear in mind that the majority of British subjects in Germany in future will be business men. If complaints have not appeared before this, the reason is that nearly all British subjects now in Germany live in hotels, and have little or nothing to do with authorities. I say nothing about treaty obligations, because the offences complained of are all breaches of German law.

1. As a result of a violent anti-foreign agitation, local authorities have begun to discriminate against foreigners in the matter of property rights. Certain emergency laws give different authorities the right to expropriate, or restrict the use of, property. Instances—the right to expropriate goods, and to expropriate temporarily dwellings or parts of dwellings. The authorities, e.g., can expropriate scrap-iron, of which there is scarcity, and deliver it to consumers, paying the owner what is considered fair compensation; and on the same ground they can expro-

priate houses, flats, and single rooms, give them to other persons, and decide what is fair compensation. None of these laws discriminates against foreigners, and until lately no authority commissioned to execute the laws has discriminated. Lately, as a result of the agitation mentioned above, the housing office of Schöneberg, a large Berlin municipality, ordered a visitation of the dwellings of foreigners only, with aim of determining what foreign dwellings or part of dwellings should be expropriated, and on the basis of the data supplied to its officials ordered seizure of part of the foreign tenants' dwellings. Germans did not undergo the visitation. One British subject at least (but there are probably very few with their own dwellings in Schöneberg) received a written official threat to break into his flat if he did not tolerate this illegal measure. Naturally, he did not tolerate it, and he awaits the break-in.

That the ways of some housing offices are as corrupt as they are illegal is proved by numerous Press and judicial exposures. Before the threat against the British subject could be executed, an unknown person called at the flat, and promised that he would have the confiscation order rescinded on payment of from 75,000 to 100,000 marks. To prove his claim that he was in touch with the housing authorities, he gave details of the Housing Office document.

2. The police persistently break the laws at the expense of foreigners, and, therefore, of British subjects.

Without legal ground, they demand the appearance of foreigners at the police stations. In order to mislead the foreigners into the belief that the demand is enforceable, they misuse, if not forge, a subpoena form, erasing a part of the printed matter which shows that the form was intended for an entirely different purpose; and they also misuse the Police-President's printed signature, which is given in advance for the entirely different purpose.

They obtain foreigners' passports on false pretences, and even when the foreigners have full residence rights, acknowledged by all competent authorities including the police themselves, they stamp on the passports a declaration that the foreigner has no right to reside.

As a condition for granting lawful but not enforceable requests, they demand signed statements of income from foreigners. That is forbidden by German law, which makes income a matter of confidence between the citizen and the taxation authorities. The proper course for the foreigner is to give and sign the statement under duress, and to initiate a criminal prosecution of the police.

Foreigners on arriving at their German place of residence have the same obligation to register themselves (*anmelden*) as Germans. The police (with doubtful legality) refuse to accept registration without a permit from the housing authorities. The central Housing Authority in Berlin declares that it will not give this permit unless the applicant appears at 7 in the morning (in one case 7.30). An English lady known to me, who is staying six kilometres from the Housing Office, spent three mornings trying to get a permit. She is now living unregistered and "illegally," and she is liable to be fined. On my advice, she abandoned the attempt to register; the ground of the advice being that according to German judicial decisions (which are, of course, self-evident) reasonable facilities must be given for the fulfilment of a legal obligation.

I ought to say that, as far as I know, the police, though ignorant of or contemptuous of the laws, are extremely polite, and that the housing authorities, though still more ignorant of or more contemptuous of the law than the police, are very often rude and impertinent. I ought also to say that all British subjects get proper protection from their Embassy; that the German Foreign Office, even when appealed to by foreigners without diplomatic support, shows consideration, and has at least twice admitted that the police and housing offices are law-breakers; and, finally, that no foreigner need fear to appeal to a German Court. But as it has been proved that individual measures result only in stoppage of individual illegalities, a little publicity will do good. The above statements are provable under oath; the more serious charges are provable by production of official documents.—I am, yours truly,

ROBERT CROZIER LONG.

Berlin, September 19th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

LABOUR POLICY AT HOME AND ABROAD.*

THIS volume is a survey of the political Labour movement and of Labour legislation, in the broad sense, in Great Britain, France, and the Scandinavian countries, with special reference to the last two decades. It is historical, descriptive, and analytical and informative rather than polemical. On the whole, it is as detached a piece of work as one is likely to get, and much more accurate than most volumes of the kind.

The book falls into two parts. The first deals with the history of the Labour movement and social economic conditions in France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Great Britain. The second is a survey of Labour problems, and deals with the legal position of trade unions, conciliation and arbitration, the minimum wage, the legal regulation of hours of labour, unemployment, joint industrial organisation, and the nationalisation of industries in France, Great Britain, and the Scandinavian countries.

There is no work covering precisely the same ground so far as this country is concerned, though Beer's "History of British Socialism" and Webb's "History of Trade Unionism" cover more adequately than Mr De Montgomery the history of British Labour. On the other hand, there is no similar volume devoted to the range of questions with which Mr De Montgomery's book deals. The work, therefore, is to be commended on that account. But what renders it of particular value to the British reader is the history of Labour and of Labour problems in certain Continental countries. In his treatment of the Scandinavian countries Mr De Montgomery writes with a certainty of touch and a thoroughness which marks him as an expert. The pages devoted to France are almost equally good. The volume is the only work in English traversing the ground covered by Mr De Montgomery and British economists, publicists, and students of Labour problems are under a heavy debt of gratitude to him for this volume. It is, however, a pity that at least Germany and Italy should not have found a place in the book.

There are, of course, grounds for criticism. The Labour party would not agree, for example, that it "miscalculated its own strength" at the last general election when it put 361 candidates into the field. It would explain that there is a considerable value in propaganda fights. Again, it is a defect of the book that whilst it brings many sections down to the end of 1921, as, for example, unemployment, the story of the organisation of the British Labour movement, which entered on a new phase with the scheme of co-ordination between the political and industrial sides which came into operation in 1920, stops short with the end of war. There will also, we imagine, be French critics of his treatment of the recent history of the Socialist movement in France. But the author has, on the whole, succeeded in a difficult task, and Socialists and non-Socialists alike have great reason to thank this non-Socialist writer for his comprehensive survey of Labour movements and problems.

Mr De Montgomery, it should be noted, was incorrectly described as a Frenchman in last month's survey. He is a native of Sweden.

THE RUSSIAN OUTLOOK.—A BANKER'S VIEW.

It is to be hoped that the remarkable survey of Russian conditions which occupies the first six pages of the Monthly Review issued by the London County and Westminster Bank will be widely read not only by bankers, but by politicians. The author's name is not given, but his marshalling and analysis of evidence shows a clear and powerful mind, while his literary style is admirable. Beginning with a brief and eminently sane review

* "British and Continental Labour Policy." By B. G. De Montgomery. (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., London, 1922)

of the early years of Bolshevik government, he proceeds to discuss, with knowledge and acuteness, the state of public opinion in Russia before and after the Genoa and Hague Conferences. "The gradual and scarcely perceptible transfer of power" from extremist to moderate began in 1920 is still going on, and "is the dominant factor in the present situation." The desire of all classes for stability has caused the number of people who saw anything to be gained by a successful counter-revolution, even if it were possible, to diminish out of sight the new economic policy which expressed and accelerated this process. "Both in the country and in the town, and more especially in the country, people began to take a philosophical view of the Government, and only sought patiently by continuous imperceptible pressure to remove the obstacles in the way of reconstruction. People ceased taking the Government seriously, just as they ceased to contemplate overthrowing it." But at Genoa things were complicated by the fact that the first effect of the new economic policy had been to cause the rouble to fall twenty times, and that a grave transport crisis, caused by difficulty in coping with relief supplies, had arisen in the early months of 1922. The extremists argued that the advent of foreign capital would produce an even greater crisis, and place the Government in the hands of world finance. Genoa failed, with profound disappointment in Russia. "There can be no doubt that the bulk of Russian opinion desires a settlement. The necessity of a settlement, sooner rather than later, is dictated by the inexorable logic of an economic situation in which Russia hastens from one crisis to another, and in which accumulating process of disorganisation unceasingly stimulates pressure upon the Government." How far the moderates are being pushed away from Communist theory by this pressure of public demand for a settlement is shown by the fact that in Moscow a new code of law is being prepared "based upon the legal systems in use in civilised countries."

CARGO INSURANCE.*

MERCHANTS and underwriters have, as Arnould points out, "adhered with persevering tenacity to the old and hardly intelligible form" of marine insurance policy, which is indeed "an absurd and incoherent instrument." Mr Lea applies similar epithets to the three hundred-year-old policy which is still the prescribed form. It appears, he says, "an absurdly inadequate instrument for a precise contract. In several places it does not mean all it says, and in many more it does not say all it means." The results of litigation have, of course, been to attach a definite meaning to the absurdities and incoherencies. The contract is precise, but the real import of the words cannot be learned without reference to books. Mr Lea has added to the considerable number of works already existing, but he has added, at a nominal price, an exceedingly concise and practical handbook, which should serve very well its purpose of affording everyday guidance to shippers. As the author recognises, the subject is very wide. He does not pretend to present an exhaustive study, but, within the limitations indicated, he has done well. Avoiding the mistake of some "practical" writers, he does not forget to indicate the fundamental principles upon which daily business proceeds. In a passing reference, Mr Lea observes that "the Hague Rules, 1921, mark a definite, equitable, and standard contract between shipowners and cargo owners, fixing the responsibility for the proper delivery of goods upon shipowners, and excepting only loss through the overwhelming and unavoidable perils of transport. Legislation on the basis of the Hague Rules is certain in this country and probable in many other countries."

The text of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, and trade clauses in general use are given in appendices. These are about equal in length to the body of the book. The volume altogether runs to a hundred pages. It is an example of well-compressed information, but would, perhaps, have been improved if a page or two could have been found for a table of contents and index.

* "Marine Insurance for the Shipper." By Joshua Lea. (Manchester) The Manchester Guardian, Limited. 1922. 1s.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.

1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

The Company offers the services of its organisation to manufacturers and others desirous of establishing new connections in the East and also in Australasia and North America.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Report of the Indian Fiscal Commission, 1921-22. (Simla) Government Central Press.

Report on the Operations of the Currency Department, the Movement of Funds, and on the Resource Operations of the Government of India for the year 1921-1922. By A. C. McWalters. (Calcutta) Superintendent Government Printing. 1 rupee.

The Insurance Blue-Book and Guide for 1922. (London) Ritchie and Darling. 10s 6d net.

My Railway and Me: Six of One and Half a Dozen of the Other. By Edward S. Hadley. (London) Great Western Railway Company, Paddington.

It is stated that copies of this little pamphlet are being distributed by the Great Western Railway Company to their employees.

An Outline of the Mitsubishi Enterprises. (London) The Mitsubishi Bank, Limited.

Public Finance. By M. E. Robinson. (London) Nisbet and Co., Limited. 5s net.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
October 18.	October 19.

From the standpoint of public interest, the principal feature in the Stock Exchange markets this week is the ascent of the War Loan to a trifle over par. This was accomplished through the investment of a good many thousand pounds in the stock on behalf of people who, noticing that the price will be quoted ex dividend in three weeks' time, reasonably considered it cheap at the equivalent of 97½ ex dividend. Gilt-edged stocks, as a whole, are comparatively quiet, the international complications affecting them but little. No alteration was expected this week in the Bank rate. Further improvement in the War Loan is suggested as likely, in view of the known desire on the part of several big borrowers to place loans in the London market at prices which they are scarcely likely to obtain unless the War Loan should be standing better than it does to-day. Curiosity attaches to the result of the recent conversion offer by Victoria; details have not yet reached the market.

With the German mark down to the neighbourhood of 9,000, German bonds of all kinds have naturally been flat, and the Threes fell to 20s. French bonds pursued a somewhat erratic course, keeping, however, to the harder side on balance, in which display of strength the French Railway issues led the way. Peruvian Corporations, after their shake-out on profit-taking sales, recovered substantially from the worst. Chinese bonds are better in places, though the 8 per cents., Vickers and Marconis alike, fell back to 71, after being about 2 points higher. Brazilians have taken a turn for the better, and what are termed the purely investment stocks of the foreign market show a harder tone.

The rise in the price of coal and the possibilities of reduction in railway fares have made no difference to subdued bullishness in the Home Railway market, where the Heavy stocks started a recovery that spread into other sections. Once more the market has been expecting, almost daily, news in regard to the grouping arrangements in connection with the Southern lines. Certain of the Home Railway pre-ordinary stocks are better. Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debenture further advanced. Mexican Rails are marked up. Argentine Rails strengthened again, on anticipations of the present six months providing better dividends than those distributed for the corresponding period last year. Leopoldinas recovered materially, and other Brazilian Rails are steady.

The rubber share market further advanced, on a stiffening in the price of the raw produce to 8½d per lb. Oil shares remain hesitating, by reason of the uncertainty felt in regard to the way in which the effect of the petrol cut is likely to make itself felt upon the next dividend announcements. Banking shares are inclined to ease-off, but in the insurance market, a mild amount of investment demand caused a few

prices to harden. Shipping shares are rather better; P. and O. deferred remained at 295, on the declaration of a 6 per cent. tax-free dividend, making 12 per cent. for the year, the same as that for the previous period. The iron, coal, and steel market is hardening up a little, though in armaments there is next to nothing doing. Gas stocks went better; electric lighting shares are virtually unchanged. The introduction of the 700,000 *Daily Mirror* shares was effected this week on the basis of 3s, the price subsequently improving to 3½. A *Daily Mail* debenture issue was over-subscribed promptly. Amongst the stores, catering and provision shares, Whiteleys are better, on the expectations of increased dividends. Aerated Breads, at 36s, show improvement, on the proposed acquisition of the Lockharts' business. Barkers, Harrods, Lyons, Liptons, and others of this class are maintaining their prices with noticeable strength. Some of the motor shares are better, in consequence of the advertisement afforded by the near approach of the show at Olympia. Something of a feature has been a sharp rise in Associated Portland Cements. Textiles, while enjoying a good deal of market activity, are not greatly changed on the week.

Kaffirs recovered much of the buoyancy which forsook them when the Near Eastern trouble drew so close. Most of the dealing is professional, but there is also a small amount of public attention paid to the market by those who recognise the manner in which working costs are coming down and the profits are, automatically, advancing. De Beers and other diamond shares, together with Rio Tinto and other copper shares, have hung upon the advices of Paris, being higher on the week. Russo-Asiatic, which touched 10s 6d, rallied 1s, and then went back to 11s. Mexico Mines came into active demand at higher prices. Broken Hills received a moderate support from the Colony, and a few of the Middle East mining shares are slightly better.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded ..	£	£	£	£
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender September 23, 1922) ..	510,694,450	..	..	..
..	None allotted	..	..	..
NATIONAL SERVICE CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1922.				
April 1 to Sept. 30, 1922, £23,798,000 ..	£	£	£	£
..	250,000	..	250,000	..

To the Public—				
Daily Mail Trust, Limited, £1,600,000 7 % Gtd. 15-year First Mort. Deb. Sks. (rep. at 107 % 1927-36), issued at 99 % (Oct. 2) ..	1,600,000	..	1,584,000	.. 160,000
Lung-Tsing-u-Hai Railway, £50,000, 5 % Gold Loan, 1913, in sterling bonds, £20, at £13 17s 6d net per bond, red. at £20 per bond ..	50,000	..	34,687	.. 10,000
..	..	..	1,618,687	.. 170,000
To Shareholders only—				
Still Engine, £50,000 8 % Debs., at par ..	50,000	..	50,000	.. 12,500
Do 50,000 "A" Shares, £1 ..	50,000	..	50,000	.. 37,500
Total to Shareholders only ..	..	..	100,000	.. 62,500

Total offered for subscription to date in—				
1922 ..	£512,663,137	1921 ..	£388,978,203	
1920 ..	206,136,047	1920 ..	367,549,656	
1921 ..	301,112,169	1919 ..	1,036,059,951	
1920 ..	97,088,282	1918 ..	1,393,381,441	
1918 ..	1,050,108,518	1917 ..	1,318,596,010	
1917 ..	1,111,706,360	1916 ..	585,436,850	
1916 ..	421,991,900	1915 ..	685,236,326	
1915 ..	658,988,076	1914 ..	512,522,633	
1914 ..	173,141,036			

Lung-Tsing-u-Hai Railway.—Five per cent. gold loan of 1913, principal and interest being guaranteed by the Chinese Government. The authorised amount is £10,000,000, of which £4,000,000 has been issued. This is an offer for sale of £50,000 in bonds of £20 at £13 17s 6d per bond, redeemable at £20 from 1923 to 1952. The total loan is specially secured as a first charge on the railway, and it is stated that the interest has been met to date. It is not quite clear why the offer should have been made at this price, a marking having recently been recorded in the Supplementary Stock Exchange List of 5½ per £100. This offer, however, works out at £69 7s 6d per cent., and in view of prevailing conditions in China, it may be that the moment is not opportune for the offer.

The Daily Mail Trust, Limited.—Authorised share capital £1,600,000, in ordinary shares of £1 each, with 2s paid up. The loan capital is stated to be £1,600,000, consisting of 7 per cent. guaranteed first mortgage debenture stock, which is now offered at 99 per cent., repayable at 107 per cent. by 10 equal annual drawings, beginning in 1927 and ending in December, 1936. The company reserves the right of redemption after January 1, 1928, at 110 per cent., on giving three months' notice. A further £900,000 of loan capital ranking *pari passu* to this issue can be created. The security offered for these debentures is varied, though specifically secured by a trust deed. Firstly we have a block of 400,000 deferred shares in Associated Newspapers, Limited, a security not mentioned in the official London Stock Exchange Lists, and therefore difficult to place a market value upon. Secondly we have the uncalculated capital of the trust, "representing £1,440,000." This, of course, though excellent contingent cover, is not a very tangible security for a first specific charge, mainly depending upon the financial status of the holder and the power to transfer. Thirdly there is an unconditional guarantee by the *Daily Mirror* Newspapers, Limited, and *Sunday Pictorial* Newspapers (1920), Limited, "which between them," we are told, "are subscribing for 70 per cent. of the share capital of the trust." The guaranteeing companies have given reasonable undertaking that they will not issue prior charges, and profits of the interested companies, which are clearly set out, show that if the popularity of publications can be maintained the necessary services for the present issue can be easily found. As regards the security for capital, the position is not so clear. There is a brief statement as to the value of net assets of the three companies. These are £2,733,214 for Associated Newspapers, Limited, and £1,063,432 for the two guaranteeing companies. Surely, if only in the interest of setting a good example to concerns which are not quite so prosperous, the main items comprising these figures could be given, together with some manner of the basis of valuation. At present we are quite in the dark. It would be also interesting to know why the promoters decided to approach the public by the way of "an offer for sale" instead of the usually more informative prospectus. However, the issue was heavily oversubscribed, and no doubt those applicants who paused to consider these little deficiencies in respect of detailed information decided that the admittedly generous yield offered was sufficient compensation.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 5½ % 1925-28 ..	94½	94½	..
Loans 4½ % 1925-45 ..	96½	97	..
4½ % 1927-36 ..	99½	100	..
4½ % 1929-42 ..	100	100½	..
Funding Loan 4½ % ..	83½	83½	..
Victory Bonds 4½ % ..	87½	87½	..
Conversion Loan 3½ % ..	72½	73½	..
Consols 2½ % ..	56½	56½	..
Irish Land Stock 2½ % ..	57½	58	..
Local Loans 3½ % ..	62½	63½	..
Banks.			
Barclays B. (£1 f.p.d.) ..	2½	2½	..
Chartered Bk of India ..	17½	17½	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.) ..	2½	2½	..
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2½ pd.) ..	8½	8½	..
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid) ..	17½	17½	..
Colonial and Foreign Railways.			
Amalgamated Cons. ..	66	68	..
B. A. & Pacific ..	54½	58	..
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	75½	77	..
Buenos Ayres West. ..	68	71	..
Canadian Pacific ..	164	166	..
Central Argentine ..	64½	66	..
Grand Trunk Ord. ..	3½	3½	..
Foreign Government Securities.			
Argentine 5½ % 1886-7 ..	100	100	..
Belgian 3½ % ..	69	69	..
Brazil 5½ % Fund, 1914 ..	67	66	..
Chinese 4½ % 1895 ..	85	86	..
Do 7½ % ..	103½	103½	..
Chinese 5½ % 1912 ..	75	77	..
Egyptian 4½ % ..	70	70	..
French 5½ % ..	35½	37	..
Do 4½ % ..	29	30	..
Telegraphs.			
Anglo-American "A" ..	23½	23½	..
Marconi Wireless ..	25½	25½	..
British Railways.			
Great Central Pref. ..	23½	23½	..
Great Eastern ..	36	36	..
Great Northern Def. ..	42	41½	..
Great Western ..	99½	101½	..
London, Brighton, "A" ..	60½	61½	..
London, Chatham ..	94	93½	..
London & N.W. (New) ..	99½	101½	..
L. & S. Western, Def. ..	51½	53	..
Metropolitan ..	56	56	..
American Railroads.			
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	81	83	..
Erie ..	17	18	..
Do 4½ % 1st Pref. ..	27	28	..
Colonial and Foreign Securities.			
Greek 4½ % 1888 ..	33½	32½	..
Japanese 4½ % ..	106	106	..
Do 4½ % 1910 ..	68	68	..
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	60	61½	..
Russian 5½ % 1906 ..	29	30	..
Spanish 4½ % ..	114	114	..
Selne (Dept.) 7½ % ..	98	99½	..
Siamese 7½ % ..	105	105	..

Anglo-American "A" ..	23½	23½	..
Marconi Wireless ..	25½	25½	..
Great Central Pref. ..	23½	23½	..
Great Eastern ..	36	36	..
Great Northern Def. ..	42	41½	..
Great Western ..	99½	101½	..
London, Brighton, "A" ..	60½	61½	..
London, Chatham ..	94	93½	..
London & N.W. (New) ..	99½	101½	..
L. & S. Western, Def. ..	51½	53	..
Metropolitan ..	56	56	..
American Railroads.			
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	81	83	..
Erie ..	17	18	..
Do 4½ % 1st Pref. ..	27	28	..
Colonial and Foreign Securities.			
Greek 4½ % 1888 ..	33½	32½	..
Japanese 4½ % ..	106	106	..
Do 4½ % 1910 ..	68	68	..
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	60	61½	..
Russian 5½ % 1906 ..	29	30	..
Spanish 4½ % ..	114	114	..
Selne (Dept.) 7½ % ..	98	99½	..
Siamese 7½ % ..	105	105	..

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—BONUS PROSPECTS.

The annual general meeting of the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society was held, on the 6th inst., at the chief office, St. James's square, London, Mr Francis E. J. Smith (the chairman) presiding.

The general manager and actuary (Mr. Arthur Digby Besant) having read the circular convening the meeting and the certificate of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: In connection with our investments, I should like to read to you an extract from a speech made in this room by Sir John Mowbray at the declaration of our bonus in January, 1887: "With respect to our assets, the securities, as you are told, have all undergone the usual careful examination by the directors. Now, that is a matter, I need not say, of the most profound importance. The directors themselves in the month of November in every year carefully see to every security the society possesses. Every title-deed, every voucher for every debenture, every security for every mortgage of property, whatever it may be, is produced to a committee of directors. The assets exist, the directors know them to exist; the actuary knows them to exist. The actuary does not pledge himself to calculations based upon an hypothesis that there are certain assets in existence, but he says they are there, and we ourselves know it also. We not only vouch them, but we tell you in estimating them that you may go to the share list of the Stock Exchange, and test the value at which we state them in our assets."

When our chairman made that speech in 1887, there had been a wide discussion in the Press over the failure of a certain insurance office, and, as you are all aware, there has been great uneasiness amongst the public during the past few months as to the sufficiency of the Parliamentary safeguards for controlling the administration of insurance companies' funds. Acts of Parliament certainly can do much for the protection of the public, but even more essential is the duty of every member of a board of directors to see that the control of the assets does not pass into the hands of any one man. This doctrine of collective knowledge and collective responsibility preached so forcibly by Sir John Mowbray 35 years ago is held with equal conviction by his successors on the board to-day, and it forms the keynote of our investment policy.

The first item on the assets side of the balance-sheet is the mortgages. These show an increase of about £140,000, and we have been fortunate in obtaining some very good mortgage securities during the past year. No penny of interest was in arrear on June 30th last. With regard to capital also, the history of our mortgages is remarkable. During the whole of the war period when Stock Exchange securities suffered such serious depreciation, we did not lose a single penny on our mortgage investments. We thought it advisable in 1916 to set aside a small mortgage reserve fund, but no claim has ever been made upon it, and this fund now constitutes a precautionary reserve for future emergencies. For any realised loss on our mortgages we have to go back 16 years to 1906, and I find from our records that we then wrote off the sum of £221 on a small mortgage which proved to be insufficiently secured. With that exception, we have not incurred any capital loss on this class of security during the past half century.

The value placed upon our Stock Exchange securities are those adopted in our balance-sheet of last year, at the date of the close of our latest bonus period. They were then valued at middle market prices, less accrued interest. I am sure you will be pleased to know that, with one trifling exception, every item of these securities shows an increase in value this year, though credit is not taken for such increase in the figures before you. The directors and auditors, however, have certified that the excess over the book value of our Stock Exchange securities on June 30th exceeded £206,000. Since the close of the financial year on June 30th, some

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (£1) ..	13	13	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) ..	5½	5½	..
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) ..	15½	15½	..
Ass. Palm. Cement (£1) ..	16½	16½	..
Barker, John (£1) ..	24½	24½	..
Pharm. Small Arms (£1) ..	8½	8½	..
Brasil Traction (£100) ..	46	46	..
British-American Tobacco (£1) ..	4½	4½	..
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	5½	5½	..
Costa (J. and F.) (£1) ..	3½	3½	..
Contrails (£1) ..	2½	2½	..
Cunard (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	2½	2½	..
Forestal Land (£1) ..	2½	2½	..
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Highlands and Low-lands Rubber (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Hudson's Bay (£1) ..	7	7	..
Imperial Tobacco (£1) ..	3½	3½	..
Linggi Plantations (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Lipton (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Lever Bros. 7½ % Cmp (£1) ..	1	1	..
Do 8½ % Cmp (£1) ..	1	1	..
Do 20 % Cmp (£1) ..	1	1	..
Lister (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Lobitos Oilfields (£1) ..	5½	5½	..
Lyons (J.) & Co. (£1) ..	4½	4½	..
Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.) ..	2½	2½	..
Mexican Eagle (£10) ..	2½	2½	..
Pekin (S) (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Rubber Plantations Investment (£1) ..	4½	4½	..
Shell Transport (£1) ..	4½	4½	..
Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1) ..	3½	3½	..
United Serrang (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
United Tobacco (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Vallambrosa (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Vickers (£1) ..	2½	2½	..
Watney Def. Sks. ..	21½	21½	..

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) ..	2½	2½	..
Broken Hill Prop. (S) ..	1½	1½	..
Chartered (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) ..	2½	2½	..
Crown Mines (10) ..	2½	2½	..
De Beers Def. (£2½) ..	12½	12½	..
East Rand Prop. (£1) ..	3½	3½	..
Geduld (£1) ..	3½	3½	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) ..	5½	5½	..
Knights ..	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (10) ..	4½	4½	..
Modderfont. B. (S) ..	1½	1½	..
Modderfont. Deep (S) ..	2½	2½	..
Premier Def. (2½) ..	2½	2½	..
Rand Mines (S) ..	2½	2½	..
Rio Tinto (£5) ..	27	27	..
Spring Mines (£1) ..	2½	2½	..

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Blackwater ..	3,670	..	..	..	(a) 9,385	2,330
Cam and Motor ..	15,300	..	..	..	6,225	26,399
Esperanza (Aug.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	8,085
North Kalgurli ..	691	..	..	..	515	8,540
Rezende ..	6,100	699	..	..	3,470 (b)	15,958
Nundydroog ..	9,650	17,690	4,384	803	5,187	..
Balaghat ..	3,700	8,800	1,914	1,091	3,005	..
Mysore ..	18,350	49,580	5,911	4,611	10,522	..
Akoko Main Reef ..	538	..	..	..	430	..
Champion Reef ..	11,654	22,448	3,108	1,164	4,272	..
Oreogum ..	12,900	13,500	7,589	889	8,478	..
Oriental Cons. ..	..	..	..	..	..	875,500
St John del Rey ..	..	..	..	..	..	38,000
Menzies ..	1,800	..	..	..	..	..
Ashanti ..	7,612	..	..	..	6,436	28,399

</

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

He would make no forecast for the current year, but he hoped none would leave the meeting in an unduly pessimistic frame of mind. They had got increased railway rates, commencing from April 1st last; the output of coal already showed healthy expansion, and there were now no coal contracts showing a balance on the

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said : The balance-sheet represents the results of the first year's working since the scheme of arrangement came into effect, and it is now possible to make some comparison in the accounts. The sundry creditors on February 28 last stood at £16,074, as against £32,578 in the previous year. Last year we took the liquid assets and liabilities in San Paulo at the rate of 93d to the milreis, but we included a provision for fluctuations in exchange of £75,000. At February 28th last exchange stood at 73½d, with the result that on the other side of the balance-sheet you will note an item "Exchange suspense account, £104,029," this amount representing the difference between 93d and 73½d on the surplus of our liquid assets over liabilities in San Paulo. Since that date exchange has again declined by another penny, but it must be remembered that the chief item in our liquid assets represents debtors for land sold, and that these debts are collectable over a period of six to eight years, so that it

LAND SALES.

"Improvements, house property, plant, &c.," stand at £70,477, but you must understand this is not the actual figure expended, as it has always been our custom to write off a considerable amount against the land sold from time to time. The debtors for lands sold, loans for house construction, &c., amount to £299,431, as compared with £178,444. This amount would naturally be larger, except, as I told you above, the exchange has been taken at 7½d, as against 9½d. These debts are collectable over a period of six to eight years, and carry interest at 6 per cent. for the land sold and 10 per cent. for loans for house construction. The cash on hand is £91,252, as against £95,544 last year.

The machinery for the carrying out of the scheme has been that a company called the San Paulo Mortgage and Finance Company, Limited, has been registered, with £100,000 ordinary capital, which has all been subscribed by this company, and £95,000 of this money has been lent back to this company against the security of a certain amount of our book debts. The San Paulo Mortgage and Finance Company, Limited, has issued and will continue to issue debentures for the purpose of supplying cash for loans for house construction, and we apply from time to time for such amounts as are necessary. The procedure is that the party purchasing a

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

Mr. H. E. Cradock seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff.

It has been the good fortune of my predecessors to present to you balance-sheets showing large and, generally speaking, progressive profits. At first blush it may be thought that I should enlist your sympathy in presenting to you in the first year of my chairmanship a report of a less favourable character; but, in spite of the figures that are before you, I do not propose to apologise for the results, but rather to congratulate you on having weathered the storm in such a satisfactory manner—a storm which has disturbed the industrial world during the last two years. Those of you closely connected with industry, and especially with industries involving the carrying of stocks, will appreciate the enormous anxiety of those in control during the early months of the year 1921. I believe I am right in saying that few business experts in the industrial world had foreseen the world-wide collapse in values that occurred in that period. Now, what was our position? We have a huge business, engaged in supplying a staple article of food to a very large proportion of the population in this country and abroad. Our business does *not* consist in buying a commodity to-day and selling it to-morrow. We import from overseas the raw materials, consisting of the nuts and seeds necessary for the manufacture of margarine, and we have an

Telegraphic Address : Kansallispankki.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

CENTRAL AMERICA

- GUATEMALA
- SALVADOR
- MANAGUA
- SANTA MARTA
- BARRANGULLA
- PUERTO CABELLO
- CARTAGENA
- CARACAS
- MEDELLIN
- BOGOTA
- MANTA
- GUAYAQUIL
- IGUITOS

SOUTH AMERICA

- LIMA
- LIQUIQUE
- ANTOFAGASTA
- COPIAPO
- COQUIMBO
- VALPARAISO
- SANTIAGO
- CHILLAN
- TALCAHUANO
- CONCEPCION
- PERNAMBUCO
- BAHIA
- RIO DE JANEIRO
- SAO PAULO
- SANTOS
- PORTO ALEGRE
- PELOTAS
- RIO GRANDE DO SUL
- MERCEDES
- ROSARIO
- MONTE VIDEO
- BUENOS AIRES
- PERGAMINO
- MENDOZA
- SAN RAFAEL
- BAHIA BLANCA
- TRELEW
- COMODORO RIVADAVIA
- PUERTO DESEADO
- SAN JULIAN
- SANTA CRUZ
- RIO GALLEGOS
- PUNTA ARENAS

GREAT BRITAIN

BRADFORD
MANCHESTER
LONDON
PARIS

FRANCE

VIGO
BILBAO
MADRID
SEVILLE
BARCELONA
VALENCIA

HEAD OFFICE:

**62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.**

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliations:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
 AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

● BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

† BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

* BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

extensive organisation dealing with the crushing, extracting and refining of these materials.

MARKET FLUCTUATIONS.

We have large factories for this purpose, and in order that we may be able to fill the weekly requirements of our customers, it is necessary that provision for keeping these factories supplied must be made *months in advance*, and that sufficient margin be allowed to meet any emergency. Therefore, we are bound to buy ahead, and are consequently always subject to the fluctuations of the market. In this case the abnormal fall affected us greatly. It must not, however, be forgotten that there was a great readjustment of values, as an aftermath of the war. Fortunately, markets have now come down to more normal levels, and such great fluctuations are not likely to occur again in the future. We are therefore in a better position with regard to raw materials, but we have still the fluctuations of the foreign exchanges to reckon with.

The final figure in the accounts is a balance on the credit side of £106,566, from which accrued dividends are deducted on the front page reducing this figure to £106,064, not a big sum compared with former amounts carried forward, but we have the reserve fund of £500,000 untouched, and we thus start with £600,000 to the good in the following year. In the course of the year all the factories in which we are interested have been visited by one of the directors of your company. They are now fully equipped, and have been brought well up to date. The directors have given unremitting attention to the effecting of economies and the adoption of new methods of manufacture, by which superiority is secured. I believe that in this respect we are not behind any of our competitors; in fact, our great experience places us *above* a great many of them.

A GOOD AND EXTENDING TRADE.

We have succeeded in retaining all our connections, and are doing a good and extending trade in the various countries in which we and our associated companies are working. I will not trouble you by mentioning the various brands which are held in such high estimation in the many countries in which we operate, but I will again allude to the "Blue Band," with which you are all familiar, and which, after having been in the market for some years, is continually adding to its popularity. We have had no strikes to contend with, and are pleased with the way the factories have been conducted, and we cannot praise too highly our staff, which has given us every assistance in difficult times. In conclusion, I feel confident that the character of your company as a profit-earning concern, proved by the results in former years, has been maintained unimpaired. Since the beginning of the present year we have seen the adverse conditions under which it commenced gradually change for the better, and although it has taken some time for these improvements to develop, we are fully satisfied with the results obtained during the last months, which, I am glad to say, are being well maintained. We have not deemed it advisable to recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares. At the same time, I think it is only right for me to point out that we have paid the full dividend on the preferred ordinary shares, resulting from splitting the old £1 ordinary shares, and on the bonus shares, which is equivalent to no less than 2½ per cent. on such original £1 shares.

Sir Walter Townley seconded the adoption of the report, and it was unanimously agreed to.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £55,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, October 9-October 14, were opened on October 6, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £78,775,000. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 7s 9d about 84 per cent. and above in full; Saturday bills £99 7s 11d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 8s 3.57d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, nil; in bills at 3 months, £50,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
July 21, 1922.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 77,055,000	£ s d 1 16 10 8	100 4 11 4
July 28.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6 41	100 14 0
Aug. 4.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10 76	100 6 5 42
Aug. 11.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,795,000	2 2 0 99	100 3 1 44
Aug. 18.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 65,335,000	2 11 0 17	None allotted
Aug. 25.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,590,000	2 7 9 28	None allotted
Sept. 1.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 58,605,000	2 11 8 33	None allotted
Sept. 8.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 67,675,000	2 7 1 56	None allotted
Sept. 15.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 0 11 97	None allotted
Sept. 22.	(a) 60,000,000	(a) 74,355,000	2 10 0 98	None allotted
Sept. 29.	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 66,350,000	2 8 3 57	None allotted
Oct. 6.	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 78,775,000		

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, October 13, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.
(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Advances to	Redemption Account.	Bank of England.
1914.	£	£	£	£
Aug. 26.	21,535	6,302	3,810	11,423
Dec. 30.	38,478	169	600	9,286
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	20,536
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	54,621
Dec. 25.	212,782	8,554	39	118,102
Dec. 31.	323,241	15,529	570	186,637
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	305,133
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962	245	337,537
Dec. 27.	343,826	15,599	28,500	336,504
June 30.	321,884	14,965	3,000	311,334
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	28,500	287,750
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	3,000	278,119
1922.				
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	5,000	261,479
June 28.	295,374	13,338	6,000	254,312
Sept. 13.	291,585	12,719	7,000	249,007
20.	283,756	12,475	7,000	246,918
27.	289,127	12,648	7,000	246,456
Oct. 4.	291,243	13,268	7,000	249,108

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,368,400.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.	
ASSETS	CLAIMS PAID
£7,657,433	£27,500,000
Employers' Accidents and Illness, Fire and Burglary, Fidelity Guarantees, Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts, Executives and Trusteeships.	
Head Office: 36-44 MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.	

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 4, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£ 144,048,395
Government debt	£ 11,015,100
Other securities	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion	125,598,395
	144,048,395
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Capital	£ 14,653,000
Reserve	3,095,170
Public deposits*	16,695,645
Other deposits	122,167,207
Seven-day & other bills	17,941
	156,528,963
Government securities	£ 60,266,973
Other securities	73,589,534
Notes	20,848,626
Gold and silver coin..	1,823,836
	156,528,963

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Oct. 4, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest			
Public deposits	£ 3,095,170	—	—
Other deposits	16,695,645	—	—
Government securities	122,167,207	—	—
Other securities	73,589,534	—	—
Reserve	3,095,170	—	—
Note circulation	122,167,207	—	—
Coin and bullion	125,598,395	—	—
% of reserve to liabilities	168%	—	—

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%	%
July 12.	127,900,698	124,248,705	124,987,104	120,766,661	22,101,993	178 5	—
19.	127,402,158	124,256,265	126,641,810	122,955,489	21,595,893	177	—
26.	127,403,930	124,757,630	121,873,106	118,748,150	21,096,300	174	—
Aug. 2.	127,399,520	125,774,190	123,325,355	121,260,295	20,075,330	164	—
9.	127,399,880	125,542,210	120,739,131	118,482,895	20,307,670	164	—
16.	127,407,660	124,261,430	125,756,806	122,247,262	21,596,230	174	—
23.	127,411,172	125,918,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	177	—
30.	127,412,713	122,879,715	125,035,544	120,237,248	22,982,998	188	—
Sept. 6.	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,218,383	23,809,071	193	—
13.	127,426,811	121,490,640	124,320,645	118,141,617	24,386,171	193	—
20.	127,431,595	122,467,180	120,660,586	115,448,940	23,414,115	193	—
27.	127,422,231	123,199,775	138,862,582	135,856,507	25,672,456	168	—

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Oct. 2, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Oct. 6, 1920.	Oct. 5, 1921.	Oct. 4, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	29,585,215	28,933,380	127,803,975	125,666,690	123,199,775
Public deposits	13,946,646	19,014,809	21,249,755	19,266,387	16,695,645
Other deposits	43,075,062	41,248,964	134,762,490	127,721,217	122,167,207
Government securities	13,338,084	11,046,570	63,789,255	58,540,907	60,266,973
Other securities	34,202,525	41,461,280	96,018,994	84,948,639	73,589,534
Reserve of notes and coin	27,602,505	25,453,980	13,841,479	21,197,151	22,672,456
Coin and bullion	38,577,720	35,947,360	123,195,454	128,413,841	127,422,231
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	483%	423%	87%	143%	168%
Bank rate of discount	4%	3%	7%	5½%	2½%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	3½-4	7½	6½-7	4½	5½
Price of Consols	29½	26½	56½	42½	35½
Price of silver per oz.	31s 7d	33s 0d	90s 7d	56s 10d	37s 9d
Average price of wheat	25-26½	25-17½	52-30-52	52-00-52-55	57-95-58-10
Exchange (Paris)	84-82½	83-50½	51-74	83-74½	84-39½-41½
New York	12-14-3	12-05-10	11-25-28	11-65-69	11-35-37
London	20-48½	20-49½	22-22-26	46-5-47	89-00-95-00
Clearing house return	372,836,000	199,913,000	883,375,000	770,403,000	745,797,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.	£	£	£
January 1—September 27.	25,863,504,000	2,086,027,000	27,949,531,000
October 4.	693,494,000	52,303,000	745,797,000
Total to date 1922.	26,556,998,000	2,138,330,000	28,695,328,000
Do 1921.	24,067,327,000	2,318,671,000	26,385,998,000
Increase or decrease in 1922.	+ 2,489,671,000	- 180,341,000	+ 2,308,730,000
	+ 10.4%	- 7.7%	+ 8.7%
Total for 1921.	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920.	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921.	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8.6%	- 26.2%	- 10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to September 30.	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	95,721,800	84,301,400	- 11,420,400
BRISTOL	58,497,000	53,296,000	- 5,201,000
DUBLIN	272,884,200	237,093,300	- 35,790,900
HULL	41,744,300	42,241,300	+ 497,000
LEEDS	29,099,400	30,554,100	+ 1,454,700
LIVERPOOL	346,548,000	320,712,900	- 25,835,100
MANCHESTER	548,943,600	579,505,700	+ 30,562,100
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	71,786,400	71,688,700	- 97,700
NOTTINGHAM	26,846,200	25,273,900	- 1,572,300
SHEFFIELD	44,204,500	35,958,500	- 8,246,000

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

RESOURCES.		Sept. 29, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
Total gold reserve	£	3,076,910	3,061,870	3,067,230	2,725,970
Legal tender notes and silver reserve.	£	126,180	128,000	130,200	152,720
Bills discounted for member banks	£	420,180	423,910	38,170	1,402,900
Bills bought in open market	£	238,120	220,270	204,660	38,890
Government obligations owned	£	451,450	438,980	496,880	224,260
All other resources	£	63,470	63,070	67,070	54,210
LIABILITIES.		Sept. 29, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
Government deposits	£	19,950	57,020	39,290	67,250
Other deposits	£	1,820,190	1,796,770	1,832,810	1,660,150
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	£	2,243,380	2,218,760	2,213,620	2,457,200
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	£	46,070	46,830	50,220	101,370
All other liabilities	£	23,640	23,080	22,770	21,330
Capital and surplus	£	321,570	321,580	321,470	316,870
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	%	78.4%	78.3%	78.3%	69%

BANK OF FRANCE.

ASSETS.		Oct. 5, 1922.	Sept. 26, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Oct. 1, 1921.	May 28, 1914.
Gold coin and bullion	Fr.	5,532,672	5,532,616	5,532,434	5,532,304	5,730,625
Of which held abroad	Fr.	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367	632,650
Silver coin and bullion	Fr.	287,470	287,197	286,761	287,197	2,327,775
Discount and advances	Fr.	5,696,990	4,209,968	3,950,856	4,618,917	—
LIABILITIES.		Oct. 5, 1922.	Sept. 26, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Oct. 1, 1921.	May 28, 1914.
Notes	Fr.	37,514,493	36,522,902	36,585,364	37,792,329	5,811,875
Government deposits	Fr.	17,124	19,725	40,787	35,037	183,700
Private deposits	Fr.	2,341,345	2,178,992	2,159,111	2,336,330	845,960

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	July 31, 1921
ASSETS.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash and bank balances..	447,719	459,360	439,802	476,812
Bank balances abroad ..	126,750	136,248	136,159	165,128
Call and short loans ..	271,989	274,418	287,786	268,443
Securities ..	373,471	318,413	318,413	330,571
Loans in Canada ..	1,196,524	1,215,936	1,236,934	1,338,571
Loans abroad ..	144,072	148,225	144,896	155,238
Other assets ..	97,315	100,558	101,906	106,207
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation ..	161,887	166,085	155,652	193,339
Deposits—				
Government ..	87,546	89,094	96,412	128,778
Public in Canada ..	1,668,224	1,687,162	1,691,975	1,820,312
Foreign ..	347,529	365,770	367,434	274,232
Bank balances—				
Canadian ..	6,379	9,973	8,793	10,300
Foreign ..	34,284	33,693	37,171	39,030
Bills payable, &c ..	2,172	24,521	25,758	40,409
Other liabilities ..	2,328	2,963	4,182	2,816
Unpaid rent ..	255,068	254,414	254,291	264,346

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 20, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.						
Total cash	1,333,072	1,332,933	1,302,393	1,356,122	1,395,954	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,481,713	4,436,742	4,428,936	4,476,681	3,069,920	418,400
Foreign bills	9,506	9,725	9,756	9,758	19,462	81,300
Advances to Treasury	6,088,798	6,112,626	6,120,157	6,151,617	6,358,858	79,175
Other advances	2,602,331	2,461,852	2,496,122	2,579,513	2,726,645	203,700
Securities	534,350	533,272	531,911	533,331	403,439	1,556,925
LIABILITIES						
Note circulation	13,805,275	13,737,727	13,989,785	14,064,400	13,878,474	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,860,385	1,878,601	1,830,192	1,776,733	1,630,389	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 2, 1922.	Sept. 25, 1922.	Sept. 18, 1922.	Sept. 11, 1922.	Oct. 3, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	593,859	593,859	605,954	605,959	605,969	163,092
Silver	8,808	9,033	8,902	8,778	9,558	8,436
Depts. & advances	414,982	352,330	364,451	370,113	459,721	153,504
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	1,001,970	960,119	968,147	977,278	1,040,476	316,532
Deposits	39,755	22,117	22,249	24,261	39,635	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1921.
Assets.					
Gold	511,339	511,337	511,332	511,332	495,459
Silver	561	460	381	368	305
Government loan	12,570,365	12,567,057	12,553,278	12,541,736	10,856,280
Other advances	3,509,877	3,161,106	3,152,118	3,123,826	3,102,897
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	14,739,676	14,569,673	14,448,142	14,411,813	12,069,910
Deposits	6,328,883	6,058,160	6,079,632	6,100,509	6,352,421

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	505,292	506,012	507,317	508,301	547,744	171,175
Silver	114,689	114,742	115,090	115,090	124,025	18,350
Darlehens-Kassen	10,983	11,142	11,199	11,248	15,338	15,338
Assets & advances	301,739	284,912	358,870	357,653	353,395	103,000
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	811,008	747,903	749,205	762,738	970,833	275,925
Deposits	173,972	220,264	290,219	280,655	92,452	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehens-Kasse) shows that up to August 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.19,259,684, of which Fr.11,241,750 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 16, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Oct. 1, 1921.	May 24, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	273,616	273,625	273,662	273,732	275,937	104,918
Balance abrd. and foreign bills	77,186	79,012	78,482	77,797	110,552	112,172
Swedish and for.	73,966	74,086	74,007	73,464	20,661	32,465
Gov. securities	399,751	363,052	385,070	396,854	436,150	112,668
Discount and loans	399,751	363,052	385,070	396,854	436,150	112,668
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	604,616	522,859	538,873	543,183	689,780	226,555
Deposits at notice	180,196	201,370	208,642	221,804	110,028	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 28, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Sept. 14, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
Assets.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	333,287	332,778	330,994	329,200	326,708	332,650
Securities	506,536	492,973	489,629	472,292	467,973	697,600
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	6,517,769	6,483,141	6,501,105	6,490,324	6,212,237	934,150
Current accounts	545,558	547,845	531,120	537,318	821,237	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.
Assets.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills.	699	751	729	736
Silver coin	21	21	21	21
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	735,014,786	683,238,678	610,457,600	531,102,977
Loans	1,645,602	1,709,779	1,682,277	1,550,577
LIABILITIES				
Notes in circulation	1,960,309,570	1,700,865,397	1,517,179,852	1,353,403,632
Deposits	169,439,812	164,157,872	122,420,962	116,011,372

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.
Assets.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills.	13,493	13,199	13,010	12,868
Silver coin, &c.	597	597	597	597
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	44,795,454	42,270,842	39,514,557	37,617,052
Loans	1,851,138	1,850,147	1,850,147	1,772,752
LIABILITIES				
Notes in circulation	55,412,204	52,404,972	48,839,762	46,242,206
Deposits	6,563,619	5,360,531	4,704,919	5,416,557

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.						
Coin and bullion	228,299	228,304	228,304	228,310	228,326	76,444
Loans & discounts	516,854	421,515	415,941	398,400	29,866	24,102
Debtors abroad	13,745	18,018	25,339	24,014	46,305	11,988
Securities	15,910	16,499	16,238	14,014	46,305	11,988
LIABILITIES						
Circulation	466,555	423,751	432,305	441,940	481,391	157,266
Deposits	217,064	147,015	142,399	119,028	88,629	6,696

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.	Aug. 25, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1921.
Assets.					
Govt. securities	10,20,58	10,47,71	12,40,78	12,40,78	13,84,8
Loans	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,38,6
Cash credits	17,10,74	17,19,40	16,96,12	16,69,84	15,51,35
Inland bills	25,43,91	26,36,90	25,57,56	26,09,33	22,41,21
Foreign bills	4,24,32	4,18,26	3,61,98	3,72,97	7,95,67
Bullion	7,33	7,47	8,36	13,95	84
Dead stock	2,45,67	2,44,35	2,44,51	2,43,71	2,11,60
Bundries	30,81	29,59	23,32	27,95	28,91
Balances with other banks	41,03,64	44,37,53	44,98,48	43,61,64	30,30,33
LIABILITIES					
Capital paid up	11,24,56	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,05,48
Reserve	5,62,39	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,62,38	5,57,22
Public deposits	19,09,95	19,09,95	19,09,95	19,09,95	19,09,95
Other deposits	71,66,72	71,66,72	71,66,72	71,66,72	71,66,72
Loans against securities	1,20,72	1,21,21	69,47,37	64,81,32	74,20,42
The above includes—	68,30	62,62	57,15	63,96	58,92
Deposits in London	218	215	218	223	26
Advances in London	879	849	520	422	577
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	155	180	162	167	113

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	July 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.					
Gold	3,360	3,359	3,362	3,369	1,571
Government securities	36,801	36,046	38,779	34,414	2,084
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	26,631	28,334	30,322	30,123	2,400
Government deposits	4,636	4,216	3,069	2,142	2,315
Other deposits	12,528	12,632	12,401	13,578	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	197,291	197,291	197,291	197,291	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	42,793	41,718	39,857	30,794	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,415	9,415	9,415	8,545	8,816
Discounts and loans	444,009	430,040	433,144	425,977	76,911
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	383,571	373,662	376,396	415,885	113,484
Deposits at notice	134,805	132,034	130,929	84,579	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 4, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 24, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.					
Gold	42,625	42,625	42,625	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	329,655	261,704	170,530	387,663	90,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities	695,535	695,536	697,511	892,558	21,826
Discounts and loans	745,694	802,726	813,435	412,289	105,151
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	1,554,750	1,362,803	1,360,281	1,386,892	123,941
Deposits at notice	180,339	161,310	116,277	102,172	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 16, 1922.	Aug. 9, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	July 26, 1922.	Aug. 17, 1921.
Assets.					
Coin and bullion	26,660	26,655	26,660	26,686	27,841
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	3,143	3,355	3,361	3,362	4,154
Discounts	152,747	151,349	150,417	147,451	115,863
Government loans	720,097	720,097	720,097	720,097	608,109
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	849,511	847,286	843,659	832,079	649,102
Deposits	41,418	42,602	44,869	49,788	52,926

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)

	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Assets.						
Gold	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,138	38,101	38,044
Silver	19,563	19,703	19,868	19,956	20,252	20,583
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613	111,535
Bills discounted	27,357	27,644	22,577	20,372	17,292	9,041
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489	3,587,627
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,325,322	1,442,811

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

		Par Level.	Oct. 5, 1921.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Oct. 5, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	2.534	0.18	0.145	0.125
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123.45	4.64	0.375	0.305	0.26
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88.88	4.36	0.33	0.275	0.234
Stockholm	Kroner to 100 marks		5.62	0.26	0.216	0.181
Christiania			6.80	0.41	0.337	0.271

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Rigs on—	Latvian Roubles for	Aug. 22, 1922	Sept. 1, 1922.	Sept. 8, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922
		Selling.	Selling.	Selling.	Selling.
London	£1	1,164	1,160	1,160	1,146
New York	\$1	2593	200	2593	2593
Paris	100 frs.	2,075	2,000	2,025	1,950
Brussels	100 frs.	1,975	1,875	1,900	1,875
Switzerland	100 frs.	4,950	4,950	4,950	4,850
Italy	100 lire	6,875	6,900	6,900	6,850
Stockholm	100 kr.	5,625	5,575	5,575	5,500
Copenhagen	100 kr.	4,525	4,350	4,350	4,325
Christiania	100 kr.	803	847	892	868
Prague	100 kr.	10,125	10,150	10,125	10,125
Amsterdam	100 hfl.	23	16	19	17
Berlin	100 mk.	73	73	73	76
Helsingfors	100 mk.	73	73	73	76
Reval	100 mk.	73	73	73	76
Warsaw	100 mk.	4	34	34	42

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From April 25, 1922.		From May 3, 1922.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
On demand	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
30 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
60 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
90 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
120 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discounts allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.		Australia and New Zealand on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
	Aus. tralia.	New Zealand.	Aus. tralia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
On demand	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
30 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
60 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
90 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.
120 days	11% prem.	11% dis.	11% prem.	11% dis.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.
Outstanding with public	Rs. 54,01,65,000	Rs. 24,63,35,000
In paper currency reserve	Rs. 57,89,00,000	Rs. 53,40,00,000
Total	Rs. 111,90,65,000	Rs. 78,03,35,000

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended October 4, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £9,364 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended Oct. 4, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended Oct. 4, 1922.
Belgium	£ 125	Norway	£ 246
Belgian Congo	51,062	Netherlands	2,000
British South Africa	927,065	U.S.A.	114,700
		British India	64,244
Total value of imports of gold	978,252	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	181,190

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on October 5th, as follows:—

GOLD.

A large amount of gold came on offer, the greater part of which was taken for the United States of America, India being only a moderate buyer. Gold to the value of \$8,800,000 has

arrived in New York—\$4,500,000 from Rotterdam and \$4,300,000 from London. The Government of India have announced the removal of all restrictions on the export of wheat and other grains, pulses and flour. This should tend to encourage remittances to India. It is rumoured that in the course of some trading negotiations between Jugo-Slavia and Czechoslovakia the question of establishing some sort of a currency union between those two countries was discussed—such a rapprochement seems reasonable in view of their proximity and many common interests. For nearly 50 years past the three Scandinavian countries modelled their currencies—gold standard, &c.—upon the same system, and also passed identical legislation regarding bills of exchange.

CURRENCY.

We have received the following interesting communication relating to Indian copper nickel coinage, to which reference was made in our letter dated September 21st:—"Copper nickel alloy money, being of a yellowish colour and liable to tarnish, is not difficult to counterfeit; but coins of pure nickel metal are not subject to tarnish, and, being of a bright white lustre, are practically proof against successful counterfeitures. Moreover, while copper nickel is a comparatively soft alloy, and consequently easy to work, pure nickel is very hard, thereby offering almost insuperable difficulty to successful counterfeiture, and, in addition, pure nickel being subject to magnetic attraction, spurious coins composed of alloys can be immediately detected. As a fact, we believe that the Government of India has in contemplation the replacing of their copper-nickel coinage by pure nickel coins, with the object of preventing counterfeiture."

SILVER.

Again the market has shown a lack of vitality. As supplies continued to be scanty, the tendency was inclined to be upward during the early part of the week, but the absence of any eagerness to buy from India and China rendered prolonged improvement in prices out of the question. A slight scarcity of spot silver—brought about to a large extent by the covering of bear operations—has maintained a small premium here or in the East to speculate, owing to the difficulty of obtaining a clear lead as to the future, is the chief reason for the recent inactivity of the market. The Eastern trade, which used to be a stimulant, has for a long time past been absent. From demonetised East African coins. We understand that these consisted of rupee currency struck by the German Government for use in its East African possessions, and that the supply is now nearing its end.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.
(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,121	18,089	18,076
Silver coin and bullion in India	8,870	8,909	8,967
Silver coin and bullion out of India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India	6,235	6,163	6,092
Securities (Indian Government)	584	585	585
Securities (British Government)			

No silver coinage is reported during the week ending 30th ultimo. The stock in Shanghai on the 30th ult. consisted of silver bars, as compared with about 38,900,000 ounces in sycee, 35,500,000 dollars, and 3,870 silver bars on the 23rd ult. The Shanghai exchange was quoted at 3s 53d yesterday. Statistics for the month of September are appended:—

	Cash Delivery.	Two Months' Delivery.	Bar Gold.
Highest price	35 3/4	35 3/4	Per Ounce
Lowest "	35 3/8	35 3/8	Fine.
Average "	35 3/8	35 3/8	92 1/2

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.		
Sept. 30..	93 10	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	Oct. 13, 1916	32 1/2
Oct. 2..	94 0	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	12, 1917	44 1/2
3..	93 9	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	12, 1918	49 1/2
4..	93 8	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	10, 1919	62 1/2
5..	93 1	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	8, 1920	56 1/2
6..	93 4	35 3/4	35 3/4	35 3/4	7, 1921	41 1/2

NOTICES.

The directors of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, have appointed Mr Francis E. King to be chief inspector, in place of Mr J. T. Pringle, who has retired after 45 years' service with the bank.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they will open on Monday next, October 9th, new branches at Victoria road, New Brighton, under the management of Mr J. L. W. Solley, and at 75, High street, Deal, under the management of Mr E. G. Wilkinson.

A branch of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, was opened on October 2nd at 5, Royal parade, London road, West Croydon, under the management of Mr E. H. Worsfold. Hours of business, daily 9 to 3, Saturdays 9 to 12. A branch is now open at 13 Institute place, Albert road, Silvertown, E. 16, under the management of Mr A. P. Warr, with Mr W. J. Lemmon as clerk-in-charge.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a new branch of the bank was opened on October 2nd at 12 Royal parade, Finchley road, Temple Fortune, N.W. 11, under the management of Mr H. F. Scott, of the Golder's Green branch. A branch of the bank is now open at 149 High street, Clapham, S.W. 4, under the management of Mr B. M. Rumbold.

Mr J. A. W. Gain, late of Barclays Bank (Overseas), Limited, and formerly general manager in Spain of the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, has been appointed manager of the Export Credit Section of the Department of Overseas Trade.

Tenders for Rs.100,00,000 six months' Indian Treasury bills were opened on September 28th. The total amount applied for was Rs.4,27,90,000. Tenders at Rs.97 15a were allotted about 75 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs.97 15a 3p per cent., equivalent to a rate of discount of 4.1793 per cent. per annum. Intermediate bills will be offered for sale in India during the week at Rs.98 1a per cent., and tenders were received on Friday, October 6th, for Rs.150,00,000 six months' Treasury bills for issue during the week commencing October 9th.

THE
STANDARD BANK
OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(with which is incorporated the
AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.)

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£5,916,660
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£2,229,165
RESERVE FUND	£2,893,335
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£6,687,495
	£11,809,995

Board of Directors.
William Referson Arbuthnot, Esq., Solomon B. Joel, Esq., J.P.
Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G. Horace Peel, Esq.
Edward Clifton Brown, Esq. Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq. William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq. Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I. G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.P.E.

Senior General Manager in South Africa—J. P. Gibson.
Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey, James S. Shiel.
Asst. Gen. Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
London Manager—Francis Shipton, Secretary—Herbert G. Hoey.

Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4
London Wall Branch: 63, London Wall, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

(Opposite the Royal Colonial Institute.)
NEW YORK AGENCY: 68 WALL STREET.
ROTTERDAM BRANCH: 16 COOLSINGEL.
HAMBURG AGENCY.

Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53 SCHAUBENBURGER-STRASSE.
Over 370 Branches. Sub-Branches and Agencies in CAPE PROVINCE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE, TRANSVAAL, RHODESIA, NYASALAND, BASUTOLAND, KENYA COLONY, KENYA PROTECTORATE, UGANDA, ZANZIBAR, PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA, SOUTH WEST AFRICA, TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, BELGIAN CONGO.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION transacted at all Branches and Agencies.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the usual terms, and **DEPOSITS RECEIVED** for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS opened on terms, particulars of which may be obtained at Branches.

BILLS NEGOTIATED AND COLLECTED.
DRAFTS ISSUED, MAIL AND TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES MADE.
LETTERS OF CREDIT AND COMMERCIAL CREDITS ESTABLISHED.
TRAVELLER'S LETTERS OF CREDIT issued available in all parts of the world.
PURCHASE AND SALE OF STOCKS AND SHARES effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., RECEIVED AND COUPONS COLLECTED.
STRONG ROOMS provided for the safe custody of Securities and Valuable of Customers.

ASSAY DEPARTMENT—Gold, etc., and all Mineral Ores assayed and **EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE** business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'st Pre-vious.
Railways.					
Bengal Naxpur	..	Jan. 1	..	6	6
Central Uruguay	..	..	..	nil	nil
Do Eastern Extension	7/ p.s.	Oct. 24	Less tax	6	7 1/2
Do Northern Extension	5/ p.s.	Oct. 24	Less tax	4 1/2	5
Cleveland, Cincinnati, &c.	2 %	Nov. 1	..	..	..
Banks.					
Bank of Adelaide	10*	..	..	..	..
Bank of Scotland	16*	Oct. 16	Less tax	..	..
Colonial ("A & B")	8/	..	..	..	..
London and Brazilian	10/ p.s.	Oct. 24	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.					
Commercial Union	10/ p.s.	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..
Phoenix	6/ p.s.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Balmoral (Ceylon)	5 %	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Bogawantalawa District	6 %	Oct. 12	Less tax	..	..
Eastern Produce and Estates	5 %	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Kinta Kelas Rubber	10 %	..	..	17 1/2	12 1/2
Kurugama Tea	10 %	..	..	..	..
Vellikelle Tea of Ceylon	10 %	Oct. 4	Less tax	..	..
Mining.					
Alianza Co.	20 %	Nov. 2	Less tax	..	..
Arizona Copper	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Gaika Gold	30/ p.s.	Oct. 20	..	..	..
Nipissing	2/ p.s.	Dec. 6	Less tax	..	..
North Broken Hill	9/ p.s.	Oct. 28	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	..
Oreogum Gold	1/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.					
Alger (Spinning)	5*	Nov. 1	..	..	..
Alliance Investment, Delft	5*	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Greek Magnesite	5*	Oct. 20	Less tax	..	..
Antwerp Cable Works	..	..	..	..	..
Argentine Land and Investment (paid-up Ord.)	..	Oct. 27	Less tax	20	20
Army and Navy Co-operative	16 p.s.	Oct. 16	..	..	..
Bell Telephone of Canada	2%	Oct. 14	..	..	..
Bell's United Asbestos	6 p.s.	Oct. 23	Less tax	2 1/2	10
Bengal Iron	9/ p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Birmingham Small Arms, "A"	..	..	..	..	..
Do "B" Pref.	5	Oct. 10	Less tax	..	..
Borax Consolidated, Prefd.	6	Nov. 1	Less tax 5s in £	..	..
Borneo Co.	2 1/2%	Oct. 10	Less tax	..	..
Brisbane Electric Tramways	8*	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..
Bromley (Kent) Electric	8*	Oct. 10	Tax free	..	..
Brown, Hopwood, and Gilbert	3/ p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Canada Co.	1/ p.s.	Oct. 23	Less tax	..	..
Carlton Main Colliery	1/ p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Central Spinning	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Chapman and Sons, Eastbourne	5%	..	..	..	..
Cockshutt Flow, Pref.	1%	Nov. 1	..	..	..
Colt's Iron Works, Pref.	13%	Nov. 1	..	..	..
Dominion Steel Corp. Pref.	13 p.s.	Oct. 9	Tax free	15	15
Edward Lloyd	2%	..	Tax free	3	3
Enfield Cycle	2%	..	Tax free	2/ p.s.	4/3 p.s.
Equitable Loan of Scotland	..	..	..	10	10
Gandy Belt Manufacturing	..	Oct. 20	..	..	..
Goode, Durrah, and Co.	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..
Haugh Ring (Spinning)	3/ p.s.	..	Tax free	7	10
Hurst, Nelson, and Co.	4%	..	..	..	..
J. Hepworth and Son	4%	..	Less tax	..	..
John Dickinson and Co.	1/ p.s.	Nov. 1	Tax free	(b) 7 1/2	10 1/4
Kerr, Stuart, and Co.	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Lawsons, Limited	2/6 p.s.	..	..	..	..
Lowfield Spinning	15 %	..	..	..	..
Maynard's, Limited	15 %	..	..	..	..
Melbourne City Properties	16 p.s.	Nov. 15	Tax free	7	7
Mitchell and Mail	3%	..	Tax free	..	..
National and Foreign Securities	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..
New Hay Bax (Spinning)	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..
New Ladyhouse (Spinning)	2/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
North British Canadian	10%	..	Less tax	..	..
Nottingham Mfg. Co.	5%	..	Tax free	..	..

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Oct. 1, 1922.			Aggregate 39 Weeks 1922.		
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	6763	50,600	134,200	184,800	1,999,300	5,067,700
Do Joint Lines	1613	124,100	92,400	216,500	4,884,100	5,079,000
Great Eastern (c)	1,2073	81,500	128,300	299,800	3,825,300	5,124,600
Great Northern (c)	1,050	325,000	352,000	675,000	1,169,000	1,844,000
Great Western (d)	3,657	345,000	426,000	771,000	1,493,300	1,632,000
London & North-Western (d) ..	2,633	136,500	59,800	196,300	2,553,200	2,244,200
London & South-Western (d) ..	968	103,065	24,079	127,144	3,808,913	1,089,383
London, Brighton & S.C. (c) ..	423	1,262	2,004	3,266	47,277	72,840
Maritime & Carlisle (c)	794	32,917	3,501	36,218	1,294,702	135,434
Metropolitan (c)	1,5854	190,000	322,000	512,000	7,131,000	12,326,000
Midland (c)	63	151,800	197,300	349,100	5,289,600	9,445,000
Midland & S.W. Jnc.	1,850	16,468	9,224	13,912	188,162	378,806
North-Eastern (c)	16	162,000	51,500	213,500	5,465,700	1,685,500
South-East & Chatham (c) ..	654	..	..	236,000	..	..
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
London & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caledonian	1,097	85,500	106,200	191,700	2,886,500	8,366,300
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	476	38,700	35,700	74,400	1,272,600	1,333,000
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	3344	11,250	9,610	20,860	379,920	353,830
Highland (c)	492 (a)	15,067	120,900	29,518	483,551	403,269
North British (c)	1,3772	78,000	..	198,900	2,626,400	5,334,800
Belmont and County	80	5,524	1,272	6,796	213,345	51,540
Down (b)	160	6,857	2,967	9,824	..	..
Dublin and S. East (b)	534	12,511	20,729	33,440	381,342	573,619
Midland Gt. West. (b)	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended September 29, 1922.
(c) Week ended September 30, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	22 weeks	Sept. 2	1,049	2,38,311	+ 70,019	50,52,558	+ 21,92,541
Barak Lk. Ry.	22 weeks	Sept. 2	118	17,700	+ 5,500	8,38,300	+ 2,65,100
Bengal & N. W. Ry.	22 weeks	Sept. 2	67	4,75,760	+ 73,976	1,41,82,775	+ 2,82,900
Bengal Nagpur	21 weeks	Aug. 26	2,703	11,65,000	+ 1,82,000	2,82,38,000	+ 32,43,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	25 weeks	Sept. 23	2,971	17,13,000	+ 5,000	5,41,72,000	+ 54,23,000
Burma	22 weeks	Sept. 2	1,342	5,49,297	+ 12,066	1,44,88,824	+ 17,51,166
Dahli, Umballa & Kalka ..	24 weeks	Sept. 16	239	95,000	+ 2,375	21,92,947	+ 1,47,736
East Indian	20 weeks	Sept. 2	2,772	27,85,000	+ 2,74,000	7,69,55,000	+ 3,18,000
Gt. Indian Peninsula	23 weeks	Sept. 2	1,121	21,12,300	+ 63,300	6,42,14,067	+ 27,82,900
Madras & S. Mahr.	22 weeks	Sept. 2	3,028	12,50,000	+ 5,862	3,21,14,654	+ 31,33,103
North Indian	22 weeks	Sept. 2	2,529	46,358	+ 6,254	13,76,088	+ 83,748
Do Lucknow-Breilly	22 weeks	Sept. 2	302	48,388	+ 11,163	16,43,849	+ 22,540
South Indian	22 weeks	Sept. 2	1,852	9,13,995	+ 11,270	2,10,94,577	+ 24,53,202
Shan. Punjab (month)	2 mths	May 31	717	8,37,067	+ 21,012	14,84,039	+ 2,24,873
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	13 weeks	Sept. 30	752	11,300	+ 1,100	133,200	+ 27,100
Argentine Trans.	13 weeks	Sept. 30	111	3,110	+ 979	22,390	+ 1,515
B. A. and Pacific	13 weeks	Sept. 30	3,428	135,000	+ 25,000	1,663,000	+ 3,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	13 weeks	Sept. 30	3,947	158,000	+ 7,000	1,869,000	+ 13,000
B. A. Western	13 weeks	Sept. 30	1,882	46,000	+ 26,000	413,000	+ 185,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	12 mths	June 30	190	22,000	+ 19,000	231,000	+ 55,000
Central Argentine	13 weeks	Sept. 30	3,305	45,180	+ 6,378	547,000	+ 11,081
Cordoba Central	13 weeks	Sept. 30	1,205	53,500	+ 13,500	818,700	+ 34,000
Entre Rios	13 weeks	Sept. 30	811	17,500	+ 800	211,200	+ 51,500
Brazilian (b).							
Bras. Gt. Southern	8 mths	Aug. 31	1,005	12,500	+ 11,750	336,000	+ 48,150
Gt. West. of Brazil	39 weeks	Sept. 30	1,331	13,142	+ 2,128	130,872	+ 176,365
Leopoldina	39 weeks	Sept. 30	1,534	28,540	+ 6,429	1,105,374	+ 166,000
San Paulo	39 weeks	Sept. 30	52	1,125,000	+ 39,000	469,000	+ 166,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	39 weeks	Oct. 1	838	30,025	+ 13,930	819,170	+ 35,785
Nitrato (a-monthly)	39 weeks	Sept. 30	566	21,429	+ 13,203	81,354	+ 81,354
Peruvian Corp.	3 mths	Sept. 30	1,059	1,231,050	+ 111,640	3,775,962	+ 298,880
Taitai	2 mths	Aug. 31	172	13,493	+ 4,330	25,583	+ 7,147
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross \$1,102,974	500,572	7,020,807	3,080,221	..
Havana Central	13 weeks	Sept. 30	Net \$474,495	18,378	1,412,662	1,404,329	..
United of Havana	13 weeks	Sept. 30	9,625	25	122,118	17,300	..
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	13 weeks	Sept. 30	1,210	45,371	+ 1,403	626,811	+ 112,486
C. Urug. (East Bx.)	13 weeks	Sept. 30	273	24,807	+ 4,971	262,789	+ 25,524
C. Urug. (North Bx.)	13 weeks	Sept. 30	314	4,305	+ 2,351	51,705	+ 2,885
C. Urug. (West Bx.)	13 weeks	Sept. 30	185	2,603	+ 228	27,448	+ 5,991
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	211	2,666	+ 856	25,118	+ 787
North-West Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
Uruguay North	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	+ 1,201	10,638	+ 1,548
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	39 weeks	Sept. 30	15	13,900	+ 2,150	749,250	+ 138,600
Bilbao	9 mths	Sept. 30	15	1,149	+ 521	9,449	+ 5,991
Bolivar	9 mths	Sept. 30	136	8,500	+ 1,113	73,650	+ 8,283
Costa Rica	1 mth	July 31	13	19,277	+ 1,370	19,207	+ 1,370
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,452	+ 51,500
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	7 mths	July 31	31	45,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 6,000
Egyptian Delta	23 weeks	Sept. 10	559 (c)	7,824	+ 2,501	130,164	+ 22,936
Gt. Southern of Spain	38 weeks	Sept. 10	23	1,046,497	+ 3,145	3,008,427	+ 1,023,072
International of Central America ..	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross \$1,102,974	500,572	7,020,807	3,080,221	..
La Guaira & Caracas	12 weeks	Sept. 30	28	403	+ 1,090,000	210,300	+ 437,900
Mexican Railway	2 mths	Aug. 31	Net \$169,500	4,500	370,500	25,100	..
Do	2 mths	Aug. 31	Net \$169,500	4,500	370,500	25,100	..
Nasajo Occasahama	7 mths	July 31	153	12,760	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Onomama Railway	8 mths	Aug. 31	100	2,486	+ 454	37,553	+ 6,819
Puerto Cabello, do.	13 weeks	Sept. 30	100	144,056	+ 4,263	72,060	+ 12,964
Salvador	8 mths	Aug. 31	112	13,265	+ 75	93,203	+ 19,487
Santa Fe Provino	8 mths	Aug. 31	112	13,265	+ 75	93,203	+ 19,487
Samana & Santiago	8 mths	Aug. 31	112	13,265	+ 75	93,203	+ 19,487
Zafra and Hueva	8 mths	Aug. 31	112	13,265	+ 75	93,203	+ 19,487

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,201,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	235,653	235,395	400,430,580	+ 77,778,234	76,708,840	+ 54,882,820
Mar.	234,202	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,496	133,468,443	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May	235,333	234,931	447,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,565	+ 28,064,928
June	235,208	235,310	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678
July	234,556	235,082	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algonquin & Central	1 mth	July 31	Gross \$192,037	+ 8,353	192,037	+ 8,353
Hudson Bay	1 mth	July 31	Gross \$12,127,100	+ 207,207	41,221,390	+ 7,981,668
Canadian Ntn.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross \$4,712,400	+ 109,975	35,026,787	+ 7,776,029
Canadian Pac.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross \$1,863,110,000	+ 396,000	124,507,000	+ 11,881,000
Grand Trunk	39 weeks	Sept. 30	Gross \$1,863,110,000	+ 396,000	124,507,000	+ 11,881,000
Temiscouia	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross \$2,946,000	+ 370,000	14,722,000	+ 2,859,000
Net earnings before deducting taxes, 19 days return.			Gross \$2,946,000	+ 370,000	14,722,000	+ 2,859,000

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona	1 mth	July 31	810	111,582	+ 7,888	..	..
Mid. of W. Aust.	1 mth	July 31	277	7,968	+ 474	..	..
New Cape Central	45 weeks	Sept. 9	205	2,240	+ 104	92,174	+ 78
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	July 31	1,397	151,081	+ 4,778	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	39 weeks	Sept. 30	329	483,351	+ 7,455	3,267,056	+ 166,431
Burnley Corporation	1 week	Sept. 30	12	23,508	+ 35	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	39 weeks	Sept. 30	351	89,475	+ 3,035	..	..
Chatham & District	39 weeks	Sept. 30	28	1,654	+ 241	65,232	+ 297
Egyptian Markets	39 weeks	Sept. 30	15	1,600	+ 255	63,918	+ 11,283
Glasgow Corporation	17 weeks	Sept. 30	101	443,092	+ 5,022	733,421	+ 59,131
Isle of Rhé	51 weeks	Sept. 30	26	1,833	+ 261	60,668	+ 1,915
Langston United	39 weeks	Sept. 30	39	33,115	+ 524	118,494	+ 16,249
Liverpool Corporation	39 weeks	Sept. 30	124	229,952	+ 649	1,144,758	+ 21,320
L.C.C. Tramways	27 weeks	Oct. 5	160	495,397	+ 6,559	2,510,854	+ 220,131
Madrado Elect. (2 wks)	39 weeks	Sept. 30	..	Rs 44,181	+ 9	882,795	+ 148,315

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS

COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.											
Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay-ment of Deben-ture Interest.	Amount Avail-able for Dis-tri-bution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia-tion, &c.	Balance Forward	Net Profit.	Divi-dend.
					Prefee.	Ordinary.					
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.				
Financial, Land, &c.											
Leach's Argentine Estates	Mar. 31		£ 1,038	£ 1,038	£ ..	£ ..	% ..	£ 1,038	£ ..	£ 81,726	% ..
Trafford Park Estates	June 30	111,790	60,570	172,360	..	52,000	8	13,000	107,360	56,681	6
Iron, Coal, and Steel.											
Bengal Iron	Mar. 31	22,178	76,376	98,554	37,500	39,351	2½	..	21,703	310,553	10
Coltress Iron	July 31	19,703	14,733	34,436	25,750	..	..	Dr 13,052	21,738	62,190	10
Parsons Marine Steam Turbine	June 30	21,422	34,198	55,620	..	26,410	12½	..	29,210	42,581	20
Star Engineering	Dec. 31	18,634	Dr 58,452	Dr 39,818	..	..	..	Dr 34,229	Dr 5,589	..	6
United Steel Companies	June 30	308,293	240,008	548,301	(k) 27,668	..	..	79,890	440,743	479,266	3
Rubber, &c.											
Bajoe Kidoel	Mar. 31	29,497	12,243	41,740	..	10,908	5	..	30,832	Dr 2,382	..
Bukit Selangor	Mar. 31	9,757	Dr 3,783	5,974	..	..	..	..	5,974	9,356	..
Kawie (Java)	Mar. 31	17,450	982	18,432	..	..	..	..	18,432	Dr 1,254	..
Port Dickson-Lukut	Mar. 31	133	5,917	6,050	..	..	..	..	6,050	Dr 7,354	..
Waterfall (Selangor)	Mar. 31	Dr 16,102	Dr 2,900	Dr 19,002	..	..	..	..	Dr 19,002	Dr 16,102	..
Way-Halim	Mar. 31	5,916	Dr 2,200	3,716	..	..	..	..	3,716	Dr 579	..
Shipping.											
Rowland & Marwood's Steamship	July 31	74,141	77,647	151,788	..	55,025	25½	28,750	68,013	229,596	25½
Tea.											
Associated Estates of Ceylon	June 30	6,131	6,275	12,406	5,400	..	..	..	7,006	308	..
Hornsey Estates	June 30	504	1,599	2,103	900	..	..	..	1,094	546	..
Textiles.											
Robinson and Cleaver	July 31	7,953	42,872	50,825	7,167	12,500	5½	11,000	20,158	Dr 57,137	..
Other Companies.											
Gandy Belt Manufacturing	Dec. 31	11,179	11,081	22,260	4,500	12,500	10½	2,231	3,029	..	..
Goode, Durrant, and Co.	July 20	1,229	60,473	61,702	10,725	25,125	10	20,000	5,852	31,369	10
J. Hepworth and Son	July 31	9,243	39,491	48,734	6,000	26,020	7	8,431	8,283	53,971	10
Telephone Manufactory	May 31	24,796	38,271	63,067	..	14,521	6	38,462	10,084	98,003	10

† Free of tax. (k) United Steel Companies' interim preference dividend to December 31, 1921

distribution is made, the directors also declared at the same time a further and final dividend of 4 per cent., less income-tax, on the preference shares in respect of the year ended December 31, 1921. The above dividends were paid on July 8, 1922, and absorbed £91,000, leaving a balance to the credit of the profit and loss account of £90,408 2s 1d, which will be carried forward to the current year's account.

TRAFFORD PARK ESTATES, LIMITED.—Profits for the year ended June 30, 1922, amount to £60,563, which, together with the balance brought forward of £98,790, makes a total of £159,359 available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. on ordinary shares, which will absorb £52,000, and the balance of £107,359 is carried forward. The profit and loss account of this company is an informative affair, and stands out in striking contrast to some of the abbreviated documents now being issued. Gross receipts are shown under six headings, while expenditure is analysed and divided into eleven items. The report mentions that Lord Ashburton, who is the largest shareholder and who has been a director of the company since its formation, has retired from the board in favour of Sir D. Drummond Fraser.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS.—Estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of September was 77,604 barrels, equal to approximately 11,000 tons, and the oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, amounted to about 10,100 tons, in addition to which a further 2,500 tons have been sold elsewhere, making the total deliveries for the month 12,600 tons.

STEUA ROMANA (BRITISH), LIMITED.—Crude production of the Steaua Romana, Bucharest, during the month of September was 21,630 tons.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, September 27, 1922, amounted to 1,200 tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Weather conditions remain unsettled, with further heavy rains, which hindered agricultural operations. Fortunately most of the wheat crop has been secured, but there still remains a good deal of grain to be carted. Harvesting is proceeding in Scotland, and the wheat crop shows fair condition. Firm conditions prevailed at market, and a fair business transpired. Native wheat is in fairly liberal supply, but quality variable and often inferior. Suitable milling grades rule at 39s to 42s, with best dry samples 44s

per 504 lbs free on rail. Imported descriptions were firm to again dearer, Manitoba qualities being sparingly offered. No. 1 Northern Manitoba 56s, Australian 53s, No. 2 hard winter 52s, all ex ship to arrive, and Rosafie 64 lbs 54s 6d landed terms. The cargo section proved generally quiet, although rather more inquiry was experienced for Manitoba and Pacific descriptions. Prices, however, ruled fully steady in the absence of any pressure to sell. Steamers of Pacific on passage sold at 47s 3d, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, October-November, also December 15th shipment from Pacific seaboard, at 46s 9d per 480 lbs. A feature in the international position is the continued heavy crop movement in North America, while crop reports from the Southern Hemisphere are very favourable. Visible Flour quieter, and prices of home milled were reduced, particularly Canada sack. London standard straight run milled were reduced is 6d per holds 30s 6d, patents 43s 6d to 44s 6d, all English straight run 38s 6d per sack delivered to London bakers. All English country straights 32s to 34s per sack delivered up. Foreign makes quiet, but prices fully steady to occasionally is dearer. Manitoba patents to 39s, all per 280 lbs ex store. Maize ruled irregular for Plate ex ship sellers 39s, ditto landed 41s, No. 2 mixed American 36s 9d ex ship, 38s 3d landed, No. 6 yellow round African 37s 3d ex ship, 39s 3d landed. The cargo section showed more activity, and prices I.a Plata, October shipment, sold at 35s 9d to 36s 3d, October-November 35s 3d, and November-December 35s 6d per 480 lbs. Barley firmly held, and there is a good demand for imported descriptions. English ranges from 35s to 52s per 448 lbs, free on rail, as to sample. Of imported, Australian Chevalier quoted 51s

**BARCLAYS BANK
LIMITED.**

HEAD OFFICE: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
And over 1,600 B.

And over 1,600 Branches in England and Wales.

Authorised Capital	£20,000,000
Issued and Paid-up Capital	£15,592,372
Reserve Fund	£8,250,000
Deposits (30th June, 1922)...	£321,167,218

Every description of British & Foreign Banking Business Transacted

October 7, 1922.]

THE ECONOMIST.

605

to 6os, Californian 39s to 45s per 448 lbs ex store, Danubian 33s 6d to 34s 6d, and Persian 3os 6d, both ex ship, per 400 lbs. A good business transpired in European cargoes. Some 20,000 tons Persian changed hands November at 26s 6d, and December to March shipment 25s 9d, Danube-Kustendji afloat 31s 9d, while Karachi parcels October-November made 31s per 400 lbs. Oats firm, and imported again dearer. Native ranges from 23s to 3os as to sample per 336 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Plate f.a.q. quoted 28s 3d, ditto clipped 3os, No. 2 white clipped American 38 lbs 28s, ditto 36 lbs 27s 6d, and No. 2 Canada Western 33s 6d, all landed per 320 lbs. Oatmeal in fair demand at late rates.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to September 30	331,578	435,314	355,721	221,074
4 weeks to September 30	1,150,191	1,716,025	1,476,201	804,138
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
quarter.....	37 9	56 10	90 7	73 4
per cwt.....	8 9 ²	13 3	21 1 ²	17 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
					Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.		qrs bush	qrs bush	qrs bush	s d	s d	s d
Sept. 23	82,431	4	26,479	1	37 5	36 11	24 1
30	82,034	7	47,190	1	37 9	37 3	24 7
1917	54,316	6	68,443	4	70 8	57 9	44 9
1918	75,618	4	53,164	5	72 8	60 3	50 9
1919	51,570	1	130,269	3	73 4	94 4	59 6
1920	92,285	1	68,143	0	90 7	82 6	55 11
1921	101,863	7	147,755	1	56 10	61 10	28 10

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated October 5th, is as follows:—Pig-iron : Cleveland foundry pig-iron is still in demand for the United States, and although the strikes there are settled, it will be some time before they return to normal. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is maintained at 92s 6d for forward and mixed numbers. East Coast hematite pig-iron is round about 90s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel : The recovery in the steel trade is very slow indeed, and it takes works all their time to keep going even at the present limited rate of output. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore : No change is to be reported in iron ore. Business is scarce and slow.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The local trade position is somewhat brighter, as the number of orders coming in is increasing steadily, although none of them are for bulk quantities. Conditions as regards work continue uneven, and there is not enough to go round, but a good deal of business is believed to be on its way. As the winter progresses, therefore, a steady decrease of unemployment with a corresponding absorption of idle plant can be counted upon with some certainty. The heavy steel branches are more active than was the case a few months ago. Engineering is not bringing much work to Sheffield, and the shipbuilders want practically nothing. The British railways are still holding off, but their requirements are known to be large, and an embarrassing rush of sudden orders on a big scale is feared. Makers of basic steel are fairly busy, and there is much activity in steel strip and rolled steel of the cheaper kinds. A scarcity of basic billets is mentioned. The alloy steel trade is badly hit by the new American tariff, but any further depreciation of the British currency in America may bring the prices of our material within the means of buyers in that country. The foundry trade continues very quiet, nor is the motor industry in a flourishing state. Collieries are giving out good contracts for equipment and tools. A good demand is reported for steel for the drills used in gold mining industry. Indian trade has lately come to a sudden stop. Rather more is doing with South America and South Africa. The pig-iron market is gathering strength. The silver and electro-plate branches are busier than they have been for two years, chiefly on orders in connection with the coming Christmas season trade. Shopkeepers and export merchants are buying on a fairly liberal scale. The cutlery branch has also improved. The demand for house coal is so quiet that summer prices still obtain, and large quantities of seconds quality are being sold at figures which yield no profit to the merchants. Coke is in strong demand. The home price is 20s at ovens, and anything up to 25s for export. Steam coals are going freely to the Continent. Best South Yorkshire steams are 21s at pits, and best Tynes 24s.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—
 Steelmakers are credited with having made several concessions this week in the prices of plates and sections, specifications for which on home orders are very scarce. On export account, however, demands for these sorts of material is rather more general, but buyers are slow to act, covering only immediate wants from time

to time. It is calculated that not more than one-half of the productive power of the steel plant in the West of Scotland is in operation, and a larger proportion of that idle is being wholly dispenished for good, the purposes for which it was laid down being no longer in force, or ever likely to be, in the opinion of those concerned. Bar iron and steel bar makers are quieter than they have been at any time for a couple of years past. On the other hand, several of the more important bridge and general structural engineers are fairly busy with both home and export orders, and their prospects are encouraging. Wagon and truck builders are well employed, as are black sheet makers with light gauges, and mainly on shipment account. A good business is passing in steel tubes, in bolts, nuts, and rivets. Scotch pig-iron is moving away freely—to the United States, and despite the increase to the number of blast furnaces blowing, stocks are not accumulating. At yesterday's meeting of the "ring" market sellers were naming 105s a ton for Scotch No. 3 g.m.b. f.a.s. Glasgow, while No. 3 Cleveland was called 95s f.o.b. Middlesbro', and mixed numbers East Coast hematite 92s 6d f.o.b. Middlesbro'. A good tone rules in the coal market, the export side of business being active.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The position on the coal market has been better than it was last week. The improvement evinced towards the close of last week has been maintained, and buying generally has been more active. There has been very little alteration, however, in market quotations, and the following are the current prices:—Best Admiralties, 26s to 27s; seconds, 25s 3d to 25s 9d; best drys, 28s to 28s 6d; best black veins, 25s to 25s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s to 25s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 24s to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 14s to 15s; anthracite big vein, large, 55s to 57s 6d; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 65s to 70s; anthracite French stove nuts, 70s to 72s 6d; rubbly culm, 12s 6d to 13s; coke for export, 35s to 37s 6d; inland blast furnace coke, at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 26s 6d to 28s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 26s to 27s 3d. In the tin-plate trade, the market has been a little more cheerful this week, largely as the result of an improved demand from the Near East, and prices are a shade firmer at 18s od. basis I.C., f.o.b.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 29, 1922

Description.	Coma.							Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.				
		Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.		Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.		
		d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d		
Sea Island.		am	am	am	am	am	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm		
Florida do.		am	am	am	am	am	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm		
Georgia do.		am	am	am	am	am	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm		
American	Gr	G	M	G	M	G	G	O	L	M	G	G	O	L	M
Brazilian :	105	1100	1185	1225	1255	1345	1257	1362	1382	1192	1573	2287	1573	2287	
Parana	Mid	M	F	F	G	F	G	M	F	F	G	G	M	F	F
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.		1065	1215	1345			1267	1467		1432	2142		1432	2142	
Macieio, &c.		1065	1215	1345			1267	1467		1432	2142		1432	2142	
Mossoro, &c.		1065	1215	1345			1267	1467		1432	2142		1432	2142	
Ceara		1065	1215	1345			1267	1467		1432	2142		1432	2142	
Maranhão, &c.		1065	1215	1345			1267	1467		1432	2142		1432	2142	
Esp Paulo		1115	1195	1240											
Egyptian :		G	F	G	F	G	F								
Upper		1200	1350	1400	1450			1900	2200		nm	2500		nm	
Sakellariadis		1400	1625	1700	1900	2125									
Brown		1200	1350	1450	1525	1700		1925	2325			4000			
Rough		M	F	G	F	G	F								
Moderately Rough				1400	1450	1500			1550			3200			
Smooth		1200	1350	1425				1325	1500			2400	3300		
Tanguis		1200	1350	1450	1575	1575	1417	1692	1867	2192	2612	3282			
Mitani			1100	1300	1450	1525									
West Indian, &c.				1175	1275	1350			2660	3200		7000	8000		
Do			2300	2600	2900	3000									
African, East, &c.	9.25	1025	1200	1300	1400	1500	1200	1400	1600	1920	2200	3600			
Do															
Do															
Machine Ginned Surtee			G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	
Machine Ginned Broach		1015	1055	1095	1135	1175	1255	1280	1318	1485	1535	1675			
Macb. Ginned Bhownugga	8.35	8.85	9.35	9.75	10.15	10.55	10.19	10.69	10.69	1219	1319	1479			
Macb. Ginned Combra. No. 1	8.45	8.95	9.45	9.85	10.25	10.65	10.25	10.75	11.15	1235	1335	1485			
Macb. Ginned Combra. No. 2		8.45	8.95	9.45	9.85	10.25	10.25	10.75	11.15	1235	1335	1485			
Machine Ginned Khandshe		9.85	10.25					10.95		9.75	10.15	10.25			
Machine Ginned Comptah	6.45	6.85	7.25	7.65	8.05	8.45	8.35	8.65	9.15	1013	1125	1235			
Machine Ginned Bengal.	6.35	6.75	7.15	7.55	7.95	8.35	8.35	8.65	9.15	1003	1077	1176	7.98	9.05	
Machine Ginned Scinde	11.45	11.85	12.25					10.95	11.20		1310	1360			
Tinnivelly		9.20	9.60	10.00	10.40										
Madras, Western			1025												
Madras, Northern								1095			1150				
M.G. Coconada, Red	F.	9.85													

MANCHESTER, October 5.

MANCHESTER, October 3.—The tone of the market this week has been slightly better, chiefly on account of the more favourable news from the Near East. Merchants, however, are still nervous, and in certain quarters business continues to be restricted, as a result of the financial stringency, which is still acute. Favourable reports have been received relating to the trade outlook in India, and towards the end of the week rather more cloth offers have been about for Calcutta. Lighter fabrics have attracted some attention for Madras and Karachi. Operations for China have been confined to sorting up lots, chiefly in fancies. For the outlets of Central and South America a moderate turnover has taken place. There has been no activity worth mentioning in home trade circles. Yarn quotations continue very irregular. Sales of importance in either American or Egyptian qualities have been few and far between. Comparatively little has been done in shipping yarns.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Oct. 5, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Sept. 28.	Sept. 21.	Sept. 14.	Sept. 7.	Aug. 31.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . per lb	12.44	12.78	13.24	13.42	12.70	13.76
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	17.15	17.25	17.50	17.50	17.25	18.00
— Egyptian per lb	19.4	19.4	19.4	20	19.4	20.4
Yarns—32's twist per lb	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
— 40's twist per lb	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	30	30	30	30	30	30
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	30	30	30	30	30	30
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	17	17	17	17	17	17
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs	15	15	15	15	15	15

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Oct. 5, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . per lb	12.44	14.07	19.87	21.40	23.84	20.27
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	17.15	23.50	52.00	30.00	29.40	32.20
— Egyptian per lb	19.4	22.4	46	43	55	57.4
Yarns—32's twist per lb	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
— 40's twist per lb	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	30	37	70	61	73	64
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	30	37	70	61	73	64
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	17	22	42	35	41	33
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs	15	21	32	31	35	28

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market retains all the recent strong features, and although it cannot be said that business is really brisk, there is, in the aggregate, a fair amount passing. Spinners and manufacturers are obviously adopting a waiting policy in the hope that wool values will come on to a more reasonable level, and they are looking to the auctions which open in London next week to give them a definite lead. The very high level of prices established at the opening sales in Australia and in South Africa came as something of a shock to importers, and there is still a feeling in some quarters that current prices cannot be maintained in face of the large weights of wool to be marketed during the next few months. However, there is undoubtedly a strong world demand for the best combing merinos, and if London is firm, it seems that users will have to follow the market or stand aside completely. It is largely a question whether the consumers will pay more for the best fabrics, for if wool continues to sell as it has done recently there is not the slightest doubt but that the price of the manufactured article will have to be brought into line. Meanwhile, warp 64's tops are quoted here to-day at from 5s to 5s 1d, and while the higher figure cannot be made with freedom, it is doubtful if many topmakers are prepared to accept less than 5s. Fine cross-breds are firm, with a fair amount of business passing, but there is not much doing in the lower qualities. Spinners are still busy on old contracts, and firms engaged on the production of Botany mixture yarns are especially active, most of them wanting anything from 16 to 18 weeks for delivery of new orders. There is more doing in the finer counts, and some big orders have been placed for 2-48's out of 60's quality. The piece trade presents no new feature, the principal difficulty at the moment being to book new business on to-day's basis of yarn quotations.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It can now be said that the new Australian season has opened in good earnest, and, judging from the private cables received in Bradford and London, a most optimistic note is sounded in selling circles. A well-defined policy of wool disposal appears to have been formulated; selling brokers are not to flood any centre with a surplus of raw material which the trade is not ready to absorb,

and in that way it is hoped that current values will be fully maintained, if not further improved. Of course, growers and selling brokers view the whole position from a different angle from those interested in the use of the raw material for manufacturing purposes. The former are out to sell at the best prices possible, and the latter in buying at what they consider to be reasonable figures. The writer has always contended that one end of the trade cannot suffer without the other being sympathetically affected. The great slump of 1920-21 would never have occurred if due attention had been paid by wool users to important principles. For greasy merino wool to be sold in London at from 6s to 9s was in itself an indication of something much worse to come. Income-tax assessors are staggered with the colossal losses incurred by wool merchants, topmakers, spinners, and manufacturers in 1921. Income-tax officials need to be brought to realise the meaning of the fact that in February, 1920, greasy merino wool, which in pre-war days would not have realised more than 20d per lb., was sold at 9s 1d per lb, and the former price was one which could be regarded as economically sound, whilst the other was brought about by abnormal conditions. Merino wool values are again getting out of hand, for fine wool is not intrinsically worth what it is fetching in the markets of the world to-day, and attention is drawn to this fact in the hope that users will not take any further steps which will finally result in another slump being brought about.

The general state of the wool textile industry at the present time is such that no single section can stand any extensive decline. Every further upward movement in wool values will only encourage another catastrophe, in which hundreds of firms who had a very great struggle to turn the corner during the last slump without calling together their creditors will be brought to grief. In view of the fact that there is well on towards 2,000,000 bales of new merino wool in sight, prices for this class of raw material are quite high enough.

In making the above statement, it is not being forgotten that a very large consumption of merino wool is proceeding, but even that is not of itself sufficient to justify a further advance. Though for a long time the raw material has appeared to be setting the pace, what can be realised for fully-made goods is the real deciding factor. It is quite correct to say that spinners and manufacturers are experiencing a very real difficulty in getting new business at prices which will cover what has to be paid for tops and yarn. In spite of the improvement which has undoubtedly taken place, the manufacturing end of the trade is not responding willingly to the increasing prices, particularly for fine wool. More attention needs to be paid by the public to medium and fine crossbred cloths. If a stronger demand were to develop for these, a remarkable effect would eventually be produced upon the raw material end of the trade, for with a saner demand for merinos and a stronger call for crossbreds, the very adjustment in prices which is so urgently needed would be brought about, this without any adverse influence upon aggregate consumption. The lower qualities of wool go largely into hosiery fabrics, medium and coarse crossbreds having their normal outlet in serges which in pre-war times went in large quantities to Central and Eastern Europe.

Next Tuesday another series of London sales will commence, during which buyers will have an opportunity to be in attendance for three weeks. A good, healthy market is expected, but there is nothing to justify any further advance whatever in merinos.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

In sympathy with dear seed, and consequent upon supplies being inadequate to meet demand, raw linseed oil has continued firm, with values somewhat higher round £38 to £38 10s for spot and £37 for October-December. A large business in September oil is reported, principally on the covering of speculators caught short, but consumptive demand, both home and export, is by no means great. There are indications of a further shortage of oil for October in oil in the near positions at present. Very little seed, however, is available for the mills. Arrivals have been slightly better, but the quantity of linseed on passage to the United Kingdom shows a further decline, and is at the low figure of 15,100 tons. The quantity afloat for the Continent is 61,700 tons. Rather more interest has been evinced in forward positions, and values have advanced to £32 15s, January-February, all ex Hull mill. After a fair trade done in both crude and edible cotton oils at advancing prices, the market is again inactive. Crude Egyptian

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd.,
24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1892 & 235 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £800,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,100,000 RESERVE FUND £320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

quotes £34 10s, and ordinary refined (soapmakers' grade) £35, ex Hull mill. Soya bean and other soft oils are quiet, and only a small business is passing at about unchanged rates.

In the oilseed section, old crop Plate linseed is very firm, and at Hull is quoted up to £18 10s spot, and £18 to £18 5s for October-November shipment. Trade in new crop hangs fire, current value being round £16, January-February loading. Calcutta linseed has again been in good demand for London, £19 10s being paid for afloat and £19 for shipment. Black Egyptian cottonseed (new) has been done at £9 15s to Hull, and White Brazilians at £7 5s to Liverpool. The Continent has paid £10 12s 6d for soya beans, October-November shipment, but crushers here show no interest in this article.

The world shipments of linseed from January 1st to September are 983,465 tons, as compared with 1,089,625 tons in the same nine months last year. These include to the United Kingdom 134,225 tons from India and 181,900 tons from Argentina—together, 316,125 tons, against 447,775 tons; to the Continent, 100,350 tons and 352,000 tons respectively, together 452,350 tons, against 486,850 tons; and to North America, 215,000 tons from Argentina, against 155,000 tons. The total shipments of Plate linseed to date are thus 748,900 tons, against 1,023,800 tons, a decrease of rather more than 25 per cent. The shipments (Plate and Indian) to the U.K. and the Continental total 768,475 tons, against 934,625 tons, a decrease of 166,150 tons. The shipments of cottonseed (Egyptian and Indian) for January-September to the U.K. were 268,270 tons, and to the Continent 13,400 tons; together, 281,670 tons, against 227,430 tons.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

On the average, prices at Thursday's Bermondsey auctions were steady to firm. Fractional advances of 1/4d. to 1/2d. were noted in several classes. Cows were steady at last prices, with calf also firmer in seconds, which advanced 1/4d. per lb. Firsts were sold at last prices. Wools realised 4s 10d to 8s 6d, and hogs 3s 2d to 9s 3d, both prices indicating slight firming up.

The tone of the foreign hide market is firmer, and \$5 1/2 is now being paid in the River Plate for frigorifics; Liebig's have sold Fray Bentos ox at 9 1/2d. f.o.b., the rise in Liebig's hides having been quite 1d per lb. during the past month. Latest cables from New York report the Chicago hide market as firm, with best heavy packers now selling at 2 1/2 cents.

The attention of the allied trades has this week been directed to the Shoe and Leather Fair at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. The attendance has probably been a record one, as visitors from all parts have been noted, including the Continent and the Colonies. The demand for sole leather is reported to be good, and tanners have done big business. Prices have been very firm in view of the rising hide market, and little in the way of bargains has been secured. American and Canadian sole was little offered, as the spot demand is improving, and the exchange makes business difficult. Offal has done well, and large parcels of cheap dry hide bents have changed hands.

Holders of upper stock have secured orders at advancing prices, the American position being very firm indeed, as cables from the U.S.A. have reported advances of one or two cents per foot. Box calf has sold in large parcels, whilst the demand for glacé kid has also improved.

Boot manufacturers appeared to be busy at the Fair, and some of them reported good orders from overseas. Caution, however, has been the key-note all the week, and even the war cloud hanging over the land has not affected prices very much. Generally speaking, the outlook is regarded with more confidence.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, October 6.

SUGAR.—With an improved demand, mostly for white sugars, quite a fair amount of business was effected, and prices are 6d to 1s per cwt higher on the spot. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 55s 6d to 56s 6d; crushed, 53s 6d; granulated, 49s 9d to 50s 3d; pulverised, 52s 3d; caster, 52s to 52s 6d; finest, 54s 3d; yellow crystals, 44s 3d; pieces, 34s 6d to 39s 6d for yellows, and fine white, 45s. Granulated, November-December delivery, 49s 6d. Glebe K granulated, spot, London, 49s; November-December, 48s 6d. Crystallised West India steady at 41s to 44s 9d, according to sample; muscovado quoted 33s to 37s. American granulated, spot, London, sold, 48s 9d to 48s 10 1/2d; afloat, 22s, c.f. and i., London. White Mauritius, spot, 46s 3d to 46s 6d; Brazilian, 46s 6d; white Java, spot, 47s to 47s 3d; fine, 48s 3d; afloat, 19s 6d, c.f. and i., London. Belgian crystals, October-December, 19s; granulated, 19s 1 1/2d, f.o.b. terms, Antwerp, Dutch granulated, November-December, 20s 9d, f.o.b., Amsterdam. Czecho-Slovakian granulated, November-December, 21s; cubes, 24s, f.o.b., Hamburg. Cuban basis 96 per cent., October, quoted 17s 6d; Dutch, No. 17 standard of Java, October, 18s 3d. Brazilian basis 96 per cent., October, 17s; and ditto basis 80 per cent., 8s 6d, c.f. and i., U.K. Terminal market firmer, with a fair amount of business. White, December, sold, 20s 6d to 21s 1 1/2d and 20s; May, 20s 9d to 21s 4 1/2d and 21s 1 1/2d. Cuban stocks stand at 333,400 tons, against 1,187,500 tons same time last year.

COFFEE.—Business pursued a quiet course, but prices on balance show little or no alteration. Nairobi, fair to fine bold, sold, 98s 6d to 111s 6d; Uganda, bold, 90s to 92s. Future delivery market remained in a slow state.

COCOA.—Market quiet, on account of former terms. Trinidad plantation, sold, 65s; Grenada, fine, 53s; Accra, 41s. Butter quiet at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—Indian auctions embraced some 51,000 packages during the week, and all grades up to 1s 3d per lb were actively competed for at full to dearer prices, while others encountered a firm market. 16,000 packages Ceylon were catalogued. Brisk competition was experienced, and common kinds sold at higher rates, good medium to fine being fully maintained.

RICE.—Market steady, but trade moved quietly. Two stars, spot, 15s 3d; October, steamer, 13s 10 1/2d. Broken descriptions quiet, but held steadily. Rangoon beans, spot, 7s 3d. Japanese peas, afloat, sold, 29s; September-October, 25s 6d; December-January, 23s 6d to 24s, and 23s 3d.

SPICE.—Pepper in quiet request, but prices ruled steady. Fair black Singapore, spot, 33d; October-December, steamer, 33d; Aleppy, spot, 44d. Tellicherry, 43d. White Singapore, 54d; Muntok, ditto, 6d; October-December, 53d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 4d; October-December, 73d. Pimento, spot, 2d. Flake tapioca, spot, 23d, all per lb. Fair Penang seed pearl tapioca, spot, 19s. Sago flour, October-December, 12s. Desiccated coconut, spot, 34s 6d; October-November, 34s.

FRUIT.—A steady, but somewhat quieter tone governed the market for currants. Gulf quoted 83s to 88s; Vostizza, 90s to 98s. Sultanias steady, but rather quiet. Smyrna, good average, quoted 145s; fine to choice, 160s to 170s. 357 tons Valencia raisins were offered in auction, and fully 260 tons sold at full rates to 10s per cwt advance for the finer qualities. Choice quarters sold 140s to 148s; extra choice, 158s. Muscatels, medium to good, sold, 115s to 122s 6d; loose, 95s to 115s. Dates easier for old crop Siar, on spot, but a large business resulted, some 50,000 boxes being disposed of at 18s. New crop, first tide, Siar, sold 20s; Halloween quoted 30s, and Khredowie, 27s per cwt.

JUTE.—After showing a firmer tendency in the early part of the week the market reacted and disclosed some irregularity, while business proceeded quietly. First grade, October-November, Continent, sold, £34 5s to £33 10s; November-December, £34 15s to £33 17s 6d, and £34. Lightning grade, October-November, £31 15s; and November-December, £32 5s to £32. Hessians steady, 10 oz, spot, 35s 6d; September, steamer, sold, 34s; 8 oz, spot, 25s 6d; September-October, 25s; A twills, spot, 80s 6d; September-October, 79s; B, spot, 67s; October-December, 67s; salts, spot, 62s; sugars, 77s 6d; flour, 77s 6d.

HEMP.—Manila steady, but trade ruled slow. Small sales include J grade, October-December, at £31; K, quoted £30; L, £29; M, £28; G, £34. New Zealand dull. H.P.F., spot, £33 10s; forward, £32 10s; fair, spot, £32; and forward, £31. Italian P.C., spot, £60. African sisal, No. 1, G.E.A., October-December, quoted £35; and B.E.A., £34 10s.

SHELLAC.—Market quiet, with forward positions unsettled and lower. T.N., spot, quoted 28s; October, sold, 25s; December, 250s to 245s, and 250s.

COPRA.—Market quiet. F.M.S. Straits, September-November, Rotterdam, sold, £22 12s 6d; October-December, £22 17s 6d; November-January, £22 18s 9d to £23. Ceylon, October-December, quoted £24 5s. Java, £23 7s 6d; mixed, excluding Padang, £22 5s. South Sea Islands, £22 5s. Dutch East Indies, sold, £23. Cebu quoted £22 5s. Palm kernels steady, quiet. October-December, Liverpool, sold, £16 5s.

RUBBER.—Market steadier on balance, and quite a fair amount of trade was done during the week. Standard crepe and sheet, spot, sold, 84d to 85d and 85d; October, 84d to 85d; November, 84d to 9d; December, 84d to 9d; January-March, 84d to 9d; April-June, 94d to 9d. To New York, standard sheet, European estate, October-November and November-December, sold, 88d to 9d, c.f. and i. terms. Fine hard Para, spot, quoted 10 1/2d; soft, fine, 10d; and Caucho ball, 7 1/2d.

MENTHOL. spot, 31s; October, Continent, sold, 26s 6d. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 7s 4 1/2d; forward, 6s 5d; aniseed, spot, 2s 3d; forward, 2s 1d; slab camphor, spot, 3s 7d; crude, 3s 4d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 80s; forward, 74s per cwt.

OILS.—Linseed market closed firm. Spot, net, naked, 39s; October, 38s; October-December, 37s 3d; January-April, 33s 3d. Rape dull. Crude, spot, nominally 41s; refined, 43s. Cotton steadier. Crude Egyptian, spot, 34s; common edible, 43s; deodorised (in barrels), 47s. China-wood firmer. Hankow, spot (barrels), 64s 6d; shipment, 63s. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 38s; October-November, 36s 3d; Cochin, ditto, quoted 41s. Soya quiet. Oriental barrels, October-November, 34s 6d. Japan fish quiet. October-November, cases, 20s. Cod inactive. English, spot, 29s to 30s. Ground nuts quiet. English crushed, naked, spot, 44s; deodorised, barrels, 53s. Turpentine unsettled. American, spot, 104s; November-December, 104s; January-April, 105s 3d. Rosin firm. American, grade B, 15s; G, 15s 6d; H, 15s 6d; N, 16s 9d; W, 19s 6d; WW, 21s. French, F/G, 15s 6d; WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 2d; and water-white, 1s 3d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed quiet, but tone firm. Bold Bombay, afloat, £20 15s. Small Bombay, ditto, £19 15s. Calcutta, afloat, sold, £19 10s to £19 15s; September-October, £19 5s to £19 and £19 10s; October-November, £19 to £19 2s 6d. Plate afloat, £18 5s;

The Sixty Policy

Secures protection for your dependants

And a pension for yourself

And eases the cost during the present years of uncertainty.

Write for particulars to the

National Provident Institution,
48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

October-November, £18; January-February, new crop, sold, £15 15s. Rapeseed dull. Toria, October-November, quoted £17; real bold Ferozepore, October-November, quoted £16 12s 6d. Cottonseed quiet. Egyptian black, October, sellers, £9 18s 9d, and white, £9. Bombay, October-November, quoted £8. Gingly quiet. Chinese, new, October-December, Continent, £22; large Bombay, October-November, £21. Castor, Bombay, October-November, sellers, £16 10s, to Hull. Groundnuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, October-November, £19 15s; ordinary, £19 5s; East African, £18 5s; Nigerian, £19 5s; bold Bombay, December-January, £18 15s. Chinese, November-December, £19. Soya beans, Manchurian, October-November, £11 15s; new crop, November-December, £10 7s 6d per ton.

METALS.—Tin opened the week with a firm and active tone, and fairly liberal offers were readily absorbed at full to firmer rates, especially for distant positions. Sales comprised standard, cash, up to £164 7s 6d; October, £164 10s, and three months, £165 10s. On the following day the tendency was again dearer, although subject to the slight irregularity. Standard, cash, reached £165, and three months, £166. By the middle of the week a reaction occurred on heavy selling pressure and a lack of demand. Standard, cash, sold at £163 12s 6d; October, £164 5s to £163 12s 6d, while finally at £163 12s 6d; three months, £165 2s 6d to £164 7s 6d. At Thursday's market, after opening easier, an improvement set in. Standard, cash, sold at £163 to £163 12s 6d, and in. Standard, cash, to £164 15s, while finally registered at £164 10s. At Friday's session moderate dealings took place, and values ruled rather firmer. Cash sold at £164 to £163 15s, and three months, £165 to £165 5s, while finally at £164 15s. English ingots, months' at £165 to £165 5s, but in the absence of undue selling desire little interest; but in the absence of undue selling desire values were tolerably steady. Business included standard October at £64; November, £64 7s 6d; and three months, £64 12s 6d to £64 8s 9d. Prices since showed a declining tendency under the influence of lower American advices, together with a slow demand and anxious sellers. At Wednesday's meeting sales were concluded in standard October at £63 5s; December, £63 17s 6d; and three months, £64. At Thursday's market the tone was easier, and a good business transpired in cash at £63 2s 6d to £62 17s 6d to £63; and

three months at £63 15s to £63 10s to £63 12s 6d. Copper proved a quiet and easier market at Friday's session. Standard, early November, sold at £63 2s 6d to £62 17s 6d, and three months' £63 10s to £63 5s. Electro, £71 5s to £72; best selected, £66 to £68; strong sheets, £96; wire bars, £72. Lead firm, at £25 to £24 2s 6d, to position. Spelter dearer, at £33 to £32 7s 6d, according to position. Antimony, ordinary, £27 to £29 10s. Aluminium steady. Home £100; export, £105.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on October 4th as follows:—The tallow market was steady during the week, and prices are partly 3d dearer to-day. Inferior sorts again commanded the wharves, amounted to 19,482 packages, showing a decrease during the month of 978 packages. At auction to-day 1,965 cask mutton: Fine, 41s; good to fair, 40s 6d to 40s; dull to dark, 39s 1 3/8s 6d to 37s; dull to dark, 36s 6d to 34s 6d; sweet, 41s. Presen shipment from Australasia: Mutton, fair coloured, 48 degs., 39s and mixed, 43s, c.i.f., London, 37s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 34s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 1 1/4d; melted stuff, 24s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 33s 6d net cash naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 33s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 34s 6d to 33s 6d. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 30s 6d; melted stuff 29s 6d, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—OCTOBER 5.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	5 d	8 d	8 d	Sheep—Downs	5 d	8 d	12
Shortfords	6 4	2 10	10	Ewes	10	8 to	12
Devons	6 8	2 10	10	Crossbred	7	0	7
Norfolk	6 8	2 10	10	Scottish	10	0	11
Scottish	6 8	2 10	10	Lamb—Downs	nominal		
Irish	nominal				11	8	12
Fat Cows	nominal						
	4 4	4	8				

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—OCTOBER 5.

English British Queens	3 d	3 d	3 d
" Eclipse	2 6	3 0	3 0

Per Cwt.

Sharpe's	2 6	3 0	3 0
King Edwards	3 6	4 0	4 0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.				INDIA RUBBER.—lb—s d s				PROVISIONS.—s d s				SPICES.—lb—s d s			
COCOA—Duty, British grown	25.4d foreign 25s cwt.	63	8 72 0	Aloes, fine E.I., p. cwt	150	8	8	Butter—per cwt.	190	204	0	Pepper, per lb	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Trinidad, per cwt.	63	8 72 0	0	Cape, good to fine.	23	0	0	Irish creamery	150	170	0	Singapore, fair white	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Granada, per cwt.	63	8 72 0	0	Balsam Peru. per lb	8	0	0	Do factory	150	170	0	Black Singapore	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Ceylon, plantation	70	8 99 0	0	Capsivi	1	6	0	Argentine	150	170	0	White Siam	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Guayquil	53	0 65 0	0	Camphor	3	5	7	Dutch	150	170	0	Pimento	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bahia, finest	53	0 65 0	0	Cardamoms, Ceylon.	1	6	5	New Zealand	212	0 220 0	0	Omanon—1st sort	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
COFFEE—British grown	25.4d foreign 25s cwt	63	8 72 0	Caster oil, China prlb	4	0	0	Bacon, engd.—Irish	228	0 238 0	0	Do 2nd	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
25.4d foreign 25s cwt	63	8 72 0	0	Caster oil, Ind.	5	0	0	Danish	120	146	8	Do 3rd	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
E. India (finest) d. & d. 8	103	8	103	Caster oil, Ind. cwt	5	0	0	American	160	134	0	Chips	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do good to fine	103	8	103	Gum Java, Sur. cwt	5	0	0	Hansa	90	103	9	Costa Ligno	6	24	0
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	65	0 100 0	0	Gum Java, Sur. cwt	5	0	0	Penang	100	103	9	Olives—Zantibar	45	0 24 0	0
Good to fine	106	0 125 6	6	Oilbunan, drops,	60	0 100 0	0	Choco, cut	108	0	120	Manila	10	5 1/2	5 1/2
Central American, gd.	106	0 125 6	6	fair to good.	60	0 100 0	0	Do small rough	57	0	0	Do washed	57	0	0
ord. to mid	106	0 125 6	6	Decaucahuia	2	9	0	Japan	57	0	0	Jamaica, small	176	0	220
Mid. to fine	106	0 125 6	6	Musk put. China	85	0 95 0	0	Do small	57	0	0	Mace	176	0	220
Columbian, ordinary	64	0 100 0	0	Oil, Cassia	10	0 100 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Small to medium	10	15	1
Do gd. ord. to low end	64	0 100 0	0	Aniseed	2	2	3	Broken No. 2	13	9	14	Chillies—per cwt	125	0	0
Do mid. to fine	65	8 85 6	6	Peppermint, H.G.H.	2	2	3	ROBIN—per ton	11	0	0	Good mutton	40	6	8
CHEMICALS—				Rbbr, China, rt to n	4	6	5	Broken No. 1	11	0	0	Beef	38	6	0
Acid, citric	per lb	1 11	2 0	DYE STUFFS, &c.	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	TAPIOCA—per lb			
Nitric	0	24	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	E. L. Flake, fair, spot	0	24	0
Oxalic, net	0	0	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do	0	19	0
Tartaric, English	1	34	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	TEA—duty 6d, British			
Foreign	1	34	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Foreign 6d, British			
Alum lump	per ton	15 10 0	15 10 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Indian and Ceylon			
Do ground	per ton	15 10 0	15 10 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Pakistan			
Ammonia, carb. p. lb	0	4	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Pokee			
Muriate, White ton	33	0	4	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Broken			
Sulphate	0	18	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Orange			
Arsenic, lump, per ton	47	0	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Orange			
Powder	per cwt	47	0 53 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Pokee Bouchong			
Asbes, pot.	per cwt	70	0 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Pearl do	per cwt	70	0 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Bleaching pwr. p. ton	15/10	14/0	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Borax, crystals	cwt	29	0 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Do powder	30	8	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Creosol Tar	106	0	108	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
80% powder	106	0	108	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Osolmel	per lb	1 11	2 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Iodine, dry	per lb	1 11	2 0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton	14/0	14/0	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Potash				Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Chlorate, net	0	44	0	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Prussiate	1	6	1	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Do Foreign	1	6	1	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill	40	6	8	Do do			
Sulphate	per ton	23	1 18	Do do	75	0 0	0	Eng. straight ex mill							

a lower rate than had been expected, but no effect was produced on market quotations.

	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½ ..

The Bank Return showed a decrease of £630,000 in the circulation, an increase of £4,000 in the stock of gold, and a consequent increase of £634,000 in the Reserve. Government and Other securities dwindled by £5,375,000 and £6,885,000 respectively, chiefly at the expense of Other deposits, which declined by more than 10 millions. The currency notes return dated October 12, 1922, showed an increase in the total notes outstanding of £254,000 to £291,396,600, which includes £1,551,600 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £240,695,000, or £69,293,400 below the maximum.

Further contraction is shown in the statement of the average weekly balances for September of the clearing banks, printed in detail on a later page. In the table below we compare the aggregate for nine English banks with the figures for previous months:—

(Million £'s.)

	June, 1921.	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	June, 1922.	Aug., 1922.	Sept., 1922.
Capital and reserves	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9
Acceptances	57.7	57.7	57.7	57.7	57.7	57.7
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,768.4	1,818.6	1,746.9	1,755.2	1,688.4	1,660.6
Total liabilities	1,942.0	1,990.8	1,919.9	1,928.3	1,854.6	1,826.4
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	265.1	273.5	245.8	251.3	239.1	233.2
Money at call	38.0	105.7	102.5	113.0	105.0	104.4
Investments	335.9	343.3	329.7	412.0	414.4	405.8
Discounts	346.2	424.3	350.5	346.2	305.8	295.9
Loans and advances	815.4	762.3	746.2	723.3	714.3	711.3
Cover for accept., premises, &c. ..	8.14	90.7	82.2	80.5	76.0	75.8
Total assets	1,942.0	1,990.8	1,919.9	1,928.3	1,854.6	1,826.4

There has been a drop of £95 millions in deposits in three months, and in the same period cash has fallen by £18 millions, discounts by over £50 millions, and advances by £12 millions. The drop of £41 millions in deposits in August has been followed by one of £28 millions in September, the principal declines on the assets side being £6 millions in cash, £9 millions in investments and £10 millions in discounts, while advances were £3 millions lower.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Markets have responded to the better political outlook, and the public is showing more disposition to do business. War Loan has been up to 100½, and Conversion Loan has improved. German bonds have been weak, but French bonds have hardened. Home Rails are better, with improvements in the Heavies and Undergrounds. Rubber shares have risen on a fresh advance in the price of the raw material, but the oil market is dull. A feature of the industrial market has been a big rise in British and Argentine Meat shares, on the offer to purchase the ordinary shares at 65s and the preference at 32s 6d. Shipping stocks are harder, and there is some inquiry for banking shares. Kaffirs have been active on support from the Cape, and diamonds have been strong.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The commodity markets have benefited from the improvement in the foreign situation. Buyers have displayed more interest in prices for cotton yarn and cloth, and there has been increased inquiry for piece-goods for India and China. A general revision of wool quotations has followed the upward movement at the London auctions, and a feature has been the keen American demand for wool. Pig-iron is scarce, owing to American demand, but the Continent is taking little. Our Glasgow correspondent reports a few additional contracts for new steamers and the relighting of furnaces. Improvement in the Sheffield steel trade is mainly in cheaper qualities, and the main industries of the city are said to be still in a bad way. South Yorkshire collieries are busy on

export account, and are obtaining a large portion of the trade with Germany. In South Wales the improvement in the coal market has been fully maintained, and there has been a general rise in quotation for large steam coals. Near East inquiries are responsible for an advance in tinplate prices. Timber prices are showing a slight upward tendency. The hide and leather markets are firm, but oils and oilseeds are quiet. Detailed reports from our trade correspondents will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Operations in the foreign exchanges have again been overshadowed by the Near East crisis, and until this is definitely out of the way very little improvement in the activity of the markets can be expected. The outstanding feature of the week has been the fluctuations of the German mark, which on Monday had a phenomenal fall, from 9,700 to 12,700, one of the main causes of this violent depreciation being the fact that Germany was obtaining foreign currency to purchase raw materials and also grain necessary for domestic purposes. On Tuesday the market was 12,800-13,000. On Wednesday, however, owing to a partial clearing of the political atmosphere in the Near East the rate improved to 11,500-11,700, and yesterday, following the announcement that the German Government was instituting restrictions to check speculation, the rate went back to 10,100, but a subsequent reaction left the closing price 12,200-12,400. To-day the market is 11,500-11,700, showing a slight improvement on yesterday's rate. In regard to the American exchange, the dollar value of sterling has risen to 4.43, no doubt in sympathy with the general improvement in the political situation, and to the fact that the opinion prevails that the previous fall had been somewhat overdone. The French franc, after various fluctuations, is now 58.45, the rate having been remarkably steady. The Belgian is 63.05, after having been 63.78 on the 11th, and no explanation appears to be forthcoming in this connection. The lira has been round about 103 for most of the period under review. Holland has risen slightly, and is now about 11.40. Switzerland has created a new record, having moved from 23.60 to 23.80. The peseta rate has been maintained at about 29.05. In the Scandinavian exchanges there appears to be very little business; Norway has, however, fluctuated violently, and is now 24.63, whilst Sweden and Denmark are respectively 16.62 and 21.78. The Finnish rate is down to 192, but the market is not an active one. Austria, after falling to 350,000, is now back at 333,000. The Polish mark stands at 48,000, showing a depreciation of 8,000 during the week. Prague, 122 on the 10th. Belgrade shows no change, being steady at 270. The drachma is 170, and the Turkish pound 730. It is rumoured that the exchange restrictions in Greece have been completely removed, but official confirmation is lacking at the moment. Roumanian lei has appreciated to 705. Amongst South Americans, Valparaiso is 31.70, Rio is 6½, and Buenos Aires is 44.00. With grain shipping in this particular exchange is broadening out to some extent, and the value of the Argentine dollar has parity, but big crop movements might materially change the position. The Eastern exchanges have kept fairly steady. The rupee is 1s 3½d. Business conditions still recognised that no definite trade revival can possibly occur until international conditions become more stable, and a final settlement of the many Continental difficulties is arrived at.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 7, 1922:—

REVENUE.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	19,153	Permanent charge of Debt ..	2,139
Amount borrowed	12,617	Interest on Debt	26,824
Taken from Exchequer Balances ..	5,093	Supply Services	7,900
	36,863		36,863

Receipts from Property and Income-tax amounted to £9,137,000, against £7,240,000 in the first return of the same quarter last year. Customs yielded £2,031,000,

against £3,122,000. Excise receipts amounted to £1,704,000, against £1,872,000. The revenue from Interest on Sundry Loans amounted to £2,296,663, against £36,166. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £12,616,793, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £	National War Bonds paid off	Min. £
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 800	— 40,534	
Bank of England Advances	+ 15,500	— 40,534	
Public Dept. Advances	+ 30,350		
Treasury Bills	+ 5,539		
Unemployment Insurance	+ 1,060		
	+ 53,249	— 40,534	

The floating debt was increased by £51,405,000 to £923,329,500 during the week ended October 7, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to October 7, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	384,287,220	Raised by revenue ..	423,046,411
Dec. in balances	8,435,900	Net repayments	47,195,091
Total	375,851,320	Total	375,851,320

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.*	Oct. 7, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 & 5% War Stock	26	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,980	1,980
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,050	1,050
4% Funding Loan	...	...	409	409	405	405	401	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	360	357	348	346	335	335	335
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24	24
5-year Treas. Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	273	381	311	311
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	40
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	61
Do by tender 4½%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	729
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	366
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Debt	94	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,139	1,097	1,087	1,076	1,076
American Loan	51	51	51	51	51	...	...	...	...
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	194
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,672
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,799	7,721	7,739	7,739

* Figures for the year ended March 31, 1922, have now been adjusted in accordance with the Finance Accounts recently published.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing	Out-stand- ing
Temporary Advances	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000	37,250,000
Advances by Bank of England	157,283,000	147,301,500	155,000,000	155,000,000	155,000,000	155,000,000	155,000,000	155,000,000	155,000,000
Advances by Public Deptts	1,161,580,000	882,219,000	923,329,500	923,329,500	923,329,500	923,329,500	923,329,500	923,329,500	923,329,500
Treasury Bills outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Floating Debt	1,356,053,000	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500	1,025,520,500

FROM MUDANIA TO MANCHESTER.

The signature of an agreement at Mudania by the Allies and Turks—to be followed, we hope, quickly by Greek adhesion—has dispersed the war clouds which gathered again so threateningly at the end of last week. Given the critical position which had arisen when the Mudania Conference began, the Agreement reached on Wednesday may be regarded with relief and satisfaction. The chief point gained is that the evacuation of Eastern Thrace by the Greeks will take place under conditions which should make quite impossible any repetition of the deplorable events which have followed evacuations in other regions of the Near East. The Turkish armies will not cross the Bosphorus until the peace has been signed; meanwhile they undertake to respect the neutral zones as delimited by agreement, and it is of comparatively small importance that these zones appear to have been slightly reduced in area during the recent negotiations. No delay, we trust, will be allowed in summoning the peace conference. Another important point that is now assured is that the Turks will not come to the conference with the prestige of a threatening military advantage or with all the temptations which such a position

would have provided. That is one important gain at Mudania. But the highest hopes of lasting results from the peace conference cannot be entertained unless all the parties vitally interested in the forthcoming settlement are properly represented, including Russia and the new countries of the Balkans. These nations are vitally interested in the settlement, and no conference at which their voices are not heard can hope to sow the seeds of real peace and security in those regions which have so frequently proved themselves to be the danger zone of European politics. In any case, the peace conference will find an adequate supply of problems bristling with difficulty. Of all these problems that relating to the "freedom of the Straits" will not be the least difficult. But we do not propose at this juncture to count the stones that will strew the path of the peace conference. For the moment it is sufficient that a very dangerous corner has been negotiated without disaster, and that the pressing problem of the safety of the East Thracian population during the transition from Greek to Turkish administration has been satisfactorily solved.

However, although the ship has been steered through a dangerous reef, the whole affair of the Near Eastern crisis has left an uneasiness behind it which has reacted strongly upon domestic politics. The disclosure of the narrowness of our escape from a new war has brought upon the Premier vigorous attacks from quarters hitherto friendly, and has fanned into flame the smouldering discontent inside the Coalition ranks. At a hastily arranged function at Manchester to-day, Mr Lloyd George will answer his critics. The speech will be a critical event in home politics. Indeed, Manchester has replaced Mudania as the cynosure of political eyes. No doubt Mr Lloyd George will make great play with a claim to have vindicated British prestige and at the same time to have averted war. But the country, we believe, will give less time to a study of these inevitable passages in the Premier's speech than to the search for an answer to the question as to where the responsibility lies for creating that dangerous crisis in the Near East, from the worst results of which we have been narrowly saved by the tact and determination of General Harington and the diligent efforts of Lord Curzon to clear up a tangle with which he ought never to have been confronted. Coalition stock has without question been falling rapidly and severely in the country. If by his Manchester speech the Premier can restore public faith in the Coalition as being what Earl Balfour once described as "a pure, harmonious, altruistic concentration upon national affairs of the nation's best brains," then he will indeed have earned his nickname of "the wizard." But it is not the strictures of his opponents that will principally exercise the Premier's powers of eloquence and political strategy. His chief preoccupation must be the growth of schism within the Coalition ranks. Last spring, it will be remembered, when signs of mutiny occurred in the Conservative rank and file, Mr Lloyd George threatened resignation unless the Conservative leaders could make their followers toe the Coalition line. Their efforts to do so were not conspicuously successful, but at that time the Premier, intent upon the approaching Genoa Conference, contented himself with the refreshing tonic of a vote of confidence in the House

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY.

Subscribed Capital ..	- £38,117,103
Paid-up Capital	- 10,860,852
Reserve Fund	- 10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	- 368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,450 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

of Commons. The position to-day differs in two main essentials from the position that arose in the spring. The discontent inside the Coalition is very much more formidable, and there is to-day no illusive phantom of triumph to play the part which his high hopes of Genoa played then in reconciling the Premier to uncomfortable tenure of office.

Such being the main elements in the situation, the widespread assumption that a General Election is close at hand is natural and obvious, although it may quite possibly be premature. From many points of view an early General Election would be welcomed by those who, like ourselves, are convinced that any new Premier and Government would find it far easier than Mr Lloyd George finds it to solve pressing international questions, especially those in which French and British interests are most closely intertwined. Any new Premier, of whatever party colour, would start with the immeasurable advantage of a clean slate, and would be free from the harassing atmosphere of distrust and suspicion which Mr Lloyd George has created between himself and French statesmen and French opinion. Nevertheless, an immediate General Election would have some serious disadvantages. Unless some time elapses in which clear and concrete programmes can be laid before the country, the electorate will be asked to choose between a series of blurred and indistinct policies. It would be difficult to describe in brief language what Coalition policy is, judged by its past history. As regards external affairs (including Ireland in that phrase) it is perhaps fair to say that the Coalition policy has steadily veered towards liberal lines after having tried the illiberal and found them to be impossible. Coalition policy at home, on the other hand, may fairly be described as illiberal. It has embraced Protection and has thrown overboard its programme with regard to labour which helped to win so many votes at the General Election. On all these matters the country has sufficient data on which to form an opinion, but it is unfortunately without information as to what the Conservative policy is on many of the leading questions of the day. It may probably be assumed that in foreign affairs the policy of a Conservative Government would not differ greatly from that of the Government which it would be succeeding. But what is the Conservative policy towards Indian Reform, and at home towards Protection and Free Trade, and also towards labour questions in general? On none of these questions is it clear what the official Conservative policy would be. Mr Chamberlain has hinted in rather striking language that he is not so great a Protectionist as he was, and the present week has brought about a very significant event in the change of the name of the Tariff Reform League, which will in future be known as the Empire Development Union. Free Traders may suggest that the wolf may be even more dangerous when he assumes sheep's clothing. But they will probably be more justified in regarding this event as new evidence of Conservative shyness in the matter of tariff advocacy. But the public should not be left to guesswork. It is in our opinion of the highest importance that before the General Election takes place the country should be given an adequate opportunity of knowing and studying the official Conservative policy towards these and other matters of vital importance.

This leads us to study the alternatives which exist to an immediate General Election. Mr Lloyd George has several courses open to him. He may join with the Conservative leaders in a strenuous defence of the Coalition and carry on for a time in the hope either that something favourable to Coalition fortunes may turn up, or with the intention of using the breathing space to ally his fortunes with one of the great parties in the State. It is open to him, on the other hand, to make use of the mutiny in the Conservative ranks as a reason for resignation, and to leave Mr Chamberlain either to form a Conservative Government and to carry on, or to advise a dissolution. It is certainly arguable that national interests would be best served by the assumption of office by the Conservative party—the only party which can meet Parliament with the hope of maintaining a majority. If this were to happen, the Conservative party would then

be obliged to formulate a clear policy, of which the country, with its eyes open, could approve or disapprove at the General Election, which, in any case, is unlikely to be delayed very long. This possibility would perhaps be the most desirable, and is also, perhaps, the least likely *dénouement* of the present political disturbance; for if the political pundits are correct, so far from being in the mood for resignation, Mr Lloyd George is in fighting fettle; while Mr Chamberlain would hardly have uttered at Birmingham yesterday the old cry of "stand by the Coalition against the Labour menace" if he had thought that Mr Lloyd George was about to dig the Coalition's grave. What the Premier's political plans are it will be possible to deduce from, if not to read plainly in, his speech at Manchester to-day. But we should like to underline the disadvantages, from the point of view of national interest, of sending the nation to the ordeal of the polls while party politics represent the present blurred and confusing outlines. A final point to remember in connection with the approach of a General Election is this. There is every prospect of a widespread epidemic of three-cornered, four-cornered, or even five-cornered elections. If electoral law is left to stand as it stands to-day, it is quite within the bounds of possibility that the next House of Commons will actually be elected by a minority of the electorate. Few events could be more damaging than that to the system of Parliamentary Government. If the present Coalition meets Parliament next month as arranged, or if a Conservative administration does so in its place, we sincerely hope that past decisions will be reconsidered, and that some reform of the electoral system will be attempted in order to secure that a majority and not a minority of the voters of the country will be represented in the membership of the next House of Commons.

RAILWAY ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES.

SOME reduction has already been made in railway goods rates, and there is a confident expectation that 25 per cent. will shortly be knocked off the 75 per cent. addition made during the control period to pre-war fares. Writing in February and March of this year we pointed out how the release of the home railways from Government control—which took place on August 15, 1921—and the total sum of 60 millions to be paid in compensation under the Geddes settlement, should place the companies in a position to pay reasonable dividends during the reconstruction period, and to make those reductions in both rates and fares which were essential if traffic were to be encouraged and trade assisted to lift its head out of the deeps of depression. We have now the Ministry of Transport's detailed returns of the working of the railways during 1921, showing the enormous reductions in traffic during that year in comparison with 1920, and the tale of losses made good by the Government guarantee of net earnings, which expired with control on August 15th. Much of the loss in goods revenue may be attributed to the three months' coal stoppage, with the almost entire cessation of mineral traffic, but the reduction in passenger travel must largely be the direct resultant of prohibitive railway fares and the withdrawal of cheap excursion facilities. Left to themselves the railway companies have this year been endeavouring to cut loose from the worst of the entanglement in which they had become enmeshed during control. Coal and other stores have fallen greatly in price, and the wages of railway servants based on the "cost of living" index. A comparatively small portion of the first instalment of compensation there remain 28 millions to be received next spring. After the expenditure of this compensation money or on their own feet, and conduct their operations as before the war on an economic basis. They must encourage instead of driving it away, help a trade revival immediate dividend distributions than of the ultimate interests of the railways and of the country's industries. Now let us turn to the adjusted figures for 1921 as disclosed by the Ministry of Transport. The gross

receipts were 246 millions and the gross expenditure 256.3 millions, showing a deficiency of 10.3 millions. The proportion of expenditure to receipts was 104 per cent., as compared with 98 per cent. in 1920 and 64 per cent. in 1913. Net miscellaneous revenue yielded 4.4 millions, so that the final deficiency in net revenue was 5.9 millions, as compared with a surplus for 1920 of 9.9 millions. The Government paid 53.2 millions under its guarantee of the net earnings of 1913 up to August 15th, and an additional sum of 4.6 millions in respect of the settlement of claims, so that the net income finally came out at 51.9 millions. The one category in which the railways made a net profit for 1921 was hotels, refreshment rooms, and cars. The expenses of the railways proper were 104 per cent. of the gross receipts, of passenger road vehicles 109 per cent., of steamboats 117 per cent., of canals 186 per cent., and of docks, harbours, and wharves 105 per cent. Even in 1920 none of the undertakings except railways proper and hotels made a profit; passenger road vehicles, steamboats, canals, and docks were all run at considerable losses.

Freight and passenger traffic fell heavily. In tonnage general merchandise was down by 26.3 per cent., coal, coke, and patent fuel by 29.3 per cent., and other minerals by 42.6 per cent. In tonnage the totals of all standard gauge railways showed a decrease of 30.4 per cent., and in ton-miles a decrease of 30.6 per cent. in comparison with 1920. The receipts per ton and per ton-mile were up in consequence of the increases in rates, which took effect at various dates in 1920. An average rate of 24s 6.22d per ton on general merchandise, being an increase of nearly 4s 3d per ton, may explain in part, at least, the falling off of over 26 per cent. in this category. Excessive railway rates in a period of trade depression must have an accelerating effect on the depression and on the decline in traffic which is its expression.

In passengers carried, we see the double influence of high fares and tight money conditions. The passengers holding ordinary tickets declined in numbers by nearly 200 millions, or 17.4 per cent. Workmen's tickets diminished by 153 millions, or 33 per cent. Season tickets dropped by 86,768, or 8.4 per cent. On the London tubes and District Railway there was a fall comparable with that in general traffic. Passengers holding ordinary tickets were down by 42 millions, or 16.5 per cent., and workmen by 20.7 millions, or 31 per cent. "Notwithstanding," says the Ministry of Transport's Report, "the heavy falling off (in the number of passengers during 1921 as compared with 1920), the number of passenger journeys during the year 1921 was 232 millions, or 14.6 per cent. greater than in 1913."

The capital accounts of the railways are always of great interest. It is clear that during the years which elapsed between the Armistice and the termination of Government control and guarantee of net earnings, the companies expended large sums in making good war damage to their systems. A considerable part of that expenditure on deferred upkeep must have been charged to revenue account, and made good out of the Government guarantee, yet a large amount remained as a debit against capital. We see that on December 31st last the railways had spent on capital account 52.5 millions in excess of capital receipts, and that they increased this excess by 5 millions spent during 1921. The total capital expenditure is given as 1,213.4 millions, as against capital receipts of 1,160.9 millions. The railways were allowed under the Geddes settlement 60 millions in settlement of all claims against the Government, and were not restricted in regard to the manner of its expenditure. But if they had previously spent 52½ millions more on capital account than had been received, then very little of that 60 millions would appear to be available for making up dividends to shareholders.

NINE MONTHS' OVERSEAS TRADE.

THE Board of Trade returns of overseas trade in September and the nine months are not without encouraging features, although in making comparison with the first nine months of 1921 it must be remembered that those figures reflected the havoc of the long coal stoppage on British export trade. Taking a comparison with August,

one finds September showing an increase of £2½ millions in exports of British produce and manufactures, a decline of over £1 million in re-exports, and a large drop of nearly £5½ millions in imports. The comparison of the summary figures for September and the nine months with the figures for the corresponding periods of 1921 reads as follows:—

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	86,878,012	76,943,609	9,934,403	- 11.5
British exports	55,247,578	62,511,099	7,263,521	+ 13.1
Re-exports	8,594,644	6,381,443	2,213,201	+ 25.8
Total exports	63,842,222	68,892,542	5,050,320	+ 7.9
Excess of imports over total exports	23,035,790	8,051,067	14,984,723	- 64.8

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30.

	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	827,627,658	728,543,304	99,084,354	- 12.0
British exports	518,661,311	534,723,767	16,062,456	+ 3.1
Re-exports	77,639,668	77,873,526	233,858	+ 0.3
Total exports	596,300,979	612,597,293	16,296,314	+ 2.7
Excess of imports over total exports	231,326,679	115,946,011	115,380,668	- 49.7

Of the increase of £7½ millions in British exports over September of last year, nearly £3 millions is accounted for by coal, which was in exceptional export demand, owing to the labour troubles in the United States. But British manufactures exported show a rise of over £4½ millions, £3 millions of which is due to better cotton goods shipments. But the list of exports of British manufactures shows a large number of advances in value over the previous September, the merit of which is increased when it is remembered that in the past 12 months severe cuts have been made in the prices of many leading British products. The September balance of merchandise trade, an import surplus of £8 millions, is well below the pre-war monthly average; while the nine months' import surplus of £116 millions is not far above it. This last-named figure is just half the surplus recorded in the first nine months of 1921, when, owing to the coal troubles, exports were seriously contracted. Influences affecting exchange movements to-day are many and complex, but the halving of the visible import excess must be ranked among the causes of the rise in sterling exchange.

The following table shows at a glance how the quantity exported in the past nine months by 20 important sections of British production compared with the corresponding figures for 1921, 1920, and 1913:—

BRITISH EXPORTS. January 1st to September 30th.

	1913.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Coal	54,517,788	19,851,555	13,351,554	45,476,573
Coke, &c.	2,380,420	3,185,089	898,734	2,627,477
China-ware and earthenware, &c.	3,065,631	2,907,393	2,013,071	2,421,422
Cement	587,353	454,596	231,282	278,582
Pig-iron and ferro-alloys	850,869	498,775	99,937	459,127
Railway material	593,515	231,883	217,217	373,315
Agricultural machinery	60,185	8,278	4,748	6,140
Textile machinery	130,525	35,816	111,637	108,031
Total machinery	513,697	316,121	386,856	282,483
Cotton yarn	154,761,750	118,447,700	90,592,600	158,363,900
Cotton piece-goods*	5,350,278,900	3,540,677,100	1,886,341,100	3,068,278,700
Wool tops	331,141	153,982	257,184	303,647
Woolen tissues*	81,997,400	151,721,800	55,449,900	89,896,000
Woolen piece-goods*	142,307,300	181,827,400	24,720,900	59,014,400
Woolen goods*	32,656,200	30,479,200	17,364,500	25,671,300
Jute yarn	129,668,700	120,587,500	47,185,900	95,360,800
Jute piece-goods*	3,117,385	2,498,623	1,330,257	1,533,500
Jute sacks and bags	1,069,120	623,816	234,964	334,855
Boots and shoes	1,359,716	1,599,589	596,285	824,086
Soap	3,150,495	2,310,201	872,515	1,233,530
Fur skins, dressed				

* Yards in 1913, square yards in 1920 and 1921.

Coal is the outstanding feature. Coal exported was nearly 2½ times the quantity recorded in 1920, and is steadily overhauling the pre-war figure. In value, however, the nine-months' coal exports are £27 millions less than those of the corresponding period of 1920. Cotton yarn exports and wool tops show very well in the list, while cotton piece-goods have recovered strikingly from last year's depression. But, on the whole, though the improving tendency in many directions claims notice, the above list is a reminder of the long way we have to go before our export trades can regain the

activity of 1920 or of pre-war days. The nine months' list of imports of raw materials show that we took 9,153,995 centals of raw cotton, against 7,380,574 in 1921, and 14,722,687 in 1920; of sheep's and lambs' wool, 9,155,567 centals, against 5,527,130 in 1921 and 6,944,026 in 1920. In view of recent developments, the rubber figures will be read with interest. They read as follows for September and the first nine months of the past three years:—

	Imports. Centals.	Re-Exports. Centals.
First nine months, 1920.....	1,817,206	1,099,733
" " 1921.....	1,560,907	601,120
" " 1922.....	1,042,366	875,997
September, 1920.....	203,375	42,686
" 1921.....	109,662	127,983
" 1922.....	95,960	98,367

The statistics of shipping engaged in the foreign trade provide evidence of a larger employment of tonnage. The tonnage cleared with cargoes last month was 5,730,518, as compared with 4,101,436 in September, 1921, and 3,016,720 in September, 1920. The tonnage cleared in the nine months was 43,288,822, which compares with 24,387,333 and 27,630,643 in the corresponding periods of 1921 and 1920 respectively.

The gold import and export figures for the nine months compare as follows with those of preceding periods:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.
Gold imported..	32,169,986	38,903,831	23,744,845
Gold exported..	58,323,690	47,062,507	29,490,145

In spite of the somewhat heavy shipments of a few months ago, the total sent to the United States in the past nine months was only £17,734,962, against £44,385,390 in the corresponding period of last year.

Among market information and statistics on later pages of this issue will be found a detailed analysis of leading import and export values in September and the nine months of this year and last. On the whole, it may be said that, while the returns furnish important evidence of improvement, they are, nevertheless, a stern reminder of the restrictions upon active trade imposed by war impoverishment and by the failure to establish security and financial stability abroad.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

SUCH statistics of industrial company earnings as are available are unfortunately not sufficiently up to date to afford any indication of the present condition of industry. At the same time, although the figures are some months behindhand, they are of interest as indicating how the earnings of industry have been affected by the fluctuations in trade, and to what extent the return on shareholdings in industrial undertakings has moved. During the past three months the profit and loss accounts of 209 industrial concerns have been analysed in a weekly table in the *Economist*. It is obvious that all these accounts cannot cover a period ending in the past quarter. Indeed, some of them refer to the financial year ended March 31st, and even to the calendar year 1921, since for various reasons a long period is allowed to elapse after the close of the financial year by some company directors before the presentation of the annual report. The net profits disclosed during the past quarter by the 209 companies mentioned aggregated £12,120,153, as compared with £15,853,920 disclosed by the same companies in their previous financial years, a decrease of £3,733,767, or 23.5 per cent. As will be seen from the table below, which gives the results of our analyses for the past five quarters, there has been a distinct decline in the percentage decrease in profits in the last three quarters:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in	Decrease.
		1920-21.	1921-22.
Third quarter 1921.....	232	£ 24,157,772	£ 13,912,771
Fourth quarter 1921.....	311	30,272,382	14,268,278
First quarter 1922.....	442	47,368,926	26,785,952
Second quarter 1922.....	401	38,044,790	25,195,690
Third quarter 1922.....	209	15,853,920	12,120,153

The first quarter shown in the table represents a comparison with a period when profits were still rising, whereas in the succeeding quarters profits were on the down grade. The point may perhaps be more clearly seen from the following list of increases or decreases in net profits recorded in our quarterly analyses since the beginning of 1918:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
First quarter.....	-1.0	+10.4	+26.9	+3.5	-43.4
Second quarter.....	-5.8	-5.1	+37.8	-8.4	-33.7
Third quarter.....	+12.3	-3.4	+41.9	-42.4	-23.5
Fourth quarter.....	+4.7	+10.5	+27.1	-52.9	..

In the next table we classify the companies whose reports have been examined in the past quarter into 13 groups, and show the increases and decreases in net profits:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in Quarter Ended Sept. 30.	Increase.	Decrease.
		1921.	1922.	
Breweries.....	19	£ 4,349,753	£ 5,201,800	19.6
Gas.....	6	85,122	187,330	117.2
Hotels, restaurants, &c.....	6	18,311	46,608	254.1
Iron, coal, and steel.....	19	2,204,703	819,164	1,385,539
Land mortgage, &c.....	13	190,114	413,368	117.0
Rubber, &c.....	42	329,159	193,940	135,259
Shipping.....	6	1,198,810	938,630	260,180
Tea.....	4	211,052	170,802	40,250
Telegraphs.....	4	439,427	414,230	25,197
Textiles.....	6	1,145,680	1,234,413	238,093
Trust companies.....	9	301,178	286,022	15,156
Waterworks.....	5	12,346	17,420	41.2
Miscellaneous.....	64	8,060,689	2,196,426	5,864,263
	209	15,853,920	12,120,153	3,733,767

Seven of the 13 groups show an increase in net profits, the most striking recoveries being those of the tea and textile groups. Very large increases are also shown by the gas, hotel, and land mortgages and financial groups. The largest decrease is recorded by the iron, coal, and steel companies, and this follows a decline of 29 per cent. shown by the same group a year ago. Twelve of the companies in the miscellaneous group show a net loss, including one of £1,794,800 by the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, which compares with a profit of £854,500 for the previous financial year.

The next table shows the apportionment of profits between shareholders and reserves in each of the past five quarters:—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Preference Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.
	£	£	%	£
Third quarter 1921.....	13,912,771	10,646,266	76.5	2,834,956
Fourth quarter 1921.....	14,268,278	11,464,889	80.4	3,386,145
First quarter 1922.....	26,785,952	22,171,510	82.9	9,689,030
Second quarter 1922.....	25,195,690	20,066,774	79.7	6,156,048
Third quarter 1922.....	12,120,153	10,010,136	82.7	3,328,074

The proportions going to ordinary and preference shareholders in the last three months are much the same as in the previous four quarters. The last column includes, in addition to specific appropriations to reserve, the amounts by which the balances carried forward exceed or fall short of the amounts brought in, and the reduction of £1,218,000 is due to heavy entrenchments on the balances brought forward. The table below shows how each group has apportioned its profits in the past quarter:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Preference Dividend.	Carried to Reserve, &c.
	£	£	%	£
Breweries.....	5,201,800	3,364,540	64.8	535,245
Gas.....	187,330	128,207	68.5	9,871
Hotels, restaurants, &c.....	46,608	25,180	54.0	12,125
Iron, coal, and steel.....	819,164	1,005,524	122.3	18,350
Land mortgage, &c.....	413,368	227,942	55.1	610,480
Rubber, &c.....	193,940	216,292	111.5	2,727
Shipping.....	938,630	595,569	63.5	87,898
Tea.....	170,802	61,364	35.9	15,220
Telegraphs.....	414,230	552,971	133.4	9,218
Textiles.....	1,234,413	658,095	53.2	177,353
Trust companies.....	286,022	248,307	86.9	21,992
Waterworks.....	17,420	12,718	73.1	4,502
Miscellaneous.....	2,196,426	3,003,427	136.8	1,756,613
	12,120,153	10,010,136	82.7	3,328,074

Four groups, including miscellaneous companies, have paid to ordinary shareholders more than was actually earned in the year, and the iron and steel and miscellaneous

groups are conspicuous for having paid respectively sums equal to 75 and 80 per cent. of profits to preference shareholders. The shipping group maintains a conservative policy, and places nearly 37 per cent. of profits to reserve, and is only second in this respect to the tea group, which sets aside over 55 per cent. of profits. Breweries and textile companies make a fairly good showing as regards reserve allocations, but the miscellaneous group depletes the funds in hand by an amount considerably larger than the year's earnings.

We show next the ratio of net profits and of reserve appropriations to total ordinary and preference capital:—

	Total Ord. and Pref. Capital.	Net Profits.	Carried to Reserve, &c.
	£	£	%
Third quarter 1921.....	166,443,500	13,912,771	8.4
Fourth quarter 1921.....	218,246,700	14,268,278	6.5
First quarter 1922.....	442,936,400	26,785,952	6.1
Second quarter 1922.....	350,840,200	25,195,690	7.2
Third quarter 1922.....	205,481,600	12,120,153	5.9

Two years ago the ratio of profits to total capital was 16.6 per cent., but since then it has steadily diminished to the latest figure of less than 6 per cent. The final table gives the average rates of interest and dividend on debenture, preference, and ordinary capital paid in the last three months, together with the average ordinary dividend shown in our article a year ago:—

	Debenture Capital.	Rate of Interest.	Preference Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Rate of Dividend. Year Ago.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	%
Breweries.....	12,572,933	3.9	10,172,889	5.3	23,250,523	14.4	13.4
Gas.....	892,845	4.8	156,417	6.3	2,010,682	6.4	4.1
Hotels, restaurants, &c.....	1,878,875	4.8	1,170,000	1.0	2,355,381	8.8	2.0
Iron, coal, and steel.....	8,445,021	6.7	13,086,152	4.7	27,888,968	3.6	10.0
Land mortgage, &c.....	3,199,856	4.4	2,362,955	4.1	3,574,668	6.4	12.4
Rubber, &c.....	762,921	4.4	565,968	0.5	8,177,423	2.7	3.9
Shipping.....	2,282,720	3.8	4,990,700	10.1	101,104	1.0	1.4
Tea.....	189,400	6.1	451,007	3.4	825,127	7.4	1.9
Telegraphs.....	59,280	6.4	4,183,830	13.2	156,102	12.1	1.6
Textiles.....	1,684,271	4.1	3,726,947	4.1	6,436,800	6.3	10.1
Trust companies.....	815,080	4.1	578,680	3.8	3,371,725	6.3	10.1
Waterworks.....	46,081	4.6	5,781	3.5	257,601	4.9	2.3
Miscellaneous.....	15,009,781	6.4	38,743,309	4.5	43,755,380	6.9	7.4
	45,556,684	5.2	73,302,825	4.5	132,178,808	7.6	9.1

We have included with debenture capital the various short-term note issues which were so popular a year or two back, and this accounts for the comparatively high average rate of interest in one or two groups. On the other hand, the passing of preference dividends explains the rather low average rate of dividend on preference capital. The average dividend of 7.6 per cent. on ordinary capital compares with an average of 8.6 per cent. for the four previous quarters, and of 9.7 per cent. in the corresponding quarter of last year. It will be observed that six groups have paid a higher rate to ordinary shareholders than they did last year, and that the brewery group heads the list with an average of 14.4 per cent.

BRITAIN'S OILSEED AND OIL INDUSTRY.

A MUCH larger quantity of oilseeds, &c., reached the crushing mills of the United Kingdom in the first six months of the current year than in the corresponding half of last year. This, and the fact that there was also a substantial increase in the exports of vegetable oils, may be taken as evidence of some improvement in the position of an industry, which, after a phenomenal post-war "boom," entered upon a prolonged period of acute depression. The gross imports of oilseeds, oilnuts, and kernels in the first half-year were 710,336 tons, or 79,577 tons, equal to 12.6 per cent., better than a year ago. Should this rate be maintained, the full year's imports will exceed 1,400,000 tons, and approximate to an average normal year. Less than 1 per cent. of oilseeds and 7.5 per cent. of nuts and kernels were re-exported, and, allowing for these, the imports represent 205,000 tons of vegetable oils, including linseed oil 63,000 tons, cottonseed oil 41,000 tons, and nut oils 82,000 tons. The exports of unrefined oils produced

in the United Kingdom reached the high figure of 57,921 tons, against only 31,738 tons and 48,530 tons in the corresponding period of 1921 and 1920 respectively. The increase was almost solely due to the heavy exports of linseed oil, viz., 43,788 tons, against 19,650 tons, the principal shipments, fully 80 per cent., being to the United States to supplement the shortage in domestic production of this commodity. The raising of the tariff and the arrival of the new crop in the States may affect adversely the demand for English and Continental linseed oil in the near future. Nevertheless, the trade has been very welcome to oilmillers on this side of the Atlantic, and has enabled them to dispose of stocks not required by more or less stagnant home industries. The exports of refined vegetable oils at 7,046 tons are 1,720 tons behind a year ago, owing to smaller shipments of cotton and palm kernel oils.

This country also imports considerable quantities of vegetable oils from abroad, the gross figures for the half-year being unrefined 69,003 tons, and refined 10,358 tons. The former consists principally of palm, coconut, and soya bean oils, and the latter of olive, coconut, and cotton oils. About 30 per cent. of the crude palm oil, which is derived from British possessions, is re-exported. Another feature is the larger imports of crude soya bean oil, which at 11,687 tons compares with only 4,713 tons a year ago. This is now shipped from Manchuria in bulk, the water ballast tanks of the steamer often being used for the purpose, and competes strongly with English soya-bean oil, of which only something over 4,000 tons was produced here in the half-year, and practically all exported. The operation of the tariff has had the effect of reducing American imports of Oriental soya bean oil to about 7,500 tons per annum, or about 10 per cent. of the average of 1919 and 1920, the larger quantity thus left for consumption elsewhere depressing the world markets, and as in the case of other oils subject to a heavy American import duty, making it easier for Europeans and other oil producers to compete with the American product. The net imports of vegetable oils into the United Kingdom in the half-year were 67,963 tons, or 3,000 tons more than the exports of similar oils manufactured or refined in this country.

Apart from vegetable oils, Great Britain is a large importer of animal fats and fish oil. These, excluding butter and margarine, in the half-year under review aggregated 123,000 tons. The leading items are hog's lard 57,891 tons, of which the United States sent 54,836 tons; tallow, 26,818 tons, of which Australia and New Zealand together furnished 18,630 tons; oleo oil and oleine 13,238 tons, and fish and marine animal oils 18,597 tons. About 12 per cent. of the imports was re-exported, principally tallow oleo and fish oils. The supply of vegetable oils and edible fats, leaving out of account butter and margarine, remaining for home consumption may be put down roughly at 300,000 tons for the half-year, which is at about the normal rate, although the distribution somewhat varies. The quantity of refined vegetable oils and animal fats consumed in the manufacture of margarine has undoubtedly fallen away to an enormous extent. It is less than half of what it was when the butter shortage was most pronounced, and when little or no foreign-made margarine was finding its way into this country. Nevertheless, it is in excess of pre-war times, when we produced only 2,600 tons of margarine on the average weekly, as against something under 4,000 tons a week at present. In this connection it is interesting to note that our imports of butter have got back to fully pre-war level, and that those of margarine are also creeping up again, as will be gathered from the following figures of gross imports for the six months' period in the pre-war and post-war years:—

	Butter. Cwts.	Margarine. Cwts.
1913 (pre-war).....	2,079,137	725,417
1919.....	1,001,006	6,801
1920.....	1,057,785	359,439
1921.....	2,145,705	487,019
1922.....	2,397,340	422,212

The re-exports of butter in the past six months were 419,837 cwts, a notable expansion when compared with an average of less than 6,000 cwts in 1920-21 and 61,070 cwts in the first half of 1913. Net imports were thus only 40,564 cwts behind 1913. The home production of butter is again at pre-war level. Re-exports of margarine are

negligible. Assuming the consumption of butter and margarine in the United Kingdom to be at the same rate as pre-war, viz., 25½ pounds per head of the population per annum, the difference in the imports of margarine, which are almost solely derived from Holland, is probably made up by increased home production of that commodity. Exports of margarine made in this country showed some signs of expansion in 1920, but have since fallen back to pre-war level, and in the first half of this year were no more than 11,294 cwts.

With regard to the future, the outlook in the oilseed crushing industry is uncertain, and to some extent obscure, but not without hopefulness. Works' costs are coming down gradually, and prices of the raw materials are finding a more or less stable basis. The great hope, however, lies in an all round revival of trade and industry, both here and abroad. Good export markets for the oil products have in recent years been opened out in Europe and elsewhere, and English crushers, with a century of experience behind them, and by the adoption of modern principles in business, are pretty confident that they will be able to claim a fair share in the world's markets. Indications are not wanting of a revival in the consuming trades, most of which have experienced the full effects of the industrial set-back of the past two years. For example, the paint and varnish trades are looking up considerably, and would look up still more were not the cost of labour in applying paint, &c., out of all proportion to the cost of the materials used. The exports of paints and painters' materials show a marked advance in quantity as compared with the first half of last year, but are still only a little more than 50 per cent. of those of 1913. Linoleum and oilcloth exports also record an improvement, and together were 16,789,923 square yards, as against 28,327,900 square yards in the corresponding half of the pre-war year. Soap exports are also reviving again, 587,898 cwts for the half-year comparing with 314,821 cwts a year ago, while candles at 70,303 cwts compare with 17,615 cwts. In the first half of 1913 the figures were 930,010 cwts and 137,857 cwts respectively. Slight as the indications are, they are in the right direction, and at least afford ground for encouragement that the worst has been left behind, and that better times are in sight. The process of co-ordination in the oilseed crushing industry goes on, the latest absorption being that of the Hull Oil Manufacturing Company by the British Oil and Cake Mills, Limited.

WHAT GERMANY OWES AND HAS PAID.

MUCH of the discussion, political and even economic, which has gone on for the last three years about Reparations has been entangled in ambiguity owing to the lack of really precise figures. Gratitude as well as congratulation is therefore due to the general secretary of the Reparation Commission for having extracted from its accounting records and put out in a clear and intelligible form the data upon which useful argument depends. The "Statement of Germany's Obligations at April 30, 1922" (H.M. Stationery Office, 2s), is a model document in its kind. Issued "with a view to giving to the public, and more particularly to the economic public, information as to Germany's payments under Part VIII. of the Treaty of Versailles and the distribution of such payments between the Allied Powers," it gives everything that a reasonably informed person needs to enable him to understand the situation.

Its broad governing factors are given by a study of three tables, numbered IX., I., and IV. Table IX. gives a condensed statement of Germany's obligations. From this it appears that up to April 30, 1922, Germany's pre-Reparations obligations (as set out in Art. 235 of the Treaty) amounted to 3,535 millions of gold marks (i.e., 392 millions under coal advance, 3,143 millions for the net costs of all the armies of occupation). On this there was on April 30, 1922, a balance still due of 940 million gold marks. The capital debt, fixed by the Reparations Commission at 132,000 millions of gold marks, plus 4,000 millions (estimate for Allies' loans to Belgium), stood on April 30, 1922, after striking off the 2,504 millions credited for cessions and properties, at 133,496 million gold marks.

Against this there stands an item of German Treasury bonds handed over to a nominal value of 12,000 million ("A" series), 38,000 million ("B"), and 82,000 million ("C"), whose actual marketable worth is a matter into which the Commission's accountants naturally do not enter. The formal picture is completed when the two tables I. (Statement of Deliveries and Payments on Account prior to May 1, 1921) and IV. (Summary of Credits to Germany for Cash Payments and Deliveries in kind from May 1, 1921, to April 30, 1922) are taken together. From them the following situation emerges:—

WHAT GERMANY HAS PAID.	
November 11, 1918, to April 30, 1921—	
Payments in cash	Gold Marks. 112,121,000
Deliveries in kind (materials, &c.)	1,251,064,000
Deliveries under Armistice terms	1,183,226,000
Submarine cables	49,000,000
Portable property	2,504,342,000
Total	5,099,753,000
May 1, 1921, to April 30, 1922—	
Payments in cash	Gold Marks. 1,313,660,496
Deliveries in kind	560,475,417
Deliveries under Armistice	3,678,816
	1,877,814,729
Grand total	6,977,567,729

An important point is made in the introduction which must be kept in mind in reading the tables. It is this: The Reparation Commission has two main series of accounts to keep. There are the accounts of the Commission with Germany, and second, accounts with the various Powers who participate, on the basis agreed upon at Spa, in receipts. Between these two sets of figures there is not the close correspondence that might have been expected, and that for two main reasons. The first refers to ships. At Spa the ships handed over by Germany were valued on the basis of the actual sale prices realised on the British market between July 16, 1920, and May 1, 1921, subject to adjustments rendered necessary by repairs or the expenses of delivery, and it is upon the basis of those prices that they enter into the accounts showing what the Allies have received. On the other hand, the Reparation Commission entered the value appearing in its statement of what Germany had paid on "the best estimate the Commission could frame of the value of the ships at the time of delivery." Thus while the values of ships assigned to the different Allies on the first (Spa) basis is only 269,166,000 gold marks, the sum credited under ships by the Reparation Commission is 659,867,000 gold marks, a difference of 390,701,000 gold marks.

The second reason for the apparent discrepancies in the two sets of figures is that under a series of inter-Allied agreements subsequent to the Treaty, while Germany's obligations have not been affected, the distribution as between the Allies has "not in all respects strictly followed the Treaty scheme." This applies particularly to the costs of the armies of occupation. The Report stages in the period under review. From January 10, 1920, when the Treaty came into force, down to April 30, 1920, Germany's obligation was defined by Article 235 (printed in a useful appendix), under which the first charge including 1,010,614,000 gold marks for the American armies, these costs amounted to 2,131,904,000 gold marks. Since of the credits passed in Germany's favour "applicable to the restoration of industrial and economic life," were included, capital payments (such as the transfer of State property to Poland) being excluded, and attributable to the costs of occupation were barely sufficient to meet this first charge.

In the period opening May 1, 1921, and running to the end of the year, a clear distinction is made between Reparations on the one hand and reimbursements of occupation costs on the other; in the latter the Commission is only interested in virtue of a special mandate from the interested Powers.

In the first period occupation costs were charged generally against Germany's liquid assets; in the second specifically against deliveries in kind. These costs are

set out for the separate countries, in table VI., to which is appended a note explaining that the Commission has in neither period exercised any form of control; its function is one of accountancy. (Presumably the figures are in thousands of gold marks, but this is not stated.)

The schedule of payments notified to Germany in May, 1921, prescribed for payment of a fixed amount of 2,000 millions of gold marks, plus 26 per cent. of the value of exports; 1,000 million gold marks to be paid at once, as the first two quarterly instalments under the first head. On December 14, 1921, the German Government asked for a partial postponement of schedule payments. Under the general terms of the Cannes decisions the partial moratorium granted on March 21st of this year was confirmed on May 31st. At the same time, however, the Genoa decision—that army of occupation costs, as from May 1, 1921, in so far as not covered by the requisition of paper marks by the armies, deliveries in kind, &c., should be repaid to each of the creditor Powers—"produced retroactively a deficit in German reparation payments even before the period for which a partial moratorium was demanded."

It is unfortunate, perhaps, for the lay reader, though probably necessary, that the figures in all the tables are expressed in gold marks. Some of the tables are highly complicated, but they deal with immensely complicated matters, e.g., with those covering deliveries in kind. There is material for an article longer than this, for example, on the whole matter of the estimation of the value of the coal deliveries to Germany who makes and to France who receives them. Enough has, however, been said to indicate that this is a document which must be mastered by everyone who wants to have an intelligent opinion on the Reparations issue.

THE P. AND O.

WE are pleased to observe that the accounts of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, after undergoing severe compression for a number of years, have been allowed to expand a little. It is true that the reaction so far is only very slight indeed, but it may not be too much to hope, now that a beginning has been made, that the accounts may grow into a shape worthy of so important and renowned an undertaking. Shipping companies have been the principal offenders in respect of the abridgement of accounts, and we trust that the example of the P. and O. will be followed by other shipping concerns, and that there will be growing evidence of a desire to give information to shareholders rather than to withhold it.

These remarks are called forth by the subdivision of the usual "portmanteau" item on the assets side of the company's balance-sheet into four separate items. For several years one amount for the whole of the assets had been given. Two of the four items now shown are of relatively little importance, while a third is still of a comprehensive nature, but we are now told what is the valuation of the fleet, namely, £12,633,300; this includes payments on account of new ships, so that from the tonnage figures given it is only possible to say that the average book value per ton is less than £22. In 1913 the average value per ton was between £7 and £8. Investments, cash, and debtors are still lumped together in one item. The report is silent as to the valuation of the investments, nor do the auditors venture any remark on the subject beyond announcing that they have examined and verified them. The company holds a controlling interest in the British India Steam Navigation Company, the Mercantile Steamship Company, the New Zealand Shipping Company, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, the Hain Steamship Company, the Orient Steam Navigation Company, the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company, and the General Steam Navigation Company. But whether holdings in these companies and other investments stand at cost or at market value it is impossible to say, nor is it possible to judge

the strength of the balance-sheet. As a matter of interest, we give below a comparison of the latest balance-sheet with that issued a year ago:—

September 30, 1922.		September 30, 1921.	
LIABILITIES.	Amount.	LIABILITIES.	Amount.
Prefd. stock	3,040,000 ..	Steamers, tugs, &c., and payments on acct. of new ships	12,633,256
Def. stock	3,592,518 ..	Coal: Naval and victualling stores	275,213
5½% deb. stock	1,487,560 ..	Freehold & other property	717,287
5½% deb. stock	3,500,000 ..	Sundry investments, cash and debts owing to company	12,077,305
Reserve	1,607,950 ..		
Conting. fund	1,000,000 ..		
Insurance fund	3,094,242 ..		
Provident fund	300,000 ..		
Redempt'n fund	60,000 ..		
5½% deb. stock	60,000 ..		
Sundry balances	7,627,441 ..		
Profit and loss	333,350 ..		
Total	25,703,061 ..	Total	25,703,061 ..

It is not possible to ascertain how the money obtained from the issue in March last of 5½ per cent. debenture stock has been used, but creditors have been reduced by over a million, and the prospectus stated that the proceeds of the whole issue would be applied to the general purposes of the company, and more especially to the construction of new vessels "when prices come down to an economic figure." The report states that five steamers of the "B" class have been delivered, and are in service, and that the "Moldavia," which had been building at Birkenhead for four years, was delivered in the middle of September.

Turning to the results for the year ended September 30th last—the directors are to be congratulated on the promptitude with which the accounts are produced—we find that the profit and loss account is still almost as attenuated as in recent years. In pre-war days a very interesting general working account was published, which not only gave separately the amount of freight and passage money received and the amount of the mail subsidy, but also analysed navigation expenses, showed the cost of provisioning passengers, ships' repairs, canal dues, and several other interesting details. There was, perhaps, a certain justification for suppressing some of this information during the war, but why should shareholders, nearly four years after its end, merely be told that after providing an unstated amount for depreciation and placing £60,000 to debenture sinking fund, the "net result" is £696,660, which compares with a "net result" of £623,531 a year ago. In the body of the report it is stated that the insurance fund has been increased by £94,242, whereas last year £500,000 was added to this fund, but we are left in the dark as to how the depreciation allowances compare. The comparative summary below is therefore only of value as showing how the "net result" has been appropriated:—

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30TH.

	1914-15.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net revenue ..	494,160	882,360	1,614,585	..	..	..
Reserves, &c. ..	..	100,000	1,000,000	..	..	..
"Net result" ..	494,160	782,360	614,585	710,430	623,531	696,661
Brought forward ..	68,703	92,712	91,727	115,230	111,939	100,305
	562,863	875,072	706,312	825,660	735,470	796,966
Deb. interest ..	63,000	55,644	55,055	53,054	52,065	52,065
5½% deb. stock red. fund ..	..	..	..	..	..	60,000
Preferred div. ..	152,000	152,000	152,000	152,000	152,000	152,000
Deferred div. ...	269,681	575,701	384,027	508,668	431,100	431,102
(15%) (18%) (12%) (15%) (12%) (12%)	78,182	91,727	115,230	111,938	100,305	101,799
Carried forward ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

The dividend on the deferred stock has been maintained at 12 per cent., and the balance forward slightly increased, after bearing £60,000 for the redemption fund of the new 5½ per cent. debenture stock. The report states that the company has applied for and obtained a supplementary charter to issue a further £3½ millions of 5½ per cent. debenture stock, to rank *pari passu* with the March issue, and that the sanction of the proprietors to accept it, and to authorise the directors to make the further issue or any portion of it when occasion arises, is to be sought at the annual meeting, which is being held earlier than usual, on Wednesday next, owing to the chairman's departure for India on the following day.

Notes of the Week.

Conditions in Ireland.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—The dominant notes audible in general discussion in Dublin are a note of satisfaction with the proceedings of Dail Eireann, and a note of depression regarding the general situation. The satisfaction with Dail Eireann is well warranted. The deliberative spirit, the sense of collective responsibility, respect for minority views, promptitude and a practical handling of controverted issues, as well as a high level of ability, particularly on the Government side, have marked its proceedings in an increasing degree. The depression is intelligible, if less well founded. The reaction of Ireland against the poison which has found its way into her veins has been sluggish, but the patient's natural force, in no way abated, is gathering itself for a supreme effort to expel it from her system. The moderated attitude of the Labour party, both inside and outside the Dail, is at once a consequence and a proof of the unmistakable resolution of the great bulk of the community. Both the Government and the Roman Catholic Hierarchy have watched the ripening of opportunity, and, probably more skilful than their critics, have simultaneously selected the same moment as appropriate for crucial action. The Government, by public proclamation, has offered a *locus penitentiae* for rebels and thereafter the most drastic treatment that martial law can provide. On or before October 15th any rebel irregular may hand in his arms and return to his home, secure of amnesty and a free pardon. After that date the military authorities take charge, and the military Courts are to have power to enforce military decrees by punishments ranging from death, penal servitude, and deportation downward. On Tuesday last the Irish Bishops, under the presidency of the venerable Cardinal Logue, threw the full weight of their spiritual authority upon the side of the Free State Government in a pronouncement which justly castigated the casuistical absurdities of the rebel apologetics as well as their insurrectionary campaign. The Committee stage on the Constitution is practically concluded, and the possibly awkward corners have been turned without trenching upon the provisions of the Treaty and if the time-table continues to hold good the Constitution, after ratification by Parliament at Westminster, will be put into operation on or before December 6th by Royal Proclamation. Doubts and objections as to certain peculiar and novel provisions were met by arranging that the new Parliament may revise the Constitution—free from the impediments designed to restrain constitutional amendments—at any time during the next eight years. It was stated officially that, as the voters' lists prepared on the basis of adult suffrage cannot be ready sooner, there can be no General Election under the new Constitution for some seven or eight months. On Friday last Mr Cosgrave made his promised financial statement, and obtained a vote on account of £18,953,475 for the financial period from April 1 to December 6, 1922. Expenditure for the full financial year he estimated provisionally at £37,709,586 and revenue at £27,000,000. He laid considerable stress upon the urgent need for economy and also upon the inevitably provisional character of both estimates. So far as may be gathered from previous Treasury estimates of the revenue of Ireland (excluding the six counties of North-East Ulster) Mr Cosgrave's revenue figure has made some allowance for loss of revenue due to the civic turmoil which still exists. His estimated expenditure provides for a sum of £10,020,000 for compensation for destruction of property likely to be payable before March 31, 1923, a sum which may be taken roughly as a quarter of the full figure, and also £250,000 for "property losses advances." It also includes outgoings of an emergency character, such as £7,245,000 for the Army, which is probably £5,000,000 in excess of what will hereafter be the normal figure, also superannuations £1,803,306—a diminishing and terminable charge attributable to the transition period, and

£348,000 for relief grants. Public education is an increased figure, as the teachers are now receiving their admittedly long overdue increases of salary. After referring to the adjustments—to which reference has previously been made in the *Economist*—which are necessary to convert "collected" into "true" revenue until the new fiscal arrangements are started, he added:—"It is a matter of much guesswork to form an estimate of the full amount from real revenue for the current financial year. As a rough indication of the position it is, perhaps, not safe on present indications to count upon a total of more than £27,000,000." It is clear, therefore, that the Irish Free State must shortly become a borrower, and given the restoration of order, it will have good security to offer. The Irish Exchequer returns for the week ending October 7, 1922, show total revenue collected at £11,908,209, expenditure at £9,751,398, and a balance of £2,176,811. All things considered, the figure for collected revenue is almost surprisingly good.

A Treaty with Iraq.—Having accepted the mandate for Iraq, our Government cannot retire from the country and leave the way open for the return of the Turk. It is an obligation upon it to support the Iraq Government, which it has set up under King Feisal. On the other hand, the British taxpayer has a right to insist that no more of his money should be poured into Mesopotamia than is strictly necessary; while, in view of the unpopularity which King Feisal and his Government reap from those who regard them as mere tools in British hands, it is also politic that British interference in Iraq should be limited as closely as may be. The treaty signed this week between Great Britain and Iraq appears to satisfy in the main these conflicting desirabilities. It lays down with customary formality the lines of a *régime* of freedom, toleration, and justice, while it exacts from Great Britain the undertaking to support the Iraq Government, as occasion may demand, with financial and military aid. This undertaking, necessitates, of course, the stipulation that the British High Commissioner shall have a voice in fiscal matters and foreign policy. Article 6 is one of the most important in the document. This article reads as follows:—"His Britannic Majesty undertakes to use his good offices to secure the admission of Iraq to membership of the League of Nations as soon as possible." Such admission would bring the British mandate to an end, and this clause, therefore, raises the possibility that, although the Treaty is to run for 20 years, Article 6 may in this way be ended very much earlier. The depends for its success upon the spirit in which it is administered. So far as the verbal text goes, it is an arrangement which appears to conform to the peculiar difficulties that face both the contracting Governments. But he would be a rash prophet who would predict that big and costly difficulties in connection with that country are yet over. We trust that the new Treaty will prove them within tolerable limits.

Russo-Asiatic and the Soviet.—Lenin has refused to ratify the agreement between Mr Urquhart and Krassin for the important concessions described in some detail in our issue of September 16th. The grounds on which he takes this action are political, and the Russo-Asiatic shareholders, it seems, are made to suffer because of Lenin's dislike of the British Government's attitude towards Soviet Russia. That is rather hard on the company and on Mr Urquhart. But the fact that the rise in the shares, which the news of the agreement caused, were not too confident about counting chickens before they were actually hatched. Mr Urquhart has issued a statement in which he describes the disappointment as a "hitch" and not a "breakdown," and everyone will share his hope that his hard and successful work in negotiation has not been wasted. It is possible to argue that the present "hitch"—as Mr Urquhart calls it—may

prove to be a blessing in disguise. For there was some room for scepticism as to whether the time was yet really ripe for such a transaction. It is not yet quite clear that the moderates are in control in Soviet Russia, and there are some who found it possible to argue that Mr Urquhart would have been wiser to hold together with other prospective concessionaires and refuse to sign an agreement until the Soviet Government showed a clearer recognition in general of the rights of private property. Such a line of argument may or may not be justified. But it must in any case be admitted that in any negotiations at present between foreign capitalists and the Soviet Government, the two parties to the negotiations proceed from ideas of the rights of private property that are by no means identical. Mr Urquhart is confident that at a later date his agreement will go through. This belief is supported by the abundant evidence that the Soviet thoroughly realises the vital necessity of attracting foreign capital. There is no doubt in the minds of educated Russians that the new economic policy of the Soviet has come to stay, not for the sake of the foreigner, but because it is essential to Russia. Since the economic policy of the Soviet changed, shops have been opened in Moscow, cabs can be hired, and such events have transformed a dead city into a city presenting some signs of life. A return to the old *régime* would mean blank despair for Russians. Politics, as Mr Urquhart says, have suddenly been interjected into this business affair. By the time they have been disentangled, and this agreement can come up again for consideration purely as a business contract, it may be that Russian ideas of the rights of private property will, under the pressure of the need for foreign capital, have approximated more closely to Western ideas. Possibly, therefore, the present disappointment may be fully compensated later in. One important point which Mr Urquhart makes in his statement is the following. Lenin's statement, he says, "may leave on some minds an impression that the Russo-Asiatic Consolidated was being granted a new concession. That is not so. The agreement set forth the conditions, financial and otherwise, on which the properties already owned by my companies were to be handed back to them and managed by them. I mention this because it is important to know that neither we nor any other foreign interests in Russia have admitted, or have any thought of admitting, the right of the Russian Government to nationalise our undertakings without compensation. Our claim, for instance, for £56,000,000 against the Russian Government is at once revived by the failure to ratify the agreement, and will naturally be persisted in until we receive satisfaction." Naturally, the report just issued adds little to the information already available regarding the position. It contains, however, some interesting particulars relative to the second string to the company's bow—the silver-lead property in Southern France. To deal with this, a French company has been formed, with a capital of 20,000,000f, in which the Russo-Asiatic will have a 78 per cent. interest, subject to certain rights of Mr Leslie Urquhart; the new undertaking possesses "sufficient cash capital to complete development and equipment of the mine and reduction plant." Boreholes and other data indicate the existence of an extensive ore body. The Russo-Asiatic also is testing under option some large silver-lead workings in Nigeria. The Cavallo (iron-ore) Concession in Northern Algeria has been purchased at a much lower price than that originally asked. These interests having been secured and handed over to the company at cost price by Mr Urquhart, who agrees to continue like activities, the board has undertaken to give that gentleman the option to purchase from the company within one year from acquisition a 20 per cent. interest in any new business. This, in reality, is a revival of an old arrangement, and will doubtless be readily approved by the shareholders. Similarly, no opposition may be expected to the proposed extension of the existing options for the purchase of shares and the conversion of the debentures. At the date of the balance-sheet the net cash resources stood at some £700,000. This amount has since been reduced by expenditure in connection with the French property and otherwise to about £500,000—still a very substantial figure.

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

The Maritime Conference.—The thirteenth conference of the Comité Maritime International, held in London this week, accomplished some very practical work on the two questions of clauses in bills of lading and legal immunity of State shipping with which the members set themselves to deal. The Comité can look back on a quarter of a century's work, and it represents 17 nationalities. The three days sittings at Lincoln's Inn Hall were about equally divided between the two questions, the recent history of which was summarised in an article in the *Economist* on September 30th. Immunity was debated on the first day and referred to a sub-committee. The Hague Rules went through the same process on the second day. At the concluding sittings reports were received and adopted (in the case of the Hague Rules after considerable further discussion) which may lead to draft international conventions on both subjects being considered by a Diplomatic Conference in Brussels during the coming week. In international business this is phenomenally quick work, but the diplomatic gathering had already been convened to deal officially with the results of some of the earlier labours of the unofficial Comité, and so rapid progress may be possible with the new subjects. As to the Hague Rules in particular, an international settlement is strongly desired by commercial men. The atmosphere of conciliation in which the original Hague Rules were settled seems, however, to have been left behind. It has been assumed in recent discussions that the incorporation of the Rules in bills of lading as an agreed and customary standard set of conditions (which is their present use in practice) is to give place to legislation. That legislation, it is recognised, should conform to the model of an international convention, but there were clear indications at this week's conference that, failing a prompt international settlement, independent and doubtless divergent legislative proposals would make their appearance in various countries. The Rules were, however, further revised by the conference, and are to go forward as the unofficially agreed terms for an international convention, to be followed by national legislation in each country giving effect to it. Similarly, if Governments agree, there should, it is proposed, be a convention under the terms of which State shipping would be subject to the same liabilities as that privately owned, but there would be exceptional arrangements covering men-of-war, State ships employed only in Governmental non-commercial work, and Governmental non-commercial cargo carried in State ships. In respect of the excepted property legal proceedings would be able to be taken only in the national courts, and would not admit of any seizure of the property.

Industry and Railway Rates.—The Press has devoted much space this week to the discussion of the possibilities of the reduction of railway fares, and the general opinion seems to be that a reduction of 25 per cent. will be announced on Tuesday next, leaving fares 50 per cent. above the pre-war figure. A much greater effect on the cost of living would, however, be produced by a reduction of railway freight rates. These are still in the main 75 per cent. above the pre-war level, although the operation of the flat rate addition makes the percentage considerably greater in many cases. When negotiating the last reduction in rates in July, the Federation of British Industries, on behalf of the majority of the trades in the country, agreed not to make application for a further reduction until after July 31, 1923, but the principal users of the

ilways, viz., the coal and iron and steel industries, were left parties to this agreement, and left themselves free to press for further reductions as occasion arose. The coalowners have already placed their case before the railway companies, and it is understood that the iron and steel interests are also seeking an interview with the railway managers to press their claim for further consideration of the prejudicial effect of the high railway rates has been referred to by the chairmen at all recent meetings of the coal, iron, and steel concerns. Mr Benjamin Talbot, of the Vale Cargo Fleet Iron Company, Limited, has shown that the increase in railway charges for steel angles and joists on export between August, 1914, and August, 1922, amounted to 108 per cent., while at the meeting of the United Steel Company on Monday last Mr Albert Peech stated:—"Transport charges on raw materials for the manufacture of our steel, and transport charges on finished material to the port taken together, average an increase of 19s to 20s per ton over 1914." Between 20 and 25 per cent. of the goods traffic of the British railways consists either of materials for, or the production of, the iron and steel industry, and in no manufacture does cost of transport bear so high a proportion of the total cost as in iron and steel. The industry, therefore, not unnaturally, feels itself entitled to special consideration. It has itself made great sacrifices in order to gain trade, and has reduced the price of its products to between 20 and 30 per cent. above pre-war; rails, to quote an instance of special interest to the railway companies, are now 175s per ton compared with an average of 133s per ton in 1913. Sir Sam Fay has recently stated that the financial situation of the railways was never so sound as at present, but industrialists feel that the railway companies have not taken their fair share in assisting a trade revival, and that with the *Economist* wholesale index number at 63 per cent. above July, 1914, railway rates at more than 75 per cent. above pre-war are unjustifiable.

Iron and Steel and Coal Output.—The monthly statistics published by the National Federation of Iron and Steel manufacturers show that the production of pig-iron in September amounted to 430,300 tons, or 18,600 tons more than August, and the highest figure attained since February, 1921, when production amounted to 463,600 tons. Production is still, however, only 64 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1920, and 50 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1913. The furnaces in blast at the end of the month numbered 139, or 13 more than at the end of August. The production included 123,700 tons of hematite, 137,800 tons of basic, 113,400 of foundry, and 25,900 tons of forge pig-iron. The production of steel ingots and castings amounted to 555,900 tons, a figure higher than in any previous month since December, 1920, when it was 746,600 tons; this represents 73 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1920, 87 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1913, and about 50 per cent. of the steel-making capacity of the country. Coal output from the mines of Great Britain in the week ended September 30th was 5,177,200 tons, as against 5,143,900 tons in the previous week, and 4,118,200 tons in the corresponding week of last year.

The Quarter's Shipbuilding. — *Lloyd's Register* shipbuilding returns for the September quarter were published on Wednesday, and show that the merchant tonnage under construction in the yards of the United Kingdom at the end of last month was 1,617,045 tons, or about 302,000 tons less than at the end of the June quarter. The total includes 419,000 tons on which work has been suspended for some time, leaving the figure for tonnage on which work was actually proceeding at 1,198,000 tons. This is 692,000 tons less than the average merchant tonnage under construction during the twelve months immediately preceding the outbreak of the war. The total merchant tonnage building abroad is given as 1,085,511 tons, but this includes about 256,000 tons upon which work has been suspended, leaving the effective foreign figure at 829,000 tons. The foreign yards figure is about 230,000 tons lower than at the end of June, the decrease affecting most countries, but particularly

France, Holland, and Italy. The figures of merchant tonnage under construction in leading foreign countries are:—Italy, 210,114 tons; France, 197,065 tons; Holland, 177,024 tons; United States, 147,056 tons; and Japan, 96,897 tons. The foreign figure does not take into account tonnage building in Germany and at Danzig, for which no figures are available, but estimates place the German figure at about 350,000 tons, and the Danzig figure at about 40,000 tons. In two respects the past quarter's British returns indicate improvement, namely, in the launchings and in new vessels commenced. The tonnage figures for the former were 158,346 tons higher, and for the latter 43,551 tons better than those recorded in the June quarter. Total launchings in the world during the last quarter were 476,070 tons, of which 307,232 tons were launched in the United Kingdom.

The Crops.—The monthly report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries states that very slow progress was made with the corn harvest during September, but in the south practically all the crops had been secured by the end of the month, only a little of the barley remaining uncartered. Owing to the showery weather and lack of sun, many crops have been carted in rather damp condition, and stacks have heated in consequence. Wheat is mostly of a very fair quality, but the grain is often soft. Barley is variable, the sample is poor where there were two growths, and much is discoloured, so that the proportion fit for malting will be less than usual. Spring oats are of inferior quality, the grain being light, but the quality of winter oats is fairly satisfactory. Owing to the late corn harvest and wet weather, the lifting of main crop potatoes has hardly been begun as yet in most districts. Heavy crops will be obtained in all parts of the country, except in the north-west, where they are considered about average. The yield per acre is now forecasted at 6.9 tons per acre, or 15 per cent. above average, which would give a total production of about 3,860,000 tons in England and Wales, against 2,960,000 tons last year. Mangolds have made fair growth during September, but more sun is now required to ripen the crop. Yields well over the average will be obtained in the east and south-east, but in the north the roots are small and yields somewhat below average are expected. In Wales also yields will not be heavy, as the plant is patchy. Turnips and swedes have improved, but the roots are still rather small in most districts. These crops also have done best in the east and south-east, whilst in the north-west and in Wales under-average yields are expected. The yields per acre of both mangolds and turnips and swedes over the whole country are expected to prove about 7 per cent. above average, mangolds being forecasted at about 20 tons and turnips and swedes at about 13 tons per acre. These yields would give a total production of mangolds of 8,500,000 tons, against 6,250,000 tons last year, and of turnips and swedes 10,800,000 tons, against 6,600,000 tons in 1921. Owing to the late harvest and the abundance of keep in the pastures, catch crops have not been sown to the same extent as usual, but in the eastern counties a fair breadth of mustard has been sown, and the crop is doing well. Some white turnips, rape, and the crop rye have also been sown, and good plants have been secured. Owing to the absence of sunshine apples are lacking in colour, and late varieties are very variable, the fruits being generally small. Most varieties of cooking apples are good crops in Worcester, and fair to the Isle of Ely yields are light. In Kent, Newton Wonders have yielded well, but Bramley's Seedlings and good crops of dessert apples in most districts, though only fair crops of Blenheim are being obtained in the west, and in Middlesex yields generally are about average. The principal districts. Winter greenstuffs have made succulent growth during the wet weather, so that they are very liable to damage by frosts. Brussels sprouts promise an over-average crop in most districts, and autumn cauliflowers are better than usual. Broccoli plants have made very rapid growth, and celery has also made good pro-

October 14, 1922.]

THE ECONOMIST.

621

gress during September. Carrots and parsnips are very good crops and beet about average. Onions are a heavy crop but are not ripening well.

Rubber Shares and Restriction.—The Stevenson Committee has this week issued a supplementary report, in which it recommends adherence to the standard production based on that recorded in the 12 months ended October 31, 1920, and suggests the imposition of a sliding scale of export duties, starting at a minimum of 1d per lb for exports of 60 per cent. of standard production, and ranging up to 1s per lb where the whole standard production is exported. This scheme should, the committee recommends, be put into force by Government action in Ceylon, the Malay States, and the Straits Settlements. The effect of the publication of this report was to send the raw material up to 10½d, and to stimulate the rise that has recently been taking place in rubber shares. This rise was due to several considerations. The weekly stocks of rubber in London warehouses are being steadily decreased; new uses to which rubber is being put appear to be making inroads upon the available supplies. Many thousands of acres have gone out of cultivation, whether permanently or not has yet to be seen, but the immediate result is to benefit the companies that carry on business. American tyre manufacturers are quoted as being busy; the cut in petrol and the near approach of the Motor Show are two subsidiary factors which may be reasonably brought into the field of favourable consideration; the general outlook is cheerful enough to encourage a better tendency in the prices of rubber shares. It has always been the habit of the rubber market to march well ahead of events, and people who are to-day buying the shares admit that they are fully prepared to regard their investments as a locking-up of capital which may not receive dividends for a year or two. At the same time, the impartial observer does not shut his eyes to the less favourable factors that continue to exist. How a great many of the companies have managed to struggle along during the past year, without going under altogether, is a matter for surprise even to those most intimately connected with the market; and no doubt there are a number of concerns which are only just hanging on to an existence by the complacency of their sponsors, who continue to supply the cash for upkeep, &c., on the estates. In discussing from time to time the various aspects which affect the rubber share market, reference has been made in the *Economist* to the fact that most shareholders of weaker faith (and stronger foresight) got rid of their rubber shares long ago; the people in whose hands rubber shares now rest are grimly determined to see the thing through, as the Stock Exchange phrases it, the result being that, when any demand for shares arises, very little supply is forthcoming to meet it. The natural consequence is for prices to go up in a manner disproportionate to the actual volume of buying. To run after shares at rising prices is dangerous. Those who are tempted to embark a little cash in the market, now that the industry at last gives signs of working towards a better position, should ask their brokers to exercise a wise discretion in the selection of shares in companies which are well supplied with money, which have not risen overmuch during the past month, and which can be bought at a modest valuation, per planted acre, of the rubber on the estate.

Bleaching for India.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—For many months negotiations have been taking place between the India section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Bleaching Trade Advisory Board with regard to a definite contract for the bleaching of goods. New terms have now been arranged, and they replace those in force before 1915, when war conditions rendered it necessary to abandon hard-and-fast arrangements. Under the new contract bleachers will again give guaranteed dates of delivery of goods, reinforced by penalties for late delivery, and the merchants will guarantee delivery of grey cloths subject to a scheme of penalties. An important feature of the arrangement is an arbitration clause, by which any disputes are to be settled by the arbitration tribunal of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The new conditions are to come into operation for all India contracts placed on and after November 1, 1922.

Trade Restrictions in Jugoslavia.—A correspondent writes:—In a speech made to representatives of Croat industrial and banking interests at Zagreb on October 1st, Under Secretary Plavsic outlined the programme proposed by the Government further to improve the position of the dinar—which, be it remembered, during the last month or so has already appreciated over 25 per cent. The Yugoslav Government has received from the Blee group \$30,000,000 as a first instalment of the loan recently contracted in New York. A portion of this is to be used for providing importers with the necessary exchange. The remaining \$70,000,000, said M. Plavsic, will have to be transferred in dinars. On the other hand, the granting of import permits is to cease for a certain time, though when this restriction results in an improved exchange level, normal import conditions will be resumed. More important still, increased production is necessary. This year between 150,000 and 200,000 wagons of cereals are available for export, and exportation will in fact begin as soon as the needs of those parts of the country, whose grain production does not suffice for their own consumption, have been met. The crop of plums has been quite satisfactory, though in this Jugoslavia is more fortunate than most exporting countries this year. Accordingly, a further improvement in the dinar rate seems a certainty, though when the limit of 2,125 in Zurich is reached, a halt will have to be called, as a further rise would be most harmful to Jugoslav commercial circles. As M. Plavsic admitted that the present exchange value of the dinar already approximates to its internal purchasing power, it is hard to see what useful purpose will be served by a further appreciation in foreign centres. It is, of course, most important that the country's trade balance should be on the right side, and present conditions certainly do not warrant a large import of luxury goods. At the same time, when one bears in mind the great need for railway material, agricultural machinery and similar articles which can hardly be provided in sufficient quantities by native industry, it is hard to see why these millions of dollars will necessarily have to be transferred into dinars. The desire rapidly to force the national currency upwards seems to be a disease to which the Little Entente countries are particularly liable. Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia are succeeding, thanks to foreign loans. The leu is at present more or less immune—though certainly through no lack of desire on the part of M. Vintila Bratianu.

Harrisons and Crosfield's Year.—It might have been supposed that a company with rubber interests as extensive as those of Harrisons and Crosfield would inevitably show very poor results for the past year. A drop in net profits for the year ended June 30th last of less than £15,000, from £164,466 to £149,138, is therefore a matter for congratulation, when regard is paid to all the adverse conditions of the period. Financial results of this company in the last pre-war year and the past six years are summarised below:—

	1913-14.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit	134,269	187,181	212,190	200,571	249,204	164,466	149,138
Brought forward	23,879	42,230	37,340	37,530	36,147	37,873	44,525
Preference dividend	158,148	229,471	249,530	238,101	285,351	202,339	193,663
Prof. ord. div. (10%)	27,500	39,875	30,000	36,165	37,450	37,800	37,800
Management shares	30,000	30,000	30,000	37,500	80,000	100,000	100,000
Reserves, &c.	30,000	52,500	70,000	37,177	45,344	5,941	1,250
Deferred ord. shares	35,118	69,756	74,000	41,024	24,922	14,075	9,495
Carried forward	35,530	37,340	15,500	50,088	59,382	44,073	41,949
				36,147	37,873	44,525	44,525

It will be seen that full dividends of 6 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares and 10 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares have been maintained, while the management shares and deferred shares each get 5 per cent. The report says:—"Owing to the continuation of the general trade depression, the crisis in the rubber industry and the disorganised condition of many of the foreign exchanges, the past year has again been one of great difficulty. Further considerable sums have had to be provided for depreciation, and the stocks stand in the balance-sheet at replacement values or cost, whichever is lower." A study of the balance-sheet, which is analysed in the usual column of this issue, shows that

ocks are £197,736 lower at £306,008, while the property item is £72,121 lower. Investments are entered at less than £4,000 below last year's total. With regard to this, the report says:—"As compared with their cost to the company, the investments continue to show considerable depreciation; but the directors believe the depreciation will disappear whenever there is any real recovery in the position of the rubber industry." This resumably must be taken as an expression of confidence that the rubber plantations in which the company is interested can weather the storm. The speech of the chairman, Mr Heath Clark, at the annual meeting next Wednesday will be awaited with interest, for he is accustomed on these occasions to review the position and prospects of the plantation industry. With regard to his own company's operations, he has at any rate a satisfactory record to place before the shareholders.

Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co.—The report of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. for the year 1921 shows a decline in profits, after payment of debenture interest, from £675,200 to £438,900. No profit and loss account has been published since 1915, and the accounts contain a conspicuously small amount of information, and even show a retrograde tendency in this respect. The comparative summary below shows results since 1910. The accounts for the four years 1916-19 were submitted together in September, 1920, and for this period and for the year 1920 no mention is made of debenture interest, and comparison of the profit figure is therefore vitiated:—

	Profit.	Interest and Expenses.	Prof. & Ord. Div.	Ord. Div. Rate.	To Reserve &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1910	597,637	119,772	361,000	10	50,000	184,997
1911	627,227	119,401	441,250	12½	50,000	201,573
1912	798,547	123,020	443,250	12½	100,000	335,850
1913	856,673	167,626	568,122	12½	133,059	323,716
1914	940,195	158,309	591,563	12½	200,000	334,038
1915	1,055,620	303,272	615,000	12½	100,000	461,387
1916-19 ...	4,053,605	?	2,465,093	12½	1,000,000	1,049,899
1920	675,180	?	803,750	10	..	921,329
1921	666,060	227,172	528,125	5	..	832,092

The accounts do not show how much of the dividend payment goes to ordinary and how much to the preference shares, nor do the directors trouble to intimate the rate of ordinary dividend in the report, the shareholder being left to find these things out for himself as best he may. The balance-sheet, which is analysed in detail on a later page, has suffered from condensation. Investments in and advances to subsidiary companies, hitherto shown as a separate item, are now included with property, the new total showing a reduction of over £3 millions on last year's two separate figures together. This decline is possibly to be accounted for by reductions in accounts with the subsidiary concerns, for creditors are down by over £4½ millions. The report states that some special contracts have been secured, and that the directors hope to secure other important work regarding which negotiations are now in progress.

The Diamond Revival.—There have been several indications lately of a revival in the market for diamonds, which, after its spell of war prosperity, relapsed into stagnation. Instead of endeavouring to tempt purchasers by substantially lowering prices, the selling syndicate kept a stiff upper lip, and all the principal producing companies in Africa shut down. The Union official statistics for the first half of the current year showed sales to the value of over £1,000,000, or well on the way towards half the 1921 total, although the average of 73s 8d per carat compares with 81s 7d. Work at the mines continues on a very restricted scale generally speaking, but the recent announcement of the Consolidated South-West Africa Company as to the resumption of production has now been followed by the intimation that the scale of operations is to be extended. Naturally, the market price of the shares responded, and favourable conclusions were drawn with regard to the other companies of the Continent. Indeed, it has been stated that De Beers will start again in January. The appended table contrasts the

lowest prices since the beginning of 1921 with those current at the close of business on Friday afternoon:—

	Lowest. 1921.	Lowest. 1922.	Friday Closing.
De Beers, Deferred (50/-)	8½	9½	13½
Ditto Preference (50/-)	8½	9	12½
Consolidated S.W. Africa (£1) ..	16/-	16/6	24/-
Jagersfontein (£1)	36/-	40/-	3½
Premier, Deferred (2/6)	3½	4	6
Ditto Preference (5/-)	4½	4½	6½

That big consolidation, De Beers, paid a total of 40s per ordinary share for 1918-19, 60s for 1919-21, and 10s interim on account of 1920-21. The preference interest is in arrears since June, 1921. The South-West Africa undertaking—an amalgamation of the previously German-owned properties—has, so to speak, scarcely yet got into its stride. The New Jagersfontein, somewhat to the surprise of many people, lately declared a dividend of 2s 6d per share; the first since the interim distribution of October, 1920. The Premier Company has duly met its preference obligations, but has made no distribution on its ordinary shares for two years. Speculative interest is reviving in the above-mentioned shares.

Rio Tinto.—Like other base metal producers this important European copper proposition has been affected by high wages, low prices, and labour trouble; it has also suffered from the heavy export taxes imposed by the Spanish Government. However, the results of the past half-year have so far justified the mildly encouraging tone adopted by the chairman at the last annual meeting that the company is able to declare an interim dividend of 10s per £5 share. The last preceding distribution was 20s early in 1920, making a total of 40s for 1919. The high-water mark of recent years was the £4 15s paid in respect of 1916, when the price of copper was inflated by war requirements. On the basis of 20s per annum the yield at current market price of 28 is barely 2 per cent., hence it is not surprising that the declaration exerted little effect upon the quotation. The preference, at about £4, yield slightly over 6 per cent. As the company operates what is virtually a mountain of low-grade copper ore, the question of "life" does not require to be taken into account.

Transvaal Output in September.—The figures of gold output in the Transvaal sent to us by the Chamber of Mines continue to be of an encouraging character. It will be noted from our table below that the September output is practically up to the level of August, and well above the month of July, both of which contained a day more. The recovery since the beginning of the year is significant, and it will be interesting to see what progress is made in the three remaining months of the year. The following table shows the production for a number of years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January..	787,467	782,634	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728
February..	753,594	781,321	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	511,338
March	736,689	787,094	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	623,786
April	754,672	742,778	717,000	694,944	696,979	681,382	675,697
May	777,681	779,385	741,317	724,995	702,379	687,776	732,635
June	761,764	759,724	727,696	715,957	699,041	678,490	752,490
July	761,087	757,839	736,199	725,497	736,069	689,555	747,089
August ..	781,150	756,658	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	747,089
September..	771,587	738,231	708,205	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089
October ..	792,339	751,290	708,205	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089
November ..	783,066	722,839	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	747,089
December ..	774,462	722,419	642,245	671,970	633,737	704,236	747,089
Totals ..	9,296,618	9,018,084	8,418,292	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	4,686,764

NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED at the End of Last Eight Months by Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors.

	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.	Aug., 1922.	Sept., 1922.
Gold mines....	177,836	124,169	138,277	155,425	170,464	172,886	175,054	174,565
Coal mines....	13,230	11,155	11,385	11,525	12,117	12,371	12,270	12,000
Diamond	1,224	1,204	1,232	1,219	1,211	1,211	1,219	1,234
Total	192,290	136,528	150,894	168,169	183,792	186,468	188,543	187,799

The number of natives employed at the gold mines shows a slight decline.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—RAILROAD CAR SCARCITY—INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL—STEEL MERGER ABANDONED—MONEY FIRMER—PROSPECTIVE GOVERNMENT REFUNDING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 2.

ALTHOUGH the railway shopmen's strike is practically ended, much concern is felt over the transport situation in this country. In many sections railroad facilities are already heavily overtaxed. Unless all signs fail, the most serious congestion of freight and acute car shortage ever witnessed here will be experienced within the next few months. In addition to being fully occupied at present with the movement of the crops, iron and steel products, lumber, and other building materials, besides miscellaneous commodities and merchandise, the carriers are being called upon to meet unprecedented conditions in the coal industry, owing to the prolonged miners' strikes, which were settled only a month or so ago. Thus far the railroads have done remarkably well, all things considered, in moving a rapidly increasing volume of coal and other freight; but, apparently they have about reached the limit of their capacity, and the freight movement, always heaviest during the autumn months, is not yet at its peak. During the week ended September 16th the railroads loaded more cars with all classes of freight than in any other week since October 29, 1921. Of more significance, however, in its bearing upon the future, is the fact that the heavy increase in car loadings has absorbed practically all of the idle cars throughout the country. According to the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association, the carriers on September 15th had pending requests for nearly 86,000 freight cars, which could not be filled immediately. In all probability, reports on the car situation in ensuing weeks will reveal an increasing scarcity. Extraordinary measures to clear up the freight congestion which has already developed are being taken by various railroads, notably the Pennsylvania; the latter company has just declared a ten-day embargo on all non-essential freight. Car scarcity in all sections is seriously retarding the movement of grain, and may interfere with shipments to European countries when they enter American markets on a larger scale for grain, as they are expected to do before long. In a way it is fortunate that purchasing for the account of Europe has not been very heavy recently, because, as Secretary of Commerce Hoover points out, transportation facilities in the United States are now insufficient to bring foodstuffs to the seaboard for export. Railroads throughout the country have recruited their shop forces up to about 90 per cent. of normal, and are also placing heavy orders for new rolling stock, but it is doubtful if the latter can be manufactured early enough to be of much help in relieving this season's car shortage.

In virtually all lines of trade and industry there was a marked revival during September, especially in the second half of that month. In the iron and steel market the outstanding feature of the past week was the rush on the part of all railroads to place orders or reservations for steel rails before the advance of \$3, making the new price \$43 a ton, became effective on October 1st. Such orders, in the aggregate, are said to have exceeded 1,000,000 tons—probably the largest weekly total ever recorded. Steel mills generally are now operating at close to 90 per cent. of capacity, as against about 50 per cent. in August. Iron and steel concerns, however, are now being seriously affected by the car shortage.

Fall buying has expanded in all centres, notably in primary textile and apparel markets. Trade in finished and unfinished cottons, particularly, was more active during September than for many months past. All lines of dry goods have shown a firmer tendency. The output and movement of bituminous and anthracite coal have greatly increased, but supplies, especially of hard coal, are still far short of requirements, and the scarcity is likely to

continue acute in many sections for some time. Buying of automobiles was of large volume, while improved business conditions and inadequate railroad facilities increased the demand for motor-trucks. Exceptional activity in building operations was in evidence in all sections of the country last month, and this was reflected, naturally, in markets for building materials and house-furnishing lines, especially carpets and rugs. The carpet and rug industry here is enjoying a greater volume of business than for many years. The number of men unemployed throughout the country is probably less than at any time this year; in some industries there is a labour scarcity. Business failures during the last week in September were fewer in number than in the preceding week, and well below a year ago.

The proposed consolidation of three big independent steel companies into one corporation, which was to be known as the North American Steel Company, has been abandoned, for the present at least. The companies which were to be merged were the Republic Iron and Steel Company, the Midvale Steel and Ordnance Company, and the Inland Steel Company. The impossibility of financing the merger under existing circumstances is given as the reason for dropping the plan. Bankers, it is understood, were unwilling to guarantee the new securities, owing to the objections raised by the Federal Trade Commission. The latter has been investigating the contemplated merger for some time, and in a recent report attacked its legality, although the Commission fixed a date in the latter part of this month for another hearing. An official announcement says that, pending final determination of the questions involved, the financing of the proposed amalgamation would not be possible. The abandonment of this undertaking was rather unexpected in view of the fact that the Bethlehem-Lackawanna steel merger was consummated, notwithstanding that the latter combination was also opposed by the Federal Trade Commission. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, however, absorbed the Lackawanna Steel Company through an exchange of stock, and the merger did not involve the raising of new capital.

The United States Department of Justice is continuing its activities against associations or combinations suspected of operating in restraint of trade. Following a long investigation, the Federal grand jury here has returned indictments under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law against some 20 companies and members of the Sanitary Potters' Association. The latter, embracing the leading potteries of the country, is composed of concerns engaged chiefly in the manufacture of porcelain and earthenware fixtures used in houses and buildings, while several of the indicted companies make bath tubs and accessories. The defendants, who manufacture about 85 per cent. of all such pottery produced here, are charged with having entered into a price-fixing combination, and with having unlawfully restricted their sales of merchandise to a specially selected group of so-called "legitimate jobbers," thereby eliminating competition.

Unsettlement in the Near East is considered responsible to some extent for the recent weakness in securities markets here, the drop in foreign exchanges and in cotton, and the irregular fluctuations of prices for leading grains. The stock market, however, after advancing vigorously for several months, with scarcely any set-back, was plainly due for a substantial reaction. The lower tendency of bonds is believed to reflect more the recent hardening of money than apprehension of hostilities abroad. Some of our Liberty bonds fell below par in the recent slump, while foreign Government issues and domestic corporate bonds were distinctly weak. Although nothing even approaching stringency in the money market is expected to develop during the remainder of this year, present indications are that money rates will continue to be firmer than they were last summer. Furthermore, with an increasing revival in trade and industry in ensuing months, it is conceivable that a great deal of business capital, as well as surplus bank funds, will be withheld or withdrawn from the bond market in order to meet trade and industrial requirements. Perhaps the bond market has lately been discounting the future in this respect. Another factor, which probably accounts partly, at least, for the recent depression in domestic bonds, is the long-term bond issue which, it is understood, is contemplated

by the Treasury Department to refund in part the Government's obligations maturing in the latter part of this year and early in 1923, amounting to \$2,000,000,000 approximately. Unofficial reports state that the new loan will consist of 30-year bonds bearing 4½ per cent. per annum interest, with tax exemption features to increase their attractiveness. Current reports place the amount of the new issue at \$1,000,000,000, to be floated before December 15th, in order to take up the Victory notes which have been called for redemption on that date. The remaining billion of maturing obligations, it is expected, will be refunded by the issuance of Treasury notes and certificates of indebtedness.

FRANCE. — NATIONAL DEBT — REDUCTION IN MILITARY EXPENDITURE—REVENUE—FUTURE LOANS—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 10.

ACCORDING to figures that have this week been published by the Ministry of Finance, the public debt of France amounted on April 1, 1922, to 316,984,988,953f. In this sum the floating debt figured for 86,555,322,300f, including over 60,000,000,000f in respect of National Defence Bonds. A new issue of 6 per cent. three to five years Treasury Bonds, as stated in this column last week, is now being offered to the public, and will be open for subscription down to November 10th.

These figures may well form the prelude to an epitome of a remarkably frank and clear address that was delivered last Thursday by M. Lasteyrie, the Finance Minister, on the occasion of the annual luncheon of the Paris Chamber of Commerce. In this address the Minister, after alluding to the pessimism that has existed for some time in certain circles, where doubts appeared to be entertained as to the country's power to right itself, said he believed his first duty was to tell the country the truth and to display the financial situation of France exactly as it appeared to him to be. It would have been easy for him, he pointed out, by a little manipulation of figures, to give the impression that receipts and expenditure had been very nearly made to balance. Such a method, however, would be unworthy of a country that had so heroically faced other crises of equal gravity during the war, and he preferred to let it be seen openly that there would be a deficit of 4,000,000,000f in the Budget for the coming year. The ordinary Budget—the real "French" Budget, as it might be called—had been balanced by the aid of the taxes imposed under the Finance Law of 1920. The deficit of 4,000,000,000f was directly due to the fact that Germany had paid nothing on account of reparations, so that France had been obliged to borrow the money necessary to provide for her recoverable expenditure. The interest on these loans amounted to-day to nearly 4,000,000,000f, or within a few hundred million francs of the deficit in question. "Our budgetary difficulties to-day are in no way due, as certain foreign newspapers insinuate, to our lack of fiscal courage, but solely to Germany's failure to carry out her engagements!"

Dealing with French efforts towards economy, M. de Lasteyrie said the country had accomplished an enormous amount in this direction during the past three years. The Extraordinary Budget, which amounted in 1920 to 4,128 millions, had been suppressed, and ruthless war had been made against the "special accounts" (revictualment, merchant shipping, coal, &c.) that had been such a burden on the Budget. All these special accounts had been reduced, or would be shortly, merely to liquidation services, and the State had definitely ceased to carry on ruinously expensive experiments as a trader, and thereby compete unfairly, at the expense of the taxpayers, with ordinary commercial undertakings. The Minister insisted that he will not rest until all such special accounts

are suppressed and budgetary unity has become a reality.

Referring to the charge of Imperialism made against France, M. de Lasteyrie quoted the following figures as evidence of the manner in which military expenditure has been reduced in this country during the past four years:—

	Francs.
1919—Total expenditure on national defence	18,185,000,000
1920	7,648,000,000
1921	6,312,000,000
1922	4,910,000,000

Simultaneously France had reduced the period of military service by one-half, while the number of men with the colours is 200,000 fewer than in 1913. Of all the Great Powers, France had effected the greatest reduction in expenditure on national defence. Estimated in gold, on the basis of prices current in 1913, French expenditure had been reduced by 7.9 per cent., whereas British expenditure had increased by 19 per cent. and that of Japan by 71 per cent. Civilian expenditure had been also reduced to an enormous extent, as shown by the following comparative figures of expenditure under this head:—

	Francs.
1920	11,377,000,000
1921	9,938,000,000
1922	7,023,000,000

During the first half of the current year 28,000 public officials had been suppressed, and this number would be increased to 50,000 by December 1st. Complete reorganisation of the administrative services would enable still greater economies to be effected later on.

Defending the income-tax, M. de Lasteyrie affirmed that to suppress this new impost and return to the old forms of direct taxation was impossible. The new fiscal resources placed at the disposition of the Treasury in 1920 (when the incidence of the income-tax was substantially modified upwards) had already yielded 6,000,000,000f of supplementary revenue, and if the recasting of the incidence of the income-tax had encountered some opposition in practice, this impost had, nevertheless, given an increased result that would only grow more important as time went on. The yield from income-tax for the last three years had been as follows:—

	Francs.
1919	892,000,000
1920	1,639,000,000
1921	2,197,000,000

The yield from income-tax on the total revenue (apart from scheduled assessments) had grown in the same years from 562 to 896, and then to 1,137 millions, and was estimated to reach two milliards within the next two or three years.

Dealing with the tax on turnover, the Minister foretold a great extension of the system of imposing on traders an agreed bulk payment for the year, based on the general total of his business, instead of continuing the present system of collecting the tax on each individual per month. During 1921 this tax yielded 138,000,000f ever, the yield averaged 183,000,000 per month, how- July being 200,000,000f, and better results still were to be expected in the future. The revenue from taxation as a whole had increased as follows during the past three years:—

	Francs.
1919	11,586,000,000
1920	19,821,000,000
1921	21,543,000,000
1922 (estimated at about)	24,000,000,000

Referring to Germany's failure to make reparation, the Minister insisted that if, as France demanded, a Debt Commission had been installed in Berlin when the treaty came into operation and real control had been established over Germany's finances, many of the present difficulties would have been avoided. The Wiesbaden, Lubersac-Stinnes, settlement of the problem of reparations in kind. The only method that would now enable France to obtain payment from Germany was for the latter to be compelled to put her affairs sufficiently in order to enable her to contract foreign loans.

Owing to Germany's failure to pay, France had been

compelled to raise sums which, by the end of the current year, would amount to over 100,000,000,000f for pension charges and reconstruction work in the devastated area. During the war France had resorted too largely to raising money by increasing the note circulation of the Bank of France, which had risen from 5,713,000,000f in 1913 to 37,901,000,000f at the end of 1920. While every effort would be made to ensure the regular repayment of the advances made by the Bank of France, there would be no effort at any sudden reduction of the note issue, which would be a serious danger to commerce and industry.

Referring to the question of future loans, M. de Lasteyrie said it was only by this means that the Treasury could this year obtain the necessary money for "recoverable expenditure." The time for a great consolidation loan had not yet come, and would not come until the great international questions that are now pending have been settled. For the moment, a short-term loan, in view of the dearth of money, would be more advantageous to the Treasury. "I remain faithful to the policy of cheap money which I have tried to practise since I came into office. I am confident the present loan will succeed, like its predecessors. I had the same confidence when I reopened the Rente market, and I was not disappointed. In spite of the trouble provoked by the Genoa Conference and the storms in the East, that operation has proved completely successful, in spite of its delicate and difficult nature and of the always unsettled foreign outlook." The loans that had been necessary during the past four years had been as follows:—

	Francs.
1919	51,331,000,000
1920	42,822,000,000
1921	31,120,000,000
1922	21,000,000,000

The reduction in the amount raised had been enormous, but it was still too great, and it was absolutely necessary to get Germany into a position where she could contract foreign loans, the greater part of the yield from which would be used to pay its debt towards the Allies, so that France could progressively reduce and suppress the loans she was compelled to issue.

France, the Minister claimed in conclusion, was working hard, and already a very real recovery in business had occurred. Railway earnings this year would be 400,000,000f greater than last year, which showed 600,000,000f more than 1920; the adverse trade balance, which amounted to 24,000,000,000f in 1919, fell to 2,000,000,000f in 1921, and would not exceed that figure in 1922; imports of raw materials, which amounted to 15,000,000 tons in the first six months of 1921, increased to 21,000,000 tons during the first half of 1922; unemployment allowances were made to the merely trifling number of 3,350 persons at end of August, as compared with hundreds of thousands in other countries, while savings bank deposits were constantly and regularly increasing. "By work and energy we shall re-establish our financial situation.....Our iron, phosphates, potash, water-power constitute incomparable wealth that will enable us to face the future with confidence."

The Bourse this week has been marked by no very definite tendency, though early in the week there was a recovery owing to the improved news from the Near East. The most important factor has been the approaching issue of Treasury bonds, which has resulted in a number of sales. There has been in consequence considerable fluctuation. French Rentes have on the whole improved, though the Three per Cents fell back from 60.55f to 59.60f. The 1914 Five per Cents. improved from 77f to 77.45f, and the Six per Cents. from 91.10f to 91.60f. Both Russian and Turkish bonds showed improvement, though only to a slight degree. Banks were generally stronger, the Banque de l'Indochine rising from 2,800f to 2,845f, the Banque de Paris et Pays Bas from 1,246f to 1,268f, and the Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 632f to 640f. Railways showed similar advances, Est improving from 778f to 795f, Nord from 1,185f to 1,224f, Orleans from 910f to 920f, P.L.M. from 922f to 940f, and Metropolitan from 440f to 449f. Shipping reacted favourably to the improved situation regarding the strike, Chargeurs Français rising from 652f to 690f, and Messageries Maritimes from 181f to 189f.

GERMANY.—INFLATION—FINANCES—CURRENCY—TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 8.

THE third quarter of 1922 brought not only the greatest absolute, but also, as measured by the total at end of the second quarter, the greatest relative inflation of recent years. In former despatches from here the nature of the inflation process has been stated fragmentarily, but with figures and dates. It is useful to trace the process by stages. 1. The mark exchange falls abroad and the foreign exchanges here simultaneously rise. 2. The result is a rise in prices. 3. The price rise causes an increase in State expenditure and (at least at first) in State deficits, and makes private working capital insufficient. 4. The State deficits are covered and the insufficiency of private capital is repaired by credit operations; the Finance Ministry presents Treasury bills to the Reichsbank for discounting, and private business men raise money by various means, of which the discounting of bills is one. 5. The Reichsbank disposes of the discounted bills to private capitalists as far as these can take them up. 6. Against the undisposed-of residue the bank prints and issues notes, holding the bills as security, and the note circulation is correspondingly increased. This chain constitutes the inflation process.

As inflation may admittedly be the cause, and not the result, of an exchange decline, and this is indeed usually considered the normal sequence, the above scheme of German inflation can only be established by close examination of the features of an inflation wave. Inflation waves there are, in that the inflation rate is not constant, and once even there was, apart from occasional weekly decreases, deflation (though very slight) over a considerable period. That was in January-March, 1921. The features requiring examination are: the fluctuations in the mark's foreign exchange, in the home and foreign price levels, in the floating debt, and in the note circulation, attention being paid to the state of the money market during each wave. Such data have already been given from here. The contrary view, that inflation is the primary cause of the mark exchange's decline, is very natural, because this sequence, as stated, is usually considered normal. Serious inflation occurring before an exchange decline would (among other effects) raise home prices, check export, reduce the demand for the inflating country's bills, and produce a decline in its exchange. A mere statement that inflation was the cause would not, however, be satisfactory, because the cause of the inflation would also have to be determined. But, conversely, a decline of an exchange caused, for instance, by lack of foreign confidence as a result of a political upheaval, would raise prices and increase State expenditure, and if deficits resulted the Government might inflate instead of taxing in order to cover the deficits. The figures given from here in the past show that this is the order in the German inflation process. As figures do not seem to have convinced everyone, authorities (who naturally also work with figures) may have more influence. German authorities are unanimous that the mark collapses lead. Germans are sometimes considered interested parties; but the Swede, Prof. Gustav Cassel, describes the German inflation process in the same way. The Helsingfors newspaper *Hufvudstadsbladet* of October 2nd prints his analysis. After admitting (what is obvious) that "in general the creation of new buying power is the cause and the price rise is the result," Prof. Cassel proceeds: "But in this case it was the violent depreciation of the mark's international value that caused the new wave of high prices, which in turn caused the increased demand for currency." This statement is merely a paraphrase (intermediate links being omitted) of the sixfold chain of causes and events described above. Given a heavy mark fall inflation could not be avoided unless money was abnormally plentiful, so that all bills would be taken up. In the *Economist* it was stated from here that "the increased circulation is not only inevitable, but also desirable and indispensable if business is not to stop." After considering the effect on the new high prices of a possible Reichsbank refusal to issue more notes, Prof. Cassel says that such a refusal

would have "caused unheard-of and, in view of the present social unrest, dangerous perturbations." The last sentence may be taken to mean that production and employment would be badly hit; but as it is also true that the Government could not pay its officials or pay for materials, the inevitable and indispensable nature of the inflation caused by a mark exchange decline is made plain. But the mark fall, though rightly put first, must have a cause. This cause is always the same, the passivity of the foreign payment balance; but the passivity is determined by several factors: by the import excess, by Reparations payments, by panic purchases of stable currencies by Germans, and, perhaps most of all, by panic realisations of marks and mark securities by foreigners. As such realisations take place whenever Germany's prospects look bad, an entirely non-economical event may produce a mark exchange decline. The last great decline began as a result of, and within a few hours of, Dr Rathenau's assassination.

The latest State financial and Reichsbank reports supply a practical commentary on the above. In the last ten days of September the floating debt increased by 89,748,400,000 marks, and reached a total of 528,370,370,106 marks. Since April 1st (the beginning of the financial year) this debt has grown by 178,963,082,000 marks, and almost exactly half of the big increase took place in ten days, between September 20th and 30th. In all September the increase was 129 milliards, in all August 23½ milliards, in all July 12½ milliards. In June, towards end of which the mark exchange collapse began, the floating debt increase was only 5½ milliards. The cause of the tremendous increase towards end of September was not Reparations; of the 89 milliards only 9½ milliards went in this direction. The cause was the enormous increase in expenditure, due to the price rise, which was in turn due to the mark collapse. Thus whereas expenditure in the first four months of the financial year averaged 21 milliards, in August, which began five weeks after the beginning of the mark fall, expenditure was 45½ milliards, and in the third ten days of September was nearly 94 milliards. (Apart from the price rise, the total was swollen by certain payments in advance.) Early in a mark exchange fall period some items of revenue do not rise as rapidly as expenditure, hence the increased deficits. Owing, however, to the fact that part of the revenue increases automatically with the currency depreciation, August receipts from taxation totalled the large sum of 31,466½ milliards, from posts and telegraphs 2,821 milliards, and from railways 18,053 milliards, so that total receipts were over 52 milliards, which is more than 52 times as much as the receipts of January, 1920. If the mark exchange fall and the price rise cease, the tendency will be for revenue to catch up. But before that, an entirely new and much higher level of values will have been established, and even though the real deficit (deficit of substance, or proportion of deficit to revenue) may be no greater than before the last mark fall, the nominal paper mark deficits, the nominal increases of floating debt, and the nominal inflation are bound to remain upon the new level, and to be therefore very much greater. Only deflation could prevent this.

The Reichsbank in the last week of September beat its records. In the three months (twelve report weeks) preceding the Rathenau panic and the beginning of the new mark decline, the bank's holding of discounted Treasury bills grew from 132,060 millions to 167,620 millions, or by about three milliards a week; private bills from 1,491 millions to 4,161 millions, or by 222 millions a week; and note circulation from 122,903 millions to 157,935 millions, or by about three milliards a week. In the 12 following weeks Treasury bills rose from 167,620 millions to 349,760 millions, or by about 15 milliards a week; private bills from 4,161 millions to 50,230 millions, or by nearly four milliards a week; and note circulation or by nearly four milliards a week. Although these figures look very alarming, it cannot be shown that they in themselves involve any threat to business activity. The first money panic was got over weeks ago, and business rapidly adapted itself to the new values level. But the new mark fall which began last week involves, unless it soon ceases, a repetition of the process. The inflation, though it does

not depreciate the mark exchange by means of throwing home prices over foreign and so checking export, is well advertised to the world, and the advertisement may easily frighten foreigners into further realisations of their mark interests, in which limited sense a statement that inflation causes, as well as is caused by, a fall in mark exchange would be true.

The currency controversies continue. It is noted that the Austrian Alpine Montangesellschaft has taken to invoicing home sales in gold crowns, while accepting payments in paper crowns at their current gold exchange. In Germany the burning question is the "reproduction price." As manufacturers cannot finance new production with the depreciated yield of past sales, they fix their prices when selling not upon the production cost of the goods being sold, but upon the future production cost of similar goods. In theory this is sound. But in practice it involves the demand from buyers of enormous percentages of profit on past production cost, and on this score there have been several prosecutions under the anti-extortion law. The number of such prosecutions is increasing, and some offenders have even been sent to penal servitude. The Ministry of Industry declares that the charging of "reproduction prices" is not allowable, but has authorised textiles traders to base their prices not on future production cost, but upon the mark exchange depreciation. Creditors, being losers when payment of debts is delayed, are threatening dilatory debtors to make them pay an increased sum in marks if the dollar exchange rises. This is not legally enforceable, but it is in the spirit of the Court of Appeal's *clausula rebus sic stantibus* decisions. It is officially stated that as a result of the fact that the mark's gold exchange has fallen much more than company capitalisations have risen, the gold value of all company capitalisations has fallen from 31 milliards at the end of 1913 to 6.80 milliards to-day. The conditions on which the Finance Ministry has authorised big industrial concerns to issue their own emergency notes are: That the highest denomination is 1,000 marks; that the longest term of validity is two months; and that full cover is deposited with the Federal Credit and Control Board. The shortage of small notes is still acute.

Foreign trade in August was: Imports, 4,676,170 metric tons, against 4,798,200 tons in July, value 56,472 million marks, against 60,257 millions; exports, 1,406,700 tons, against 1,636,500 tons, value 60,295 millions, against 49,941 millions. The reality of the export surplus of nearly four milliard marks is doubtful. The dates at which the totals of foreign trade conducted in foreign currencies are converted into marks are not the same for imports and exports, and in times when the exchanges are violently moving this leads to big over or under estimates. In the first eight months of 1922 imports were 26,619,203 tons, of value 245,267,912,000 marks; exports, 15,118,700 tons, of value 226,839,932,000 marks. The Import and Export Board has agreed to reduce export duties when and the date of the granting of an export licence exchange of the foreign currency of foreign currency the 33½ per cent. or more. The Bourse last week was active and rising. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for dividend-payers shows a rise of from 79,220 to 97,880.

AUSTRIA.—PROSPECTIVE FOREIGN CREDITS—FINANCIAL CONDITIONS—PRICES AND WAGE DIFFICULTIES.—CURRENCY SCARCITY—NEW ISSUE BANK

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, October 1. The main interest in political and financial circles is: present centred in the reports on the negotiations in Geneva, according to which the guarantee for the credit to be granted to Austria seems to be secured. The consequence of this fact politically is that the Chancellor Dr Seipel, will remain in office, and the immediate danger of the Socialists' accession to power is removed. The position of his Cabinet, however, is still very difficult. Personal changes in the Cabinet are expected, especially the finance Minister, Dr Segur, who is likely to retire. I

will probably be replaced by Dr Brauneis, who is acting as negotiator in Geneva at present.

In spite of the guarantee obtained for the Austrian credit, both Governmental and financial circles are rather doubtful as to the date when the International credits will be available, and it is to be feared that a long time will elapse before the whole transaction is concluded. First of all, therefore, it will be necessary to grant Austria an interim credit as, without one, the Government cannot carry on. Though it was not officially announced, the Treasury has already used up on current expenses the greater part of their share of profits from the winding-up of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, amounting to 30 million gold kronen. In spite of the enormous increases of taxes and railway fares effected lately, the public funds are at a low ebb.

By pawning the first half of the Italian credit (75 million lire) and another instalment of 20 million francs of the French credit at the Austro-Hungarian Bank in return for kronen bank-notes, the Government may carry on till early in October. Then it must try to keep the management going for another few weeks by the proceeds of the internal loan and by any foreign credits which may result from the Conference in Geneva. Several attempts to increase the public revenue by increasing the postage and railway fares and the price of tobacco by some 100 per cent. were practically of no help at all, as the expenses for salaries and wages, continuously augmenting owing to the "index law," swallow up all additional receipts.

The financial reconstruction programme of the Government, as set out in my previous letters, has become completely obsolete on account of the depreciation of money, and the Finance Minister has already announced that it must be revised. The fatal "index law," passed in June, by which all State and private employees were granted the concession that each increase in the index figure would in future automatically increase their salaries and wages, has caused the greatest entanglement in public and private administration.

The maintenance of industrial production meets with growing difficulties as it becomes increasingly difficult to raise the necessary means. Owing to the "index law" most commodities already have reached or even exceeded the world-market parity. Articles of dress textile goods in general, shoes and leather goods are no longer cheaper in Vienna than in Czecho-Slovakia, and since in this country the market is completely stagnant at present, Austrian industry is threatened by the possible importation of cheaper goods from abroad. As matters stand, one has to reckon on unemployment in the next months inasmuch as the latest index figure published shows a further increase of the cost of living of 91 per cent. compared with last month. The union of metal industries has already declared to its employees that it is quite unable to increase salaries and wages according to the index and proposes an increase of only 30 per cent.; even the Government itself realises the impracticability of the "index law," and is preparing a Bill of amendment, according to which only 50 per cent. of the increase corresponding to the index figure should be paid out. Next month the index figure will probably show a decrease, in itself a favourable sign, but it may bring with it the danger of opposition on the part of the workmen to a reduction of wages.

For the first time for many months the prices of some important commodities have considerably decreased, as they had already exceeded the world-market price; flour has gone down from K.14,000 per kilo to K.8,000; fat from K.40,000 to K.30,000; sugar from K.22,000 to K.11,000. In textiles and shoes also a slight fall in prices has taken place, as the economic crisis in Czecho-Slovakia has compelled the manufacturers there to reduce their prices considerably. In Vienna, however, the policy of taxation adopted by the Socialistic municipality will always be a serious hindrance to a thorough decrease of the cost of living. This policy, faithful to Socialistic doctrines, is inspired by strong animosity to industry, commerce, and all property in general. On the hotels, for example, a tax amounting to 50-60 per cent. of the gross earnings has been imposed recently. The Government tax on the profits of banks, industry, and commerce has

been increased by additional municipal charges to such an extent that by this tax alone 42-48 per cent. of the net profit is seized. By such measures Viennese industry is seriously handicapped, as became obvious at the last Viennese Industrial Fair, which turned out a complete failure.

The managers of the Austro-Hungarian Bank are making desperate efforts to throttle the demands for credit rushing upon them from all sides. Nevertheless, the amount of bills discounted has increased by 205,000 million kronen in the last week of August, and by about 150,000 million kronen in the first week of September. It is estimated that the bank-note circulation, which at the end of August amounted to 1.35 billion kronen, will increase by the end of September to at least 2.2 billion kronen. In spite of this colossal circulation, money is so tight that industries can hardly get loans under a rate of interest of 40-50 per cent. Big concerns are obliged to go about begging from bank to bank in order to raise money for the payment of wages at the week-end. The Austro-Hungarian Bank finds itself compelled to print bank-notes of 500,000 kronen and bills ("kassenscheine") for 1 and 5 million; these bills, however, are refused by the public, and can only be used for payments from bank to bank.

Last year and this the Government and several County Councils set about building large water-power electrical works, with a view towards reducing the consumption of coal by running part of the railways and factories by electricity. Such plants are in course of erection in Lower and Upper Austria, Styria, and the Tyrol. Owing to the depreciation of the currency and the ever-increasing cost of labour, the continuation of the building operations in some of these undertakings is meeting with serious obstacles, and the joint-stock companies which have been founded for their construction are in financial difficulties, as a further issue of shares or debentures is hardly possible.

After long negotiations, the amendments have been published which the head office of the Anglo-Austrian Bank in London and the head office of the Laenderbank in Paris have made as a condition for their participation in the new Issue Bank. The main substance of these amendments is the demand that the paid-up share capital of the bank, consisting of gold and foreign bills, should be deposited outside Austria. Besides this, the right is claimed for the members of the "general board" ("generalrat") to enter a protest against resolutions which might contain an unjustifiable granting of credit to the State. Both demands, fully justified as they may be, have roused heated excitement among the Socialists. It seems as if, also, the German party would, for political reasons, join them, so that the Government may possibly not be able to pass the amendments demanded, and the foundation of the Issue Bank is thus becoming rather problematic.

CANADA.—MARKETS AND WAR RUMOURS—SUCCESS OF CONVERSION SCHEME—HARVESTS—THREAT OF MORATORIUM IN SASKATCHEWAN—FEDERAL REVENUES—MERCHANTS' BANK TRIAL—INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS BRIGHTER—NEGOTIATION OF COMMERCIAL TREATIES WITH FRANCE AND THE U.S.—THE FORDNEY TARIFF.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, September 26.

THE news of the war crisis in the Near East caused on September 18th a sharp collapse on the stock markets, practically every type of issue being affected. But the scare turned out to be purely local, for the European exchanges failed to reflect the alleged situation. Sterling dropped a cent and a fraction on the 18th, but it came back at once. When the steadiness of the exchanges was realised, there was a covering movement, and many stocks within two days had made up a considerable portion of their previous losses. Since then the market has been unsteady, and stocks are not quite back to their old level, but many people had forecasted a reaction as overdue on technical grounds. The bond and money markets were very little affected by the crisis. Money appears to be reasonably plentiful, and the Finance Department are said to have met with a most gratifying

response to their conversion proposals for the liquidation of the first Victory Loan, which matures December 1st. It is unofficially stated that not more than 5 per cent. of the holders of this expiring loan will be found unwilling to convert when the time for acceptance of the offer expires.

About the middle of September the Western Provinces experienced a spell of extremely bad weather, which interfered with harvesting and threshing operations, but improvement has now taken place, and the fields are being rapidly cleared. However, owing to the lateness of the seeding season, some areas were very late in ripening, and on the 24th it was reported that 10 per cent. of the crop in the Regina district, which is normally early, was still to be cut. Grain prices had a welcome fillip for a few days from the war rumours, but they have now receded, and the farmers regard them as thoroughly unsatisfactory. However, the crop must still be regarded as one of the most bounteous in the annals of Canada, and the following estimates, which are based on crop forecasts and the current Winnipeg prices, anticipate that Canadian field crops for 1922 will be worth at least 200 million dollars more than the 1921 crops:—

	1921. Value. \$	1922. Value. \$		1921. Value. \$	1922. Value. \$
Wheat	242,936,000	369,334,350	Corn, husking	12,317,000	11,927,200
Oats	146,395,300	234,510,360	" fodder..	44,880,800	34,937,000
Barley	28,254,150	40,107,630	Potatoes	82,147,600	35,940,100
Rye	15,339,300	34,721,260	Turnips	26,620,400	35,550,240
Flax	5,338,400	10,306,000	Hay, clover..	267,764,200	264,265,000
Peas	5,439,400	5,301,000	Alfalfa	13,211,000	8,714,362
Beans	3,155,800	2,791,000	Sugar beets..	1,742,000	1,722,000
Buckwheat..	7,285,100	7,825,000			
Mixed grains	13,901,220	21,178,000	Total.....	908,381,870	1,119,273,582

However, Mr C. A. Dunning, the Premier of Saskatchewan, still contends that the farmers of his province are confronted with disastrous conditions, and threatens unless the creditor organisations, the banks, mortgage corporations, and implement companies, show sympathetic consideration and do not press the farmers unduly for full payment of their debts, that he will summon a special session and establish a local moratorium by legislation. The creditors are naturally annoyed at this threat, and Sir John Aird, Vice-President of the Bank of Commerce, declares that the financial situation in the west does not warrant such extreme measures. The financial papers accuse Mr Dunning of trying to make political capital by a cheap threat. Mr Dunning insists that one of his chief motives in proposing a moratorium is to prevent debt collecting on a scale which would force the new crop on to the market with a rush and depress prices to an even lower level. For some time there has existed in Saskatchewan an official designated the "debt adjustment commissioner," and his duties have consisted of acting as "last resource" to the settler debtor who found himself harassed to the detriment of his own and his family's welfare. Mr Dunning in the end will probably content himself with increasing the scope of this office.

The Federal revenues continue to be satisfactory, but even with the increased rates of taxation they will not yield many millions more than in 1921-22. The heavier sales tax has undoubtedly had the effect of checking the fall in the cost of living, and is clearly in the end paid by the consuming public. But the mercantile classes like, and at intervals their organisations pass resolutions urging, the abolition of the income-tax, and proposing to supply the gap by further increases in the sales tax. During the month of August the net Federal debt showed a decline of \$4,866,000, but it must not be taken as an indication that Canada has started in earnest upon the path of debt reduction. It happened that no interest on any loans fell due in August, and also that public expenditures were abnormally light, and the interest payments due in the last two months of the year are likely to wipe out any gains made in the earlier months.

Mr D. C. Macarow, the former general manager of the wrecked Merchants' Bank, has been acquitted on his second trial by a Quebec judge. In the judgment in the Macarow case the main reason for the acquittal was the fact that it was the chief accountant of the bank who added up the figures taken from the various books of record, and the general manager, having had nothing to do with the making of the report, "cannot be held

criminally responsible for an act which he has not committed." Such people as are disposed to accept the judgment as an authoritative pronouncement upon the virtues of the Bank Act will have some justification in arraigning its provisions as a pitiable farce for the protection of the interests of shareholders or depositors. The *Financial Post*, of Toronto, which cannot be suspect of radical tendencies, roundly assails the judgment, and demands that the Finance Department institute a real investigation into this strange and disturbing case. In the past fortnight the industrial clouds have lifted. The coal strike in Nova Scotia has been settled, and the railways and their shopmen have agreed to start negotiations again on a fresh basis. The ending of the American coal strike also opens up prospects of at least some of the normal supplies of fuel from the mines of Ohio and Pennsylvania, but most communities have only in sight at present a fraction of their usual supply, and great economy in fuel will have to be observed for some weeks. The need, however, for a Fuel Controller and rationing system, which was at one time demanded, has now disappeared.

The Government cherish high hopes that Mr Fielding will be able to conclude a good commercial treaty with France; he evidently expects success, for he has taken with him experts to assist in working out the schedules. It is also announced that Mr Robb, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, will shortly leave for Australia to bring to a head the negotiations for a reciprocity treaty which have been proceeding by correspondence for the past year.

The long-dreaded Fordney tariff has now become law, and the Government tariff experts in Ottawa are making a close study of its effects upon trade across the boundary line. Its full effects will not be felt for some weeks, but they have already been partially discounted by the operation of the Emergency Tariff. However, the new tariff has a wider range, and its rates are, in many cases, higher; in a few cases they are lower, the duty on wheat, for instance, being cut from 35 cents per bushel to 30 cents.

JAPAN.—TRADE BALANCE—GOLD HOLDINGS, NOTE ISSUES, AND PUBLIC DEBT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, September 3.

WITH the end of August Japan's foreign trade for the first month out of the eight since the beginning of the year has shown a favourable balance, the excess of exports over imports amounting to some 8,500,000 yen, as compared with an unfavourable balance of more than 26,000,000 yen for the same month last year. This does for the eight months as a whole, now totalling more than 359,731,000 yen. The favourable turn in trade currents is easily seen to be due to heavy shipments of silk, in imports of raw cotton; but since even a slight excess of exports is so encouraging a contrast with the large adverse balance for the same month last year, the outlook is regarded as hopeful. Yet the total adverse balance for the eight months, amounting, as already stated, to 359,731,000 yen, is considerably larger than the adverse only 263,369,000 yen.

Under the head of exports, 17 out of 28 of the most important articles gained, including rice, fish, tea, refined sugar, waste silk, raw silk, silk braids, silk fabrics, cotton fabrics, cotton hosiery, hats, caps, buttons, and machinery. As compared with August last year, tea more than doubled, rising from 1,555,000 yen to 3,583,000 yen; refined sugar from 1,115,000 yen to 2,175,000 yen; silk from 40,174,000 yen to 69,904,000 yen; silk fabrics from 7,891,000 yen to 10,115,000 yen; cotton cloth from 14,438,000 yen to 19,075,000 yen; and machinery from 825,000 yen to 1,063,000 yen. Out of 23 principal items of import, 17 registered increases, including rice, wheat, beans, peas, hemp, flax, woollen yarns, woollen cloth, paper, and iron. The largest gains were in such commodities as beans and peas, which rose from 1,089,000

yen to 2,373,000 yen; hemp and flax from 1,366,000 yen to 2,008,000 yen; wool from 2,206,000 yen to 2,754,000 yen; iron and steel from 9,297,000 yen to 14,937,000 yen. Japan's trade with China made more remarkable gains than with other countries, the total of exports during August amounting in value to 23,234,000 yen, against a value of 19,839,000 yen for the same month last year. Imports from China amounted to 10,655,000 yen, compared with 12,074,000 yen for last year.

Bank clearances registered a decline in August, but as an increasing tendency has been well maintained since the economic crisis in 1920, this is perhaps no indication of instability. The total bills and drafts passing through the Tokyo clearing house for the month numbered 2,294,825 valued at 5,638,993,042 yen, and the total value has been over 5,000,000,000 yen each month up to the end of July. The bank note issue now amounts to 1,148,177,000 yen, with an equivalent in gold reserve. The decline in the national gold holdings, now amounting to 1,855,000,000 yen, as compared with a total of 2,100,000,000 yen at the close of the war, has not been so rapid of late. Of this total, 617,000,000 yen belongs to the Imperial Government, and 1,238,000,000 yen to the Bank of Japan. The amount in Japan is 1,218,000,000 yen, leaving a balance of 637,000,000 yen abroad, chiefly in England, with a smaller portion in the United States. It is noticeable that the national debt of Japan continues to increase. Reaching an unprecedented sum at the close of the Russo-Japanese war, a sinking fund was organised for the reduction of the national debt, by which a sum of 50,000,000 yen was to be set aside annually; but very soon raids began to be made on the fund for the purpose of balancing deficits, and it was reduced to 30,000,000 yen, and then dropped altogether. The Finance Minister is now discussing with the banks the possibility of reviving the sinking fund. The expansion of the national debt in spite of Japan's enormous war profits is not regarded with approval by many leading financiers of the nation. Prices of commodities in Japan have not declined to the same extent as in western countries since the close of the war, and the cost of living is oppressive. There is a hot discussion going on with regard to abolishing the embargo on exports of gold, which some hold to be largely responsible for the high cost of living. As winter approaches, and nearly all forms of enterprise are discharging workers, prospects of much unemployment become pronounced, with numerous strikes, especially in steel and iron works.

SPAIN.—POST OFFICE AFFAIRS—COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH ENGLAND—CONFLICTING INTERESTS—MADRID UNDERGROUND RAILWAY—COMING GOVERNMENT ISSUE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, September 20.

AS was anticipated, the Postal strike terminated by the unconditional surrender of the employees, who presented themselves *en masse* to resume work, but who were informed that the Royal Decree published a few days previously made it necessary for them to apply for readmission as if they had never been in the service. A considerable number of them have been refused, their places having been taken by girl clerks, and the lesson has gone home not only in the Postal Service, but also in other Government departments.

This is one of the few countries in which the Post Office produces substantial revenues instead of being a charge to the national budget, but the advantage to the country as a whole is a very doubtful one. The Post Office revenue amounted in 1906 to 17,903,713 pesetas and 22,468,846 pesetas in 1912, falling to 12,874,402 pesetas in 1920. On the other hand, statistics show that the efficiency of the service has greatly diminished, inasmuch as the number of letters, parcels, &c., circulated per employee during the year has fallen from 77,733 in 1906 to 26,533 in 1920. It is not, therefore, astonishing that the general public, which is well alive to the fact that the Postal Service in Spain is dear and inefficient, was opposed to further concessions to the employees during the past strike.

The proposed Commercial Treaty with England has

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised £3,000,000

Paid Up Capital 1,050,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

given rise to a wordy conflict between the coal-producing regions in the north and the fruit exporters in the south. Press campaigns, interviews and speeches have followed in quick succession, and the sentiments on both sides are all the more bitter from the fact that large personal, not national, interests are at stake. The coal producers are naturally opposed to the treaty, and endeavour to prove that Spain can produce the quantity and quality of coal necessary for national industries, whilst the fruit producers argue that the number of persons employed in the Asturian mines only represents one-sixth of those employed in the fruit industry, and that the Mediterranean coast would suffer very heavily if the Treaty were not to be carried through. The South is especially bitter in its criticisms of the coal producers, and some of the more exalted sections went to the extent of threatening a revolt unless they receive satisfaction. They state that whilst the coal producers in the North were making fortunes during the war it did not occur to them to help their less fortunate brothers in the South, and that they have therefore now no right to ask for help against a legitimate competition which benefits the nation as a whole. The North is also divided on the question, as the iron foundries are mainly interested in the Treaty going through. To settle the matter, the Minister of Finance, Senor Bergamin, will call a meeting of the principal interested parties to discuss the matter thoroughly. Although it will be very difficult to obtain unanimity, it is probable that the majority will be in favour of the Commercial Treaty with Great Britain.

The underground railway of Madrid is turning out to be even more satisfactory than the promoters expected. In the past year the number of persons carried reached 20,633,886, as against 14,627,466 in 1920. During the past year an extension of the line was put into service, and the receipts in all stations immediately rose considerably. The net profits in 1921 amounted to 1,596,784 pesetas, which allowed a dividend of 10 per cent. to be distributed to the shareholders. Work is actively proceeding on two other branch lines, which will be opened to the public shortly.

The Stock Exchange in Madrid continues inactive, but Government securities are firm. National railways, after a sudden rise, returned to their former level. It is anticipated that the Government will shortly make a further issue of Treasury Bonds, but it is not known whether these will take the same form as previously—that is to say, short period 6 per cent. bonds. In any case, the announcement of such an issue will further reduce the amount of business transacted and destroy any hopes of an improvement for some time.

Letters to the Editor.

CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—So much has been written and spoken of late on the above subject, and so many different opinions expressed, that I determined to pay a short visit to the country and ascertain, if possible, at first hand the true state of affairs. I have just returned from a three weeks' tour.

The casual observer has good ground to jump to the conclusion that the country is in a state of great pro-

prosperity. The streets of the big towns are in many instances filled with decently dressed and apparently well-to-do people, the cafés and places of amusement well patronised, and no great poverty discernible. It is only when close inquiries are made that one learns the truth. In many towns I inquired the amount of the earnings of the working people, and the replies were practically entirely in accord. The wages paid appear to vary from 60 to 100 marks per hour—say an ordinary maximum of 800 marks a day, or 4,800 marks per week. In isolated cases more may be paid, but the instances are not numerous. From this weekly wage a tax of 10 per cent. has to be paid to the Government, leaving a trifle over 4,000 marks per week. This up to the end of September represented about 14s in English money, but it had a somewhat greater purchasing power in Germany. All food is, however, very dear—butter 400 marks per lb. (The German pound is 500 grammes, a little more than our 16 ounces.) Meat, which used to be under a mark a pound, is now 200 to 300 marks. Clothing has, I believe, been moderate in price, but is now mounting up, and such articles as men's shirts, which used to be about 5 marks, are now about 1,000 marks, and generally prices seemed to average quite 200 times pre-war figures. It will thus be seen that a man with wife and family is in a very poor condition, and I am assured that many are living on margarine and potatoes. In reply to my inquiry as to why one did not see any evidence of this distress, I was assured that it was because these people would not exhibit their poverty to the world. The people one finds in the cafés at night are not the married workmen and their families, but mostly young men and women who earn the same wages as married people, but have no family responsibilities—the rest of the guests are mainly foreigners, English, American, French, &c. There is practically no unemployment at present, but there are indications that there will be very soon. At one hotel I stayed at 32 of the staff were being dismissed at the end of this month, and they had nothing to go to.

Your own columns have borne evidence of how the great class who were living on their savings have been wiped out, but I think it is yet hardly realised in England how "retired" people who had an income equal to £500 a year still have the same number of marks coming in, but these have only to-day a purchasing power of £3 or £4. The state of those who are too old to work is really deplorable. The professional classes are also suffering very seriously. The editor of one of the most famous of the German newspapers said to me: "People do not go to lawyers now, but settle their differences between themselves; neither do they go to doctors, because they cannot afford to do so."

On October 1st prices were increased enormously. Bread from 60 marks to 120 marks per lb; railway fares, 100 per cent., to go up a further 150 per cent. in a month; postage, 3 marks to 6 marks; foreign postage, 6 marks to 20 marks per letter, 3½ marks to 12 marks for post-cards. These increases will doubtless bring about a demand for higher wages, but the general ratios are not likely to be much altered.

As regards the large question of payment of Reparations and indemnities, everything I heard and everything I saw force me to the conclusion that Mr McKenna is absolutely right in the views he has just expressed in his American speech, and yet how hard it is to make many people in England believe that Germany has not some great secret fund, some well into which she has only to dip a bucket in order to bring up sufficient wealth to satisfy her most exacting creditors!

If of any interest to your readers, I may say that up to the end of September the charges in hotels of good class averaged about 700 marks each for room, lunch and dinner say 2,100 marks, with 200 extra for breakfast and afternoon tea—2,300 marks, with 10 per cent. added for service, say 2,530 marks—or about 8s. at that date in English money.

If going for a stay of not longer than three or four weeks, I should recommend a traveller to take bank or Treasury notes rather than a letter of credit, my reason for this being that the banks have not a uniform rate of

exchange, and I found the number of marks offered by different banks varied on the same day as much as 1,000 marks to the £. With notes one can take advantage of the best rate, but with a letter of credit one is tied to one bank and is at its mercy.—Yours truly,
Sheffield, October 9th, 1922. A. SELLS.

STABILISATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—You very generously shelter your contributors under the aegis of your name, but I should be sorry to let you bear the brunt of Mr H. D. Henderson's assault.

Yet, if I may say so without offence, I think both you and I escape comparatively scatheless, if the attack was directed against what we actually said. We gently deprecated too much stabilisation; Mr Henderson sings the praises of stability. But stability is one thing, and stabilisation is another. We ventured to prefer the analogy of equilibrium, compatible with progress, and attained, for example, by an aeroplane moving to its chosen destination. Does Mr Henderson really suggest that the economic ideal is (to continue the vicious mechanical metaphor) inertia?—Yours, &c.,
YOUR CONTRIBUTOR.

London October 10th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

RECENT ECONOMIC LITERATURE—A MONTH'S SURVEY.

THE most important contribution to economic literature that has appeared for some time is Professor Gustav Cassel's *Money and Foreign Exchange* after 1914 (Constable, 10s 6d). As this was the subject of a leader in the *Economist* of September 30th, any detailed comment here is superfluous, though the attention of readers may legitimately again be drawn to a work distinguished both in style and treatment, packed with first-rate material, both by way of argument and illustration. A month which includes this volume is entitled to hold its head high.

Otherwise, although the number of books falling within the specific category here dealt with is not very large, there are more than usual which deserve comment. For clearness, they may be classified.

(a) Elementary.

Two volumes, in the excellent series published, at 10s each, by M. Giard, of Paris, under the general direction of M. Alfred Bonnet, recommend themselves to the teacher and student. There is *Premiers Elements d'Economie Politique*, by the veteran Luigi Cossa—an more interesting to the general reader, *Histoire des Doctrines Economiques et Sociales*, which an enterprising English publisher might do worse than translate, whether from the French or from the original Russian. The University of Moscow, now at the University of Prague. His survey of economic opinion goes back to China, India, and Greece, deals with the medieval scholastics, Sun Tzu and More's "Utopia," and summarises the views of more modern schools of thought, whether orthodox or manner. He calls his chapters "lessons," and they are teaching, as they apparently did of his own, before he confined his economic instruction to the doctrines of Marx. It is curious that he does not mention a single Russian economist.

Public Finance, by M. E. Robinson, is the third volume of the excellent series edited by J. M. Keynes, and published by Nesbit, at 5s, in which Mr Henderson's "Supply and Demand," and Mr Robertson's "Money," have already been warmly commended here. The high standard survey.

Arithmetic of Citizenship, by E. and J. Riley (Sidgwick

and Jackson, 2s 6d) is described by its authors as a "serious attempt to link up the arithmetical teaching in school with the actual problems of social life"—and a very successful attempt. Under "Work and Wages," "Family Budget," "Rent and Rates," "Insurance," "Income-tax," and so on, there are clear, explanatory paragraphs, followed by illustrative examples, in the form of sums. Arithmetic so taught ought to be far more instructive in itself, and, for the first time, definitely connected, for the learner, with the real things among which he and she will afterwards have to use the principles acquired. Compare this with the old-fashioned "Practice" and "Bills of Parcels" on which some of us were brought up, and the difference is immense.

(b) Advanced and Technical.

Here, of course, the first book that calls for mention is Professor Cassel's. Next comes Professor H. Stanley Jevons' *Future of Exchange and Indian Currency* (Humphrey Milford, 18s 6d). The professor at Allahabad has written this book mainly for his Indian students, but it will be interesting and suggestive to readers at home interested in such topics, as well. Side by side with it the intelligent reader will place the *Report of the Indian Fiscal Commission*, as published by the Government Press. Simla—the full text of the Report of which summaries have recently appeared in our papers, and the *Report on the Operations of the Currency Department, the Movement of the Funds, and on the Resource Operations of the Government of India for the year 1921-22*, by A. C. McWalters (Calcutta, 1 rupee). Professor Jevons' book is an admirable introduction to the intelligent reading of the official reports.

(c) Descriptive, and Works of Reference.

Thoroughly readable, and, at the same time, illustrative of all sorts of thorny problems in economics and politics, and in the close inter-relation between the two, is Mr Edwin A. Pratt's *Scottish Canals and Waterways* (Selwyn and Blount, 10s 6d). The story of the Scottish canals is a peculiar and very interesting one, about which most people, even when they have sailed through the Caledonian or the Crinan, know little or nothing. Mr. Pratt's book is, of course, not descriptive merely; he has a policy to suggest, and one that deserves careful examination. The *Insurance Blue Book and Guide for 1922* (London, Ritchie and Darling, 10s 6d) is too well known to need more than a mention.

For once in a way there are practically no books that go under the rubric "political and propagandist."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Holy Alliance. The European Background of the Monroe Doctrine. By W. P. Cresson. Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (London) Humphrey Milford.

Industrial and Commercial South America. By Annie S. Peck. (London) T. Fisher Unwin. 18s net.

Finance. Vol. 1. Banking, Stockbroking, Currency, Exchange. By A. Risdon Palmer. Bell's Handbooks of Commerce and Finance. (London) G. Bell and Sons. 5s net.

Water-Power in the British Empire. The Reports of the Water-Power Committee of the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies. (London) Constable and Co. 3s 6d net.

Britain's Decline. Her Economic Disorder and Its Only Remedy. By John W. Lea. (Birmingham) Cornish Brothers, Limited. 1s net.

Reminders for Company Secretaries. By Herbert W. Jordan. Ninth Edition. (London) Jordan and Sons. 1s net.

Politique Financière et Monétaire de la France. Discours, Rapports, Voeux et Comptes Rendus de la Semaine de la Monnaie. (Paris) Librairie Félix Alcan. 30f.

Inflation dans l'Histoire. By Albert Despaux. (Paris) Librairie de l'Information. 7f 50c.

Annuaire Statistique, 1921. (Paris) Imprimerie Nationale.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL	£15,592,372
RESERVE FUND	£ 8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1922)	£321,167,218

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:

168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Annuaire Statistique de la Belgique et du Congo Belge. 1915-19. (Brussels) Imprimerie A. Lesigne. 10f.

The Yale Review. October, 1922. Edited by Wilbur Cross. Yale Publishing Association. \$1.00.

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. (London) John Murray. 3s 6d net.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
October 18.	October 19.

Stock Exchange markets gladly responded to the changed political outlook. Nor has the threat of an imminent General Election served to cloud the brightness which replaces the anxious despondency of a fortnight ago. Business is better, too, in most of the markets. The public are showing more disposition to speculate, as well as to invest. The fact of the War Loan rising over par once more is in itself a bull point for any stocks and shares connected with investment, while the fact of Paris sending buying orders instead of being an incessant seller, has tended to wipe out a good deal of the gentle melancholy felt previously.

The War Loan touched 100½ before it went back a little. A mild boomlet occurred in Conversion 3½ per cent., as buyers hurried to pick up the stock while it remained in the neighbourhood of 73. The Funding Loan spurred, and there has been a general rally of prices in the gilt-edged issues. Home Railway prior charges are better. Colonials remain with scarcely an alteration.

In the foreign market Germans have, of course, been weak, owing to the further drop in the exchange, but French bonds, on the whole, have been a harder market. Brazilians, still under the unhappy influence of the slump in milreis, gave way further in the early part of the week, to rally from the worst. The Argentine and Chilean list keeps tolerably steady. Sharp rises in Peruvian Corporation stocks stand out as one of the features of the week, bringing into renewed life the vague rumours circulated earlier as to the possibilities of the preference stock receiving arrears of dividend.

The Home Railway market is a trifle better, with moderate improvements in the Heavy stocks and Undergrounds. Attention is fixed eagerly upon what may be the terms of the Southern grouping arrangements. It is said that these were all cut and dried a week or more ago, but that the Chatham objected to some of the proposals. Amongst Canadians, Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debenture stock advanced to 50½, upon the more favourable view taken of the prospects of the stock receiving its interest. Argentine rails spurred again, while Brazilians remained in the background, with Mexicans a rather dormant market. Antofagasta rose briskly, on account of the improvement in the traffics.

Fresh advance in the price of raw rubber caused a general recovery in shares of the rubber-producing companies, but the oil market is dull, for various reasons, of which the cut in petrol stands out prominently. The Shell pool, formed to take over from the Royal Dutch Company about a million and a quarter of the latter's holding in Shells, is due for dissolution at the end of this month, and this may have accounted for some of the selling of Shells, though possibly the life of the pool may be extended. The principal feature in the industrial market has been the sharp rise in British and Argentine Meat shares, the company having received an offer to buy the ordinary shares at 65s, and the preference at 32s 6d. At the beginning of the week the ordinary stood in the neighbourhood of 30s. Courtaulds improved to a mild extent, though textiles as a whole continue quiescent. Shipping stocks are distinctly harder, on the steady improvement shown in shipping circles, referred to in the *Economist* last week. Inquiries have come in for banking shares, home and foreign alike, with the result

Broken Hill Prop. (8)	18	18	18	Knights	7	7	7
Chartered (£1)	1	1	1	Modderfontein (10)	1	1	1
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	1	1	1	Modderfontein, "B" (5)	1	1	1
Crown Mines (10)	2	2	2	Modderfontein, Deep (5)	1	1	1
East Rand (22)	12	12	12	Premier Deep (2/6)	1	1	1
East Rand Prop. (£1)	1	1	1	Rio Mines (5)	3	3	3
Geduld (£1)	1	1	1	Rio Tinto (25)	28	28	28
Gov. Gold Areas (£1)	5	5	5	Spring Mines (£1)	2	2	2

The Chairman remarked that these proposals had been put before

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		RECEIPTS.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Oct. 7, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Oct. 8, 1921.	Week Ended Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 1 to Oct. 8, 1921.
	£	£	£	£	£
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
		11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
REVENUE.					
Outsoms	112,250,000	65,681,000	66,440,000	2,031,000	3,122,000
Excise	160,750,000	78,202,000	95,297,000	1,704,300	1,872,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	2,994,000	2,617,000	110,000	123,000
Estate, &c., Duties	48,000,000	32,721,000	23,380,000	650,000	990,000
Stamps	18,250,000	8,552,000	7,536,000	50,000	150,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty ..	3,000,000	570,000	420,000	..	..
Property & Income Tax (Including Super-Tax) ..	329,000,000	147,501,000	147,297,000	9,137,000	7,240,000
Excess Profits Duties ..	27,800,000	954,000	28,644,000	..	1,580,000
Corporation Profits Tax ..	19,750,000	8,597,000	5,940,000	320,000	350,000
Post Office	54,625,000	27,500,000	24,000,000	1,500,000	750,000
Crown Lands	750,000	380,000	290,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	14,000,000	6,133,343	6,664,826	2,296,663	36,166
Miscellaneous—					
Oct. 1 Receipts	22,000,000	17,222,097	13,840,047	830,910	2,200,642
Special Receipts	90,000,000	26,320,971	52,417,095	523,426	200,000
Revenue	910,775,000	425,046,411	474,782,968	19,152,999	18,619,808
Total, inc. Balance		434,219,941	477,857,474		
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion		800,000	3,930,000	..	250,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921		2,660,000	320,000	..	170,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922		3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914		27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 ..		950,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921		2,510,000	4,655,000	1,060,000	..
(c) For other issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,566,307,000	2,211,463,000	67,819,000	94,011,000	..
By National Savings Certificates ..	38,048,000	19,980,000	800,000	1,000,000	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds		20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35		121,708	1,024,990	..	6,325,000
5½%, 1927		61,422,074	56,735,000	..	..
4½%, 1932		52,648,508	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		11,869	6,990,529	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances		511,064,000	711,207,000	54,850,000	44,250,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company Dividends on Shares acquired ..		243,012	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1913 ..		..	7,250,000	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..		183,435	35,888	2,975	1,350
Do Issues under Section 69 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920		6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920		162,425	178,666	..	..
Total		2,681,566,952	3,506,928,526	143,684,974	164,627,158

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LT

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Oct. 7, 1922.	Issues, Oct. 7, 1922.	Issues, Oct. 8, 1922.	Issues, Oct. 9, 1922.
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	9,094,351	9,622,463	2,138,781	2,135,913
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	158,846,141	188,589,857	26,824,595	24,816,462
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	2,334,999	2,073,000	..	270,380
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	2,603,797	3,820,738	..	79,342
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	796,042	1,809,070	..	..
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	753,456	..	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,650,000	1,209,480	882,799	7,900,000	15,025,012
Supply Services.....	529,999,000	208,828,954	333,540,031	36,863,376	42,344,109
Expenditure.....	893,437,000	384,287,220	540,337,958	..	200,000
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....	..	..	3,800,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds and the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	84,909	84,909	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.....	3,060,000	4,805,000	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922.....	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Act, 1913.....	27,000	27,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1918.....	950,000	..	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922.....	2,110,000	..	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	1,719,144,000	2,169,403,000	62,280,000	91,872,000	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed.....	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills for Supply.....	..	..	..	..	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919.....	6,064,055	20,237,358	..	275,117	..
Under the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919.....	4,876,211	..	100,000	..	..
Funding Loan Sinking Funds Conversion Loan Sinking Funds Principal of National Savings Certificates.....	13,450,000	9,150,000	..	450,000	..
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	..	8,500,000	..	..	..
(b) Repaid otherwise.....	..	..	..	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—	..	..	..	..	..
5% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.....	19,612,208	17,704,490	..	17,704,490	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off.....	40,534,182	..	40,534,182	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	11,255,348	30,513,659	1,000	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid.....	461,316,000	671,163,000	9,000,000	10,900,000	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....	399,521	15,300,112	..	1,000,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919.....	243,012	..	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4).....	5,000,000	9,490,000	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	55,656	61,200	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—	..	..	..	..	..
Bank of England.....	2,678,829,322	3,504,234,660	148,778,558	164,745,716	..
Bank of Ireland.....	2,085,784	2,012,325	..	..	..
Bank of Scotland.....	651,846	681,541	..	..	..
Total.....	2,737,630	2,693,866	..	..	..

NOTE—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

Treasury, October 9, 1922.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Redemption Account.	Bank of England.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	..	48 1	9,924	11,423
Aug. 26.	38,478	169	600	..	..	..	..	9,286
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	27 6	54,621	20,536
Dec. 29.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	19 0	118,102	6,868
Dec. 27.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	13 4	186,637	5,486
Dec. 31.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	8 9	306,133	4,566
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4 000	337,537	2,802
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19 450	336,504	134
Mar. 30.	343,826	15,599	..	..	28,500	19 450	311,334	141
June 29.	323,884	14,965	3,000	..	28,500	14 8	287,750	150
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	3,000	..	28,500	14 850	278,119	143
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	3,000	..	28,500	14 7	289,131	161
1922.	300,351	14,255	5,000	..	28,500	15 9	261,479	177
Mar. 29.	295,374	13,538	6,000	..	28,500	16 3	254,312	250
June 28.	289,756	12,475	7,000	..	27,000	16 3	246,918	163
Sept. 27.	289,127	12,648	7,000	..	27,000	16 6	246,456	169
Oct. 4.	291,143	13,268	7,000	..	27,000	16 9	249,118	153
11.	291,397	12,522	7,000	..	27,000	16 9	248,680	149

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £380,800,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, October 16-October 21, were opened on October 13, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £72,560,000. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 8s 6d and above in full; the Saturday bills £99 8s 7d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 5s 5.03d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £1,155,000; in bills at 3 months, £40,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
July 28.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,435,000	1 13 6 41	100 14 0
Aug. 4.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 71,675,000	2 2 10 76	100 3 1 44
Aug. 11.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,795,000	2 2 10 76	..
Aug. 18.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,335,000	2 11 0 17	None allotted
Aug. 25.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 55,590,000	2 7 9 28	None allotted
Sept. 1.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 67,675,000	2 11 3 29	None allotted
Sept. 8.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 7 1 56	None allotted
Sept. 15.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 74,355,000	2 10 1 97	None allotted
Sept. 22.....	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 66,350,000	2 10 0 90	None allotted
Sept. 29.....	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 78,775,000	2 8 3 57	None allotted
Oct. 6.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 72,560,000	2 5 5 03	99 1 4 15

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, October 20, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £40,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lord Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1884.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 11, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	£ 144,048,875	Government debt.....	£ 11,015,100
		Other securities.....	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion.....	125,598,875
	144,048,875		144,048,875

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital.....	£ 14,553,000	Government securities.....	£ 54,891,973
Reserve.....	3,119,946	Other securities.....	66,704,309
Public deposits.....	15,160,226	Notes.....	21,478,985
Other deposits.....	112,051,745	Gold and silver coin.....	1,827,813
Seven-day & other bills.....	18,163		
	144,903,080		144,903,080

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

Date.	Amount, Oct. 11, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest.....	£ 3,119,946	+ 24,776	+ 3,791
Public deposits.....	15,160,226	+ 1,535,419	+ 144,468
Other deposits.....	112,051,745	+ 10,115,462	+ 22,737,793
Government securities.....	54,891,973	+ 5,375,000	+ 9,958,934
Other securities.....	66,704,309	+ 6,885,225	+ 13,667,527
Reserve.....	3,119,946	+ 634,342	+ 1,048,831
Note circulation.....	122,569,890	+ 629,885	+ 2,043,730
Coin and bullion.....	127,426,688	+ 4,457	+ 994,899
% of reserve to liabilities.....	18 3/4	+ 2 3/4	+ 3 3/4

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.							
July 19.....	£ 127,402,158	£ 124,626,265	£ 126,641,810	£ 122,955,489	£ 21,595,893	17 1/2	5 1/2
Aug. 26.....	127,403,930	124,751,630	126,873,106	118,748,150	21,096,300	17 1/2	5 1/2
Sept. 23.....	127,399,520	125,774,190	125,325,355	121,250,295	20,075,330	16 1/2	5 1/2
Oct. 11.....	127,399,880	125,774,190	125,325,355	121,250,295	20,075,330	16 1/2	5 1/2
1921.							
July 19.....	£ 127,402,158	£ 124,626,265	£ 126,641,810	£ 122,955,489	£ 21,595,893	17 1/2	5 1/2
Aug. 26.....	127,403,930	124,751,630	126,873,106	118,748,150	21,096,300	17 1/2	5 1/2
Sept. 23.....	127,399,520	125,774,190	125,325,355	121,250,295	20,075,330	16 1/2	5 1/2
Oct. 11.....	127,399,880	125,774,190	125,325,355	121,250,295	20,075,330	16 1/2	5 1/2

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Oct. 9, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Oct. 13, 1920.	Oct. 12, 1921.	Oct. 11, 1922.
Ironation (excluding Bank bills).....	29,170,925	28,833,380	83,705,099	124,613,620	122,569,890
Bank rate of discount.....	10.37 1/2	19.04 1/2	21.22 1/2	15.01 1/2	15.00 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	45,298,171	41,248,964	93,851,919	144,789,538	112,051,745
Bank rate of discount.....	13,338,084	11,046,570	34,346,213	64,860,307	54,891,973
Bank rate of discount.....	32,855,496	41,461,280	82,602,331	80,371,836	66,704,309
Bank rate of discount.....	27,192,560	25,463,980	22,827,277	22,257,967	23,306,798
Bank rate of discount.....	37,913,485	35,947,360	88,082,372	128,421,587	127,426,688
Bank rate of discount.....	48 1/2	42 1/2	18 1/2	14 1/2	18 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	4 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	31 1/2	33 1/2	73 1/2	55 1/2	55 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	25 1/2	25 1/2	36 1/2	52 1/2	52 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	12 1/2	12 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	20 1/2	20 1/2	23 1/2	48 1/2	102 1/2
Bank rate of discount.....	306,792,000	199,913,000	634,861,000	613,132,000	716,429,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—October 4.....	£ 26,556,998,000	£ 2,138,350,000	£ 28,695,348,000
October 11.....	653,654,000	67,775,000	721,429,000
Total to date 1922.....	27,210,652,000	2,206,125,000	29,416,777,000
Do 1921.....	24,680,062,000	2,379,668,000	27,059,730,000
Increase or decrease in 1922.....	+ 2,530,590,000	+ 178,563,000	+ 2,709,153,000
	+ 10 1/2 %	+ 7 1/2 %	+ 10 1/2 %
Total for 1921.....	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920.....	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921.....	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8 1/2 %	- 26 3/4 %	- 10 1/4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to October 7.			
BIRMINGHAM.....	£ 98,206,100	£ 86,994,200	- 11,211,900
BRIGHTON.....	60,200,000	54,568,000	- 5,632,000
BURTON.....	281,241,900	244,319,500	- 36,922,400
DUBLIN.....	44,760,300	43,394,300	- 1,366,000
GLASGOW.....	29,890,400	31,488,500	+ 1,598,100
HULL.....	354,972,200	329,879,700	- 25,0

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. September, 1922.	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.	London County Westm'r and Parr's Bank, Limited.	National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	7,446	34,939	1,451	2,220	33,175	51,564	29,094	29,164	3,929	197,620
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom ..	1,842	6,502	397	755	7,249	8,390	7,704	5,741	160	39,641
Items in transit ..	3,621	22,030	2,472	4,608	15,546	14,600	22,699	15,333	4,854	109,295
Money at call and short notice ..	6,899	49,414	1,326	691	71,885	44,345	44,107	2,938	3,532	298,856
Bills discounted ..	12,074	76,544	4,636	9,135	93,082	62,030	57,442	58,304	8,105	400,471
Investments ..	36,098	128,458	7,835	4,816	118,290	175,951	99,380	121,477	19,007	728,834
Advances to customers and other accounts Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	3,754	5,108	170	1,633	7,249	18,861	9,739	2,874	231	50,172
Bank premises account ..	1,468	4,753	346	370	4,998	4,958	4,071	4,171	571	26,401
Investments in affiliated banks ..	..	8,021	..	..	7,671	3,559	2,991	2,240	..	24,482
	73,202	335,769	18,633	24,228	359,145	384,258	307,502	283,411	49,324	1,875,772
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts ..	11.43	11.38	8.6	10.6	10.12	15.00	10.40	11.11	9.02	11.59
LIABILITIES.										
Capital paid up ..	2,348	15,592	800	1,000	14,373	10,861	9,004	9,309	1,500	66,662
Reserve fund ..	1,400	8,250	800	500	10,000	10,861	9,004	8,878	1,000	51,793
Current, deposit, and other accounts ..	65,700	306,819	16,863	20,938	327,523	343,675	279,743	262,350	43,528	1,703,911
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	3,754	5,108	170	1,633	7,249	18,861	9,739	2,874	231	50,171
Notes in circulation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,078
Reduction of bank premises account ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157
	73,202	335,769	18,633	24,228	359,145	384,258	307,502	283,411	49,324	1,875,772

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 10, 1922. Lire.	Aug. 31, 1922. Lire.	Aug. 10, 1922. Lire.	Sept. 10, 1921. Lire.	Position May 31, 1914 Lire.
Total cash ..	1,301,786	1,333,072	1,339,913	1,302,393	1,221,875
Inland bills ..	4,447,283	4,481,713	4,436,742	4,428,336	4,184,400
Foreign bills ..	9,630	9,606	9,725	9,756	81,300
Advances to the Treasury ..	6,107,522	6,088,798	6,112,626	6,120,157	6,472,459
Other advances ..	2,483,449	2,602,331	2,461,852	2,496,122	2,628,900
Securities ..	534,374	534,350	533,272	531,911	404,287
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	13,805,275	13,737,727	13,989,783	13,979,864	15,566,925
Deposits & drafts ..	1,795,011	1,860,385	1,878,601	1,830,192	1,618,597

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 30, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 23, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 15, 1922. Francs.	Oct. 7, 1921. Francs.	Position May 31, 1914 Francs.
Gold ..	505,764	505,292	506,012	514,742	544,785	171,715
Silver ..	114,424	114,639	114,742	115,090	124,025	18,350
Darlehens-Kasse ..	10,893	10,983	11,142	11,199	15,694	..
Assets & advances ..	302,920	301,739	284,912	358,870	348,687	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	797,770	811,008	747,903	749,205	946,950	275,925
Deposits ..	189,387	173,972	220,264	290,213	103,132	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to September 30, 1922, total issues were Fr.18,835,515, of which Fr.10,983,225 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1922. Kronor.	Sept. 30, 1922. Kronor.	Sept. 23, 1922. Kronor.	Sept. 15, 1922. Kronor.	Oct. 8, 1921. Kronor.	May 24, 1914. Kronor.
Gold ..	273,598	273,616	273,626	273,662	275,858	104,918
Balance abt. and foreign bills ..	78,327	77,186	79,012	78,482	110,121	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities ..	73,961	73,966	74,086	74,007	20,688	34,465
Discounts and loans ..	393,823	399,751	363,052	383,070	435,991	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	564,372	604,616	522,859	538,873	627,709	226,555
Deposits at notice ..	190,035	180,196	201,370	208,642	143,870	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 5, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 28, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 21, 1922. Francs.	Sept. 14, 1922. Francs.	Oct. 6, 1921. Francs.	Position May 28, 1914. Francs.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion) ..	336,206	333,267	332,778	330,994	327,041	322,650
Securities ..	507,911	506,536	492,973	489,629	423,097	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	6,539,502	6,517,769	6,483,141	6,501,105	6,232,898	934,150
Current accounts ..	778,764	545,558	547,845	531,120	767,804	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922. Krone.	Sept. 23, 1922. Krone.	Sept. 15, 1922. Krone.	Sept. 7, 1922. Krone.
Gold coin and bullion, bills ..	742	699	751	729
Bills discounted ..	783,289,424	735,014,786	683,238,678	610,457,600
Loans ..	1,626,828	1,645,602	1,709,779	1,682,277
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	2,277,677,738	1,960,309,570	1,700,865,397	1,517,179,852
Deposits ..	249,971,028	169,439,812	164,157,872	122,420,962

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922. Krone.	Sept. 23, 1922. Krone.	Sept. 15, 1922. Krone.	Sept. 7, 1922. Krone.
Gold coin and bullion, bills ..	13,551	13,493	13,199	13,010
Silver coin, &c.	536	597	597	597
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	46,962,638	44,795,454	42,270,842	39,514,557
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	58,458,093	55,412,204	52,404,972	48,839,762
Deposits ..	5,928,870	6,553,619	5,360,531	4,704,919

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922. Kroner.	Sept. 23, 1922. Kroner.	Sept. 15, 1922. Kroner.	Sept. 7, 1922. Kroner.
Coin and bullion ..	228,299	228,304	228,310	228,326
Loans & discounts ..	516,854	421,515	415,941	398,400
Foreign bills ..	13,745	18,018	25,939	336,301
Securities ..	15,910	16,499	16,298	29,866
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	466,555	423,751	432,305	441,940
Deposits ..	211,064	147,015	142,399	119,028

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1922. Kroner.	Sept. 30, 1922. Kroner.	Sept. 23, 1922. Kroner.	Sept. 15, 1922. Kroner.	Oct. 7, 1921. Kroner.	Position May 31, 1914 Kroner.
Coin and bullion—Gold ..	147,291	147,291	147,291	147,291	147,291	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	44,580	42,793	41,718	28,710	28,533	..
Norwegian & Foreign Govern- ment securities ..	9,415	9,415	9,415	8,545	8,816	..
Discounts and loans ..	443,860	444,009	430,040	426,484	76,911	..
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	380,611	383,571	373,662	413,791	113,484	..
Deposits at notice ..	138,783	134,805	132,034	84,793	7,188	..

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 45 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1922. Rs.	Sept. 8, 1922. Rs.	Sept. 1, 1922. Rs.	Aug. 25, 1922. Rs.	Sept. 16, 1921. Rs.
Govt. securities ..	9,80,27	10,20,58	10,47,71	12,40,78	14,01,84
Other securities ..	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,51
Loans ..	17,21,04	17,10,74	17,19,40	17,19,40	20,52,64
Cash credits ..	25,43,81	25,43,81	25,43,81	25,43,81	25,43,81
Foreign bills ..	3,92,48	4,24,32	4,18,26	3,61,98	7,70,72
Bullion ..	6,61	7,35	7,47	8,36	1,66
Dead stock ..	2,45,80	2,45,80	2,44,35	2,44,35	2,17,79
Surpluses ..	30,91	30,91	29,59	29,59	29,59
Balances with other banks ..	20,91	24,72	28,33	25,92	17,60
Cash ..	39,06,71	41,03,64	44,37,33	44,38,48	28,90,60
Subscribed capital ..	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,24,52	11,24,52	11,05,46
Reserve ..	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39
Public deposits ..	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	3,83,56
Other deposits ..	14,67,66	14,67,66	14,67,66	14,67,66	14,67,66
Loans against securities ..	72,96,54	72,96,54	72,96,54	72,96,54	72,96,54
Surpluses ..	1,20,72	1,20,72	1,21,21	1,21,21	69,71
The above includes—	6,78	6,80	6,82	6,82	6,82
Deposits in London ..	214	214	215	218	29
Advances in London ..	879	879	849	849	575
Cash, &c., at other banks in London ..	131	155	180	162	117

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	July 31, 1922. £	June 30, 1922. £	May 31, 1922. £	July 31, 1921. £	Position May 31, 1914 £
Gold ..	3,360	3,359	3,362	3,369	1,571
Government securities ..	36,801	38,046	38,779	34,414	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	26,631	28,334	30,392	30,123	2,400
Government deposits ..	4,636	4,216	3,069	2,142	2,315
Other deposits ..	12,528	12,632	12,401	13,578	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922. F. mk.	Sept. 23, 1922. F. mk.	Sept. 15, 1922. F. mk.	Sept. 30, 1921. F. mk.	Position May 31, 1914 F. mk.
Gold ..	42,802	42,625	42,625	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	371,558	329,655	261,704	372,501	90,379
Finland and Foreign Govern- ment securities ..	685,534	695,535	695,536	892,675	21,826
Discounts and loans ..	679,736	745,694	802,726	434,106	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	1,397,169	1,554,750	1,362,803	1,415,735	123,941
Deposits at notice ..	111,465	180,359	161,510	60,271	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1922. Escudos.	Aug. 16, 1922. Escudos.	Aug. 9, 1922. Escudos.	Aug. 2, 1922. Escudos.	Aug. 24, 1921. Escudos.
Coin and bullion ..	26,657	26,660	26,655	26,660	27,826
Of which gold ..	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad ..	3,978	3,145	3,355	3,661	4,022
Discounts ..	153,440	152,747	151,349	150,417	115,865
Government loans ..	720,097	720,097	720,097	720,099	608,10

[October 14, 1922.]

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Oct. 13, 1921.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Sept. 7, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.
Call money.....	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Time money (90 days mixed bill).....	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Non-members—eligible, 90 days.....	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days.....	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days.....	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level.	Oct. 13, 1921.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.
London—					
60 days.....		4-8666	3-81	4-40	4-3662
Cable.....			3-8550	4-4287	4-3937
Cheques.....			3-85	4-4262	4-3912
Paris.....			7-18	7-18	7-13
Brussels.....			19-30	18-70	18-64
Switzerland.....			19-30	3-8550	4-21
Italy.....			23-83	0-0705	0-07
Berlin.....			20-26	0-0014	0-0014
Vienna.....			19-30	13-34	15-20
Madrid.....			40-195	18-95	20-90
Amsterdam.....			26-80	12-15	16-81
Copenhagen.....				22-30	26-52
Christiania.....				4-40	2-25
Stockholm.....				100	91-75
Athens.....				49-85	47-375
Montreal.....					48-125
Yokohama.....					48-10
Hong Kong.....					57-30
Shanghai.....					77-20
Calcutta.....					76-75
Buenos Aires.....					28-75
Rio de Janeiro.....					103-65
Valparaiso.....					138-50
					124-25
					124-5
					12-50
					11-65
					13-75

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	Oct. 13, 1921.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Oct. 5, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.
Amsterdam.....			2-11	0-145	0-125
Switzerland.....			123-45	3-854	0-305
Copenhagen.....				3-734	0-224
Stockholm.....				0-216	0-181
Christiania.....				5-843	0-337

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Buenos Aires.....				
Venezuela.....				
Colombia (Bogota).....				
Nicaragua.....				
San Salvador.....				
Guatemala.....				
Costa Rica.....				
Bolivia.....				

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Sept. 19, 1922.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 3, 1922.
London (cheque).....					
New York.....					
Berlin.....					
Helsingfors.....					
Stockholm.....					
Copenhagen.....					
Paris.....					
Amsterdam.....					
Riga.....					
Prague.....					

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Oct. 2, 1922.
London.....				
New York.....				
Berlin.....				
Helsingfors.....				
Stockholm.....				
Copenhagen.....				
Paris.....				
Amsterdam.....				
Riga.....				
Prague.....				

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Ans.	New Zealand.
T.T.	..	..
Sight	..	..
Cable	..	..
On demand	..	..
30 days	..	..
60 days	..	..
90 days	..	..
120 days	..	..

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From April 25, 1922.	From May 8, 1922.
	London on South Africa.	South Africa on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	..	..
Demand	..	..
30 days	..	..
60 days	..	..
90 days	..	..
120 days	..	..

* Plus ad valorem stamp duty. (a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	23,23,95,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	53,40,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	76,63,95,000

Tenders for Rs. 1,50,00,000 six months' bills and for Rs. 50,00,000 nine and twelve months' bills were opened on October 6th. The total amount applied for was Rs. 3,82,45,000 Rs. 56,00,000 for twelve months' bills. Tenders for six months' bills at Rs. 97 1/2 received about 58 per cent. and above in full. Tenders for nine and twelve months' bills were rejected. The average accepted rate for six months' bills was Rs. 97 1/2 3p annum. Intermediate bills will be offered for sale in India during this week, six months' bills at Rs. 98 per cent., nine months' bills at Rs. 96 1/2, and twelve months' bills at Rs. 95 1/2. Tenders were received on Friday, October 13th, twelve months' bills for issue during the week beginning October 16th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended October 11, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £4457 compared with the previous return.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on September 30, 1922:—

	£	Nil
In India.....		
In England.....		
Cash at the Bank of England.....	782	
British Government securities.....		
Value as on September 30, 1922.....	40,034,060	
		40,034,84
		40,034,84

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

	Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.
	Countries from which Consigned.	Countries to which Exported.
	Week Ended Oct. 11, 1922.	Week Ended Oct. 11, 1922.
Sweden.....	£ 2,500	
Belgium.....	1,231	
U.S.A.....	3,391	
British West Africa.....	49,28	
British South Africa.....	624,313	
British Guiana.....	4,233	
Other countries.....	1,083	
Total value of imports of gold.....	686,032	
		Total declared value of exports registered in the week 2,905

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold came on offer, and was divided betw the United States of America and India. Gold value \$1,150,000 has arrived in New York from London. The Re 6,500 paper marks.

SILVER.

This week the market shook off the inertia which has a feature for many weeks, and silver came on offer from India, and the Continent. It is evident that the on

absorption in present conditions can come from Far Eastern countries. Hence, when buying is poor from those quarters, sellers must hold off, hoping for an improvement in such demand, or prices must fall. The inactivity of late has been owing largely to supplies not being pressed. Now, however, that the Eastern countries have turned into sellers, the sole purchasers are bears, who, naturally, will be slow to cover whilst prices seem upon the slide. The production of Canada during the first six months of the year has been about 8,500,000 ounces. If this rate be continued, the output will show the substantial increase of 4,000,000 ounces for the year. We hear that the production of Mexico during the same period was 37,000,000 ounces, and a fresh annual record is, therefore, likely. The United States output is also increasing, so that a world's total of at least 175,000,000 ounces may be expected. If the amount obtained from demonetisation and from partial demonetisation be added, the combined supplies available are not likely to be far short of the 226,192,923 ounces which formed the record world production in 1911. This year some 60,000,000 ounces will be bought under the provisions of the Pittman Act, but, considering that European purchases for coinage have now ceased, and that the world's luxury trade—into which silver largely enters—is in bad fettle, it is astonishing that prices should have kept up as well as they have done of late.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,089	18,076	18,132
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,909	8,967	9,017
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..			
Gold coin and bullion in India.....	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..			
Securities (Indian Government) ..	6,163	6,092	6,099
Securities (British Government) ..	585	585	584

No silver coinage is reported during the week ending 7th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 7th inst. consisted of about 40,400,000 ounces in sycee, 37,500,000 dollars, and 3,390 silver bars, as compared with about 39,900,000 ounces in sycee, 36,500,000 dollars, and 4,040 silver bars on the 30th ult. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s 4 1/2d the tael.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

	Gold.	Silver.		Silver.
1922.	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Date.
Oct. 7.....	93 4	35 1/2	35 1/2	Oct. 20, 1916
9.....	93 1	35 1/2	35 1/2	19, 1917
10.....	93 4	35 1/2	35 1/2	19, 1918
11.....	93 0	34 1/2	34 1/2	17, 1919
12.....	93 0	34 1/2	34 1/2	15, 1920
13.....	93 0	34 1/2	34 1/2	14, 1921

NOTICES.

The directors of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, announce the retirement, on 31st instant, after 42 years' valued service, of Mr W. H. Inskip, who has been one of the joint general managers of the bank since 1919. They have appointed as his successor Mr P. H. Mortimer, at present an assistant general manager. Mr. E. F. Robinson, the manager of the Chancery lane and Holborn branch, has been appointed an assistant general manager.

The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, announce that an agency to the Wombwell branch is now open at 98 Snape hill, Darfield.

The offices of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, are now at 64 Cornhill, E.C.3.

A branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited, has been opened at Double Bay (Edgecliff), Sydney, New South Wales.

Cabled advice has been received from the head office of the Bank of Adelaide in Adelaide that a branch will be opened on October 17th at Surrey Chambers, St George's terrace, Perth, Western Australia.

Barclay's Bank Limited announce that they will open on Monday next, October 16th, a new branch at 115 Shaftesbury avenue, W.C.2 (to be known as Cambridge Circus Branch),

under the management of Mr J. W. Jarvis, also manager of Soho branch.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of new branches at 2 and 3, Cannon street, Westminster, near Bristol, 1 and 3, Leigh road, Eastleigh, Hants, and 1 Fore street, Torrington, Devon.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Lat'st Year.	Previous.
Railways.					
Buenos Aires & Pacific, 2nd Prf. Exeter, "A" Deb.....	1 1/2	Nov. 8	Less tax	5	nil
Lima.....	1/8 p.s.*	Nov. 8	Less tax	..	..
Madras and S. Mahratta.....	6 1/2	Jan. 1	Less tax	7 1/2	7
Nizam's State.....	4 1/2	Jan. 1	Less tax	7	8
South Indian.....	4 1/2	Jan. 1	Less tax	7	8
Banks.					
Anglo-South American.....	6 p.s.*	Oct. 30	Less tax	12	15
Danish National.....	17 1/2	..	..	10	16 1/2
N. of Scotland Town and County	10*	Nov. 16	..	17	..
Queensland National.....	17 1/2	..	..	..	..
Insurance.					
Consolidated.....	10 %*	..	..	..	..
London and Lancashire.....	6 p.s.*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Motor Union.....	4 p.s.*	Oct. 27	Less tax	..	..
Northern.....	8 p.s.*	Nov. 2	Less tax	..	..
Royal.....	1/ p.s.*	Nov. 15	Subject to tax	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Alliance Tea of Ceylon.....	7 1/2 %*	..	Less tax	..	..
Battalgalla Estate.....	10 %*	Oct. 12	..	..	..
Ceylon Tea.....	10 %*	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	10
Straits Plantations.....	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Telbade Ceylon.....	15 %*	Oct. 13	Less tax 5/3 in £	5	..
Tjiwangi Tea.....	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Mining.					
Crescens Mines and Land	..	..	Less tax	10	10
Gold Coast Amalgamated.....	2 1/2 %*	Nov. 2	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Rio Tinto.....	10/ p.s.*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Other Companies.					
African City Properties.....	3 %*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
African Steamship.....	20 %*	Oct. 19	Less tax	..	..
Alanza Co.....	20 %*	Nov. 2	Less tax	..	..
Allen Everitt and Sons.....	7 1/2 %*	..	Tax free	..	..
Anderson Foundry.....	3/ p.s.*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Anglo-American Debenture.....	6*	..	Less tax	16	..
Bristol Brewery (Georges).....	20*	..	Less tax	..	..
Bryant and May.....	4 %*	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..
Burmah Oil.....	2/ p.s.*	Nov. 8	Tax free	..	..
Canada Cement.....	12 1/2 %*	Oct. 16	Less tax	..	..
Canadian Explosives.....	12 1/2 %*	Oct. 16	Less tax	..	..
City of Dublin Steam Packet.....	8*	..	Less tax	..	..
City of Santos Improvements.....	2 %*	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	10
D. and W. Murray.....	5 %*	..	Tax free	..	..
Danish Gas.....	2 %*	..	Less tax	..	..
Direct U.S. Cable.....	4/ p.s.*	Oct. 31	Less tax	30	..
Fetterlain Distillery.....	33 %*	Nov. 8	Tax free	..	..
Fortnum and Mason.....	..	..	Less tax	6 p.s.	6 p.s.
Frederick Hotels.....	..	..	Less tax	20	20
Glenboig Union Fire Clay.....	..	..	Less tax	5	7 1/2
Harrisons and Crossfield, Defd.....	12 1/2 %*	..	Tax free	20	15
Highland Distilleries.....	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Hope Brothers.....	5 %*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Indo-European Telegraph.....	5 %*	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..
Investment Trust Corp., Defd.....	6 1/2 %*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Jute Industries, Cum. Ptg.....	10 1/2 %*	Oct. 21	Less tax	17 1/2	20
Kern River Oil.....	1/ p.s.*	..	Less tax	..	..
Kingsley and Thackeray Hotels.....	5 1/2 %*	..	Less tax	..	..
Lambert Brothers.....	8*	..	Less tax	..	..
London Trust, Defd.....	1/ p.s.*	..	Less tax	..	..
Manor Power Coal.....	..	..	Less tax	30	25
Novello and Co.....	4 %*	..	Tax free	..	..
Oriental Telephone and Electric	1 1/2 %*	Oct. 16	Less tax	..	..
Pacific Gas and Electric.....	1 1/2 %*	..	Less tax	..	..
Phoenix Brewery.....	2/ p.s.*	..	Less tax	..	..
Rover Company.....	10 %*	..	Less tax 5/8 in £	..	..
San Paulo Coffee, Defd.....	14/ p.s.	Oct. 25	..	..	..
Savoy Hotel.....	6*	Oct. 14	..	..	..
Scottish Malt Distillers.....	..	..	Tax free	10	10
Second Edinburgh Inv. Trust, Defd.....	9 %†	..	Less tax	15	15
Southend Waterworks, Original	4 %*	..	..	..	..
Do 7 % Max. Ord.....	3 %*	..	..	..	..
Do 5 % Max. Ord.....	2 %*	..	..	..	..
Spillers' Milling and Associated	5 %*	Nov. 1	Less tax 5/2 in £	33 1/2	..
St Helens Petroleum.....	..	..	..	..	..
Telephone Manufacturing.....	5 %*	Oct. 7	Less tax	2/ p.s.	2/ p.s.
Thomas Smith's Stamping.....	..	..	..	5	10
Thompson and Shackell.....	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Traction and Power Securities.....	3/6 p.s.*	Oct. 6	Less tax	10	..
Tweedale and Smalley.....	12 1/2 %*	..	Less tax	..	..
United Electric Trams of Caracas	5 %*	Nov. 24	..	15	15
Venez Crux Electric Light	..	..	..	4	..
Walcen Foundry.....	..	..	Tax free	..	..
West African Telegraph.....	..	..	..	..	..

RUBBER OUTPUTS AND DIVIDENDS.

In the table below we give the June and past three years outputs, and dividends for five complete years of a number of Rubber Companies, while the latest reports of Rubber Companies are analysed under our Summary of Profit and Loss Accounts each week. The latest dividends declared appear under Dividend Announcements, and the Rubber Share Market is dealt with in our Stock Market section. Particulars as to the Market Price of the Commodity and other information will be found in our Produce Market Section.

Name. Year ends December 31, Except where Stated.	Outputs.			Output Month Sept., 1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	9 Months 1922, Except Where Otherwise Stated in Brackets.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	Dividends paid in Past 4 Complete Years.			
	Year 1919.	Year 1920.	Year 1921.					1918. % of 1917	1919. % of 1918	1920. % of 1919	1921. % of 1920
Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Allagar	359,250	354,260	329,300	133,500	+ 18,200	1,279,600	- 18,300	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Anglo-Java	2,416,470	2,101,424	1,746,500	115,483	+ 76,685	885,904	+ 219,352	45	74	nil	nil
Anglo-Malay	1,662,291	1,058,736	920,074	61,655	+ 11,132	259,615(4)	+ 64,085	20(18-19)	30(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Anglo-Sumatra (May 31)	771,865	943,803	812,127	69,000	+ 3,850	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ayer Kuning	974,520	1,561,555	1,123,341	114,750	+ 4,640	1,126,181(11)	+ 76,901	10(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Bah Lias (Oct. 31)	941,776	1,029,698	729,518	21,707	+ 5,734	144,850(8)	+ 72,903	25(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)	5%(21-22)
Bajoe Kidol (Mar. 31)	225,800	230,490	164,080	32,300	- 9,100	64,400(2)	- 11,900	5(18-19)	nil(19-20)	..	..
Bandar Sumatra (July 31)	474,146	913,616	713,192	..	..	76,125(2)	..	15(18-19)	15(19-20)	5(20-21)	..
Bantam (Java) (June 30)	348,145	571,712	467,809	26,279	+ 2,382	122,150(3)	..	15(18-19)	25(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Batang (Selangor) (April 30)	321,271	330,686	296,140	53,176	+ 8,159	233,039	..	..	..	..	..
Batang Consolidated	675,534	647,153	534,893	53,500	+ 16,500	443,950	+ 2,665	110	150	5	nil
Batu Caves	784,000	765,100	418,745	35,300	+ 8,626	107,226(3)	+ 64,950	35	30	10	..
Batu Tiga	443,860	..	..	122,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bekoh (June 30)	1,534,416	1,269,877	1,351,255	..	..	185,500(6)	..	nil(18-19)	30(19-20)	5(20-21)	5(21-22)
Bertam Consolidated (March 31)	375,743	342,250	277,730	..	+ 6,825	180,692(3)	+ 11,849	54d p.s.	74d p.s.	2d p.s.	74d p.s.
Bukit Cih	697,900	881,671	756,638	57,414	+ 9,864	327,562(6)	+ 32,394	25(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Bukit Kajang (June 30)	900,681	842,362	669,000	50,601	..	668,148	..	124(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Bukit Mertajam (March 31)	1,060,000	1,636,320	984,500	..	..	531,307(6)	..	..	10	..	nil
Bukit Sembawang	1,118,202	1,214,645	975,540	36,173	- 4,926	376,616	+ 35,868	121	40	..	nil
Ceylon (Para)	665,165	653,267	504,891	..	..	409,629(7)	..	..	22	64	5
Chersonese	815,285	875,814	867,033	..	..	168,000(3)	..	75(18-19)	60(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Cheviot	705,765	636,372	835,118	93,800	+ 30,950	670,725	+ 50,345	25	374	124	..
Cleely Ordinary (March 31)	1,002,435	1,070,988	864,798	..	..	666,393(12)	- 135,504	28	32	..	..
Consolidated Malay	748,935	801,897	664,798	41,041	+ 5,958	460,594	..	25(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Damanasara	566,621	436,210	391,289	41,041	+ 5,958	394,607(5)	..	10	20	..	..
Dennistown	752,228	1,053,163	698,008	42,000	+ 11,500	123,000(3)	+ 43,500	1d p.s.(18-19)	124	5	74
Dusun Durian	338,504	454,740	443,900	92,000	+ 36,000	710,000	+ 51,200	15	25	10	..
Eastern Sumatra (June 30)	793,000	933,000	900,300	..	..	750,540(8)	..	5	30	..	..
F. M. S. Planters	1,252,782	1,247,524	1,063,642	..	..	45,120(1)	..	20	35	..	..
General Ceylon	535,932	612,403	473,041	50,788	+ 29,994	236,448	+ 57,770	10	25	..	..
Golden Hope	376,849	461,824	233,446	..	..	1,277,791(4)	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Central (Ceylon)	5,164,927	5,217,447	4,379,972	100,000	+ 27,000	318,200(12)	- 134,708	10	22	24	6
Gula-Kalumpang	423,423	454,966	320,861	100,200	+ 12,200	111,460	+ 14,970	174	30	74	32
Harpenden	1,504,374	1,533,919	1,215,773	35,150	+ 7,430	591,881	+ 67,573	40(18-19)	45(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Highlands and Lowlands	361,180	427,039	334,688	60,600	- 17,800	296,100	+ 75,800	11	20	..	..
Inch Kenneth (May 31)	937,688	932,212	882,331	60,600	- 17,800	143,790(6)	+ 43,873	10(18-19)	15(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Java Amalgamated	317,381	380,504	375,635	..	+ 2,725	473,669(8)	..	20(18-19)	15(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Java Rubber Plantations	319,403	298,821	233,639	25,457	+ 2,725	1,762,284(7)	..	124(18-19)	124(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Jermu (March 31)	564,325	663,950	570,879	..	..	74,470(1)	..	..	..	..	..
Jong-Landor (June 30)	..	2,457,721	2,058,392	..	..	663,733	+ 34,236	50	40	74	..
Jugra Land and Carey (Nov. 30)	705,772	902,605	747,769	70,270	- 2,295	274,000	+ 82,800	20(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Kamuning (Perak) (June 30)	1,036,566	1,022,925	851,775	41,200	+ 1,000	145,801(3)	..	24(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Kapang Para	549,219	610,200	474,800	41,200	+ 1,000	529,778	+ 199,076	20(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Kawie (Java) (March 31)	503,217	520,504	483,560	60,091	+ 22,284	593,778	+ 199,076	20(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Kepong (Malay)	412,320	750,704	483,560	70,050	+ 19,750	381,150	+ 126,900	10(18-19)	20(19-20)	124(20-21)	64(21-22)
Kinta Kelias (March 31)	1,579,662	1,709,537	1,350,385	104,000	+ 29,000	309,000(3)	+ 21,000	20(18-19)	15(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Kuala Lumpur (June 30)	640,857	656,468	664,712	56,667	- 4,646	503,686	+ 14,238	624	624	25	..
Kuala Selangor	1,133,792	1,120,320	1,120,320	111,663	+ 23,154	515,030(7)	..	224	25	..	..
Labu (F.M.S.)	1,245,745	1,451,209	1,097,352	46,800	+ 27,915	922,374	+ 101,349	15(18-19)	74(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Lanadron	700,222	812,728	455,034	31,000	+ 4,000	256,000	+ 12,878	6	20	..	..
Lanang Java (Aug. 31)	467,900	451,500	370,000	49,130	+ 18,892	345,332	+ 12,878	15	35	..	..
Langkat Sumatra	703,923	688,259	434,976	49,130	+ 18,892	1,270,362(7)	..	50	25	..	..
Leadbury	2,804,900	2,804,217	2,175,728	114,746	+ 40,154	850,261	- 191,137	25	35	..	..
Linggi Plantation, Ord.	1,615,566	1,605,630	1,419,741	94,726	+ 22,496	1,098,626(12)	+ 36,588	174(18-19)	124(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
London Asiatic	1,108,800	1,431,500	1,076,700	94,726	+ 22,496	2,205,940(7)	..	10	30	74(20-21)	..
Lumut (Sept. 30)	4,420,746	4,122,973	3,508,340	104,200	+ 4,911	540,277(6)	..	..	..	..	..
Malacca, Ordinary	1,752,709	1,853,366	1,246,752	104,200	+ 4,911	540,277(6)	..	..	..	..	..
Malayalam	1,002,567	1,416,558	1,141,285	108,928	+ 20,605	593,556	+ 116,024	11	124	..	..
Mendari	1,509,080	1,646,237	1,143,456	59,850	- 9,135	590,310(7)	..	..	..	..	..
Merlimau	625,790	782,070	516,550	59,850	- 9,135	466,450	- 133,415	10	19	..	..
New Crocodile	608,753	745,646	510,286	63,721	+ 27,885	346,122(6)	+ 172,902	5(18-19)	174	..	..
Nordana (Johore)	548,392	587,880	592,981	61,555	+ 12,397	137,943	+ 85,132	15(18-19)	25(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
North Hummock (March 31)	339,198	303,089	264,375	23,670	- 116	482,347(2)	+ 12,416	10(18-19)	20(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Padang Jawa (March 31)	676,583	751,379	736,381	51,862	+ 10,066	20,264	..	124	20	..	..
Panawate	725,278	761,538	539,770	10,666	+ 37,435	769,087(12)	+ 241,977	35(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Pataling	789,308	1,067,338	520,110	55,435	+ 37,435	291,584(6)	+ 40,362	64(18-19)	18(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Pegoh (Sept. 30)	578,480	587,800	544,718	50,031	+ 5,999	275,720(7)	..	6(18-19)	104(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Perak Rubber (March 31)	851,518	792,782	656,030	..	..	294,389(6)	..	..	..	..	..
Port Dickson-Lukut (March 31)	511,142	532,365	478,893	82,764	+ 6,432	512,822	+ 94,437	6	15	..	..
Rangoon Para	883,806	793,597	701,347	82,764	+ 6,432	418,640	+ 35,557	124	25	24	74
Rani (Travancore)	677,548	722,240	514,020	41,927	+ 678	256,230	+ 53,683	5	12	..	..
Rubber Estates of Johore	415,000	352,770	299,650	33,000	+ 5,500	201,500(7)	..	..	..	..	..
Rubber Estate of Krian	280,900	303,132	229,000	..	..	421,764	+ 775	..	54	..	..
Sampang Jawa	704,198	774,293	602,828	76,600	+ 13,902	404,842	+ 32,440	..	10	..	..
Scappamkande	701,873	691,722	499,814	32,337	- 9,937	772,434(8)	..	..	65	..	..
Scottish Malay	1,147,553	1,116,012	853,967	52,250	+ 10,000	153,750(3)	..	124(18-19)	13(19-20)	5	..
Seafeld	397,500	506,000	450,000	52,250	+ 10,000	515,158	+ 37,750	100	50	..	..
Seaport (June 30)	888,830	868,833	656,554	56,552	+ 4,624	338,000(12)	+ 42,025	20(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Selangor	463,173	630,352	496,123	..	..	276,500	..	20(18-19)	10(19-20)	nil(20-21)	..
Sembilan (July 31)	432,034	404,731	333,000	32,500	- 2,500	571,616	+ 41,600	5	124	..	..
Serdang Central	1,073,723	1,023,921	630,666	74,089	+ 48,559	157,331(5)	+ 25,227	224	4	..</	

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH, AND CO., LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
December 31, 1921.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	December 31, 1921.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
Ord. shares	5,512,500 ..	Properties and investments ..	13,716,677 ..
4% 1st pref. ..	1,000,000 ..	Work in progress, stocks, &c. ..	4,995,980 ..
5% 2nd pref. ..	1,000,000 ..	Debtors ..	2,252,485 ..
6% 3rd pref. ..	2,500,000 ..	Trade and other investments ..	632,039 ..
4% deb. stock ..	2,500,000 ..	Cash and bills ..	848,102 ..
6% deb. stock ..	1,913,000 ..	Security for 3-year notes ..	1,380,000 ..
General reserve ..	1,400,000 ..		
Share prem. account ..	330,207 ..		
Creditors ..	4,839,627 ..		
Employees' deposits ..	353,795 ..		
Three-year notes ..	1,380,000 ..		
Profit and loss ..	1,096,154 ..		
Total	23,825,283 ..	Total	23,825,283 ..

EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA, AND CHINA TELEGRAPH.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
December 31, 1921.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	December 31, 1921.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
Ord. shares	4,000,000 ..	Capital expend. ..	4,730,563 ..
Deb stock ..	750,400 ..	Investments ..	2,782,804 ..
Reserves ..	3,254,018 ..	Spare cable and stores ..	322,903 ..
Credit balances ..	1,887,189 ..	Debit balances ..	1,638,865 ..
Deb. int. accrued ..	12,659 ..	Bills receivable ..	110,000 ..
Dividends ..	203,361 ..	Remittances in transit ..	49,000 ..
Revenue account ..	307,880 ..	Cash ..	470,484 ..
		Treasury bills, &c. ..	597,021 ..
		French Govt. bonds ..	252,888 ..
Total	10,417,507 ..	Total	10,417,507 ..

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
December 31, 1921.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	December 31, 1921.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
Ord. stock	5,000,000 ..	Capital expenditure ..	9,241,877 ..
Pref. stock ..	2,000,000 ..	Investments ..	1,336,003 ..
Deb. stock ..	2,000,000 ..	Expenditure on new cables ..	700,000 ..
Reserves ..	2,569,636 ..	Spare cable and other stores ..	1,138,282 ..
Loan from Eastern & South African Telegraph ..	700,000 ..	Traffic and other debit balances ..	2,805,240 ..
Traffic and other credit balances ..	2,503,898 ..	Remittances ..	7,815 ..
Bills payable ..	15,377 ..	Cash ..	401,952 ..
Deb. int. accrued and unpaid ..	9,606 ..		
Dividends ..	264,744 ..		
Revenue account ..	569,008 ..		
Total	15,631,269 ..	Total	15,631,269 ..

HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
June 30, 1922.	Compared with June 30, 1921.	June 30, 1922.	Compared with June 30, 1921.
Pref. shares	630,000 ..	Properties ..	1,002,728 ..
Pref. ord. shares ..	1,000,000 ..	Plant ..	62,611 ..
Def. ord. shares ..	189,986 ..	Furniture ..	16,702 ..
Management shs. ..	25,000 ..	Sundry stocks ..	306,008 ..
Reserves ..	473,000 ..	Loans receivable ..	16,236 ..
Mortgages ..	129,500 ..	Bills receivable ..	313,544 ..
Unclaimed divs. ..	543 ..	Sundry debtors ..	272,689 ..
Bank depositors ..	191,303 ..	Acceptances ..	125,782 ..
Bills payable ..	238,091 ..	Investments ..	1,409,140 ..
Acceptances ..	125,782 ..	Cash ..	14,269 ..
Sundry creditors ..	303,349 ..		
Bank overdrafts ..	163,964 ..		
Pref. dividends ..	43,338 ..		
Profit and loss ..	55,863 ..		
Total	3,569,719 ..	Total	3,569,719 ..

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Abbottiakoon	7,700	..	..	..	14,548	725
Abosso ..	6,980	..	..	..	2,825	13,065
Associated Northern Blocks ..	..	..	..	..	(b) 2,388	222
Iron Duke ..	456	..	..	..	(b) 8,935	..
Associated of W.A. ..	6,309	..	..	..	172,695	27,673
El Oro ..	33,397	..	..	..	5,049	(a) 8,835
Globe and Phoenix ..	6,399	..	..	..	5,460	(a) 23,433
Golden Horseshoe ..	9,012	..	..	..	(b) 26,525	..
Great Boulder Prop. ..	11,052	..	..	..	6,108	(c) 8,995
Ivanhoe ..	14,333	..	..	..	4,076	..
Lonely Reef ..	5,320	..	..	..	3,642	..
Menzies Cons. ..	1,800	..	..	..	1,086	..
North Annapolis ..	..	1,300	965	121	75,500	..
Oriental Cons. ..	..	..	..	..	(b) 15,796	..
Oroya Links ..	3,003	..	..	..	(b) 15,013	..
Prestes ..	7,439	5,101	..	..	(b) 12,657	1,509
South Kalguli ..	7,337	..	..	..	1,247	5,767
Taquah ..	2,400	..	..	..	75,000	1,064
Tomboy ..	18,000	..	..	..	..	..
Transvaal of Rhodesia ..	1,560	..	..	..	5,067	..
Fred ..	15,347	..	..	..	..	..
Wahli (period ended Sep. 30) ..	..	..	4,290 (gold) & 36,805 (silver)	..	..	..

(a) 84s 11½d per oz. (b) Par value. (c) 92s per fine oz net. (d) 84s per fine oz.

Coal.	Output.	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
East Kent ..	3,808	..	Week ended Oct. 7th.
Middleburg Steam ..	20,680	..	..
Copper.			
Messina ..	226	..	Metric tons, assaying 30% copper.
Poderosa ..	550	..	..
Tanganyika ..	3,510	..	..
Tin.			
Aramayo ..	211	..	Silver 105,000 ozs.
Bisichi ..	344	..	..
Ex-Lands Nigeria ..	30	..	..
Gurum River ..	9	..	..
Ipoh ..	213	..	..
Jos ..	104	..	..
Kaduna Prop. ..	72	..	..
Kaduna Synd. ..	15	..	..
Lower Bisichi ..	30	..	..
Mongu ..	15	..	..
Naraguta Ext. ..	27	..	Despatched, 27 tons.
Nigerian Cons. ..	15	..	..
N. Nigeria (Bauchi) ..	69	..	..
Rukuba ..	3	..	Despatched, 3 tons.
Yande Kiri ..	4	..	..
Miscellaneous.			
Burma Ruby ..	..	..	Rubies valued at Rs.81,000.
Keeley Silver ..	..	..	83,000 ozs.
Zinc Corp'n ..	8,795	..	Zinc concentrates; 684 tons leady concentrates.

BRITISH BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—Returns for fortnight ended Oct. 7th:—lead and 23,344 ozs silver; also 1,000 tons zinc concentrates, containing 689 tons lead, 10.5 ozs silver per ton, and 44.5 per cent. zinc; 215 tons carbonates raised. Two days' stoppage.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—For the four weeks ended Oct. 7th, 15,630 tons of crude ore and 8,799 tons of dump slime were treated, and produced 3,976 tons of concentrates, assaying 62 per cent. lead and 25 ozs silver per ton. 11,246 tons of lead-bearing material were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 4,004 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were:—Lead, 3,464 tons; silver, 360,768 ozs.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—Production for September:—2,300 tons lead concentrates, averaging 63 per cent. lead, 30 ozs silver per ton and 8 per cent. zinc; also 2,050 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47 per cent. zinc, 6 per cent. lead and 7 ozs silver per ton.

SAN FRANCISCO DE MEXICO.—September (five weeks):—Ore treated, 8,800 tons; lead concentrates produced, 1,920 tons. Estimated net smelter return, \$101,750 (U.S. currency). Operating expenses, \$47,825. Estimated operating profit, \$53,925. Capital expenditure (including development), \$2,850.

Reports and Notices.

The Meadow Dairy Company, Limited, has opened a branch at 7 Otley road, Headingley, Leeds.

Messrs W. H. Chaplin and Co., Limited, 48 Mark Lane, E.C.3, announce that they have incorporated with their company the business of Messrs Bowen and McKechnie. Mr Percy F. Chaplin continues to fill the office of chairman of the board of directors, and Mr George McKechnie, of Messrs Bowen and McKechnie, has joined the board.

Mr D. B. Hanna, Mr A. J. Mitchell, and also Mr R. M. Horne-Payne are retiring from the positions of president, vice-president, and financial representative in London of the Canadian National Railways after the election of the new board of directors on October 10th.

The Hon. Windham Baring has been elected a director of the San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Company, Limited.

We are informed that Mr Charles Comins, F.C.A., has been placed upon the Commission of the Peace for the county of Suffolk.

We are informed that a contract has been entered into between the Rubber Company, Limited, of New York, and the General entire output of standard rubber from January 1st next to the end of 1924. The rubber is deliverable ex godown on the estate, the price to be the average of the daily quotations for London spot standard and a maximum of 1s 4d per lb, with a minimum of 8d per lb amount of any export tax in existence at the time the price is calculated. This contract is automatically renewable for further periods of two years, unless terminated by six months' notice by either party.

The Associated Australasian Banks in London announce that on and after the 13th inst. the London selling rates on Australia and New Zealand will be altered as follows:—Drafts and mail transfers, 12s 6d per cent. premium; cable transfers, 20s per cent. premium.

BANKS.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.—Net profit for the year ended June 30, 1922, after making provision for all charges, rebate, &c., amounts to £644,138, which, together with £310,914 brought forward, makes a total of £955,052. Of this, £183,409 was absorbed by the interim dividend paid on April 22nd last, so that there is now available a balance of £771,643. In view of the trade depression by the bank's operations, and which has had a detrimental influence upon the position of many commercial houses, the board having carefully considered the accounts in detail recommend that the sum of £300,000 be set aside as a special allowance for certain debts, which are able. It is their considered opinion that this sum should prove amply to cover all contingencies. After providing for this allocation, the directors recommend that the sum of £189,959 be applied to the payment of a final dividend of 6s per share, less income-tax, payable on October 30th, making a total distribution for the year of 12 per cent. that £25,000 be added to the staff pension fund, and that £256,684 be brought forward is arrived at by the deduction of excess profits and corporation tax to the amount of £91,871 from the total of £402,785 carried forward a year ago.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.			Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.			
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		
Banks.									
Colonial Bank ..	June 30*	£ 31,166	£ 53,601	£ 84,767	..	26,100	4	30,000	28,667
Breweries.									
Scottish Malt Distillers ..	July 31	3,928	44,449	48,377	7,822	7,913	10½	20,000	12,642
Financial, Land, &c.									
Caledonian Property Investment ..	July 31	..	2,151	2,151	..	864	3	1,287	..
Rio Negro (Argentina) Land ..	June 30	24,271	12,122	36,393	..	15,000	5	..	21,393
Hotels.									
Frederick Hotels ..	June 30	38,431	51,350	89,781	27,500	13,750	6½	10,000	38,531
Iron, Coal, and Steel.									
Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. ..	Dec. 31	921,329	438,888	1,360,217	252,500	275,625	5 (15½ B Pf. & Ord.)	832,092	675,180
Motor and Cycle.									
Enfield Cycle ..	Aug. 31	42,830	52,628	95,458	1,261	30,000	10	20,000	66,155
Oil.									
Rover Co.	Aug. 5	33,748	146,754	180,502	..	75,250	10	50,252	102,320
Rubber, &c.									
Kern River Oilfields of California ..	May 31	56,604	218,055	274,659	..	209,970	17½	55,000	276,134
Shipping.									
Batu Rata (Sumatra) ..	June 30	17,633	Dr 4,410	13,223	..	..	..	13,223	3,652
Bertam Consolidated ..	Mar. 31	34,690	17,637	52,327	..	12,245	5	40,082	16,393
Permas ..	June 30	6,108	Dr 1,546	4,562	..	..	..	4,562	Dr 2,951
Rini (Java) ..	Jan. 31	3,190	Dr 4,637	1,447	..	..	..	1,447	Dr 2,267
Rubana ..	April 30	21,550	14,440	35,990	..	..	..	25,000	10,990
Straits Plantations ..	June 30	8,248	12,647	20,895	..	12,000	10	8,895	15,828
Sungkai-Chumar ..	June 30	34,122	186	34,308	..	..	..	4,000	30,308
Tali Ayer ..	April 30	48,014	7,151	55,165	..	..	..	26,000	29,165
Telegraphs, &c., Telegraph.									
Peninsular and Oriental Steam ..	Sept. 30	100,305	644,596	744,901	152,000	431,102	12½	60,000	101,799
Textiles.									
Eastern Extension, &c., Telegraph ..	Dec. 31	80,780	1,127,100	1,207,880	..	400,000	10½	500,000	307,880
Eastern Telegraph ..	Dec. 31	316,479	1,321,529	1,638,008	70,000	500,000	10½	500,000	568,008
West African Telegraph ..	Dec. 31	..	32,844	32,844	..	9,244	4	20,000	3,600
Other Companies.									
Jabez Johnson, Hodgkinson, and Pearson ..	July 31	3,697	47,227	50,924	6,000	12,000	10 Def. Ord.	20,924	4,271
Other Companies.									
Doeillet, Limited ..	June 30	4,172	Dr 87,995	Dr 33,523	..	..	..	Dr 33,523	12,284
Eastern Chemical ..	Mar. 31	15,424	Dr 6,888	8,536	..	..	..	8,536	10,362
Glenboig Union Fire-Clay ..	Aug. 31	19,172	14,432	33,604	..	21,625	20	11,979	32,324
Harrisons and Crosfield ..	June 30	44,525	149,138	193,663	37,800	100,000	10 (v) 5 (y)	45,114	164,466
Indicators ..	July 31	..	3,479	3,479	..	..	..	3,479	..

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

(m) Harrison and Crosfield.

(v) Pref. ord.

(y) Deferred ord. and management shares.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.—The report and accounts for the year 1921 shows that revenue amounted to £4,124,976, from which are deducted £1,773,757 for ordinary expenses, and £664,344 for expenditure relating to maintenance of cables, income and war taxes payable abroad, share of contribution to the pension and superannuation funds towards depreciation of investments, payments to staff and other expenses incidental to the war, leaving a balance of £1,686,875. Income-tax and corporation profits tax payable in England, interest on debenture stock and dividends on preference stock absorbed £4

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended Sept. 30.		Nine Months Ended Sept. 30.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	15,550,123	7,732,854	107,038,302	76,631,964
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	536,598	431,896	4,778,208	3,789,157
C. Meat	11,465,739	8,616,031	109,636,867	78,829,045
D. Animals, living, for food	231,306	91,633	2,125,957	1,501,053
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	10,677,887	9,255,347	128,513,188	102,589,615
F. " " dutiable	8,235,713	8,573,575	72,321,805	70,504,621
G. Tobacco	1,472,550	854,112	18,301,351	12,325,051
Total Class I.	48,169,116	35,555,448	442,715,678	346,370,506
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	59,662	18	12,115,807	38
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	443,308	459,077	5,170,813	3,876,630
C. Iron ore and scrap	242,465	421,216	4,081,558	3,456,321
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	967,606	896,924	6,500,410	5,389,614
E. Wood and timber	2,680,333	4,379,803	20,521,978	25,178,310
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	4,261,619	3,642,937	43,328,976	54,202,465
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	2,933,046	3,311,893	33,251,660	50,312,192
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	83,092	242,007	558,455	1,586,156
I. Other textile materials	425,918	1,022,790	7,180,097	7,218,692
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	4,651,099	3,156,787	28,142,085	28,398,499
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,021,774	1,735,794	6,834,408	10,912,999
L. Paper-making materials	1,226,174	934,897	10,565,356	6,686,035
M. Rubber	468,040	531,209	8,411,864	5,064,237
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,000,608	1,112,635	7,517,724	6,828,270
Total Class II.	20,464,744	21,847,987	192,181,171	209,110,458
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	12,622	371	239,488	23,020
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	514,658	560,399	5,260,020	5,107,795
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,829,800	781,951	18,643,916	7,471,954
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,373,646	1,644,738	14,193,892	13,286,210
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	618,289	498,653	5,317,477	4,572,279
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	123,713	129,488	1,569,207	998,463
G. Machinery	546,731	623,222	9,074,803	6,039,685
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	342,249	346,773	4,021,980	2,839,300
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	528,231	601,843	4,215,450	5,055,870
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	306,630	887,321	6,231,715	7,666,586
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,475,494	1,859,001	14,500,415	16,020,072
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	632,183	1,092,785	5,960,010	7,984,648
M. Apparel	820,323	1,409,403	6,701,167	10,672,000
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	984,030	1,032,511	9,984,730	8,343,644
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	3,391,857	2,384,206	46,355,493	31,635,961
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	645,373	989,330	8,427,644	8,132,697
Q. Paper and cardboard	889,535	1,299,450	8,703,194	9,362,563
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	410,211	572,736	5,632,287	5,050,321
S. Rubber manufactures	649,008	409,808	3,506,826	4,376,185
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	1,810,759	2,120,202	14,611,438	17,429,406
Total Class III.	17,905,342	19,244,191	190,151,152	170,768,159
IV.—Animals, not for food	22,682	44,209	262,020	271,661
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles ..	315,328	251,774	2,317,637	2,022,580
Total	86,878,012	76,943,609	827,627,658	728,543,304

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended Sept. 30.		Nine Months Ended Sept. 30.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	307,371	160,846	2,672,814	2,226,085
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	148,127	145,051	996,493	1,419,517
C. Meat	70,563	89,383	570,518	725,537
D. Animals living, for food	4,418	3,970	35,364	24,254
E. and F. Other food and drink	2,362,688	2,139,874	19,192,833	18,185,549
G. Tobacco	406,978	614,987	3,751,322	4,469,227
Total Class I.	3,300,145	3,154,111	27,219,404	27,049,969
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	5,194,356	8,110,083	27,856,159	51,410,935
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	157,916	162,309	776,329	1,253,385
C. Iron ore and scrap	24,471	37,388	130,158	454,671
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	85,187	209,650	507,168	4,408,724
E. Wood and timber	26,109	29,069	294,127	261,504
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	46,755	102,373	366,793	774,246
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	372,577	652,039	3,256,749	5,617,640
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	4,532	2,478	17,920	47,965
I. Other textile materials	56,487	54,947	450,096	678,416
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	762,336	322,023	4,061,427	3,967,419
K. Hides and skins, undressed	51,053	136,304	978,406	1,296,686
L. Paper-making materials	64,805	118,861	494,651	308,197
M. Rubber	9,595	5,267	90,644	69,133
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	140,675	156,057	2,437,872	2,061,903
Total Class II.	6,996,854	10,098,848	41,708,499	73,210,824
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	338,354	541,720	2,336,864	3,629,745
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c. ..	915,162	884,112	8,964,812	8,271,852
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof ..	4,081,988	4,630,207	47,883,248	44,698,790
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof ..	836,684	899,230	8,848,963	8,536,520
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	586,833	493,766	7,239,214	4,805,132
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	924,767	524,142	10,629,573	5,382,340
G. Machinery	5,197,917	4,280,692	57,601,729	37,809,217
H. Manufactures of wood and timber ..	1,624,346	1,288,378	13,446,466	9,703,004
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	13,311,211	16,395,648	129,060,572	140,920,847
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures ..	3,664,983	4,594,229	42,950,932	43,963,517
K. Silk and silk manufactures	173,651	211,041	1,750,832	1,796,612
L. Manufactures of other textile materials ..	1,376,253	1,897,235	13,593,280	16,556,397
M. Apparel	1,295,694	2,156,809	14,110,607	16,360,051
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours ..	1,372,853	1,733,883	14,649,084	15,256,693
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured ..	447,058	597,621	3,731,191	4,394,173
P. Leather and manufactures thereof ..	430,734	436,533	3,346,922	3,689,380
Q. Paper and cardboard	524,782	646,296	6,124,444	4,726,853
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft) ..	5,782,398	4,363,407	41,512,476	31,858,301
S. Rubber manufactures	361,053	393,827	3,513,852	3,320,964
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured ..	2,224,334	2,552,433	20,672,120	20,407,859
Total Class III.	44,009,013	48,361,209	439,879,181	425,514,247
IV.—Animals, not for food	346,754	111,223	2,707,321	1,113,177
V.—Parcel Post	694,812	785,708	7,146,906	7,835,550
Total	55,247,578	62,511,099	518,661,311	534,723,767

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

With improved weather conditions during the week, farmers were busily engaged preparing the ground for the autumn seedbed. Official reports speak of wheat as the best crop of the year, and of fair quality. The condition of barley is variable, and spring oats generally inferior, though winter oats are fairly satisfactory. Firm conditions prevailed at market, and further advances were recorded for both bread and feeding stuffs. Native wheat was in much larger supply, while quality and condition shows improvement. Prices rule firmer, and suitable milling lots realised 41s to 46s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions firmer in sympathy with higher forward offers, and Manitoba qualities sparingly offered. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 54s to 57s, ex ship, to arrive according to position, No. 2 hard winter 54s 6d, and Australian 55s 6d, both ex ship, per 496 lbs. The cargo section displayed firm features, and a good business transpired in Canadian qualities at again dearer prices. Steamers of No. 1 Northern Manitoba, October-November shipment, sold up to 49s 3d, and ditto, December, 49s; No. 2 white Western Pacific, affoat, and ditto; and Rosafé, 63 lbs affoat, done at 50s 6d, all per 480 lbs. Offers from India are at present above market values on this side. Favourable crop reports are to hand from Australia, India, and Argentina, while a very large movement of grain continues in North America, and floating supplies show a substantial increase. Flour ruled firmer owing to the wheat position. London standard straight run now quoted at 43s, patents 43s to 45s, town households 41s per sack delivered to London bakers. Imported main-tained Manitoba export patents range from 38s to 43s as to quality: Pacific 38s, and Australian 37s 6d to 40s per 280 lbs, ex store. Barley continues firm, with a steady demand for im-

ported varieties. English ranges from 35s to 54s per 448 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Californian 39s to 45s, Australian Chevalier 51s to 55s per 448 lbs, American malting 48 lbs 32s, ex ship; Persian 30s 6d, and 35s, both landed per 400 lbs. A good business transpired in European cargoes, and several steamers of Dan-Bess-Kustendji, on passage, changed hands at 31s 6d to 31s 7½d per 400 lbs. Maize ruled firmer, with more inquiry. American mixed, ex ship, quoted 38s, La Plata ex ship 39s 6d, ditto landed 41s. Cargoes were in moderate request, and prices firm for near October 5th, loading sold 38s; ditto October 10th shipment, passing. Native ranges from 25s to 32s per 336 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Plate f.a.q. 29s, ditto clipped 29s 6d, No. 2 Canada 36 lbs, 28s; and Chilian tawny 29s, all per 320 lbs landed terms. Oatmeal in good demand, and quotations advanced by 10s per ton for home milled. London made, all cuts, £19; rolled oats £18, American, all cuts, £18 10s per ton.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to October 7	Cwts. 427,980	Cwts. 462,333	Cwts. 375,586	Cwts. 188,326
5 weeks to October 7	1,588,171	2,178,357	1,851,787	992,596
Average price of English wheat per quarter	s d 38 7	s d 55 6	s d 90 7	s d 73 1
per cwt	8 11½	12 11	21 13	17 0

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bsh 82,034 7	qrs bsh 47,190 1	qrs bsh 23,688 3	s d 37 9	s d 37 3	s d 24 7
Sept. 30	99,862 5	68,318 5	27,089 1	38 7	37 7	25 0
Oct. 7						
1917	57,529 2	77,304 5	16,864 6	71 0	58 5	44 5
1918	71,877 4	58,483 0	13,915 5	72 6	60 3	51 6
1919	43,956 5	117,566 6	12,991 7	73 1	95 5	58 10
1920	87,635 4	103,928 3	33,092 3	90 7	86 0	56 0
1921	107,877 3	164,816 0	24,334 7	55 6	58 4	27 6

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated October 12th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Prompt Cleveland Foundry iron still remains very scarce, owing to the American demand. This is fortunate for our makers, as there is no Continental demand. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is 95s per ton. There have been some good sales of East Coast hematite lately, and the price has improved to 92s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: The steel position is a shade better. There is a rather improved inquiry for ship-building material. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £11; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: Some sales of best Bilbao Rubio are reported at prices between 23s and 24s per ton.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Statistics of output during September indicate further progress in the iron and steel trades. So far as pig-iron is concerned, however, the increased business done was wholly due to American buying. The same cannot be said of steel ingots and castings, as most of the output is being absorbed at home, and there has been a heavy drop in the importation of such material. Germany scarcely counts now as a shipper of steel to this country, and the rivalry of Belgium and France is not very formidable. Our production of pig-iron is now about half the average of the last pre-war year. The output of steel in September represented 73 per cent. of the monthly production in 1920, 87 per cent. compared with 1913, but only one-half of steel-making capacity of the country. The improvement in the steel trade is mainly in the cheaper qualities. The position of special Sheffield steels is better, but not much, and the main industries of the city are still in a very bad way. It is true that unemployment is dropping, but the figures remain at a seriously high level. The chief problem in Sheffield is the vast quantity of idle machinery, furnaces, and shops, all of which costs money to maintain. The chairman of United Steels, Limited, stated this week that the maintenance of idle plant last year cost his company no less than £300,000, and but for that item there would have been some profit to distribute. Heavy local rating has also become a serious problem in Sheffield, the present rate being 21s 6d in the £. With the prospect of having to maintain many thousands of unemployed during the winter, traders do not expect much relief this year. The plate and cutlery branches are fairly employed just now on orders for the Christmas season trade. The South Yorkshire shire collieries are now very busy on export account, and are obtaining a large slice of the trade with Germany. North Russia is beginning to take a little coal from this district. The home trade remains much as before, with a steady increase in the Lancashire demand for boiler fuel. Coke is dear and none too plentiful.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—While it cannot be positively reported that an improvement in the industrial position has taken place during the past week, it can be safely affirmed that conditions are no worse, and that ere long they may be even better. There have been a few additional contracts for new steamers placed with builders on the Clyde, and that in interested circles there is talk of negotiations proceeding relative to the booking of several large "tramps." In this latter connection much depends on the outcome of the pourparlers passing between employers and employed as to the wiping off by the former of the last 10s a week paid under what is known as the war bonus wage to the latter. It looks to-day as if this cut (which it is hoped will be a final one) will be assented to, and in that event, it is speculated, a big and favourable departure in ship construction will follow. After a long period of extreme dullness, the steel trade situation here and there has picked up a bit, one or two good lines for plates and angles having been booked (by the Steel Company of Scotland), leading to the lighting-up of furnaces which have been drawn blank for months. Present demand for material comes mainly from home sources, but there is evidence of increasing inquiry from export markets, notably our own colonies. Quotations are given as steady, with a slightly easier tendency in home connections. Boiler plates remain at £12 10s, delivered Glasgow stations; ship plates, £9; sections, £8 15s. For heavy structural steel (plates, &c.), the outlet keeps reasonable and prospects for bridge and other builders continues pretty encouraging. Bar iron makers and steel bar rollers are not too well off, yet producers speak of the probability of an early change for the better, and are standing firmly by recent prices, say, ten guineas for crown bars, and downwards. Various reports are in circulation as to the position in the sheet-making branch. There has been a moderate contraction in the demand for heavy gauges, but that is being overcome, owing to the growing inquiry for all sizes from India, Australia, and Canada.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The improvement in the coal market has been fully maintained this week. Its strength, indeed, has been more pronounced, and there has been a general rise in the prices of large steam coals. The pressure of the demand from the States is diminishing, but it is being replaced by demands from other markets, and the great majority of the collieries are fully stemmed for the present month, and also well into November. The docks are fully and regularly employed, and the difficulties in the way of securing prompt loading positions have reacted unfavourably on outward rates of freight, and colliery prices have indirectly benefited from this circumstance also. The returns of shipments for the month of September are the best since the war. The total quantity of cargo coal exported from the South Wales ports in that month amounted to 2,524,718 tons, and that quantity is about 35,000 tons in excess even of the average monthly rate of export in the record year of 1913. It is quite possible that the shipments in October will be almost as good. The stoppage at the Ebbw Vale collieries is responsible for a reduction in the export capacity of the coalfield by anything from 10,000 to 20,000 tons per week, but the outputs of other collieries are improving. Canada is still an active buyer of anthracite coal, and the shipments to that country are increasing weekly. A project is under consideration for the conclusion of a permanent contract between one of the leading anthracite colliery owners in South Wales and Canadian interests, and the erection at Montreal of an anthracite breaking and sizing installation.

The following are the current market prices at the end of the present week:—Best Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s; second Admiralties, 26s to 27s; best drys, 28s to 28s 6d; best black veins, 25s to 25s 6d; Western Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s; Eastern Valleys, 24s to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s to 14s; anthracite big vein, 55s to 57s 6d; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 65s to 70s; anthracite French and stove nuts, 70s to 72s 6d; Rubby Culm, 13s to 13s 6d; coke, for export, 35s to 37s 6d; inland blast furnace coke, at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 26s 6d to 28s 6d; pitwood, 27s 6d to 29s 6d, ex ship. The position in the tinplate trade has also improved largely as a result of Near-East enquiries, and quotations have again been advanced to 10s 6d. A recent reduction in the Australian import duties

botany noils and thread wastes. If prices remain reasonable, a good steady business will be done in raw and partly manufactured materials. All along I have contended that there was no real reason for merinos to advance any further, that is if the larger interests of the outside world were to be considered. Starting a new season in Australia on a fully 5s basis for 64's tops necessitates a very considerable readjustment of the views of practically the entire trade, and after the slump experienced eighteen months ago, no section can stand another serious fall. However, the warnings given appear to have fallen on deaf ears, for a certain section of the trade are preaching the gospel of advance, and one wishes that such comments as that made by Mr Harry Dawson, to the effect that "the high level of merinos is causing no little apprehension to those who find new opportunities of business, and who desire to see prosperous trade in fine worsteds," could receive greater consideration.

The sales this week have gone to the satisfaction of importers and sellers, who are wisely meeting the market. Most merinos are 7½ to 10 per cent. dearer than last sales; fine crossbreds have advanced fully to the same extent, and even coarse and medium wools are often 5 per cent. dearer. There is at last a general awakening in crossbreds, entirely due to the increased sales to America. This will be essentially a crossbred series, and it seems as if there is more than enough crossbred wool to meet all requirements, but if the demand for merinos could be reduced, and that for medium and coarse crossbreds enlarged, it would be the best thing that could happen for both growers and users. Fashion, however, still favours fine, soft-handling fabrics, and it seems as if buyers of botany cloths will not be choked off until prices are again prohibitive, when the general public will perhaps see what a big difference there is between merino cloths and good, sound crossbreds.

Publicity has been given to the statement that the forthcoming South African clip will show an increase of 60 per cent. One wonders if 6 per cent. was really intended. No country in the world could increase its wool production anything like 60 per cent. in twelve months. Even in the most favourable season Australia could not increase its output of merino wool in twelve months by more than 15 to 20 per cent. at the most. The average output of South Africa is about 525,000 bales per annum, and if the output is 25,000 bales more this year, it will be a splendid accomplishment. It is gratifying to know, however, that there is greatly awakened interest among South African sheep farmers, and the prices ruling for merino combing wool are a real incentive to grow that class of material.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—October 6, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
						Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do.....	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do.....	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American.....	Ord	G O L M	Mid	G M M F	G O L M	G M	G O L M	G M	G O L M	G M	G O L M
Brazilian.....	1062	1112	1137	1237	1267	1357	1191	1306	1516	1074	1394
Pernam.....	1072	1222	1352	..	..	..	1161	1411	..	1349	1999
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1072	1222	1352	..	..	..	1161	1411	..	1349	1999
Maceio, &c.	1072	1222	1352	..	..	..	1161	1411	..	1349	1999
Mosoro, &c.	1072	1222	1352	..	..	..	1161	1411	..	1349	1999
Ceara.....	1072	1222	1352	..	..	..	1161	1411	..	1349	1999
Maranhão, &c.	1122	1202	1247	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
São Paulo.....	Fr. G. F. for	Gd. Fne	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian.....	1215	1315	1365	1415	1465	..	1950	2250	..	..	..
Upper.....	1415	1640	1715	1815	1915	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sakellaris.....	1215	1365	1465	1560	1715	..	1975	2375	..	..	..
Brown.....	MF	Fr. G. F. Gd. Fne	..	..	..	..	1550	..	..	..	..
Peruvian.....	1300	1375	1425	..	..	..	1325	1500	..	..	..
Rough.....	1207	1357	1432	1482	1582	..	1361	1636	1811	1599	2449
Moderately Rough.....	1207	1357	1457	1507	1657	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smooth.....	1100	1300	1450	1500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tangula.....	1175	1275	1350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Indian, &c.	2200	2500	2800	2900	..	..	3000	3600	..	7000	8000
Do.....	1200	1300	1400	1500	..	..	1250	1450	1650	1700	2000
African, East, &c.	925	1025	1125	1225	..	..	1082	1132	1157	1257	1357
Do.....	Mid	G M Fom	MF	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do.....	1082	1132	1157	1257	..	..	1145	1185	1225	1325	1410
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	1015	1055	1095	1135	1175	..	1205	1230	1305	1360	1410
Machine Ginned Broach.....	820	870	920	960	1000	1040	969	1019	1119	1144	1244
Machine Ginned Bhowngar.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 1.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Machine Ginned Khandesh.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Machine Ginned Compah.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Machine Ginned Scinde.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Tinnivelly.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Madras, Western.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
Madras, Northern.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
M.G. Oomra, Red.....	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250
China, Smyrna, &c.	830	880	930	970	1010	1050	975	1025	1125	1150	1250

MANCHESTER, October 12.

The conditions prevailing in the market this week have not been any worse, and owing to the better foreign news, and the hardening tendency in raw cotton, some buyers have displayed more interest in prices for yarn and cloth. An increased inquiry has been reported in piece goods for India, but buying has been very patchy and not of any importance. After being very relating to freight rates have been very welcome. Further concessions a dull for two or three months, there have been indications of a little more activity for China in standard makes and fancies. It remains to be seen whether this is the beginning of extensive

buying. Printing and bleaching cloths have been sold in moderate quantities for the Straits Settlements, Egypt and South America, and in suitable goods the home trade has provided a few more orders. Yarns have been firmer in quotation, and in a quiet way the turnover in home counts shows a slight improvement. Very little has been done in shipping yarns.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Oct. 12, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.					
		Price, Oct. 5.	Price, Sept. 28.	Price, Sept. 21.	Price, Sept. 14.	Price, Sept. 7.	Price, Sept. 1.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....per lb	13.15	12.44	12.78	13.24	13.42	13.70	13.70
Sakellaris Fully Good Fair.....per lb	17.40	17.15	17.25	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	20	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5
—40's twist.....per lb	19.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
32-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 16, 8½ lbs.....	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Oct. 12, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....per lb	13.15	13.64	17.02	22.81	23.80	20.92
Sakellaris Fully Good Fair.....per lb	17.40	27.50	46.00	31.50	29.40	32.80
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	20	22.5	42	44.5	55.5	27.5
—40's twist.....per lb	19.5	22	39	42	55	27.5
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	28	45	60	63	69	44
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	30	37	67	63	73	35
32-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	30	37	67	63	73	35
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	17	17	17	17	17	17
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 16, 8½ lbs.....	15	15	15	15	15	15

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

In the spot market for North of Europe woods—i.e., from Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Russia—prices have continued steady in an upward direction, and those who months ago anticipated a slump about this time have found their expectations un-errealised. It cannot be said that the higher prices are due to any great expansion of the demand here (though it continues to im-), but to the steady, consistent demand from France, Holland, assisted considerably in reducing the Swedish unsold stocks to dimensions that have greatly relieved the anxiety of importers here, asking a little more from time to time, the way for increased spot buying competition.

At present rates of home consumption, however, the stocks in this country appear to be ample, supplemented as they have been much larger than expected, and has had the effect of putting more deals on the market here than can be healthily absorbed for months.

It, therefore, will not be surprising to learn that there is but little f.o.b. business now being negotiated for Swedish and Finnish woods for prompt shipment, and there also is little yet to gauge the basis of prices that will be asked for next season's shipments, remainder of this year's business without troubling about 1923. It is believed that f.o.b. asking prices for f.o.w. deliveries will be on a slightly higher basis than that ruling at present.

As regards the Canadian spruce market, there is still an appreciable amount of old Government stocks yet to go into consumption, and trade in this timber will not completely recover until this is got rid of. The import, however, has been light, and as there is a little improvement in the demand the position is more promising. For American pitchpine the demand is more pro-merchants. In addition to the quiet demand on account of dull trade in shipbuilding and other consuming industries, enhanced consumers who are looking for cheaper rates to set business going.

The mahogany market can be described as strong, Honduras logs at public auction showing an advance of 15 per cent. on previous sales, with stocks on the small side. For cedar, logs of long prime quality for boat-building are still in demand, but stocks generally are sufficient, particularly of inferior wood.

The Most Progressive Office for all Classes of Insurance and Assurance

EAGLE, STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: BRITISH DOMINIONS HOUSE, ROYAL EXCHANGE AVE., E.C.3.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

ASSETS EXCEED £20,000,000.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

So far as linseed is concerned, the market continues very quiet, crushers' purchases being only of a hand-to-mouth character, owing to the high level of the old Plate crop in near positions. The quantity of linseed afloat for the United Kingdom is, however, very small indeed, only 10,800 tons (Plate and Indian together). That to the Continent amounts to 57,000 tons, thus giving a total of 67,800 tons, against 76,800 tons last week and 132,800 tons a year ago. The official estimate of the Argentine surplus yet to be shipped is 69,000 tons, which, with 112,000 tons Indian, would appear to be adequate to meet current requirements in the present condition of trade. English crushers show no anxiety to increase their commitments with old Plate linseed on spot, and for early shipment quoting 55s to 60s premium over new crop, which Hull has bought this week at £15 15s for January-February loading. Some business has been done in old crop to Rotterdam at £19 on passage and £17 15s November-December. Calcutta linseed to London has been done at £19 5s, October-November. Cottonseed has been easier, and a good trade done in Sakellaris to Hull at £9 5s, and to London at £9 7s 6d, October-November loading. More interest has been shown in Manchurian soya beans, Hull being a good buyer of new crop round £10 7s 6d, November-December.

A quantity of linseed oil crushed in Holland has been absorbed in the Hull market, thus meeting the shortage of this commodity in near positions. It, however, had little effect upon prices, which are steadily maintained round £38 for spot, £37 15s month, and £37 to the end of the year. For January-April the position is slightly firmer round £33 5s, ex-Hull mill. Cotton oils have met with a poor inquiry, and are slightly lower, crude Egyptian offering at £33 10s, and soapmakers' grade of refined at £34 15s, ex-Hull mill. Crude soya bean oil is in rather better demand round £35, but other oils are dull, and more or less neglected.

According to the *Cotton Oil Press* (Washington), the final rates of import duty under the Fordney Act, as signed by the president, are:—Linseed oil, 3.3 cents per lb (i.e., \$3.75 per cwt); cotton and castor oils, 3 cents; soya bean oil, 2½ cents; ground nut oil, 4 cents; olive, 7½d cents; and coconut oil, 2 cents per lb; rape oil, 6 cents per gallon; linseed, 40 cents per bushel of 56 lbs (i.e., \$16 per ton); cottonseed, ½ cent. per lb; soya beans, ½ cent.; ground nuts (unshelled) 3 cents; ditto (shelled), 4 cents per lb. Oilcake and meals free.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The firmness in the hide market continues, and most classes of ox and heifer advanced on Thursday at the Bermondsey auctions from 4d to 4d per lb. Calf were steady, with here and there fractional advances of ½d and falls of ½d. Wools made from 4s 6d to 8s 6d, and hogs 3s 2d to 6s 6d. There is at present a little commotion in the hide market, as one prominent firm of hide merchants has withdrawn from the Hide Improvement Society, whilst the Tanners' Federation have passed a resolution not to trade with markets who do not abide by the rules of the above society. Imported hides are firmer, and at the Mincing Lane sales last week a quantity of old stock of dry hides sold at better prices, several Continental buyers being in evidence. The American position is strong, cables reporting that best Chicago packer hides are now selling at 22½ cents and native cows at 10 cents.

The sole leather market is very firm, in view of high hide prices; trade this week is a shade quiet, as buyers filled requirements at last week's Shoe and Leather Fair. No big business, however, was reported, buyers still following their old policy of extreme caution. Cheap bends are the best selling line, consumers, as a rule, wanting bends at 1s 9d to 2s. Shoulders are selling fairly well, with a moderate demand for export. Split hides are moving off slowly, the French trade being quiet, in view of exchange difficulties.

A moderate amount of business was done in boots and shoes at the Fair, but overseas buyers seemed content to only order small quantities. Rumours were current that one large firm ordered a huge parcel of boots from Germany, but this turns out to be a small order for slippers at a low price! The shoe outlook is still uncertain, but sampling is frequent.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, October 13.

SUGAR.—With steady inquiries, a fair amount of business was effected in refined descriptions, and prices on the week are mostly a shade dearer. Of British refined, Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes sold 55s 9d to 56s 9d; crushed, 52s 9d; nibs, 55s 3d; granulated, fine and coarse, 50s 9d. No. 1, 50s 6d, London; also No. 2, 50s 3d; caster, 52s to 52s 6d; finest ditto, 54s 3d; yellow crystals, 44s 6d; pieces, 35s to 39s; fine white, 45s. Granulated second half, November-December, 49s 9d. Crystallised West India met with quiet support, but market ruled fully steady at 47s to 45s, as to quality. American granulated, spot, sold, 49s 3d; afloat, 22s 3d, c.f. and l. London. White Java, spot, sold 47s 3d to 47s 9d for medium qualities, and fine grocery grainy, 48s 3d to 48s 9d. White Mauritius, spot, 46s 9d to 47s 3d; white Brazilian, 46s 9d. Czech granulated, November-December, 21s; cubes, 23s 6d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch granulated, November-December, 21s 6d, with J, 21s 3d, f.o.b., Amsterdam. Belgian crystals, October-December, 19s 1½d; granulated, 19s 3d; and F. W. ditto, 19s 4½d, f.o.b., Antwerp. Cuban

basis, 96 per cent., October, quoted 18s 3d. Brazilian ditto, 17s 3d; ditto basis, 80 per cent., 8s 10½d, c.f. and l. terms U.K. Cuban stocks stand at 316,500 tons, against 1,183,500 at same time last year. Terminal market ruled rather quiet on balance. White, December, sold, 21s to 20s 9d to 21s 3d; May, 21s to 21s 6d. Liquid glucose, 27s 6d.

COFFEE.—There was no new feature to record in this market, trade being carried on quietly with but little alteration in prices. Nairobi bold sizes sold, 96s; Vera Paz, 101s. Futures remain dull.

COCOA.—No auctions held this week, and by private treaty only small transactions occurred at previous quotations. Grenada, fair to fine, sold, 51s to 53s; Accra, F/F quality, November-January, done 37s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—The liberal quantity of 55,120 packages Indian were brought to auction during the week. All good to fine parcels engaged fair support at full recent rates, but common, also medium, experienced a quieter demand, and prices were frequently weaker. Some extra fine broken orange pekoe sold, 3s 8½d. Only 8,890 packages Ceylon were catalogued and soon cleared under brisk competition at full values. Java, especially tippy teas, ruled firm with a good demand.

RICE.—Market remains in a dull state. Two stars, spot, 15s to 15s 3d; ditto, October-November, 13s 6d; Spanish, prompt shipment, 20s, c.f. and l. terms. Broken kinds slow on about former terms. Rangoon beans steadier. Spot, hand-picked, sold, 7s 6d. Japanese peas, September-October, sold, 26s 9d to 27s 3d; December-January, 23s 6d to 24s 9d.

SPICE.—Pepper ruled quietly steady. Fair black Singapore, spot, 33d; October-December 33d; Aleppy, spot, 43d; Tellicherry, 48d; white Singapore, 54d; Muntok, 6d; ditto, October-December, 53d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 4½d; October-December, 7d. Pimento, spot, 24d; flake tapioca, spot, 23d per lb. Fair Penang seed, spot, 20s; sago flour, October-December, sold, 12s; desiccated coconut, spot, sold, 34s 6d; October-November, 34s. Ginger in quiet request on former terms.

FRUIT.—There has been a fair trade doing in currants at full rates. New Pyrgos, spot, sold, 70s; Amalia, 82s, 85s; Vostizza, 93s to 100s. Valencia raisins in fair demand, and fine ruled firm, but inferior rather easier. 48s tons were offered in auction on Tuesday last and partly sold; half-boxes, 85s; quarters, 90s to 148s; very choice, 164s; seedless, 110s to 133s. Sultanias steady, but general trade moved quietly. Smyrna, 145s to 165s; choice, 185s. Dates quiet. Siar, spot, 20s.

JUTE.—After being quiet and easier the market developed more steadiness, and during the week quite a fair business resulted with spinners closing lower. First grade, October-November, and also November-December, continent, sold, £33 to £33 5s and £32 5s; lightning grade, ditto, £31 5s, £30 15s; heart grade, spot, Dunkirk, £28; 10 oz hessians, spot, 33s 6d; forward, 32s; 8 oz, spot, 26s. A twills, afloat, sold, 81s 6d; B, on spot, quoted, 67s.

HEMP.—A quiet and easier tone ensued for Manila parcels, owing partly to larger receipts. F grade, October-December, quoted, £39; G, £33 10s; H, £32; J, sold, £30 10s; K, quoted, £29 10s; L, £28 10s; and M, £27 10s. New Zealand high point fair, spot, quoted, £34; October-December, £32 10s; fair, spot, £32; and October-December, £30 15s. Italiana P.C., spot, £55. African sisal: No. 1, Tanganyika, October-December, £34 10s; No. 1, B.E.A., £34.

SHELLAC.—Market generally quiet. T.N., fair quality, on spot, 285s; December delivery, sold, 260s to 252s 6d and 262s 6d.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

PLENTY of money was reported in the first few days of the week, but on Thursday borrowers found some difficulty in supplying their needs, though they succeeded in doing so without recourse to the Bank of England. This scarcity was ascribed to the transfer of collected taxes to the Government's account, while the figures of the Bank return indicated a further contraction of credit through liquidation of Ways and Means advances. The demand for money brought some "second-hand" Treasury bill

to market, but otherwise discounts were hardly affected, the extreme scarcity of commercial paper being once more a matter of general comment.

	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Bank Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1% (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount Call	1	1	1	1	1% (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½% (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	2½	2½	..

The Bank return showed a further decline of £881,000 in the note circulation, and an increase of £8,000 in the stock of gold, making the Reserve £889,000 higher. Government securities had declined by nearly nine millions, while Other were two millions higher. There was thus a net decline of six millions in the deposits, nearly equally divided between Public and Other. Currency notes outstanding were reduced, in the return dated October 19, 1922, by £2,058,100 to £289,338,500, which includes £1,548,300 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £239,640,100, or £70,348,300 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The passing of the acuteness of the Near Eastern crisis brought relief to the Stock Exchange, where business showed some signs of increase and broadening until the dramatic developments in home politics came to provide, as such events always provide, a strong restraining influence. The weakness of the French franc was another unfavourable factor. War Loan rose at one time to 101, but did not hold its best price, while the course of other leading gilt-edged stocks was similar. The only feature of the foreign market was the flatness of French bonds, in sympathy with exchange movements. However, the prospect of a Conservative Government resulted in a marking up again of War Loan and French bonds yesterday. Apart from one or two stocks, the Home railway market has eased off. The revision of fares, on the whole, tended to produce hesitation. Argentine Rails were strong on the publication of the reports. It was left to the rubber share section to provide the feature of the week, the recent advance continuing strongly until Thursday brought some reaction. Oil shares were depressed, but in the industrial markets one or two shares, such as Listers, Babcock and Wilcox, and United Alkali preference enjoyed brisk rises. The excitement in British and Argentine Meat subsided, but other meat shares received attention. The Kaffir market, after buoyancy produced by support from the Cape, eased off. The tin share list includes some substantial rises.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The improvement in the commodity markets noticed in our columns a week ago has spread itself over a wider area, and business prospects all round appear to be better. The further upward movement this week in raw cotton prices has to some extent stimulated demand for yarn and cloth, and inquiries have been on a larger scale. The wool market generally presents a strong and active appearance, and prices at the London sales were very firm, with a tendency to go even higher. The home market for pig-iron continues to show signs of strength, prices being well maintained by the demand and inquiry from America. Our Sheffield correspondent, while reporting business as extremely quiet, mentions that there "is a multitude of inquiries" for high-grade steels and tools. There has been no slackening in the demand for South Wales coal, and the average of prices is a shade higher; notwithstanding weaker exchanges, inquiries from the Continent have increased. Meanwhile, coal exports to United States and Canada continue on a substantial scale. The price of raw linseed oil shows no signs of weakness, although a steady demand has been succeeded by rather quieter markets.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Active movements and much excitement have again marked the foreign exchange market. Until the news of Mr Lloyd George's fall came out on Thursday evening, the pound continued to appreciate strongly in New York, in contrast to what might usually be expected at this time of the year, the rate moving up from 4.43½ on the 13th to as high as 4.48½ during Thursday. After the resignation of the Cabinet was announced there was a sharp reaction, the closing rate for the day being 4.45½, but there was a decided recovery yesterday morning, when rates again reached just under 4.47. The main market explanation for this movement was the transfer of funds in connection with the decision of the Norwegian shipping case in the United States, but there is no doubt that the payment of the first interest instalment by the British Government has had a very strong sentimental effect. After its temporary recovery the German mark has entered on a new period of rapid disintegration, the rate having risen from 11,750 on the 13th to a new high record of 15,700 yesterday morning. Hurried legislation to prevent exchange speculation, and the proposed issue of gold Treasury bonds as a basis for internal transactions, have not succeeded in stemming this movement. The only relatively satisfactory feature is the sign that a more reasonable attitude towards reparation is at last making itself felt in France, and although it is unlikely that Sir John Bradbury's new scheme will be accepted by the Reparation Commission, a more satisfactory treatment of the problem may now be expected. Unfortunately, there is still a serious risk that a reasonable attitude may come too late. In the meantime, the franc has continued to depreciate, the Paris rate having moved up from 58.50 on the 13th to as high as 60.80 on Thursday, the recovery to 59.95 on the political news in England having been followed by a renewed rise yesterday morning to 60.15. Apart from an increasingly unfavourable trade balance, a study of the recent Budget figures throws a gloomy light on the immediate financial future of the country. Italy has moved up on balance from 104.40 to 106.10, but at the same time shows a tendency towards increased steadiness. Apart from the general reaction on Thursday evening, Amsterdam and the three Scandinavian countries have moved in our favour, while the rise in the Swiss rate, from 23.90 to 24.52, has been especially marked. The Helsingfors rate has moved from 193½ to 189½, in spite of considerable purchases of foreign currencies. At 320,000 the Viennese rate is rather better than the proposals of the League of Nations will result at last in Government hope to repeal in the near future the recently introduced exchange restrictions. Poland, however, after its recent improvement, has again depreciated rapidly, from 44,500 to 47,500. Prague during the week has shown an upward tendency, from 130½ to 135½. In Greece, the rate has risen rapidly, from 170 to 220. In the East is slightly dearer at 2s 1½d. The silver market has been Mint, sales from China having more than counterbalanced an active Indian demand. The Hong Kong rate yesterday was 2s 5½d, as compared with 2s 6½d a week ago. The Shanghai rate 3s 3d, as compared with 3s 5d. In South America, aViparaiso is a little cheaper at 32 (las week 31.70) pesos, Buenos Ayres has moved very slightly from 44½d to 44 17-32d, Monte Video from 42½d to 42d and Rio from 63½d to 6d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 14, 1922:—

Receipts.	Min. £	Expenditure.	Min. £
From Revenue	12,552	Permanent charge of Debt	1,437
Taken from Exchequer Balances	258	Interest on Debt	707
		Supply Services	343
		Reduction of Debt	48
		Sundries	1281
	12810		1281

Receipts from Property and Income-tax amounted to £3,271,000, against £3,577,000 in the same week last year. Customs yielded £3,029,000, against £2,367,000

Excise receipts amounted to £1,576,000, against £2,397,000. Special Receipts under Miscellaneous amounted to £2,038,128, against 839,234. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £3,432,953, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates	+ 1,020	National War Bonds paid off ..	- 1,750
Public Depts. Advances	+ 1,515	Bank of England Advances ..	- 6,500
Treasury Bills	+ 4,018	Unemployment Insurance ..	- 250
		Sundries	- 486
	+ 5,553		- 8,986

The floating debt was reduced by £970,000 to £922,359,500 during the week ended October 14, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to October 14, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	393,664,571	Raised by revenue ..	435,598,765
Dec. in balances	8,693,850	Net repayments	50,628,044
Total	384,970,721	Total	384,970,721

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT. (Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.*	Oct. 14, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
3½% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	..	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,980	1,980
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,048
4% Funding Loan	..	..	409	409	405	405	401	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	360	357	348	346	335	335	335
3½% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	266	266	266	266
5½% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	273	381	311	311
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	40	40
Do by tender 4½%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	69
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	733	733
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	185
Natnl. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	274	285	284	342	366	366
War Expend. Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,076	1,076
American Loan	51	51	51	51	51	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	189
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,669
	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	66	67
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,736

* Figures for the year ended March 31, 1922, have now been adjusted in accordance with the Finance Accounts recently published.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out- standing—	Oct. 15, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Oct. 14, '22.	Week ended Oct. 14, '22.
Temporary Advances	46,750,000..	..	9,000,000..	..	6,500,000
Advances by Bank of England	159,033,000..	147,301,500..	180,064,500..	..	1,515,000
Advances by Public Depts	1,150,030,000..	882,219,000..	733,295,000..	..	4,015,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	..	..	..	..	..
Total Floating Debt	1,355,813,000..	1,029,520,500..	922,359,500..	..	970,000

THE PASSING OF THE COALITION.

THE resignation of the Government following on the adverse vote of Conservative members of Parliament at the Carlton Club on Thursday brings to a close a remarkable chapter in British history. The post-war period, of which the present crisis marks the end in the political sphere, has been almost as full of great events as the war itself. In external relations particularly the historian will date some of the most decisive changes of the 20th century from this epoch. The new Ireland, the independence of Egypt, the application of a more responsible constitution in India, the admission of the British Dominions to independent membership of the League of Nations, and the actual launching of that great organ of international co-operation, these are all events which herald or inaugurate great evolutionary changes. The Peace Treaties themselves are also the work of this epoch, but they are perhaps to be regarded rather as temporary patch-work than as a secure foundation for the new Europe. But though Mr Lloyd George's second Premiership has been fraught with great events, the plan of governing the country by a Ministry composed of men of divergent political views and traditions, which proved both necessary and effective in time of war, was very much less successful when the time came to make peace; and as the Great

War and the unity of purpose and opinion which it engendered receded into history, it became an ever more hollow pretence. The conception of Coalition has at last met with such complete condemnation that it is superfluous to dwell upon its defects. One of the primary factors in the present situation is the almost universal recognition that inconsistencies and vacillations in foreign policy have steadily undermined British prestige abroad, and that the same defects have gradually alienated one section after another at home. It is only fair to add that to some extent the instability of the late Government's attitude towards many of the great home and foreign problems of politics, for which everyone now criticises it, has been a reflection of the change in national opinion itself which has taken place as the widespread illusions of 1919 have been dissipated by the aftermath of the world war. At the same time, the maintenance too long of the system of Coalition, which has long since been abandoned by many of the nations associated with us in the war, has been responsible for keeping the real issues of political life hidden in a fog of compromise, and played into the hands of a leader, the most pronounced of whose very great gifts is an unrivalled capacity for producing extemporary solutions and reconciling apparently irreconcilable opponents by means of compromises which too often ignored all but the emergencies of the moment.

It is because the Coalition had produced these unfortunate results in national life that we have urged for some time past that the national interest required that the Conservative party, which has held power in the House of Commons for the last four years, should assume responsibility for policy, and restore consistency of outlook in national affairs. The overwhelming welcome given to the Carlton Club decision of Thursday last shows that this view is predominant to-day in the country. It is not yet certain whether Mr Bonar Law will decide to meet Parliament, and to carry on the Government of the country until the Irish Treaty is ratified. There are strong reasons why he should do so, and we feel that the party situation in the House will certainly enable him to adopt this line. But even in this event the General Election cannot be very long delayed, and public interest must for the next few weeks be devoted to study of the policies for which the chief parties now stand, and of the situation that would arise if one or other of them is successful at the polls. Broadly there seem to be two main possibilities. On the one hand the Conservative party may be returned with an absolute majority in the House. This may perhaps be regarded as the most probable event, and if it comes about it will be because the country, tired of changes and makeshifts of the last few years, is not in the mood for new experiments in economic affairs, and is attracted by the idea of a quiet political life. It is true that the Conservative members of the present House have voted for some very radical measures, but the Conservative party, fighting alone, even though it include many who have felt as a result of the war a great desire to see an improvement in our economic system, or have acquired great sympathy with the ambitions and hopes of the mass of the people, will now have to carry with it the opinion of the political right, which, if not actually reactionary, has as its main political instinct a belief in things as they are. But even if events allowed a Conservative Government to follow a quiescent policy—which is doubtful—there are some questions on which the country will look for enlightenment from the Conservative leaders. America was able to "pull out" of Europe some years ago, but Great Britain's external obligations cannot be thus shelved, and we must know what the party leaders' policy in international affairs is going to be. In the party fight which lies ahead the opponents of Conservative candidates will quite reasonably endeavour to saddle them with responsibility for many of the events of the last two or three years, and, indeed, it is not possible for the party which has, in fact, by its vote kept the Coalition in power, and which has a very substantial majority over all parties in the House, to make Mr Lloyd George the scapegoat on all points which the electors may be disposed to criticise. But if the Conservative Government repudiates our recent foreign policy, what is their alternative? Lord Balfour admittedly stands for a League of Nations policy, but in that

latter. With their not inconsiderable resources and their practical identity of interest with the Government, they should be able materially to assist the progress of the ship of State. And if, by realising their position and its potentialities and entering upon a policy of prudent activity, they establish relations of a progressively confidential character with the Irish Exchequer, they may find that by ousting from the counsels of the Irish Free State the sporadic promptings of paradoxical or interested amateurs, they will have protected their shareholders and their clients, as well as the financial prosperity of the community of which they are part. The Irish Government itself could not but welcome a closer connection with the Irish banks united in action upon a common policy, and bringing to bear upon their economic problems the accumulated weight of their expert advice and abundant resources.

NEWSPAPER INSURANCE.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

SOME months ago we dealt with the surprising development of the free insurance campaign, and pointed out the difficulties in which insurance offices accepting the risks were likely to be involved. Since that article was written our warnings have been fully justified, and free newspaper schemes are to-day more unpopular with insurance offices than ever. The main trouble arises from the fierce competition among the newspapers, each of which pushes its own scheme against its rivals' by wholesale advertisement of the claims settled, from the consequent education received by the public in the pretty art of claim-making, and from the enormous increase of circulations which these insurance schemes naturally produce. The calculations on which the original premiums were based have been falsified for these reasons, and most of the companies who carried the risk have found it a losing proposition. On the other hand, the scheme once started is not easily dropped, and a newspaper which first proclaims from the housetops the value of its free insurance and then finds that it has lost its market is not in an enviable position. It may safely be said of both newspapers and insurers that if eighteen months ago they had possessed the knowledge which they have to-day the venture would never have been started.

It is one of the curious facts in insurance that the more you offer to policyholders the greedier and more dissatisfied they become. In the old days, for example, when the householder was content to take out a fire policy on his furniture, and did not worry himself about other risks, no branch of insurance was more profitable to the offices than policies on the contents of private houses; but as the market widened and competition increased, the householder was invited by companies and brokers to take out policies of a more generous kind, covering risks that he had never before contemplated. Competition between the insurers forced them to add further attractions, and considerable sums were spent in advertising the merits of the new policies. What was the result? Policyholders realised for the first time that all sorts of little things for which they had not hitherto claimed could be made to constitute claims on their policies, and assumed that they had also the right to claim for other things that were not covered by the terms of their policy. The claims ratio increased enormously, the policies became less and less remunerative to the insurers, and by a curious paradox, there was growing discontent among policyholders who took the terms of the policy for granted and because they got much presumed that they were entitled to everything.

A similar process has resulted from the widely advertised newspaper schemes. Educated in the process of claim-making by the daily published tale of claims, registered readers put in claims whether they attached to the policy or not, and many of them (failing good claims) fabricated false ones, with the result that the settlements were heavy beyond all expectation, fraudulent claims were paid much too widely, and the companies found that schemes from which they had anticipated a fair profit led to heavy losses.

We have said enough to show that in our opinion free insurance, as it has been managed during the last year or

eighteen months, is from the insurers' standpoint not a sound proposition, and we are prepared to believe that the papers themselves begin to find it a millstone round their necks. But it is one thing to say that free insurance as hitherto in force is bad business for the offices, and doubtful business for the papers. It is another and a far more questionable thing to say that it is valueless to the insured registered reader, and it is with this point that we propose to deal.

An agitation has recently been started in a section of the Press which has no insurance scheme, directed at the "exposure of newspaper insurance," from the reader's point of view; and a large pamphlet has been published intended apparently for circulation among a not very intelligent class of reader. The central feature of the pamphlet is a large cartoon headed "What a Game," and depicting two men playing tennis. One man represents the insurance companies, and the other the daily Press, and they are engaged in smashing from one court to another a ball marked "registered reader." The picture is apparently meant to show that the insurance offices which have lost thousands over free insurance, and newspaper proprietors who have invested thousands in premiums for their readers, are playing a game with the insured, who gets nothing from the scheme but what is bad. This theory is developed in the letterpress, which contains statements such as these:—"The newspapers have had a good laugh at you," "the registered reader is not insured in any proper sense of the term," "the public as a whole gets no advantage out of newspaper insurance. It is, on the contrary, a heavy loser."

Whatever may have been the intention of this pamphlet, the general effect is to throw doubt on the fair dealing not merely of the newspaper proprietors, but of the insurance companies which drafted the schemes and accepted the risk. The papers can be left to look after themselves, but some protest should be made against this daily attack, open or implied, on companies of high standing, whose duty it is to settle the claims, and who are made to appear as quibbling claim resisters. The impression is gained partly by the use of statistics which are obviously inaccurate, and partly by the reproduction of *ex parte* statements from dissatisfied claimants. By the use of very hypothetical figures the registered reader is made to believe that an insurance which he could not get in the only 8d per annum, and which $\pounds 1$ per annum is really worth claimants a number of complaints are collected, many of which are found even at first sight to be baseless.

No man with any experience of insurance claims would accept at face value the one-sided statement of a dissatisfied policyholder, who always makes himself out to be a much-injured person. But here are one or two of the complaints recorded in the pamphlet:—

A reader whose child was insured by a paper against a broken leg or a broken arm claimed because the child broke its collar-bone, and was disgusted to find that the company which had contracted for one risk would not admit liability for an entirely different one.

A man insured by a paper against death by accident in steps of a theatre, which is not a public thoroughfare, and the insurance company, having clearly accepted liability another.

These are two cases taken at random from the pamphlet intended to show how catchy and deceptive the insurance companies are. As an appendix to these much-advertised grievances, and to show what can be done by taking intakes not from newspaper insurance, we add a few cases of insurance office which is probably more considerate than the average to its claimants. They illustrate the well-known fact that in insurance, and particularly in those branches where simple definition is not easy, policies are constantly misread and misunderstood by their holders.

A lady whose furs were insured against theft had a fur covered theft from the house, and the fur was stolen out-side the house. Great discontent.

A man whose goods were insured against thieves had a claim for theft rejected because "thieves" in the policy

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

mean violent thieves, not clandestine thieves. Great discontent.

A man who claimed for a broken mirror and a broken vase had his claim for the mirror settled, but the claim for the vase declined, because the policy covered one and not the other. Great discontent.

A man who insured a furniture removal had a claim for $\pounds 3$ rejected because the policy was to pay only the excess of $\pounds 5$, a condition which he had not noticed. Great discontent.

Now, each of these claimants, like those mentioned in the pamphlet, considered that he had been trapped because he had thought the policy covered something it did not cover. In other words, the policyholder had not troubled to read his policy or understand it.

And that is really the foundation of this charge against the British insurance offices in the matter of free insurance. In 999 cases out of 1,000 policyholders will not read their policies until the accident occurs, and whether they are covered through a newspaper or independently with an insurance company of their own choice, they are equally careless. But it is grossly unfair to launch an attack on respectable British insurance companies because of this notorious slackness of their policyholders, which is not a thing of to-day or yesterday, but has been a source of trouble to insurers from time immemorial, and is likely to continue so long as insurance lasts. We shall want a good deal more evidence than any yet provided before we believe that British insurance offices have fooled the public or made a deliberate policy of dodging their just claims.

TIN AND TIN SHARES.

(BY OUR MINING CORRESPONDENT.)

IN 1920—that memorable year of post-war inflation—metallic tin touched the record price of nearly $\pounds 420$ per ton. During the "deflation" period which followed, it was at one time down to $\pounds 148$ —also a record for recent times. Between the beginning of the present year and the middle of September the tendency of values was erratic, but since the latter date substantial net gains have been recorded each week, until the current quotation stands some considerably higher than it did then. Several important factors have combined to bring about this appreciation. Restriction of output on the part of Nigerian and some other producers is one; but the main influence has been the persistent demand for the metal on behalf of the United States' canning industry, in which marked activity has prevailed recently. In our own South Wales business the tendency has been less favourable, but even here a measure of revival has been reported; and this week's stabilisation of prices for steel bar and tin plate is expected to result in an increased demand—indeed, it has already done so. Observing the tendency to enhancement in value, producers in the Far East are inclined to limit their realisations. Thus, altogether, a distinct change for the better has come over the statistical position. At the moment much interest centres around what may happen with regard to the stocks in the hands of the Malayan Governments.

Except for occasional transactions in the scrip of some of the better-class undertakings, the tin section of the mining market was for the first three-quarters of the current year little better than dormant. Indeed, some dealers deserted it in disgust. The recent sharp advance in the price of the metal has transformed practically the whole list. Speculative investors and professional operators naturally argued that if the Far Eastern companies could make fair profits with tin at $\pounds 150$, they would be prosperous with the metal over $\pounds 170$; and that if a well-managed Nigerian concern could pay its way at the lower price, it would fare pretty well at the higher level. A moderate demand found the market practically bare of stock, and some sharp advances occurred. To quote a few of the more striking examples, Siamese Syndicate shares now stand at $2\frac{3}{4}$, as against the October 2nd make up price of $1\frac{1}{8}$, Mongu at $12s\ 6d$ in place of $9s\ 6d$, and—among the smaller concerns—South Bukuru at $4s\ 6d$, as compared with $3s$.

The appended table shows the returns for the past four months and contrasts the share prices of the more important tin-mining companies which declare monthly returns:—

FAR EASTERN AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Company.	Profit on Tin Won.				Share Prices.		
	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	High, 1921.	Low, 1921.	Current Approx.
Aramayo (25f)	219	225	200	211	57 0	27 0	50 0
Berenguela (4s)	34	41	35	37	6 6	2 6	5 0
Gopeng Consd.	1,940	3,650	2,530	3,740	40 0	28 0	40 0
Kinta	1,620	1,620	1,450	1,200	37 6	27 0	35 0
Kramat Pulai	2,000	1,940	1,450	1,131	26 3	19 0	23 0
Labat	850	830	550	709	11 0	8 3	8 0
Malayan	830	2,190	1,490	1,490	31 3	16 9	32 6
Pahang Consd. (5s) ..	215	200	205	179	8 0	5 0	7 6
Rambutan	960	1,080	890	910	20 0	15 0	22 6
Renong	116	35	68	60	33 6	17 0	27 0
Siamese	490	1,550	2,350	2,300	50 6	27 0	47 6
Sungei Besi	1,162	1,252	95	81	20 3	15 3	19 6
Tekka	1,080	1,750	1,280	2,110	440	23 9	17 6
Tekka-Taipung	600*	365*	380*	440	30 6	30 0	34 0
Tongkah Harbour	115	93	83	91	27 6	19 6	34 0
Tronoh	3,190	4,200	3,620	3,330			

* Loss.

NIGERIAN.

	Yield.				Share Prices.		
	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	High, 1921.	Low, 1921.	Current Approx.
Bisichi (10s)	Tons. 32	Tons. 34	Tons. 40	Tons. 34	8 0	3 3	7 6
Ex-Lands (2s)	30	30	30	30	2 6	1 0	2 0
Kem Consolidated (5s) ..	20	20	20	20	2 6	1 0	2 0
Mongu (10s)	25	30	30	30	14 3	8 9	13 0
Naraguta	50	50	50	50	25 0	9 0	17 0
Do Extended	15	26	27	27	8 6	2 6	7 6
N. Nigeria (Bauchi) (10s) ..	56	60	60	60	6 0	1 6	3 0
Rayfield	50	40	40	40	7 6	3 9	7 0
Ropp (4s)	153	111	102	108	6 9	2 0	4 0
South Bukuru	12	5	5	7			

Operating by means of dredges and sluices, and large with cheap native labour, many of the Far Eastern undertakings have been able to continue in the dividend list notwithstanding the low price of tin. For example, the Gopeng—a favourable illustration—has paid three quarterly dividends of $9d$ apiece this year. The Kinta paid in June and the Kramat a like sum in August. The Ma

yan disbursed 1s and the Pahang 9d (on a 5s share) at the end of 1920. About the same time the Renong paid 1s 6d. The Rambutan distributed 8d per share in April last. Siamese Syndicate's rate for 1921 was 2s per share, and 1s interim has lately been declared. Sungei Besi paid 1s in February last, Tekka 4½d in June, Tekka-Taiping 6d in December, 1921, Tongkah Harbour 2s in January, 1921, and the Tronoh 1s in July last. As regards the miscellaneous companies, the Aramayo has paid three dividends of 5 per cent. each so far this year, and the Berenguela one of 7½ per cent. in June.

To meet the position created by the fall in the value of their product, the Nigerian companies adopted a policy of drastic curtailment of output, in conjunction with a campaign of economy. Naturally, in these circumstances, the shareholders have received nothing for some little time. To this general statement there is one exception, the Ropp having succeeded in paying 10 per cent. in July last. Most of the companies are, however, in a position to increase their rate of production as soon as conditions warrant, although the financial position is in some cases far from good.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

(BY OUR MANCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the past quarter cotton spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire have lost ground. Demand has fallen off, and owing to the absence of fresh contracts there has been a tendency for more machinery to stand idle, with the result that unemployment is on a larger scale than three months ago. Up to the end of July the improvement which began in the spring was maintained. In the following month, however, less activity showed itself, chiefly owing to the holiday season of the year. It was confidently expected that another buying movement would come round at an early date. Early in September there were indications of an increased turnover in certain sections, but the political crisis in the Near East had a most adverse effect upon developments, and since then the confidence of merchants has been destroyed. The financial situation has caused anxiety, and many cases of difficulties have had to be dealt with.

As is usual at this time of the year, there have been many changes in raw cotton prices, according to the varied reports relating to the outlook for supplies. On July 3rd the quotation for fully middling American on the spot in Liverpool was 13.16d. On the following day there was a smart advance to 13.94d. The rise was not maintained, and by the 11th the price had fallen to 13.41d. Wide fluctuations occurred, and the lack of stability had a disturbing effect upon trade. On August 1st the quotation was 13.02d. On August 10th the figure was 12.25d, but there was an advance to 13.80d by the 21st. Early in September there was a downward movement to 12.70d on the 7th, but by the 14th the price had advanced to 13.42d. An easier movement set in, and 12.40d was the rate on September 29th. Since the beginning of October there has been an important rise in values, the quotation on Wednesday last being 13.89d.

The demand on the spot in Liverpool from week to week has been of limited dimensions, but recently there has been rather more forward buying by spinners. Imports to this country from the United States have been rather small, and there has been a tendency for stocks to be reduced. With regard to the American crop for the current season most people have now made up their minds to a yield of about 10,500,000 bales, as compared with 8,500,000 bales in the previous season. During the 12 months ended July 31st last the consumption of American cotton was estimated at 12,800,000 bales. On the whole, it is believed that the requirements of users during the current year will not be so large, and some people are forecasting the takings of spinners at only 11,500,000 bales. With regard to Egyptian cotton, the quotation for fully good fair Sakellaridis on the spot in Liverpool at the beginning of July was 20.25d. By the 27th of that month the price had fallen to 18d, and there was a further decline to 16.75d on August 9th. Prices were then firmer, and 18d was posted on September 1st. A few days later there was a decline to 17.25d, and on September 29th the figure was 17d. Since then a rise has occurred, the quota-

tion on Wednesday last being 17.75d. The new crop in Egypt is reported to be doing very well. No official estimate of the yield has yet been published. There seems to be, however, every probability of an output of about 5,000,000 cantars, and owing to there being large stocks there is no likelihood of any shortage of long staple cotton during the next 12 months.

It has been a disappointing three months for manufacturers of piece goods. In July engagements and demand were of such a character that many firms were able to secure contracts at prices which showed a fair profit. A distinct improvement had taken place since the beginning of the year. The better state of affairs, however, has not been maintained, and there has been a distinct falling off in the orders available. Some firms have been compelled to allow more looms to stand idle, and there has been a tendency for unemployment to increase. On the whole, favourable trade advices have been received from India. Stocks in the bazaars are not heavy, and the Monsoon season has been very satisfactory. There seems to be a limit to the prices which can be paid by dealers in the bazaars, and if goods cannot be secured at the figures put forward negotiations come to an end. Of the several outlets Calcutta has been the best, and fair sales have been arranged from time to time in grey shirtings and lighter fabrics. Very little fresh business has been done for Bombay. There has not been any development in the offtake for China. Manchester shippers have been discouraged by reports from Shanghai, especially with regard to finance. Trading throughout the quarter has been confined to sorting up lots in standard makes, but a fair amount of activity has shown itself in fancies and specialities. As can easily be understood, trade with the Near East has been brought to a standstill, and manufacturers have been requested to stop deliveries. This week, however, the news has been better, and exporters to Turkey and the Levant are now asking makers to complete old contracts. A rather improved demand has been experienced for the outlets of Central and South America. Business has been fairly healthy for some of our colonies, especially Australia. The home trade houses were rather badly hit during the summer by the disappointing consumption in light fancy materials as a result of the unseasonable weather, but latterly conditions have been rather healthier.

The following comparative table gives particulars of shipments of cloth from Great Britain, the figures being given for the pre-war year 1913, and the last three years:—

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER.			
	Yards.		£
1913	5,350,278,900	....	73,659,119
	Square Yards.		
1920	3,540,477,100	....	242,732,477
1921	1,866,341,100	....	100,045,277
1922	3,068,278,700	....	106,637,067

As compared with last year, we are exporting much more freely to Switzerland, China, Australia, Bombay, and Bengal in the order given. There are small decreases in the takings of Roumania, Mexico, and Cuba.

Spinners of yarn are in a worse position than three months ago. Early in August the conditions were so bad that the Master Spinners' Federation recommended the members to close their mills for a week before the end of that month, in addition to the usual holidays. The state of trade was again considered early in September, and a ballot was taken of users of American cotton as to a scheme of short time, the proposal being that the factories should close on Saturdays and Mondays for a month. The necessary majority of votes was secured, and the scheme came into operation. Since then the Masters' Federation has recommended American spinners to continue working only four days a week until the end of November. Outside the auspices of the Masters' Federation an Emergency Provisional Committee of Spinners has been formed, and the members have had an interview with the Federation Committee on remedies for relieving the severe trade depression. In November there is to be an extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Masters' Federation to consider the state of affairs. Special meetings of this kind are seldom called. In all kinds of yarn the production is more than equal to the

requirements of consumers, and in most counts and qualities the prices ruling show a distinct loss.

The following is a comparative table of yarn shipments:—

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER.			
	Lb.		£
1913	154,761,700	....	11,022,055
1920	118,447,700	....	37,656,977
1921	90,592,600	....	15,987,327
1922	158,363,900	....	20,763,425

In comparison with last year, the principal instances of increased exports are the Netherlands, Germany, Bombay, China, and Switzerland.

The conditions prevailing in the Manchester market at the moment are not at all encouraging. There is a tendency for raw cotton prices to harden, and this is not likely to help matters. Some orders in yarn and cloth may be forced out, but the opinion is generally held that Lancashire spinners and manufacturers will not experience a real trade revival until it is possible to supply our customers with goods at lower rates than those ruling to-day. It is quite apparent the world cannot consume large quantities of manufactured cotton goods at current prices. Trade prospects in India are healthy, and probably more business will be done in the near future. The China outlook is very uncertain. In numerous distributing outlets throughout the world an unsettled feeling prevails, and foreign trade cannot flow freely when merchants are nervous and lack confidence. There is also the question of finance, and it is feared that more difficulties will have to be met with before trade revives.

CENTRAL EUROPE.—IV.—ROUMANIA.

THE new Roumania, as it has emerged from the peace settlement, is a country of over 16 million inhabitants, and possesses some of the richest lands of the whole Continent of Europe. It is, of course, true that the provinces of Wallachia and, in less degree, Moldavia were exploited in a most scientific fashion by the German armies of occupation, but nearly four years have passed since then, and the province of Transylvania, acquired from Hungary, was almost entirely untouched by the war. Thanks to this acquisition, in fact, the old kingdom was enabled to make up for its great losses in cattle and stock and start its agricultural activities anew with a minimum loss of time. On the other hand, the political position was such that the pledge given by King Ferdinand during the battle of Marasesti had to be carried out to the full, and a veritable social revolution precipitated at the very moment when economic reconstruction was the first need of the country. It is, of course, as yet too soon to judge the ultimate results of the new Agrarian Reform. The immediate consequences, however, are hardly satisfactory from the economic point of view. Whether the production of cereals has greatly diminished or not as a direct consequence of the expropriation of the large owners it is hard to judge. That the balance available for export is less is, however, perfectly clear. Equally certain is the fact that the commodity exported is not as clean as it was formerly. Violent oscillations in the exchange, and, consequently in the price of wheat and maize in lei, have made the peasant suspicious, and recently much wheat has been kept back in the hope of higher prices. But it is, of course, obvious that it was fear and not economic considerations that led to the Agrarian Reform. This, in fact, was the price paid by the governing classes to save the country from Bolshevism.

A second important factor that has hindered the economic restoration of Roumania is the question of transport. It is certain that much damage was done to the railways during the war years—when the regulation of the Danube by the European Commission was also impossible. Nevertheless, railway reconstruction has been inordinately slow. Temporary bridges are still the rule, as witness the accident to the Orient express near Sinaia some months ago. Wagons exist in abundance, but facilities for repairs are very restricted, with the result that the effective rolling stock available for service is relatively small. Improvements have, of course, been made, though it is significant that the opening of the Jasi-Chisinau normal gauge line (in place of the old broad gauge of Russian days) was

fêted as a great event last month. The length of line involved was 167 kms., and some years have elapsed since the war. To the foreign observer it would appear that the immensity of the damage caused by the invading armies is not the only limiting factor. The administration seems to have been thrown out of equilibrium at least as much as the other productive agents.

Thirdly, the position of the Government officials calls for comment. Their numbers are perhaps excessive, but it is even more certain that their remuneration is wholly inadequate. Abuses under such conditions are bound to arise, and the present Minister of Finance is surely right in insisting that the first need of the country is a reduction in the number of officials, together with the earmarking of the money thus economised for a fund to be devoted solely to improving the remuneration of the officials who remain. The new Roumania possesses great natural resources. Whether their successful exploitation will be possible without the active co-operation of foreign capital is, however, quite another question. In this connection our Roumanian Allies of yesterday would do well to remember that foreign capital necessarily implies a measure of foreign control over the undertakings in which it is applied. This fundamental consideration is only too frequently lost sight of in the various schemes which crop up for discussion from time to time. In the hands of an enterprising syndicate the port of Galatz, for example, would rapidly become one of the most important centres of Eastern Europe. The situation is ideal and the trade potentialities immense. Whether much progress is to be looked for under present conditions, however, is perhaps doubtful.

The new Agrarian laws have necessitated a change in the legal conception of property. At present it seems likely that mineral rights will belong to the Government throughout the whole country. But the uncertainty of the moment is certainly impeding the development of the oil industry, and it is to be hoped that both the legal question and that of Government policy with regard to future concessions will be definitely settled with the least possible delay. It is satisfactory to note that no new money has been printed for nearly a year, and great hopes are entertained of the Budget yielding a considerable surplus. If this is in fact realised, and if, further, the present taxes can be made more productive—for the present basis of taxation of land values in Transylvania, for instance, is the cadaster of 1875, while the position in Bessarabia is simply absurd, the peasant paying some 25-30 bani only per hectare—M. Bratianu's policy may be crowned with success. The basis of his contention is that an improved administration of the existing system will amply suffice without recourse to new methods. But the Minister of Finance is an avowed deflationist of the most uncompromising type. Will the possibility of a fairly early stabilisation, together with the wise application of the available Budget surplus for the economic rehabilitation of the country, be summarily sacrificed for the fierce joy of burning notes withdrawn from circulation? Some of us, however, will perhaps prefer to await the realisation of the first part of the programme before worrying unduly about the second.

This week has witnessed the solemn festivities of a coronation. The royal couple have managed to dispense with this ceremony for the first eight years of their reign, but we are told that the time has now come for a formal manifestation of the unity of "Great Roumania." Viewed from this point of view, the ceremony of Sunday last must needs have fallen somewhat flat without the powerful auxiliary of a downpour of rain. The Transylvanian politicians were most conspicuous by their absence, and the personal triumph of the ruling Liberal leaders somewhat diminished thereby. To take sides in the internal politics of another country is usually a dangerous proceeding, as is shown in a recent article on Roumania in a prominent London daily. It is, of course, undoubted that electoral manoeuvres in Transylvania savoured more of Hungarian days than of this enlightened post-war period. It is equally true that the electoral law of that province was framed by these self-same Transylvanian Liberals, whose outraged moral sense has now prevented their being present at the little church in Alba Julia, and that it is not the same law as that which applies to the rest of the

country. This episode is an unfortunate example of political dissension.

From the economic point of view, one can only hope that Roumanian politicians will follow the precept of a distinguished English professor, and proceed to do as little harm as possible. The great wealth of the country needs scientific exploitation, and political wrangling has done much to make this unnecessarily difficult.

Notes of the Week.

Anglo-American Affairs.—One unfortunate result of the disturbance in domestic politics is the postponement of the visit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Washington. Sir Robert Horne was to have sailed this week, accompanied by the Governor of the Bank of England, to arrange a scheme for funding the war debt of this country to America. This week has produced the first concrete proof of this country's determination to meet its obligations to the United States, for £9,000,000 have actually been handed over on account of the first interest instalment of £25,000,000. All the same, it is to be hoped that the new Government will send out a mission for this purpose as quickly as possible, for any delay in placing the Anglo-American debt on a definite footing would be very unfortunate. The question of this debt and its repayment has in recent times vied with the Irish question in raising barriers of suspicion and misconception between the two countries. The Irish barrier has been broken down, for American opinion was quick to realise that Ireland has been offered the opportunity for self-government which she claimed, and that the credit or blame for future happiness or disaster in Ireland rests primarily with the Irish, and not the British, people. When once a definite settlement of the debt question has been reached, another barrier between the two countries will have been removed. It is felt by many close students of international affairs that, such settlement once behind us, the way would gradually open to co-operation between the two countries in many important branches of international problems. We share that hope and belief, in spite of frequent evidence of widely divergent opinions, such, for instance, as is disclosed by Mr Hoover's assertion that Continental countries can pay their war debts. We at least believe that a settlement of the Anglo-American debt will bring close co-operation between the two nations a definite stage nearer to achievement. Since such co-operation is one of the principal desiderata in world affairs to-day, it would be a thousand pities if such trivial occurrences as the "dry ship" controversy were allowed to arouse petty irritations between the two countries. If the recent ruling of the American Attorney-General were really to be translated into action the galling restriction upon British shipping would certainly cause great resentment. Moreover, the questions of principle involved would be important. But we refuse to believe that our American friends have any intention of inflicting pin-pricks upon British shipping, or of incurring even the suspicion of unwarrantable interference with the rights of other nations. Probably the whole affair is not worth a tithe of the sensational headlines with which it has been dignified.

A New Bradbury Scheme.—The serious situation in Germany reflected in the latest slump of the mark to a new low record makes it imperative that opinion, sick and tired though it be of the whole subject, should return once more to the consideration of the latest phase of the reparation situation. For the moment the stage is held by a scheme put forward by Sir John Bradbury, who has proposed to the Commission a comprehensive plan for enabling the German Government to balance its budget and to stabilise the mark. His proposals are:—(1) To relieve the German budget almost entirely of the Peace Treaty charges for two, or possibly for four years, by enabling Germany to obtain credits to cover such charges; (2) to fix the exchange value of the mark

by an arrangement under which the Reichsbank would sell gold for paper marks at a fixed price to be determined by a Mixed Commission; and (3) to reorganise the Reparation Commission, and transfer it to Berlin. It is explained that the plan of stabilising the mark by the sale of gold at a fixed price is only feasible if the Reichsbank is relieved of the necessity of creating new credits through being compelled to discount Treasury bills for Government expenditure. If the further expansion of the floating debt could be stopped, Sir John is of opinion that there would be no serious difficulty in stabilising the mark at a level very much higher than its present exchange value without danger to the gold reserve, seeing that at the present price level the existing supply of currency is much below the requirements of the country. The alternatives, in Sir John Bradbury's opinion, are either a complete suspension of cash payments, and an almost complete suspension of deliveries in kind for a considerable period, or some arrangement under which the German Government shall be enabled to obtain resources for financing the Peace Treaty charges without expanding the floating debt. The arrangement proposed is that the Powers receiving the Peace Treaty payments should agree to guarantee German five-year Treasury bonds to the respective amounts to be received. The Powers entitled to receive cash payments would accept these payments in the form of five-year bonds which they would themselves negotiate under their own guarantee. Those receiving deliveries in kind would give their guarantee to German bonds, to an amount equal to the value of these deliveries, which the German Government itself would be entitled to negotiate. The arrangement would operate in the first instance for two years, but the Reparation Commission would have power to continue it so far as might be necessary for a further two years. The Allied Governments would be asked to undertake that before the plan is brought to an end they would consider the whole question of the aggregate liabilities of Germany under the Peace Treaty, with a view to their permanent adjustment to her capacity of payment and to their liquidation by a series of foreign loans. The plan contemplates that the final adjustment of debts between the Allies should take place at the same time as this settlement, and recommends that the Allied Governments should consider the possibility of immediate arrangements to meet the difficulties which will arise in the interval between the present time and this general settlement. The underlying idea of the plan is to avoid the suspension of Peace Treaty payments—a course which would create very serious embarrassment to the budgets of the Allied countries—but at the same time to extend to Germany the credit facilities necessary to enable her to re-establish her own currency and budget. The expedient of the guarantee is intended, however, only as a temporary arrangement to tide over the interval until Germany can adjust her system of taxation to the new level of values, and re-establish her own credit. The scheme is, in fact, a notable attempt to reconcile two opposing influences—the imperative need of Germany for a substantial period of freedom from external payments, and the tendency for the strength of the reparation claims of our Allies to be weakened as the war recedes into history. We must not put France in the position of having to argue her case *ab initio* in 1927, and it is this fear of the blunting effect of time and habit which is the underlying cause of French dislike of Sir John's proposal. Our Paris correspondent writes that counter-proposals have been drawn up by M. Barthou which have been elaborated in collaboration with the French Ministers for Finance and for the Liberated Regions, and their experts. A notable feature of these proposals, it is understood, is a demand for much stricter control over the German finances by the Allies. They also provide for fresh and distinctly more practical guarantees, and for the imposition, in case of need, of further sanctions. Their tendency, moreover, is said to be markedly in the direction of bringing about a settlement with special regard to peculiarly French reparation interests. Another point that will, incidentally, be insisted upon is that nothing in the present proposals shall be allowed to interfere with the decision that the Inter-Allied Conference in regard to inter-allied debts shall take place at Brussels before the expiration of the present year.

International Free-trade.—On Monday last Mr Hoover made an important speech at Toledo on the question of inter-Allied debts. The gist of his argument was that, with trifling exceptions, these could, and should, be paid. There was no doubt as to the legal and moral character of the obligations; in Mr Hoover's opinion there was also no doubt as to Europe's ability to pay, and, moreover, to pay in such a manner as would be acceptable to the United States. The remarkable part about this statement is that Mr Hoover was referring not to British payments, which were being arranged for, but to the huge load of Continental war obligations. The theory is sufficiently startling to cause doubt whether Mr Hoover was correctly reported. The remainder of the speech, however, contained much excellent advice to Europe. The economic frontiers in parts of the Continent must be redrawn so as to render possible the survival of certain countries which no financial aid will be able to bring about. There must be a political and economic readjustment of international relations which shall lead to the re-establishment of an atmosphere of peace in place of the prevailing atmosphere of war. Finally, the limitation of armaments is indispensable, both for reasons of economy and as a guarantee of peace. Given these conditions, the burden of payment, which will range from 2 per cent. to 12 per cent. of the total national budgets of the different countries, should not be too great. On the following day (October 17th), surrounded by high tariff walls, an International Free-trade Congress began operations at Budapest, at the invitation of the Magyar Cobden Society. Count Apponyi pleaded for the economic co-operation of the nations, and Lord Sheffield rightly insisted on the fact that post-war passions prevented the free exchange of economic values. One imagines that most of Mr Hoover's friendly advice would have been loudly applauded at the Congress. But Sir Charles Hobhouse, in a speech on Thursday, went a step further. After deploring the present state of Europe, and adding that all might have been avoided by foresight and vision at Versailles, Sir Charles argued that, as the greatest obstacle to trade was the taxation it had to carry, some international agreement might perhaps be reached as to the aggregate maximum expenditure of every nation. That resulting from war debt would, of course, have to be excluded, while the national maximum should be calculated chiefly on the basis of population. Subject to a maximum import duty on foreign goods, the raising and the spending of revenue (save on armaments, where a separate agreement would be necessary) might be left to the choice of each individual Government. As a counterblast to Mr Hoover, Sir Charles Hobhouse insisted that payments to America could only possibly be made in the form of goods, gold, services, or territories. This last mode of payment was out of the question, and the American Government had itself pronounced against goods and services, while gold was lacking. Accordingly, the voice crying in the Central European wilderness solemnly warned the American nation that Europe had little to offer but economic education. We may perhaps doubt whether Budapest was really the best forum to choose for this purpose. This city is the centre of a region that is hardly a good advertisement for the constructive wisdom of European economic statesmanship.

Employment in September.—Employment continued to be unsatisfactory in September, the recent improvement having been practically checked. For while the percentage of unemployed among all workers insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act declined very slightly, from 12.0 to 11.9, during September, the percentage unemployed among members of trade unions which furnish returns to the Labour Ministry reacted from 14.4 to 14.6 per cent., which was the figure in force at the end of July. How the trade union percentage has moved in recent months, and how it compares with pre-war experience, may be seen in the following table:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.							
End of—	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January ..	2.2	0.3	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8
February ..	2.0	0.3	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3
March	1.9	0.3	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3
April	1.7	0.3	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0
May	1.9	0.4	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4
June	1.9	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7
July	1.9	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6
August	2.0	0.5	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4
September ..	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6
October	2.2	1.1	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	..
November ..	2.0	1.1	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	..
December ..	2.6	1.4	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	..

* Excluding coal miners.

The Ministry of Labour Gazette reports some improvement in the pig-iron industry, in iron and steel manufacture, in the woollen and worsted industry, and in the pottery trades, but among workers in the cotton industry there was a further decline in employment. The total number registered as unemployed at the exchanges at September 25th was 1,368,000, as compared with 1,378,000 at the end of August. The employment outlook for the winter months is by no means encouraging.

Cost of Living.—According to the calculation of the Ministry of Labour Gazette, the cost of living fell one point in September, and at the close of that month was 78 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. How the percentage rose to its high record of 176 two years ago and has since fallen with scarcely a break is traced in the following table:—

ALL ITEMS: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January 1st	85.90	120	125	165	92
February "	90	120	130	151	88
March "	90	115	130	141	86
April "	90.95	110	132	133	82
May "	95.100	105	141	128	81
June "	100	105	150	119	80
July "	100.105	105.110	152	119	84
August "	110	115	155	122	81
September "	110	115	161	120	79
October "	115.120	120	164	110	78
November "	120.125	125	176	103	..
December "	120	125	169	99	..

Retail food prices remained on the average steady at the previous month's level of 72 per cent. above the figure of July, 1914. In September there was an advance of nearly ½d each in the average price of eggs, while fish and butter became dearer. But these movements were contracted by reductions in the average prices of bread, flour, sugar, potatoes and British meat.

The Rubber Revival.—Oil is no longer king, its place having been taken by rubber, the rise in the price of which has fired men's imaginations to such an extent that during the week just ended the rubber market has taken on some of the characteristics that prevailed during the mad days of the two previous booms. The physical condition of the market, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, has changed completely from what it was even a fortnight ago, when, to thread a way through the concourse of jobbers was an easy matter, and when, day by day, desertions occurred from those ranks into the other parts of the Stock Exchange which apparently offered greater scope for business and enterprise. Now, however, it is the turn of rubber once more. The report of the Stevenson Committee, followed, as it was, by a rise in the price of rubber to 1s per lb, acted as a match placed to the dry tinder under which, for many months past, there has been slumbering the wistful hope that one day the rubber industry might re-establish itself amongst the profitable trades, and would reward the sorely taxed patience of those who had the courage (or misfortune) to keep their shares throughout a period of unexemplified dryness. At first the revival, sharp though many of the rises were, led to little business being transacted. People who wanted to buy rubber shares found that they were unable to do so, owing to the insistence of proprietors that since they, the proprietors, had stuck to their shares so grimly, it was not

likely they would sell them at the first glimmer of hope that better times might be within sight. The report of the Stevenson Committee, criticised in some quarters as putting forward an admirable but an unworkable scheme, is now hailed as likely to prove the long-expected saviour of the industry, the rise in rubber from 7d a lb to 1s being the best proof that the report receives serious consideration, not only from rubber-producing companies, but from the purchasers of the produce. As share prices improved in the market, business started slowly to expand by reason of a little selling on the part of those who, having bought shares all the way down, were content to let go a few of them in order to induce market flexibility, and, moreover, to ensure the sellers a profit on what they had bought at the bottom prices. The new buyers, glad enough to get the offer of shares, found that the prices again improved as public interest widened. By selling at small profits what they had bought previously, and by turning the money into other rubber shares which had not yet responded to the reviving conditions, they added their contribution to the growing fluidity of the market. By the end of the week, therefore, something like a real market had once more come into being. Lines of shares have been changing hands. Brokers found no difficulty in placing 50,000 of this, or 100,000 of the other, amongst clients who discovered a ready willingness to take shares which, a fortnight ago, they would have peremptorily refused at half the current prices. The supply of shares has been augmented, it may be permissible to add, by sales on behalf of ex-enemy holders, while amongst the buyers an unexpected development was the appearance of American houses on the look-out for shares which offered reasonable chances of appreciation if the price of rubber continued to rise. In various ways, therefore, the rubber share market has acquired a new and welcome degree of elasticity. As may be supposed, the tendency was to rush from one extreme to the other. Profound dejection has been succeeded by exuberant optimism. The rubber companies themselves are publishing reports which prove how valuable in the matter of reducing costs has been the bitter lesson which they have been forced to learn during the past few years. With rubber at 1s a lb, quite a number of rubber companies can make reasonable profits. The mere fact of their not working at a loss is held as something novel and exhilarating. The critical and the austere will feel that the present excitement is likely to be overdone, but a cheerful point in the situation is the fact that the policy of restriction is likely to turn losses into profits. For the time being, at any rate, there appears to be no necessity to sell rubber shares that have been bought at higher prices. Erratic fluctuations there are certain to be. No market could maintain for long the headlong pace set by the irresistible demand of the past few days. Breathing-space is bound to come, but behind the speculators who will rush to snatch profits when the market turns, there stands a more cautious crowd of people who want to get in when the boomlet prices cool.

The Reduction in Railway Fares.—The railway companies have decided, not too soon, to reduce passenger fares and rates on perishable traffic by passenger train. From January 1st next ordinary third class fares will be reduced to 1½d per mile and first class fares to 2½d per mile. Roughly speaking, this represents a reduction of one-seventh of present fares, and brings the charges down from 75 per cent. to 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. The reduction in charges for carrying perishable goods, including fish and meat, is similar. Judged by the course taken by wages and prices, the reduction is as large as could reasonably be expected for the present. Season and contract tickets, which have only been increased to 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, are not to be changed, nor are workmen's fares, which are on a low basis. Both these omissions cause disappointment, but in both cases the railways' case for retention of present rates is reasonable. Tourist and excursion fares are, generally speaking, to be reduced proportionately to ordinary fares, and the railways "will endeavour" in these cases to bring the reductions into force in time to apply to the Christmas holiday traffic. A delay of 2½ months in bringing the general fare reductions into play is rather a long

one. It is explained thus in the official announcement:—"In connection with the general reduction of fares now announced, opportunity is being taken to make a move in the direction of standardisation." Again: "The reductions now announced involve detailed examination of a vast number of existing passenger fares, an undertaking so big that there is no possibility of completing it before January next." Everyone knows that there are many glaring anomalies in railway fares that need correction; but the cynical passenger will not fail to remark that by taking time for this task the companies secure two and a-half more months of revenue on the present basis. Nevertheless, on the whole, the railway companies' decision in the matter of fares is just about on the lines that seems to be called for by a review of the economic circumstances. Results of conferences with industrial interests who are claiming further freight reductions will be awaited with interest. It is officially estimated that on the basis of present traffic the fare reductions now announced will cost the companies approximately £10,000,000 per annum, but will go a little way towards regaining some short distance traffic from the roads.

Czechoslovak Industrial Crisis.—The Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare has just published figures relating to unemployment in Czechoslovakia. The real extent of the crisis may be seen from the following figures. In September 33,000 persons were in receipt of Government support (the August figure being 25,000) in addition to 43,750 persons, who were partially unemployed and supported by the industrial undertakings. It is interesting to note that prices are being slowly but surely reduced, and that during the ten months ending September last wholesale prices fell 44 per cent. The greatest reduction took place during September, when the general index number dropped by 12½ per cent. If 100 is taken for a basis (July, 1914), the index numbers for the different categories of goods were as follows:—Agricultural products in August, 1,019; in September, 872; textiles and leather goods, in August, 1,164, in September, 933; coal and metals, in August, 1,451, in September, 1,268; oil, paper, building material, timber and glass in August, 1,344, in September, 1,237. The general index number for all the categories was as follows:—1,875 in October, 1921, 1,438 in June, 1922, 1,233 in August, and 1,076 in September last. The drop in retail prices is also considerable. Figures published by the Statistical Office show a fall of 14 per cent. in the price of foodstuffs.

Argentine Railway Results.—The "big four" Argentine railway reports are now available. The two following tables show the dividend records of the companies since 1915-16, and a comparison of receipts in the past two years:—

Company.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
B.A. and Pacific, ord.	% 1	% nil	% nil	% 2	% 5	% nil	% nil
Do 5% 2nd non-cum. pref.	5	1½	5	5	5	nil	5
B.A. Great Southern	4½	4	2	3	7	4	4
B.A. Western	5	3	2	4	7	4	4
Central Argentine, ord.	4	1	2	2	6	4	4
Do deferred	nil	nil	nil	nil	6	nil	nil

	Gross Receipts.		Net Receipts.		Wrkg. Percentg.	
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	£ 6,853,624	£ 7,465,112	£ 981,397	£ 2,146,604	85.68	77.24
Buenos Ayres Gt. Sthrn.	£ 7,732,527	£ 8,419,836	£ 1,368,254	£ 2,160,273	84.35	74.34
Buenos Ayres Western	£ 4,145,130	£ 4,098,030	£ 377,884	£ 871,967	90.88	78.73
Central Argentine	£ 9,746,664	£ 9,442,562	£ 1,966,865	£ 2,052,611	79.79	78.26

A feature of the second table is the substantial rise in net receipts, and the striking reduction in the ratio of working expenses to gross receipts. We hope to devote an article in a future issue to a detailed examination of the results.

Uruguayan Railways.—The reports of the Central Uruguay Railway Company of Monte Video and its three extension systems for the year ended June 30th last show a very substantial improvement on the previous year so far as receipts and expenditure are concerned. As will be seen from the following comparative table, which gives the results of the combined system, there was a small

increase in gross receipts, a large reduction in working expenses, and a rise in net profit of over 82 per cent. :—

Year.	Gross Receipts.	Expenses.	Profit.	Percentage of Expenses to Receipts.
	£	£	£	%
1912-13	1,243,393	669,008	574,385	53.81
1913-14	1,103,229	622,727	480,502	56.44
1914-15	946,767	562,684	384,083	59.43
1915-16	1,088,956	669,208	419,748	61.45
1916-17	1,178,602	771,433	407,169	65.45
1917-18	1,542,320	1,010,288	532,041	65.50
1918-19	1,792,804	1,219,680	573,113	68.03
1919-20	1,892,902	1,245,944	646,958	65.82
1920-21	1,879,630	1,504,995	374,635	80.07
1921-22	1,891,302	1,207,917	683,385	63.87

Practically the whole of the reduction in expenses is attributable to coal, the average issue price of which was £3 14s 11d per ton, as compared with £6 19s 6d per ton in the previous year. The number of passengers carried increased by 5 per cent., but the passenger train mileage decreased by 9 per cent.; the tonnage of freight-paying traffic declined by 16 per cent., the total being the lowest handled since 1914-15. Revised tariffs, however, were in force during the whole of the year as against only six months of the preceding year, and the average receipts per ton were 26s 10.36d as against 21s 10.98d. The separate figures for the main line and the extensions for the past year are shown below :—

	Gross Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Profit.	Percentage of Expenses to Receipts.
	£	£	£	%
Central Uruguay	1,323,521	923,181	400,340	69.75
Eastern Extension	283,975	134,888	149,087	47.50
Northern Extension	147,708	71,960	75,748	48.72
Western Extension	136,097	77,886	58,211	57.23

The ratio of expenses to receipts for the main line has dropped from 94.69 per cent., but the Eastern and Northern Extensions each show a slight increase in this figure, while the Western records a trifling decline. Unfortunately, the satisfactory results of the main line are nullified by the loss in transferring revenue funds to London, which amounts to no less than £182,100, as against £25,700 a year ago, and after payment of fixed charges and 5½ per cent. preference dividend and withdrawing £50,000 from reserve there remains a balance of £35,300, which is carried forward. The Eastern Extension pays 6 per cent. on its ordinary capital, as against 7½ per cent. a year ago and 9 per cent. two years ago, while the Northern Extension distributes 4½ per cent., against 5 and 8 per cent. one and two years ago respectively.

United Dairies.—The seventh annual report of the United Dairies, Limited, just issued shows the position of the company as at June 30, 1922, the accounts including dividends from investments in subsidiary undertakings to March 31, 1922. It will be recalled that for some years past this company has been mainly engaged in absorbing dairy businesses and companies, issuing its own shares in exchange. The following table shows the remarkable progress made in this direction by the controlling company during the past four years, and it will be observed that profits and dividends are on a sufficiently generous scale to encourage further expansion on the same lines :—

Year Ended June 30,	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£
Preference shares	1,344,508	1,555,284	1,652,564	1,881,674
Ordinary shares	1,086,173	1,726,052	1,798,677	2,027,125
Issued share capital	2,430,681	3,281,336	3,451,241	3,908,799
Net profit	233,445	279,668	356,186	452,692
Divd. on ordinary share	10%	12½%	12½%	12½%

The balance-sheet and accounts are in themselves clear though concise statements of affairs, as far as they go, but this is clearly a case where the general investing public is entitled to know something further about the

controlled companies. All we are offered in the way of information about the many undertakings absorbed is an item of £3,837,018, "Investments and loans in subsidiary and other companies including amount paid for benefit of contracts." Even the auditors are driven to observe in their report that "The investments and loans in subsidiary and other companies are taken at, or under, cost price," and proceed to say that subject to this observation the balance-sheet is properly drawn up. What the precise value of this observation may be we do not know. Surely it would be better to state definitely the cost value of investments, showing market values of any quoted securities, and in the case of unquoted holdings in subsidiaries to show the cost price, less any sums written off for depreciation. Total assets amount to £5,336,912, and as the reserve fund is recorded in the balance-sheet as but £33,159, we are led to conclude that the subsidiary companies have each their own reserve fund. The annual general meeting is to be held on October 27, and perhaps the chairman will then shed a little light on the points which we have raised.

The McGrigor Suspension.—The suspension of payment by Sir Charles R. McGrigor, Bart., and Co., army agents and bankers, is an isolated affair, and little importance has been attached thereto in financial circles. A receiving order in bankruptcy has been made against the two partners in the firm, and Mr Russell Kettle, of Messrs Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co., has been appointed special manager to assist the receiver. Founded over 80 years ago by Sir Charles McGrigor, the second baronet, the undertaking has mainly catered for the distribution of War Office payments on account of certain army corps, and apparently up to the time of closing its doors, possessed the complete confidence of the War Office. It is said that the origin of the business was in the nature of a grant for services rendered by a distinguished member of the family. The general opinion appears to be that liabilities will be somewhere under a million, but it is perhaps of more than passing significance that other banks who are usually anxious to absorb or assist less fortunate concerns could not be induced to take over its affairs. This is one of the few remaining private banks which do not publish balance-sheets. Messrs Cox and Co., the most important army agents, have always published balance-sheets, while during the last two weeks Messrs Holt and Co. and Messrs Grindlay and Co., both well-known army agents and bankers, have issued accounts. One must to some extent sympathise with those officers who left their funds with Sir Charles R. McGrigor, Bart., and Co., in view of its close connection with the War Office, and there would certainly seem to be some ground for the surprise shown that the War Office should not have required some tangible evidence from time to time as to the financial position of the bank. In this connection it would be interesting to know what is the practice of the Admiralty with regard to its agents.

National Savings.—The sixth report of the National Savings Committee recently issued as a white paper covers a period of 15 months ended March 31st last. It records that in 1921 the number of savings certificates sold was 54,385,739, as compared with 57,787,499 in 1920, the cash receipts being £42,148,948, against £44,785,311. The amount repaid (excluding accrued interest) during 1921 was £30,959,083, as compared with £31,829,879 in 1920. In the first three months of the present year sales received a great stimulus from the announcement of the impending increase in the purchase price from 15s 6d to 16s. The result was that in the three months ended March 31st last the number of certificates sold was 80,608,964, of a cash value of £62,471,947. The amount repaid during these three months was £11,593,422. Since the inception of the scheme in February, 1916, up to March 31st last, 575,436,093 certificates were sold, the cash value being £445,962,971. Repayments over the whole period totalled £103,957,174, leaving the amount remaining invested at the end of March at £342,005,797. As is well known, the national savings movement is based on voluntary effort, directed and co-ordinated by a paid headquarters staff, and the figures in the report testify to

the national value of enthusiastic voluntary workers up and down the country. The total expenditure of the Committee in the 15 months covered by their recent report was £105,368, of which £83,077 was absorbed by salaries and wages. For the calendar year 1921 the total expenditure at £84,606 is over £10,000 less than in 1920. A change to more convenient premises has facilitated economy in the staff, which has been reduced from 299 at the end of December, 1920, to 232. The report quotes the following references to this organisation in the Report of the Geddes Committee:—"The staff position has been carefully watched in order that the number might always be kept in strict proportion to the volume of business.....We are of opinion that this system and organisation brings in real savings very largely contributed from sources hitherto untapped, and that it encourages thrift. In these circumstances we recommend the continuance of the organisation, provided that the headquarters' staff is constantly kept under review."

Japanese Trade and Finance.—Cabled advices from Tokyo relating to economic conditions in Japan during the first half of October record the maintenance of a favourable balance of trade owing to a general reduction in imports and an increase in foreign demand for raw silk. September exports were 149 million yen and imports 134 millions; whereas in September, 1921, imports were 129 million yen and exports only 95 millions. The Bank of Japan's index number for wholesale commodity prices in Tokyo in September was 255, which compares with 273 a year ago. In the cotton yarn market optimistic expectations recently entertained have not been fulfilled, for the home demand is poor and exports to China not so good. In these conditions supplies have become excessive and a fall in prices has resulted. Manufacturers have discussed measures to check the price fall, but no unanimous agreement has yet been reached. The first rice crop forecast was 63 million koku, an increase of 7 millions on last year's actual crop. The publication of this forecast, coupled with the continuance of fine weather, has caused farmers to clear out their stocks of old rice, and the price has continued to give way. Re-exports of foreign rice are increasing gradually. The stock markets have remained idle, with no more than slight movements in quotations. The money market has been steady owing to tax collecting and subscriptions to the new Government loan; day-to-day money being quoted at about 6 per cent., while the rate for two months' loans and the discount rate remained unchanged. On October 16th the note issue of the Bank of Japan was 1,104 million yen, as compared with 1,132 millions a year ago, discounts and advances at the same date being 175 million yen, against 97 millions.

Oversea Correspondence.

FRANCE.—SIR JOHN BRADBURY'S PROPOSALS—GERMANY'S PAYMENT—A FURTHER STATEMENT—PRICES—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 18.

THE new proposals that have been put forward by Sir John Bradbury, the British delegate on the Reparation Commission, may be described in a nutshell as a plan to give Germany a moratorium for two, and possibly four years, to enable her to put her financial house in order, and also to provide her with a scheme to stabilise the mark and prevent it from falling to a more hopeless figure than that at which it now stands. It is scarcely necessary to say that the British delegates' latest proposals have met with a very chilly reception here, both from public opinion and from the financial experts. By the man in the street the new plan is regarded with deep suspicion, if only on account of its British origin. By the Press it is condemned as a hopeless attempt at squaring the circle, as a "monstrosity," and as being as "valueless as a poultice on a wooden leg." In political circles it is looked upon as a British attempt to postpone

indefinitely the meeting of the Brussels conference, on which French hopes are based for a comprehensive consideration of the joint problems of reparations and the inter-allied debts; and surprise is felt that, although Germany has made no application for a further moratorium, the British delegate should have suddenly put forward this new plan for her benefit at a moment when France is preparing through M. Barthou to make a stronger effort than ever to compel her debtor to fulfil her obligations. The new plan is to be opposed during the next few days by another of purely French origin, which may possibly be made public by the time these lines appear in print.

A note that has been sent out by the Reparation Commission, in reference to the recently published Statement of Payments made by Germany on account of her reparation obligations (published by the Stationery Office, and referred to in this column recently), deserves special attention from all who have access to the figures set forth therein. The statement in question, it will be remembered, was brought down to April 30, 1922, and is to be supplemented by further publications covering every six months after that date. The Reparation Commission, as the publishers of the statement, now announce that it should be made clear the accounts set forth "refer only to the charges upon Germany under Parts VIII. and IX. of the Treaty, for which the Reparation Commission is responsible, and are not a comprehensive statement of all the payments made by Germany under the Treaty." For instance, the figures published in the general statements of Germany's deliveries and payments between November 11, 1918, and April 30, 1922, do not include the value of paper marks requisitioned by the Armies of Occupation (including the American Army) down to the latter date, amounting to 571,000,000 gold marks. "In addition, there are other charges under the Treaty which do not appear in any of the tables of accounts in the publication in question, as, for instance, (1) the value of other requisitions and services required by the Armies of Occupation and paid directly by the German Government, which is officially stated by that Government as 14,000,000,000 paper marks, between the Armistice and March 31, 1922 (a sum which might be estimated as representing a gold value in the neighbourhood of 1,000,000,000 marks); (2) the payments to the Allied Clearing Offices on account of private debts down to April 30, 1922, 546,000,000 gold marks. Furthermore, the figures given by the Reparation Commission (as may be seen from the published statement) do not include any estimate of the value of the Government properties in the portion of Upper Silesia ceded to Poland, in respect of which a further credit will eventually have to be given to Poland."

The index figures of wholesale prices in France for September, as issued by the Statistique Générale de la France, show a slight fall in all categories of foodstuffs, while certain raw materials are found to have gone up in price. The general index figure, however, shows an appreciable fall, as compared with that for August. The details (based on 100 as the average figure for the years from 1901 to 1910) are as follow:—

	August (corrected)	September (provisional)
General index figure for 45 categories (whole sale)	382.9	380.7
Foodstuffs—		
General figure for 20 categories	378.5	367.9
Vegetable foodstuffs (8 categories)	350.6	334.8
Animal foodstuffs (8 categories)	417.4	408.2
Sugar, coffee, cocoa (4 categories)	356.5	353.4
Raw materials—		
General figure for 25 categories	386.6	391.0
Minerals and metals (7 categories)	329.9	334.4
Textiles (6 categories)	493.1	489.6
Various (12 categories)	366.3	374.8

Retail prices in Paris of 13 categories of foodstuffs appear to have risen by 2 per cent. during September, as compared with the previous month. The index figure for these commodities during September is returned as 3131, or 191 per cent. higher than the prices recorded during 1914, as compared with 3107 for August, which showed an increase of 189 per cent. on the 1914 prices. Taking France as a whole, and also the six regions into which the country may be divided, the comparative index figures for the second

and third quarters of the current year show some curious variations, as follows:—

1922.	North.	East.	South-East.	South.	West.	Alsace-Lorraine.	Whole of France.
2nd quarter.....	3378	2996	3130	3059	3015	3134	3163
3rd do	3264	3091	3101	3103	2995	3185	3135

Thus, while retail prices fell during the third quarter of 1922 in France as a whole and regionally in the North, South-East, and West of the country, there was an appreciable rise in the East and South and in Alsace-Lorraine.

Under the influence of the appreciation of foreign money there has been a tendency on the Bourse to an increase in the price of foreign securities and of real property, but the market generally has remained firm despite the inevitable effect of the numerous issues of fresh capital. French Rentes have been irregular, with gain or loss to be recorded to the amount of two or three centimes, but railways have continued to improve. Thus Nord has gone from 1,225 to 1,259, Est from 795 to 810, Orleans from 920 to 930, and P.L.M. from 940 to 950. Shipping has fluctuated, Chargeurs Français moving from 690 to 725, while Chargeurs Réunis have dropped back from 405 to 395. In electrical undertakings Thomson is typical in improving by 11 points at 797. Metallurgical shares have been in demand, Miceville moving from 870 to 858, Electro-Mechanique from 570 to 578, Sambre et Mouse from 2,575 to 3,051, and Saint-Nazaire from 635 to 645. Though Tintos have dropped from 1,655 to 1,620, Boléo moved the other way, rising from 505 to 535 and closing at 527, and Penarroya from 840 to 865. Petroleum shares have remained practically without change.

GERMANY.—GOVERNMENT POLICY—EXCHANGE DECREE—FINANCES—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 17.

THE Federal Government, in agreement with national opinion, has often proclaimed, and always implies, that an unreasonable policy on the part of the Allied Governments is the main cause of the mark-currency depreciation, and of the misfortunes, real and imaginary, associated therewith. While much may be said in support of this assertion, it is not possible to acquit the Berlin Government and other public authorities of aggravating already bad conditions, and bringing unnecessary new evils by the potent instrument of suggestion. Recent policy may be described as neglect, panic, unreasoning self-sufficiency, and ill-timed, unthinking vigour. During the honeymoon of the Fulfilment Policy (*Erfüllungspolitik*), the Allies, even including M. Briand, lavished flattery on the Chancellor, ignoring that mere good intentions are a sterile virtue, and the Cabinet acquired the too happy temper of the flattered Kerensky Administration of mid-1917, which, in the words of a cynical Russian, was destroyed by the prayers for its preservation in American churches. The Wirth Cabinet, like the Kerensky Cabinet, proceeds, with breathing spaces of inactivity, from blunder to blunder, and, like the Kerensky Cabinet, it is so assured of its mission to save the German Republic that it resents the mildest personal criticism. While its mistaken recent measures are almost universally condemned, no man dares to imply that the mistakes are outside the limit of error of normally competent statesmanship. When, in regard to the unlucky Exchange Control decree, a reputable Berlin newspaper printed a perhaps mistaken, but in itself entirely reasonable, statement on Reichsbank policy, the Cabinet issued a hot-headed declaration that the supposedly false news had been circulated "by an interested party for entirely transparent reasons," and so without any grounds made the charge of corrupt influence. Since the Rathenau assassination the Cabinet has been alternately or simultaneously lax and drastic,

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.
1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
With Branches and Associated Companies throughout the Far East and in North America, Australia and New Zealand.
The Company acts as Agents for manufacturers and others and invites correspondence with the view of developing foreign trade.

indolent and precipitate, complacent and panicky. As the three passive qualities in this list cannot inspire to action, policy's only leader has been panic. While the Chancellor put the whole responsibility for the last mark collapse upon the French Government, his subordinate States Secretary, Dr Hirsch, rightly declares that "the murder of Rathenau and the consequent 'domestic political occurrences' were responsible; but that these consequent political occurrences were wholly unnecessary is shown by the fact that the panic decree authorising the summary execution of persons who belonged to murder associations led this week to the sentence of the one survivor of three actual murderers to a mere fifteen years' penal servitude.

The subordinate authorities also show no discretion in the discouragement of panic. The Reichsbank president last week, according to an unrepudiated Berlin newspaper report, declared to an American correspondent that Germany "sees before her a winter without bread." This statement, spread over half a page of an American newspaper, might easily have provoked a new mark collapse, but hardly had it been made when the Federal Breadstuffs Board declared that the part purchases already made are sufficient for a full three months. The official *Labour Journal*, on the basis of an increase in unemployment from six or seven per thousand of organised workmen, declares that "the prospect for the coming winter months is extraordinarily serious," owing to "vanishing buying-power of the mark," and forgets that in December, 1920, the Ministry of Industry predicted (wrongly) serious industrial stagnation, owing to the temporary mark recovery. It is true, although not yet shown by statistics, that the demand for labour is slackening. But the chief of a big Lothringen metal concern, Privy Councillor Kloeckner, states that, while the shortage of working capital is troublesome, selling is very easy. "Foreign countries," says Herr Kloeckner, "are still willing to buy, the overseas demand is lively, England is always among the order-givers, and in general we have more work to do than we can do." Concerning the Frankfurt Fair, the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, summing up earlier prophecies of failure, says that "No one would offer goods and no one would buy even a few days before the beginning of the Fair; it seemed as if all these black vaticinations would be fulfilled. But they were not fulfilled." It would be very dangerous to assert that the mark currency collapse may not some day cause or accompany, a general business collapse; but in order to prove the association of the two collapses, the reality of the business collapse must be independently proven.

The Exchange Regulation Decree has been very badly received. Its headlong issue under Article 48 of the Constitution is a wrongful application of this article, which merely authorises legislation by decree, "in order to restore public security and order." Articles of this kind appear in many Constitutions, and their aim is to legalise exceptional measures against a physical threat to public security. The Wirth Cabinet uses the article for everything. The Exchange Decree is illegal, all the more so because the Constitution declares that Art. 48 may not be used in order to impose economical restrictions. Outside the Cabinet probably nobody believes in the efficacy of the measure. Similar measures have been and are in force in countries with worse exchanges than Germany's, and if these measures were efficacious, the exchanges of all Europe could be very easily restored. Dr Wirth's prohibition of home trading in foreign currencies cannot be enforced. The Bremen Cotton Exchange declares that it is impossible to import cotton, which must be paid for in dollars, if the importer cannot secure himself by getting dollars at home. The Government is considering the issue of gold Treasury bills, to be secured by the Reichsbank's gold. This measure, or the more reasonable one of Treasury bills on a buying power basis, ought

to have been tried long ago. The *Vorwaerts* criticises the Reichsbank for not buying up gold. Even for gold coins it pays only three-fifths of the gold exchange value, and it neglects to organise a department for purchase of uncoined gold and jewellery gold, of which, owing to the impoverishment of the middle classes, large quantities are being sold to dealers at much below value. The sales tax is to be raised from 2 to 2½ per cent. Postal charges are to be doubled—they ought to be trebled. A report to the Reichsrat states that the Budget paper mark cost of the Reparations payments under the March moratorium agreement has risen from 151,900,000,000 marks to about 1,500,000,000,000 marks. The Berlin Chamber of Commerce has protested against the excessive taxation of unreal (nominal paper-mark) profits, on the ground that thereby all working capital is eaten up. The debt of Berlin city has risen by half a milliard in the last three months, and is now 1 milliard higher than last year; but the real debt has, of course, declined. The municipality has raised the tram fare unit to 20 marks.

The Finance Ministry's report for October 10th shows revenue since April 1st (the beginning of the financial year) to have been 342,823,218,000 marks, of which 217,787,702,000 marks were the proceeds of floating debt operations, and 122,583,746,000 marks were taxation (emergency levy receipts of 1,615,945,000 marks and forced loan receipts of 2,451,770,000 marks not included). In six and one-third months the taxation receipts estimated for the whole twelve months have been considerably exceeded. Of expenditure, also 342 milliards, 35.5 milliards were for posts and railways. The floating debt of discounted Treasury bills in the first days of October increased by 38,824,620,000 marks, and reached 489,722,867,000 marks. Eight milliards of the new borrowings went on fulfilment of the Peace Treaty. The Reichsbank statement for October 7th shows a small decline in the credit pressure, Treasury bills dropping from 349,769 to 345,600 millions. But private discounts rose from 50,234 to 54,015 millions, and note circulation had another large increase from 316,869,799,000 marks to 344,171,631,000 marks. The "Kassenscheine" circulation, which usually changes little, has now risen to 14,032 millions, and the "Kassenscheine" booked by the bank among its assets have risen to 22,848 millions against 2,850 millions in the same week of last year.

The Bourse has been active, with a strong bull movement, which reached its highest point yesterday. In the week October 6th-13th the dividend-payer index rose from 97.880 to 113.132. Dividend-payers are now about 3½ times as high as at beginning of the year, nearly 10 times as high as at beginning of 1921, and 14 times as high as at beginning of 1920. Home loans also rose, the index being 1,396 against 1,345 a week earlier, and 902 at beginning of the year. Loan quotations to-day were:—War Loan, 77.50; Federal 4 per cent., 234; 3½ per cent., 138; 3 per cent., 580.

The Federal Court of Appeal has given a new and very remarkable judgment against the inviolability of the paper mark as compulsory currency. The dispute, which concerned compensation for an estate inventory, did not differ in principle from the recent *clausula rebus sic stantibus* decisions. The striking feature is that the Court of Appeal constituted itself an Arbitration Court for revision on basis of equity of all economical contracts. The judgment declares that, "The gold mark, which was the basis of the original valuation, and the paper mark, in which compensation would now be paid, are, in spite of their legal equality, not economically equal. The judges must, therefore, within the limits of this definition, make their own decisions in a creative spirit. . . . The determining factor is the principle that an equalisation of the economic interests of the parties ought to take place on the basis of justice and equity. . . . The Court does not ignore the fact that in the above it has laid down principles which are not purely legal. However, in cases in which the elements of fact and of law are so closely welded that they cannot be separated, the Court of Appeal has assumed the right not only to give its own decisions, but also to promulgate the determining principles of these decisions." This dignified language means that the Court intends to make its own laws as it goes along, because it considers the formal law to be unreasonable.

DENMARK.—LANDMANDSBANK RECONSTRUCTION—BANKING SITUATION—NOTE CIRCULATION—EXCHANGES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, October 10.

AN event in the Danish banking world last month had effects which have been traceable in very wide fields of the trade and industry of the country. This was the second reconstruction of the Landmandsbank, which became necessary in the middle of September. After a meeting in the Nationalbank a communiqué was published during the night between September 17th and 18th, commencing as follows:—"As it has proved that the support which the Nationalbank agreed to grant the Landmandsbank in July last has not created the necessary reassurance and confidence in the bank, thorough negotiations have been carried on during the last few days between the Government, the Nationalbank, the Eastasiatic Company, the Great Northern Telegraph Company, and other institutions, as well as the Inspector of Banks. As a result of these deliberations, it was decided to effect a further strengthening of the financial basis of the Landmandsbank, and also a thorough reconstruction of the management." To preclude any doubt as to the safety of the bank a capital of Kr.100,000,000 was immediately subscribed. As the Government took part in this subscription, the Rigsdag was convened for Tuesday. The matter was debated by both Houses in the course of a couple of days, and the outcome was an Act, the first paragraph of which prescribes:—"The Minister of Commerce shall be authorised to participate on behalf of the State, and jointly with the Nationalbank in Copenhagen, the Eastasiatic Company and the Great Northern Telegraph Company, in the reorganisation of Den Danske Landmandsbank, Hypothek og Vekselbank, by which a capital of Kr.100,000,000 is provided for same. The reorganisation shall take place by the provision of a preference capital of Kr.70,000,000, of which the Government shall take over Kr.40,000,000, and by the provision of a reserve fund of Kr.30,000,000, which shall be paid in only after the writing down of the old shares. The Minister of Finance shall be authorised—after consultation with the Minister of Commerce and with the sanction of a Parliamentary Committee of nine members—on behalf of the State, to guarantee the Nationalbank any advances, which the Nationalbank might consider it requisite to grant to the Landmandsbank owing to possible difficulties during the transition period."

The Act providing financial support of the Landmandsbank further contained rather far-reaching rules for the constitution of the management of the Bank. And at the same time an Act was passed authorising the Minister of Justice to appoint a commission of up to three members for the purpose of investigating the bank's affairs, especially the causes of the difficulties of the bank, and such affairs in connection therewith, as might be referred by the Minister of Justice to the commission for investigation. This commission has already been appointed and has commenced work.

In accordance with the Reorganisation Act, and the negotiations in connection with it, the new articles of the bank were drawn up. By these it is stipulated, for instance, that the ordinary share capital shall be written down from Kr.100,000,000 to Kr.10,000,000. The last-mentioned amount is considered a provisional representation of the ordinary shareholder's interest in the concern, also in consideration of the considerable reserve fund supplied by the National bank after the reconstruction, i.e., the amount of Kr.30,000,000 mentioned. On the asset side of the balance-sheet this amount is offset by a compensation account. By the articles, which have now been agreed upon by the extraordinary general meeting in the bank, it was further stipulated that—while the owners of the preference shares until further notice constitute the general meeting—the old shareholders may gradually regain their rights in the bank, successively as new income has accrued or in case income should accrue from the asset items written down at the reconstruction of the bank. The redemption of the preference capital takes place through a sinking fund account.

The above are the main points of the reconstruction now effected, by which are secured great capital resources for the bank, and which in every respect provides a sound basis for continued working. As far as the management is concerned, it should be mentioned that the managing director, Counsellor of State E. Glückstadt, resigned on September 17th. In future the board of directors will consist of seven members, the chairman being Mr Vagn Aagesen, Lawyer of the Supreme Court. Counsellor of State H. N. Andersen, the managing director of the Eastasiatic Company, will not be a member of the board as presumed in the first instance. After mature consideration he has found it incompatible with his position in the Eastasiatic Company to be a member of the board of directors of the Landmandsbank, as he is of the opinion that if he accepted the directorship the Eastasiatic Company would have to discontinue its business connection with the Landmandsbank.

Even if Mr Andersen will therefore not personally be a member of the board, provision has been made to ensure that the bank will benefit from his great experience and insight, as close co-operation between the owners of the preference shares and the board has been agreed upon. Up to the present two members of the new management have been appointed—Mr Ernst Meyer, chairman of the Merchants' Guild, and Mr Oluf Nielsen, who was previously a vice-manager of the bank.

In the course of a fortnight the note circulation of the Nationalbank was rather considerably increased, whereby the proportion of cover—between the bullion reserve and the note circulation—was decreased. Even this development, which otherwise was connected with the usual demands at the end of the month as far as the second week was concerned, has now been regulated. At the beginning of October our note circulation was Kr.467,000,000, and the percentage of cover was 49.9 per cent. During the following week, however, the note-circulation was reduced by Kr.20,000,000, and the bullion reserve thereafter amounted to 52.1 per cent. of the note circulation. According to the Act of August 30, 1919, a bullion reserve of at least 33⅓ per cent. of the note circulation must be present, the said reserve to consist of gold in coin and bars, and coined change. The Nationalbank has therefore still a very considerable note reserve. Lately the Foreign Exchange quotations, with a few exceptions, have moved in disfavour of Denmark. It should be pointed out, however, that the normal curve of the quotations points upwards during the autumn owing to the purchase of overseas crops at this season.

GREECE.—THE NEAR EAST CRISIS—FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, October 12.

THE military reverses in Anatolia, followed by the precipitate evacuation of Asia Minor, produced a great agitation throughout the country. The revolution of the army and the navy has been welcomed by the people as a movement devoid of party influences and designs, and as an effort to save the country from the grave political consequences of the unfortunate end of the Asia Minor campaign. The general feeling is that Greece has been the victim of the antagonisms of the Great Powers, especially of Great Britain and France. It is held to be due to the lack of agreement between the Allies that the war has lasted so long. Anyhow, it would never have terminated by such a catastrophe had Great Britain supported Greece as the two others helped Kemal. Whereas the Kemalists were supplied by the French and Italians (not to mention the Bolsheviks), Greece not only was arbitrarily forbidden to exercise the elementary right of searching boats carrying contraband of war, but was even refused all credit on the part of British firms, and was thus constrained to depend on her own means alone for carrying on a war which was vitally affecting British interests as well as her own. The consequences were quite natural. No victory has been won by the Turk. The Greek soldier, seeing himself for-

saken and even betrayed by certain of his former allies, and, moreover, exasperated by internal political quarrels, and knowing that he was fighting for a country which, in any case, and despite his great sacrifices, he would be called to abandon by a decision of the Powers already taken, simply refused to fight, after being almost ten years under the flag. Thus, Turkey has profited by the want of a common policy of her former enemies regarding the Near East, and has finally come out intact and morally strong from the Great War, for the prolongation of which, however, she is greatly responsible.

The economic effects of the evacuation of Asia Minor and the return to Turkey of Eastern Thrace cannot, of course, be underrated. Greece has been deprived of two of the richest and most promising provinces, for the development of which money has been spent on a large scale. The difficulties of the moment, however, overshadow the significance of that loss. The problem of sheltering and feeding the refugees, amounting to many hundreds of thousands, and the financial needs of the Treasury, are the most pressing questions of the day. The balance of the forced loan at the credit of the Government with the National Bank will help the Treasury to meet temporarily its obligations. But more drastic measures must be immediately taken to face the situation. A foreign loan will have to be raised soon after peace is concluded to give the Government the necessary time to bring before the Assembly a well-prepared programme of financial measures tending to restoration of equilibrium in State revenue and expenditure.

The reaction of the recent events on the prices of securities, and the rates of foreign exchanges, has been great. Shares and bonds, especially Government securities, have fallen heavily. Foreign exchanges are kept at low levels. There is a scarcity of money, due partly to seasonal crop requirements, and partly to a demand for drachmæ, in exchange for Turkish pounds, by the wave of refugees. The pound sterling, after having risen to Dr.240, was yesterday around Dr.170.

The Bankers' Consortium for handling the exchanges has been virtually in abeyance, as little or no exchange has been granted to applicants for some time past. A communiqué issued by the Ministry of Finance states that a law decree, signed yesterday, puts an end to the Consortium, and that from to-day dealings in foreign exchanges are left free, save for the exchange representing the value of exports of currants, tobacco, oil, and figs. This, it is understood, will be bought by the National Bank of Greece for account of the State at lower rates, and will be utilised for the service of the public debt, for other needs of the Government, and for the purchase of foodstuffs, some of which are still imported by the State. According to Press reports, the law decree provides further for the obligatory cession by the other banks to the National Bank of Greece of 15 per cent. on their daily purchases of foreign exchanges, at the free market rates, which will be utilised by the State for the same purposes as above. The issue of bank notes by the National Bank for the purchase of exchange is also provided for, according to the same reports. The injustice done to producers by the forced sale of their exchange at lower rates than those prevailing in the market is obvious, and cannot be made good by some trifling concessions to them promised by the Government. Besides being unjust, this measure is also ill-conceived, as it hits a most important wealth-producing class of the country. Moreover, with the profits of the mercantile marine reduced to quite small figures, and the remittances of Greek emigrants greatly lessened, the country depends to a large extent on the exportation of these articles to pay for her imports and other obligations; consequently, their production should be encouraged by all means, and this will certainly not be obtained by putting producers at a disadvantage. The Government could, of course, secure a priority on the exchange thus imported, but should pay for it at the current rates.

With the application of the new regulations, the exchanges jumped to-day, the pound sterling having risen from Dr.167 to Dr.184, and this despite the news of the signing of the armistice, which must have exercised a lowering force on the rates. The National Bank's buying rates for exchange on London are Dr. 167 for its own account and Dr.140 for account of the State.

NORWAY. — BANK FIGURES — PRICES — PUBLIC SECURITIES STRONG—CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, October 3.

THE monthly reports of the private banks generally appear about a month after the lapse of the period for which the report is rendered. Thus, the report for August was published about the end of September. It comprises the figures of 101 private banks, and shows assets and liabilities balance at an amount of about 4,781 million kroner. This compares with 5,256 millions a year ago, and the difference shows partly the progress of deflation and partly the diminution of trade. Loans, as compared with July 31st, have gone down 69 millions, which place them at the same amount as at the beginning of 1919. But as prices have gone down to the average level ruling in 1916, it will be understood that the figure remains abnormal. Deposits have been reduced by less than the loans, and the excess of loans over deposits was 259 millions, as against 614 millions on August 31, 1921. The debt of foreign banks was, during August, increased by 3 millions, and amounted to 36 millions, which is not a very considerable sum.

The wholesale price index number, according to Farmand, when 1913 is taken at 100, exhibits the following average figures for 28 to 40 different commodities:—1897, 70 per cent.; 1907, 93.7 per cent.; 1917, 296.6 per cent.; 1920, 395 per cent.; end of August, 1922, 219.1 per cent. As will be seen, the downward movement has gone a long way.

During the week just ended the note circulation of the Bank of Norway was increased by 10 million kroner as compared with the previous week, and now amounts to about 383½ millions. The bank's lendings increased by 14 millions, and the reserve went down from 48,600,000 kroner to 38,700,000 kroner.

There is a continued, though slow, fall in the cost of living in Christiania. According to official statistics, the cost of living of a working man's family of four, which in 1913 was 1,550 kr., in June, 1922, was 3,848.29 kr., and at September 15, 1922, 3,779.07 kr.

It is 60 years to-day since the first Norwegian State Railway was opened. The first railway in this country, made by Robert Stephenson, had been opened eight years earlier; but that was a mixed State and private undertaking, whereas the railway opened on October 3, 1862, was a purely State undertaking; it had a length of 79 kilometres. To-day the State railways of Norway are over 3,000 kilometres, and there are, besides, 436 kilometres of private railways.

The Stock Exchange is extremely quiet. Public bonds are almost the sole objects of activity, and their quotations are rising. Bank shares and industrials are practically neglected, and so are shipping shares. The foreign exchanges do not show great fluctuations; at present there is an improving tendency in the Norwegian krone.

Weather conditions have been tolerably favourable for the harvesting of the different crops. Practically speaking, harvest work is now completed, and the yield of hay and cereals is good; potatoes show almost an unprecedented yield, but one hears of disease in this crop here and there.

Books and Publications.

"INVESTMENT ANALYSIS."

THIS monumental work of eight hundred pages* considers in one volume a large number of aspects relating to the embodiment of wealth in investments which hitherto have only been found scattered in many specialised books upon accountancy, law, finance, taxation, and government, and it commits to the printed page a large amount of technique and experience that is embodied in the practice of financial companies and banks. The preface contains

* "Fundamentals in the Analysis of Investment Securities." By Walter Edwards Lagerquist, Professor of Finance in North Western University. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1921.

an imposing list of financial houses and their experts, whose advice and suggestions have been taken advantage of in this work. The appendix of seventy pages, which comprises a fairly exhaustive and completely representative list of works bearing upon the subject and classified under main headings such as general investments, accounts for investments and stockbrokers' accounts, bonds, capitalisation, crises and panics, and all the various specialised securities for electricity, gas, &c., is, in itself, an informing and interesting document.

However skilled and practised the financier may be in judging investment values, there can be little question that this great collection of data and careful enunciation of principles would be of service to him. Although much of it is bound up in his everyday practice and is, to that extent, platitudinous and commonplace, it is quite necessary to have it cited in any book which is to pretend to completeness. Indeed, it is well to clear up what is fundamental and what is incidental, and it is equally true of England, as of America, that one of the most difficult things for the student, whose knowledge of any applied subject in business has been acquired in the haphazard way of daily work and without any specific direction, is to begin with fundamentals. It cannot be any great hindrance, and it often may be of great assistance, to develop a sound system of methodology or classification upon which to "anchor" daily practice. Perhaps the author goes too far when he says "There is no far-reaching grasp of investment problems to be acquired until experience has taught the investor the true appreciation of the correct application of principles." Some of our most striking examples of successful financial standing have had an uncanny judgment as to what should be done in these matters, without having the faintest notion why.

The subject matter in this text has been grouped into four main divisions, viz., (1) general fundamentals in the analysis of securities; (2) corporation securities, i.e., company securities; (3) securities dependent primarily upon land and real estate, and (4) civil loans. In discussing the general principles, the fundamental elements are separately considered under such headings as (1) safety of principal; (2) certainty of income; (3) rate of income; (4) legality (i.e., the legal rights and limitations of securities); (5) stability of market prices; (6) marketability; (7) appreciation, and (8) diversification.

On the question of marketability, Professor Lagerquist considers that a great deal has been sacrificed by American investors in their payments for ready marketability when it has served no good purpose, and that European investors are not so often guilty of purchasing something they do not need. The latter remember that they are purchasing to retain until maturity, and that the safety of their principal is equally good, the slower market being compensated for by a higher rate of return. "Though less frequently considered by the average layman, the question whether it is essential that income be sacrificed for convertibility should be given more consideration."

In discussing "appreciation" the author deals trenchantly with the confusion attaching to the term. That improvement in the value of a security which reflects an increase in the company's surplus through paying smaller dividends than it need is not true appreciation. Similarly, where a bond bought at a discount is paid for on maturity at par, the upward movement is not true appreciation—it is reflected in the yield. Neither will he admit as appreciation that alteration in values which the security may enjoy in general with other securities, owing to a common movement in prices due to changes in currency levels or the demand for capital.

Under the heading of "diversification" he rather discounts the value of the teaching of a well-known English school on the subject of geographical diversification; he considers that the advantages have been greatly over-emphasised, and that the investor loses as much in the impossibility of obtaining detailed information of a reliable character over a wide area, as he gains in an equation of physical risks. He makes the interesting statement that so far as the United States is concerned, only 20 to 25 per cent. of the stocks quoted on the more important Stock Exchanges have an active market, and there are many issues underwritten by bankers and never listed that have

a wider and freer market than the inactive listed stocks. Although New York bankers lending on collateral still give preference to the active listed securities, the bankers of the interior may be distinguished by their readiness to accept the high grade bonds that are not active.

In discussing the classification of securities Dr Lagerquist first proceeds by classification according to the character of the corporation issuing the security; then a classification according to the purpose for which the issue is made—i.e., physical embodiment, such as drainage, irrigation, paving, docks, &c.; thirdly, a classification according to the character of the lien and the degree of its security; and, fourthly, a classification according to the methods of payment and redemption. Each of these four methods emphasises aspects of importance.

In his chapters on the analysis of companies' reports he makes a rather surprising statement that the United States have still much to learn on the question of costs from English and French practice, and he takes the view, which must be hard reading for Britishers, that, in the case of holding companies, both the consolidated balance-sheet and the balance-sheets of the subsidiary properties should be forthcoming, and that no investor should ever give consideration to any other than a consolidated statement with supporting schedules.

The author's treatment of goodwill is scanty and disappointing considering its great importance. It conveys very little that is new or of much guidance in practical life, but in other respects the teaching upon analysis of accounts is interesting and important.

His information on negotiation and issuance is very American in its illustration, and the chapters upon railroad bonds, street railway bonds, and all the other specific kinds of securities, being illustrated almost entirely from American experience, with American terminology, would read very strangely to the British investor, though even here, to all financiers dealing with American investments it should be of great value.

The chapter on market influences deals with broad economic conditions and trade cycles, gold movements, and banking systems, without conveying anything like an original contribution to the subject. The chapter on industrial bonds has a closer parallel to British conditions.

Rather illuminating are his comments upon the prevailing virtue of securing soundness in balance-sheets by the existence of hidden reserves at the expense of the investor's knowledge of the facts. "Where an inside controlling interest has desired to conceal the amount of current earnings.....surcharging the maintenance account has often been resorted to. This practice of concealing earnings under the cloak of depreciation or maintenance may cause a sagging of the security price and enable the controlling interests to acquire securities at low prices, but to the loss of the deceived minority security holders."

Despite the American orientation of the chapters on civil obligations, valuation, taxation and validity, this work is of great value for purposes of reference to all engaged in the practical business of finance.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

English Local Government. Statutory Authorities for Special Purposes. By Sidney and Beatrice Webb. (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 25s net.

The Economics of Unemployment. By J. A. Hobson. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Limited. 4s 6d net.

British Merchant Shipping. By Clement Jones, C.B. (London) Edward Arnold and Co. 10s 6d net.

Banking and Currency. By W. J. Weston. (London) W. B. Clive, University Tutorial Press, Limited. 5s 6d.

The New Economics. By Marten Cumberland and Raymond Harrison. (London) Cecil Palmer. 6s net.

Rubber-Producing Companies—1922. (London) The Financial Times, Limited. 7s 6d.

This is now a well-known standard guide to rubber-producing companies published annually. The present issue follows the system adopted in previous years, and places clearly before investors and those interested in rubber companies the salient

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business.

Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

Foreign Branch: 168, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

features of each company together with its present position. As noted in the preface, the price of rubber has improved, and with steadily increasing demand for the raw material, both for new uses and increasing motor traffic, there are indications that the industry is slowly shaking itself free from the grip of depression and moving once again in a forward direction. This volume certainly fulfils the needs of investors in the rubber industry.

These Present Discontents and the Labour Party and Social Credit. By C. H. Douglas. (London) Cecil Palmer. 1s net.

Nitrate Companies Reviewed. British interests in the Nitrate Industry. (London) The Stock Exchange Gazette. 6d.

The Edinburgh Review. October, 1922. (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 7s 6d.

Statistics of British India, Vol. II. Financial Statistics. (Calcutta) Department of Statistics.

The Alliance Year-Book and Temperance Reformers' Handbook for 1922. Edited by George B. Wilson. (London) United Kingdom Alliance, 1 Victoria street, S.W. 1. 2s.

Queensland. Financial Statement of the Treasurer made August 10, 1922. (Brisbane) Offices of the Government Printer.

A St Luke of the Nineteenth Century. By Mrs Russell Barrington. (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 7s 6d net.

Some of the Widespread Activities of United Dairies, Limited. (London) Offices of the Company.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
October 31.	November 2.

Business in the Stock Exchange markets has been somewhat broken by the prospect of a General Election this year, and the Premier's resignation introduced a somewhat unexpected development into the world of domestic politics. Though the war-clouds in the Near East have been chased away, other influences which tend to make for depression have come in the shape of further demoralisation in the French franc and by the General Election prospect. The latter has the effect of casting that uncertainty over the prospect which the bare possibility of a Labour Government invariably causes. The main feature of the past five days proved to be a *crescendo* volume of activity in the rubber share market, where prices have been bounding up in response to the advance in the raw produce, and where the rise went too rapidly, in accordance with Stock Exchange tradition.

The War Loan will be quoted ex dividend next Thursday morning. Consideration of this has induced further investment that lifted the price at one time to 101, though the top level was not held. A spurt in Funding Loan, and in some of the other Government stocks, brought in sellers, with the result that the market left off last night below the best. The issue of the balance of Tube railway debenture stock at 93 caused no surprise. Stock Exchange talk toys with the possibility of a Metropolitan Water Board issue in the near future.

French bonds are naturally flat, owing to the slump in the franc, but recovered yesterday. Germans have been dull, attracting little attention. Improvement in financial conditions is mentioned as the reason for advance in some of the Finland bonds. There is nothing doing in Russians, and Peruvian Corporation stocks came in for profit-taking on the part of those who deem it wise to

shorten sail in the speculative markets. Brazilians moved irregularly. Argentines and Chileans are mostly steady.

South-Western deferred, and some of the other Southern passenger stocks, stood out with strength in a Home Railway market which otherwise, after showing subdued firmness, tended to give way for want of public support. In none of the Home Railway sections is there any fresh animation, and the conference of railway managers, to discuss the forthcoming revision of fares, served to check enterprise on the part of investors. Argentine railway stocks went a-booming, gains of several points being shown by the leading descriptions, in which the preference stocks joined, and, although a wave of selling dimmed the brilliance of the optimism in regard to the future, prices are substantially better on the week. United of Havana has also been strong, and Antofagasta, after a spurt, relapsed into quietude.

Rubber shares hold the board in the matter of sparkle and activity amongst industrials. The ranks of the market have been augmented by the accession of many jobbers from other parts of the House; and, for a few days, there was enough, and more, for everyone to do. The report of the Stevenson Committee, which probably had something to do with the rise in the price of the produce, is the switch that has turned on this unaccustomed brightness in prices and orders. The question on the lips of many thousands throughout the country is whether the strength is going to last, whether rubber will go better, and whether it is safe to buy shares on the top of the big rises that most of them have secured. Hesitation on these points led to a general reaction on Thursday.

The diversion of interest into rubber shares has proved a further cause of depression to the oil market, where people have been selling their shares in order to turn the proceeds into the latest candidate for popular favour. The wild excitement over British and Argentine meat shares subsided when the terms proposed by the Western Union Investment Corporation had been announced. Some of the other meat companies' shares have been taken in hand, though speculation scarcely needs a warning as to the riskiness of building great expectations in other shares upon the British and Argentine Meat foundation. Listers, in the textile market, stand out with noticeable strength, on revival of the rumours that the company is to be taken over, reports linking Listers with Courtaulds or Coats. Shipping stocks are firm, with Indo-China deferred harder, and fresh improvements occurred from day to day in the banking share list, though the insurance group remains languid. Babcock and Wilcox enjoyed a brisk rise, upon an increase in the interim dividend. United Alkali preference went up with a run, on the announcement that the full dividend is to be paid. Tobacco shares are more or less marking time. The rise in Dunlops reflected the satisfaction felt with the improvement in the price of rubber. In motor shares there is nothing much doing. The cable group is extremely good, all the Eastern issues showing advances, but Marconis were held back by the announcement of the new debenture issue, particulars of which were unfolded at the meeting yesterday. Armstrongs are better, in consequence of the company having secured an important new contract; Vickers remain quiescent. Electric lighting shares continue to progress upwards, and gas stocks remain hard, although the official warning from the Gas Light and Coke Company, in regard to over-optimism concerning the next two dividends from that undertaking, were duly observed. Daily Mail Trust debentures opened about 6 premium, and gave way a little, on sales by stags who regarded the amounts which they were allotted as too small to make worth while for them to take up. Trust companies' stocks show a string of rises.

After an outburst of exuberance on Cape support, the Kaffir market gave way to some extent, and the activity, recently noticeable, suffered by reason of the revival of attention paid to rubber shares. Rhodesians have been dullish; the result of the forthcoming elections, which will decide whether Southern Rhodesia agrees to join the Union of South Africa or not, is regarded as being in the nature of a toss-up. Russians have rallied. Diamonds were at one time good, though Paris checked the buoyancy with selling orders when the franc collapsed in the middle of the week. The greater strength shown by tin, the metal, brought about substantial rises in various of the Mid-Eastern tin producers, and had the effect, also, of improving prices of West African and Cornish tin shares. The Indian group moved narrowly, and copper shares have been somewhat neglected.

Lord Balfour will unveil the Stock Exchange War Memorial on Friday next. He is due to arrive at the House at 10.45 a.m. Near relatives of those Stock Exchange men who have fallen in the war will be invited to attend the ceremony, which will be concluded by the trumpeters of the H.A.C. with the Last Post and Reveille.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded....	..	513,881,637 ..	..	..
4½% Treasury Bonds (by Tender October 13, 1922), £1,155,000, at 99½% ..	..	1,144,172 ..	..	..

NATIONAL SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 14, 1922.

April 1 to Oct. 14, 1922, £24,618,000	£	£	£
To the Public—			
London Electric Rly., £2,250,000 4½% 2nd Deb. Sks., at 93.	2,250,000	2,092,500	112,500
City and South London Rly., £1,250,000 4½% 2nd Deb. Sks., at 93.	1,250,000	1,162,500	62,500
Central London Rly., £458,000 4½% 2nd Deb. Sks., at 93.	458,000	425,940	22,900
Calcutta Improvement Trust, £350,000 6% Bearer Debts, at 100½, red. at par Dec. 31, 1922 (Oct. 20) ..	350,000	351,750	17,500
Chocolate Express Omnibus Co., 11,250 Shares, £1, at par (Oct. 17) ..	11,250	11,250	2,812
Burgon's Extensions and Investment, 50,000 6½% Pref., £1, at par (Oct. 17) ..	50,000	50,000	6,250
Total offered to public	..	4,093,940	224,462

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1921.....£519,139,749	1921.....£388,978,203
1922.....220,901,754	1922.....367,549,656
1920.....320,716,753	1920.....1,036,059,951
1919.....914,555,400	1919.....1,393,381,441
1918.....1,115,673,585	1918.....1,318,536,010
1917.....1,143,000,302	1917.....585,436,850
1916.....455,010,302	1916.....685,236,396
1915.....660,968,076	1915.....512,522,633

London Electric Railway Company.—4½ per cent. redeemable second debenture stock, 1942-72. Further issue of £2,250,000 stock, being the balance of a total authorised issue of £3,250,000 stock; **City and South London Railway Company.**—4½ per cent. redeemable second debenture stock, 1942-72. Further issue of £1,250,000 stock, being the balance of a total authorised issue of £2,250,000 stock; **Central London Railway Company.**—4½ per cent. redeemable debenture stock, 1942-72. Issue of £458,000 stock. All the above stocks are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Treasury under the provisions of the Trade Facilities Act, 1921. The price of issue is £93 per cent.—These issues are repayable at par on June 30, 1972, but the respective companies have the option to repay, after July 1, 1942, on giving three months' notice. They rank *pari passu* with similar stocks already issued, and the proceeds will be utilised in extensions and improvements in connection with the various systems. They are investments authorised by the Trustee Act of 1893. Assuming that these stocks were redeemed at the earliest date, the yield would compare very favourably with those obtainable from existing gilt-edged securities.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.—Issue of £350,000 6 per cent. debentures at £100 10s. per cent., repayable in 1952 at par. The prospectus states that "the loan is offered by the Board of Trustees for subscription with the sanction of the Government of India, and is secured upon the taxation, rents and other charges authorised to be levied by them within the Municipality of Calcutta." It ranks *pari passu* with other loans of the Board of Trustees as a first charge upon the properties vested in the trust. The proceeds of the loan will be utilised in the acquisition of land. Redemption will be made by means of a sinking fund extending over a period of 30 years, and will commence on June 1, 1923. Up to March 31, 1922, it is stated that the trustees had expended £3,537,733 on capital works, against which £333,333 only had been borrowed. For 1921-22 receipts amounted to £238,000, and as expenditure totalled out £76,000, including £22,000 on the above-mentioned borrowing, a surplus of £162,000 is recorded. Thus interest and sinking fund services are well covered. The issue is attractive in its class.

Burgon's Extensions and Investment, Limited.—Authorised capital £100,000, divided into 97,620 6½ per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each and 47,600 ordinary shares of 1s each. The prospectus states that "The preference shares are entitled to receive out of the divisible profits of the company a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum. After payment of such dividend one-half of the surplus profits of the company will be either distributed by way of additional dividend on the preference shares, or carried to a special reserve fund, and the other half will be divided among the holders of the ordinary shares." It is difficult to understand from this if these are participating rights, or additional dividends payable at the option of directors. The

company was formed in 1914 by Burgons, Limited, multiple grocers, "primarily to acquire some of its premises," and mainly to carry on a "real property and general investment company." The position of the company is clearly set out in the prospectus, and while its operations in property may be excellent business, it would be of interest to know to what extent directors can utilise funds in investing in shares of other concerns. It is stated that there are no debentures, but it must not be overlooked that properties are mortgaged, and therefore the security for preference shareholders cannot be clearly defined.

Haslemere and District Gas Company.—Incorporated by special Act of Parliament, 1917. Authorised stock and share capital £38,435, of which £28,028 has been issued, including premium. This is an offer for sale by tender of 1,197 £5 6 per cent. redeemable preference shares. The minimum price of issue is £4 17s per share, and the issue will be redeemed at par on March 31, 1930. Loan capital for £12,812 has been authorised, of which £6,200 has been borrowed. Presumably these preference shares will rank with £4.015 existing preference shares, and immediately after the loan capital. The net revenue of the company for the year ended June 30, 1922, was £2,310; interest on loan capital absorbs £307, and as the dividend on all preference shares will require but £600, there is an ample margin of security. At the minimum price of issue the shares are not without merit, but regard must be paid to the narrow market for such a small issue.

The Chocolate Express Omnibus, Limited.—Authorised capital £15,000, divided into shares of £1 each. The company has been formed to take over one motor omnibus, to acquire five others, and to run them on the streets of London. The vendors are asking £6,000 for the business, which consists of one omnibus, and they show five weeks' traffic receipts averaging £81 per week. On this figure profits for six vehicles are estimated at £10,116 per annum, an estimate which time alone can prove to be correct. This is a speculative, though interesting, proposition, and while the courage of the inceptors may be admired in challenging a powerful rival transport combination, it does not follow as a matter of course that the directors of the small concern can profitably compete with the larger undertaking.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.			
	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
War 3½% 1925-28 .. 95½ .. 95 ..	95½	95	— ½
Loans 5% 1925-45 .. 97 .. 96½ ..	97	96½	— ½
4% 1925-47 .. 100½ .. 100 ..	100½	100	— ½
Funding Loan 4% .. 85½ .. 85 ..	85½	85	— ½
Victory Bonds 4% .. 88½ .. 88 ..	88½	88	— ½
Conversion Loan 3½% 74½ .. 74 ..	74½	74	— ½
Consols 2½% .. 57½ .. 57 ..	57½	57	— ½
Irish Land Stock 2½% .. 58½ .. 58 ..	58½	58	— ½
Local Loans 3% .. 65½ .. 65 ..	65½	65	— ½
Anst. 5% 1931-41 .. 104 .. 104 ..	104	104	0
Canada 4½% 1920-25 .. 101 .. 101 ..	101	101	0
India 3½% Stock .. 61 .. 61 ..	61	61	0
Do 7% 1926-31 .. 113 .. 113 ..	113	113	0
Do 5% 1932 .. 99 .. 98½ ..	99	98½	— ½
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32 .. 100½ .. 101 ..	100½	101	½
Nigeria 6% 1949-79 .. 112 .. 113 ..	112	113	1
UofS.A. 6% 1930-40 .. 104 .. 104 ..	104	104	0
Victoria 5½% 1924-34 .. 101 .. 101 ..	101	101	0
W.Aust. 6% 1930-40 .. 104 .. 104 ..	104	104	0

Banks.			
	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) 24½ .. 24½ ..	24½	24½	0
Chartered Bk of India 17½ .. 17½ ..	17½	17½	0
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.) 28 .. 28 ..	28	28	0
London Joint City .. 108 .. 108 ..	108	108	0
Midland (£12 with £2 pd.) 8½ .. 8½ ..	8½	8½	0
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 pd.) 17½ .. 17½ ..	17½	17½	0

Colonial and Foreign Railways.			
	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons. 73 .. 72½ ..	73	72½	— ½
B. A. & Pacific .. 58½ .. 58 ..	58½	58	— ½
B. A. & Southern .. 78½ .. 78 ..	78½	78	— ½
Buenos Ayres West. 73 .. 72½ ..	73	72½	— ½
Canadian Pacific .. 167 .. 166 ..	167	166	— 1
Central Argentine .. 68½ .. 68 ..	68½	68	— ½
Grand Trunk Ord. 58 .. 57½ ..	58	57½	— ½
Argentine 5%, 1886-7 .. 100 .. 100 ..	100	100	0
Belgian 3% .. 68 .. 68 ..	68	68	0
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914 .. 67 .. 66 ..	67	66	— 1
Chilian 4½%, 1895 .. 86 .. 85½ ..	86	85½	— ½
Do 7½% .. 103½ .. 104 ..	103½	104	½
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 74 .. 73 ..	74	73	— 1
Egyptian 4% .. 71½ .. 71 ..	71½	71	— ½
French 5% .. 36 .. 35 ..	36	35	— 1
Do 4% .. 29½ .. 28½ ..	29½	28½	— 1
Greek 4%, 1888 .. 33½ .. 34 ..	33½	34	½
Japanese 4½% .. 106 .. 106 ..	106	106	0
Do 4%, 1910 .. 69 .. 70 ..	69	70	1
Mexican Cons. 1899 .. 60 .. 59 ..	60	59	— 1
Peruvian Corp. Pref. 30 .. 29½ ..	30	29½	— ½
Russian 5%, 1906 .. 104 .. 104 ..	104	104	0
Spanish 4% .. 79 .. 79 ..	79	79	0
Seine (Dept.) 7% .. 101 .. 102 ..	101	102	1
Siam 7% .. 105 .. 105½ ..	105	105½	½

Telegraphs.			
	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A" 23½ .. 23½ ..	23½	23½	0
Marconi Wireless .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½	2½	0
Marconi Canada .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½	2½	0
Marconi Marine .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½	1½	0

British Railways.			
	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
Great Central Pref. 23½ .. 23½ ..	23½	23½	0
Great Eastern .. 36½ .. 36 ..	36½	36	— ½
Great Northern Def. 41½ .. 41 ..	41½	41	— ½
Great Western .. 101½ .. 101 ..	101½	101	— ½
London Brighton "A" .. 61½ .. 61 ..	61½	61	— ½
London Chatham .. 94 .. 94 ..	94	94	0
L. and N.W. (New) .. 101½ .. 100 ..	101½	100	— 1½
L. & S. Western, Def. 33½ .. 34 ..	33½	34	½
Metropolitan .. 54½ .. 54 ..	54½	54	— ½
Metropolitan District 40½ .. 41½ ..	40½	41½	1
Midland Deferred .. 66½ .. 66 ..	66½	66	— ½
North British Def. 17½ .. 17 ..	17½	17	— ½
North-Eastern .. 116½ .. 116 ..	116½	116	— ½
South-Eastern "A" .. 34½ .. 34 ..	34½	34	— ½
Underground Electric (£10) .. 34 .. 34 ..	34	34	0
Do "A" (1/1) .. 32½ .. 32 ..	32½	32	— ½
Do Ino. Bds. (£100) .. 86 .. 88½ ..	86	88½	2½

American Railroads.			
	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
Chesapeake & Ohio .. 83 .. 84 ..	83	84	1
Erie .. 18 .. 18 ..	18	18	0
Do 4% 1st Pref. 28 .. 28 ..	28	28	0
Southern .. 29 .. 29 ..	29	29	0
Do Non-conv. Pref. 74 .. 78 ..	74	78	4

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (£1) ..	135	135	0
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) 58½ ..	58½	58	— ½
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) and Co. (£1) ..	156½	156	— ½
Ass. Portland Cement (£1) 18½ ..	18½	17½	— 1
Barker, John (£1) ..	2	2	0
Pharm Small Arms (£1) 49 ..	49	47½	— 1½
Brazil Traction (£100) 49 ..	49	47½	— 1½
British-American Tobacco (£1) ..	48	48	0
Brit. & Arg. Meat (£1) 34½ ..	34½	34	— ½
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	58	58	0
Coats (J. and P.) (£1) ..	3	3	0
Courtaulds (£1) ..	2	2	0
Cunard (£1) ..	1	1	0
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	1	1	0
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	1	1	0
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	2½	2	— ½
Forestal Land (£1) ..	4	4	0
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	1	1	0
Highlands and Low-lands Rubber (£1) 12½ ..	12½	12	— ½
Hudson's Bay (£1) ..	76	74	— 2
Imperial Tobacco (£1) 33½ ..	33½	33	— ½
Unggi Plantations (£1) 13½ ..	13½	13	— ½
Lipton (£1) ..	13	12	— 1
Lever Bros 7% Cmp (£1) 1 ..	1	1	0
Do 8% Cmp A Pr (£1) 1 ..	1	1	0
Do 20% Cmp Pr (Ord) (5) 1 ..	1	1	0
Lister (£1) ..	18	18	0
Lobitos Oilfields (£1) 58 ..	58	58	0
Lyons (J. & Co.) (£1) 44 ..	44	44	0
Mageddon Oil Co. (Ord) 24 ..	24	24	0
Mexican Eagle (£10) 20 ..	20	20	0
Pekin (2) ..	16	16	0
Rubber Plantations Investment (£1) ..	4½	4½	0
Shell Transport (£1) ..	4	4	0
Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1) ..	4	4	0
United Serdang (2) ..	2	2	0
United Tobacco (£1) ..	2½	2½	0
Vallambrosa (2) ..	4	4	0
Vickers (£1) ..	250	250	0
Watney Def. 8th ..	250	250	0

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended Oct. 15, 1922.			Aggregate 41 Weeks 1922.		
		Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	676½	48,200	142,100	190,300	2,094,100	5,344,800	7,438,900
Do Joint Lines	161½	115,900	94,400	210,300	1,914,100	3,761,600	5,675,700
Great Eastern (c)	1,207½	80,900	129,000	209,900	3,994,300	5,589,600	9,583,900
Great Northern (c)	1,050	280,000	352,000	632,000	12,206,000	15,030,000	27,236,000
Great Western (d)	3,657	318,000	440,200	758,200	15,589,000	17,189,000	32,778,000
London & N. Western (d) ..	2,636	120,000	56,900	176,900	5,497,300	2,449,500	7,946,800
Lon. & South. Western (d) ..	968	88,917	26,305	115,222	3,988,266	1,139,357	5,127,623
Lon. Brighton & C. (c)	487	120,000	20,300	140,300	1,387,615	148,012	1,535,627
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	42½	34,192	3,856	38,048	747,000	129,000	876,000
Metropolitan (c)	79½	172,000	287,000	459,000	5,579,500	9,886,100	15,465,600
Midland (c)	1,585½	143,900	1,270	145,170	62,903	57,921	120,824
Midland & S. W. Jnc.	63	155,400	237,000	392,400	1,324,300	1,502,300	2,826,600
North Eastern (c)	1,850	16,406	9,908	26,314	197,415	397,982	595,397
North London	16	18,500	49,600	68,100	5,726,900	1,783,200	7,510,100
South-East & Chatham (c) ..	654	123,360	49,600	172,960	2,754,600	4,765,100	7,519,700
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caledonian	1,097	70,900	107,200	178,100	3,030,300	4,045,200	7,075,500
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	476	26,300	34,200	60,500	1,324,300	1,502,300	2,826,600
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	334½	8,500	7,960	16,460	397,780	368,230	766,010
Highland (c)	492 (a)	11,444	10,873	22,317	59,055	427,283	536,338
North British (c)	1,377½	64,200	118,300	182,500	2,754,600	4,765,100	7,519,700
Belfast and County Down (b)	80	5,054	1,231	6,285	223,533	53,940	277,473
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	6,271	3,768	10,039	219,322	140,968	360,290
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	9,107	17,455	26,562	401,499	614,419	1,015,918

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended October 13, 1922.
(c) Week ended October 14, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Endbg.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	24 weeks	Sept. 16	1,043	Rs. 2,79,480	+ 55,189	Rs. 55,22,796	+ 22,51,898
Sarsi Lk. Ry.	24 weeks	16	118	15,400	+ 3,000	8,53,700	+ 2,69,100
Bombay & N. Western ..	24 weeks	16	67	4,82,300	+ 8,825	1,50,67,196	+ 13,13,291
Bombay Nagpur	24 weeks	16	2,703	13,92,000	+ 2,86,000	3,22,19,196	+ 1,13,291
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	27 weeks	Oct. 7	2,871	18,94,000	+ 1,57,000	18,94,000	+ 1,57,000
Burma	24 weeks	Sept. 16	1,342	6,19,888	+ 47,722	1,56,79,766	+ 18,37,766
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	2 weeks	Oct. 14	239	1,05,000	- 953	2,1,000	+ 10,34
G. Indian Peninsula	2 weeks	Oct. 14	2,772	31,79,000	+ 4,36,000	2,61,84,000	+ 4,30,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	27 weeks	Sept. 23	3,028	12,60,000	+ 84,423	3,67,40,523	+ 37,74,174
Rohtak'd & Kumaon	24 weeks	16	259	38,451	+ 6,243	14,59,661	+ 1,45,961
Do Lucknow-Breilly	24 weeks	16	302	43,610	+ 7,421	17,37,939	+ 36,126
South Indian	25 weeks	23	1,852	8,71,981	+ 71,051	2,38,64,767	+ 26,91,682
Shan. Punjab (monthly) ..	3 mths	Jne. 30	717	9,87,071	+ 187,883	24,71,120	+ 46,980
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	15 weeks	Oct. 14	752	9,400	+ 1,000	151,000	+ 31,200
Argentine Trans.	15 weeks	14	111	3,070	+ 1,340	28,860	+ 3,965
B. A. and Pacific	15 weeks	14	1,328	135,000	+ 30,000	1,934,000	+ 58,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	15 weeks	14	3,947	155,000	+ 30,000	2,174,000	+ 77,000
B. A. Western	15 weeks	14	1,882	40,000	+ 39,000	491,000	+ 261,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	41,145	+ 12,798	78,379	+ 25,400
Central Argentine	15 weeks	Oct. 14	3,305	176,000	+ 28,000	2,792,000	+ 87,000
Cordoba Central	15 weeks	14	1,206	50,000	+ 9,000	919,700	+ 47,500
Entre Rios	15 weeks	14	811	18,300	+ 2,800	247,000	+ 48,300
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	8 mths	Aug. 31	1,005	Me 44,500	+ 11,750	336,000	+ 48,150
Gt. West. of Brazil	41 weeks	Oct. 14	1,005	12,900	+ 3,700	507,400	+ 33,100
Leopoldina	41 weeks	14	1,631	34,824	+ 4,345	1,198,128	+ 18,547
San Paulo	41 weeks	15	1,553	28,103	+ 444	1,164,954	+ 93,349
State of Bahia, S.W.	5 mths	Sept. 30	52	Me 125,000	+ 39,000	469,000	+ 166,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	26 weeks	Oct. 15	838	37,785	+ 19,955	893,385	+ 9,634
Nitrato (4-monthly)	41 weeks	15	366	27,059	+ 13,719	77,000	+ 67,635
Peruvian Corp.	3 mths	Sept. 30	1,059	1,231,050	+ 111,640	3,775,960	+ 298,880
Taitai	5 mths	30	172	(b) 12,923	+ 3,548	38,506	+ 10,695
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,080,221
Havana Central	14 weeks	Oct. 7	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,378	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana	15 weeks	14	1,210	9,564	+ 197	131,682	+ 17,497
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	15 weeks	14	273	23,396	+ 2,301	311,672	+ 24,799
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	15 weeks	14	311	4,234	+ 264	60,446	+ 1,987
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	15 weeks	14	185	2,484	+ 240	32,453	+ 4,909
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	15 weeks	14	211	2,335	+ 471	30,393	+ 477
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	+ 1,201	10,638	+ 1,548
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	41 weeks	Oct. 14	33	Pe 16,000	+ 1,050	776,950	+ 140,350
Bilbao	9 mths	Sept. 30	15	1,149	+ 521	9,449	+ 5,471
Bolivar	9 mths	30	136	8,700	+ 2,674	82,350	+ 10,939
Costa Rica	1 mth	July 31	189	19,247	+ 1,370	19,207	+ 1,370
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,450	+ 5,500
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	7 mths	31	45	7,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 6,700
Egyptian Delta	26 weeks	Sept. 30	559 (c)	78,265	+ 2,947	3,186,215	+ 1,070,763
Gt. Southern of Spain	40 weeks	Oct. 7	Gross	\$109,000	+ 23,190	3,881,900	+ 929,400
Central America	9 mths	Sept. 30	232	5,278	+ 611	239,226	+ 15,534
La Guaira & Caracas	9 mths	30	303	9,690	+ 460	90,940	+ 9,940
Mexican Railway	14 weeks	Oct. 14	403	\$287,800	+ 210,300	2,217,500	+ 437,900
Do	2 mths	Aug. 31	403	\$169,500	+ 4,500	370,500	+ 25,100
Nasajo Oscarshamm	7 mths	July 31	193	11,614	+ 1,268	75,288	+ 16,218
Osman Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	193	12,760	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Puerto Cabello, &c.	8 mths	Aug. 31	35	3,750	+ 145	41,580	+ 6,935
Salvador	15 weeks	Oct. 14	100	2,270	+ 423	14,405	+ 4,283
Santa Fe Province	1 mth	Aug. 31	..	6,180	+ 2,244	78,240	+ 15,210
Semana & Santiago	9 mths	Sept. 30	112 (a)	14,267	+ 377	107,476	+ 19,110
Zaira and Huella	9 mths	Sept. 30	112	..	..	..	..

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	236,625	236,625	400,430,580	+ 4,772,534	76,706,840	+ 54,883,820
Mar.	234,202	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,426	113,468,743	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May	235,333	234,931	447,299,150	+ 4,069,751	92,931,565	+ 28,064,328
June	235,208	235,310	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678
July	234,556	235,082	442,736,397	+ 19,960,589	107,258,414	+ 1,964,465

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algonia Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$192,037 + 8,353	192,037	8,353
Canadian Ntn.	41 weeks	Oct. 14	Gross	\$1,875,100 + 376,412	44,814,895	7,594,944
Canadian Ntn.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$1,718,400 + 149,712	42,939,700	7,831,356
Canadian Pac.	41 weeks	Oct. 14	Gross	\$5,147,000 + 249,000	134,483,000	11,186,000
Canadian Pac.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$5,918,000 + 114,600	106,677,000	10,216,000
Grand Trunk.	41 weeks	Oct. 14	Net	\$2,946,000 + 370,000	14,722,000	2,859,000
Pemiscotuk.	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross	\$24,035 + 17,792	16,580,725	111,228
				\$23,805		

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	July 31	810	£ 111,592	+ 7,888	£ 19,481	+ 3,414
Mid. of W. Aust.	2 mths	Aug. 31	277	11,513	+ 2,939	19,481	+ 3,414
New Cape Central.	47 weeks	Sept. 23	205	2,868	+ 51	29,184	+ 6
Rhodesia Railways.	1 mth	July 31	1,397	151,081	+ 4,778	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	41 weeks	Oct. 14	329	\$90,247 +	4,720	3,445,576	+ 180,345
Burnley Corporation	1 week	14	12	\$3,366	232		
Calcutta Tramways	41 weeks	14	353	£108,761 +	12,902		+11,255,626
Chatham & District.	41 weeks	15	15	£1,677	198	68,628	11,559
Egyptian Markets	39 weeks	Sept. 30	..	£1,714	276	65,632	795
Glasgow Corporation	39 weeks	Sept. 30	..				
Gloucester Corporation	19 weeks	Oct. 14	101	\$44,932	2,839	824,094	64,459
Isle of Thanet	2 weeks	11	..	\$800	233	1,367	53
Lancashire United	41 weeks	10	39	\$3,095	505	125,070	17,200
Liverpool Corporation	41 weeks	14	124	\$23,519	1,839	1,203,914	+ 19,077
Tramways	23 weeks	19	160	\$25,334	6,795	2,696,078	240,116
L.C.C. Tramways	41 weeks	Oct. 15	..	\$97,337 +	1,524	930,042	+ 149,835
Madras Elec. (2 wks)	41 weeks	15	..	\$4,030 +	105	149,575	10,511
Peramburam Trams	30 weeks	July 29	..	\$7,095	6,142	365,271	8,500
Samarang Road	30 weeks	July 29	..				

THE STANDARD BANK

of SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED

(with which is incorporated the AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, Ltd.).

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN CAPE PROVINCE; TO THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA; AND TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF RHODESIA.

Authorised Capital	£10,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£8,916,660
Paid-Up Capital	£2,229,165
Reserve Fund	£2,893,335
Uncalled Capital.	£6,687,495
	£11,809,995

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM REIERSON ARBUTHNOT, Esq.	SOLOMON B. JOEL, Esq. J.P.
SIR DAVID M. BARBOUR, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	HORACE PEEL, Esq.
EDWARD CLIFTON BROWN, Esq.	Rt. Hon. the EARL of SELBORNE, K.G.
STANLEY CHRISTOPHERSON, Esq.	WILLIAM SMART, Esq.
ROBERT E. DICKINSON, Esq.	Rt. Hon. LORD SYDENHAM, G.C.S.I., G.O.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.
JAMES FAIRBAIRN FINLAY, Esq., C.S.I.	

Senior General Manager in South Africa.—J. P. Gibson.
Joint General Managers in South Africa.—John Jeffrey. James S. Shiel.
Assistant General Managers in South Africa.—G. F. Le Sueur. W. K. Robertson.

London Manager.—Francis Shipton.
Assistant Manager.—Bertram Lowndes.
Sub-Manager.—Frederick Norman.

Chief Inspector.—
Francis E. King.

Secretary.—Herbert G. Hoey.
Assistant Secretary.—T. D. Williams.

Head Office: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4.

London Wall Branch—63, London Wall, E.C.2.

West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2
(opposite the Royal Colonial Institute).

New York Agency: 68, Wall Street.

Rotterdam Branch: 15 Coolsingel.

Hamburg Agency: Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53, Schauenburgerstrasse.

Over 370 Branches, Sub-Branches, and Agencies in—

CAPE PROVINCE.

NATAL.

ORANGE FREE STATE.

TRANSVAAL.

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

RHODESIA.

NYASALAND.

BASUTOLAND.

KENYA COLONY.

KENYA PROTECTORATE.

UGANDA.

ZANZIBAR.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

BELGIAN CONGO.

Banking Business Transacted in all parts of the World.

Executorships and Trusteeships Undertaken.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

**EVERY FACILITY AFFORDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH
ALL PARTS OF SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA, THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, AND THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.**

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES INVITED.

The Economist Banking Number

A SURVEY OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING

Vol. XCV.]

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1922.

[No. 4,130.]

CONTENTS.

Bank Figures and Policy	674
Bank Shares	676
The American Banking Position	677
German Banking	678
Foreign Banks with London Offices and British Banks Trading with Foreign Countries	679
Continental Banks	680
Asiatic Banks	681
South American Banks	681
United States Banking and Trust Companies	682
African Banks	683
Australasian Banks	684
Canadian Banks	685
Indian Banks	686-687
Colonial Joint Stock Banks with London Offices	686-687

COLONIAL BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

(1) AFRICAN BANKS.	National Bank of New Zealand, Limited	700
Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited	Queensland National Bank, Ltd.	702
Bank of British West Africa, L.	Royal Bank of Australia, Limited	702
National Bank of Egypt	Union Bank of Australia, Limited	704
National Bank of South Africa, L.	(3) CANADIAN BANKS.	
Netherlands Bank of South Africa	Bank of Montreal	704
Standard Bank of South Africa, L.	Bank of Nova Scotia	704
(2) AUSTRALIAN BANKS.	Colonial Bank of Commerce	706
Australian Bank of Commerce, L.	Dominion Bank	708
Bank of Adelaide	Royal Bank of Canada	708
Bank of Australasia	Union Bank of Canada	708
Bank of New South Wales	(4) INDIAN BANKS.	
Bank of Queensland, Limited	Alliance Bank of Simla, Limited	712
Bank of New Zealand	Chartered Bank of India, Aus- tralia, and China	710
Bank of Victoria, Limited	Eastern Bank, Limited	710
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Mercantile Bank of India, Limited	712
Commercial Bank of Australia, L. of Sydney, Limited	National Bank of India	712
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, Limited	Imperial Bank of India, Limited	712
National Bank of Australasia, L.	Tata Industrial Bank, Limited	712

JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Bank of England	Lloyds Bank, Limited	716
Baker, Duncombe, and Co. Lim.	National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited	716
Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited	Williams, Deacon's Bank, Lim.	716
Barclays Bank, Limited	Yorkshire Penny Bank, Limited	718
Coutts and Co.	PRIVATE BANKS.	
Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Charles Hoare and Co.	718
London County Westminster and Paris Bank, Limited	Child and Co.	718
London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited	Cox and Co.	718
Manchester and County Bank, Limited	Grindlay and Co.	718
Manchester and Liverpool Dis- count Banking Company, Lim.	Holt and Co.	718
	LONDON DISCOUNT COMPANIES.	
	Alexanders Discount Co., Lim.	71

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF IRELAND.

Bank of Ireland	Northern Banking Company, Lim.	722
Hibernian Bank, Limited	Provincial Bank of Ireland, Lim.	722
Munster and Leinster Bank, Lim.	Royal Bank of Ireland, Limited	722
National Bank, Limited		720

LATEST BALANCE-SHEETS OF FOREIGN BANKS HAVING LONDON OFFICES AND OF BRITISH BANKS TRADING ABROAD.

Anglo-South American Bank, L.	722	Crédit Lyonnais	734
Banca Commerciale Italiana	724	Equitable Trust Co. of New York	732
Bank of Athens	724	Farmers' Loan and Trust Co.	734
Banco de Bilbao	726	Guaranty Trust Co. of New York	736
Banco de Chile	726	Hambros Bank, Limited	734
Banco Espanol del Rio de La Plata	726	Hongkong & Shanghai Bkg. Corp.	734
Banco di Roma	726	Imperial Ottoman Bank	734
Bank of Roumania, Limited	726	Imperial Bank of Persia	736
Bank of Taiwan, Limited	728	International Banking Corpora- tion	736
Banque Belge Pour l'Etranger	728	Ionian Bank, Limited	736
Banco Nacional Ultramarino	730	Italo-Belgian Bank	738
Banque du Congo Belge	730	London and Brazilian Bank, Lim.	740
Banque Francaise pour le Com- merce et l'Industrie	730	London and River Plate Bank, L.	738
British Bk. for Foreign Trade, L.	730	Mitsubishi Bank, Limited	740
British Italian Corporation, Lim.	730	National City Bank of New York	738
British and North European Bank, Limited	730	The P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited	740
British Bk. of South America, L.	730	Société Générale de Crédit In- dustriel et Commercial	742
British Trade Corporation	730	Société Générale	742
British Overseas Bank, Limited	732	Société Belge de Crédit Industriel et Commercial et de Depots	744
Com. Nat. d'Escompte de Paris	732	Sumitomo Bank, Limited	744
Commercial Bank of Spanish- America, Limited	732	Swiss Bank Corporation	744
Crédit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie	732	Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited	744
Credito Italiano	732		

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

INCORPORATED

**OFFERS to firms
and individuals a
complete Com-
mercial Banking Service,**
with special facilities for
the development of inter-
national trade. Seventy-
five banking offices in
the chief cities of

EUROPE — UNITED STATES
EGYPT — SOUTH AMERICA
CANADA — FAR EAST
INDIA

Correspondence Invited

**62a, Lombard Street,
LONDON, E.C.3**

**Entrance :
Birchin Lane**

Telephone :
City 1224

Telegram :
Lombamex, London

BANK FIGURES AND POLICY.

IN our Banking Number of May 20th last, we showed that the process of banking expansion, which was unhindered until the end of 1919, was checked in 1920, and was again retarded in 1921. The figures then given marked a rate of increase in deposits of only 1.4 per cent. in the previous calendar year, as compared with 5.7 per cent. in 1920, 18½ per cent. in 1919, and 16½ per cent. in 1918. In this Autumn Banking Number, which only covers the figures of those English banks which publish statements showing the position on June 30th, we are able to record for the first time since the war period an actual decrease in the figures of the bank balance-sheets at the end of a half-year. The following table shows year by year the process of expansion and the decrease arrived at during the year ending June 30th last:—

DEPOSITS.		Million £
June 30, 1915	.....	+ 196.6
" 1916	.....	+ 44.5
" 1917	.....	+ 81.1
" 1918	.....	+ 282.5
" 1919	.....	+ 406.2
" 1920	.....	+ 105.5
" 1921	.....	+ 19.8
" 1922	.....	- 30.2
		+1,106.0

This belated beginning of deflation in banking figures has been at last achieved during a time in which money rates, as regulated by that of the Bank of England, have been declining. Bank Rate was brought down from 7 to 6½ per cent. on April 28, 1921, and to 6 per cent. on the 23rd of the following June, and during the next twelve months came down to 3½ per cent., and it is under these conditions that the contraction of banking credits, with a corresponding decline in deposits, has been brought about. This point is of considerable importance, in view of the suggestions that have been put forward for the regulation of prices by means of raising and reducing rates of interest, and so, as is theoretically assumed, contracting and expanding the volume of banking credit. For example, Professor Cassel, in his book on "Money and Foreign Exchange after 1914," states that "if the banks allow more credit than they are . . . economically justified in giving, then the active purchasing power in the country is raised without a corresponding increase of purchasable commodities. The inevitable result, therefore, is a rise in prices. This conclusion brings us to a new rule for a true bank policy. The supply of credit must be so regulated that no rise in prices, and, naturally, no fall in prices either, takes place. In order to keep demands for credit within the limits of available means, the banks must apply interest rates fixed with that object in view, but, in their continual scrutinising of the demands for credits, must also be able to effect the necessary restrictions." The same writer observes "that the obviously far too low discount rates of the Bank of England during 1919 proved exceptionally effective, first by restraining the tendency of prices to fall, and then as a powerful factor in causing a rise in prices, is as indisputable a fact as it is instructive." If we have correctly understood the argument of this distinguished authority, he seems to hope to secure a much greater steadiness in wholesale prices by what he calls his "new rule for a true bank policy." By regulating the rate of interest, we are to affect the volume of banking credit and the course of prices. Everyone must admit that in normal times a considerable effect on the volume of banking money, and so on the general price level, might be secured by the adoption of such a policy; but, after all, a policy which is only effective in normal times is one which breaks down just when it is most needed to do its work, and recent experience shows that, during the abnormal times through which we have lately passed, the influence of official rates on credit contraction and

expansion is certainly very slow, if it can even be proved to have had any certain effect. As everyone remembers, Bank Rate was raised at the end of 1919, but the upward rush of prices continued until March, 1920, and was then followed by two years of decline, whereas the contraction of banking credit has only just begun. It may be true that the fall in prices which began in the spring of 1920 was produced by the psychological effect of the official raising of the price of money which had preceded it by some months. But even if this is so, it did not work through the contraction of banking credit as it ought to have done if the new scheme for regulating prices is to work as its authors desire. For banking credit continued to expand for a long time afterwards. On the other side of the problem the case for the new rule of banking policy seems to be even more weakly supported by the experience of recent events. During the year covered by the banking figures that we are now discussing, Bank Rate has come down from 6 to 3½, and fell to 3 per cent. last July, and yet there has been a substantial contraction in banking credits, and the rise in prices which ought to have appeared as the result of the lower level of money rates has been conspicuous by its absence. As was recorded in the *Economist* of October 7th, our Index Number total was 4189 for last September, the lowest touched since March, 1916, and little more than half its figure—8352—when Bank Rate was more than twice its present height. It thus appears that the policy of raising Bank Rate in order to influence prices may be effective—where it is a question of producing a fall—by its influence on the temper and expectations of borrowers, who restrict their demands because they are afraid of high rates that they may have to pay; though whole-hearted acceptance of this conclusion is made difficult by the fact that credit expansion continued long after the official screw had been turned. But even if those who govern our monetary policy can terrify industry, by high rates, into drawing in its horns, it evidently cannot induce it to put them out again, and to emerge from its shell ready for a fresh campaign of enterprise, merely by the offer of cheap money when other conditions are adverse. It seems to be the case, as might indeed have been expected from all that we know of the business man, that as long as industry can rely with confidence on a profitable market for any goods that it may turn out at continually rising prices, it can only be deterred from production by rates for money such as are nowadays hardly conceivable in the Western world. While, on the other hand, if trade conditions are such that markets are unresponsive even in the case of goods offered below cost of production, it is doubtful whether enterprise will be quickened with anything like the speed that the scheme of price regulation implies, even by the offer of credit facilities on terms which are abnormally cheap.

Returning to the question of the year's figures, it will be seen from the table given below, showing the Bank of England's position at different periods, that between June 29, 1921, and June 28, 1922, there had been a decline of 22 millions in the Government and Other securities held. During the same period the note circulation had declined by six millions, in spite of further small additions to the Bank of England notes held in the Currency Note Reserve, and since the Public deposits contained one million more, there was thus a net reduction of nearly 17 millions in the Other deposits. As usual, one must put in a caution against too implicit confidence in the validity of these figures as a basis for drawing inferences concerning the monetary position. In the first place, because the date of the Bank Return was in 1922 a day further than in 1921 from the end of the half-year, and the expansion that is then usual. And in the second, because the Other deposits contain many accounts besides those of the great Joint Stock banks.

(In Million £.)

June 30.	Capital and Reserves.							Acceptances and Endorsements.							Deposits (including Undivided Profits, &c.).							Total Liabilities.								
	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.		
Bank of Liverpool and Martins	2.3	2.6	2.6	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.8	0.8	2.3	2.4	2.4	3.0	4.4	1.8	1.9	19.6	41.6	43.2	45.2	65.0	85.9	69.0	22.7	46.6	53.2	72.4	94.1	84.8	74.7	
Barclays	3.7	0.7	0.7	7.1	15.7	23.8	23.9	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	3.2	4.4	5.3	6.1	61.9	105.0	130.8	135.0	281.9	314.2	332.2	67.4	113.6	140.2	304.0	351.1	362.6	350.8	
(Lon. Provincial and South-Western) ..	2.6	2.6	5.1	5.1	23.4	23.8	23.9	1.0	1.2	2.3	2.3	6.4	13.5	6.6	5.7	23.5	21.8	82.5	82.5	281.9	314.2	332.2	23.9	32.4	90.0	304.0	351.1	362.6	350.8	
County	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	22.5	21.8	82.5	82.5	281.9	314.2	332.2	26.1	36.6	90.0	304.0	351.1	362.6	350.8	
Glyn, Mills	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.1	2.0	0.9	1.9	10.7	21.8	28.4	38.0	28.6	24.3	24.2	20.5	23.9	25.6	40.7	32.2	26.9	27.8	
Lloyds	8.6	8.6	9.0	18.1	24.1	24.4	24.4	3.9	5.6	6.2	6.2	1.1	15.7	16.3	7.7	41.0	49.4	58.9	309.3	324.3	343.0	119.8	155.3	201.8	243.1	364.7	374.9	374.0	374.0	
(Capital and Counties)	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	37.4	47.5	58.6	309.3	324.3	343.0	45.2	53.8	62.8	94.1	109.8	119.8	119.8	119.8	
London Joint	4.1	4.1	4.3	10.6	21.6	21.7	21.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	37.4	47.5	58.6	309.3	324.3	343.0	119.8	155.3	201.8	243.1	364.7	374.9	374.0	374.0	
City and Midland	8.0	8.0	8.3	10.6	21.6	21.7	21.8	7.4	7.5	8.3	16.1	21.7	16.3	17.7	17.7	37.4	47.5	58.6	309.3	324.3	343.0	119.8	155.3	201.8	243.1	364.7	374.9	374.0	374.0	
City and West	7.8	7.8	8.3	10.6	21.6	21.7	21.8	7.4	7.5	8.3	16.1	21.7	16.3	17.7	17.7	37.4	47.5	58.6	309.3	324.3	343.0	119.8	155.3	201.8	243.1	364.7	374.9	374.0	374.0	
London County West & City	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.7	14.6	17.3	18.0	4.1	4.4	8.1	12.3	17.6	12.6	10.5	10.5	48.2	117.1	130.4	310.1	322.6	309.5	105.4	129.0	161.7	252.2	337.5	339.6	338.0	338.0	
Manch. and County ..	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	41.5	56.9	66.9	310.1	322.6	309.5	57.1	64.6	73.1	94.1	109.8	119.8	119.8	119.8	
Manch. and L'pool ..	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	25.3	35.1	41.3	50.8	59.6	59.9	32.7	40.0	46.3	55.1	64.6	61.7	63.8	63.8	
Nat. Provincial and Union	4.0	4.8	9.5	13.8	15.0	18.2	18.2	0.7	1.6	2.9	3.9	5.7	3.4	3.9	3.9	71.2	95.8	175.9	288.0	356.3	265.4	76.9	103.2	138.2	250.7	277.0	287.2	291.5	291.5	
(Sheffield Banking) ..	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.8	5.2	6.2	7.2	7.2	26.6	51.3	59.9	98.2	250.7	277.0	287.2	291.5	291.5	
Union of Manchester ..	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.3	2.6	10.8	8.0	8.0	3.8	5.2	6.2	7.2	7.2	26.6	51.3	59.9	98.2	250.7	277.0	287.2	291.5	291.5	
Williams, Deacon's ..	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.1	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	16.2	21.3	28.8	37.6	37.9	36.0	18.5	24.2	31.8	41.4	42.5	40.1	42.6	42.6	
Liabilities	70.9	73.3	76.3	95.6	119.0	132.7	128.6	37.6	39.3	43.0	62.1	87.8	52.9	52.5	52.5	751.0	1,073.2	1,355.7	1,687.4	1,987.2	1,857.0	869.2	1,186.4	1,474.0	1,519.5	1,519.5	1,519.5	1,519.5	1,519.5	
% of Total Liab.	82.2	82.2	82.2	82.2	82.2	82.2	82.2	44.3	44.3	44.3	44.3	44.3	44.3	44.3	44.3	87.4	90.4	92.0	91.3	90.1	91.5	91.3	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.9

June 30.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.							Investments.							Discounts, Loans, and Advances (including Money at Call and Short Notice).							Cover for Acceptances, Promises, and Sundries.								
	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.		
Bank of Liverpool and Martins	1.9	4.3	9.1	15.5	8.3	9.2	8.0	3.2	10.8	15.1	15.4	16.7	16.6	13.4	17.1	30.7	28.1	40.4	64.7	56.0	49.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.1	4.4	9.0	9.4		
Barclays	0.8	0.4	22.9	16.4	46.9	52.2	53.0	5.2	26.3	28.2	12.3	54.9	63.4	92.4	43.2	63.6	84.0	191.9	217.8	229.7	194.9	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		
(Lon. Provincial and South-Western) ..	3.4	6.2	16.4	16.4	52.2	58.3	53.0	13.1	26.3	28.2	12.3	54.9	63.4	92.4	15.1	19.2	57.8	191.9	217.8	229.7	194.9	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		
County	1.3	2.5	2.7	2.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	2.9	4.1	4.2	6.0	7.7	4.7	4.6	6.2	6.2	10.5	10.8	11.2	13.4	11.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Glyn, Mills	2.9	2.9	3.1	10.3	5.5	5.2	5.4	2.9	5.4	8.6	7.9	7.5	6.4	10.2	13.1	14.4	13.0	21.1	16.9	14.0	11.0	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.2	2.2	
Lloyds	18.2	28.2	41.2	87.2	54.6	47.8	47.9	12.9	39.7	39.1	59.4	74.7	74.0	94.9	80.8	78.9	112.2	177.1	215.1	239.5	219.7	6.8	8.4	8.9	19.4	20.8	13.6	12.5	12.5	
(Capital and Counties)	6.3	6.3	12.2	87.2	54.6	47.8	47.9	5.4	15.9	15.4	59.4	74.7	74.0	94.9	80.8	78.9	112.2	177.1	215.1	239.5	219.7	6.8	8.4	8.9	19.4	20.8	13.6	12.5	12.5	
London Joint	5.8	6.5	10.1	81.6	69.9	68.3	61.9	6.4	12.1	16.4	52.2	70.8	56.0	71.3	76.8	113.1	149.3	239.8	245.2	264.2	248.8	3.4	3.9	3.9	20.6	25.6	20.8	22.7	22.7	
City and Midland	15.1	38.5	53.7	33.8	50.3	39.3	39.6	9.8	35.8	39.2	51.0	53.6	56.8	59.6	74.9	68.1	146.9	239.0	237.7	214.3	214.3	8.1	6.3	6.3	11.4	15.3	16.5	14.5	14.5	
London County West & City	19.5	28.9	42.9	33.8	50.3	39.3	39.6	9.8	35.8	39.2	51.0	53.6	56.8	59.6	74.9	68.1	146.9	239.0	237.7	214.3	214.3	8.1	6.3	6.3	11.4	15.3	16.5	14.5	14.5	
Par. s.	7.9	10.2	14.2	6.2	4.2	5.1	4.4	1.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.7	3.7	6.3	7.6	3.4	8.4	11.0	13.4	13.6	15.2	4.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	
Manch. & County	3.1	5.4	6.2	6.4	7.3	7.1	6.8	3.3	9.2	8.7	9.1	8.6	7.2	18.1	21.6	23.1	29.3	37.6	46.7	46.5	38.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	
Nat. Provincial and Union	10.7	14.2	21.5	35.5	36.2	39.9	37.1	15.3	27.1	45.7	51.9	63.0	52.9	68.8	50.9	60.3	131.1	163.3	172.1	187.1	187.6	6.7	4.3	4.3	..	..	7.3	8.0	8.0	
(Sheffield Banking) ..	6.5	8.9	11.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.8	1.5	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.4	18.4	17.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Union of Manchester ..	1.0	1.3	2.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.8	1.5	1.9	4.7	8.5	19.4	2.8	5.2	6.2	8.3	9.4	18.4	17.6	17.6	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3.0	3.8	3.8	
Williams, Deacon's ..	2.5	3.7	5.1	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	2.5	4.1	6.2	7.1	8.5	6.4	8.1	12.5	14.9	19.0	25.9	27.3	26.1	27.5	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.3
Assets	116.7	193.7	256.9	341.2	300.9	290.3	279.2	115.4	280.5	277.8	340.2	385.2	351.6	440.5	578.6	556.8	561.8	1,163.4	1,381.5	1,399.7	1,234.0	58.5	55.4	55.6	74.7	105.6	81.2	79.3	79.3	
% of Total Assets ..	18.5	16.2	17.4	14.4	14.1	14.1	14.1	13.4	23.6	20.9	17.8	18.6	17.0	21.7	26.9	25.5	25.8	60.5	61.9	65.0	65.0	62.2	4.7	3.8	3.8	5.1	5.1	3.9	3.9	3.9

* Includes Money at Call and Short Notice.
* December 31, 1920.

June 30.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.							Investments.							Discounts, Loans, and Advances (including Money at Call and Short Notice).							Cover for Acceptances, Promises, and Sundries.						
	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Bank of Liverpool and Martins	1.9	4.3	9.1	15.5	8.3	9.2	8.0	3.2	10.8	15.1	15.4	16.7	16.6	13.4	17.1	30.7	28.1	40.4	64.7	56.0	49.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.1	4.4	8.0	3.4
Barclays	0.8	0.8	1.1	22.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.5	2.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
(Lon. Provincial and South-Western) ..	3.4	6.4	16.4	46.9	52.2	58.3	53.0	13.1	26.3	28.2	54.9	63.4	68.5	92.4	43.2	63.6	84.0	191.9	217.8	229.7	194.9	2.1	4.4	5.0	10.3	17.7	11.1	10.5
County's	3.4	6.4	16.4	46.9	52.2	58.3	53.0	3.9	5.9	12.9	54.9	63.4	68.5	92.4	16.7	20.8	57.8	191.9	217.8	229.7	194.9	0.3	0.5	3.3	10.3	17.7	11.1	10.5
Glyn, Mills	1.3	2.7	4.0	3.4	1.9	2.2	2.2	5.9	4.1	4.2	6.0	7.7	4.7	4.6	6.2	9.0	10.5	10.8	11.2	13.4	11.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.5
Lloyds	2.9	2.9	8.1	10.3	5.5	5.2	5.4	2.9	5.4	8.6	7.9	7.5	6.4	10.2	13.1	14.4	13.0	21.1	16.9	14.0	10.0	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.2
(Capital and Counties)	6.3	6.3	12.2	87.2	54.0	47.8	47.9	12.9	39.7	39.1	59.4	74.7	74.0	94.9	80.8	78.9	112.2	177.1	215.1	239.5	219.7	6.7	8.4	8.9	19.4	20.8	13.6	12.5
(London Joint	5.8	6.5	10.1	81.6	69.9	68.3	61.9	6.4	12.1	16.4	52.2	70.8	56.0	71.3	9.2	39.3	35.4	239.8	245.2	264.2	248.8	3.4	3.9	3.6	20.6	25.6	20.8	22.7
City and Midland ..	15.1	36.5	53.7	33.8	50.3	39.8	39.6	8.6	35.8	39.2	55.1	53.6	56.8	59.6	76.8	113.1	149.3	239.8	245.2	264.2	248.8	9.6	10.3	11.9	20.6	25.6	20.8	22.7
Lon. County West. & Par. B.	7.5	10.2	42.9	33.8	50.3	39.8	39.6	8.6	16.1	51.0	55.1	53.6	56.8	59.6	74.9	68.1	146.9	239.0	237.0	214.3	8.1	6.8	11.4	15.3	20.9	16.5	14.5	
Manchester & County ..	3.0	3.4	4.2	6.2	4.2	5.1	4.4	1.7	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.7	3.7	6.3	35.8	34.6	8.4	11.0	18.4	13.6	15.2	4.6	3.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5
Manch. & L'pool	3.1	5.4	6.2	6.4	7.3	7.1	6.8	3.1	9.2	8.7	9.1	8.6	7.2	18.1	21.6	23.1	29.3	97.6	46.7	46.5	38.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.9	0.9	0.8
Nat. Provincial and Union	10.7	14.2	21.5	35.5	36.2	39.9	37.1	15.3	27.1	45.7	51.9	63.0	52.9	68.8	50.9	60.9	121.1	163.8	172.1	187.1	167.6	6.7	4.3	..	5.7	7.3	8.0	..
(Sheffield Banking) ..	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.8	2.6	3.9	3.7	0.8	2.0	2.4	2.6	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.4	18.7	18.1	18.7	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	..
Union of Manchester ..	1.0	1.3	2.6	4.1	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.8	1.8	1.9	4.7	8.5	19.4	2.8	5.2	6.2	8.3	9.4	23.4	17.6	(a) 17.1	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.8	3.8	(a) 2.4	..
Williams, Deacons' ..	2.5	9.7	5.1	6.9	6.4	5.8	5.7	2.5	4.1	6.2	7.1	8.5	6.4	8.1	12.5	14.9	19.0	25.9	27.3	26.1	18.7	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.3	1.8	1.3
Assets	116.7	193.7	256.9	341.2	300.9	290.3	279.2	115.4	280.5	227.9	340.2	385.2	351.6	440.5	578.6	556.8	561.8	1,163.4	1,381.5	1,399.7	1,234.0	58.5	55.4	55.6	74.7	105.6	81.2	79.3
% of Total Assets ..	18.5	16.2	17.4	17.8	14.4	14.1	13.9	13.4	23.6	20.3	17.8	18.6	17.0	21.7	66.9	55.5	55.9	60.5	61.3	65.0	60.6	6.2	4.7	3.8	8.9	5.1	3.9	3.9
(a) December 31 1921																												

BANK OF ENGLAND.
(Million £'s.)

	June 28, 1922.	Comparison with					
		July 1, 1914.	June 27, 1917.	June 26, 1918.	July 2, 1919.	June 30, 1920.	June 29, 1921.
Rest	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public deposits	16.3	— 0.6	— 22.7	— 19.3	— 8.1	— 0.7	— 1.1
Other deposits	115.1	+ 60.4	— 10.2	— 13.9	— 55.0	— 61.0	— 18.7
Govt. securities	49.2	+ 38.2	— 27.9	— 2.5	— 49.5	— 40.9	— 12.0
Other securities	75.7	+ 26.0	— 24.5	— 25.1	— 7.8	— 27.5	— 10.1
Notes issued	145.6	+ 88.7	+ 72.2	+ 62.5	+ 40.7	+ 10.2	+ 0.6
Total coin and bullion	128.9	+ 88.8	+ 62.0	+ 63.6	+ 40.3	+ 11.0	+ 0.5
Note circulation	123.0	+ 93.3	+ 83.6	+ 69.4	+ 43.1	+ 3.0	— 6.0
Gold and silver in banking dept.	1.8	+ 0.2	— 0.7	+ 1.2	— 0.3	+ 0.7	—
Reserve	24.3	— 1.5	— 12.3	— 5.7	— 2.8	+ 8.0	+ 6.5
Proportion	18½	— 21½%	— 34%	+ 4%	+ 4½%	+ 10%	+ 6½%

When we come to the figures of the Joint Stock banks we find a decline of 11 millions in their holding of Cash in Hand and at Bank of England. As already recorded their deposits had fallen during the year by 30 millions, so that it will be seen that the proportion between their Cash and Deposits, which was 15.3 on June 30, 1921, has now declined to 15.0. This decline is not at all serious, but it may perhaps account for the "stickiness" of which the Discount Market has often lately complained in the attitude of the banks towards borrowers in Lombard Street. As our readers know, ingenious theories have been put forward to account for the alleged reduction of the Short-loan fund in

London. It has been suggested that this has been brought about by the policy of the Government in redeeming Treasury Bills held by banks out of money subscribed for Treasury Bonds by the banks' depositors. This process, however, would, if one thinks it out, have the effect of reducing the banks' deposits and, at the same time, their investments or discounts, and leaving their holding of cash unchanged, with its proportion to liabilities consequently the higher. In fact, as has been shown, the opposite has happened, and the reduction in the banks' lending power may be very simply accounted for by the slight decline in their cash holding, both absolutely and in proportion to deposits. Other interesting features in the aggregate balance-sheet are the very large increase in investments, which have risen by nearly 90 millions, and the still larger decrease in discounts, loans, and advances (including money lent in Lombard Street and Capel Court), this item having declined during the year by no less than 105½ millions. Presumably the greater part of this decline is connected with the reduction in volume of outstanding Treasury Bills, but, at the same time, the great advance in investments seems to indicate that the banks' Treasury Bills that have been paid off have been largely met not out of money provided by the banks' customers, but out of money found by the banks themselves.

BANK SHARES.

CHEAP money is never supposed to be popular with banks, or an inducement to investors to put their money into bank shares, and in this respect the developments of the past twelve months have not been of assistance to the bank share market. On the other hand, bank shares of a good kind have provided the puzzled investor, sometimes at his wits' end to find a good security with a decent yield, with almost exactly the article that he was looking out for. At the present time, with politics distrusted at home and abroad, and trade showing the first unmistakable signs of revival, the capitalist is not as anxious as he was in the early part of the year to buy shares or stock before the price was against him, but in the spring, when everyone was discussing the probability of war loan being converted in 1929, and conversion loan was being talked up to 80 and beyond, when good preference shares and debentures were being hunted for in every market, bank shares were naturally not overlooked. A sound investment combining a yield of over 5 per cent., with little or no risk, and a fair prospect of capital appreciation, they were of a quality much to the prevailing taste.

The result of this movement in investment values was to reduce very considerably the yield on good bank shares, but, on the other hand, the difficulties involved in the back-wash of the industrial slump, and the stagnation of cheap money, tended to keep the price from rising, though the market was working on the basis of a lower yield. In the table below we show some of the profits and dividends of the more important foreign and colonial banks whose balance-sheets are set out elsewhere in this issue:—

Name of Bank.	Year Ended.	Whole Year's Net Profits and Dividends.				
		1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Bank of Australia	Oct. 10	£ 438,746	£ 460,768	£ 573,051	£ 588,389	£ —
Bank of New Zealand	Mar. 31	17 %	18 %	13 %	13 %	13 %
Bank of New South Wales	Mar. 31	386,606	438,021	469,045	827,255	682,043
Colonial Bank	June 30	553,388	452,970	606,644	752,566	708,619
English, Scottish, and Australian	June 30	133,168	133,179	170,179	267,975	—
National Bank of Australia	Mar. 31	169,482	235,194	299,781	336,610	350,168
National Bank of New Zealand	Mar. 31	148,996	186,882	256,299	326,822	212,726
Union Bank of Australia	Feb. 28	326,160	359,321	458,102	516,341	536,261
Chartered Bank of India	Dec. 31	402,795	409,222	204 %	204 %	204 %
Hong Kong and Shanghai	Dec. 31	£ 65,373	£ 58,888	£ 102,645	£ 121,363	£ 144,171
Imperial Bank of Persia	Dec. 31	£ 65,373	£ 58,888	£ 102,645	£ 121,363	£ 144,171
National Bank of India	Dec. 31	£ 65,373	£ 58,888	£ 102,645	£ 121,363	£ 144,171

Name of Bank.	Year Ended.	Whole Year's Net Profits and Dividends.				
		1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Imperial Bank of Persia	Sept. 20	£ 78,148	£ 75,421	£ 76,242	£ 82,904	£ —
National Bank of India	Dec. 31	8/ p.s. 1	8/ p.s. 1	8/ p.s. 1	8/ p.s. 1	8/ p.s. 1
Anglo-South American	June 30	445,639	511,980	949,156	693,175	614,138
London and Brazilian	Jan. 31	12½ %	15 %	25 %	15 %	12 %
Bank of British West Africa	Mar. 31	71,514	83,767	125,147	139,803	105,935
National Bank of South Africa	Mar. 31	347,602	437,871	515,478	338,881	116,457
Standard Bank of South Africa	Dec. 31	406,712	540,358	634,075	759,377 (t)	502,313

† Free of income-tax. (t) Accounts for 15 months to March 31, 1921.

This table indicates clearly enough that many of the overseas banks have not been having an easy time. Heavy failures of trading firms in various parts of the world have landed considerable losses on the banks that financed them, and dividends have been more commonly reduced than raised, and in one case the bank made a big loss instead of a very large profit. In consequence the prices of foreign and colonial bank shares have not risen in the same proportion as those of many other high-class securities, the reduction in the yield necessary to adjust the market to the new monetary conditions being produced by the falling dividend without an increase in price. The table which follows shows the prices of a number of British, foreign and Colonial banks in 1914, 1921, and 1922, and also gives the yields obtainable at recent prices:—

Share.	Am't of Share.	Paid up.	Price July 30, 1914.	Price Sept. 30, 1921.	Price Sept. 29, 1922.	Yield.
Bank of England	Stock	100	247½	182½	230	5 %
Barclays Bank, "A"	4	1	..	6½	7½	5½ %
Do "B"	1	1	..	2½	2½	5½ %
Lloyds Bank	5	1	..	2½	2½	5½ %
London Jnt. City & Midland	12	24	..	6½	8½	5½ %
Lon. County West. & Parr's	20	5	..	14	17½	5½ %
Nat. Prov. & Union of Eng.	20	4	..	8½	10½	6 %
Bank of Australasia	5	5	118½ (k)	83 (k)	12½	5½ %
Bank of New Zealand	1	1	101 (b)	32	24	5½ %
Bank of New South Wales	20	20	43½	32	34	5½ %
Colonial Bank	20	6	53	32	64	5½ %
English, Scottish, & Austr'n	25	124	19½	17	22½	5½ %
National Bank of Australasia	8	5	64	6	7½	6½ %
Union Bank of Australia	15	2½	54	5½	6½	5½ %
Bank of Montreal	\$100	\$100	..	\$49	\$50	5½ %
Canadian Bk. of Commerce	\$100	\$100	..	\$44½	\$42	6½ %
Royal Bank of Canada	\$100	\$100	..	\$46½	\$44½	6½ %
Union Bank of Canada	\$100	\$100	..	\$34½	\$29	6½ %
Chartered Bank of India, &c.	5	5	65 (t)	14½	17½	5½ %
Eastern	10	5	5 (t)	5	8½	6½ %
Hongkong and Shanghai	\$125	\$125	£80	£96½	£115	6½ %
Imperial Bank of Persia	64	64	78	5	6	6½ %
National Bank of India	25	12½	41	37	41½	6½ %

Share.	Am't of Share.	Paid up.	Price July 30, 1914.	Price Sept. 30, 1921.	Price Sept. 29, 1922.	Yield.
Anglo-South American	10	5	7½	29½	8½	19½ %
London and Brazilian Bank	20	10	11½	11½	11½	7½ %
Bank of British West Africa	10	4	7	5	5	4½ %
National Bank of S. Africa	10	10	11½	11½	11½	5½ %
Standard Bank of S. Africa	20	5	11	11½	11½	7 %

† Free of tax. (b) £54 shares fully paid. (c) £10 with £4 paid. (k) £40 fully paid shares. (t) £20 shares fully paid.

Going through this table from the bottom to the top we note that the price of the African banks' shares has scarcely varied, but, in fact, the return per cent. has fallen very materially. The Bank of British West Africa, for example, at the same price, yields over one per cent. less than last year, and the National Bank of South Africa nearly 4 per cent. less, while the Standard Bank of South Africa returns about ½ per cent. less. It says much for the regard in which these banks are held that, in spite of the difficulties through which they have been passing, there has been no pressure to sell, and shareholders are content to wait until better prices return. Among the Eastern banks, share prices, as a whole, have risen, and the average yield has dropped by 1½ to 2 per cent., Chartered bank shares having risen three points, with a reduction in yield from about 7 to about 5½ per cent. Canadian bank shares have not altered much, and there is, perhaps, less difference in the yield here than elsewhere. Australian shares have been firm, and the yields are now, for the most part, below 6 per cent., where last year they varied from 6 to 7 per cent.

Among the great English banks there has been a fairly general appreciation, and the yield in almost every case is well below 6 per cent.; the following table gives a comparison of the yields in September, 1921, and September, 1922:—

	Yield per Cent.	1921.	1922.
Bank of England	5½	..	5
Barclays "A"	6½	..	5½
Barclays "B"	6½	..	5½
Lloyds	6½	..	5½
London Joint City and Midland	6½	..	5½
London County Westminster & Parr's	7½	..	5½
National Provincial and Union	7½	..	6

THE AMERICAN BANKING POSITION.
(BY OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

ALTHOUGH improvement in the general banking situation in the United States has not been so marked or spectacular as in the preceding six months, nevertheless the position has steadily grown stronger. Several interesting and important changes are disclosed by a comparison of the latest consolidated statement of the twelve Federal Reserve banks with that of April 26th of this year. Total gold reserves of those institutions, for instance, increased during that period approximately \$94,000,000 to more than \$3,000,000,000, a new high record; the gain in gold reserves this year, however, has been much smaller than in 1921. Since January 1st the increase amounts to only \$214,300,000, as against an increase of \$669,800,000 in the corresponding period of last year. Total reserves have increased \$88,166,000 since last April, and now stand at \$3,213,000,000, in round numbers, while total resources, amounting to \$5,060,694,000, as of October 4th, are some \$200,600,000 larger. Bills purchased in the open market, aggregating \$235,458,000, show an increase of nearly \$153,000,000 over the April figures. In the six months prior to last April there was a heavy decrease in bills on hand; but rediscounts have been increasing lately, and the latest statement for the entire system reveals a total of \$669,654,000, or about \$87,000,000 larger than on April 26th. There has been only a moderate gain in earning assets. On the liability side perhaps the most noteworthy changes are in deposits and note circulation. Deposits now total \$1,877,697,000, representing an increase of \$44,400,000 approximately, as compared with the April statement, while Federal Reserve notes to the extent of \$2,274,651,000 are at present in circulation, an increase

We are getting, on the present scale of dividends, very near a 5 per cent. basis in this list.

As the very cautious type of investor is sometimes deterred from buying bank shares by the uncalled liability attaching to them, we append a list of a few shares on which there is either no uncalled liability, or only a comparatively small one:—

Bank.	Denomination.	Amount Paid Up.	Price, Sep. 30, 1921.	Price, Sep. 29, 1922.	Yield %
Anglo-South American ..	£ 10	£ 5	8½	9½	8 4 3
Australian B. of Commerce	1	1	1½	1½	5 15 0
B. of New Zealand	1	1	2½	2½	4 17 0
Barclays "A"	4	4	6½	7½	5 3 3
Do "B"	1	1	2½	2½	5 6 9
British Overseas, "A" ord.	5	5	5½	5½	5 9 0
Lloyds	5	1	2½	2½	5 14 0
London and Liverpool B. of Commerce	10	10	5	7	5 15 0
London County Westminster and Parr's	1	1	2½	2½	5 0 0
Lon. Joint City & Mid..	2½	2½	7½	8½	5 1 9
Munster and Leinster	5	2	5½	6½	6 3 3
National B. of S. Africa ..	10	10	10½	10½	3 17 0
Williams, Deacons "A" ..	5	1	1½	2½	5 11 6
Do "B"	1	1	1½	2½	5 2 0

In estimating the uncalled liability the investor must take into account not the nominal value, but the market value of the share, for the higher the share stands, the less serious is the proportionate liability.

Taking bank shares as a whole, we may still say that they offer an attractive field to the investor. Many banks are still dealing with problems arising out of the industrial slump and the fall in commodity values, but the position has been firmly handled, and as trade revives, and opportunities for employment of money increase, bank profits are likely to rise, and in these days a sound share yielding 5 per cent., and offering a good prospect of higher profits in the future, is not a security to be overlooked.

of more than \$117,000,000. The increase in the amount of such circulation is a comparatively recent development, and no doubt reflects, among other things, the larger pay rolls necessitated by the re-employment of men long idle on account of strikes, and the employment of additional labour in many lines of trade and industry that have shown a revival in the past month or two. An interesting and perhaps significant development recently is the fact that banks, in New York at least, are putting gold certificates into circulation. As is well known, such certificates, or "Yellow-backs" as they are commonly called here, are legal tender notes certifying that the equivalent in gold has been deposited with the United States Treasury, and is payable to the bearer of such notes on demand. For a long time past the paper currency in circulation has consisted almost entirely of silver certificates—that is, notes payable in silver upon demand; as a rule banks have not been handing out the gold certificates unless requested to do so. Now, however, "Yellow-backs" are becoming quite plentiful, and banks here are paying them out without special request from the payees. From this fact it is inferred in some quarters that the banks are endeavouring to put a portion of their enormous gold holdings into circulation. What their object may be is not entirely clear; various opinions are expressed on that point. One suggestion worth noting, perhaps, is that the banks feel that the retention of such large gold reserves and continued reports of them in their weekly statements might serve to encourage inflation, and they are trying, therefore, to reduce their holdings in the manner indicated. Obviously, if a substantial part of the gold now held by Federal

Reserve banks is put into circulation (by being deposited with the Federal Treasury against notes issued) their gold reserves would be reduced.

The improvement that has taken place in the past few months has embraced all of the twelve Federal Reserve districts, as is shown by their present reserve ratios and discount rates. On the other hand, there have been some interesting changes in the relative position or strength of different Federal Reserve banks, as shown by their reserve ratios. In April these, except at New York, ranged from 58 per cent. to 78.8 per cent., whereas the present range, including all the twelve banks, is from 64.4 per cent. to 86.3 per cent. The strengthening of reserves has been followed by a general reduction in discount rates by all Federal Reserve institutions. Last spring a 5 per cent. discount rate prevailed at Minneapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, and Dallas, and 4½ per cent. at the eight other centres. The present rate, which has been in force for some time at New York, Boston, and San Francisco, is 4 per cent., while all other Federal Reserve banks have a 4½ per cent. discount rate. There appears to be little, if any, likelihood of lower rates in any central reserve districts during the remainder of this year at least.

All of the Federal reserve banks report a remarkable improvement in recent months in the position of the individual member banks in their respective districts; there has been further and general liquidation of frozen credits, a strengthening of other credits outstanding, and a marked decrease in the number and amount of over-extensions.

Commercial paper discounts, which during the summer ruled at 4½ per cent., have lately shown a firmer tendency; prime names now discount at 4½ per cent., and less desirable paper at 4¾ per cent. The business paper market has lately shown increasing activity, reflecting the revival of trade and industry. Time money likewise is more active, especially for the longer periods, and within the past week or two rates have stiffened somewhat; 30 to 60-day funds now command 4½ per cent., while loans for three to six months are being negotiated at 4¾ per cent., with the borrowing demand confined principally to the longer maturities. Fixed-date funds are being offered more freely than for some time past, but demand for accommodation is also increasing. The new acceptance

rates recently established are more in line with the rates for call and time money, and with Treasury certificates of indebtedness, and it is expected that hereafter a larger part of the money which has been attracted to Treasury certificates and short-term money markets will find lodgment in prime bankers' bills.

A particularly noteworthy development is the action of banks in shifting funds from investments to loans. During the past year, especially during the business depression, the tendency was in the opposite direction. According to reliable estimates, banks throughout the country absorbed in the past year or so at least \$1,500,000,000 of securities, on account of the poor demand for loans. With funds rapidly piling up, they found it necessary to invest in securities, or else allow such accumulations to remain idle. Most of their investments are in Government bonds, eligible at Federal reserve banks as a basis of discounts and currency issues, and are liquid assets. With the demand for funds in the regular course of trade, and industry increasing, banks are now showing a disposition to turn their funds from investment securities to commercial loans. In fact, there has been a decided increase in the volume of such loans during the past few weeks, especially among interior banks.

Conditions generally are far better than they were a few months ago. The strikes have practically been ended. Abundant crops are assured, with the exception of cotton, which now promises a short yield. Enactment of the tariff has removed a big uncertainty. Domestic trade and industry generally are reviving. As to prospects for the future, one of our foremost bankers, in addressing the American Bankers' Convention here this week, said in substance that, after a year of easing money, we have begun to move forward again. The country, however, has not yet cause for unbounded confidence, he added, but has many obstacles to overcome, many important problems to solve. Regarding the effect of the new tariff, we will be fortunate indeed, he remarked, if we do not find that it protects many industries which do not require protection, while shutting out our farmers and manufacturers from numerous foreign markets that are ready to purchase our merchandise and commodities. Those views are widely entertained in financial and business circles.

GERMAN BANKING.

(BY OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

No big banking deals have been announced since the fusion of the Deutsche Bank with the Deutsche Petroleum Company. Banking, like everything else, is dominated by the currency depreciation, which causes paradoxically at least as much difficulty to banks as to industrial and commercial concerns. The banks' complaint that the depreciation makes business ever less profitable, however, is hard to understand, as while administration expenses rise rapidly, the totals of transactions rise at least in accord; and as most banking charges are a percentage upon transaction totals, gross profits should be in general unchanged. While the merchant usually keeps to his old percentage of profit, and covers his great increase in expenditure out of the increase in his nominal turnover, the banks have constantly to raise their percentage rates. A fortnight ago the Berlin banks decided to treble their commissions on sales and purchases of fixed-interest and dividend-bearing securities, but the rates later announced shown only a little over 100 per cent. increase. Foreign bonds, for which commissions are trebled, are an exception. The banks are still heavily burdened with statistical and informatory work for the taxation authorities. The agitation for rescindment of the so-called "deposit-compulsion," under which divi-

dends and interest are paid only when the scrip is deposited in the banks, continues. This measure, it is held, tends to keep the quotation of State loans low; and it is further alleged that the suspension of banking secrecy is a cause of hoarding and of the shortness of cash. The repeal of these measures was lately considered, but it is not likely. The banks are now mostly making up accounts in units not smaller than 50 pfennigs; but within the last months the 50-pfennig and 1-mark notes have hardly been seen; and the present smallest circulating note, that for 2 marks, is only about a quarter of the price of a newspaper, and is tending to disappear.

The emission operations of the banks have been less active than they should be if measured by the currency depreciation, the cause being the tightness of money. This year up to the end of September, increases of capitalisation totalled 19,595 millions, against 9,428 millions in the same months of last year; issues by new foundations, 8,383 millions, against 2,726 millions, and bond issues, 9,009 millions, against 3,891 millions. As between the end of September, 1921, and the end of September, 1922, the wholesale price-level rose about thirtyfold, the real value of new capital issues is much smaller than last year. The banks have not yet resumed the issuing of monthly balance-sheets. The last balances, published in June, show the position at the close of last year as follows:—

	Capital and Reserves, Millions of Marks.		Percentage of Liabilities Thereto.		Liquid Assets, in Millions of Marks.		Percentage of Liquid to Total Assets.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
Deutsche	850	950	2794	4088	19,292	31,041	88.8	79.9
Dresdner	370	370	2006	2006	9,188	14,239	78.6	73.2
Disconto	500	679	2422	3279	8,805	15,585	72.7	69.9
Commerz.	270	702	2087	1368	3,674	6,370	70.2	66.8
Darmstaedter. .	285	613	2274	2323	4,334	9,711	71.4	67.7
National	200	466	1450	1239	1,699	4,072	65.0	72.0
Handelsg.	300	200	1717	2348	1,644	3,058	66.2	65.1
Mitteldeutsche.	110	300	1497	828	1,223	1,865	78.8	75.0

The reserves of all the banks increased materially during last year, that of the Deutsche by 72 millions to 450 millions, the Disconto by 100 millions to 240 millions, the Dresdner by 280½ millions to 360½ millions, and the Darmstaedter by 149 millions to 196 millions. Treasury bills continue to be the chief investment. The exact figures are not forthcoming for all banks; but at the beginning of this year seven of them (Handels-gesellschaft excluded) had invested in Treasury bills 50.5 milliards out of 111.3 milliards deposits. The amount is certainly much larger now. The eight above banks' holdings of bills and non-interest bearing Treasury bills fell from 60 per cent. of deposits in the balance-sheet for the end of 1920 to 46 per cent. in the balance-sheet for 1921. Apparently, a smaller proportion of public money is going to finance State needs; and the proportion of commercial bills is on the increase, although the gold value, and even buying-power, of the money raised on these bills is still a mere trifle of what it was before the war. The Deutsche Bank's combined holdings of bills and Treasury bills increased from 1,018 millions in 1915 to 24,244 millions at the close of last year; the Disconto's from 629 millions to 8,878 millions, the Dresdner's from 353 millions to 8,479 millions, and the Darmstaedter's from 191 millions to 3,670 millions. By far the greatest part of the increase represents Floating Debt liabilities of the Federal Finance Ministry.

As with all public companies, the nominal increase of banking companies' profits and dividends is much more than obliterated by the fall in the currency value. The Deutsche's 24 per cent. dividend, on a share capital of 400 millions, amounted when declared last summer to

1,477,000 gold marks; in 1913 the Bank paid 12½ per cent. on 200 millions, or 25,000,000 gold marks. The gold dividend had therefore fallen to about 1-17th of the pre-war dividend; and the buying-power dividend probably to one-eighth.

(In Millions of Marks.)

	Gross Profits.	Net Profits.	Dividend.	
			1921.	1920.
Deutsche	1,173.0	278.2	24	18
Disconto	672.5	220.0	20	16
Dresdner	831.7	203.2	16	12½
Darmstaedter	577.4	89.0	14	10
Handelsgesellschaft	151.1	61.5	16	12½
National	265.0	77.5	14	10
Commerz und Privat	452.4	98.4	16	12
Mitteldeutsche Credit	150.0	33.8	12½	10

As compared with 1920, the nominal gross profits naturally greatly increased as a result of the increase in business. The clearings of the Deutsche Bank were 2,125 milliards in 1921, against 1,281 milliards in 1920; of the Disconto, 1,460, against 840 milliards; of the Dresdner, 1,664, against 1,090 millions. All four "D" banks recorded a more rapid increase of expenditure and of taxes than of gross profits. The percentage of the two items to gross profits in 1921 was: Deutsche, 72.6; Dresdner, 75.5; Disconto, 66.9; Darmstaedter, 77.5. Concerning the burden imposed by obligations to the State, the Disconto reported that one out of every ten officials in Berlin work exclusively on fulfilment of these obligations.

The position of the banks is considered to be sound; and it is not easy to see why it should be threatened by fluctuations in the value of the currency. The Treasury bills which play such a big rôle in the banks' investments are an ideally liquid security, because the Reichsbank is obliged to rediscount them at sight; and the worst result to be expected from a new money crisis would be new inflation, a process which proves to be by no means so dangerous as it appears to be when only the vast nominal totals which are involved are taken into account.

FOREIGN BANKS WITH LONDON OFFICES AND BRITISH BANKS TRADING WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

UNDER this heading each year we review the progress of three very important groups of banks and financial institutions. Of these, the first for notice is a small number of purely English undertakings engaged in overseas banking and financial operations, the majority of which have been formed during recent years as a result of a more intensive foreign trade development policy. In this group, the British Trade Corporation, launched as a State-aided enterprise, stands out prominently, although, perhaps, failing to achieve the success expected. In striking contrast the British Italian Corporation has now completely freed itself from Govern-

ment support, and is making good headway. The British Overseas Bank continues its active career, which, after all, is not surprising, considering the powerful banking interests behind it, and the efficiency of its management. The Anglo-Polish Bank, formed in the spring of 1920 under its auspices, has shown highly successful results; the development of the latter concern is said to have been so rapid that the directors had to make special effort to keep level with the work required for its internal organisation.

The following table shows the comparative positions of this group over a period of two years:—

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.	
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.
British Bank for Foreign Trade	£ 840,000	£ 240,000	£ 763,186	£ 541,082	£ 266,239	£ 100,909	£ 801,828	£ 437,082	£ 641,285	£ 244,812
British Italian Corporation....	1,233,418	1,233,418	1,539,324	968,704	1,022,758	760,394	453,481	149,470	959,569	764,480
British Overseas Bank.....	2,000,000	2,010,000	1,401,899	1,799,941	3,039,334	3,062,570	132,162	65,278	829,487	445,091
British Trade Corporation	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,478,861	1,460,064	954,441	571,996	1,599,765	1,008,245	1,977,445	1,640,202
Hambro's Bank.....	2,050,000	2,050,000	17,816,283	15,169,333	3,888,978	3,075,969	4,289,950	6,857,174	11,676,142	8,140,603
P. and O. Banking Corporation	2,500,000	3,684,160	2,662,391	6,316,980	1,525,776	2,918,796	644,957	868,863	2,316,414	7,202,922
	10,623,418	10,217,578	26,701,444	26,350,054	10,647,520	10,490,694	7,921,593	8,376,062	17,899,292	18,438,151

The P. and O. Banking Corporation continues to make good progress, as will be noticed by the substantial increase in deposits, and Lord Inchcape's speech at the second annual meeting provided some interesting sidelights on this institution's activities. Its interest in the Allahabad Bank has proved a profitable and useful extension, and the future of the Corporation will be watched with considerable interest. Sir Everard

Hambro, presiding at the annual meeting of Hambro's Bank, mentioned that the balance-sheet reflected the period of trade slackness through which the world is passing. "This," he said, "is shown by the decrease in acceptances and holding of bills and the increase in Government securities. Of these securities 60 per cent. are short-dated, which we feel justified in regarding as cash."

The second group which comes up for consideration is that of foreign banks having branches in London. Of these the most numerous and influential are the Continental institutions, and in a third group we have those British undertakings formed in London with the expressed intention of giving financial aid in the generally defined areas, and using the resources of the London money market.

One of the chief difficulties in compiling comparative tables of banks trading internationally is that of finding some reasonable method for reducing balance-sheets in foreign currencies to sterling. In cases

where banks show their returns in foreign currencies without giving English equivalents, we have taken the figures at the par of exchange—a rough-and-ready method, it is true, and one which certainly reveals the need for some post-war par of exchange. Some banks have adopted rates of exchange more in keeping with changed conditions, and in accordance with the dates when fresh assets or liabilities have been taken into account. At present, however, there is a lack of common practice, which at times leads to considerable confusion.

In the following table we show those banks engaged mainly in developing European commerce:—

CONTINENTAL BANKS.

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.	
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Banca Commerciale Italiana	18,720,000	20,991,440	218,748,942	240,199,949	11,046,958	14,574,637	14,512,936	15,985,030	243,982,153	232,220,500
Bank of Bilbao	4,920,000	4,920,000	7,176,649	7,377,251	649,857	887,666	6,951,331	7,785,634	8,761,897	8,090,685
Bank of Athens	2,120,000	2,354,000	22,883,310	26,556,231	8,524,753	12,511,474	71,284	7,527	11,726,638	15,143,368
Bank of Roumania	500,360	376,300	10,760,792	1,387,522	7,968,742	1,215,847	473,788	6,630	2,959,604	511,346
Banque Belge pour l'Etranger	2,481,146	2,639,127	24,322,713	26,700,000	7,074,744	8,612,618	2,023,931	2,452,699	17,197,224	18,961,323
Banque Française pour le Commerce et l'Industrie	3,431,231	4,694,020	21,027,348	17,516,923	6,182,750	4,359,631	1,132,653	6,665,872	7,814,542	10,935,973
Comptoir Nat. d'Escompte de Paris	12,794,709	12,988,646	141,260,846	134,691,814	15,460,823	15,930,850	226,458	223,886	127,953,178	125,892,167
Crédit Lyonnais	18,000,000	18,000,000	181,996,173	183,401,197	19,666,845	19,941,844	294,179	238,786	187,103,577	199,367,687
Credito Italiano	14,600,000	15,200,000	164,704,718	176,790,738	16,832,634	35,554,827	5,185,524	5,239,078	173,886,596	163,720,693
Ionian	615,580	635,580	7,037,587	9,782,562	1,809,996	1,405,984	785,044	715,522	8,076,402	12,860,953
Italo-Belgian Bank	2,128,024	2,957,190	26,234,568	34,668,087	9,621,372	7,082,430	301,225	98,679	23,510,884	23,326,428
Société Générale de Crédit Industriel	2,428,475	2,471,550	16,982,858	21,069,155	1,968,002	1,501,592	2,162,389	2,654,571	15,643,767	19,994,121
Soc. Générale pour Favoriser, &c.	12,069,725	12,122,832	194,782,907	205,056,987	25,179,648	14,736,873	4,212,877	3,625,030	186,687,170	198,876,343
Swiss Bank Corporation	6,040,000	6,120,000	37,192,150	34,802,460	9,473,532	9,925,458	1,325,078	2,156,046	36,409,403	30,682,841

Owing to the uncertain exchange position, and the various currencies involved, we have omitted the figures of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino from our table. As this institution, however, covers such an important area we give a few items in escudos. Capital and reserves now amount to 50 millions, while deposits total Esc.412,669,592. Cash is given as Esc.34,493,483, and investments Esc.8,762,217. Inland bills discounted appear as Esc.68,654,704, and bills receivable Esc.86,618,253. Total assets are Esc.940,369,983, as against Esc.879,134,611 for 1920. In the report of this bank, in referring to its note circulation in East Africa, it is stated that a decrease of 50 per cent. is recorded in this quarter, and the report proceeds to explain that "the English notes are naturally preferred to ours, as they have a larger circulating area." It is, however, pointed out that "the insinuations made that our sterling notes do not possess the corresponding reserve, and that we could not exchange them," are not substantiated by facts. This is demonstrated in the report by giving actual reserves held of gold, silver, and notes of the Bank of England and other British banks.

The feverish activities recorded in these columns a year ago of numerous banking extensions and developments have now somewhat slackened, and most concerns are now engaged in consolidating their positions and perfecting organisations. The Société Générale pour Favoriser, &c., after recording a favourable year's progress in its report, announces that its subsidiary concern—La Société Générale de Banque pour l'Etranger et les Colonies—is creating a useful sphere for future activities, especially in Syria, while the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, probably the unique among banks for its world-wide activities, surveys its situation at December 31, 1921, with satisfaction. The Crédit Lyonnais, probably the most important French bank with an international reputation, continues its prosperous course, while the Société Générale de Crédit, &c. maintains its traditional prestige as an industrial domestic banking institution. Belgian overseas banking, though affected by political and economic conditions, made considerable strides, and it will be noticed that deposits of both the Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, which is the subsidiary of the Société

Générale de Belgique and the Italo-Belgian Bank, show substantial increases. The Banca Commerciale Italiana, whilst reporting that business abroad was fraught with many more difficulties than in the previous year, and notwithstanding a set-back in Constantinople, states that conditions were favourable in London and New York. Some idea of the widespread interests of this bank may be gathered from its report, which gives a brief account of its associated companies. It states that the Banca della Svizzera Italiana shows a good profit, whilst the activities of the Banca Commerciale Italiana (France), with head office in Marseilles and branches along the French Riviera, expanded favourably. The Società Commerciale d'Oriente has not been able as yet to make a fresh start, nor will this be possible, it is stated, until conditions improve in the Near East. However, the Banque Française et Italienne pour l'Amérique du Sud is doing as well as ever, and on the same Continent the Banco Italiano, Lima, and the Banco Francés e Italiano de Colombia are giving satisfactory results. As regards affiliations in neighbouring countries, which suffer more particularly from depreciated currencies, the Banca Commerciale Italiana e Romana and the Banca Commerciale Italiana e Bulgara have already attained prominent positions. Its great rival concern, the Credito Italiano, records similar activities, and fully maintains its position, while the Banco di Roma has now firmly established itself as an overseas concern.

A drastic course was decided upon by the directors of the Bank of Roumania. The chairman stated that: "Until now we have continued to follow our established custom of converting the accounts from Roumania in the balance-sheet at the parity rate of 25 lei to the £ sterling. The difference between this rate of 25 lei to the £ and the current market rates was covered by the reserve accounts (including the contingency account). In view of the further heavy and continuous depreciation in exchange which has occurred since the last report was issued, the accounts from Bucharest are now converted into sterling in the balance-sheet before you at the rate current on December 31st last (550 to the £)." Certainly the directors are to be congratulated upon their decision, more especially as we learn that

reserves are "more than ample to cover any further exchange depreciation in the funds actually employed in Roumania."

The next table shows the position of Asiatic banks:—

ASIATIC BANKS.

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash.		Investments.		Discounts, Loans, and Credits.	
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Bank of Taiwan	5,538,000	6,421,042	19,322,884	22,023,064	4,889,896	3,523,308	6,503,136	7,380,261	58,425,217	50,409,984
Imperial Bank of Persia	930,000	960,000	3,228,337	2,805,975	3,389,575	3,055,205	1,535,222	1,499,173	3,330,779	2,567,874
Imperial Ottoman	6,250,000	6,250,000	16,589,050	18,116,955	8,919,879	8,336,936	2,138,535	2,612,297	14,001,532	15,220,523
Hong Kong and Shanghai	7,995,426	9,974,120	71,418,719	62,112,560	20,543,006	13,365,021	5,125,628	12,333,566	26,615,192	26,101,222
Sumitomo Bank	5,420,000	7,020,000	85,144,118	36,977,632	5,146,710	3,446,557	5,213,702	7,569,396	31,815,069	35,645,099
Yokohama Specie	15,884,991	16,315,964	57,719,800	50,844,169	15,349,507	10,932,898	27,528,344	15,381,604	26,754,448	25,651,217
	42,018,417	46,940,526	203,422,303	192,879,755	58,138,573	42,659,925	48,044,557	47,326,297	160,542,181	155,695,869

It is a striking testimony to the strength of the Eastern banks, and the skill with which their operations are conducted, that in spite of the many adverse influences to which we have referred, their figures all make so good a showing. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation made a net profit of \$10,821,295, which compared with \$8,841,166 for 1920. The total dividend and bonus paid was, on the old shares, £8, and on the new shares, £3. The capital was increased in May, 1921, to \$20,000,000 by the issue of 40,000 shares of \$125 each at £70 per share. Of the premium thus realised \$630,281 (£84,037) was allocated to silver reserve, and £2,000,000 to the sterling reserve fund, the latter being thus brought up to £4,500,000. A further \$1,369,718 was transferred from profit and loss account to silver reserve, bringing it up to \$23,500,000 (£2,858,494); \$1,000,000 was written off bank premises, and \$3,331,778 carried forward. The problem of foreign currencies was referred to by

Viscount Goschen at the general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. He explained that in the bank's balance-sheet "assets and liabilities in foreign currencies have been converted into pounds sterling at the rate ruling on December 31, 1921. Francs have been converted at the rate of 52 to the pound sterling," and further that "that part of our assets which, in the ordinary course of events, we are obliged to keep in francs for the normal purposes of our establishment must necessarily be subject to fluctuations in the exchange of the franc in its relation to the pound sterling, since our balance-sheet is established in the latter currency. Principally as a result of the appreciation in the balance-sheet of the sterling value of the funds employed in francs, the balance of the difference on conversion, which figured in the last balance-sheet at £702,569, has been reduced to a figure considerably lower, which is covered by the £511,461 devoted to this purpose at our last general meeting."

Here is the position of South American banks:—

SOUTH AMERICAN BANKS.

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.	
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Anglo-South American	8,550,527	8,550,702	50,276,051	46,238,712	25,146,774	21,859,260	6,300,447	10,023,884	36,652,675	30,216,680
Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata	13,059,287	13,089,813	45,759,585	47,392,618	13,088,392	13,953,062	788,742	793,867	36,867,776	33,552,694
British Bank of Sth. America	2,184,907	2,145,901	14,362,855	12,297,649	6,116,785	5,500,228	..	..	18,278,155	16,459,824
Commercial Bank of Spanish America	577,750	500,000	2,873,976	2,874,931	585,918	497,013	23,573	20,795	3,234,931	3,109,241
London and Brazilian	3,000,000	3,000,000	18,031,324	20,030,777	10,355,042	10,360,489	..	..	15,402,938	15,064,020
London and River Plate	4,140,000	4,140,000	37,051,235	30,686,098	13,882,135	13,868,199	..	..	36,930,389	32,030,066
	31,462,471	31,426,416	168,355,026	159,520,785	69,116,986	66,088,261	7,107,762	10,838,546	147,366,864	130,432,476

In South America the position and outlook is reflected in the recent accounts and report of the big British undertaking, the Anglo-South American Bank, which, by efficient management and a process of amalgamation, has secured for itself a predominant position in South America. In its very useful comparative table of profits and balance-sheet items—a practice which it could be wished that other banks would copy—a decrease in deposits and profits are noticeable during

the past three years, but the wide field which the bank possesses for operations probably amply compensates for set-backs in the direction indicated. The Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata, mainly linking up Spanish interests with South America, makes excellent progress, and its profits of £838,625 on a paid-up capital of £8,642,099 is an eloquent expression of its operations during its last financial year.

The following concerns are representative of American banking and trust companies with offices in London:—

UNITED STATES BANKING AND TRUST COMPANIES.
(\$5 = £1.)

	Capital and Reserves, &c.		Deposits.		Cash on Hand and in Bank.		Investments.		Loans and Discounts.	
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Equitable Trust	5,763,506	5,478,537	40,278,288	68,048,935	10,824,514	21,907,917	8,378,546	7,717,592	28,305,992	38,668,681
Farmers' Loan and Trust	3,385,902	3,924,930	25,267,467	27,419,098	3,969,221	4,801,952	9,297,979	11,981,217	12,132,826	13,854,761
Guaranty Trust	8,336,293	8,480,018	89,653,194	109,528,411	23,181,008	29,919,576	17,873,914	21,267,085	66,367,155	62,970,488
International Bkng. Cor.	3,339,423	3,578,248	14,367,400	13,909,687	3,330,974	3,425,912	987,775	1,767,410	9,765,636	9,898,804
Nat. City Bank of N. York	12,789,186	21,305,232	112,895,765	133,407,700	36,445,849	40,360,197	7,287,557	21,832,373	102,739,462	98,637,191
	13,614,310	12,766,985	281,962,109	346,313,831	82,701,566	100,405,554	43,775,771	64,555,627	214,811,132	228,929,866

Although these concerns are perhaps surprisingly few in number considering the trend of financial events, the lack of numbers is probably made up by the enter-

prise and initiative displayed by the few companies established on this side.

AFRICAN BANKS.

THE figures appended to this and to the three following articles trace the development of banking business in the Overseas Dominions, so far as is shown by the balance-sheets of the banks which have branches or head offices in London. The statistics are taken from the summary table which appears on another page. So far as South Africa is concerned, the outstanding recent event has been the coming into operation, on July 1st last, of the chief functions of the new South African Reserve Bank, formed under the terms of the Currency and Banking Act, 1920. From that date the commercial banks operating in the Union lost the privilege of issuing their own notes, and their issues are gradually being replaced by the notes of the Reserve Bank. The figures below do not, of course, show the effect of this, since they refer to periods ended June 30th, or earlier. There has been considerable criticism of certain provisions of the Act, but the chairman of the Standard Bank of South Africa, at the annual meeting held at the end of July, while admitting that the bank was sorry to lose its note issue, "both from a sentimental point of view, and also because it was a source of considerable profit," pointed out that "it is a matter of great congratulation that the retirement of such a very large amount of bank paper, and its replacement by the new Government notes, has been effected by us so very smoothly and without any trouble, and without having recourse to facilities from the Reserve Bank, or restricting facilities to customers in any degree. When you think that this bank's note issue was over £4,000,000, and that we have already taken over nearly £3,000,000 in Reserve Bank notes to exchange for our own issue, you will realise how large an operation this has been, and how easily a little mismanagement might have caused considerable friction in the financial world." The chairman of the National Bank of South Africa went more fully into the matter. With reference to the contention that the Act accentuates financial stringency at the time when elasticity and enterprise should be stimulated, in order to assist the country through a period of depression, he said:—"In the first place, we have had to deposit with the Reserve Bank 10 per cent. of our demand liabilities to the public, and 3 per cent. of our time liabilities, which include interest-bearing deposits. Expressed in figures, this means that we have at present lodged with the Reserve Bank, in respect of these specific liabilities to the public (which do not, of course, include banknotes), actual cash to the extent of close on two and a-half million pounds. Now, in order to substantiate the contention that this requirement of the Reserve Bank scheme makes for stringency, it would have to be established that we could utilise these two and a-half millions of money, or a substantial portion of it, in making advances to our clients. But, in point of fact, and as a matter of prudent banking, it would have been incumbent upon us, even without a Reserve Bank, to keep at least this proportion of our resources in absolutely liquid form, so as to be in a position to meet all claims that might reasonably be expected to arise. Nor are there as yet any opportunities in this

country of profitably employing such large sums, e.g., by means of short loans affording the necessary degree of liquidity and security. So that, from the point of view of our own financial elasticity, it really does not matter very much whether these balances are preserved in our own treasury or in the Reserve Bank; and, if we consider, on the other hand, that the concentration in the Reserve Bank of all balances of this nature derived from the commercial banks provides a basis for the creation of a considerable amount of fresh credit, of which the commercial banks may make use for their own profit and the country's benefit, then I think it must be acknowledged that, far from being regarded as an evil, this provision in the recent legislation should be welcomed by all who are interested in the country's financial development along sound and, at the same time, flexible lines."

On the question of notes, on the other hand, the chairman of the National Bank pointed out that, with the replacement of the bank's own notes for Reserve Bank notes, the bank has to put down pound for pound in respect of Reserve Bank notes required as "till money," whereas, up to now, "till money" has not even been subject to the 40 per cent. gold cover applicable to notes in circulation. He admitted, however, that there are compensations in the scheme.

"Since Reserve Bank notes can only be acquired by the commercial banks against an equivalent amount of gold, or of gold plus commercial paper, it follows that, in addition to securing a full backing for the Union's paper currency, an automatic check is applied upon the quantity of notes in circulation, which will henceforward be regulated by the amount of gold and commercial paper available in the country. This check must make for a greater degree of stability in our monetary system, and the advantage thus secured will benefit the commercial banks as well as the community in general."

As regards business conditions in the period to which the banking figures given below refer, South Africa felt the effects of the world trade depression later than the majority of countries, the full force not being experienced until 1921. The Standard Bank, however, although showing a drop in profits, was able to maintain its dividend. The National Bank, however, made a net loss of over £100,000, as a result of "specific losses of substantial amount"—notably in New York, which were characterised by the chairman in his speech as "losses attributable to lack of judgment, disregard of instructions, or neglect." The process of paying for the over-importation of goods continued a feature of the trade situation, and is reflected in the decline in deposits shown in the appended table. This includes the statistics of two banks operating in Egypt and the Bank of British West Africa. The decline in deposits is common to each of the banks. According to the chairman of the National Bank of Egypt, the decline in that bank's deposits was due to the final liquidation of the accounts of the Cotton Control Commission, to the favourable opportunities for investment which have presented themselves to customers, and to the gradual dispersal of funds accumulated during the war.

AFRICAN BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Brnchs.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890..	2	90	2,005,800	12.0	1,081,300	6.5	10,408,600	62.4	16,672,400	3,887,700	23.3	1,582,300	9.5	10,920,700	65.4
1900..	5	165	4,684,000	13.3	1,852,200	5.2	24,424,900	69.0	35,306,300	11,511,900	32.6	4,092,200	11.6	18,559,700	52.5
1905..	8	363	8,480,500	13.4	2,038,000	3.2	45,858,400	71.2	64,277,900	16,206,600	25.1	8,805,700	13.4	36,549,000	56.8
1910..	9	444	8,289,700	13.4	2,035,300	3.3	43,628,800	71.2	61,144,200	17,755,900	29.0	6,374,400	10.4	30,509,200	49.9
1912..	7	492	8,556,100	12.3	2,387,100	3.4	49,130,700	70.5	69,634,300	14,578,800	21.0	5,085,600	7.3	41,751,600	60.0
1914..	7	502	8,935,075	12.3	2,248,113	3.2	50,145,773	70.2	71,258,938	15,693,005	22.0	5,170,950	7.3	41,670,760	58.5
1915..	6	488	8,709,895	12.0	2,619,300	3.6	53,140,573	73.6	72,214,499	19,919,467	27.5	5,912,468	8.2	38,944,792	53.8
1916..	7	547	14,117,683	13.9	2,798,584	3.1	90,325,713	74.2	101,850,210	30,369,809	30.0	14,494,301	14.2	57,253,126	56.3
1917..	7	583	14,503,493	11.9	3,796,769	3.1	90,325,713	74.2	122,199,396	23,793,758	19.5	18,849,944	15.5	68,244,346	56.1
1918..	7	704	15,023,804	10.4	5,106,119	3.5	108,783,064	75.0	145,190,299	28,384,561	19.5	19,856,968	13.6	84,415,701	58.0
1919..	7	790	15,795,555	8.4	6,689,581	3.5	143,161,850	76.0	188,192,568	33,665,979	17.8	27,650,096	14.6	108,133,879	57.3
1920..	7	873	17,046,427	6.8	8,988,619	3.6	189,892,101	76.0	249,256,327	46,066,491	18.5	37,307,585	14.9	189,946,510	56.0
1921..	6	379	17,975,721	8.6	9,244,449	4.4	151,698,146	71.8	211,874,720	35,568,723	16.8	40,852,477	9.9	126,626,573	60.0
1922..	6	899	17,620,100	9.7	8,706,569	4.8	128,532,959	71.0	180,687,942	27,851,939	20.9	19,877,552	10.7	99,519,441	55.0

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

THE Australian exchange situation has been greatly eased by the improvement in the trade position. In 1920, it may be remembered, there was a very heavy growth in imports, the financing of which caused a considerable strain upon the ordinary machinery and upon the resources of the Australian banks in London, and ultimately restrictions were placed upon drawings on London. Increased exports of wool and agricultural produce in 1921 did something to relieve the pressure, but, as will be seen from the trade statistics given below, the balance of trade in the year ended June 30, 1921, was heavily against Australia:—

	(Million £'s.)		Excess of—	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
1914-15....	64.4	60.6	3.8	..
1915-16....	77.7	74.8	2.9	..
1916-17....	76.2	97.9	..	21.7
1917-18....	62.3	81.4	..	19.1
1918-19....	102.3	113.9	..	11.6
1919-20....	99.0	149.8	..	50.8
1920-21....	163.3	13.9	31.4	..
1921-22....	101.0	127.9	..	26.9

These figures include gold, and show that in the year ended June 30th last there was a change over in the balance between imports and exports of over £58½ millions. The *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* points out that the comparison with 1920-21 is actually more in favour of the past fiscal year than is indicated by the figures, for in both periods there were shipments of wool on account of the British Government purchase, in addition to wheat in 1920-21, payments for which had been made at an earlier date. On the other hand, the exports representing fresh payments to be received by Australia do not closely reflect Australian production, since at June 30, 1921, a considerable proportion of the 1920-21 wool clip was still in Australia awaiting sale and shipment, while at June 30, 1922, only a small proportion of the 1921-22 wool clip was in a similar position. The balance of £27 millions in favour of Australia for 1921-22 has been materially supplemented by payments on account of the half-share in profits on resales of the wool purchased by the British Government. The amount available during 1921-22 from this source is represented by the Bawra distributions of £10,000,000 in respect of the priority certificates, leaving further amounts to be obtained in the future. The above two items make together nearly 37 millions in favour of Australia for the past 12 months. Provision has to be made for the annual amount required to pay interest and profits on British capital invested publicly and privately in Australia. This item, however, is fully balanced by the large fresh borrowings effected in London and elsewhere by the Commonwealth and the various States. Thus between the excess of exports over imports, the instalment of wool profits, and the Government borrowings on the one side, and interest to be remitted on the other, the net result has been to replenish Australian balances in London, which have recently been on a full scale, in contrast to the lean position which existed early in 1921.

The table below, which includes the figures of two New Zealand banks, shows an upward movement in deposits after the drop of the previous year, but this is more than accounted for by the figures of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, which relate to the year ended June 31, 1921, the report for the following year having not yet appeared. The deposits of this bank as at June 30, 1921, were £10½ millions higher than at the same date of 1920. This bank absorbed the London Bank of Australia in 1920 and the Commercial Bank of Tasmania in 1921. If the figures of this bank are excluded, there is a decrease of some £5 millions in deposits, which is a result of the improvement in the exchange situation, for early in 1921 deposits were swollen for a time by money awaiting the opportunity of remittance. Advances are lower as a result of repayments by traders whose overdrafts had been swollen by payments for the large stocks imported, and also to a reduction of War Loan advances. Investments have been almost maintained at last year's figure. Of the total of £8 millions of notes in circulation, over £6½ millions are those of the two New Zealand banks. The Australian bank-note circulation is in course of withdrawal, and since June, 1911, £3,508,600 has been withdrawn. The Australian note issue is now in the hands of issue department of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, whose figures are not included in the appended table. The notes issued on June 26, 1922, amounted to £53,582,011, of which the banks (including the banking department of the Commonwealth Bank) held £30,279,015, leaving £23,302,996 in the hands of the public. The total issue, £53,582,011, shows a reduction of £4,646,059 as compared with 12 months previously.

The movements of the deposits and advances of the New Zealand banks can be ascribed to the same causes as those of the Australian banks, trading conditions in the former country having followed a very similar course. In his speech at the annual meeting of the Bank of New Zealand in June the chairman gave some interesting figures, showing that while the deposits of the Australian banks exceeded their advances by £182 millions, and the deposits of the South African banks exceeded advances by £16 millions, the advances of the New Zealand banks were £4½ millions in excess of the deposits, withdrawals of the latter having been greater than the reduction in advances. The speaker added: "Our advances in the Dominion are much higher than we care to see them, and are justified only by the extreme need of so many of our customers, and by our consciousness that in the great majority of cases it is only a matter of reasonable time for the position to right itself. As these advances are reduced, our London reserves will be built up, but they will be built up in investments yielding a much lower return than those we had to realise."

The table below shows a reduction in the number of banks by one, the Bank of Queensland (an amalgamation in 1917 of the Bank of North Queensland and the Royal Bank of Queensland) having been absorbed by the National Bank of Australasia.

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS WITH LONDON OFFICES.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Brnchs.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890..	19	1,538	24,424,100	13.2	4,821,800	2.6	138,065,900	74.7	184,931,200	26,919,000	14.6	6,808,100	3.7	145,535,900	78.7
1900..	16	1,338	30,307,100	13.1	4,348,700	2.8	107,403,600	68.4	157,299,500	33,165,500	21.1	12,831,900	8.2	102,820,200	65.3
1905..	16	1,466	27,346,400	17.6	4,247,500	2.7	119,619,900	71.7	166,453,600	43,321,400	26.3	12,534,100	7.5	108,391,100	64.2
1910..	17	1,965	33,612,300	16.3	5,198,100	2.4	152,985,400	71.9	212,615,300	54,575,000	25.8	17,105,000	8.1	132,955,300	62.5
1913..	17	2,186	38,233,700	16.3	5,099,900	0.9	170,256,600	72.6	234,100,000	66,888,400	28.8	19,587,600	8.3	146,237,600	62.5
1914..	18	2,273	42,272,449	16.6	5,040,542	0.8	185,338,136	73.9	254,338,301	73,309,526	29.0	19,406,361	7.6	153,402,635	58.5
1915..	18	2,294	43,470,675	16.6	5,187,695	1.2	192,079,083	73.1	262,167,311	79,197,043	30.1	22,208,945	8.5	153,402,635	58.5
1916..	18	2,297	44,004,748	15.8	5,624,311	1.3	199,115,161	71.3	279,112,667	72,999,234	26.1	22,359,730	10.5	167,071,064	60.0
1917..	17	2,259	44,626,507	15.6	5,367,245	1.9	209,781,668	73.0	286,798,212	78,724,117	27.4	26,862,156	12.8	162,488,312	56.4
1918..	17	2,286	45,340,848	14.5	6,524,311	2.1	229,819,071	73.3	312,496,435	79,444,434	25.4	46,950,137	15.0	177,398,316	56.9
1919..	16	2,306	46,908,553	14.0	7,564,883	2.3	245,068,552	73.5	334,012,342	72,019,515	21.6	48,941,932	13.2	208,944,051	62.8
1920..	16	2,398	51,248,171	13.4	8,511,692	2.2	281,477,007	73.4	383,470,259	88,138,890	23.2	68,431,168	17.8	214,736,390	56.0
1921..	15	2,364	53,991,389	14.1	7,854,758	2.1	273,964,790	71.8	321,546,279	81,024,819	21.3	39,911,844	10.5	251,737,300	66.0
1922..	14	2,495	56,731,923	15.3	8,029,220	2.1	278,162,328	72.5	384,576,016	89,307,562	23.3	39,400,133	10.0	247,031,683	64.2

CANADIAN BANKS.

THE very considerable contraction shown by various items in the last line of the subjoined table is due in part to the economic forces which were at work in Canada, as in other countries, but also specifically to the disappearance of the Merchants' Bank of Canada. This bank, whose affairs have been the subject of inquiry and litigation in Ottawa, was founded in 1851, and had a large business in Western Canada. In December of last year it had to seek refuge from disaster by amalgamation with the powerful Bank of Montreal, and the effect of the absorption will no doubt be traceable in the next accounts of the latter institution. This absorption presumably prevented ramifications of financial mishap that might otherwise have been expected, and when, at the end of March, it received the final approval of the Finance Department, Bank of Montreal stock rose to a point above the highest recorded in 1921.

Canadian bankers found the year 1921 as full of difficulty as did their fellow-bankers in other countries, owing to slackening trade and falling prices. At the meeting of the Bank of Montreal, Sir Vincent Meredith described the year as being one "of unremitting anxiety, entailing constant vigilance in order to avoid serious losses." With the exception of the one instance mentioned above, the leading Canadian banks appear to have succeeded in exercising the necessary degree of vigilance. Of the efforts to do so Sir Frederick William Taylor spoke at the Bank of Montreal meeting last January as follows:—"I think it may be asserted that in Canada banks generally have been fortunate when compared with those of other countries, and while doubtless all Canadian banks have lost money in loan accounts that have 'gone bad' during the past year, no disaster has developed. We do not blind our eyes to the fact that 1921 has been an exceptionally hard year for many of our customers, and, therefore, we have considered it prudent to take an even more conservative view than usual of our loan accounts in estimating what might be classed as doubtful." Mr H. B. Shaw, the general manager of the Union Bank of Canada, laid similar stress upon the difficulties of the deflation and depression that marked the year, which, indeed, provided most of the chairman and general managers with the principal theme for their annual addresses to shareholders. It may be claimed, however, that while the boom yet lasted the coming difficulties were foreseen and preparations made for meeting them. Once more the Canadian banking system has proved itself equal to a period of severe trial.

The dramatic change over from boom to depression

not only meant bad debts, but also contracted the demand for credit, and therefore reacted doubly upon Canadian bank profits. The following table compares net profits and dividends in 1920 and 1921 of the banks whose figures are aggregated in the table at the bottom of this page:—

	1920-21.		1921-22.	
	Profit.	Dividend.	Profit.	Dividend.
Bank of Montreal	£ 806,799	14	£ 789,959	14
Bank of Nova Scotia	465,484	16	422,347	16
Canadian Bank of Commerce	679,365	13	640,302	13
Colonial Bank	155,837	10	121,151	8
Dominion Bank	237,702	13	203,252	13
Royal Bank of Canada	850,730	14	807,567	14
Union Bank of Canada	320,768	12	268,478	10

The fall in prices and the breakdown of the boom of 1920 is illustrated in the following foreign trade comparison:—

	1920.	1921.	Reduction in 1921.
	Mln. \$	Mln. \$	Mln. \$
Imports	1,336	799	537
Exports	1,273	803	470

In considering how far these declines were due to falling prices, and how far to contracted volume of trade, it should be noted that the official Canadian index number of wholesale prices fell from 270.1 to 230.7 during 1921—a fall of over 14 per cent.; while the decline in the total external merchandise was over 38 per cent. A good crop—though it was not a bumper crop, it was larger than that of the previous year—greatly assisted the export figures in the later months of the year. But although the crop was satisfactory, the big fall in wheat prices hit the Western farmers very hard, and their inability in many cases to liquidate their obligations was a factor which caused bankers considerable difficulty and uneasiness.

When the story of Canadian banking in 1922 comes to be written, the general tone of the story should be brighter than is possible in making survey of 1921. At the moment of writing the news of the crop is satisfactory, and although the farmer does not yet find himself free from embarrassment, owing to the lowered prices—and in Saskatchewan a moratorium is even mooted—there is no reason to take desponding views. Our Ottawa correspondent has for some time past been steadily reporting signs of general business improvement, and a few months ago an official statement from the Department of Trade and Commerce summed up the outlook in the Dominion in optimistic terms.

We have on former occasions mentioned the increasing attention paid by Canadian banking to West India business. Interesting reference to this field was made by Mr E. L. Pease at the last meeting of the Royal Bank of Canada, who said the benefit of the recent commercial agreement with the West Indies was already being felt.

CANADIAN BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand, Money at Call and Short Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
1890..	4	75	£ 6,907,100	31.3	1,934,700	8.6	9,182,400	41.3	22,200,300	3,510,900	15.8	1,417,500	6.4	17,128,600	77.1
1900..	4	95	6,679,100	21.8	2,448,500	8.0	17,584,600	52.6	30,544,200	4,567,900	14.9	2,095,600	6.9	23,488,000	77.0
1905..	4	254	9,541,500	16.2	4,221,500	7.2	40,706,900	69.2	58,981,200	18,677,200	31.8	4,814,500	8.2	34,721,100	58.8
1910..	5	590	13,122,300	12.1	6,670,700	6.7	83,600,500	72.4	107,995,700	42,605,600	39.5	9,799,100	9.1	54,269,400	50.8
1913..	7	1,388	23,302,000	12.6	12,138,900	6.5	142,975,500	77.6	184,190,100	56,844,700	30.9	13,629,700	7.1	109,771,800	59.7
1914..	7	1,449	23,727,827	12.3	11,799,528	6.3	145,100,357	75.0	190,951,619	64,485,302	33.4	14,207,689	7.4	104,480,566	54.0
1915..	7	1,473	23,730,164	12.3	12,034,445	6.3	145,911,275	75.8	192,384,515	64,458,514	33.5	14,516,943	7.5	103,977,449	52.4
1916..	7	1,483	23,730,165	10.2	13,838,232	6.2	177,079,956	79.3	223,077,555	95,972,044	43.0	17,941,791	8.0	101,999,677	45.6
1917..	7	1,491	23,818,164	9.6	16,696,710	6.7	199,285,279	80.2	248,273,628	99,818,860	40.2	33,023,861	13.3	107,218,296	43.1
1918..	7	1,501	24,462,161	8.2	22,978,690	7.5	236,591,386	79.2	297,735,149	109,679,564	36.6	50,673,767	16.9	125,938,865	43.1
1919..	6	1,681	25,605,617	7.5	27,727,321	8.1	271,208,010	79.1	343,058,311	111,225,247	32.3	60,021,789	17.5	157,810,276	46.0
1920..	8	2,653	36,524,247	7.5	35,302,368	7.2	386,047,299	79.1	487,380,996	149,427,464	30.5	73,768,170	15.2	242,618,387	49.8
1921..	8	2,784	39,247,989	8.2	33,519,151	7.0	377,965,484	79.1	477,958,871	167,415,626	35.0	52,812,744	11.1	238,425,284	49.8
1922..	7	2,724	37,564,884	8.8	25,620,491	6.0	344,038,345	80.7	426,289,292	160,734,764	38.3	60,518,770	11.8	209,386,821	49.0

INDIAN BANKS.

IN reviewing the Indian exchange problem in the *Economist*, we have quite recently reviewed at considerable length the economic factors that have been at play in that country. We do not propose to re-traverse that ground here. But in approaching the consideration of the experience of Indian banks in 1921, it must always be remembered that difficult as were the consequences of the collapse of the boom in all countries, the difficulties were, perhaps, peculiarly acute in India. They were also aggravated by political disturbance. In facing the period of deflation and falling prices, Indian bankers were facing a very formidable period. Their difficulties did not end with 1921; but that year saw the full force of the emergency. In view of these facts, the results achieved by the Indian banks may be regarded as conspicuously successful from the shareholders' point of view. The following table compares profits, dividends, and reserve appropriation of the four banks whose aggregate figures are tabulated at the foot of this page:—

	1920.			1921.		
	Net Profit.	To Reserve.	Dividend Rate.	Net Profit.	To Reserve.	Dividend Rate.
Chartered	£ 676,771	£ 235,000	20 1/2 %	£ 780,069	£ 175,000	20 1/2 %
Eastern	121,363	40,504	8 %	144,171	54,000	9 %
Merchants	260,208	75,000	16 %	263,033	85,000	16 %
National	553,398	240,000	20 %	555,064	140,000	20 %

* Free of income-tax.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China placed £100,000 to reserve, making that fund £3,700,000; added £25,000 to officers' superannuation fund; wrote £50,000 off premises, and carried forward £215,169. The balance-sheet reveals a position of great liquidity, though some of the totals have declined as the result of Indian and other trade depression. The note circulation is down from £2,837,818 to £1,926,923, current accounts have also decreased by some £6,000,000, but fixed deposits have increased by about £20,000. Bills payable, acceptances, and loans were all smaller.

The figures of the other note-issuing bank, the Mercantile Bank of India, are based on an exchange of 1s 4d per rupee, and as exchange has not been varied by the bank throughout the year, it was unnecessary to make allowance for exchange in comparison with previous years, except in management expenses, which showed a shrinkage of about £20,000, owing to conversion of foreign payments at a lower rate. Some falling-off in figures is noticeable, owing to what the chairman termed the "thawing of frozen credits," that is, in loans receivable and advances, which show a diminution of £2,837,000. The ratio that liquid resources bore to current account and fixed deposit moneys is high, about 75 per cent., all of which bespeaks dull trade. This is also reflected in a rise in Government

and other securities, which have increased to £1,894,016.

The National Bank of India placed £100,000 to reserve, wrote £20,000 off premises, and added £20,000 to officers' pension fund. The National Bank of India has also reverted to the pre-war practice of converting rupee assets and liabilities at 1s 4d, and as the previous year's rate was 2s, comparisons are a little difficult. However, if the results are viewed from the same standpoint of exchange as 1920, there do not appear to be many alterations of note. The cash balance was £6,236,423, and this, the chairman remarked, can be easily augmented from securities, which total £5,000,000, most of them being short-dated. There was a reduction in bills of exchange, discounts, and loans, owing to the liquidation of outstandings, and dull trade. The experience of the Eastern Bank has been very similar to that of its larger confrères.

The Imperial Bank of India, in which was merged as from January 27, 1921, the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay, and the Bank of Madras, continues to make good progress. The report for the half-year ended June 30, 1922, shows net profits for the period of Rs. 63,52,241, as compared with Rs. 58,14,792 for June, 1921, and Rs. 62,27,800 for the half-year ended December 31, 1921. With the balance brought forward from December, 1921, the bank had a sum of Rs. 76,26,735.11.7 for disposal, and the governors paid the usual dividend of 16 per cent., free of tax, Rs. 44,98,300; transferred to reserve fund, Rs. 10,00,000, to pension funds Rs. 5,00,000, and carried forward Rs. 16,28,435.11.7.

What the accounts and balance-sheets for the current year will show it is difficult to prophesy. "I am not able," said the chairman at the annual meeting of the National Bank of India in April, "to describe our outlook for the current year as bright." Optimism is, therefore, to be guarded against, but since he spoke there has been some tendency towards improvement. The balance of trade has once more been swinging round to India's advantage, though it has not brought back an export surplus comparable with the pre-war normal. The huge glut of stocks of commodities has been to some extent liquidated, and consequently credits to some extent have been "unfrozen." Seeing that the banks managed to produce satisfactory results in 1921, shareholders need have no great apprehension about the accounts for 1922.

The large reduction in the main balance-sheet items in the composite table appended hereto is due partly to the causes which have caused such contraction in many countries, but is also partly due to the fact that one bank at least has converted its figures into sterling on this occasion, not at the statutory rate of 2s to the rupee, but at 1s 4d to the rupee.

INDIAN BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand, Money at Call and Short Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
1890..	5	50	£ 4,347,200	12.1	1,241,000	3.4	17,964,400	50.0	36,308,400	4,321,200	12.0	2,930,500	9.1	27,541,300	76.5
1900..	5	54	3,186,800	10.5	699,800	2.3	18,084,800	58.5	30,207,600	4,704,900	15.5	2,794,600	9.2	22,147,300	72.5
1905..	4	63	3,735,100	10.6	639,100	1.8	23,473,900	66.5	35,268,500	6,507,100	18.4	3,119,500	8.8	23,634,900	69.6
1910..	5	87	6,100,000	12.9	515,600	1.1	34,547,000	72.9	47,339,600	8,312,300	17.6	4,139,400	8.7	32,101,200	67.8
1913..	6	104	7,219,100	11.5	811,273	1.3	43,470,800	69.2	62,671,800	10,822,800	17.3	4,080,600	6.5	43,745,100	69.8
1914..	5	87	6,801,125	11.3	913,341	1.5	41,494,040	68.3	60,568,684	10,358,968	16.6	4,418,116	7.3	41,310,962	68.2
1915..	5	89	7,252,278	12.2	1,043,984	1.7	42,892,465	71.9	59,791,379	13,549,144	22.6	6,677,853	11.2	35,511,553	59.5
1916..	5	91	7,323,485	11.1	1,085,514	1.6	48,782,482	73.8	66,017,462	12,512,987	18.9	8,093,065	12.1	42,085,918	63.6
1917..	4	88	7,067,380	9.5	1,123,096	1.5	54,574,879	73.0	74,600,058	13,914,932	18.6	7,138,799	9.6	49,652,081	66.8
1918..	4	88	7,232,421	8.5	1,053,421	1.2	67,589,786	79.0	85,496,536	20,522,964	24.0	7,776,811	9.1	52,753,685	61.8
1919..	4	88	8,502,500	8.0	1,698,651	1.6	81,723,355	76.4	106,653,900	17,201,525	16.2	8,985,337	8.4	76,533,126	71.8
1920..	4	93	10,844,619	6.7	1,943,595	1.1	122,696,907	75.7	162,191,587	32,757,956	20.2	13,471,630	8.3	107,117,466	66.0
1921..	4	94	14,171,476	8.9	2,995,124	1.9	118,352,583	74.1	159,492,420	28,521,284	17.9	10,424,084	6.5	108,740,228	68.0
1922..	4	94	14,565,844	11.1	2,211,811	1.7	95,872,984	73.1	130,327,461	19,217,307	14.7	19,362,627	14.8	82,457,535	63.1

COLONIAL JOINT STOCK BANKS WITH LONDON OFFICES.

AFRICAN BANKS.

1 Name of Bank.	Date.	2 No. of Branches and sub-branches.	3 Capital Subscribed.	4 Uncalled Capital.		5 Capital Paid-up.	6 Reserve Fund.	7 Un- divided Profits.	8 Notes in Circulation.	9 Accept- ances and Bills for Collection.
				Callible.	Reserved.					
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited....	Aug 31	18	1,800,000	1,200,000	Nil	600,000	831,739	133,883	..	273,305
2 Bank of British West Africa, Lim.	Mar 31	51	3,000,000	300,000	1,500,000	1,200,000	400,000	70,116	..	2,447,625
3 National Bank of Egypt.....	Dec 31	25	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	3,000,000	2,200,000	510,920	..	..
4 National Bank of South Africa, L.	Mar 31	418	2,955,000	Nil	Nil	2,955,000	1,000,000	74,825	4,426,098	10,114,138
5 Netherlands Bank of South Africa	Dec 31	17	240,000	Nil	Nil	240,000	60,861	24,888	72,671	206,890
6 Standard of South Africa, L.	Mar 31	370	8,916,360	6,687,495	Nil	2,229,165	2,893,335	502,996	4,207,900	8,797,140
Total	..	899	19,921,660	8,187,495	1,500,000	10,234,165	7,385,935	1,317,628	8,706,569	21,839,179

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

1 Name of Bank.	Date.	2 No. of Branches and sub-branches.	3 Capital Subscribed.	4 Uncalled Capital.		5 Capital Paid-up.	6 Reserve Fund.	7 Un- divided Profits.	8 Notes in Circulation.	9 Accept- ances and Bills for Collection.	10 Contingent Liabilities.
				Callible.	Reserved.						
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	June 30	63	1,200,000	Nil	Nil	1,200,000	4,001,659	..	..	..	..
1 Australian Bank of Commerce, L.	June 30	141	1,200,000	Nil	Nil	1,200,000	290,000	75,587	..	..	..
Do Inscribed Deposits	Mar 28	94	625,000	Nil	625,000	625,000	620,000	83,562	7,216	143,255	..
2 Bank of Adelaide, Limited	Oct 10	204	4,000,000	Nil	4,000,000	4,000,000	3,425,000	381,763	387,417	..	..
3 Bank of Australasia	Mar 31	360	5,000,000	Nil	5,000,000	5,000,000	3,500,000	385,132	623,368	2,021,369	..
4 Bank of New South Wales	Mar 31	360	2,250,000	Nil	Nil	2,250,000	..	..	..	..	..
5 Bank of New Zealand	Mar 31	210	1,125,000	Nil	Nil	1,125,000	8,904,989	1,951,000	790,194	4,294,230	..
Do Pref. Shares	..	..	529,989	Nil	Nil	529,989	..	..	..	..	..
Do 4% Guaranteed Stock	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bank of Queensland, Limited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6 Bank of Victoria, Limited	June 30	117	2,122,500	1,061,250	Nil	1,478,010	600,000	146,265	6,539	674,456	..
Do Pref. Shares	June 30	225	6,000,000	Nil	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,360,000	385,735	9,550	..	..
7 Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney	June 30	225	733,054	Nil	356,461	386,593	..	105,897	59,029	641,490	..
8 Commercial Bank of Australia, L.	June 30	225	2,117,350	Nil	2,117,350	2,117,350	..	..	..	..	..
Do Pref. Shares	June 30	317	1,594,125	1,034,077	Nil	1,319,887	1,282,163	294,372	1,340	..	..
9 English, Scottish, and Australian	(1921)	265	2,462,966	Nil	1,263,000	2,661,125	1,593,164	171,793	49,004	..	..
Do Perp. Stocks	Mar 31	51	3,000,000	2,000,000	Nil	1,000,000	1,040,000	238,621	2,031,451	..	..
10 National Bank of Australasia, Lim.	Mar 31	51	3,000,000	2,000,000	Nil	1,000,000	1,040,000	238,621	2,031,451	..	..
11 National Bank of New Zealand, L.	Mar 31	91	800,000	Nil	Nil	800,000	360,000	50,827	..	..	..
12 Queensland National Bank, Lim.	June 30	91	1,560,000	810,000	Nil	3,091,669	455,000	90,357	840	231,658	..
Do Inscribed Deposit Stock	Mar 31	186	9,000,000	Nil	6,000,000	3,000,000	3,250,000	311,818	559,166	..	..
18 Royal Bank of Australia, Limited..	Feb 29	186	9,000,000	Nil	6,000,000	3,000,000	3,250,000	311,818	559,166	..	..
14 Union Bank of Australia, Limited	..	..	2,495	48,494,744	4,905,327	20,254,461	38,055,596	20,676,327	3,451,924	8,029,220	3,712,237
Total (excluding Com- monwealth Bank) ..	..	..	2,495	48,494,744	4,905,327	20,254,461	38,055,596	20,676,327	3,451,924	8,029,220	3,712,237

CANADIAN AND WEST INDIAN BANKS.

1 Name of Bank.	Date.	2 No. of Branches and sub-branches.	3 Capital Subscribed.	4 Uncalled Capital.		5 Capital Paid-up.	6 Reserve Fund.	7 Un- divided Profits.	8 Notes in Circulation.	9 Accept- ances and Bills for Collection.	10 Contingent Liabilities.
				Callible.	Reserved.						
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Bank of Montreal	Apr 29	643	5,450,000	Nil	5,450,000	5,450,000	5,450,000	282,446	7,924,895	449,936	..
2 Bank of Nova Scotia	Dec 31	803	1,940,000	Nil	1,940,000	1,940,000	3,800,000	91,132	3,170,513	318,429	..
3 Canadian Bank of Commerce	Nov 30	590	3,082,192	Nil	3,082,192	3,082,192	3,082,192	524,218	4,824,159	984,260	..
4 Colonial Bank	June 30	59	3,000,000	600,000	1,500,000	900,000	300,000	84,767	629,674	1,267,363	..
5 Dominion Bank	June 30	122	1,200,000	Nil	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,400,000	191,147	1,465,314	70,948	..
6 Royal Bank of Canada	Nov 30	695	4,080,000	Nil	4,080,000	4,080,000	4,080,000	303,409	5,632,474	1,890,725	..
7 Union Bank of Canada	Nov 30	372	1,600,000	Nil	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,200,000	162,999	1,978,462	879,566	..
Total	..	2,724	20,352,192	600,000	18,832,192	18,252,192	19,312,192	1,630,118	25,620,491	5,561,327	..

INDIAN BANKS.

1 Name of Bank.	Date.	2 No. of Branches and sub-branches.	3 Capital Subscribed.	4 Uncalled Capital.		5 Capital Paid-up.	6 Reserve Fund.	7 Un- divided Profits.	8 Notes in Circulation.	9 Accept- ances and Bills for Collection.	10 Contingent Liabilities.
				Callible.	Reserved.						
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Chartered of India, Aust., and China	Dec 31	37	3,000,000	Nil	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,600,000	787,670	1,926,922	3,044,390	..
2 Eastern Bank, Limited	Dec 31	10	2,000,000	Nil	2,000,000	999,844	266,000	135,181	..	908,753	..
3 Mercantile Bank of India, Lim.	Dec 31	19	750,000	187,500	187,500	105,000	1,150,000	221,671	284,888	926,476	..
Do B Shares	..	..	187,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do C Shares	..	..	800,000	Nil	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 National Bank of India, Limited ..	Dec 31	28	4,000,000	2,000,000	Nil	2,000,000	2,500,000	504,096	..	2,008,540	..
Total	..	94	10,800,000	2,375,000	5,375,000	7,049,844	7,516,000	1,648,618	2,211,811	6,277,159	..
Total Colonial	..	6,212	99,568,396	16,067,822	45,981,653	73,531,797	54,890,454	8,048,288	44,568,091	87,389,802	..

COLONIAL JOINT STOCK BANKS WITH LONDON OFFICES.

AFRICAN BANKS.

10 Miscel- laneous Liabilities.	11 Deposits.	12 Total Liabilities.	13 Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Short Notice.		14 Invest- ments.	15 Bills Dis- counted or Purchased (when shown separately).	16 Bills, Loans, and Advances.	17 Premises and Sundries (including Cover for Acceptances.)	18 Total Assets.	19 Name of Bank.
			Cash in Hand, with Banks, and in Transit.	Money at Call and Short Notice.						
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
409,077	11,841,582	14,089,677	1,579,455	..	1,349,103	5,694,209	5,031,804	435,106	14,089,677	Anglo-Egyptn.
574,506	7,602,564	12,294,811	2,602,942	..	1,652,345	2,794,947	2,401,132	2,843,445	12,294,811	Bk. Brit. W. A.
265,437	14,447,617	20,423,974	2,920,618	1,530,030	6,612,106	1,939,614	7,110,267	311,339	20,423,974	Nat. of Egypt.
1,422,487	41,502,959	61,505,507	11,007,374	3,102,173	4,387,398	5,780,200	25,909,994	11,311,368	61,505,507	Nat. Bk. of S.A.
..	1,119,296	1,724,596	342,825	..	266,490	..	883,704	251,577	1,724,596	Neth. B. of S.A.
..	52,018,941	70,649,377	11,812,236	2,947,236	5,110,110	5,551,085	36,442,485	8,786,175	70,649,377	Standrd of S.A.
2,671,507	128,532,959	180,687,942	30,265,450	7,586,489	19,377,552	21,760,055	77,759,386	29,939,010	180,687,942	Total

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

			Cash and Notes in Hand and at Bankers.	Money at Call & Remittances in Transit.						
2,458,854	80,148,289	86,608,802	14,192,532	19,325,000	35,804,722	..	16,671,563	614,985	86,608,802	Comwth of Aust.
970,583	9,403,111	13,269,794	1,631,785	558,492	431,455	..	10,182,897	465,164	13,269,794	Aust. B. of Com.
207,677	6,545,112	8,391,822	1,543,653	630,817	1,912,659	..	3,991,579	153,114	8,391,822	Bk. of Adelaide
4,116,504	25,603,631	37,914,315	6,969,413	1,718,000	1,760,569	..	27,458,504	7,829	37,914,315	Bk. of Australia
9,368,342	50,763,553	71,661,755	15,199,632	7,690,959	7,906,904	..	38,042,891	2,821,369	71,661,755	Bnk. of N.S.W.
3,713,175	28,676,603	43,330,191	7,722,878	..	(a) 7,657,420	1,471,429	26,181,991	296,473	43,330,191	Bk. of N. Zeal.
			Amalgamated with National Bank of Australasia, Limited.							
757,308	10,392,649	14,055,227	2,330,643	(c) 1,173,095	1,086,789	..	8,430,008	1,034,692	14,055,227	Bnk of Victoria
1,704,147	31,493,201	38,902,633	7,612,209	2,630,000	6,569,338	..	21,296,160	794,926	38,902,633	Com. of Sydney
1,123,306	16,187,721	20,571,455	3,716,714	2,805,000	544,315	..	12,334,482	1,170,944	20,571,455	Comrl. of Aust.
2,954,345	22,552,735	30,785,298	5,092,141	1,115,416	878,950	..	22,920,348	778,443	30,785,298	Eng. Bot. & Aust
1,262,397	27,457,593	33,195,076	6,664,869	..	4,186,110	..	21,554,897	789,200	33,195,076	Nat. of Austrla.
1,622,070	8,243,235	14,175,380	1,029,454	490,549	1,349,488	664,563	10,399,486	241,845	14,175,380	Natnal. of N.Z.
360,078	6,898,730	11,551,304	1,386,732	105,000	1,689,760	..	7,869,401	500,411	11,551,304	Qnsland Natnl.
300,656	4,766,737	6,585,250	1,002,948	..	252,631	..	4,942,713	386,958	6,585,250	Royal of Aust.
4,087,768	29,187,724	40,346,516	7,362,162	1,125,000	2,173,750	..	29,290,234	395,370	40,346,516	U. of Australia
32,488,884	278,162,328	384,576,016	69,265,233	20,042,329	88,400,133	2,135,992	244,895,591	9,836,738	384,576,016	Total (exclud- ing Common- wealth Bank).

COLONIAL BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

(1) AFRICAN BANKS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.†
ESTABLISHED 1864.

Year Ended Aug. 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL				Year Ended Aug. 31.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. %	To Reserves, £	Carried Forward. £
		Authorised. £	Paid-up. £	Callable. £	Reserved. £					
1910.	10	1,200,000	600,000	1,200,000	Nil	1916.	112,825	17½	23,325	52,000
1913.	11	1,284,390	600,000	1,200,000	Nil	1917.	144,347	17½	41,847	67,000
1914.	11	1,286,254	600,000	1,200,000	Nil	1918.	142,980	17½	20,038	40,000
1915.	11	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil	1919.	133,406	17½	18,406	50,000
1916.	11	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil	1920.	118,883	17½	11,580	52,303
1917.	10	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil	Free of tax.				
1918.	10	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil					
1919.	10	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil					
1920.	10	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil					
1921.	10	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil					
1922.	10	1,286,318	600,000	1,200,000	Nil					

* Includes Treasury Bills.

† We are asked to point out that this bank is an English company, with head office in London.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.
ESTABLISHED 1898.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL				Year. Sept. 30, 1922.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. %	To Reserve, £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed. £	Paid-up. £	Callable. £	Reserved. £					
1911.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1915.	242,214	4	122,214	22,180
1912.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1916.	313,533	6	111,353	49,506
1913.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1917.	519,251	8	251,925	106,636
1914.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1918.	693,851	14	336,721	141,392
1915.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1919.	714,680	15	346,722	172,364
1916.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1920.	827,154	15	346,722	180,920
1917.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil	1921.	558,556	15	100,000	
1918.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil					
1919.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil					
1920.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil					
1921.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil					
1922.	10	3,000,000	3,000,000	Nil	Nil					

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.
REGISTERED 1894.

Year Ended March 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL				Year Ended March 31.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. %	To Reserves, £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed. £	Paid-up. £	Callable. £	Reserved. £					
1900.	9	43,560	150	2,433	0.8	1914.	60,801	9½	24,250	9,600
1905.	11	88,000	112	4,255	0.6	1916.	59,276	8	22,000	15,417
1910.	30	280,000	172	10,697	0.7	1917.	64,760	8	30,000	18,177
1913.	27	408,000	154	21,329	0.8	1918.	71,514	8	22,000	21,613
1914.	29	587,000	186	31,600	1.0	1919.	83,767	9	30,500	22,680
1915.	31	550,000	170	25,141	0.8	1920.	125,147	10	46,250	30,377
1916.	31	550,000	170	25,141	0.8	1921.	139,803	8	40,000	50,180
1917.	38	780,000	180	36,177	0.8	1922.	105,935	6	50,000	34,116
1918.	41	817,500	126	47,713	0.7					
1919.	41	830,000	92	54,580	0.8					
1920.	47	1,200,000	73	78,377	0.5					
1921.	50	1,225,000	135	98,180	0.7					
1922.	51	1,600,000	130	70,116	0.6					

In August, 1920, 200,000 new shares of £10 each, of which 100,000 (£4 paid), were allotted in equal proportions to the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, and the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office - - 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C. 3,

and over 1,600 Branches in England and Wales, and Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the World.

FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Chairman.
Sir HERBERT HAMBLING, Deputy-Chairman.
EDMUND HENRY PARKER, Vice-Chairman.

GENERAL MANAGERS:
WILLIAM FAVILL TUKE. Sir WILLIAM CARRUTHERS. ROBERT WILLIAM STREET.
JOHN CAULCUTT.

Authorised Capital	£20,000,000
Issued and Paid-up Capital	£15,592,372
Reserve Fund	£8,250,000
Deposits (30th June, 1922)	£321,167,218

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Chief Foreign Branch - - - - - 168, Fenchurch St., London, E.C.3.
West End Foreign Branch - - - - - 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch - - - - - 42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch - - - - - 94, Portland Street, Manchester.

Affiliated Banks:

BARCLAYS BANK (OVERSEAS) LIMITED: Head Office, PARIS.
THE BRITISH LINEN BANK: Head Office, EDINBURGH. 153 Branches in Scotland.
THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER LIMITED: Head Office, MANCHESTER.
145 Branches in Lancashire, Cheshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire.
THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED: Head Office, 37 to 39, KING WILLIAM ST., LONDON, E.C.4.
Branches in Egypt and Palestine. Also at Gibraltar, Malta and Khartoum.

BARCLAYS BANK (Overseas) LIMITED.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED ON BRITISH BANKING LINES.

Affiliated to
BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

PARIS—33 RUE DU IV. SEPTEMBRE.

Bordeaux—4 Rue Esprit des Lois.
Boulogne—61 Rue Victor Hugo.
Havre—9 Quai Georges V.

Lyons—1 Rue de la Republique.
Marseilles—5 Rue Cannebiere.
Rouen—7 Rue Jeanne d'Arc.

THE RIVIERA:

Cannes—7 Rue du Marechal Foch.
Mentone—Avenue Felix-Faure.
Villa les Grottes, Garavan.

Monte Carlo—1 Boulevard des Moulins.
Nice—4 Avenue Georges Clemenceau.

ALGERIA:

Algiers—6 Rue de la Liberte.

Oran—15 Rue Alsace-Lorraine.

COLOGNE—2 Komodienstrasse.

LONDON—70 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

The Bank is specially organised to provide banking facilities for trade between Great Britain and France and their respective Overseas Possessions.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

REGISTERED 1890.

Absorbed Bank of Africa, established 1879, as from January 1, 1912. Capital increased by £1,250,000.
 Absorbed National Bank of Orange River Colony, Limited, established 1877. Absorbed Natal Bank, L., October, 1914.
 Capital increased by £650,000.

[illegible]

* March 31.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

1920—Absorbed African Banking Corporation.

Year ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.					Market Value.					Year Ended		Net Profit.		Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.		Carried Forward.	
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.		Sept. 30, 1922.				Dec. 31.	£	£	%	%	£.	£.				
		£	£	£	£																
		£	£	£	£																
1896	70	1,635,018	126	861,290	66	103,410	08	2,332,651	180	8,041,074	620	12,973,443	3,099,477	238	..	..	1,292,070	100	8,383,675	647	198,221
1900	98	2,407,670	108	1,260,076	59	705,940	33	1,884,700	88	14,884,220	698	21,312,600	5,250,552	247	1,845,000	87	2,748,038	129	9,236,922	432	2,232,088
1905	148	3,545,575	114	1,077,649	35	1,276,969	41	3,025,676	98	21,835,265	705	30,934,663	5,023,310	162	3,391,953	110	4,176,434	135	14,993,718	485	3,350,248
1910	159	3,448,525	119	1,084,822	41	1,503,015	57	2,638,164	66	26,509,191	4,153,805	157	2,363,269	89	2,998,622	113	13,798,629	521	3,194,866	12	
1913	190	3,538,525	130	1,151,110	37	1,022,305	37	2,704,983	91	21,058,240	719	29,724,123	5,024,035	169	3,020,033	97	17,368,190	579	3,205,934	10	
1914	195	3,548,525	118	1,029,233	36	1,058,381	34	2,690,929	90	21,560,485	726	32,961,913	4,488,985	150	3,643,335	88	16,703,299	559	3,248,256	12	
1915	197	3,548,525	102	1,221,080	37	1,009,991	31	2,130,719	70	24,761,236	756	32,841,551	5,487,828	166	3,722,244	113	3,290,020	815	2,684,687	12	
1916	198	3,548,525	101	1,269,797	36	1,200,094	34	2,804,902	80	26,243,681	749	33,066,999	5,076,161	143	3,272,092	59	3,961,042	119	3,437,570	9	
1917	211	3,548,525	89	1,759,422	44	1,420,532	36	3,402,350	86	29,596,591	748	39,727,420	4,275,911	108	2,459,371	62	3,755,717	94	25,207,800	635	4,028,621
1918	251	3,548,525	70	2,502,810	49	1,958,242	39	3,475,524	94	34,756,584	748	50,300,755	6,066,226	136	3,311,246	66	4,063,781	81	30,732,075	611	5,397,427
1919	325	3,762,500	61	3,119,112	51	1,707,214	26	3,330,664	103	46,305,593	751	61,225,068	8,689,936	141	3,829,52	62	4,359,140	71	37,471,831	614	6,874,633
1920	384	3,762,500	54	4,193,361	60	2,478,180	20	3,658,602	109	52,010,266	774	70,102,099	10,075,744	158	3,491,924	50	4,390,113	62	42,818,258	611	8,874,872
1921	400	5,122,500	64	4,609,342	59	3,650,333	14	4,081,548	117	57,739,579	740	77,913,302	11,190,343	144	1,283,004	56	5,266,252	60	50,160,040	594	10,156,657
1922	370	5,122,500	73	4,207,800	60	1,034,029	15	7,763,111	110	52,521,937	742	70,649,377	11,812,236	167	2,947,286	42	5,116,110	73	43,993,570	524	8,786,175
* Fifteen months to March 31.																					

Year ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital Reserves.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Drafts Out- standing and Accept- ances.	Per Cent.	Customers' Bills.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand, at Bank, and in Transit.	Per Cent.	Cash and Loans at Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Ad- vances.	Per Cent.	Bills for Collection, Property, Buildings, & Sundries.	Per Cent.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1890	70	1,635,018	126	861,290	66	103,410	08	2,332,651	180	8,041,074	620	12,973,443	3,099,477	238	..	..	1,292,070	100	8,383,675	647	198,221	
1900	98	2,407,670	108	1,260,076	59	705,940	33	1,884,700	88	14,884,220	698	21,312,600	5,250,552	247	1,845,000	87	2,748,038	129	9,236,922	432	2,232,088	
1905	148	3,545,575	114	1,077,649	35	1,276,969	41	3,025,676	98	21,835,265	705	30,934,663	5,023,310	162	3,391,953	110	4,176,434	135	14,993,718	485	3,350,248	
1910	159	3,448,525	119	1,084,822	41	1,503,015	57	2,638,164	66	26,509,191	4,153,805	157	2,363,269	89	2,998,622	113	13,798,629	521	3,194,866	12		
1913	190	3,538,525	130	1,151,110	37	1,022,305	37	2,704,983	91	21,058,240	719	29,724,123	5,024,035	169	3,020,033	97	17,368,190	579	3,205,934	10		
1914	195	3,548,525	118	1,029,233	36	1,058,381	34	2,690,929	90	21,560,485	726	32,961,913	4,488,985	150	3,643,335	88	16,703,299	559	3,248,256	12		
1915	197	3,548,525	102	1,221,080	37	1,009,991	31	2,130,719	70	24,761,236	756	32,841,551	5,487,828	166	3,722,244	113	3,290,020	815	2,684,687	12		
1916	198	3,548,525	101	1,269,797	36	1,200,094	34	2,804,902	80	26,243,681	749	33,066,999	5,076,161	143	3,272,092	59	3,961,042	119	3,437,570	9		
1917	211	3,548,525	89	1,759,422	44	1,420,532	36	3,402,350	86	29,596,591	748	39,727,420	4,275,911	108	2,459,371	62	3,755,717	94	25,207,800	635	4,028,621	
1918	251	3,548,525	70	2,502,810	49	1,958,242	39	3,475,524	94	34,756,584	748	50,300,755	6,066,226	136	3,311,246	66	4,063,781	81	30,732,075	611	5,397,427	
1919	325	3,762,500	61	3,119,112	51	1,707,214	26	3,330,664	103	46,305,593	751	61,225,068	8,689,936	141	3,829,52	62	4,359,140	71	37,471,831	614	6,874,633	
1920	384	3,762,500	54	4,193,361	60	2,478,180	20	3,658,602	109	52,010,266	774	70,102,099	10,075,744	158	3,491,924	50	4,390,113	62	42,818,258	611	8,874,872	
1921	400	5,122,500	64	4,609,342	59	3,650,333	14	4,081,548	117	57,739,579	740	77,913,302	11,190,343	144	1,283,004	56	5,266,252	60	50,160,040	594	10,156,657	
1922	370	5,122,500	73	4,207,800	60	1,034,029	15	7,763,111	110	52,521,937	742	70,649,377	11,812,236	167	2,947,286	42	5,116,110	73	43,993,570	524	8,786,175	

* Fifteen months to March 31.

* Includes cash at bankers. † March 31.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

REGISTERED 1888.

CAPITAL				Year.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.		£	%	£	£
£	£	£	£	1913.....	13,173	4	3,900	285
240,000	240,000	Nil.	Nil.	1916.....	18,497	5	6,000	497
				1917.....	17,911	5	5,584	327
				1918.....	17,595	5	5,250	345
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	1919.....	21,359	5½	8,147	11
460	460	Nil.	Nil.	1920.....	30,253	5½	16,397	655
				1921.....	24,888	4	12,500	2,788



Exact & necessary knowledge
at your elbow—

∴ CONTENTS ∴

**Alphabetical List of
British, Colonial, and
Foreign Private and
Joint Stock Banks,
Discount Houses, etc.**

**Alphabetical List of
Directors of Banks and
Kindred Companies,
Telegraphic addresses
of all Banks.**

**List of Towns in
the United King-
dom and abroad,
with names of
Banks and Bankers
in each, with their
London Agents.**

**Transfer Days, Divi-
dends, &c. (Bank of
England).**

Foreign Exchange Tables.

**Income Tax Table,
&c., &c., &c.**

Price 42/- net.



**THOMAS SKINNER
& CO.,
GRESHAM HOUSE,
LONDON, E.C.2.**

The World's Banking Directory.

The
Bankers' Almanac
& Year Book for 1922-23

Have you all the information you require—exact and comprehensive information at your elbow?



THE BOOK that covers
the Business World

By Post: BRITISH ISLES	....	£2 : 4 : 0	per copy.
„ „ EUROPE	....	2 : 5 : 3	„
„ „ ELSEWHERE	....	2 : 6 : 6	„

Netherlands Bank of South Africa—Con.

Year Ended December 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills for Collection.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand, with Bankers, and Money at Call.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Bills for Collection.	Per Cent.		
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£				
1903 ..	6	435,393	41.5	44,048	4.2	26,380	2.5	95,240	9.1	445,247	42.7	1,046,508	174,753	16.6	26,589	2.5	707,301	67.8	137,665	13.1		
1905 ..	8	444,331	41.8	27,409	2.6	26,045	2.4	54,779	5.1	511,150	48.1	1,063,714	178,550	16.8	53,630	5.0	734,967	73.2	96,566	9.0		
1906 ..	9	444,605	40.7	21,394	2.0	22,577	2.1	48,534	4.4	554,003	50.8	1,091,113	265,316*	24.3	52,351	4.8	680,338	62.4	93,108	8.5		
1907 ..	8	444,643	49.8	11,096	1.2	17,622	2.0	41,811	4.7	377,580	42.3	892,752	146,618*	16.4	56,073	6.3	605,637	67.8	84,424	9.5		
1908 ..	8	445,722	45.5	6,752	0.7	18,037	1.8	31,926	3.3	477,714	46.7	980,151	219,174*	22.4	57,537	5.9	630,751	64.3	72,709	7.4		
1909 ..	8	257,000	27.7	11,962	1.3	19,194	2.1	49,050	5.3	590,077	63.6	927,283	315,442*	34.0	57,612	6.2	415,948	44.8	139,303	15.0		
1910 ..	8	257,000	28.1	13,287	1.4	21,434	2.3	50,006	5.5	573,942	62.7	915,669	250,174*	27.4	57,114	6.2	473,217	51.7	135,164	14.7		
1911 ..	8	260,000	28.5	16,689	1.8	22,629	2.5	51,017	5.6	562,364	61.6	912,699	230,872*	25.2	57,257	6.3	513,488	56.4	111,082	12.1		
1912 ..	8	264,000	32.5	16,162	2.0	23,110	2.8	61,741	7.6	448,010	55.1	813,023	142,623*	17.6	60,321	7.4	479,708	58.9	130,371	16.1		
1913 ..	8	267,000	32.5	13,785	1.7	24,147	2.9	88,443	10.7	428,940	52.2	822,315	150,061*	18.2	55,480	6.7	471,217	57.5	145,557	17.6		
1914 ..	8	268,400	35.0	10,257	1.3	21,857	2.9	72,518	9.5	393,295	51.3	766,327	338,197*	44.1	52,725	6.9	251,439	32.9	123,966	16.1		
1915 ..	12	268,400	32.8	12,690	1.5	19,677	2.4	83,875	10.3	433,143	53.0	817,785	319,329*	39.1	84,750	9.4	404,680	44.7	142,846	15.8		
1916 ..	12	270,400	29.8	18,497	2.0	22,357	2.5	97,380	10.8	497,383	54.9	906,617	274,321*	30.1	84,750	9.4	404,680	44.7	142,846	15.8		
1917 ..	12	272,735	25.5	17,911	1.7	32,154	3.0	92,298	8.6	652,392	61.2	1,068,488	312,094*	29.1	148,041	13.8	474,298	44.5	134,055	12.6		
1918 ..	12	276,650	24.1	17,595	1.5	50,039	4.3	126,451	11.0	677,192	59.1	1,147,927	324,910*	28.1	84,582	7.4	575,345	50.2	163,090	14.3		
1919 ..	16	278,566	17.9	21,359	1.4	79,662	5.1	152,063	9.8	1,026,654	65.8	1,558,304	594,030*	38.3	62,256	4.0	711,053	45.5	190,965	12.2		
1920 ..	16	281,567	16.6	30,253	1.8	108,975	6.4	225,602	13.3	1,052,403	61.9	1,698,800	400,045*	23.6	55,589	3.3	971,176	57.1	271,990	16.0		
1921 ..	17	300,861	17.4	24,888	1.4	72,671	4.2	206,880	11.9	1,119,296	65.1	1,724,596	342,825*	19.8	266,490	15.4	863,704	50.2	251,577	14.6		

* Includes remittances in transit.

(2) AUSTRALIAN BANKS.

AUSTRALIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, LIMITED.

In 1909 acquired the business of the Australian Joint Stock Bank, founded in 1853.
In 1917 purchased City Bank of Sydney.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.					Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
		Subscribed. £	Paid-up. £	Callable. £	Reserved. £	Market Value. £					
1,200,000		1,200,000	.....	Nil.	.....	1,462,500	1917	.....	.....	20,000	.....
Per Share.		Per Share.	.....	Per Share.	.....	Per Share.	1918	.....	.....	4	.....
£1		£1	.....	£1	.....	£1.25	1919	.....	.....	5	.....
							1920	.....	.....	50,000	.....
							1921	.....	.....	60,000	.....
							1922	.....	.....	50,000	.....

Inscribed deposits, £1,330,507.
Reserve fund, £290,000.

BANK OF ADELAIDE.

INCORPORATED DECEMBER 5, 1865.

CAPITAL.										Year Ended		Net	Dividend.		To Reserve,	Carried
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.							March.	1917.	Profit.	%	&c.		Forward.
£ 625,000	£ 625,000	£ nil	£ 625,000							1914.	1917.	£	10	£	20,000	£
Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.							1918.	1918.	66,175	8	10,000	25.168	
£5	£5	nil	£5							1919.	1919.	71,354	10	18,000	16.175	
										1920.	1920.	63,949	10	35,000	12.508	
										1921.	1921.	87,694	10	20,000	13.877	
										1922.	1922.	88,108	10	30,000	16.571	
												92,633	10	20,000	22.179	
														30,000	22.312	

LIABILITIES.												ASSETS.											
Year Ended	March 25.	Number of	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un-divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, Rebates, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash and Notes in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Money at Short Call and Remittances in Transit.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills Receivable and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Furniture.	Per Cent.
Year	Ended	March 25.	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un-divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, Rebates, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash and Notes in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Money at Short Call and Remittances in Transit.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills Receivable and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Furniture.	Per Cent.
1894 ..	21	543,000	21.8	32,240	1.3	86,891	3.5	108,069	4.3	1,728,938	69.1	2,499,138	315,627	12.6	530,859	21.3	297,266	11.9	1,288,755	51.5	66,631	2.7	
1895 ..	19	546,000	21.6	32,289	1.3	92,844	3.7	199,593	7.9	1,654,893	65.5	2,525,619	383,267	15.2	379,469	15.0	293,146	11.8	1,400,846	55.5	62,891	2.5	
1900 ..	33	565,000	18.3	40,401	1.3	127,222	4.1	175,591	5.7	2,185,435	70.6	3,093,979	610,156	19.8	717,581	23.1	307,279	9.9	1,401,689	45.3	57,274	1.9	
1905 ..	44	635,000	18.5	49,953	1.4	129,968	3.8	291,399	8.5	2,334,238	67.8	3,440,558	445,598	12.9	789,763	23.0	432,768	12.6	1,700,946	49.4	71,483	2.1	
1910 ..	84	725,000	12.2	61,838	1.1	225,893	4.0	808,067	13.6	4,114,849	69.1	5,935,647	781,584	13.2	1,729,246	29.1	522,047	8.8	2,817,429	47.5	85,341	1.4	
1911 ..	87	900,000	14.0	76,486	1.2	228,477	3.6	524,139	8.2	4,684,503	73.0	6,413,605	867,435	13.5	1,247,654	19.4	498,021	7.8	3,712,290	57.9	88,205	1.5	
1912 ..	88	930,000	16.0	77,084	1.3	28,649	0.5	240,807	4.1	4,543,208	78.1	5,819,748	905,012	15.5	834,899	14.5	459,177	7.9	3,536,154	60.8	84,506	1.9	
1913 ..	89	960,000	17.6	78,222	1.4	16,801	0.3	328,716	6.0	4,434,739	77.8	5,485,701	926,893	17.0	986,245	18.0	480,367	8.8	2,986,570	54.3	105,625	1.8	
1914 ..	89	990,000	15.8	70,169	1.1	11,003	0.2	270,436	5.6	3,486,027	72.3	4,830,657	688,464	11.0	853,599	13.7	479,681	7.7	4,094,975	65.8	111,322	1.8	
1915 ..	87	1,010,000	20.8	53,191	1.1	9,700	0.2	184,316	3.9	3,459,742	73.2	4,726,755	998,678	20.6	656,079	13.6	471,305	9.7	2,589,386	53.7	115,209	1.8	
1916 ..	92	1,010,000	17.4	62,528	1.0	8,014	0.1	273,546	4.6	4,591,817	76.9	5,975,905	1,130,177	18.9	711,914	13.8	751,568	14.6	2,816,449	55.1	114,658	2.2	
1917 ..	88	1,010,000	19.7	79,170	1.5	8,517	0.2	270,990	5.3	3,759,455	73.3	5,128,132	733,543	14.3	402,737	8.5	469,827	9.9	3,043,900	64.5	115,923	2.4	
1918 ..	86	1,010,000	17.4	62,528	1.0	8,014	0.1	273,546	4.6	4,591,817	76.9	5,975,905	1,130,177	18.9	711,914	13.8	751,568	14.6	2,816,449	55.1	114,658	2.2	
1919 ..	87	1,055,000	15.7	53,877	0.8	7,747	0.1	223,246	3.3	5,365,076	80.7	6,704,946	920,119	13.7	350,803	5.3	1,219,619	20.4	3,174,157	51.1	101,149	1.7	
1920 ..	90	1,055,000	13.6	76,571	1.0	7,519	0.1	233,106	3.8	6,380,956	81.5	7,827,252	1,114,527	14.2	588,446	7.5	2,079,105	26.6	3,887,421	49.7	157,753	2.0	
1921 ..	95	1,225,000	15.0	75,029	0.9	7,506	0.1	866,054	10.6	5,984,597	73.4	8,156,386	1,460,182	18.0	686,401	8.4	1,126,981	13.8	4,720,253	51.8	162,569	2.0	
1922 ..	94	1,245,000	15.1	83,562	1.0	7,216	0.1	350,932	4.2	6,545,112	79.6	8,231,822	1,543,653	18.8	630,817	7.6	1,912,659	23.2	3,991,579	48.5	153,114	1.9	

British Italian Corporation, Ltd.

12 Nicholas Lane, London, E.C. 4.

Registered July, 1916.

AUTHORISED and Fully Paid CAPITAL

£1,000,000

RESERVE - - - £233,418

Principal Shareholders :

Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.
Barclays Bank, Limited.
National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd.
Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.
Brown, Shipley & Co.
Higginson & Co.
M. Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's, Ltd.
London and River Plate Bank, Ltd.
Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd.
Clydesdale Bank, Ltd.
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
National Bank of Scotland, Ltd.
Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd.
Bank of Australasia.
Bank of British West Africa, Ltd.
Canadian Bank of Commerce.
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
National Bank of Egypt.
National Bank of India, Ltd.
Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.
Tata Industrial Bank, Ltd.
Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd.

The object of the Corporation is, in conjunction with the
Banca Italo-Britannica, to

TRANSACTION EVERY KIND OF
BANKING & FINANCIAL BUSINESS

in support of Trade between the

BRITISH EMPIRE and the KINGDOM OF ITALY

Telegrams—"Britalana, Cannon, London."

'Phone—Central 4722.

AUXILIARY IN ITALY

Banca Italo-Britannica

5 Via Manzoni, MILAN.

3 Via Banchi, GENOA.

Registered October, 1916.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - Lire 20,000,000
PAID UP - - - - - " 12,000,000

RESERVE - - - - - " 449,000

Telegrams—"Italbrit."

'Phone—8664 Milan. 254 Genoa.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

INCORPORATED 1835.

CAPITAL.										Market	Year	Net	Dividend.	To Reserve,	Carried
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Value.	Ended	Profit.	%	&c.	Forward.						
£	£	£	£	£	October.	£	%	£	£						
4,000,000	4,000,000	Nil	4,000,000	10,300,000	1916	407,568	17*	60,000	122,664						
					1917	405,646	17*	65,000	123,309						
					1918	438,846	17*	95,000	127,055						
					1919	460,768	18*	100,000	127,822						
					1920	573,052	13*	100,000	145,874						
					1921	588,389	13*	125,000	121,763						
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	* Tax free.										
£5	£5	Nil	£5	£12½											

LIABILITIES.										ASSETS.													
Year	Number of	Capital	Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un-divided	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Pre-mises.	Per Cent.
Ended April.	Branches.	and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Pre-mises.	Per Cent.	
1890	140	2,400,000	128	127,043	0.7	461,424	2.6	2,254,793	12.1	13,416,044	71.8	18,679,304	2,245,471	12.0	1,607,000	8.6	772,230	4.1	13,630,240	73.0	424,363	2.3	
1891	128	2,400,000	128	126,501	0.7	473,117	2.5	2,128,619	11.4	13,554,534	72.6	18,682,771	2,464,906	13.2	449,000	2.4	767,702	4.1	14,575,644	78.0	425,519	2.3	
1892	149	2,400,000	118	109,641	0.5	462,303	2.3	2,930,272	14.4	14,413,667	71.0	20,315,883	2,536,634	12.4	1,072,000	5.3	801,587	3.9	15,464,733	76.2	440,929	2.3	
1893	148	2,400,000	113	70,729	0.3	449,819	2.1	2,755,600	12.9	15,588,513	73.4	21,264,661	3,281,014	15.4	2,022,000	9.5	899,293	4.2	14,623,445	68.3	438,909	2.3	
1894	142	2,400,000	137	59,906	0.3	428,007	2.4	1,823,650	10.4	12,846,002	73.2	17,557,565	2,772,043	15.8	1,547,000	8.8	500,000	2.9	12,294,420	70.0	444,102	2.3	
1895	143	2,400,000	136	50,495	0.3	443,004	2.5	1,229,979	12.0	12,639,709	71.6	17,723,183	3,053,088	17.2	1,972,000	11.1	520,095	2.9	11,737,763	66.3	440,237	2.3	
1896	150	2,475,000	124	84,175	0.4	530,761	2.6	2,822,374	14.1	14,108,277	70.9	20,020,987	3,065,263	15.3	1,885,000	9.4	323,677	4.1	13,822,940	69.1	426,107	2.3	
1900	150	2,475,000	124	84,175	0.4	495,237	2.2	2,401,773	10.8	16,286,330	73.8	22,116,444	2,959,998	13.4	2,693,000	12.2	1,112,735	5.0	15,055,970	68.1	294,741	1.5	
1905	187	2,820,000	127	113,104	0.6	514,008	2.2	2,589,632	10.9	17,000,503	72.1	23,607,337	3,848,994	16.2	3,025,000	12.8	1,561,063	6.0	15,021,437	63.8	150,843	0.8	
1910	184	3,350,000	142	143,194	0.6	514,008	2.2	2,589,632	10.9	17,000,503	72.1	23,607,337	3,848,994	16.2	3,025,000	12.8	1,561,063	6.0	15,021,437	63.8	150,843	0.8	
1914	204	4,690,000	171	264,066	1.0	195,887	0.7	3,045,714	11.1	19,259,977	70.1	27,455,644	4,836,867	17.6	2,390,600	8.7	1,683,376	6.1	18,527,117	67.5	17,684	0.1	
1915	204	4,750,000	163	283,353	1.0	258,793	0.9	3,159,819	10.8	20,699,953	71.0	29,151,918	7,137,665	24.4	620,000	2.1	1,946,617	6.7	19,427,303	66.7	20,333	0.1	
1916	206	4,810,000	159	291,759	1.0	304,646	1.0	1,134,325	10.9	20,694,773	68.5	30,223,502	5,687,677	18.8	95,000	0.3	2,946,975	9.7	21,468,529	71.1	25,321	0.1	
1917	203	4,875,000	167	292,869	1.0	335,734	1.1	2,394,337	12.9	20,694,773	68.5	30,223,502	5,687,677	18.8	95,000	0.3	2,946,975	9.7	21,468,529	71.1	25,321	0.1	
1918	200	4,945,000	158	296,136	1.0	410,588	1.3	3,687,741	11.8	21,664,401	70.1	31,003,866	5,324,230	18.3	3,345,000	11.4	2,086,462	7.2	18,348,927	63.0	27,058	0.1	
1919	203	5,000,000	158	297,055	0.9	761,710	2.4	3,628,425	11.5	21,903,754	69.4	31,590,944	5,565,482	17.6	20,000	0.1	2,363,242	9.1	23,123,421	73.1	16,799	0.1	
1920	203	5,100,000	150	317,823	0.9	424,100	1.3	3,670,254	10.8	24,351,904	72.0	33,864,081	6,799,367	20.0	695,000	2.1	2,664,958	7.9	23,677,840	69.8	26,316	0.1	
1921	203	5,100,000	150	317,823	0.9	424,100	1.3	3,670,254	10.8	24,351,904	72.0	33,864,081	6,799,367	20.0	695,000	2.1	2,664,958	7.9	23,677,840	69.8	26,316	0.1	
1922	204	7,425,000	196	381,763	1.0	387,417	1.0	4,116,504	10.9	25,603,631	67.5	37,914,315	6,969,413	18.4	1,718,000	4.5	1,760,569	4.7	27,458,504	72.4	7,829	0.0	

* October.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

ESTABLISHED 1817, AND INCORPORATED IN 1850.

CAPITAL										Market	Year	Net	Dividend.	To Reserve,	Carried
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Value.	Ended	Profit.									
£	£	£	£	£	March 31.	£	£	£	£						
5,000,000	5,000,000	Nil	5,000,000	8,500,000	1917	527,493	10	125,000	114,828						
					1918	553,587	10	150,000	127,729						
				Per Share,	1919	550,617	10	150,000	137,313						
				Sept 30, 1922,	1920	606,644	10	175,000	150,447						
				£20	1921	752,565	12½	160,000	126,098						
				£34	1922	708,619	10	175,000	160,133						
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.												
£20	£20	Nil.	£20												

LIABILITIES.										ASSETS.										
Year	Number of	Capital	Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un-divided	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Outstanding	Per Cent.	Deposits	Per Cent.	Current	Per Cent.	Total	Cash in	Per Cent.	Cash at	Per Cent.	
Ended	Branches.	and	Reserves.	Per Cent.	Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Deposits	Per Cent.	and	Per Cent.	Accounts.	Per Cent.	Liabilities	Hand	Per Cent.	Call	Per Cent.	
March 31.																				
1890	186	2,190,000	96	149,774	0.7	650,570	2.9	1,661,786	7.4	18,141,038	79.4	22,793,168	3,375,567	14.8	..	..	445,729	2.0	18,434,958	80.9
1891	193	2,210,000	95	150,117	0.6	714,508	3.1	1,577,434	6.8	18,638,226	80.0	23,290,285	3,201,927	13.8	..	..	519,370	2.2	19,011,812	81.6
1892	197	2,230,000	89	145,623	0.6	670,394	2.7	1,779,719	7.1	20,316,677	80.7	25,142,413	3,391,094	13.4	..	..	865,467	3.4	20,302,556	80.9
1893	192	2,250,000	90	137,939	0.6	660,325	2.6	1,448,407	5.8	20,418,943	82.0	24,915,614	3,456,080	13.8	..	..	560,973	2.3	20,308,493	81.5
1894	190	2,201,875	116	110,617	0.5	851,652	3.5	2,845,795	11.6	17,421,081	72.6	24,031,020	4,117,710	17.1	..	..	634,149	2.6	18,331,884	76.4
1895	186	2,995,372	120	112,016	0.5	763,318	3.1	3,791,375	15.2	17,274,460	69.2	24,936,541	5,981,257	24.0	..	..	804,254	3.2	17,337,575	69.5
1900	196	3,246,405	114	126,249	0.4	916,176	3.2	2,948,996	10.3	21,272,199	79.7	28,510,025	6,776,801	23.7	734,024	2.6	1,639,001	5.7	18,518,758	65.1
1905	209	3,370,000	108	160,211	0.5	922,659	2.8	2,880,347	9.2	23,877,247	76.2	31,190,460	6,671,747	21.8	980,000	3.1	1,888,443	5.7	18,518,758	65.1
1910	279	4,200,000	105	229,642	0.6	1,149,153	2.8	5,026,030	12.3	30,548,580	74.0	40,963,406	9,152,848	22.4	2,370,000	5.8	2,791,600	6.8	25,237,199	61.6
1914	319	5,850,000	115	256,905	0.5	277,874	0.5	7,761,126	15.3	36,699,815	72.2	50,845,720	12,650,016	25.0	8,318,721	16.4	3,246,328	6.4	26,825,939	46.5
1915	321	6,000,000	112	242,636	0.5	370,918	0.7	8,192,156	15.2	38,778,055	72.4	53,583,765	15,460,830	28.9	6,077,085	11.3	4,335,055	8.1	25,726,173	48.0
1916	317	6,619,980	98	271,450	0.4	458,197	0.7	14,402,388	23.2	40,833,407	65.9	62,065,442	17,909,497	28.8	7,724,666	12.5	5,517,355	8.1	25,726,173	48.0
1917	316	6,619,980	115	287,203	0.5	525,239	0.9	9,818,918	17.1	40,174,670	70.0	57,426,010	14,477,124	25.2	5,776,518	10.0	7,697,460	13.4	26,525,939	46.5
1918	310	6,779,860	110	300,350	0.5	610,107	1.0	10,379,920	18.8	43,126,762	70.7	61,196,399	15,252,250	24.9	4,835,407	7.9	10,750,367	17.5	27,834,243	45.3
1919	314	6,937,440	103	310,457	0.5	1,202,254	1.8	13,588,676	22.4	49,437,041	67.9	67,075,871	13,634,854	20.3	6,978,019	10.4	9,426,845	14.0	35,848,804	53.8
1920	351	7,965,700	106	344,589	0.5	715,668	0.9	17,101,226	22.4	49,437,041	67.9	75,544,242	17,176,307	22.7	7,677,528	10.2	13,134,614	17.4	32,001,495	42.3
1921	358	8,315,200	110	449,259	0.6	752,588	1.0	14,482,905	19.2	51,692,457	68.2	75,692,437	15,145,200	20.5	7,529,967	10.0	9,107,968	12.0	40,470,115	53.4
1922	360	8,500,000	119	385,133	0.5	623,358	0.9	11,389,711	15.9	50,763,553	70.8	71,661,755	15,199,632	21.1	7,690,959	10.7	7,906,904	11.0	38,042,891	53.3

BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.

Bank of North Queensland and Royal Bank of Queensland amalgamated January, 1917, under above title.
1922—Purchased by National Bank of Australasia, Limited.

BANK OF NORTH QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.																				
Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.							
		Capital and Reserves.		Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Cash in Hand, Remit- tances in Transit.		Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Sundries.	Per Cent.	
		£	s																	d
1910	18	120,000	14.5	8,492	1.0	59,160	7.2	641,672	77.3	829,324	206,044	24.8	22,500	3.0	558,242	67.4	40,038	4.8		
1914	20	195,000	14.5	11,242	0.8	94,067	7.0	1,046,290	77.7	1,346,599	483,433	35.9	25,000	1.9	770,666	57.2	67,500	5.0		
1915	20	197,500	14.2	9,928	0.7	41,797	3.0	1,134,157	82.1	1,383,382	468,192	33.9	25,000	1.8	815,190	59.0	75,000	5.4		
1916	20	200,000	14.8	10,182	0.7	70,695	5.2	1,079,049	79.3	1,359,926	402,216	29.6	50,000	3.7	822,710	60.4	85,000	6.3		

Bank of Queensland—(Con.)

Year Ended June 30.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.							
	Number of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent. ²	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Cash in Hand, Remittances in Transit.		Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Sundries.	Per Cent.	
ROYAL BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.																			
1895	16	361,534	30.8	12,981	1.1	55,250	4.7	741,837	63.4	1,171,602	233,600	19.9	11,845	1.0	852,117	72.8	74,040	6.3	
1900	15	431,187	31.8	10,978	0.8	60,422	4.5	855,308	62.9	1,357,895	310,186	22.9	46,135	3.4	922,571	67.9	79,003	5.8	
1905	16	521,539	36.0	10,455	0.7	49,678	2.4	868,534	59.9	1,450,206	246,353	17.0	76,981	5.3	1,064,625	73.4	62,247	4.3	
1910	21	587,132	29.7	14,038	0.7	9,654	0.5	1,324,115	67.4	1,968,439	562,694	28.5	76,977	3.4	1,265,719	64.4	63,049	3.2	
1914	27	622,154	27.4	18,299	0.8	18,299	0.8	1,617,238	71.0	2,275,911	703,323	31.0	77,977	3.4	1,420,735	62.4	73,876	3.2	
1915	30	625,160	27.1	19,033	0.8	19,962	0.9	1,636,287	71.2	2,300,442	570,666	24.7	87,382	3.8	1,564,250	68.1	78,144	3.4	
1916	31	627,260	27.2	17,678	0.8	25,021	1.1	1,630,349	70.9	2,300,308	549,625	23.8	87,382	3.8	1,581,974	68.9	81,327	3.5	
BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.																			

BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.

1917 (July 31)	46	450,000	12.8	17,220	0.5	206,074	5.9	2,864,030	80.8	3,537,324		1,054,835	29.8	150,000	4.2	2,109,892	59.7	222,597	6.3			
1918 (July 31)	46	450,000	12.2	23,317	0.6	298,415	8.1	2,928,451	79.1	3,700,183		1,069,536	28.9	175,000	4.7	2,236,694	60.8	218,953	5.6			
1919 (Jan. 31)	47	450,000	11.8	27,194	0.7	260,579	6.8	3,074,618	80.7	3,812,191		852,321	22.4	175,000	4.6	2,579,318	67.4	212,552	5.6			
1920 (Jan. 31)	43	450,000	11.6	39,759	1.0	289,781	7.3	3,095,457	80.1	3,867,997		1,095,709	28.3	185,000	4.8	2,381,111	61.6	206,177	5.3			
1921 (Jan. 31)	41	475,000	12.1	62,776	1.6	249,330	6.3	3,159,641	80.0	3,946,747		940,002	23.9	190,000	4.8	2,602,299	65.9	214,446	5.4			

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

INCORPORATED 1861.

Year Ended March 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Year Ended March 31.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. %	To Reserve, £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.					
Ordinary Shares		£2,250,000	£2,250,000	Nil.	Nil.	1914	348,491	15	215,000	51,608
Per Share		£1	£1	Nil.	Nil.	1917	415,490	15	122,859	111,596
Preference Shares		£1,125,000	£1,125,000	Nil.	Nil.	1918	386,605	15	65,000	145,703
Guaranteed Stock		£529,988	£529,988	Nil.	Nil.	1919	438,021	15	200,000	146,224
						1920	469,045	17½	200,000	146,520
						1921	827,255	13½	200,000	361,276
						1922	682,043	13½	200,000	430,819

Ordinary
Guaranteed

Year Ended March 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Bills Re- ceivable and in Transit.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1890	115	1,125,000	9.9	99,784	0.8	453,295	3.9	1,707,441	14.9	8,090,653	70.5	11,476,173	1,572,308	13.7	1,437,667	12.5			8,092,757	70.5	373,441	3.3
1891	115	897,833	9.0	59,522	0.6	483,064	4.9	1,083,487	10.9	7,436,776	74.6	9,960,682	1,642,024	16.4	2,303,218	23.2	1,850,000	18.6	3,791,277	38.1	374,163	3.7
1892	116	920,000	9.1	55,831	0.6	479,260	4.7	1,314,252	13.0	7,363,045	72.6	10,132,388	1,379,565	13.6	2,397,002	23.6	1,885,287	18.6	4,092,730	40.5	376,804	3.7
1893	126	935,000	8.5	51,661	0.5	520,323	4.8	1,343,699	12.3	8,071,783	73.9	10,922,466	1,484,457	13.6	2,301,824	21.1	1,900,841	17.4	4,825,831	44.2	409,513	3.7
1894	126	945,000	8.5	37,740	0.3	515,568	4.2	1,413,997	12.7	8,213,199	73.9	11,125,594	1,582,019	14.0	2,383,073	21.4	1,911,524	17.2	4,855,519	43.7	413,319	3.7
1895	126	3,104,745	25.4	384		468,195	3.8	1,486,891	12.1	7,222,202	58.7	12,282,417	1,394,194	11.3	2,112,348	17.2	2,730,213	22.3	5,203,450	42.3	842,212	6.9
1900	123	2,942,993	22.3	50,000	0.4	722,770	5.5	884,751	6.7	8,587,860	65.1	13,188,374	1,407,526	10.7	1,791,338	13.6	5,052,221	38.3	3,961,689	30.0	974,900	7.4
1905	134	1,996,267	12.2	253,930	1.6	784,171	4.8	1,117,389	6.8	12,190,647	74.6	16,342,404	2,124,147	13.0	3,190,012	19.5	5,417,054	33.9	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1910	155	2,650,000	13.5	270,384	1.4	919,329	4.7	1,146,918	5.8	14,687,680	74.6	19,674,311	3,258,074	16.6	3,661,019	18.6	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1914	194	3,644,690	15.0	291,608	1.2	989,882	4.1	1,403,457	5.8	18,070,615	73.9	24,400,250	3,377,185	13.8	3,164,082	13.0	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1915	214	4,170,235	15.7	270,395	1.0	1,676,051	6.3	1,670,103	6.3	18,174,657	70.7	26,528,457	3,827,522	18.2	3,301,302	12.4	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1916	216	4,296,130	15.5	238,674	0.8	1,862,823	5.9	1,767,410	5.6	23,556,677	74.2	31,717,714	5,757,829	18.1	3,580,075	11.3	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1917	205	4,342,130	11.6	316,954	0.8	2,560,325	6.7	2,007,968	5.2	29,052,791	75.7	38,280,168	6,645,608	17.4	3,721,147	1.8	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1918	201	4,414,988	10.8	343,203	0.8	3,312,995	8.1	2,329,559	5.7	30,437,937	74.6	40,838,682	7,225,047	17.7	289,136	0.7	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1919	203	4,479,989	10.4	428,724	1.0	3,728,249	8.6	2,860,391	6.6	31,716,353	73.4	43,213,706	6,719,766	15.6	638,770	1.5	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1920	213	5,317,442	10.1	460,270	0.9	5,765,337	10.9	3,708,305	7.0	37,661,611	71.1	52,912,965	8,772,286	16.6	661,231	1.3	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1921	211	5,705,989	11.5	728,901	1.5	4,741,492	9.5	4,116,574	8.3	44,476,655	69.2	60,766,611	9,496,611	13.4	2,209,534	4.4	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5
1922	210	5,855,989	13.5	790,194	1.8	4,294,230	9.9	3,713,175	8.6	28,676,603	66.2	43,330,191	7,722,878	17.8	2,869,861	6.6	5,036,389	25.6	5,211,098	32.0	400,993	2.5

* Includes money at call.

BANK OF VICTORIA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit. £	Ordinary Dividend. %	To Reserve, £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.					
Ordinary Shares		£2,122,500	£1,061,250	£1,061,250	Nil.	1917	108,927	6	27,000	23,958
Per Share		£10	£5	£5	Nil.	1918	119,256	6	27,000	27,544
Preference Shares		£416,760	£416,760			1919	140,980	7	32,000	33,060
Per Share		£10	£10			1920	149,441	7	57,000	22,040
						1921	234,826	9	88,000	35,845
						1922	179,930	9	80,000	29,754

Ordinary, September 30, 1922

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Contingent Liabilities, Miscellaneous Credits, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand, at Bankers, and at Call.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Bills and Remittances in Transit.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1890 . .	67	\$ 900,000	10.9	48,214	0.7	180,748	2.5	271,625	3.7	6,039,988	82.2	7,340,575	1,132,800	15.4	153,550	2.1	91,796	1.2	5,727,870	78.1	234,550	3.2
1895 . .	61	1,308,534	16.6	26,968	0.3	121,540	1.5	257,833	3.3	6,130,596	78.3	7,845,471	1,181,439	15.0	210,260	2.7	45,519	0.6	6,169,615	78.7	238,638	3.0
1900 . .	65	1,577,477	22.6	53,290	0.8	134,291	1.9	558,100	8.0	4,646,794	66.7	6,968,952	1,353,647	19.4	221,790	3.2	286,369	4.1	4,527,980	65.0	579,166	8.3
1905 . .	74	1,638,010	21.8	45,588	0.6	108,610	1.4	738,253	9.9	4,963,565	66.3	7,494,026	1,371,041	18.3	190,190	2.5	205,518	2.7	4,989,486	66.7	737,791	9.7
1910 . .	87	1,718,010	19.8	58,590	0.7	116,542	1.3	827,332	9.4	6,014,441	68.9	8,735,349	1,537,349	17.6	183,040	2.1	235,166	2.7	6,131,089	70.7	749,791	9.7
1915 . .	97	1,788,010	19.8	79,823	0.9	105,778	1.0	607,143	6.8	6,424,143	72.2	8,099,637	1,734,788	19.4	247,540	2.8	168,948	1.9	6,093,620	68.4	665,001	7.3
1915 . .	99	1,823,010	18.6	82,681	0.9	91,139	0.1	1,067,687	10.8	6,847,538	69.7	9,830,055	2,081,866	21.2	250,240	2.8	322,843	3.3	6,431,156	65.4	743,950	7.6
1916 . .	98	1,843,010	19.6	93,794	1.0	79,490	0.1	724,033	7.7	6,741,024	71.6	9,409,861	1,712,075	18.2	242,740	2.6	323,687	3.3	6,314,156	65.4	743,950	7.6
1917 . .	98	1,878,010	20.5	75,052	0.8	74,427	0.1	739,839	8.0	6,436,944	70.6	9,194,412	1,395,280	15.2	309,140	3.4	313,687	3.4	6,531,418	69.4	550,361	6.1
1919 . .	99	1,903,010	20.0	68,298	0.7	71,564	0.1	680,420	7.1	6,867,883	72.1	9,526,765	1,295,790	12.5	401,515	4.2	473,156	4.6	6,476,664	70.3	601,851	6.5
1920 . .	100	1,928,010	18.7	71,884	0.7	70,029	0.1	1,039,572	10.0	7,275,680	70.5	10,322,175	2,073,016	20.1	574,833	5.4	473,156	4.6	5,991,635	62.2	571,665	5.7
1918 . .	100	1,928,010	18.7	71,884	0.7	76,843	0.1	1,062,866	9.4	8,153,996	72.5	11,261,505	2,309,003	20.5	574,833	5.4	473,011	4.6	6,610,942	64.4	591,373	5.7
1919 . .	104	1,953,010	17.3	84,790	0.7	6,674	..	1,587,313	11.7	9,883,035	73.0	13,585,833	2,418,697	34.1	724,002	5.4	569,448	4.8	6,910,319	59.9	756,337	6.4
1920 . .	114	1,953,010	14.4	128,771	0.9	6,674	..	1,478,646	10.9	9,952,617	73.0	13,628,209	3,023,044	22.1	839,366	6.1	1,041,549	7.6	8,008,647	58.9	715,243	5.7
1921 . .	113	2,003,010	14.8	187,556	1.4	6,580	..	1,478,646	10.9	9,952,617	73.0	13,628,209	3,023,044	22.1	839,366	6.1	1,041,549	7.6	8,008,647	58.9	715,243	5.7
1922 . .	117	2,078,010	14.8	146,265	1.0	6,539	..	1,478,646	10.9	9,952,617	73.0	14,055,227	3,053,738	24.9	1,086,779	7.7	675,190	6.7	8,008,647	58.9	715,243	5.7

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

(ESTABLISHED 1912 BY SPECIAL ACT OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.)

Owned and guaranteed by the Government of the Commonwealth, which is responsible for all the Bank's obligations.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.								Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.											
		De- posits.	Per Cent.	Savings Bank De- posits.	Per Cent.	Bills payable, Letters of Credit &c.	Per Cent.	Reserve and Re- demption Funds.	Per Cent.		Cash and Common- wealth Notes.	Per Cent.	Cash at Short Call in London.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Fixed Deposits of Other Banks.	Per Cent.	Discounts Advances, and Remit- tances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1914..	20	\$ 4,559,264	46.7	4,645,268	47.5	569,158	5.8	..	..	9,773,690	2,711,471	27.7	1,465,100	15.0	2,818,981	28.8	975,500	10.0	1,713,101	17.6	89,637	0.9
1915..	27	8,547,526	51.0	7,420,647	44.2	798,071	4.8	2,222	..	16,768,466	4,986,714	29.7	2,840,000	16.9	5,479,480	32.6	906,000	5.4	2,379,953	14.3	176,319	1.1
1916..	34	29,745,868	71.2	9,477,896	22.6	2,401,521	5.8	147,069	0.4	41,772,354	19,643,819	47.1	5,505,536	13.2	8,255,882	19.8	969,000	2.3	7,036,136	16.7	361,981	0.9
1917..	33	36,341,500	71.9	12,442,847	24.6	1,192,521	2.4	526,292	1.1	50,503,162	15,244,004	30.3	12,780,000	25.2	11,802,881	23.4	1,089,000	2.2	9,195,300	18.1	391,977	0.8
1918..	36	51,939,580	74.2	15,227,534	21.6	1,919,380	2.7	1,076,026	1.5	70,162,520	19,639,664	28.0	21,805,000	31.0	14,451,513	20.6	1,089,000	1.5	12,722,150	18.2	455,193	0.7
1919..	32	43,672,183	66.9	17,789,423	27.1	1,937,070	3.0	929,570	2.1	65,321,646	17,967,357	27.4	9,470,000	14.5	15,646,021	23.9	1,089,000	1.7	20,558,594	31.6	590,674	0.9
1920..	32	41,002,909	64.5	17,984,402	28.2	1,937,996	3.0	756,125	1.3	63,679,412	7,300,247	9.8	4,160,000	13.5	17,975,463	28.2	1,029,000	1.6	14,514,497	23.0	673,146	1.1
1920 ¹ ..	53	27,153,311	37.8	35,306,956	49.0	6,482,831	9.0	1,458,324	4.6	71,921,422	10,300,247	14.2	4,160,000	5.8	33,614,410	46.8	929,000	1.3	25,634,369	35.4	623,356	0.9
1922..	63	42,091,310	48.8	38,056,980	43.8	2,458,854	2.8	4,001,658	4.6	86,608,802	14,192,531	16.4	19,325,000	22.3	34,875,722	40.2	929,000	1.1	16,671,563	19.3	614,986	0.7

* December 31.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

1918.—National Bank of Tasmania purchased, March 1, 1918.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit. £	Ordinary Dividend. %	To Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.					
Ordinary Shares....		£703,054	£336,593	366,461	Nil	1917	134,692	..	50,000	9,407
Per Share		£1	2s 6d to 10s	..	Nil	1918	140,767	..	50,000	10,486
Preference Shares..		£2,117,350	£2,117,350	Nil	Nil	1919	170,268	..	83,000	13,060
Per Share		£10	£10	Nil	Nil	1920	202,892	..	115,000	16,258
						1921	237,772	15	145,000	13,322
						1922	228,081	15	76,726	42,209

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabili- ties or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Contingent Liabilities and Provision for Circulation.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Notice in London.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts, Advances, and Bills and Remit- tances in Transit.	Per Cent.	Premi- es and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1890 ..	94	2,160,000	15.6	170,182	1.2	255,479	1.8	466,615	3.4	10,722,159	78.0	13,774,435	1,961,940	14.2	90,000	0.6	807,450	5.9	10,631,893	77.2	283,152	2.1
1895 ..	87	3,843,321	33.0	28,449	0.2	133,101	1.1	159,210	1.4	7,457,563	64.3	11,621,644	1,063,142	9.1	..	..	87,100	0.7	9,910,926	85.4	560,476	4.8
1900 ..	93	3,202,323	44.1	42,108	0.6	157,504	2.2	276,338	3.8	3,572,190	49.3	7,250,463	1,129,747	15.6	460,000	6.3	889,145	12.2	4,113,231	56.8	658,340	9.1
1905 ..	102	2,409,132	35.1	50,430	0.7	150,798	2.2	579,743	8.5	3,650,771	53.5	6,840,874	1,291,371	19.0	520,000	7.6	130,750	1.9	4,287,038	62.5	611,715	9.0
1910 ..	148	1,204,421	13.1	35,476	0.4	215,622	2.3	2,075,600	24.7	5,495,010	59.5	9,226,129	1,739,007	18.8	1,120,000	12.2	86,756	0.9	5,092,034	55.2	1,188,332	12.9
1913 ..	146	1,371,135	15.5	39,436	0.4	131,677	0.2	1,316,798	12.3	6,321,902	71.6	8,839,438	1,547,774	17.5	1,112,000	12.6	42,830	0.5	5,548,968	62.8	587,866	6.6
1915 ..	157	1,452,346	15.5	51,923	0.5	39,125	0.4	723,147	7.7	7,091,970	75.9	9,695,345	1,619,964	16.7	1,585,000	16.4	75,581	0.8	5,962,165	61.4	452,635	4.7
1916 ..	157	1,487,349	15.1	51,756	0.5	52,394	0.5	1,106,562	11.3	7,139,864	72.6	9,838,304	2,012,173	20.5	1,566,000	15.2	230,493	2.2	5,563,294	59.4	670,135	7.2
1917 ..	159	1,535,349	14.8	51,754	0.5	61,129	0.6	612,764	5.9	8,085,900	79.2	12,860,101	2,312,155	18.0	501,000	5.2	439,412	3.0	5,801,544	56.0	749,650	7.2
1918 ..	186	1,600,349	12.4	52,833	0.4	69,861	0.5	885,579	6.9	10,251,479	79.8	14,674,774	1,991,626	13.6	765,000	5.9	849,880	6.6	8,134,086	62.2	1,020,980	8.5
1919 ..	199	1,670,349	11.4	55,407	0.4	71,517	0.5	822,271	5.6	12,055,230	82.1	19,614,890	3,771,382	19.2	1,740,000	8.9	1,362,272	10.0	10,926,846	55.7	1,214,390	6.2
1920 ..	208	1,770,349	9.0	58,605	0.3	68,330	0.3	1,340,469	6.8	16,377,137	83.6	19,497,871	3,661,387	18.8	1,370,000	7.0	573,018	2.9	13,062,512	67.0	830,954	4.5
1921 ..	220	1,188,666	10.0	66,683	0.3	55,264	0.3	1,653,465	8.5	15,603,793	80.1	19,497,871	3,661,387	18.8	1,370,000	7.0	573,018	2.9	13,062,512	67.0	830,954	4.5
1922 ..	225	2,453,943	12.0	105,897	0.5	59,089	0.3	1,764,805	8.6	16,187,721	78.6	20,571,455	3,716,714	18.0	2,805,000	13.6	544,315	2.7	12,334,482	60.0	1,170,944	5.7

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1834.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. %	To Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.					
		£	£	£	£					
		6,000,000	3,000,000	Nil.	3,000,000					
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	1917	284,556	10	65,000	59,094		
£25	£12 10s	Nil.	£12 10s	1918	298,149	10	100,000	57,243		
				1919	301,571	10	80,000	78,814		
				1920	348,602	10	100,000	82,262		
				1921	392,923	10	140,000	85,185		
				1922	397,885	10	100,000	86,421		

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills in Circulation.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand, at Bankers, and Australian Notes.	Per Cent.	Cash at Short Call in London.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts, Advances, and Bills and Remit- tances in Transit.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1890..	150	1,380,000	10.8	106,960	0.8	392,439	3.1	447,532	3.5	10,365,404	81.8	12,692,335	1,999,235	15.7	..	..	863,700	6.8	9,467,900	74.7	361,500	2.8
1895..	128	1,974,869	16.3	55,846	0.5	305,175	2.5	266,388	2.2	9,506,254	78.5	12,108,532	2,379,230	19.7	..	..	455,800	3.8	8,875,902	73.2	397,600	3.3
1900..	137	2,010,000	13.6	76,326	0.5	427,859	2.9	1,013,952	6.9	11,134,777	76.1	14,662,914	3,538,088	24.1	..	..	1,659,731	11.3	9,045,095	61.7	420,000	2.9
1905..	146	2,070,000	13.3	93,654	0.6	428,059	2.8	599,331	3.9	12,338,812	79.4	15,529,856	4,544,200	29.2	495,000	3.2	1,308,600	8.4	8,723,456	56.2	458,600	3.0
1910..	186	2,840,000	12.5	156,471	0.7	568,935	2.5	823,609	3.6	18,321,058	80.7	22,710,073	5,106,622	22.5	1,571,669	6.9	2,479,375	10.9	13,066,942	57.6	485,465	2.1
1913..	201	3,330,000	13.6	194,371	0.8	30,707	0.1	957,594	3.9	20,013,372	81.6	24,526,044	4,135,811	16.8	1,505,000	6.1	2,491,325	9.7	15,854,405	64.7	539,503	2.2
1914..	212	3,680,000	13.5	207,113	0.8	21,804	0.1	1,113,851	4.1	22,278,511	81.5	29,706,833	6,395,276	23.4	1,831,564	6.7	2,439,525	8.9	16,068,661	58.9	568,253	2.1
1915..	209	3,755,000	12.6	197,734	0.7	16,952	0.1	665,369	2.2	25,071,778	84.4	29,087,847	6,537,802	23.8	279,737	0.9	3,361,525	11.3	15,763,756	53.1	573,643	1.9
1917..	207	3,900,000	12.5	199,094	0.6	12,711	0.1	773,538	2.7	24,284,844	83.4	29,087,847	6,537,802	23.8	279,737	0.9	3,361,525	11.3	15,763,756	53.1	573,643	1.9
1918..	207	4,000,000	12.3	197,243	0.6	11,830	0.1	1,462,581	4.7	25,557,418	82.1	31,131,804	7,737,537	24.8	1,590,000	5.1	3,624,500	12.4	16,674,624	53.7	600,343	1.9
1919..	208	4,462,019	12.9	218,184	0.6	10,233	0.1	1,798,283	4.9	30,017,532	81.7	36,552,724	7,233,000	20.3	1,040,000	2.4	4,639,200	14.6	18,099,254	55.5	606,535	1.8
1920..	215	4,620,000	12.6	306,676	0.6	11,088	0.1	1,600,741	4.2	31,245,205	81.5	38,335,023	7,555,466	19.7	870,000	2.4	6,443,338	17.8	21,312,356	57.9	632,541	1.7
1921..	222	5,128,025	13.4	350,185	0.9	9,867	0.1	1,600,741	4.2	31,245,205	81.5	38,335,023	7,555,466	19.7	1,065,000	2.4	6,443,338	17.8	22,748,558	59.2	678,981	1.6
1922..	225	5,360,000	13.7	335,735	0.9	9,550	0.1	1,704,147	4.4	31,493,201	81.0	38,902,633	7,612,209	19.6	2,630,000	6.8	6,569,338	16.5	21,296,160	54.8	794,926	2.0

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Registered 1893 under English Companies Acts.

1920.—Amalgamated with the London Bank of Australia, Limited.

1921.—Amalgamated with the Commercial Bank of Tasmania, Limited.

CAPITAL					Market Value.	Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Nil.						
£ 3,000,000	£ 1,319,887 10s	£ 1,319,887 10s	Nil.	Nil.	2,375,800	1916	110,696	8	52,500	33,885
						1917	110,418	8	52,500	34,263
						1918	133,168	9	53,000	49,699
						1919	133,179	10	60,000	50,954
						1920	170,179	10	55,000	94,209
						1921	267,975	10	87,837	102,605

Debiture Stock	£983,547
Preferred Inscribed Deposit Stock	£889,419
Deferred Inscribed Deposit Stock	£567,500

* Free of tax.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabi- lities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills Pay- able, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Cash in Hand, at Bank, and at Short Notice.		Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Bills re- ceivable and Re- mittances in Trans- it.	Per Cent.	Ad- vances, &c.	Per Cent.	Buildings & Sundries, including Share of other Com- panies.	Per Cent.	
1890 ..	96	£ 1,235,000	15.2	56,127	0.7	184,717	2.3	778,750	9.6	5,861,428	72.2	8,116,022	1,176,614	14.5	..	..	..	6,652,510	82.0	286,898	3.5	
1891* ..	96	1,210,000	14.9	50,734	0.6	203,096	2.5	917,054	11.3	5,759,459	70.7	8,140,343	1,155,798	14.2	..	..	..	6,684,238	82.1	300,307	3.7	
1892 ..	95	1,210,000	14.9	43,031	0.5	153,500	1.9	868,477	10.7	5,833,536	72.0	8,108,544	1,109,979	13.7	121,736	1.5	..	6,571,049	81.0	305,780	3.8	
1893 ..	77							In process of				reconst										
1894 ..	77											ruetion.										
1895 ..	78	978,055	15.7	..	..	40,619	0.7	253,382	4.1	4,940,723	79.5	6,212,779	898,937	14.4	55,639	0.9	720,368	11.6	4,074,010	65.6	463,825	7.5
1900 ..	86	3,372,086	54.1	36,915	0.6	33,305	0.5	481,889	7.7	2,309,330	37.1	6,233,525	899,449	14.4	39,851	0.6	983,838	15.8	3,855,256	61.9	455,131	7.3
1905 ..	105	3,343,065	52.7	58,514	0.9	32,436	0.5	349,865	5.5	2,555,854	40.3	6,339,734	989,115	15.8	152,721	2.4	612,231	9.7	4,208,723	66.6	376,939	5.6
1910 ..	128	3,365,807	42.1	86,862	1.1	68,071	0.9	305,150	3.8	4,164,251	52.1	7,990,141	1,730,625	19.8	150,000	1.7	1,058,830	12.2	5,444,969	62.5	328,900	3.8
1911 ..	131	3,375,404	36.0	101,041	1.1	13,086	0.1	518,256	5.5	5,368,629	57.3	9,376,416	1,760,988	18.8	150,000	1.6	1,322,250	14.1	5,802,464	61.9	340,714	3.6
1912 ..	134	3,376,404	33.7	114,974	1.2	3,714	..	516,303	5.1	6,110,487	60.4	10,045,153	1,805,183	18.0	150,000	1.5	1,577,026	15.7	6,175,081	61.6	319,475	3.2
1913 ..	134	3,376,404	31.4	119,046	1.1	2,756	..	549,546	5.0	6,857,928	62.5	10,959,280	2,376,322	23.3	170,000	1.7	1,168,631	11.6	6,128,056	60.5	303,144	3.0
1914 ..	147	3,430,004	31.0	106,691	1.0	2,052	..	532,445	4.8	7,058,797	63.2	11,163,389	2,682,794	24.5	182,046	1.7	1,337,132	12.2	6,452,765	58.8	304,543	2.8
1915 ..	155	3,496,404	29.4	104,847	0.9	1,873	..	625,107	5.3	7,665,487	64.4	11,893,718	2,619,378	22.0	447,975	3.8	1,243,664	11.2	6,079,186	54.4	289,103	2.6
1917 ..	159	3,528,403	25.6	105,286	0.8	1,742	..	998,993	7.2	9,159,320	66.4	13,793,684	3,743,483	27.1	627,948	4.5	3,080,209	22.4	6,086,711	44.1	272,881	2.3
1918 ..	173	3,560,403	23.2	127,855	0.9	1,697	..	756,655	5.4	9,388,452	68.1	13,835,062	2,729,343	19.6	992,884	7.2	1,917,937	13.8	7,956,943	57.7	255,333	1.9
1919 ..	179	3,589,903	21.6	140,908	0.9	1,447	..	860,594	5.6	10,848,250	70.3	15,441,102	2,745,896	17.8	1,007,848	6.5	2,208,712	14.2	9,158,935	59.4	319,711	2.1
1920 ..	181	3,652,144	21.2	179,162	1.0	1,396	..	1,008,633	5.9	12,090,412	71.5	16,931,747	3,522,503	20.8	636,779	3.7	2,533,423	15.0	9,937,514	58.7	301,528	1.8
1921 ..	317	4,992,516	16.2	284,372	0.9	1,340	..	2,954,345	9.6	22,552,725	73.3	30,785,298	6,207,557	20.1	878,950	2.8	3,851,314	12.5	19,069,034	62.1	778,443	2.5

* March 31.

NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1858.

1918.—Amalgamated with Colonial Bank of Australasia, Limited.

1922.—Absorbed Bank of Queensland, Limited.

CAPITAL					Market Value.	Year Ended March 31.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Nil.						
£ 3,988,000	£ 2,725,000	Nil.	£ 1,263,000	Nil.		1917	156,468	7	50,000	13,695
						1918	169,483	..	60,000	18,302
						1919	235,194	7½	93,614	40,234
						1920	299,781	8	130,000	50,015
						1921	336,610	9½	140,000	56,625
						1922	350,168	10	110,000	68,743

Ordinary, September 30, 1922

Price.

7½

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED.

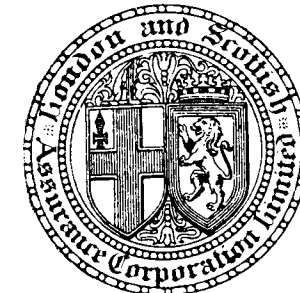
REGISTERED 1872.

CAPITAL					Market Value.	Year Ended March 31.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Nil.						
£ 3,000,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 2,000,000	Nil.	Nil.	2,450,000	1914	144,896	13	44,000	43,317
						1917	153,645	13	55,500	42,754
						1918	148,996	13	38,700	45,550
						1919	186,882	13	55,000	64,932
						1920	256,299	14	120,000	69,753
						1921	326,821	14	141,000	115,894
						1922	212,726	14	46,500	142,121

* Free of tax.

LONDON AND SCOTTISH
ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

LIFE
ACCIDENTFIRE
MARINE

Total Income exceeds - - - £2,000,000
Total Funds and Assets exceed - - - £6,750,000

Head Office: 66 & 67, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.3.

WM. AENEAS MACKAY, General Manager.

A WONDERFUL RECORD
OF THE
CANADA LIFE
ASSURANCE COMPANY

DURING 1921

UNPRECEDENTED INCREASES IN

NEW BUSINESS,
FUNDS,
SURPLUS EARNED.

Write for full report to:

THE MANAGER,
15, King Street, CHEAPSIDE,
London, E.C.2.



HEAD OFFICE: BROWN'S BUILDINGS, LIVERPOOL.

Telegrams—Marfrac, Liverpool.

LONDON OFFICES:

Marine Underwriter - 14 Royal Exchange, E.C.
Fire Department (Chief Office) - 7 Angel Court, E.C.
Accident Department

CAPITAL - £1,000,000.

Subscribed, £828,000. Paid up, £207,000.

Bankers:

BANK of LIVERPOOL & MARTINS, Ltd.

London Underwriter:
E. BAILEY.Liverpool Underwriter:
A. W. EDMONDSONAccident Manager:
DOUGLAS LAWSON.Fire Manager:
P. H. EXELL.

Secretary: ANDREW HANNAY.

National Bank of New Zealand, Limited. *Con.*

Year Ended March 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										ASSETS.										
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand, at Bankers, & at Call & Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Bills Discounted.	Per Cent.	Remit- tances in Transit and Ad- vances.	Per Cent.	Land & Prop- erty, Pre- mises, Bid- dings & Fur- niture, in- cluding Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
1890..	30	£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		
1890..	30	250,000	9.7	18,029	0.7	108,362	4.2	350,863	13.6	1,847,256	71.8	2,574,510	280,078	10.9	..	..	..	..	2,166,884	84.2	127,548	4.9
1891..	34	260,000	9.7	13,696	0.5	114,343	4.2	360,625	13.4	1,941,458	72.2	2,690,122	320,940	11.9	..	..	..	..	2,241,679	83.4	127,503	4.7
1892..	33	235,816	9.2	13,085	0.5	107,545	4.2	606,742	23.5	1,613,609	62.6	2,576,797	396,230	15.4	..	..	..	..	2,053,245	79.7	127,322	4.9
1893..	35	247,394	10.1	16,228	0.7	116,439	4.8	455,265	18.6	1,605,027	65.8	2,441,043	350,249	14.4	..	..	..	..	1,963,796	80.4	126,998	5.2
1894..	33	248,148	10.9	21,425	0.9	110,513	4.8	470,596	20.5	1,434,366	62.9	2,285,048	304,075	13.3	..	..	..	..	1,854,643	81.2	126,330	5.5
1895..	27	249,106	11.4	25,357	1.2	109,822	5.0	265,176	12.2	1,534,641	70.7	2,184,102	358,024	16.6	..	..	..	..	1,699,836	77.6	126,242	5.6
1900..	41	310,000	8.7	40,009	1.1	211,605	6.0	478,821	13.9	3,218,481	73.4	4,386,726	873,037	19.9	206,388	4.7	581,272	13.2	2,741,453	77.2	92,231	1.8
1905..	34	460,000	10.5	45,810	1.0	247,126	5.6	415,309	9.5	4,306,295	72.6	5,931,312	1,374,319	23.2	532,178	9.0	674,328	11.4	2,645,409	60.5	80,617	1.8
1910..	35	750,000	12.7	69,660	1.7	272,680	4.1	606,773	9.8	4,296,328	69.1	6,213,785	1,331,565	21.4	443,132	7.1	789,136	12.7	3,578,260	57.6	71,692	1.2
1911..	39	960,000	15.4	78,004	1.9	268,559	4.5	536,798	9.9	4,357,926	66.8	6,527,808	1,317,812	20.1	422,858	6.5	828,954	12.7	3,879,858	59.5	78,330	1.2
1912..	41	980,000	15.0	84,263	1.3	268,270	4.1	536,798	9.9	4,357,926	66.8	6,527,808	1,317,812	20.1	422,858	6.5	828,954	12.7	3,879,858	59.5	78,330	1.2
1913..	42	1,000,000	15.0	95,756	1.4	257,985	3.9	1,058,780	16.0	4,229,440	63.7	6,641,361	1,041,201	15.6	422,858	6.5	828,954	12.7	3,879,858	59.5	78,330	1.2
1914..	45	1,395,000	20.0	120,817	1.7	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1915..	45	1,415,000	19.0	124,880	1.7	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1916..	45	1,435,000	17.4	113,669	1.4	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1917..	44	1,450,000	16.3	114,254	1.3	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1918..	43	1,465,000	15.4	118,150	1.2	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1919..	43	1,480,000	14.4	144,932	1.1	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1920..	46	2,000,000	14.8	174,573	1.3	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1921..	49	2,020,000	12.9	226,394	1.4	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2
1922..	51	2,040,000	14.4	238,621	1.7	255,899	3.7	899,674	12.9	4,740,397	63.7	7,444,585	1,233,272	16.6	659,067	8.8	578,162	11.6	4,388,181	62.9	85,756	1.2

* Includes discounts.

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1872.

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.	Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
£ 800,000	£ 800,000	Nil	Nil	£ 1,230,000	1917	103,354	10	10,000	1,565
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	1918	108,345	10	50,000	6,766
£5	£5	Nil	Nil	£7 1/2	1919	104,673	10	28,000	6,165
					1920	117,541	10	27,000	16,959
					1921	128,819	12 1/2	37,000	8,827

Interimable inscribed deposit stock, £3,091,669.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										ASSETS.										
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Bills Pay- able to the Gov- ernment of Queens- land.	Per Cent.	Miscel- laneous Credits, Rebate, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice in London.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts, Advances, and Bills in Transit.	Per Cent.	Premises and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1890..	68	1,285,000	12.8	£4,171	0.6	*278,661	2.8	497,936	5.0	7,885,930	78.8	10,011,698	1,195,052	11.9	154,575	1.5	309,436	3.1	8,073,215	80.7	279,420	2.8
1891..	68	1,285,000	12.5	56,091	0.5	*302,764	2.9	288,721	2.8	8,379,931	81.3	10,312,507	1,296,953	12.6	105,000	1.2	464,085	4.5	8,151,686	78.9	294,783	2.8
1892..	66	1,285,000	12.8	57,230	0.6	*273,075	2.7	186,249	1.8	8,256,157	82.1	10,057,711	1,247,351	12.4	95,000	0.9	198,554	2.0	8,216,395	81.7	300,411	3.0
1893..	66	1,285,000	12.8	57,230	0.6	*273,075	2.7	186,249	1.8	8,256,157	82.1	10,057,711	1,247,351	12.4	95,000	0.9	198,554	2.0	8,216,395	81.7	300,411	3.0
1894..	66	609,943	6.3	43,593	0.5	222,000	2.3	504,906	5.4	7,272,759	85.5	9,673,201	1,625,594	16.9	100,000	1.0	42,122	0.4	7,669,167	78.7	293,017	3.0
1895..	66	609,943	7.3	47,618	0.5	240,000	2.4	626,998	6.2	8,419,411	84.6	10,047,036	1,907,824	18.9	170,000	1.7	41,976	0.4	8,554,795	82.2	100,740	13.5
1900..	51	3,541,394	48.3	12,000	0.2	2,068,326	28.2	273,762	3.8	14,320,733	19.5	17,344,185	1,381,550	18.8	390,000	5.3	..	..	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1905..	53	3,571,848	46.0	12,000	0.2	1,377,563	17.7	426,896	5.5	13,955,677	30.6	17,885,994	1,393,307	14.0	385,000	5.0	43,435	0.6	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1910..	71	3,589,038	39.1	25,000	0.3	430,489	4.7	476,483	5.2	14,606,614	50.7	19,127,807	1,833,134	20.0	550,000	5.7	134,900	1.4	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1911..	72	3,599,163	37.1	36,000	0.4	444,331	3.6	424,070	4.4	15,252,263	54.5	19,555,887	2,111,900	25.0	605,000	6.0	133,800	1.4	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1912..	82	3,611,260	37.3	48,159	0.5	258,293	2.7	78,388	0.8	15,700,242	58.7	19,696,342	2,127,039	22.0	365,000	3.8	118,700	1.2	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1913..	83	3,635,087	34.7	48,214	0.5	218,933	0.8	83,682	0.8	16,429,747	61.9	19,414,025	2,577,037	24.6	325,000	3.8	118,700	1.2	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1914..	83	3,726,669	34.3	50,090	0.5	86,098	0.8	162,150	1.5	16,560,809	61.9	19,584,816	2,361,980	22.4	798,000	7.5	118,700	1.2	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1915..	83	3,749,669	32.3	51,746	0.4	..	..	377,465	3.2	17,591,693	64.1	17,770,573	2,963,193	33.6	401,800	3.3	166,200	1.4	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1916..	83	3,749,669	32.3	51,746	0.4	..	..	596,321	5.4	16,611,818	60.0	17,051,806	3,290,729	20.7	175,300	1.6	838,700	6.4	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1917..	83	3,793,669	32.4	51,896	0.4	..	..	844,016	4.1	17,363,826	63.1	17,692,407	3,034,883	25.9	628,840	5.4	476,980	3.6	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1918..	86	3,793,669	32.3	53,070	0.4	..	..	498,511	3.9	18,590,198	66.4	19,335,446	3,615,325	28.0	94,340	0.7	1,343,700	10.4	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1919..	86	4,030,520	28.9	49,810	0.3	..	..	806,795	7.8	19,075,005	60.5	19,561,014	4,412,458	11.6	100,000	0.7	610,200	4.4	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1920..	90	4,188,325	11.6	26,081	0.2	..	..	570,075	4.3	18,497,076	63.3	13,211,557	3,715,736	28.0	150,000	1.1	1,045,600	7.9	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1921..	89	4,214,672	36.9	38,903	0.3	..	..	487,753	4.2	18,854,743	59.0	11,991,071	2,449,743	21.1	150,000	1.1	1,301,319	10.3	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7
1922..	91	4,251,669	36.9	50,827	0.4	..	..	350,073	3.0	16,898,730	59.7	11,551,304	1,386,732	12.0	105,000	0.9	1,689,760	14.6	13,490,000	16.6	1,007,840	13.7

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1837.

CAPITAL.				Market	Year	Net	Dividend.	To Reserve,	Carried
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Value.	Ended	Profit.		&c.	Forward.
£	£	£	£	£	Feb. 25.	£	%	£	£
9,000,000	3,000,000	Nil.	6,000,000	8,250,000	1917	301,759	14(a)	20,000	73,133
					1918	326,160	14(a)	45,000	74,293
					1919	359,321	14(a)	65,000	78,614
					1920	458,102	15(a)	80,000	81,716
					1921	516,341	15(a)	140,000	83,057
					1922	536,251	15(a)	120,000	86,818
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.					
£75	£25	Nil	£50	£13½					

Now altered to £15 shares, £5 paid.

(a) Free of tax.

Year Ended February 28.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										ASSETS.										
		Paid-up Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bankers, and in Transit.	Per Cent.	Money at Call & Short Notice in London.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Remitt'nc's and Drafts in Transit, Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premi- ses.	Per Cent.
1890...	89	£ 2,500,000	13.0	£ 120,379	0.6	408,652	2.1	2,346,510	12.3	13,799,044	72.0	£ 19,174,585	2,726,820	14.2	405,000	2.1	829,343	4.3	14,794,310	77.2	£ 419,112	2.2
1891...	92	2,500,000	12.6	121,003	0.6	447,197	2.3	2,565,795	13.0	14,156,973	71.5	19,790,968	2,569,417	13.0	160,000	0.8	1,197,415	6.0	15,398,299	77.8	465,837	2.4
1892...	108	2,500,000	12.4	101,056	0.5	405,394	2.0	2,488,284	12.3	14,720,484	72.8	20,215,218	2,935,950	14.5	110,000	0.5	1,110,136	5.5	15,597,271	77.2	461,861	2.3
1893...	105	2,500,000	10.4	75,317	0.3	462,880	1.9	2,860,791	11.9	18,118,495	75.5	24,017,483	3,315,606	13.8	907,000	3.8	1,093,613	4.5	18,030,539	75.1	670,725	2.8
1894...	100	2,500,000	10.8	59,744	0.3	405,796	1.7	3,173,108	13.7	16,930,110	73.5	23,068,758	4,402,742	19.0	256,500	1.1	1,005,811	4.3	16,696,733	72.9	706,972	3.1
1895...	96	2,500,000	11.0	51,593	0.2	449,291	2.0	2,576,880	12.4	17,055,564	75.4	22,633,328	4,036,936	17.8	290,000	1.3	897,041	4.0	16,690,607	73.7	718,684	3.2
1900...	104	2,500,000	11.8	122,364	0.5	489,083	2.3	2,307,642	10.9	15,783,602	74.5	21,212,691	3,338,500	15.7	585,000	2.7	1,145,746	5.4	15,412,707	72.7	730,738	3.5
1905...	128	2,555,000	11.7	102,508	0.5	458,740	2.1	1,851,562	8.5	16,869,958	77.2	21,837,768	3,069,435	14.0	1,365,000	6.2	1,584,023	7.2	15,143,415	69.5	675,895	3.1
1910...	166	2,810,000	10.7	144,928	0.6	470,997	1.8	1,559,150	5.9	21,349,025	81.0	26,334,100	4,042,314	15.3	1,140,000	4.3	1,818,568	6.9	18,784,357	71.3	549,061	0.2
1914...	181	3,960,000	13.4	185,510	0.7	483,408	0.6	1,714,216	5.8	23,538,534	79.6	29,581,668	4,953,180	16.7	1,805,000	6.1	2,020,433	8.8	20,298,840	68.7	504,215	1.7
1915...	185	3,960,000	13.3	210,510	0.7	274,937	0.9	1,747,446	5.9	23,594,898	79.2	29,787,791	5,500,872	18.4	764,081	2.6	2,507,759	8.4	20,514,749	68.9	495,425	1.6
1916...	182	3,960,000	12.9	211,374	0.7	334,051	1.1	2,123,325	6.9	24,055,785	78.4	30,684,532	5,150,634	16.8	320,000	1.0	1,658,894	5.4	23,059,580	69.2	500,330	1.7
1917...	182	3,980,000	12.8	215,137	0.7	877,405	2.4	1,536,814	6.2	24,227,108	77.5	31,234,462	4,374,367	13.6	1,120,000	3.6	1,668,718	5.3	22,080,274	73.9	490,501	1.6
1918...	182	4,025,000	12.7	218,614	0.7	432,599	1.4	2,403,494	6.4	24,975,570	78.8	31,679,466	5,132,030	15.9	880,000	2.7	1,655,878	5.2	22,505,502	71.1	485,546	1.5
1919...	180	4,070,000	12.2	218,614	0.7	540,453	1.6	2,404,028	7.2	26,136,296	78.3	33,669,391	5,268,391	15.8	605,000	1.8	2,017,336	6.0	21,018,040	75.0	460,564	1.4
1920...	180	5,130,000	12.5	281,716	0.7	628,667	1.5	3,128,504	7.6	31,840,563	77.7	41,009,450	5,617,685	13.7	1,140,000	2.8	2,034,982	4.9	21,779,234	75.5	460,564	1.4
1921...	182	5,250,000	13.2	270,557	0.7	676,909	1.7	4,003,958	10.1	29,531,558	74.3	39,732,982	7,036,817	17.6	1,055,000	2.7	2,016,738	5.7	29,208,929	73.5	416,498	1.1
1922...	186	6,250,000	15.5	311,818	0.8	559,186	1.4	4,037,788	10.0	29,187,724	72.3	40,346,516	7,562,162	18.2	1,125,000	2.8	2,173,750	5.4	29,290,234	72.6	395,370	1.0

(3) CANADIAN BANKS.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

ESTABLISHED 1817.

Acquired Bank of British North America, October, 1918.

Acquired Merchants' Bank of Canada, March, 1922.

CAPITAL.				Market	Year	Net	Dividend.	To Reserve,	Carried
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Price.	Ended	Profit.		&c.	Forward.
\$	\$	\$	\$	Per Share.	Oct. 31.	\$	%	\$	\$
27,250,000	27,250,000	Nil.	27,250,000		1917	2,477,969	12	333,500	1,664,893
					1918	2,562,720	12	406,000	1,901,613
					1919	3,314,237	12	4,530,736	1,812,854
					1920	4,033,996	14	2,635,000	1,251,850
					1921	3,949,796	14	620,000	1,501,646
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.						
\$100	\$100	Nil.	\$100						

(Dollars converted to sterling at \$5 to £1.)

Year Ended April 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabi- lities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand and Due by Agencies.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice in G. Britain & U.S.A.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Sundries.	Per Cent.
1890..	35	3,698,631	38.9	288,947	3.0	1,083,963	11.4	56,826	0.6	4,357,891	46.1	9,486,258	1,023,591	10.6	..	..	272,877	2.9	8,066,502	85.0	123,288	1.5
1895..	39	3,698,631	51.0	291,436	2.5	875,540	7.4	1,068	..	7,004,836	59.1	11,871,511	4,296,717	36.0	..	..	476,464	4.0	6,975,042	58.9	123,288	1.1
1900..	47	3,904,110	24.0	211,519	1.3	1,266,092	7.8	3,195	..	10,817,592	66.9	16,202,508	1,374,389	8.5	..	..	490,892	3.0	14,194,369	87.6	142,858	0.9
1905..	67	4,931,508	17.8	280,699	1.0	1,686,328	6.1	8,888	..	20,857,909	75.1	27,765,302	3,845,801	13.8	5,671,544	20.4	1,672,115	6.0	16,407,095	59.2	168,747	0.6
1910..	151	5,424,057	11.3	214,343	0.4	2,457,436	5.1	19,170	..	40,056,652	83.2	48,172,258	7,560,273	15.7	16,429,641	34.1	2,683,375	5.6	21,375,681	44.3	123,288	0.3
1913..	181	6,400,000	12.6	290,637	0.6	2,885,899	5.7	16,732	..	41,253,741	81.1	50,887,009	8,446,732	16.6	12,776,135	25.1	2,875,549	5.7	25,394,593	51.1	800,000	1.6
1914..	182	6,400,000	12.2	331,879	0.6	2,687,763	5.1	650,299	1.2	42,521,344	80.9	52,591,284	6,008,831	11.4	19,441,317	37.0	2,466,764	4.7	23,840,873	45.3	834,499	1.6
1915..	180	6,400,000	11.1	362,587	0.6	2,867,699	5.9	2,103,896	3.6	46,178,353	79.7	57,912,535	12,495,486	21.6	15,358,496	26.5	3,234,813	5.6	25,058,324	43.3	1,765,408	3.0
1916..	181	6,400,000	8.2	376,717	0.5	3,587,212	4.6	1,998,880	2.6	65,721,531	84.1	78,084,340	30,159,216	38.5	18,055,113	23.1	6,204,309	7.9	22,284,927	28.7	1,580,775	1.8
1917..	183	6,400,000	8.2	424,032	0.5	3,378,207	5.6	755,589	1.0	65,403,469	84.7	77,361,377	19,352,370	25.2	22,831,378	29.5	11,817,137	15.2	21,943,458	28.3	1,580,775	1.8
1918..	184	6,400,000	7.5	470,114	0.5	6,692,922	6.6	1,173,022	1.4	71,551,361	84.0	85,264,419	22,094,371	25.9	22,452,802	26.2	11,777,642	16.1	25,564,202	30.2	1,575,403	1.6
1919..	185	8,000,000	8.2	453,731	0.5	8,202,217	8.4	1,683,300	1.7	79,514,991	81.2	97,854,239	20,710,236	21.2	22,763,019	18.2	16,308,350	16.7	40,830,280	41.5	2,324,330	2.4
1920..	321	8,000,000	7.0	539,915	0.5	8,025,732	7.0	3,642,941	3.2	94,021,439	82.3	114,230,027	22,245,890	19.5	22,763,019	20.0	11,485,118	10.1	54,797,788	47.8	2,338,212	2.6
1921..	320	8,800,000	8.7	440,429	0.4	7,014,061	6.9	1,855,311	1.8	83,330,188	82.2	101,439,989	22,882,234	22.5	16,022,038	15.8	11,571,182	11.4	48,860,354	48.2	2,104,121	2.1
1922..	643	10,900,000	8.4	282,446	0.2	7,924,895	6.0	2,780,792	1.4	108,885,681	84.0	130,773,814	31,633,221	24.1	21,677,887	16.5	13,762,231	10.5	60,513,626	46.3	3,386,849	2.6

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

INCORPORATED 1867.

CAPITAL.				Market	Year	Net	Dividend.	To Reserve,	Carried
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Price.	Ended	Profit.		&c.	Forward.
\$	\$	\$	\$	Per Share.	Nov. 30.	\$	%	\$	\$
15,000,000	15,000,000	Nil.	15,000,000		1916	501,250	12	61,435	164,860
					1917	541,963	12	63,246	273,714
					1918	791,161	12	89,908	296,885
					1919	631,827	12	234,658	2

The Canadian Bank of Commerce—Con.

(Converted at par of exchange.)

Year Ended November 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.		Undivided Profits.		Notes.	Due to Other Banks, &c.		Deposit Current Accounts.		Cash in Hand and Due by Agents.		Call and Short Loans.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.		Real Estate, Premises, and Sundries.			
		Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£		Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£			Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£		Per Cent.	£	
1901..	66	2,000,000	14.2	106,590	0.8	1,453,255	10.3	227,559	1.6	10,335,373	73.1	14,123,277	1,486,493	10.5	1,738,286	12.3	1,940,340	13.8	8,616,271	61.0	341,887	2.4
1905..	149	2,979,452	14.7	84,067	0.4	1,795,617	9.0	72,804	0.3	15,282,224	75.6	20,214,164	3,148,579	15.5	2,312,122	11.4	1,255,706	6.2	13,212,954	65.5	284,803	1.4
1906..	173	3,082,192	13.2	113,848	0.5	1,890,248	8.1	337,018	1.4	17,908,056	76.8	23,331,362	3,459,731	14.9	1,849,602	7.9	1,362,104	5.9	16,295,184	69.7	364,741	1.6
1907..	173	3,082,192	13.2	180,292	0.8	1,897,760	8.1	314,238	1.4	17,885,149	76.5	23,359,631	3,641,754	15.6	2,608,676	11.1	1,094,113	4.7	15,631,494	67.0	383,594	1.6
1908..	191	3,287,672	13.0	74,543	0.3	1,980,956	8.0	266,464	1.0	19,528,314	77.7	25,137,989	5,627,240	22.3	3,685,661	14.6	1,052,752	4.2	14,333,405	57.2	438,931	1.7
1909..	216	3,287,672	10.7	189,975	0.6	2,122,072	7.0	258,810	0.8	24,757,598	80.9	30,616,126	6,162,613	20.1	5,710,300	18.6	1,570,867	5.1	16,697,372	54.7	474,974	1.5
1910..	250	3,493,151	10.8	110,483	0.3	2,100,607	6.5	505,094	1.6	26,061,833	80.8	32,271,168	5,123,786	16.0	5,912,786	12.1	1,833,753	5.6	20,698,405	64.1	706,438	2.2
1911..	339	4,408,582	11.8	101,579	0.3	2,466,709	6.6	766,018	1.5	30,500,524	80.1	40,665,333	9,118,533	22.0	3,654,051	7.2	3,096,394	6.1	33,748,212	66.6	1,048,143	2.1
1912..	366	5,650,685	11.2	267,741	0.5	3,374,561	6.7	1,199,566	4.1	41,973,503	78.6	53,430,970	9,626,114	18.0	5,294,160	9.9	4,922,839	9.2	32,261,505	60.4	1,326,352	2.5
1913..	373	5,856,164	10.9	187,438	0.4	3,214,299	6.0	1,356,743	7.6	37,296,331	74.0	50,417,342	9,064,730	18.0	5,687,134	11.2	4,354,366	8.6	29,298,920	58.2	2,012,192	4.0
1914..	379	5,856,164	11.6	338,115	0.7	3,070,389	6.5	1,057,106	4.0	39,970,495	77.7	51,456,542	11,455,898	22.3	6,448,325	12.5	2,723,838	5.3	28,956,342	56.1	1,872,139	3.6
1915..	376	5,856,164	11.4	203,343	0.4	3,369,433	6.7	1,940,277	3.3	47,238,939	79.6	59,265,941	13,479,374	22.6	7,369,822	12.4	5,727,808	9.7	30,871,757	52.3	1,817,180	3.0
1916..	376	5,856,164	9.9	273,165	0.5	3,957,400	6.7	1,940,277	3.3	56,799,792	80.3	70,763,334	15,438,176	22.0	9,911,312	9.7	11,483,016	16.2	33,835,394	47.8	2,712,596	3.8
1917..	381	5,856,164	8.3	341,591	0.5	4,350,530	7.0	2,793,957	3.9	72,566,880	80.2	90,474,802	18,130,127	20.0	8,601,791	9.5	11,488,400	16.4	44,648,517	49.4	4,285,867	4.7
1918..	500	6,164,384	6.8	404,762	0.4	4,489,800	7.2	1,848,976	5.4	80,877,772	82.0	98,557,028	18,648,803	19.0	9,371,037	9.5	16,986,310	17.2	48,930,296	49.6	4,620,582	4.7
1919..	508	6,164,384	6.3	386,658	0.4	6,174,177	6.3	1,174,177	4.9	80,933,943	82.0	98,786,430	22,089,253	22.4	11,447,215	11.6	8,198,298	8.3	53,195,804	53.8	3,855,860	3.9
1920..	531	6,164,384	6.2	490,677	0.5	6,311,695	6.4	1,174,177	4.9	80,933,943	82.0	98,786,430	22,089,253	22.4	11,447,215	11.6	8,198,298	8.3	53,195,804	53.8	3,855,860	3.9
1921..	530	6,164,384	7.0	524,218	0.6	4,824,159	5.5	3,895,058	4.4	72,566,137	82.5	87,973,956	20,152,949	23.0	9,413,177	10.7	8,215,414	9.3	47,408,796	53.8	2,783,620	3.2

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.
(Incorporated 1832.)

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital stock paid in	9,700,000	Current coin	11,528,450
Reserve fund	19,000,000	Domestic notes	20,934,292
Balance of profits, as per profit and loss account	65,329	Notes of other banks	2,748,212
Dividends declared and unpaid	390,530	Cheques on other banks	9,089,111
Notes of the bank in circulation	15,852,568	Balances due by banks and banking correspondents in the United Kingdom	1,086,935
Notes of the bank in circulation	\$35,297,384	Balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada and the United Kingdom	3,038,168
Deposits not bearing interest	141,242,408	Deposit in the central gold reserves	6,500,000
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date	176,539,792	Domestic and Provincial Government securities, not exceeding market value	22,914,222
Balances due to other banks in Canada	716,301	Canadian municipal securities and British, foreign, and Colonial public securities other than Canadian, not exceeding market value	10,676,092
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents in the United Kingdom	107,472	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks, not exceeding market value	4,131,566
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada and the United Kingdom	1,342,464	Demand loans in Canada secured by grain and other staple commodities	19,905,380
Bills payable	11,079,799	Call and demand loans elsewhere than in Canada	11,751,284
Acceptances under letters of credit	411,344	Call and demand loans in Canada secured by bonds, debentures, and stocks	7,502,163
		Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the circulation fund	484,286
		Loans to Governments and municipalities	3,066,660
		Other current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest)	71,663,385
		Other current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest)	10,547,582
		Liabilities of customers under letters of credit, as per contra	411,344
		Overdue debts, estimated loss provided for	117,900
		Bank premises at not more than cost, less amounts written off	6,764,547
		Real estate other than bank premises	74,141
		Other assets not included in the foregoing	380,681
	225,306,399		225,306,399

THE COLONIAL BANK.
INCORPORATED 1836.

CAPITAL.				Market Value of "A" Shares		Year Ended June 30.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£
"A" 2,000,000	600,000	400,000	1,000,000	625,000	1918	73,407	8	35,000	30,489	
"B" 1,000,000	300,000	200,000	500,000	500,000	1919	115,091	10	20,000	31,343	
					1920	175,236	10	80,000	36,579	
					1921	155,837	10	62,800	29,616	
					1922	121,151	8	30,000	28,667	
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.						
£20	£6	£4	£10	£6½						

LIABILITIES.										ASSETS.										
Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills Payable, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand, at Bankers, & at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills in Transit, Discounts, Advances, &c.	Per Cent.	Cover for Acceptances, &c.	Per Cent.
1890	13	730,000	16.0	58,724	1.3	426,346	9.3	1,463,103	31.9	1,913,503	41.5	4,591,676	923,192	20.1	970,643	21.1	1,300,043	28.4	1,372,798	29.9
1895	14	750,000	15.8	37,660	0.8	452,672	9.5	1,794,364	37.7	1,724,346	36.2	4,759,642	715,792	15.0	602,438	12.7	1,464,297	30.7	1,952,055	41.1
1900	13	750,000	18.9	26,597	0.7	439,871	11.1	794,592	20.0	1,951,054	49.3	3,962,114	575,566	14.5	1,098,695	27.6	1,035,101	26.0	1,227,752	31.3
1905	13	750,000	18.8	41,000	1.0	439,676	11.0	743,205	18.6	2,016,907	50.6	3,990,788	669,750	16.8	1,046,521	26.3	1,083,519	27.3	1,140,998	28.4
1910	13	750,000	17.6	54,357	1.4	451,367	10.6	539,471	12.6	2,454,574	57.8	4,250,369	917,823	21.6	1,285,965	30.3	979,368	23.0	1,017,213	23.9
1915	14	750,000	18.7	57,057	1.4	473,648	11.8	488,114	12.2	2,243,922	55.9	4,012,741	478,296	12.0	1,122,897	27.8	974,100	24.2	1,357,448	34.0
1919	14	750,000	18.7	55,882	1.3	414,225	10.4	518,303	12.9	2,276,514	56.7	4,012,724	676,805	16.8	1,098,554	27.3	923,580	23.0	1,233,785	30.9
1915	15	750,000	19.1	66,890	1.7	429,638	10.9	475,589	12.1	2,203,247	56.2	3,925,169	626,142	16.0	1,114,589	28.4	913,568	23.4	1,190,765	30.2
1916	19	750,000	14.0	60,501	1.1	456,855	9.3	672,477	12.6	3,346,066	63.0	5,005,364	605,364	11.9	907,498	17.0	1,799,747	33.6	1,729,791	32.7
1917	27	800,000	11.9	49,833	0.7	549,777	8.7	1,178,330	17.4	4,169,988	61.9	6,748,526	665,637	9.9	695,392	10.5	2,487,459	36.8	2,235,111	33.1
1918	27	998,466	11.5	64,469	0.7	571,438	6.6	821,428	9.6	6,238,043	71.7	8,793,886	927,161	10.7	1,491,452	17.2	2,234,280	26.0	5,273,431	60.5
1919	27	998,466	11.5	64,469	0.7	571,438	6.6	821,428	9.6	6,238,043	71.7	8,793,886	927,161	10.7	1,491,452	17.2	2,234,280	26.0	5,273,431	60.5
1920	58	1,250,000	11.2	54,117	0.8	706,453	6.3	1,636,921	15.2	11,171,097	66.6	11,157,588	1,198,622	10.7	1,284,512	11.5	2,234,280	26.0	5,273,431	60.5
1921	58	1,250,000	11.2	54,117	0.8	706,453	6.3	1,636,921	15.2	11,171,097	66.6	11,157,588	1,198,622	10.7	1,284,512	11.5	2,234,280	26.0	5,273,431	60.5
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,759,153	1,157,294	8.4	847,995	6.1	3,089,901	22.4	6,308,043	46.0
1922	59	1,300,000	9.5	114,616	0.8	759,120	5.5	2,814,978	20.9	6,749,639	65.9	13,75								

THE DOMINION BANK.
ESTABLISHED 1871.

Subscribed.		CAPITAL Paid-up.		Callable.		Net Profit.		Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.		Carried Forward.	
£		£		£		£		%		£		£	
1,232,877	.....	1,232,877	.....	Nil.	.....	1,332,600	.....	12	.....	262,500	.....	403,775	.....
Per Share.		Per Share.		Per Share.		1,116,265	.....	12	.....	321,575	.....	458,735	.....
\$100	.....	\$100	.....	Nil.	.....	1,169,704	.....	13	.....	340,500	.....	495,707	.....
						1,188,511	.....	13	.....	235,000	.....	669,218	.....
		Reserve fund, £1,438,356.				1,016,262	.....	13	.....	190,000	.....	715,480	.....

LIABILITIES.												ASSETS.										
Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Miscel- laneous Credits, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabili- ties or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Loans on Call.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings & Sundries, including Deposits for Note Issue.	Per Cent.
1911..	85	1,800,000	14.1	103,643	0.8	734,029	5.8	28,785	0.2	10,116,962	79.1	12,783,419	2,641,924	20.7	1,247,978	9.8	1,291,612	10.1	7,164,189	56.0	437,716	3.4
1912..	92	2,167,640	14.9	152,242	1.0	949,266	6.5	52,552	0.4	11,217,322	77.2	14,539,022	2,820,890	19.4	1,434,186	9.9	1,337,964	9.2	8,344,657	57.4	601,325	4.1
1913..	97	2,350,302	15.0	198,898	1.3	1,026,408	6.6	246,048	1.5	11,823,126	75.6	15,644,782	2,622,476	16.9	1,036,447	6.6	1,417,023	9.1	9,707,306	62.2	861,530	5.2
1914..	97	2,597,662	16.3	189,493	1.2	1,199,538	5.1	288,272	1.8	11,915,000	75.6	15,799,965	2,899,989	18.4	1,384,182	8.8	1,185,764	7.5	9,295,929	58.8	1,024,101	6.5
1915..	92	2,600,000	16.8	105,262	0.7	1,177,479	5.0	451,682	2.9	11,546,789	74.6	15,483,212	3,124,495	20.2	1,840,079	11.9	1,195,423	7.7	7,963,657	51.5	1,359,558	8.7
1916..	87	2,600,000	14.6	117,122	0.7	1,032,440	5.8	607,417	3.4	13,421,558	75.5	17,778,537	3,244,622	18.2	1,671,497	9.4	2,224,879	14.2	9,001,852	50.7	1,335,687	7.5
1917..	85	2,600,000	13.4	133,363	0.7	1,350,944	6.9	450,391	2.3	14,877,670	76.7	19,412,368	4,267,577	21.9	1,545,226	7.9	3,341,332	17.2	8,974,488	46.4	1,283,745	6.6
1917*..	87	2,671,232	11.9	118,075	0.5	1,935,140	8.6	923,781	4.1	16,838,651	74.9	22,486,879	5,617,220	25.0	1,568,238	7.0	4,662,580	20.8	9,382,333	41.6	1,255,908	5.6
1918*..	98	2,671,233	9.8	129,491	0.5	2,025,726	7.4	2,858,188	10.5	13,748,160	71.8	27,432,796	5,855,749	21.3	1,988,672	7.3	5,209,452	19.0	13,175,094	48.0	1,203,829	4.4
1919*..	105	2,671,233	9.1	152,013	0.5	1,957,358	6.6	813,409	2.2	12,893,299	77.6	29,487,312	6,555,440	22.3	2,887,298	9.8	4,956,313	16.8	11,655,439	46.2	1,434,822	4.9
1920..	121	2,671,233	9.2	181,524	0.6	2,012,497	7.0	2,801,643	9.7	11,340,677	73.5	28,804,954	5,876,219	20.3	2,921,969	10.1	3,749,680	13.0	14,452,103	50.3	1,800,984	6.3
1921..	127	2,600,000	10.3	200,117	0.8	1,580,229	6.3	747,817	3.0	20,055,524	79.6	25,183,687	5,146,008	20.5	2,171,203	8.6	4,033,824	16.0	12,442,213	49.4	1,390,439	5.5
1921*..	122	2,600,000	9.9	191,147	0.7	1,465,314	5.6	2,249,867	8.5	19,760,860	75.3	26,267,188	6,084,350	23.1	2,079,395	7.9	3,858,188	14.6	12,853,025	49.1	1,392,230	5.3

* December 31.

* December 31.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated in 1869 as Merchants' Bank of Halifax. Name changed in 1901.
 Absorbed Union Bank of Halifax, 1910.
 Absorbed Traders Bank of Canada, 1912.
 Absorbed Quebec Bank, October, 1916.
 Absorbed Northern Crown Bank, 1918.

CAPITAL												Year Ended		Net Profit.		Dividend		To Reserve, &c.		Carried Forward.		
Authorised.		Paid-up.		Callable.		Reserved.		Nov. 30.		1916		1917		1918		1919		1920		1921		
\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		
25,000,000		20,400,000		Nil.		20,400,000				422,261		465,596		561,969		684,653		850,730		807,567		
Per Share.		Per Share.		Per Share.		Per Share.																
\$100		\$100		Nil.		\$100																
LIABILITIES.												ASSETS.										
Year Ended December 31.	Number of Branches.	Capital		Reserves.		Notes.		Miscellaneous Credits.		Deposit and Current Accounts.		Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and Due from Other Banks & Agents.		Cash at Call and Short Notice.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.		Premises, &c.	
		Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.		Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	
1910..	186	2,640,000	14.3	83,562	0.5	1,185,178	6.4	48,000	0.3	14,545,328	78.5	18,502,068	3,883,213	21.0	1,435,715	7.7	2,064,406	11.2	10,743,537	58.1	375,197	2.0
1911..	207	2,661,454	12.0	117,580	0.5	1,267,615	5.7	55,000	0.3	18,004,053	81.5	22,105,702	4,588,100	20.7	2,664,570	12.0	2,295,018	10.3	12,061,575	54.8	496,439	2.2
1912*..	340	4,824,000	13.4	190,608	0.5	2,516,924	7.0	..	..	28,310,620	79.1	35,842,152	6,756,709	18.8	4,795,728	13.4	3,133,300	8.7	20,052,237	56.0	1,104,158	3.1
1913*..	372	4,824,000	13.4	273,069	0.8	2,635,327	7.3	..	..	28,316,961	78.5	36,049,357	6,958,390	19.2	3,963,938	11.0	3,554,831	9.8	20,543,331	57.2	1,028,867	2.8
1914*..	381	4,824,000	13.4	192,966	0.5	2,701,051	7.5	952,562	2.7	27,210,242	75.9	35,880,811	7,937,680	22.1	2,930,981	8.2	3,380,275	9.5	19,977,692	55.4	1,114,185	4.6
1915*..	367	4,824,000	12.1	206,039	0.5	2,844,973	7.1	789,547	2.0	30,995,265	78.3	39,659,824	9,462,592	23.8	3,790,492	9.5	3,725,808	9.4	21,310,528	53.8	1,370,404	3.5
1916*..	419	4,912,000	9.7	243,391	0.5	3,635,646	7.2	1,815,729	3.6	40,045,519	79.0	50,652,285	11,634,713	23.0	6,489,606	12.8	6,101,213	12.1	24,972,932	49.2	1,453,821	2.9
1917*..	422	5,382,340	8.0	191,738	0.3	5,631,870	8.4	5,311,412	7.9	50,597,477	75.4	67,114,837	16,507,127	24.5	5,322,965	7.9	11,337,249	16.9	31,224,913	46.6	2,723,083	4.1
1918*..	568	5,800,000	6.8	193,176	0.2	7,816,195	9.2	5,114,882	6.9	65,518,343	77.8	85,504,596	21,847,071	25.5	6,888,335	8.0	16,261,055	18.0	36,671,976	43.0	3,834,203	4.5
1919*..	633	6,800,000	6.4	389,968	0.4	7,967,453	7.4	7,747,716	7.2	83,824,280	78.6	106,729,417	25,104,293	23.5	10,049,673	9.4	19,627,806	18.4	46,693,958	43.8	5,253,687	4.9
1920..	721	8,053,604	6.8	309,319	0.3	8,334,595	7.0	11,232,887	9.4	91,003,477	76.1	118,934,002	34,201,877	28.7	11,572,513	9.7	10,065,152	8.5	57,284,324	48.2	5,810,136	4.9
1921*..	695	8,160,000	6.7	303,409	0.3	5,632,474	6.0	4,194,848	4.4	75,889,405	80.6	94,180,136	21,915,424	23.2	8,583,614	9.1	9,956,005	10.6	49,980,754	53.1	5,744,339	4.0
												* November 30.	† February 28.									

* November 30. † February 28.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Subscribed.		CAPITAL Paid-up.		Reserved Liability.		Year ended	Net		To Reserve,	Carried
£		£		£		Nov. 30.	Profit.	Dividend.	&c.	Forward.
1,600,000	.....	1,600,000	.....	1,600,000	.....		£	%	£	£
Per Share.		Per Share.		Per Share.						
£20	.....	£20	.....	£20	.....					
PROGRESS OF UNION BANK OF CANADA DURING THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.						1916.....	130,236	9	43,000	18,632
Paid-up Capital.		Rest or Reserve Fund.		Total Deposits.		1917.....	152,693	9	60,000	21,325
\$		\$		\$		1918.....	164,835	9	70,900	25,160
May 31, 1895 ..	1,200,000	.....	280,000	.....	4,904,128	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
May 31, 1900 ..	2,000,000	.....	500,000	.....	6,553,637	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
May 31, 1905 ..	2,500,000	.....	1,100,000	.....	16,533,876	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 30, 1910 ..	4,000,000	.....	2,400,000	.....	37,409,681	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 30, 1915 ..	5,000,000	.....	3,400,000	.....	72,890,765	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 30, 1916 ..	5,000,000	.....	3,400,000	.....	89,267,789	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 30, 1917 ..	5,000,000	.....	3,400,000	.....	117,876,962	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 30, 1918 ..	5,000,000	.....	3,600,000	.....	127,242,638	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 29, 1919 ..	8,000,000	.....	5,600,000	.....	135,496,514	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 30, 1920 ..	8,000,000	.....	6,000,000	.....	135,324,515	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						(Dollars converted at rate of \$5 to £1.)				
						1921.....	268,478	10	30,000	108,337
						And bonus of 2 per cent.				

(4) INDIAN BANKS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED 1853.

Year Ended December 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Market Value.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callible.	Reserved.					
1890..	17	£ 1,050,000	6/6	95,105	0/6	680,373	4/3	7,215,503	45/3	6,882,216
1895..	20	1,125,000	9/6	74,358	0/6	542,617	4/6	2,789,773	23/7	7,237,200
1900..	22	1,325,000	9/1	111,533	0/8	734,684	5/0	3,210,267	22/9	9,175,272
1905..	27	1,675,000	8/7	277,112	1/4	538,752	3/0	5,045,693	26/4	11,585,691
1910..	30	2,800,000	12/1	276,364	1/2	647,593	3/0	3,650,830	15/8	15,625,289
1913..	35	3,000,000	10/6	375,254	1/4	822,591	3/0	6,017,118	22/0	17,128,433
1914..	35	3,000,000	11/2	396,534	1/5	911,556	3/4	3,849,742	14/4	18,617,883
1915..	36	3,000,000	10/1	399,205	1/3	978,137	3/3	3,719,008	12/5	21,548,506
1916..	37	3,000,000	9/0	427,466	1/3	1,019,069	3/1	6,240,211	18/7	22,704,036
1917..	37	3,100,000	8/5	476,261	1/3	1,025,592	2/6	5,582,031	9/9	24,042,149
1918..	35	3,200,000	6/7	492,483	1/2	1,568,263	2/6	8,566,526	17/9	33,777,276
1919..	36	4,500,000	7/1	531,830	0/8	1,806,095	2/6	13,571,600	20/0	47,932,170
1920..	36	6,500,000	9/2	709,601	1/0	2,837,818	4/0	12,182,991	17/2	48,702,334
1921..	37	6,500,000	10/7	787,670	1/3	1,926,923	3/1	9,503,828	15/4	42,944,360

* Includes Treasury Bills.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

REGISTERED 1909.

Year Ended December 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Market Value.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
		Subscribed.	Called-up.	Reserve Liability of Shareholders.	Reserve Liability of Shareholders.					
1910..	2	£ 400,000	17/9	4,762	0/2	182,018	8/1	480,598	21/6	1,166,190
1911..	2	400,000	13/6	25,173	0/9	279,331	9/5	430,313	14/6	1,805,776
1912..	3	400,000	11/2	42,998	1/2	421,869	11/8	546,557	15/3	2,155,212
1913..	3	415,000	12/6	47,152	1/4	551,794	16/7	610,083	18/5	1,675,267
1914..	4	653,653	23/9	45,123	1/6	321,376	11/7	329,875	12/0	1,396,022
1915..	4	654,880	17/4	51,660	1/4	534,089	14/2	603,251	16/1	1,915,883
1916..	5	654,880	12/7	60,546	1/2	496,171	9/6	842,675	16/3	3,099,801
1917..	6	669,921	9/8	77,918	1/1	503,496	7/3	544,234	8/0	5,099,972
1918..	6	690,000	9/1	62,406	0/8	552,165	7/3	487,602	6/4	5,784,900
1919..	10	944,649	5/7	99,951	0/6	1,613,850	9/7	1,497,569	9/0	12,520,390
1920..	10	1,221,476	9/4	121,313	0/9	1,698,631	13/0	1,452,687	11/1	8,556,281
1921..	10	1,265,844	13/0	135,181	1/4	903,753	9/3	1,523,406	15/6	5,884,034

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

REGISTERED 1892.

Absorbed The Bank of Mauritius, Limited, as from January 1, 1916.

* Absorbed The Bank of Calcutta, Limited, as from March 31, 1906.

Year Ended December 31.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Market Value.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
		Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callible.	Reserved.					
"A" Shares ..	£750,000	..	£375,000	..	£187,500	..	£187,500	..	..	..
Per Share ..	£25	..	£12 10s	..	£6 5s	..	£6 5s	..	..	..
"B" Shares ..	£750,000	..	£375,000	..	£187,500	..	£187,500	..	..	..
Per Share ..	£25	..	£12 10s	..	£6 5s	..	£6 5s	..	..	..
"C" Shares ..	£300,000	..	£300,000	..	Nil	..	Nil	..	..	..
Per Share ..	£5	..	£5	..	Nil	..	Nil	..	..	..

LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.

O. MUSTAD & SON
Christiania, NORWAY.

Established 1832.

World-known
Manufacturers and
Exporters of

Trade Mark.  Fish Hooks,
Horse Shoe Nails,
Wrought Iron Nails,
Axes,
Wool Cards, &c.,
suitable for all Markets.

STANDARD WORKS ON
BANKING & FINANCE

NOW READY.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET. By Wm. F. Spalding, Cert.A.I.B. 10/6 net.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND FOREIGN BILLS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. Fourth Edition. By the same author. 7/6 net.

EASTERN EXCHANGE, CURRENCY & FINANCE. Third Edition. By the same author. 15/- net.

THE FUNCTIONS OF MONEY. By the same author. 7/6 net.

BANKERS' CREDITS. By the same author. 10/6 net.

BRITISH FINANCE, 1914-1921. Edited by A. W. Kirkaldy, M.A., B.Litt., M.Com. 15/- net.

ENGLISH PUBLIC FINANCE. By Harvey E. Fisk. 7/6 net.

BANKERS' ADVANCES AGAINST PRODUCE. By Alfred Williams. 6/- net.

BANK ORGANISATION, MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTS. By J. F. Davis, M.A., D.Lit., LL.B. (Lond.). 6/- net.

Of all Booksellers.

PITMAN'S will be pleased to send you, post free on application, a copy of their HANDY GUIDE TO STANDARD WORKS ON BANKING.

PARKER STREET, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2.

P. S. KING & SON LTD.

WEALTH AND TAXABLE CAPACITY

By SIR JOSIAH STAMP, K.B.E., D.Sc. Being the Newmarth Lectures of 1920-21. 10s. 6d.

In the House of Commons, during the Budget Debate of April, 1922, this book was referred to.

Times.—"A useful and painstaking survey, with full bibliographies, of the development of Trusts in different industries taken in separate sections; with historical retrospect."

TRUSTS IN BRITISH INDUSTRY, 1914-1921

A Study of Recent Developments in Business Organisation.

By J. MORGAN REES, M.A. (Wales), Lecturer in Economics and Political Science, University College of Wales. 10s. 6d.

Times.—"A useful and painstaking survey, with full bibliographies, of the development of Trusts in different industries taken in separate sections; with historical retrospect."

COAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

By A. J. SARGENT, M.A., Professor of Commerce in the University of London. 2s. 6d.

Yorkshire Observer.—"A useful little book on a very big and very important subject... of practical value at the present moment when all matters regarding mechanical power for industrial purposes are being keenly canvassed."

PRICES AND WAGES

An investigation of the Dynamic Forces in Social Economics. By PERCY WALLIS and ALBERT WALLIS. Royal 8vo. 480 pp. With numerous Charts and Diagrams. 25s.

ORCHARD HOUSE,
2 & 4 GT. SMITH ST., WESTMINSTER.

BOOKS ON FINANCE

BY
HARTLEY WITHERS

Formerly Editor of the ECONOMIST.

"Numerous instances of the wisdom of Withers, culled from a ripe experience and put into literary shape by a trenchant and occasionally caustic pen."—Financial News.

6s. net each.

THE MEANING OF MONEY

Twenty-third Impression.

STOCKS AND SHARES

Eighth Impression.

THE CASE FOR CAPITALISM

Second Impression.

WAR-TIME FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Second Impression.

THE BUSINESS OF FINANCE

Third Impression.

MONEY CHANGING: An Introduction to

Foreign Exchange. Sixth Impression.

POVERTY AND WASTE

Third Impression.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

Third Impression.

WAR AND LOMBARD STREET

Fourth Impression.

BAGEHOT'S LOMBARD STREET

A Description of the Money Market. Edited with a New Preface by Hartley Withers. Fourteenth Edition.

5s. net.

OUR MONEY AND THE STATE

Third Impression.

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE ST., LONDON, W.1

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1863.

Year Ended June 30.	Number of Branches.	CAPITAL.				Market Value. £	Year.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. %	To Reserve, £	Carried Forward. £
		Subscribed. £	Paid-up. £	Callable. £	Reserved. Nil.						
1890..	8	606,500	105	56,159	10	1,647,201	1897	353,139	20*	120,000	139,829
1895..	14	660,000	109	39,937	07	1,105,046	1918	403,635	20*	170,000	123,464
1900..	18	830,000	88	52,982	06	264,649	1919	452,169	20*	240,000	135,634
1905..	20	1,125,000	98	91,511	08	489,791	1920	553,398	20*	140,000	149,032
1910..	22	1,600,000	101	227,550	14	585,091	1921	555,063	20*	Free of tax.	164,096
1913..	26	2,040,000	110	158,324	09	921,137					
1914..	26	2,100,000	107	210,407	11	985,455					
1915..	26	2,175,000	107	227,492	11	910,445					
1916..	26	2,200,000	101	244,468	11	847,658					
1917..	28	2,250,000	91	250,460	10	825,088					
1918..	28	2,350,000	74	317,057	10	634,482					
1919..	28	3,350,000	93	308,722	09	839,579					
1919..	28	3,350,000	79	475,534	11	880,052					
1920..	28	3,500,000	64	387,367	07	1,086,186					
1921..	28	4,300,000	78	539,032	10	1,395,674					
1921..	28	4,500,000	106	504,096	12	2,003,540					

* Includes Treasury Bills. † Dec. 31.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital paid up.....	Rs. 5,62,35,500	Government securities.....	Rs. 7,72,37,919
Reserve.....	4,11,82,805	Other authorised securities under the Act.....	1,28,30,633
Public deposits.....	16,77,85,850	Loans.....	14,20,98,284
Other deposits.....	63,36,20,694	Cash credits.....	26,25,77,120
Loans against advances, per contra.....	49,82,857	Inland bills discounted and purchased.....	4,54,47,210
Loans from the Government of India under section 19A of the Paper Currency Act, against inland bills discounted and purchased, per contra.....	..	Foreign bills discounted and purchased.....	51,781
Contingent liabilities.....	42,23,241	Bullion.....	2,43,41,907
Sundries.....	90,75,30,937	Dead stock.....	27,54,688
		Liability of constituents for contingent liabilities, per contra.....	6,06,947
		Sundries.....	33,95,74,448
		Balances with other banks.....	90,75,30,937
		Cash.....	£35,545

The above balance-sheet includes the undernoted balances in London—Deposits, £59,223; advances, £351,077; cash and balances at other banks, £35,545.

ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital—		Loans, cash credits, and demand advances.....	Rs. 9,65,77,256
Issued—35,000 ordinary shares of Rs.100 each, fully paid up.....	Rs.35,00,000	Bills receivable.....	98,65,450
53,941 preference shares of Rs.100 each, fully paid up.....	53,94,100	Purchase price of London banking businesses.....	20,00,000
Reserve fund.....	88,94,100	Bank premises, under value.....	Rs.82,58,505
Reserve against depreciation of Government paper and other investments.....	42,00,000	Sales, furniture, stationery, and stamps.....	8,13,452
Fixed deposits.....	13,00,000	4% Government of India paper, at par.....	60,00,000
Current accounts.....	6,28,40,681	6% and 5½% War Bonds, 5%, 4%, and 3½% Government paper Municipal Port Trust and other value, subject to special reserve, per contra.....	2,82,34,336
Bills payable.....	15,73,98,046	Interest accrued on above investments.....	8,85,128
Sterling loans against bills and securities, per contra.....	1,02,67,215	NOTE.—Of the above securities Rs.45,70,852 are lodged with Government as security for Government accounts.	3,51,19,464
Profit and loss account—	1,45,50,000	Cash in hand.....	1,14,44,900
Balance, as per last balance-sheet.....	Rs.3,31,154	Cash with bankers on current account.....	2,79,03,879
Add profit for current year.....	11,14,430	Cash at call and short notice.....	56,65,000
	14,45,584		4,50,13,779
Deduct—		NOTE.—All sterling figures are incorporated in the above balance-sheet at the rate of 1s 4d to the rupee.	
Interim dividend paid on ordinary shares at 14% per annum to December 31, 1921, Rs.2,45,000; interim dividend paid on preference shares at 6% per annum to December 31, 1921, Rs.1,62,039.....	4,07,039		
	10,38,545		
	19,76,47,906		

THE TATA INDUSTRIAL BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—March 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Paid-up capital, 10,00,246 shares at Rs.22 8 each, Rs.2,25,05,535; add sums received in respect of 12,757 shares forfeited, Rs.1,63,575.....	Rs. 2,26,69,110	Cash on hand.....	Rs. 82,01,900
Sums received in advance on account of future calls.....	4,725	Cash with bankers.....	1,33,99,348
Unclaimed dividends.....	18,50,415	Investments at or under market value—Government of India securities, Rs.2,73,26,347; other securities, Rs.38,91,040.....	3,12,17,387
Reserve fund.....	18,50,000	Of the above securities of the value of Rs.1,02,24,387 have been lodged as collateral, as per contra.....	
Due to agents and correspondents (of which Rs.98,50,000 is covered by securities, as per contra.....)	1,02,03,321	Liability on other securities for uncalled capital amounts to Rs.49,37,125.....	
Demand and fixed deposits—		Due by agents and correspondents.....	92,912
Current accounts.....	3,25,62,537	Bills receivable.....	82,18,490
Savings Bank deposits.....	54,59,060	Bills discounted, Rs.39,72,783; demand advances, Rs.2,30,23,976; cash credits and fixed loans, Rs.2,92,99,915.....	5,62,96,674
Fixed deposits.....	4,19,37,309	Office furniture and fittings, Rs.4,41,125; less amount written off for depreciation, Rs.2,03,622.....	2,37,503
Staff provident fund account (securities to the value of Rs.3,74,387 have been earmarked by the bank to cover this account, as per contra.....)	3,66,483	Clients' liability for acceptances, guarantees, &c., as per contra.....	1,25,26,078
Bills and drafts payable, and other sums due by the bank.....	52,35,234	Landed property and bank premises (at cost).....	32,89,207
Bills re-discounted, acceptances, and guarantees, as per contra.....	1,25,26,077		
Profit and loss account—balance brought forward, April 1, 1921, Rs.2,20,004; add profits twelve months to March 31, 1922, Rs.16,36,729—Rs.18,56,733; less interim dividend of 10 annas per share, free of income-tax, as on November 15, 1921, Rs.6,32,279; provision for adjusting securities to or under market value, Rs.1,70,019; reserve fund, Rs.3,50,000; provision for income-tax and super-tax, Rs.1,38,206—Rs.12,90,505.....	5,66,228		
	13,34,79,499		

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK,

(REGISTERED IN JAPAN.)

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Capital Subscribed and Fully Paid - Yen 100,000,000
Reserve Fund - " 65,000,000

Head Office = = YOKOHAMA.

BRANCHES AT

BATAVIA.
BOMBAY.
BUENOS AYRES.
CALCUTTA.
CHANGCHUN.
DAIREN (Dainy).
FENGTIEN (Mukden).
HAMBURG.
HANKOW.
HARBIN.

HONOLULU.
HONG KONG.
KAI YUAN.
KOBE.
PEKIN.
RANGOON.
RIO DE JANEIRO.
SAIGON.
SAN FRANCISCO.
SEATTLE.
NAGOYA.

SHANGHAI.
SHIMONOSEKI.
SINGAPORE.
SOURABAYA.
SYDNEY.
TIENTSIN.
TOKYO.
TSINANFU.
TSINGTAU.
VLADIVOSTOCK.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

K. YANO, Manager.

LONDON OFFICE :

7, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

HAMBROS BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - £4,000,000
PAID UP - £1,000,000
RESERVE - £1,050,000

Head Office :

70, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Registered Offices :

41-47, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

West End Office :

21-24, COCKSPUR ST., TRAFALGAR SQ., S.W.1.

General Banking Business.

Foreign Exchange.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

At the half-yearly Court of the Bank of England, held on September 21st, Mr H. A. Trotter, the Deputy-Governor, stated that the profits of the half-year ended August 31st, after making provision for all contingencies, had been £601,334, making the amount of the "rest" on that day £3,616,170, and that after providing for a dividend of 5½ per cent., less income-tax, the "rest" would be £3,015,858.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	144,044,765	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,970
		Gold coin and bullion	125,594,765
	144,044,765		144,044,765

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital	14,553,000	Government securities	44,547,645
Rest	3,636,859	Other securities	73,933,972
Public deposits*	15,786,063	Notes	22,554,125
Other deposits	108,534,592	Gold and silver coin	1,832,046
Seven-day and other bills	17,284		
	142,527,783		142,527,783

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

BAKER, DUNCOMBE, AND CO., LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—September 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Capital—32,000 fully-paid "A" shares of £5 each, £160,000; 8,000 fully-paid "B" shares of £5 each, £40,000	200,000	Investments—5% National War Bonds, 5% Treasury Bonds, 5% War Loan, £1,000,000	995,000
Reserve	50,000	Bills discounted (including re discounts)	8,176,878
Liability on deposits and loans and bills re discounted (including rebate and sundry accounts)	9,084,754	Assets to the value of £9,051,794 4s 9d are held by bankers and others as cover for liabilities, per contra	62,028
	9,334,754	Cash in hand and at bankers	100,848
			9,334,754

BANK OF LIVERPOOL AND MARTINS, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Capital paid up: £2 10s per share on 939,556 shares of £20 each	2,348,890	Cash in hand and at Bank of England	7,981,149
Reserve fund	1,400,000	Money at call or short notice	7,515,518
Amount due on current deposit, and other accounts	68,999,198	Loans on stocks and other negotiable securities (partly under Treasury Minute of October 31, 1914)	349,275
Bank's acceptances	1,916,182	Investment in 5% War Stock, 1929 1947, National War Bonds, and 4% Victory Bonds	9,503,375
Contingent liability on indemnities & on credits opened, but not yet accepted against, &c., £2,079,017.		Investment in Local Loans stock, Exchequer bonds, Treasury bills, and other first-class securities	3,881,149
		Bills of exchange	4,979,365
		Loans and advances to customers, &c., as per contra	37,089,638
		Customers' liability for bank's acceptances, as per contra	1,916,182
		Bank premises—Liverpool, London, and branches—at cost, less amounts written off	1,448,619
	74,664,270		74,664,270

COUTTS AND CO.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Capital paid up	800,000	Coin, Bank of England and currency notes in the United Kingdom and balances with the Bank of England	1,631,089
Reserve fund	800,000	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom, and cheques, drafts, &c., in transit	612,451
Current deposit, and other accounts	17,449,807	Money at call and short notice	2,892,300
Liabilities for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	134,033	Investments (of which £200,000 is lodged for Queen Anne's bounty)	
Memorandum.—The liability under the guarantee of £8,928 in respect of the Yorkshire Penny Bank, Limited, is not included in the above.		British Government stocks, £3,958,491; Colonial Government stocks, Corporation stocks, and other investments, £678,775	4,637,266
		Bills discounted—Payable by British firms and institutions in the United Kingdom, and Treasury bills	1,599,211
		Advances to customers on current and other accounts	7,331,060
		Bank premises	346,430
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	134,033
	19,183,940		19,183,940

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Current deposit, and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss)	321,167,218	Cash in hand and with the Bank of England	44,666,453
Acceptances and endorsements, &c., for account of customers	5,746,993	Balances with other British banks and cheques in course of collection	8,315,899
Capital, viz.: 857,589 "A" shares of £4 each, fully paid, £3,430,356; 11,760,811 "B" shares of £1 each, fully paid, £11,760,811; 401,205 "C" shares of £1 each, fully paid, £401,205	15,592,372	Money at call and short notice	20,599,418
Reserve fund	8,250,000	Bills discounted	45,066,774
		Investments (including £784,216 securities lodged for public accounts): securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government, £76,641,604; British Dominions and Colonial Government securities, Bank of England and British Corporation stocks, £4,579,036; British railway debentures and other investments, £2,737,190	84,357,830
		The British Linen Bank—£1,210,863 3s 4d stock	3,632,590
		Union Bank of Manchester, Limited—300,000 shares of £5 each, £2 10s paid	2,700,000
		Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd.—112,752 shares of £15 each, £5 paid	1,683,780
		Advances to customers and other accounts	129,225,760
		Liability of customers for acceptances and endorsements, &c.	5,746,993
		Bank premises and adjoining properties	4,761,086
	350,756,583		350,756,583

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, AND CO.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Capital paid up	1,000,000	Coin, bank and currency notes, and balance at Bank of England	4,301,339
Reserve fund	500,000	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom	1,057,117
Current accounts	15,681,300	Money at call and at short notice	4,740,500
Deposit accounts	8,540,215	Bills discounted	900,573
Reduction of the bank premises account	154,980	Investments—British Government securities, £9,393,549; other securities, £791,286	10,184,835
		Advances to customers and other accounts	4,322,131
		Bank premises (freehold)	370,000
	25,876,495		25,876,495

Memorandum.—Liabilities on account of acceptances, endorsements, &c. (covered by securities), not included in balance-sheet, £1,862,512

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Capital paid up	9,003,718	Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	29,236,632
Reserve fund	9,003,718	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom	10,440,751
Current deposit, and other accounts	299,512,964	Money at call and short notice	27,267,628
Liabilities for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	10,509,254	Bills discounted	82,592,061
Notes in circulation in the Isle of Man	14,338	Investments	56,588,083
		Investments in affiliated banks	2,991,362
		Advances to customers and other accounts	104,414,811
		Bank premises account	4,003,410
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	10,509,254
	328,043,992		328,043,992

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Capital paid up	10,860,852	Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	53,325,176
Reserve fund	10,860,852	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in Great Britain and Ireland	11,600,430
Current deposit, and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss)	368,230,832	Money at call and short notice	15,644,306
Acceptances and engagements on account of customers	17,718,567	Investments	67,697,021
		Bills discounted	56,252,193
		Advances to customers and other accounts	176,912,071
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances and engagements	17,718,567
		Bank premises	4,961,924
		Shares of the Belfast Banking Company, Limited, and the Clydesdale Bank, Limited	3,259,415
		Shares of the London City and Midland Bank, Limited	300,000
	407,671,103		407,671,103

Outposts of
Canadian Trade.

WHILE over 100 of our Branch Banks abroad perform services for all requiring them, irrespective of nationality, it is natural that their interests in Canadian trade should be unusually deep. Each one is in effect an outpost of Canada and a reliable source of information both for business men who wish to develop their foreign business, and for the local firms who wish to get in touch with Canadian importers. Our Branches are able to furnish reports on markets and conditions, the names of importing and exporting houses, and credit information on any foreign firm. This type of Banking service has come to be so important that we have created a special department at Head Office to handle all enquiries. Our Foreign Trade Department is prepared to render any reasonable service.

When sending men to Canada, the West Indies, Cuba, Central and South America, English houses should not hesitate to ask our London Manager for letters of introduction to our local Managers.

THE ROYAL BANK
OF CANADA

LONDON OFFICE PRINCES ST., E.C.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Constituted under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920.

For the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay, and the Bank of Madras.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL: 225,000 shares of Rs. 500 each	Rs. 11,25,00,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL as on 30th June, 1922: 75,000 Shares of Rs. 500 each—Fully Paid	Rs. 3,75,00,000
149,884 Shares of Rs. 500 each—Rs. 125 Paid	Rs. 1,87,36,500
	Rs. 5,62,36,500

RESERVE FUND as on 30th June, 1922 4,11,82,805
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS as on 30th June, 1922 5,62,06,500

Managing Governors:—Sir ROBERT AITKEN, KT.; Sir BERNARD HUNTER, KT.
Local Head Offices: CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS.

London Office:—5, Whitlington Avenue, E.C.3. Sir NORCOT WARREN, KT., K.C.I.E., Manager.

BRANCHES.

Agra	Bombay (Mandvi)	Erde	Mandalay	Quetta
Ahmedabad	Bombay (Sandhurst Road)	Guntur	Mangalore	Rajamundry
Ahmedabad City Branch	Broach	Hubli	Masulipatam	Rajkot
Ahmednagar	C. Icutta (Burra Bazaar)	Hyderabad (Deccan)	Mearut	Rangoon
Akola	C. Icutta (Glive Street)	Hyderabad (Sind)	Moradabad	Rawalpindi
Akylab	C. Icutta (Park Street)	Indore	Moulmein	Salem
Allahabad	Calcutta	Jalgaon	Multan	Secunderabad
Aliphey	Calcutta	Jalpaiguri	Muzaffarpore	Sholapur
Amalga	Cawnpore	Jubbulpore	Nagpur	Simla
Amraoti	Chittagong	Karachi	Narainangunge	Sukkur
Amritsar	Cocanada	Khandwa	Negapatam	Tellicherry
Banalore	Coimbatore	Kumbakonam	Ootacamund	Trichinopoly
Basseln	Cuddalore	Lahore	Parbhani (sub-agency)	Trivandrum
Bellary	Cuttack	Larkana	Patna	Tuticorin
Benares	Dacca	Lucknow	Peshawar	Vellore
Berhampore	Delhi	Madras (Mount Road)	Pooa	Vizianagram
Bombay (Byculla)	Dhulia	Madras	Pooa City (sub-agency)	Vizagapatam

CURRENT ACCOUNTS—Opened free of charge.

FIXED DEPOSITS—Received at interest.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS—Received and interest allowed.

GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SECURITIES—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected, Interest and Dividends collected and credited to account or remitted in accordance with instructions.

LOANS AND CASH CREDITS—Granted, and approved Mercantile Bills discounted.

Rates, copies of rules, Powers of Attorney, &c., may be had on application at any of the Local Head Offices or Branches of the Bank.

ROBE T AITKEN, } Managing
BERNARD HUNTER } Governors.

MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LIMITED.
 BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—273,010 shares, £20 each, £4 paid	1,092,040	Cash on hand, at call, and at short notice	4,429,349
Reserve fund	950,000	Bills of exchange, less rebate	1,457,962
Unclaimed dividends	1,557	Investments:—	
Due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts	24,053,505	Securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government, and Bank of England stock, £5,974,868; other securities, £351,649	6,326,517
Acceptances by the bank	94,815	Short loans on railway stock and other securities	29,885
Profit and loss account—		Advances on current accounts	13,543,082
Balance brought forward, £89,735; net profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and payment of all expenses, £110,158	199,893	Liability of customers on acceptances by the bank	94,815
		Bank property account: premises in Manchester and branch offices	400,000
	25,391,610		26,391,610

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.
 BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—632,000 shares, £15 each, £3 paid	1,896,000	Cash in hand and in the Bank of England	6,803,484
Reserve fund	1,650,000	Money at call and short notice	2,626,190
Current, deposit, and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss)	59,881,980	Bills of exchange (including Treasury bills)	7,763,265
Acceptances	346,514	British Government securities	17,782,133
		British railway debentures, Corporation stocks, &c.	337,749
		Advances in current and other accounts	27,615,159
		Liabilities of customers for bank's acceptances	346,514
		Bank property	500,000
	63,774,494		63,774,494

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.
 BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	9,309,416	Coin, Bank of England and currency notes in the United Kingdom, and balances with the Bank of England	28,952,902
Reserve fund	8,878,041	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom, and cheques, drafts, &c., in transit	8,184,737
Current, deposit, and other accounts	269,396,571	Money at call and short notice	20,170,414
Liabilities for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	3,912,496	Investments (of which £209,640 is lodged for public accounts), £56,548,903; investments in affiliated banks, £2,240,000	53,788,903
		Bills discounted—(1) Payable by British firms and institutions in the United Kingdom, and Treasury bills, £44,327,187. (2) Other bills, £1,336,687 ..	45,663,874
		Advances to customers on current and other accounts	121,718,549
		Bank premises	4,104,649
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	3,912,496
	291,496,524		291,496,524

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.
 BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Current, deposit, and other accounts	341,934,038	Cash in hand and with the Bank of England	37,774,980
Acceptances, endorsements, guarantees, &c.	7,671,591	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom	10,091,791
Capital paid up	14,372,956	Money at call & short notice	16,612,800
Reserve fund	10,000,000	Bills of exchange	78,371,700
		War Loans and other British Government securities	85,841,377
		Indian and Colonial Government securities, Corporation stocks, English railway debenture and preference stocks, and other investments	1,345,320
		* Note.—There is a contingent liability for uncalled capital in respect of a portion of these investments.	
		The National Bank of Scotland, Limited, £4,858,820 (nominal) stock (£1,068,940 8s paid up) at £300 for each £110 paid up	2,915,298
		London and River Plate Bank, Ltd., 118,728 shares of £25 each (£17 paid up) at £38 per share	4,511,664
		Lloyds and National Provincial Foreign Bank, Limited, 12,000 shares of £50 each (£20 paid up) at £20 per share	240,000
		Advances to customers, including Stock Exchange loans under Treasury Minute of Oct. 31, 1914, and other accounts	123,744,924
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, guarantees, &c., as per contra	7,671,596
		Bank premises	4,857,141
	373,978,585		373,978,585

WILLIAMS, DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.
 BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital, 1,562,500 £5 "A" shares, £1 paid, £1,562,500; 312,500 £1 "B" shares, £312,500	1,875,000	Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England	4,203,775
Reserve fund	1,100,000	Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom	1,549,589
Current, deposit, and other accounts	38,960,335	Money at call and at short notice	5,019,776
Liabilities for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	646,907	Bills discounted	4,344,354
		British Government securities	6,977,695
		English railway and municipal stocks, and other investments	1,134,908
		Advances to customers and other accounts	18,038,005
		Bank premises account	667,335
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	646,907
	42,582,242		42,582,242

UNITED KINGDOM Temperance and General PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

ESTABLISHED 1840.

A Mutual Office in which the whole of the Profits belong to the Members.

FUNDS EXCEED - - TEN MILLIONS.

By drastically giving effect to the low values obtaining at the end of 1920, and by keeping intact the reserves required by a stringent Valuation the Institution has been placed in an exceptionally strong position.

INCREASED INTERIM BONUSES.

In view of the substantial rise in security values, and as an indication of their confidence in the future prosperity of the Institution, the Directors have substantially increased the rates of Interim Bonuses formerly announced and have decided to allot these increased bonuses on the Compound System. Interim Bonuses on policies now becoming claims accordingly range from 32s to 34s per cent. per annum, calculated on the Sum Assured and existing Bonuses.

Head Office - - 196, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

THE . . .

DISTRICT BANK.



The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Chairman: SIR CHRISTOPHER T. NEEDHAM.

Managing Directors: ANGUS A. G. TULLOCH, Esq., D.L. WILLIAM ROLPH EASTERBY, Esq.
(Deputy Chairman).

Paid-up Capital - £1,896,000 Reserve Fund - £1,650,000
Deposits - £59,881,979 Total Assets - £63,774,494

Head Office: SPRING GARDENS, MANCHESTER.

Foreign Department: { 13, Spring Gardens, Manchester.
3, Water Street, Liverpool.
76 & 77, Cornhill, London, E.C.3

London Office: 75, Cornhill, E.C.3. Liverpool Office: Water Street.

And 341 Branches and Sub-branches in Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, Westmorland, and North Wales.

Every Banking Facility Afforded and Special Attention given to Colonial and Foreign Business.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

HEAD OFFICE - - SYDNEY.

Guaranteed by the Australian Commonwealth Government.

Sir DENISON MILLER, K.C.M.G., Governor. JAMES KELL, Deputy-Governor.

BRANCHES IN

The Principal Cities and Towns of Australia
and at

36-41 New Broad Street, E.C., and Australia House, Strand, W.C.,
LONDON.

Agents and Correspondents throughout the World.
BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION TRANSACTED.

Bankers to:

GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND.
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TASMANIA.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Branches in the Chief Centres and 3,167 Agencies at
Post Offices throughout Australasia.

AT 30th JUNE, 1922:

Savings Bank balances	£38,056,980
General Bank balances	44,550,163
Note Issue Department	53,556,698
Other Items	4,388,637
Total	£140,552,478

Head Office:
Sydney, New South Wales.

LONDON BRANCH: 36-41 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, London Manager.



YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK, LIMITED.
BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	750,000	Cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at short notice	8,447,288
Reserve fund	750,000	British Government Treasury bills	4,235,000
Amount due to depositors and other accounts	29,118,428	Securities repayable within one year	300,000
Uncalled capital, £500,000 ..		British Government 5½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, £6,224,500; British Government 4 per cent. War stock, £779,986; British Government 4 per cent. National War Bonds, £2,020,000; British Government 5 per cent. National War Bonds, £4,091,750; other securities, £1,082,003 ..	14,198,239
		Loans on security and other accounts	2,357,102
		Bank purchase account	600,000
		Bank premises	480,799
	30,618,428		30,618,428

PRIVATE BANKS.

CHARLES HOARE AND CO.
BALANCE-SHEET—July 6, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Amount due on current accounts	2,036,342	Cash in hand and at bankers	655,307
Amount due on deposit accounts	1,755,285	Cash at call	374,000
Capital and reserve	500,000	British Government securities at or below market price	1,701,669
		Other securities	185,964
		Loans, overdrafts, and bills discounted	1,274,687
		Freeholds	100,000
	4,291,627		4,291,627

CHILD AND CO.
BALANCE-SHEET—July 6, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Amount due to customers on current & deposit accounts ..	3,208,438	Cash in hand and at the Bank of England	523,242
Capital	500,000	Money at call	475,000
Reserve fund	88,420	National War bonds, War stock, and other approved securities	1,424,877
		Loans to customers	1,289,589
		Bank premises	84,200
	3,796,858		3,796,858

HOLT AND CO.

BALANCE-SHEET—September 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Current and deposit accounts ..	2,243,521	Cash at bankers, and in hand ..	295,969
Capital	100,000	Cash at call against British Treasury bills and floaters ..	240,070
		Bills discounted	475
		British Government securities at or under market value, £1,426,337; shorts and other investments at or under market value, £38,036 ..	1,464,373
		Advances on current and other accounts	284,508
		Freehold premises, fittings, and furniture	58,196
	2,343,521		2,343,521

COX AND CO.

BALANCE-SHEET—March 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—1,500 4 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £100 each	150,000	Cash at bankers and in hand ..	3,245,916
5,000 ordinary shares of £100 each	500,000	Cash at call and at short notice	1,259,708
Reserve fund	600,000	Bills receivable	1,381,280
Current, deposit, and other accounts	16,643,725	Documentary bills negotiated ..	1,023,575
Acceptances for customers (per contra)	1,059,150	Treasury bills (British and Indian)	2,036,312
		British Government securities (of which securities valued £579,796 & 7d are deposited in connection with Government and other accounts) £1,340,210; Indian, Colonial and other securities, £265,001 ..	1,605,211
		Advances to customers and other accounts	6,691,408
		Liability of customers for acceptances, per contra ..	1,059,150
		Bank premises and interests in companies owning premises	646,315
	18,952,875		18,952,875

GRINDLAY AND CO.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital	100,000	Cash—In hand, and at bankers ..	91,384
Amounts due on current, deposit, and other accounts ..	1,904,271	At short notice	75,000
		Investments—National War & Treasury bonds	262,400
		Indian Government War bonds	222,040
		Colonial Government stks. ..	210,629
		Indian Railway debentures (short dated)	132,500
		Municipal stocks	26,657
		Railways in British Possessions	24,505
		South American Railway debentures	10,290
		Other investments	69,085
		Loans, bills discounted, &c. ..	836,781
		Bank premises	43,000
	2,004,271		2,004,271

* Of these £52,884 in all is deposited with the Indian Government.

LONDON DISCOUNT COMPANIES.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital, 10,000 £10 6 per cent. preference shares, fully paid, £100,000; 100,000 £10 ordinary shares, £5 paid, £500,000, with a reserve liability of £500,000	600,000	Cash at bankers	472,124
Reserve fund	320,000	Short-dated Imperial and Indian Government securities ..	2,543,484
Bills re-discounted	1,071,502	Bills discounted	16,934,625
Deposits and sundry balances, including profit and loss account	19,010,074	Loans on security and sundry accounts	1,051,343
	21,001,576	(Out of the above, assets of the value of £19,978,553 are held by depositors and others as cover for liabilities, per contra.)	
			21,001,576

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT & CENTURY LIFE OFFICE

with which is Allied

THE CENTURY INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

LIFE. - FIRE. - ACCIDENT. - MARINE.

Combined Funds exceed £5,000,000.

HEAD OFFICES:

LONDON - 42, Kingsway, W.C.2. :: EDINBURGH - 18, Charlotte Square.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL & MARTINS LIMITED.

Head Office: 7, WATER STREET, LIVERPOOL.
London Office: 68, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Capital Subscribed - - - - - £18,791,120
 Capital Paid Up - - - - - 2,348,890
 Reserve Fund and Surplus Profits - - - - - 1,547,119
 Deposits, etc., at 30th June, 1922 - - - - - 68,999,197

330 BRANCHES AND SUB-BRANCHES.

All descriptions of Banking, Trustee and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted.

THE BANK IS PREPARED TO ACT AS AGENTS FOR FOREIGN BANKS ON USUAL TERMS.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S
BANK LIMITED.

Established 1836.

Chairman: Walter Leaf.
Deputy Chairman: Sir Montagu Turner, R. Hugh Tennant.
Chief General Manager: John Rae.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - - - -	£33,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - -	9,003,718
RESERVE - - - - -	9,003,718
(30th June, 1922.)	
Current, Deposit and Other Accounts - - - - -	£299,512,964

Head Office: 41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2.

Affiliated Abroad.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S FOREIGN BANK, LIMITED.
Branches in BELGIUM, FRANCE and SPAIN.

Affiliated in Ireland.

ULSTER BANK LIMITED.

THE BANK IS REPRESENTED BY BRANCHES OR AGENTS IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HAS CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF IRELAND.

BANK OF IRELAND.

The net profits of the bank for the half-year to June 30, 1922, after meeting all charges and providing for bad and doubtful debts, interest due on deposits, and rebate on bills not at maturity, amount to £208,515, to which must be added the sum of £43,626 brought forward from the last account, making a total of £252,141. Out of this amount the proprietors, at a general court held at the Bank of Ireland on July 21, 1922, declared for the half-year a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, payable on August 1st, which absorbed £120,461. The governors and directors have now transferred to the rest £120,000, leaving a surplus of £71,679 to be carried forward.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	2,769,231	Cash at head office, branches, and Bank of England	4,455,680
Reserve fund	1,260,000	Cash at call and short notice	2,100,410
Notes and post bills in circulation	7,803,085	British Government debt	2,630,769
Government and other public accounts	6,888,239	British Government stocks, £27,647,483; Colonial Government and other securities, £4,322,108	31,969,591
Deposits, current, and other accounts	35,572,787	Bills discounted, advances to customers, &c.	12,771,237
Profit and loss		Bank premises, head office and branches at cost, less depreciation	557,796
Net profit for the half-year to June 30, 1922, £208,515; Balance from last account £43,626—£252,141; Amount transferred to rest £120,000	192,141		
	54,485,483		54,485,483

HIBERNIAN BANK, LIMITED.

The report submitted to the meeting held on July 31st states that, after providing for rebate on bills, interest on deposits, and bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, the net profits for the half-year amount to £50,648, to which has to be added balance of undivided profits from last account, £12,809—£63,457. The directors have transferred to the reserve fund the sum of £29,530, and they recommend that the balance be applied as follows, viz.: in payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum (subject to deduction of income-tax), £22,500; to next account, £11,427—£63,457. A special profit of £60,470 has been realised on sale of investments. The amount has been added to the reserve fund, which now stands at £300,000.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital, viz.: 100,000 shares of £20 each, £2,000,000—amount paid up, £5 per share	500,000	Cash in hand and with bankers	1,299,549
Reserve fund	300,000	Investments, viz.:—	
Deposits, current, and other credit accounts, including interest due on deposits	15,806,946	War Loans and other Government stocks	9,108,947
Sundry agents	29,548	Corporation stocks, railway debenture stocks, and other securities	294,497
Rebate on bills discounted not at maturity	10,240	Bills discounted, advances on current accounts, loans, &c.	5,771,983
Acceptances	375	Sundry agents	28,938
Profit and loss account, £63,457; less transferred to reserve fund, £29,530	33,927	Bank premises and furniture (head offices & 58 branches), written down to	176,747
	16,681,036	Liabilities of customers for acceptances	375
			16,681,036

NOTE.—In the case of three Western branches, the delivery of whose returns for June 30th has been unavoidably delayed, the figures for June 20th have been adopted.

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

The report presented to the meeting on August 25th states that the profits of the bank, after deducting expenses, providing for interest on deposits, rebate on bills, and for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £90,625, to which has to be added the balance from the last account, £37,395, making a total of £128,020. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, £40,000, less income-tax at 5s 6d in the £, £11,000—£29,000; and after transferring to contingencies account £50,000, and applying in reduction of premises account £10,000, there will remain to be carried to next account £39,020—£128,020.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—200,000 shares of £5 each, £2 paid	400,000	Cash on hand, at Bank of England, and with other bankers	2,008,478
Reserve fund	900,000	Money at call and at short notice	3,350,000
Deposits, current, and other accounts	30,150,362	Government Treasury bills	1,800,000
Profit and loss—Balance from Dec. 31, 1921, £37,395; net profit for half-year ended June 30, 1922, £90,625—£128,020; less amount transferred to contingencies account and premises account, £60,000	68,020	Investments:—War Loan and other Government stocks, £11,080,552; Indian and Colonial Government stocks, Corporation stocks, railway debenture and preference stocks, and debenture bonds, £144,540; other investments, £895	11,225,987
		Bills discounted	1,639,801
		Advances on securities and current accounts	11,244,516
		Bank premises, head office and branches	249,600
			31,518,382

NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up on 150,000 shares	1,500,000	Cash on hand at head office, branches, and Bank of England	4,051,871
Reserve or undivided profits (Government securities)	1,000,000	Money at call and at short notice, including Stock Exchange loans, British Treasury bills, and short-dated securities	5,715,882
Notes in circulation	2,959,335	National War bonds, Exchequer bonds, and Treasury bonds, maturing 1922/30, and War Loan 5 per cent., 1929/47	12,068,376
Amount due by the bank on deposit, current, and other accounts	45,346,612	Government securities, including "rest"	6,059,372
Acceptances to bankers' drafts and on security	282,113	Corporation, railway, and other stocks	545,486
Net profits for the half-year, £140,631; brought forward from Dec. 31, 1921, £27,604	168,235	Advances on securities at sundry dates, and current accounts	18,574,882
		Bills discounted	3,387,064
		Bankers' guarantee and securities held against acceptances, per contra	282,113
		Bank premises—London, Dublin, and branches, freehold and leasehold (at cost, less depreciation)	571,249
			51,256,295

This statement does not include the bank's contingent liability of £44,643, under its guarantee to the Yorkshire Penny Bank, Lim.

THE BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK LIMITED.

31, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegraphic Address:

(Inland) "SAESREVO, THREAD, LONDON."

(Foreign) "SAESREVO, LONDON."

Telephone Number:

CITY 7140

CAPITAL £5,000,000
Issued and paid up £2,000,000

Established in 1919 with the object of affording increased and improved Banking facilities for Foreign Trade at Home and Abroad.

Exceptional arrangements exist with its Associated Banks in England, Scotland and Ireland, and with leading National Banks in every important centre abroad. Correspondence invited.

Affiliated Institution in Poland:

ANGLO-POLISH BANK, LIMITED (Bank Angielsko-Polski, Sp. Ak.).
Krakowskie Przedmiescie, 47/49, WARSAW.



GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co.

ESTABLISHED 1753. REGISTERED WITH UNLIMITED LIABILITY 1885.
67, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

CAPITAL	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND	500,000
CURRENT AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	24,221,515
CASH IN HAND AND AT BANK OF ENGLAND	4,301,339
MONEY AT CALL AND SHORT NOTICE	4,740,500
INVESTMENTS	10,184,835
ADVANCES, &c.	5,222,704
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other Banks in the United Kingdom	1,057,118

30th June, 1922.

MANAGING PARTNERS:

The Hon. A. H. MILLS.
LORD WOLVERTON.
General The Hon. Sir H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.

Secretary:

General Manager:
Brig.-General A. MAXWELL, C.M.G., D.S.O.

ERIC GORE BROWNE, D.S.O.

Every description of British and Overseas Banking and Exchange business transacted.
The Bank undertakes the office of Executor and Trustee.

Australian Mutual Provident Society

Estab. (A.M.P.) 1849.

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

Remarkable Figures.—Ordinary Department.

NET NEW BUSINESS.—25,568 Policies Assuring £9,831,717, with Annual Premiums of £308,118.
DEATH CLAIMS.—£1,291,558, including Bonus Additions of £409,057. This is only 52 per cent. of the "Expected."
MATURITY CLAIMS.—£941,225, including Bonus Additions of £247,839.
ACCUMULATED FUNDS (including Industrial) have increased by £2,863,227 and amount to £46,711,178.
WAR AND REPATRIATION LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS total over £13,660,000.
THE DIVISIBLE SURPLUS (after strengthening the Reserves by the application of £253,076) is £1,502,572, which represents a return of 42.4 per cent. of the premiums received under participating policies. The corresponding Reversionary Additions amount to about £2,562,000.
THE VALUATION (on a Pure Premium Basis) has been made at 3 per cent.
THE EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST (after deducting Income Tax) was £5 2s 11d per cent. There is therefore an Interest Margin of over 2½ per cent.
THE EXPENSE RATE (excluding Taxes) was 12.7 of the Premium Income. This is only about two-thirds of the provision for expenses included in the Premiums.
THE TOTAL ASSURANCES issued in 73 years amount to £216,874,999, of which £116,316,710, or over 53.6 per cent., are still in force.

LONDON OFFICE: 73-76, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.
W. C. FISHER, Manager for the United Kingdom.

THE LARGEST BRITISH MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.

The report states that the profit and loss account for the half-year ended June 30, 1922, including £27,604 brought forward from December 31st last, shows a balance of £168,235 available for distribution. The board declared an interim dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, or 12s per share (£10 paid), less income-tax, which absorbed £65,250, leaving a balance of £102,985 to be dealt with. Of this sum, the directors have transferred £75,000 to the income-tax and contingencies account. £27,985 has been carried forward to profit and loss new account.

NORTHERN BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—August 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	600,000	Cash on hand, notes of other banks, and balances in London and with other banks ..	2,247,027
Reserve fund	600,000	Investments:—	
Officers' guarantee fund	13,033	War Loans and other	
Widows' and orphans' fund ..	31,373	British Government securities, £5,024,340; Indian and Colonial Government, English railway debentures and preference stocks, Corporation debentures, and other securities, £762,187	5,786,527
Officers' insurance fund	9,147	Bills of exchange discounted, loans on securities, advances to customers, &c.	10,412,748
Balance (being undivided profits) carried forward to next account	50,043	Bank buildings—head office, thirteen city and seventy-three country branches, £219,907; less written off, as below, £9,807	240,000
Notes in circulation, £1,643,266; acceptances, nil; deposits & credit accounts, £15,739,439.17, 382,706		Liabilities of customers for endorsements, guarantees, and confirmed credits, as per contra	125,258
Endorsements, guarantees, and confirmed credits, as per contra	125,258		
	18,811,560		18,811,560

The report to be submitted to the meeting, to be held on October 26th, states that the net profits for the year ended August 31st last, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, rebate on bills discounted, and interest due on deposits, amount to £164,072, less bonus to bank's officers, £32,266—£131,806, which, with the balance brought from last year, £87,457, and a special profit on realisation of Government securities of £106,876, makes a total for disposal of £326,139. Dividends at the rate of 17½ per cent. on the "A" shares and 8½ per cent. on the "B" shares have been paid to the shareholders, amounting in all to £91,875, less income-tax, £25,685. £9,907 has been

applied in reduction of bank buildings account, £100,000 has been transferred to reserve, and £100,000 to contingency account, leaving balance of £50,043 undivided profits to be carried to next account.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND, LIMITED.

The report for the half-year to June 30, 1922, states that, including £48,862 brought forward from last account, there remains a profit of £103,138. Out of this the directors declared a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 13½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, paid on August 1st, £26,426. They have added to reserve fund, £15,000; written off bank premises account, £5,000; placed to contingency account, £15,000; and carried forward, £41,712—£103,138.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	540,000	Cash at head office, branches, and in London	1,790,856
Reserve fund	480,000	Money at call and short notice	1,070,000
Notes in circulation	1,913,260	British Government Treasury bills	1,925,000
Deposit receipts, current and other accounts	17,519,282	Investments, viz.:—British Government and Colonial securities £5,551,222; Corporation stocks and other investments, £16,106	6,867,328
Net profits for the half-year, including £48,862 brought forward from Dec. 31, 1921, £103,138; less £15,000 added to reserve fund, and £5,000 written off bank premises, and £15,000 placed to reserve for contingencies, £35,000 ..	68,138	Advances to customers and other accounts	7,191,280
	20,526,680	Bills discounted	1,502,961
		Bank premises, freehold and leasehold	179,255
			20,526,680

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND, LIMITED.

The report submitted to the meeting held on September 28th states that the net profits for the year ended August 31, 1922, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to £54,011, which, with the amount brought forward from last year of £5,849, make together £59,860. From this an interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (less tax) for the first six months of the year has been distributed to the shareholders, £8,400, leaving a balance of £51,460, out of which the board have appropriated to reserve fund, officers' superannuation, and other contingencies £32,004, leaving available a balance of £19,456, which they recommend should be appropriated as follows:—A further dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum (less tax) for the six months ended August 31st last, £13,500; the balance to be carried forward to the credit of next year's account of £5,956.

BALANCE-SHEET—August 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital, £1,500,000, divided into 30,000 shares of £50, on each of which £10 has been paid up	300,000	Investments:—	
Reserve fund	120,000	British Government securities (including War issues) below market prices, £1,475,471; Colonial Government stocks, railway debenture stocks, &c., below market prices, £182,719	1,658,190
Current deposit and other accounts, including officers' superannuation fund	4,793,215	Bankers' balances and cash at head office and branches	244,077
Profit and loss, balance after paying interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (less tax), £51,460; less appropriated to reserve fund officers' superannuation, and other contingencies, £32,004	19,456	Bills discounted, £117,219; advances on current and other accounts, £3,138,185 ..	3,255,404
	5,232,671	Bank premises	75,000
			5,232,671

LATEST BALANCE-SHEETS OF FOREIGN BANKS HAVING LONDON OFFICES AND OF BRITISH BANKS TRADING ABROAD.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

The report to be presented to the meeting, to be held on October 24th, states that the trade depression which has affected South America and other countries covered by the bank's operations has had a detrimental influence upon the position of many commercial houses, and the board, having carefully considered the accounts in detail, recommend that the sum of £300,000 be set aside as a special allowance for certain debts which, in prevailing conditions, might not be considered as really recoverable. It is their considered opinion that this sum should prove ample to cover all contingencies. The net profit, after making provision for all charges, rebate, &c., amounts to £644,138, which, together with £310,914 brought forward, makes a total of £955,052, of which £183,409 was absorbed by the interim dividend paid on April 22nd last. There is now an available balance of £771,643, of which the directors recommend that £189,959 be applied to the payment of a final dividend of 6s per share, less income-tax, payable on the 30th inst., making a total distribution for the year of 12 per cent;

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:

The Right Hon. R. McKENNA

JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:

FREDERICK HYDE

EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital	-	-	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital	-	-	10,860,852
Reserve Fund	-	-	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922)	-	-	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

OVER 1,650 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

AFFILIATIONS:

BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD.

OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND

THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD

OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND

THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE (DE PARIS)

(SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME).

Subscribed Capital	-	-	-	Frs. 500,000,000
Paid-up Capital	-	-	-	Frs. 250,000,000
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	Frs. 54,324,884
Uncalled Capital	-	-	-	Frs. 250,000,000
				Frs. 554,324,884

Head Office: 29 BOULEVARD HAUSSMANN, PARIS.

LONDON Office: 53 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

West End Branch: 65 REGENT STREET, W.

OVER 1,200 BRANCHES IN FRANCE AND NORTH AFRICA.

SUBSIDIARY BANKS or Correspondents in all parts of the World.

This Bank transacts every description of English and Foreign Banking business, including the sale of Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Circular Letters of Credit and Notes payable in Allied or Neutral Countries. It also undertakes the purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares on the London and Continental Exchanges, the collection and cashing of Dividends, Coupons, Bills of Exchange, Drawn Bonds, arrangements for Documentary Credits, &c., &c. The West End Branch has been specially fitted with Safe Deposits for the use of Customers. This Office buys and sells Foreign Exchange and Securities.

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over	\$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



£300,000 be placed to contingency account; £25,000 be added to the staff pension fund, and that the balance of £256,638 be carried forward—£771,643.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital—875,375 shares of £10 each, £5 paid	4,366,875	Cash in hand, at bankers, and at call	21,859,260
Reserve fund	4,000,000	Bills receivable	10,543,567
Special reserve, on account of depreciation of capital in Chile	183,827	Investments—English and foreign Government, railway and other securities, £5,287,316, holdings in foreign banks and kindred companies, £1,545,454	6,832,770
Sight drafts on head office and branches	5,134,652	British Bank of South America, Limited, 99,519 shares at £27 10s	2,736,773
Bills payable—drafts on head office and branches at usance	5,573,002	Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, 485,673 shares at cost	454,341
Acceptances on account of customers	3,282,115	Liability of customers for acceptances, per contra	3,282,115
Current, deposit, and other accounts	45,467,069	Advances, &c.	19,673,063
Bills for collection	6,596,753	Bank premises, office furniture, &c.	1,455,955
Rebate of interest on bills, &c., not due	58,661	Bills for collection, per contra	6,596,753
Profit and loss, as per account below, £955,052; less interim dividend paid on 22nd April, 1922, £183,409	771,643		
To liability on bill re-discounted, on uncalled capital on investments held, and guarantees, &c., £10,186,647 2s 3d, of which £8,181,495 14s 1d has run off			
	73,434,597		73,434,597

NOTES.—The assets and liabilities at branches in local currencies are shown at the par rates of exchange, the difference between them having been adjusted to the rates of the day with the exception of the capital employed in South America and other countries, which, after allowing for the special reserve of £183,826 12s 11d, shows a depreciation of £194,082 at 30th June, 1922.

Certain of the above assets have been lodged with other parties on which a lien exists to the amount of £959,020 9s 11d.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Charges at head office and branches	1,109,285	Balance brought forward from last account, £402,785; less balance of excess profits duty and corporation profits tax to June 30, 1921, £91,871	310,914
Income-tax and corporation profits tax to June 30, 1922	338,387	Gross profit for year	2,150,471
Rebate of interest on bills, &c., not due	58,661		
Balance carried to balance-sheet	955,052		
	2,461,385		2,461,385

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Lire.	ASSETS.	Lire.
Capital paid up	348,786,000	Cash in hand	864,365,937
Reserve funds	176,000,000	Bills receivable (inclusive of Treasury bills)	3,492,473,696
Bills payable	336,924,607	Bills for collection	102,285,522
Acceptances against credits and securities	158,571,408	Loans and advances	481,474,538
Deposits and current accounts	6,004,938,737	Participations in other banks	74,287,264
Guarantees	274,576,531	Government securities, railway and other bonds and shares	187,363,175
Securities deposited	7,553,127,318	Current accounts	1,723,278,545
Other liabilities	1,004,176	Syndicates	137,975,322
Rebate on bills	24,880,276	Bank premises	39,128,982
Net profit (including Lire 856,150 brought forward from December 31, 1920) ..	57,467,977	Guarantees, as per contra ..	274,576,531
	14,936,337,030	Securities, as per contra ..	7,553,127,318
Of which Lire 45,350,300 belonging to the Pension Fund.			14,936,337,030

BANK OF ATHENS.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Dr.	ASSETS.	Dr.
Capital fully paid	48,000,000	Cash and Treasury bills ..	183,386,089
Statutory reserve	5,250,000	Balances in Foreign banks ..	123,400,753
Special reserve	5,600,000	Bills receivable	26,508,153
Current, deposit, and other accounts	663,905,770	Loans, advances, bills discounted, and other ac'ts ..	378,584,198
Dividends	6,853,426	Investments	188,185
Profit and loss	1,572,627	Premises	8,309,047
	731,181,823	Property	5,005,393
		Furniture	35
			731,181,823

BANCO DE BILBAO.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Pesetas.	ASSETS.	Pesetas.
Capital—200,000 shares of 500 pesetas each	100,000,000	Cash in hand and at bankers ..	22,191,690
Reserve funds	63,000,000	Bills receivable	141,867,462
Profit and loss	539,362	Securities	194,640,847
Current accounts and deposits at call and short notice	117,204,518	Advances against securities ..	7,202,115
Deposit accounts	16,531,925	Advances in account current against security ..	53,197,551
Savings bank department ..	50,194,977	Banking correspondents ..	159,270,244
Banking correspondents ..	205,903,392	Sundry debtors	99,600,291
Sundry creditors	155,661,786	Property and office buildings ..	4,735,470
Bills payable	2,548,674	Unissued shares	40,000,000
Dividends, coupons, and drawn bonds outstanding ..	10,121,036	Securities deposited, nominal value	722,705,670
Depositors of securities, nominal value, as per contra	2,239,522,610		2,239,522,610
	2,962,228,280		2,962,228,280



LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

Chairman: J. W. BEAUMONT PEASE.

Deputy-Chairman: Sir AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: 71, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3.

	(30th June, 1922.)	
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED -	-	£71,864,780
CAPITAL PAID UP -	-	14,372,956
RESERVE FUND -	-	10,000,000
DEPOSITS, &c. -	-	341,934,039
ADVANCES, &c. -	-	123,744,924

This Bank has 1,600 Offices in England and Wales, Correspondents and Agents throughout the British Isles, and a large number of Colonial and Foreign Agents.

AFFILIATED BANKS:

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LTD. LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LTD.

AUXILIARY:

LLOYDS AND NATIONAL PROVINCIAL FOREIGN BANK LIMITED.

International Acceptance Bank

INCORPORATED

APRIL, 1921

31 PINE STREET, NEW YORK

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	\$10,250,000.
SURPLUS FULLY SUBSCRIBED	5,000,000.
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	792,000.

PAUL M. WARBURG
(Chairman of the Board)

DANIEL G. WING
(Vice-Chairman of Board)

F. ABBOT GOODHUE
(President)

PRINCIPAL FOREIGN STOCKHOLDING INSTITUTIONS

BELGIUM.

Banque de Bruxelles, Brussels
Banque Centrale, Anversoise, Antwerp

FRANCE.

Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, Paris (with Branches also in Brussels, Geneva and Rotterdam)

NETHERLANDS.

Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hague
Hope and Company, Amsterdam

SWEDEN.

Skandinaviska Kredit Aktiebolaget, Stockholm
A. B. Svenska Handelsbanken, Stockholm

CANADA.

Bank of Montreal, Montreal

DENMARK.

R. Henriques, Jr., Copenhagen

GREAT BRITAIN.

N. M. Rothschild and Sons, London
National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd., London

NORWAY.

Den norske Creditbank, Christiania

SWITZERLAND.

Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle
Credit Suisse, Zurich

Acceptance Credits in Dollars and Foreign Currencies
International Financial Operations and Foreign Exchange

Money Transfers — Collections
Bullion Transactions
CABLE ADDRESS: "ACCEPTBANK."

THE LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office - - - 43, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

THE BANK HAS 135 OFFICES IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN THE DISTRICT, AND IN THE ISLE OF MAN,

INCLUDING

ACCINGTON, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, BACUP, BATLEY, BLACKBURN, BLACKPOOL, BOLTON, BURNLEY, BURY, DEWSBURY, HALIFAX, HARROGATE, HUDDERSFIELD, LEEDS, LIVERPOOL, OLDHAM, PRESTON, ROCHDALE, SOUTHPORT, STOCKPORT, TODMORDEN, WARRINGTON, WATERFOOT AND WIDNES, &c., &c.

Subscribed Capital	£2,013,120
Paid-up Capital	1,006,560
Reserve Fund	1,006,560
30th JUNE, 1922.	
Cash and Money at short notice	£6,849,066
Investments	9,229,895
Bills of Exchange	4,689,933
Advances to Customers	10,445,655
Deposits	29,590,377

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT: - - 45 & 47 SPRING GARDENS, MANCHESTER.

BANCO DE CHILE.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	Currency.	Gold Dollars of 18d.
Deposits: At sight and in current account	149,203,879	..
Fixed	126,111,402	..
In current account and at sight (gold) of 18d.	..	10,392,908
In current account in London at 18d.	..	2,584,547
Bank bills at sight	3,149,460	..
Deposit of bonds and documents	299,877,546	..
Various creditors	14,806,626	12,625,099
Suspense account	6,944,781	..
Office of Emission Fiscal	17,752,000	..
Paid-up capital	100,000,000	..
Reserve fund	58,000,000	13,333,333
Carry forward from last account	4,409,169	..
Unpaid dividends	81,281	..
Profit and loss account	9,063,040	..
	789,473,134	38,944,361

ASSETS.	Currency.	Gold Dollars of 18d.
Cash—		
Fiscal and Treasury notes	31,646,212	..
Gold disposable in Chile and London	..	11,432,472
Silver	756,968	..
Cheques and balances disposable in other banks	6,202,726	742,213
In Chile and abroad	7,783,417	5,361,667
Bonds and letters of credit	19,000,000	..
Government Bonds, Law 3772, July 5, 1921	50,000,000	..
Do do Law 3820, December 23, 1921	1,900,000	..
Do do Law 3851, February 10, 1922	299,877,546	..
Bonds and shares in custody and guarantee	12,670,722	..
Real estate	801,393	1,173
Furniture	804,527	..
Books and stationery	306,818,214	17,895,403
Advances and other documents	..	..
Do in gold in Chile and London at 18d.	3,912,188	..
Do (Clause 10 of Bank Act)	31,436	..
Do (Art. 14, Law 1054 of July 31, 1898)	28,838,160	..
Bills discounted, Law 3795, Sept. 13, 1921	13,621,102	435,450
Agencies and branches	..	2,525,059
Suspense account	4,806,518	550,924
Interest, discount, &c.	..	..
	789,473,134	38,944,361

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Currency.
Taxes	573,083
Remittance expenses	67,847
General expenses	852,814
Office expenses	306,321
Salaries	2,375,430
Extraordinary gratifications	432,683
Furniture and materials (written off)	69,262
Profit	9,063,040
	13,740,480

Cr.	Currency.
Balance to the credit of this account, less rebate and provision for bad and doubtful debts	13,740,480
	13,740,480

BANCO ESPANOL DEL RIO DE LA PLATA.

The report for the year ended June 30, 1922, states that the net profits realised amount to £838,625, which, after deduction of £284,901 distributed and allocated in January last, leaves a balance of £553,724, which the directors propose to apply as follows:—allowance for bad and doubtful debts, £121,366; allowance for furniture and fittings, £14,235; and of the balance 91 per cent. to the shareholders: 951,274 shares fully paid at December 31, 1921, at \$4.00 per share, 144 shares fully paid on March 31, 1922, at \$3.60 per share, 48,582 shares, 80 per cent. paid, at \$3.20 per share, £345,808; 2 per cent. to the directors and auditors, £7,600; 2½ per cent. to the staff pension and benevolent fund, £10,450; ¼ per cent. to contributions to charity, £950; to the reserve fund, £5,424; to undistributed profits account, £9,776—£515,609. The above distribution, added to the 3 per cent. paid in January last, will make a total distribution of 7 per cent. for the year. The balance will be carried forward.



THE NATIONAL PARK BANK

OF NEW YORK
214 Broadway

Capital \$10,000,000
Surplus and Undivided Profits 23,000,000
An institution with complete facilities for the handling of international commerce.
Established 1856.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital subscribed	8,730,158	Cash	13,953,062
Deposits—Current accounts and deposits at fixed term; gold dollars, \$342,836.39 at \$0.44	47,392,618	Branches	6,283,608
Rebate—Corresponding to next half-year	225,699	Shareholders (liability on uncalled capital)	88,059
Reserve fund	4,359,655	Bills discounted and advances in current account	33,552,694
Sundries—Gold dollars, \$544,806.56	898,515	Securities	793,867
Profit and loss, less dividend of 3 per cent. distributed in January last	553,724	Bank premises	1,129,204
	62,160,369	Furniture and fittings	223,895
		Mortgages against credits	2,091,978
		Freight properties received in payment of advances	2,313,711
		Sundries—Accounts in process of liquidation	1,730,291
			62,160,369

BANCO DI ROMA.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Lire.	ASSETS.	Lire.
Share capital	150,000,000	Cash and coupons	244,741,988
Ordinary reserve fund	2,165,862	Portfolio & Treasury bills	842,781,090
Extraordinary reserve fund	12,000,000	Bills for collection for third parties	68,459,401
Special reserve fund	6,000,000	Investments	129,46,987
Deposits in current and savings account	751,142,862	Securities yielding interest	708,168,553
Deposit securities in current account	708,168,553	Banking participations	11,883,695
Circular cheques	138,891,258	Sundry participations	74,397,170
Ordinary cheques	33,007,511	Contango loans	256,100,279
Correspondents—credit balances	1,875,280,802	Real estate owned	33,066,699
Sundry creditors	159,278,498	Secured current accounts	144,647,294
Unclaimed dividends	238,321	Correspondents—debit balance	1,219,859,220
Redeemable	5,772,661	Sundry debtors	121,708,315
Acceptances on behalf of customers (per contra)	26,944,502	Furniture, fixtures, & safes	1
Guarantees for third parties (per contra)	184,105,849	Liabilities of customers (per contra)	26,944,502
Profits carried forward from preceding year	126,663	Do in respect of guarantees (per contra)	184,105,849
Net profits for current year	13,586,069	Staff provident fund	1,430,401
Sundry deposits	902,071,889	Securities deposited as guarantee	277,585,941
Deposits with third parties	814,658,856	Do in bail	6,450,266
		Do for safe custody	616,605,281
		Deposit of securities with lien	814,658,856
	5,783,441,768		5,783,441,768

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

The report presented to the meeting held on July 26th states that the profit, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, income-tax, corporation tax, &c., and placing £2,000 to pension fund, amounts to £25,385, which amount has been transferred to the contingency account. Until now the board has continued to follow the established custom of converting the accounts from Roumania in the balance-sheet at the parity rate of 25 lei to the £ sterling, the difference between this rate of 25 lei per £ and the ruling rates being covered by the reserve accounts (including the contingency account). In view of the further heavy and continuous depreciation in exchange which has occurred since the last report was issued, the accounts from Bucarest are now converted into sterling at the rate current on December 31st last up to an amount sufficient to cover the contingency account at this rate of 550 lei per £ in the bank's funds account from the reserve account (old) the sum of £124,059, which amount is more than ample to cover any further Roumania. The accounts from Bucarest in lei show a large expansion for the past year, the reduction in the sterling total of the balance-sheet compared with recent years being due against 25 lei per £ previously.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA

Head Office: MILAN.

Branches throughout ITALY and in LONDON, NEW YORK, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Associated Institutions:

Banque Française et Italienne pour l'Amérique du Sud, Paris, Buenos Aires, Rio, San Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Valparaiso, etc.
Banca Commerciale Italiana (France), Marseilles, Nice, Menton, Monte Carlo, etc.
Banca della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Bellinzona, Chiasso, Mendrisio.
Banca Commerciale Italiana & Romana, Bucharest, Braila, Galatz, Chisinau.

Banca Commerciale Italiana & Bulgara, Sofia, Varna.
Banca Ungaro-Italiana, Budapest.
Società Italiana di Credito Commerciale, Milan, Trieste, Vienna.
Banco Italiano, Lima, Callao, Arequipa, Chincha-Alta, Mollendo and Trujillo.
Banco Frances de Chile, Santiago.
Banco Frances e Italiano de Colombia, Bogotá, etc.

Capital—Lire 400,000,000 Reserve—Lire 180,000,000
Deposits—Lire 5,233,000,000

LONDON OFFICE: 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
Manager: E. CONSOLO. Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

West-End Agencies: 12, WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.1.
(also London Office of Italian State Railways).
30, OLD COMPTON STREET, W.1.

Correspondents to the Royal Italian Treasury.

ESTABLISHED 1810

THE MECHANICS & METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Capital, Surplus and Profit \$27,000,000.

Through years of banking service the Foreign Department of this Bank has established intimate relations with all the principal cities of the world. A full range of foreign trade transactions is covered by a specialized service; and customers are assured of prompt attention and painstaking endeavour in the performance of any service entrusted to this Bank.

London Correspondents:

London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd. London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd. Barclays Bank, Ltd.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.
(Lei calculated at 550 to £ sterling.)

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital	300,000	Cash in hand and at bankers—	
Reserve account, old, £19,693; reserve account, new, £56,607	*76,300	London	61,225
Current accounts, bills payable, &c.—Sterling, £356,084; lei 567,290,710.29 at 550 per £, £1,031,438	1,387,522	Money on deposit with bankers at short notice, London	385,000
		Cash in hand and at bankers, Bucarest, lei 439,791,947.81 at 550 per £	799,622
		British Government securities	6,630
		Bills receivable, loans, current, and other accounts—Sterling, £261,408; lei 137,465,532.34 at 550 per £, £249,937	511,345
			1,763,822

* This amount is more than ample to cover any further exchange depreciation in the funds actually employed in Roumania.

BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.
(TAIWAN GINKO.)

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Subscribed capital	6,003,000	Cash in hand	1,365,301
Reserve fund	1,178,000	Cash at bankers	1,043,948
Notes in circulation	5,418,008	Bullion and foreign money ..	1,114,059
Current accounts, fixed deposits, &c.	22,023,064	Bills discounted, loan, and overdraft	35,058,486
Bills payable	25,447,024	Interest bills and exchange bought	15,351,448
Bills re-discounted	1,348,611	Customers' liabilities	10,910,789
Exchange sold	2,218,750	Government securities	7,380,261
Correspondents	10,910,789	Acceptances	395,173
Acceptances	552,670	Suspense account	143,793
Suspense account	774,093	Premises and property, furniture, &c.	675,505
Net profit	320,677	Capital uncalled	756,958
Dividends unclaimed	4,035		
	74,195,721		74,195,721

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.
SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME.

(Affiliated to the Société Générale de Belgique.)

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital	4,000,000	Shareholders' liability	999,990
Statutory reserve	59,089	Cash in hand and with bankers	8,612,618
Special reserve	580,028	Loans	787,083
Sundry creditors	26,700,009	Sundry debtors	9,561,622
Acceptances	824,351	Liability of customers on acceptances	824,351
Obligations	234,000	Investments	2,452,699
Note issue in China	61,879	Financial participations ..	86,128
Profit and loss account ..	395,338	Bills receivable	9,248,352
		Bank premises, &c.	251,812
	32,824,685		32,824,685

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Administration and general expenses	548,356	Balance on July 1, 1920	7,857
Staff pension fund	20,000	Interest, commission, &c.	955,837
Net profit	395,338		
	963,694		963,694

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Esc.	ASSETS.	Esc.
Capital paid up—For general operations—		Cash in hand	18,464,611\$20.7
Head office	14,875,000\$00	Cash with other banks	16,028,872\$47.4
Home branches	3,750,000\$00	Investments—Stocks (at actual value)—	
Abroad—£750,000†	3,375,000\$00	Quoted in escudos	4,189,804\$07
Guarantee fund for predial operations ..	2,000,000\$00	Quoted in foreign currencies—Fr. 6,989,194, £647,559, Lit. 11,768, Pts. 406,850, Rps. 928,571 (at par of exchange*)	4,572,413\$12
Permanent reserve fund	21,500,000\$00	Foreign bills	16,397\$22
Extra reserve fund	4,500,000\$00	Inland bills discounted ..	68,654,704\$55.4
Cash deposits	120,260,391\$57	Bills receivable	86,618,253\$73.5
Fixed deposits	88,753,721\$09	Current accounts	233,612,782\$35.3
Current accounts	194,792,468\$94.4	Do agents and correspondents	10,841,247\$79.4
Do agents and correspondents ..	7,266,443\$44.8	Advances against bills, &c.	57,173,913\$76.7
Do credit balances of loan accounts	1,596,569\$64.9	Head office & branches—amounts in transit ..	29,075,994\$09.3
Cheques and bills payable	18,486,041\$49	Mortgage and municipal loans	1,299,898\$50
Sundry impersonal accounts, as per contra	163,409,113\$07	Predial mortgage loans (Law April 27, 1901) ..	749,561\$23.5
Government Treasury account, as per contra	15,717,690\$00	Sundry impersonal accounts, as per contra	163,409,113\$07
Securities deposited in guarantee of advances and/or for safe custody, as per contra	226,090,710\$82.3	Government Treasury account, as per contra	15,717,690\$00
Obligations 4½ per cent. &c.	945,736\$42.5	Securities, as per contra	226,090,710\$82.3
Predial colonial obligations 6 per cent. (Law 27 April, 1901), &c.	850,086\$45	Bank premises	2,583,177\$36.6
Sundry accounts	6,847,508\$97.1	Furniture and fittings ..	26,998\$29.8
Unclaimed dividends	366,380\$85	Payments made on account of interest dividends for 1921 ..	1,243,839\$60
Pension fund	380,072\$46.9		
Vales for Customs duties	9,390\$08		
Notes in circulation	38,001,284\$30		
Profit and loss	6,596,373\$65		
	940,369,983\$27.9		

* Par of exchange Esc. 4.50=£1. Rate on December 31, 1921, Esc. 53=£1.
† Against the capital account are entered on the assets side gold values (£750,000), which gold values are calculated in the balance-sheet at the par of exchange.

CHARTERED 1822.

The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company.

Head Office: 16, 18, 20 & 22, WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK.

Branch Office: 475, FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

Paris: 39 and 41, BOULEVARD HAUSSMANN.

LONDON: 15, COCKSPUR STREET, S.W. 1.

26, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C. 2.

Member Federal Reserve System and New York Clearing House.

Makes a speciality of the care and management of real and personal property in the United States, and will act as Agent, Custodian, Trustee or Executor.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE. CABLE TRANSFERS.

LETTERS OF CREDIT PAYABLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

CURRENT AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.

United States Government Depositary.

BANCO CENTRAL

(ESTABLISHED IN 1905)

Bogota, Colombia, South America

Cable Address: "Gerencia, Bogota."

CAPITAL PAID UP - \$2,300,000 (gold)

Collection of Drafts and every description of Banking and Exchange Business transacted. Financing of Loans, Railway, Tramway and other Concessions. Issues Hypothecary Bonds.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000. Paid-up - £5,000,000.
Reserve Fund - £1,250,000.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

LONDON.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWITT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

LORD HILLINGDON.
General Sir HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE & BROWNE, K.P., P.C.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

PARIS.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALLY.
GEORGES HEINE.

ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. Barry.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. Corthorn.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. Pearce.
Assistant Manager: W. P. Sheppard.

MANCHESTER
56-60, Cross Street.PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.MARSEILLES:
41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE (Galata, Stamboul & Pera).

EGYPT.
Alexandria.
Cairo.
Mansourah.
Minieh.
Port Said.PALESTINE.
Bethlehem.
Caiffa.
Jaffa.
Jerusalem.
Nablous.
Ramallah.CYPRUS.
Nicosia.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Famagusta.
Paphos.PERSIA.
Teheran.
Kermanshah.
Hamadan.

SYRIA.

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliate Bank.)

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.
Beirut.
Damasous.
Hamah.
Homs.
Saida.
Tripoli.
Lattakie.

SALONICA.

SMYRNA.

MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

TUNIS, Africa.

BANQUE DU CONGO BELGE.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Capital	12,000,000	Land & buildings in Africa	1,065,000
Legal reserve	220,183	Furniture and fixtures	92,000
Special reserve	420,000	Unallocated capital	6,000,000
Notes in circulation	34,259,706	Cash in hand and at bank	33,240,746
Bills payable	3,561,282	Government securities	46,875
Creditors	116,403,088	Bills receivable	71,655,002
Profit and loss	2,548,948	Debtors	57,415,584
	169,513,207		169,513,207

BANQUE FRANCAISE POUR LE COMMERCE ET L'INDUSTRIE.

BALANCE-SHEET—July 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Capital	100,000,000	Cash in hand and with other banks	108,990,794
Statutory reserve	3,750,655	Government bonds	126,034,053
Supplementary reserve	13,000,000	Bills	179,065,267
Depreciation fund	600,000	Short loans	2,382,356
Unpaid dividends	218,576	Current accounts	73,026,212
Acceptances and bills payable	30,018,000	Acceptances	21,264,999
Exchange	38,468,500	Advances on guarantees	18,425,535
Current accounts:—		Exchange	38,468,500
At sight	386,445,097	Rentes, shares, and stock	23,831,300
At notice	27,618,414	Syndicates	10,741,407
Other accounts	23,859,577	Sundries	5,692,430
Profit and loss	484,044	Property	10,000,000
	624,462,853		624,462,853

BRITISH BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE, LIMITED

BALANCE-SHEET—April 30, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital issued, 240,000 shares of £2 each	240,000	Cash in hand, at bankers in London and abroad, and at call	100,909
Current, deposit, and other accounts	541,082	Premises account	51,180
Profit and loss account—Balance brought forward, £30,610; add profit for year, £22,241	52,851	Investments:—	
	833,933	At market price	437,032
		Loans to customers	244,812
			833,933
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.			
Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interest, &c., paid	29,690	Gross profit	72,859
Office charges, including rent, salaries, directors' fees, corporation profits tax, and other expenses	20,934	Transfer fees	6
Balance, being profit for year	22,241		
	72,865		72,865

BRITISH ITALIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—Authorized and issued, 50,000 shares of £20 each, fully paid	1,000,000	Cash in hand	1,947
Reserve account	233,418	Cash at call and short notice	175,000
Sundry creditors, loans and contingencies	968,704	Balances with bankers in London	298,492
Acceptances, guarantees, and endorsements—		Balances with Banca Italo-Britannica and other bankers abroad	284,955
Acceptances	901,365	Bills receivable	594,526
Guarantees	3,431,956	22,000 Shares of Lit. 500 each fully paid at cost	149,470
Endorsements	268,088	Sundry debtors and loans	764,430
Profit and loss account—		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, guarantees and endorsements, as per contra—	
As at 31st December, 1920, £92,474; less directors' additional remuneration for the year 1920, £3,146; dividend for the year 1920, £40,000; amounts transferred to contingencies account, £25,000—£68,146—£24,328; add balance for the year 1921, as per account below, £44,364	68,692	Italian banks	3,668,311
	6,872,223	Other customers	933,098
		Premises account	41,992
		Office furniture	1
			6,872,223

BRITISH AND NORTH EUROPEAN BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital, 500,300 shares of £1 each, fully paid	500,300	Cash at banks and in hand	259,781
Deposits, current accounts, &c.	466,911	Bills of exchange	116,465
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	366,563	Investments	43,831
		Advances to customers	422,933
		Sundry debtors and debit balances of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	108,030
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	366,563
		Office furniture, lease, and preliminary expenses of formation of company	16,171
	1,333,774		1,333,774

BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—Paid up £10 per share	1,000,000	Cash in hand, at bankers and at call	5,500,228
Reserve fund, as per balance sheet of Dec. 31, 1920	1,000,000	Bills receivable in hand, and deposited with the company's bankers	5,625,888
Of this sum £453,298 would be required to make good the depreciation in sterling value of the capital employed in South America, calculated at the rates on London ruling at the date of making up the present accounts		Other accounts	6,998,387
Pension and benevolent fund	145,901	Liability of customers for acceptances, as per contra	994,784
Liabilities, viz.:—		Freehold and leasehold premises in London and South America at cost, less amounts written off	340,752
Amount due on current and deposit accounts	12,297,649	Bills for collection, as per contra	3,835,549
Bills payable	1,427,621		
Other accounts	2,418,186		
Acceptances on account of customers	594,784		
Bills for collection	3,835,549		
Profit and loss account, as per statement below	175,838		
	23,295,588		23,295,588

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
General charges at head office and the branches, including directors' remuneration	406,222	Balance from last account	103,047
Government taxes in Brazil and the River Plate	12,631	Gross profits, after allowing for rebate of interest on current bills and drafts, interest on deposits, and ample provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies	551,704
Dividend on account for the half-year ended June 30, 1921	50,000		
Pension and benevolent fund—amount added	10,000		
Balance carried down	175,838		
	654,751		654,751

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital issued—200,000 shares of £10 each, fully paid	2,000,000	Cash in hand and at bankers	275,996
Current, deposit, and other accounts (including rebate of interest on bills discounted)	1,460,064	Money at call and short notice	365,000
Acceptances on account of customers	855,442	Investments (including £350,000 National War Bonds and £175,000 Exchange Bonds) at or under estimated market value	716,325
Adjustment of current accounts with branches, between Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 1921	80,970	Bills discounted, loans, advances, and sundry debtors, after writing off £95,000 in respect of bad debts	1,640,292
Note—There is a contingent liability of £36,927 in respect of guarantees of £87,670 in respect of bills re-discounted and £72,225 in respect of unallocated capital on investments held		Liability of customers for acceptances, as per contra	855,442
		Interest in subsidiary companies, as per last balance-sheet, £307,380; less amount written off, £264,080	43,300
		National Bank of Turkey, 97,010 shares of £10 each, £2 10s paid, at cost	243,620
		Premises	107,459
		Furniture, less depreciation	4,966
		Stamp duty on unissued capital	20,000
		Profit and loss account as per account	193,076
	4,396,476		4,396,476

British Trade Corporation.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)

Telegrams—"TRABANQUE, LONDON."

13/14, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones—LONDON WALL 2947-2948.

CAPITAL: AUTHORIZED .. £9,000,000. SUBSCRIBED .. £1,500,000.

Governor .. THE LORD FARINGDON. **Deputy Governor** .. SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

London Manager: P. C. WEST. **Secretary:** G. DE B. BROWNIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business.

Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

BRANCHES:—BELGRADE. DANZIG. ZAGREB (AGRAM).

Affiliated Companies:—THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches.

THE TRADE INDEMNITY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Established for the assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.

ESTABLISHED IN 1833.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital £43,447,080

Paid-up Capital £9,309,416

Reserve Fund £8,878,041

Head Office: 15 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

PRINCIPAL CITY OFFICES:

PRINCES STREET OFFICE (UNION) ... 2 Princes Street, E.C. 2.
 LOMBARD STREET OFFICE (SMITHS) ... 1 Lombard Street, E.C. 3.
 CORNHILL OFFICE (PRESCOTT'S) ... 50 Cornhill, E.C. 3.

The Bank has over ONE THOUSAND OFFICES in ENGLAND and WALES, together with Agents in all parts of the WORLD.

Every description of BRITISH, COLONIAL and FOREIGN BANKING and EXCHANGE business transacted.

TRUSTEESHIPS and EXECUTORSHIPS undertaken.

COUTTS & CO.

(Established 1692) is affiliated with this Bank.

LONDON: 440 Strand, W.C.2; 15 Lombard Street, E.C.3; 1 Park Lane, W.1.

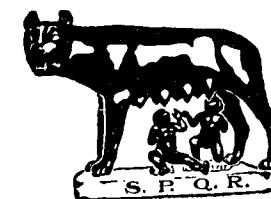
AUXILIARY:

LLOYDS AND NATIONAL PROVINCIAL FOREIGN BANK, LIMITED.

Principal Offices:—LONDON, PARIS, BRUSSELS, COLOGNE, GENEVA.

BANCO DI ROMA

Established 1880.



Head Office: ROME.

Capital Paid up - - Lit. 150,000,000.
 Reserves - - - - Lit. 24,076,165.
 Deposits (30th June, 1922) - Lit. 2,881,343,456.

The Bank is prepared to transact every class of approved banking business in and connected with ITALY and COLONIES, FRANCE, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, MALTA, RHODES, SYRIA, LEBANON, PALESTINE, ASIA MINOR and TURKEY.

Affiliated Bank:

BANCO DI ROMA PER L'EGITTO E IL LEVANTE.
 Head Office: ALEXANDRIA, and branches at CAIRO, PORT SAID, MANSOURAH, TANTA, BENI MAZAR, BENI SOUEFF, FAYOUM, MAGAGHA, MIT GHAMR.

Correspondence invited.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE: 28, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.
 Telephones: LONDON WALL 9656-9657.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Amounts written off bad debts and interests in subsidiary companies	359,080	Amount brought forward from 1920	61,901
		Profit for the year, after meeting current expenses, including directors' fees, salaries, rent, and other charges	104,103
		Balance, being loss carried to balance-sheet	193,076
	359,080		359,080

BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—October 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital subscribed and paid in full	200,000	Cash in hand and at bankers	568,826
200,000 "A" ordinary shares of £5 each	1,000,000	Money at call & short notice	1,395,000
200,000 "B" ordinary shares of £5 each	1,000,000	Bills payable	1,098,744
Current, deposit and other accounts	1,793,941	Bills discounted	59,586
Reserve against shareholding interests in foreign banks	10,000	Government securities—	
Acceptances and endorsements for account of customers (per contra)	449,117	£100,000 Treasury bills	99,914
Balance of profit and loss account	107,526	Shareholding interests in foreign banks at cost	44,942
	4,360,584	Other investments	20,422
		Advances to customers and other accounts	385,506
		Liability of customers for acceptances and endorsements (per contra)	449,117
		Premises account	238,527
			4,360,584

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interim dividend on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of six per cent. per annum and income tax thereon ..	30,000	Balance brought forward (subject to income and corporation profits taxes) ..	81,486
		Less—Income and corporation profits taxes	46,286
		Net profit after allowing rebate of interest and providing for bad and doubtful debts, income-tax and other taxation for the year ended October 31, 1921	35,200
Balance carried to balance sheet	107,526		102,326
	137,526		137,526

COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

(25 francs to the £.)

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Current and deposit accounts	133,633,530	Cash in hand and at bank	15,930,850
Fixed deposits	1,058,285	Bills of exchange discounted and French Treasury bills	106,051,677
Acceptances	2,912,184	Credit balances with banking correspondents	6,950,654
Sundry accounts	2,016,504	Branches abroad	663,530
Reserves	2,988,646	Advances against collateral investments	6,639,404
Profit and loss account	1,147,657	Current accounts	13,201,086
Capital	10,000,000	Liability of customers on acceptances	2,899,359
	153,756,816	Sundry accounts	596,369
		Bank premises	600,000
			153,756,816

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital issued and reserve fund	500,000	Cash in hand, at bankers, and at call	497,013
Bills payable	299,877	Bills receivable	245,024
Current, deposit, and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss account) ..	2,874,931	Investments	20,795
Bills for collection	648,913	Advances, &c.	2,864,216
Rebate	39	Bank premises, &c.	47,799
	4,323,760	Bills for collection (per contra) ..	648,913
			4,323,760

CREDIT FONCIER D'ALGERIE ET DE TUNISIE.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Capital	125,000,000	Uncalled capital	5,568,500
Reserves	20,433,292	Cash	54,363,491
Superannuation fund	200,000	Bills	358,993,506
Crédit Foncier de France	99,784,052	Investments	25,617,558
Crédit Foncier d'Orient	2,427,747	Special advances	1,000,000
Caisse Hypothé. d'Egypte	5,000,000	Premises, &c.	23,258,940
Current and deposit accts. ..	449,235,932	Loans and advances	174,273,211
Deposits	38,817,657	Correspondents	35,051,852
Correspondents & creditors ..	79,535,722	Current accounts	125,521,977
Acceptances, &c.	19,337,151	Syndicates	37,263,805
Exchange operations	8,392,500	Cover for acceptances	11,349,439
Sundry accounts	1,950,114	Exchange operations	8,392,500
Profit and loss	7,045,334	Preliminary expenses	6,504,702
	867,159,481		867,159,481

CREDITO ITALIANO.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Lire.	ASSETS.	Lire.
Capital	300,000,000	Cash and balances at call with banks	888,870,679
Reserve fund	80,000,000	Bills receivable on Italy, England, and other countries	2,689,112,549
Deposits and saving accounts	895,382,417	Loans against collateral securities	263,755,901
Current accounts	3,524,385,924	Current accounts	1,140,148,871
Acceptances on account of customers	31,247,112	Investments	113,257,404
Cheques outstanding	187,433,285	Participations	17,719,552
Sundry creditors	89,877,510	Freehold bank premises	12,500,000
Guarantees on account of customers	91,033,506	Sundry debtors	41,071,476
Rebate on bills receivable maturing next year	16,105,003	Customers' liabilities against guarantees	91,033,506
Net profit	42,005,181	Securities belonging to clerks' provident fund ..	12,567,584
Clerks' provident fund, as per contra	12,567,584		12,567,584
	5,270,037,522		5,270,037,522

EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	\$	ASSETS.	\$
Capital	12,000,000	Cash on hand and in banks ..	37,928,243
Surplus and undivided profits ..	15,392,687	Exchanges for Clearing House	64,528,097
Deposits (including foreign offices)	340,444,675	Due from foreign banks	7,043,244
Acceptances (less in port folio)	24,186,585	Bonds and mortgages	958,000
Accrued interest payable, reserve for taxes, and other liabilities	7,597,439	Public securities	11,914,809
		Short term investments	7,377,010
		Other stocks and bonds	18,338,144
		Demand loans	106,818,314
		Time loans	36,332,122
		Bills discounted	49,592,720
		Customers' liability on acceptances (less anticipations) ..	21,392,763
		Real estate	3,391,313
		Foreign offices	28,312,487
		Accrued interest receivable, and other assets	4,894,120
	399,421,386		399,421,386

THE PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL BANK

Organized 1803.

CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	\$16,500,000
DEPOSITS	\$110,000,000
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$135,000,000

PHILADELPHIA is the "Workshop of America," and the leading Commercial Bank is the Philadelphia National Bank.

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING SERVICE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Deposit Accounts solicited. Collections made on all points.
Credit Reports rendered. Commercial and Circular Letters of Credit Issued.
Trade Information available for use of our clients wherever located.

LONDON CORRESPONDENTS:

Barclays Bank, Ltd.
Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.
London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.
National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd.

SOUTH MANCHURIA RAILWAY COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE - - - - DAIREN.

BRANCH OFFICES - - - TOKYO, SEOUL, HARBIN, KIRIN, PEKING, SHANGHAI, AND NEW YORK.
TEL. ADD.: "MANTETSU" OR "SMRCO" CODES: A.B.C. 5th Ed.; A1; LIEBER'S, and BENTLEY'S.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1922.

General Balance Sheet on 31st March, 1922.

	Yen.
Capital authorised	440,000,000.000
Capital subscribed	380,000,000.000
Capital not yet offered for subscription	60,000,000.000

ASSETS.	Yen.	LIABILITIES.	Yen.
Unpaid share Capital	70,844,000.000	Capital subscribed	380,000,000.000
Expenditure on Capital Account	474,443,768.630	Reserve prescribed by Law	7,222,000.730
Products in Stock, including Coal and other Minerals	10,109,776.240	Special Reserve	38,400,000.000
Stores	31,957,222.380	Debentures Redemption Fund	21,000,000.000
Negotiable documents, including Shares in other Companies and others	12,857,001.370	Debentures	175,000,000.000
Foreign Coins	10,585.000	Stock Reserve	721,513.210
Cash in hand	220,591.170	Account with other Houses	395,594.900
Stamps, Postal and Revenue	23,921.280	Guarantee Money	1,198,698.460
Deposits	40,960,797.000	Collateral Securities	1,500.000
Loans	39,623,962.000	Transfer Account	50,079.800
Account with other Houses	425,106.300	Compulsory Guarantee deposits of the Company's servants	11,983,267.880
Collateral Securities	3,657.000	Saving deposits of Company's servants	4,327,303.940
Sundry Debtors	1,204,460.600	Mutual Relief Society Reserve	2,819,475.000
Transfer Account	155,562.800	Sundry Creditors	33,120,215.940
Uncollected Credits	14,458,001.800	Receipts on Suspense Account	5,636,662.180
Payments on Suspense Account	16,004,808.190	Balance brought forward from last Term	7,187,601.650
Expenditure on Engineering Account	546,278.380	Balance for the Term	31,386,138.700
Expenditure on Workshop Account	1,661,031.880		
Discount on Debentures issue, less amount written off	4,939,518.680		
	720,450,052.970		720,450,052.970

Cable Address:
"KANEYAMA, OSAKA."

Codes:
A.B.C. 5th & 6th; Leiber's & Bentley's
Complete Phrase Codes.

YAMASHITA SHOTEN

IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS & GENERAL MERCHANTS.

10, KITAKYUTARO-MACHI, OSAKA, JAPAN.

CREDIT LYONNAIS.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Deposits at call	1,697,925,285	Cash in hand and at banks	498,546,091
Current accounts	2,887,104,550	Bills discounted & French Treasury bills	3,790,821,544
Accounts payable after collection	90,021,682	Loans and advances	164,558,807
Exchange for forward delivery	71,161,500	Current accounts	778,811,827
Acceptances	28,340,804	Exchange for forward delivery	71,161,500
Deposits for fixed periods	49,863,225	Investments	5,969,648
Sundry liabilities	20,503,743	Fixed deposits	4,147,729
Profit and loss	38,972,190	Sundries	35,000,000
Reserve fund	15,124,167	Premises	
Capital fully paid	200,000,000		
	250,000,000		
	5,349,017,146		5,349,017,146

FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	\$	RESOURCES.	\$
Deposits	137,095,492	Cash on hand and in bank	24,009,763
Accrued interest, and reserve for taxes, dividend, &c.	1,688,903	U.S. Government bonds and certificates	37,817,245
Domestic and foreign acceptances	1,211,252	Bills purchased	18,681,830
Capital stock	5,000,000	Call loans—Collateral	23,893,042
Surplus and undivided profits	14,624,652	Time loans—Collateral	26,698,820
		Accrued interest	1,063,386
		Bonds and stocks	22,088,840
		Bonds and mortgages	1,080,920
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances	1,174,264
		Real estate	3,000,000
		Due from foreign branch	112,129
	159,620,299		159,620,299

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	\$	RESOURCES.	\$
Capital	25,000,000	Cash on hand, in Federal Reserve Bank and due from banks and bankers	149,597,880
Surplus fund	15,000,000	U.S. Government bonds and certificates	50,517,776
Undivided profits	2,400,090	Public securities	32,656,909
Accrued interest payable and reserve for taxes and expenses	4,647,756	Other securities	23,110,492
Due for exchange bought	4,964,068	Loans and bills purchased	314,852,440
Miscellaneous liabilities	7,001,356	Real estate bonds and mortgages	2,659,582
Accepts.—New York office	20,202,391	Foreign exchange	16,459,091
Accepts.—Foreign offices	4,036,303	Credits granted on acceptances	24,188,694
Outstanding Dividend Checks	655,996	Real estate	8,535,671
Outstanding Treasurer's cheques	28,801,337	Accrued interest and accounts receivable	7,772,817
Deposits	517,642,055		
	630,351,352		630,351,352

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Paid-up capital	2,583,333	Cash (including \$23,150,000 coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against authorised and/or excess note circulation)	11,626,285
Sterling reserve fund	4,500,000	Bullion in hand and in transit	1,738,736
Silver reserve fund	2,858,495	British Government, Indian, Colonial, and other securities	12,333,566
Marine insurance account	32,292	Bills discounted, loans and credits	26,101,222
Notes in circulation:— (Authorised and additional issue against securities and coin deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, their trustees, and the Hongkong Government)	5,687,776	Bills receivable	26,319,470
Current accounts	44,139,447	Liabilities of constituents for acceptances, per contra Bank premises	333,230
Fixed deposits	17,973,113		1,838,095
Bills payable (including call loans and short sight drawings on London office and drafts on London bankers)	726,476		
Acceptances on account of constituents	333,229		
Profit and loss account	1,456,443		
Liability on bills of exchange rediscounted, £2,761,122, of which £2,302,528 have since run off.			
	80,290,604		80,290,604

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Ca.	£
Interim dividend:—		Balance of undivided profits, December 31, 1920 ..	425,151
Paid on August 8, 1921, £3 per share on 120,000 shares = £360,000 at 2s 7d	360,000	Amount of net profits for the year ending December 31, 1921, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	1,397,751
Remuneration to directors	6,458		
Final dividend and bonus ..	600,000		
Dividend on 40,000 new shares	90,000		
Bonus on 40,000 new shares	30,000		
Transfer to silver reserve ..	176,922		
Transfer to bank premises account	129,167		
Balance forward to next year	430,355		
	1,822,902		1,822,902

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

The report presented to the meeting held on July 26th is as follows:—In the preparation of the balance-sheet, assets and liabilities in foreign currency have been converted into sterling at the rates ruling at December 31, 1921, the franc at 52 to the £ sterling. Thus, principally owing to the

FERRIER LULLIN & CIE.

GENEVA (Switzerland).
Established 1795.

Partners: A. LULLIN, F. BOISSIER, J. STRAESSLE, M. FERRIER.

Telegraphic Address: "FERULIN, GENEVA."

London Correspondents:

THE LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, Ltd.
SWISS BANK CORPORATION
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA
Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & CO., Ltd.
Messrs. HELBERT WAGG & CO., Ltd.
Messrs. S. JAPHET & CO., Ltd.
Messrs. SELIGMAN BROTHERS

New York Correspondents:

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK
Messrs. HALLGARTEN & CO.
Messrs. A. ISELIN & CO.

All kinds of banking business transacted.

CREDIT FONCIER D'ALGERIE ET DE TUNISIE.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

CAPITAL - - - - - Fcs. 125.000.000

REGISTERED OFFICE ALGIERS. HEAD OFFICE PARIS.
LONDON OFFICE : 18, ST. SWITHIN'S LANE, E.C.4.

Telegrams: Foncalton, Cannon, London.

FRANCE: Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes.
ALGERIA: Algiers, Blida, Bona, Constantine, Oran, Setif, Sidi-Bel-Abbes and 58 Sub Branches.
TUNISIA: Tunis & 18 Sub Branches.
MOROCCO: Casablanca, Tangiers & 12 Sub Branches.
MALTA GIBRALTAR BEYROUTH SMYRNA.

ALL BANKING AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS TRANSACTED. Accounts in English and French money opened at call or at short notice.

BANQUE DE L'UNION PARISIENNE

7, RUE CHAUCHAT, PARIS

CAPITAL { Authorised - - - - - Fr.200,000,000
Issued - - - - - Fr.150,000,000
RESERVES - - - - - Fr.79,300,000

The Bank conducts Banking Business of every description in France and Foreign Countries

London Correspondents: London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited (Lothbury); London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited; Swiss Bank Corporation; Credito Italiano; Banque Belge pour l'Etranger.

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER

(Filiale de la Société Générale de Belgique.)

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME.
CAPITAL (subscribed) - - - - - Frs. 100,000,000
(paid up) - - - - - Frs. 75,000,000
RESERVES - - - - - Frs. 19,962,294

HEAD OFFICE: BRUSSELS, 68 Rue des Colonies.
Branches: PARIS (12 Place de la Bourse), NEW YORK, BUCHAREST, BRAILA, COLOGNE, CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, TANTAH, ZAGAZIG, BENI-SOUF, PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, HANKOW.
LONDON OFFICE: Moorgate Hall, Moorgate, E.C.2 (temporarily).
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 19, Spring Gardens.

London Committee: Messrs. J. S. HASKELL, A. F. BUXTON, G. GRINNELL MILNE, SIR WM. GARSTIN, G.C.M.G., EMILE FRANCOIS, CHEVALIER DE WOUTERS.

Associated Banks in all towns of any importance in BELGIUM and LUXEMBOURG.
Allied Banks: Wiener Bank-Verein, Vienna, with branches in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Italy (Tyrol), Yugo-Slavia; Allgemeine Bank, Prague, with branches in Czechoslovakia; Banco de Cartagena, Madrid, with branches in Spain and Morocco; Société Bohémienne Bank-Verein, Prague, with branches in Czechoslovakia; and Landesbank fuer Bosnien und Herzegovina, Sarajevo, with branches in Yugo-Slavia.

Correspondents in all parts of the World.
Agents in the United Kingdom for the Belgian Postal Cheque Service.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE business a speciality; FOREIGN CURRENCIES bought and sold for immediate or forward delivery, enabling traders to secure the exchange for their contracts in the currency of the country of their customers.
All kinds of Banking Business undertaken.

NEW SOUTH WALES

AUSTRALIA

THE

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

FOR THE
INVESTOR, FARMER AND SKILLED ARTISAN, &c.

Progressive New South Wales	1901	1911	1921
Population	1,376,199	1,701,884	2,128,786
Area under Crops (Acres)	2,276,528	3,629,170	4,464,342
Total Area Cultivated (Acres)	2,744,367	4,437,224	6,007,659
Total Primary Production	£29,362,000	£47,340,000	£86,062,000
Value of Manufactured Goods	£25,648,471	£54,346,011	£137,841,386
Value of Exports	£18,210,627	£32,161,401	£52,601,806
Value of Imports	£17,560,207	£27,343,428	£72,466,388
Bank Deposits	£45,067,166	£78,708,052	£158,762,031

WATCH NEW SOUTH WALES GROW!

AUSTRALIA'S AMBITION is to MANUFACTURE and export as a FINISHED ARTICLE as much as possible of her WONDERFUL PRIMARY PRODUCE; the Governments of the Commonwealth and of New South Wales are anxious to assist, and public opinion sustains the adoption of a policy by which this ambition may be achieved.

NEW SOUTH WALES PRODUCES THE RAW MATERIAL, and MEN OF FORESIGHT, BUSINESS ABILITY and CAPITAL are required to assist in BRINGING IT TO FRUITION.

Many POWERFUL INTERESTS have already BROKEN NEW GROUND. During 1920, £20,000,000 was subscribed to establish new industries. The field is still large and inviting.

TURN TO THE NEW WORLD FOR OPPORTUNITY!

For further information call or write to:—
The Agent-General for New South Wales, Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2.

LIABILITIES.		£	ASSETS.		£
Capital—99,800 ordinary shares of £6 10s; 200 founders' shares of £6 10s		650,000	Cash in hand, at bankers, and in transit		3,055.20
Reserve account		310,000	Investments in British and Colonial Government and other securities, taken at or under prices ruling on September 20, 1921		1,499.17
Notes in circulation		753,327	Bills discounted, loans and advances, including adjustments and past due bills and loans		1,872.80
Deposits		2,805,375	Bills receivable		695.01
Bills payable, endorsements, and adjustments		2,616,712	Bank premises, furniture, and stationery		50.11
Profit and loss account		56,955			
		2,172,369			7,172.38

LIABILITIES.		£	ASSETS.		£
Capital—97,116 shares of £5 each, paid up		485,580	Cash in hand and at bankers—London & Paris, £35,379; branches, £38,751		134,130
Reserve fund		150,000	Notes of other banks		440,029
Current accounts, including accounts without interest, £7,131,732; deposits bearing interest, £2,550,830		9,782,562	Money at call with National Bank of Greece		831,825
Other liabilities and credit accounts, including out-standing advices, exchange contracts, letters of credit, documentary credits, and other credit balances		5,173,479	Investments in market prices or under (British Imperial and Colonial Government stocks, and other securities):—London, £658,611; in Greece, £56,911		715,522
Bills payable		58,975	Bills receivable—London, Paris, Greece, & in transit		604,812
Rebate on bills not due		16,613	Bills discounted, viz.:—Commercial, £1,208,708; promoters' and agrarian, £56,932		1,275,640
Profit and loss, balance of account as below		31,204	Advances on securities		4,562,450
Contingent liability on bills of exchange discounted, £9,733.			Loans and current accounts—£765,294; other assets—current outstanding advices, exchange contracts, letters of credit, documentary credits, and other advances, £6,121,163		6,886,457
			Current accounts secured by mortgages		20,083
			Advances on mortgages		116,317
			Mortgaged property taken possession of		15,204
			Freehold bank premises at Athens, Corfu, Cephalonia, Patras, Piræus, Zante, and Alexandria, and bank furniture		95,938
		15,698,413			15,698,413

#9,334,754 1 4

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF BAKER, DUNCOMBE & CO., Limited.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 113 Sub-section 2 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, we report to the Shareholders as follows:—

1. We have audited the above Balance Sheet and have obtained all the information and explanations required.
2. We have examined the Securities, Bills and Cash in Hand, and verified those in the hands of various Banks.
3. We are of opinion that the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up and as shown by the True and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

KEMP, CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, SENDELT & CO., Chartered Accountants.

36 WATERLOO ROAD, E.C.4. 5th October, 1922.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
Dr.	Cr.	£
Charges of management for the year, including salaries, pensions, directors' fees, income-tax, and other taxes and charges		270,283
Interest on deposits and current accounts		363,699
Rebate on bills discounted not due		16,613
Net profit carried down		59,021
		709,616
Interim dividend for 1921, at 3s per share, free of income-tax, paid Sept. 21, 1921		14,567
Reserve fund (addition to the fund)		20,000
Staff pension fund (addition to the fund)		5,000
Final dividend at 3s per share, together with a bonus of 1s per share, both free of income-tax, payable if agreed to on April 28, 1922, £19,423; balance carried forward, £11,781 ..		31,204
		70,771
		70,771

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—September 30, 1921.		
LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.	£
Capital, 120,000 shares of £25 each, on which £17 per share has been paid	Cash on hand, at bankers, and at branches	13,868,199
Reserve fund	Bills receivable, bills discounted, advances, securities, &c. (including depreciation arising on conversion of currency capital into sterling—see Directors' Report) after deducting provision for contingencies	26,182,313
Acceptances—account branches	Bills for collection	5,847,753
Acceptances—other branches	Bank premises, including furniture	955,734
Acceptances—drafts under merchandise credits, &c.		
Bills advised—drafts in transit		
Current accounts, &c., and deposits in currency at branches		
Current accounts and deposits at head office		
Monte Video branch—Local currency emission		
Bills for collection on account of customers, per contra		
Rebate of interest on bills not due		
Profit and loss account, as per statement below		
		46,853,999

Note—Contingent liability as endorers of foreign bills discounted, £1,170,334, of which £1,155,514 has since run off.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
Dr.	Cr.	£
Charges at head office and branches, including rent and taxes		677,601
Interim dividends		122,400
Balance carried down		599,924
		1,399,925
		1,399,925
		599,924

ITALO-BELGIAN BANK.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1921.		
LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Capital	Premises	6,573,034
Reserves—Legal reserve, 1,429,909f; extraordinary reserve, 22,500,000f	Furniture and fittings	9
Current and deposits accounts	Cash in hand and with banks	177,060,750
Bankers' and correspondents	Bills receivable	135,501,318
Bills payable	Securities	2,466,981
Interest and dividends not claimed	Current accounts—Bankers' and correspondents	191,967,978
Depositors	Clients, guaranteed and not guaranteed	255,691,404
Re-discount on bills, 649,285f; interest and dividend, 6,000,300f; carried forward, 443,831f ..	Securities deposited, 181,264,489f; securities deposited as collaterals, 180,819,387f	362,083,876
		7,093,117
		1,131,345,344

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.

BALANCE-SHEET—June 30, 1922.		
LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.	\$
Capital	Cash in vault and in Federal Reserve Bank	201,800,985
Surplus and undivided profits	and due from banks, bankers and United States Treasurer	492,685,957
Deposits	Loans, discounts and acceptances of other banks	98,111,868
Acceptances of other banks and foreign bills sold with our endorsement	United States Government and other bonds	2,550,000
Acceptances outstanding, as per contra	Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	8,500,000
Anticipated by customers	Ownership of International Banking Corporation	13,147,650
Items in transit with branches	Bank buildings	31,630,965
Circulation	Customers' liability account of acceptances	923,874
Bonds borrowed	Other assets	
Reserves for—		
Accrued interest and unearned discount ..		
Taxes, accrued expenses, &c.		
Contingencies		
		849,351,299

THE EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

ALVIN W. KRECH, President.

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits (June 30, 1922), \$27,392,687 (£6,155,660)

Member New York Clearing House Association.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received.
Dollar Bills purchased.
Drafts and Cable Transfers on New York and other important cities in the United States and Canada issued at closest rates.
Banking and Exchange Business of every description transacted.

LONDON OFFICE:
3 KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

NEW YORK.
Head Office: 37 WALL STREET.
Branches: 222 BROADWAY, MADISON AVENUE at 45th Street.

PARIS.
23 RUE DE LA PAIX.

Member Federal Reserve System.

GOLDMAN, SACHS & Co.

30, Pine Street, New York.

BOSTON CHICAGO
PHILADELPHIA LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO SEATTLE
ST. LOUIS

COMMERCIAL PAPER.

Securities Bought and Sold on Commission.

Foreign Exchange, Commercial and Travellers' Letters of Credit available in all Parts of the World.

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

ESTABLISHED 1832.

General Office: TORONTO, CANADA.

Capital - - - \$9,700,000
Reserve Fund - - - \$18,000,000
Total Assets - - - over \$225,000,000

London, England, Branch: 55, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2.
New York Agency: 52, WALL STREET.

A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED.

Particular attention is devoted to Business with Canada, Newfoundland, and the West Indies, where Branches of the Bank have been established many years.

BANQUE DE GAND.

Société Anonyme.

FILIALE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE BELGIQUE.

CAPITAL - - - Frs.25,000,000.

Head Office: GHENT (Belgium).

Branches: DEYNZE, EECLOO, SELZAETE, WETTEREN, MALDEGEM, SOMERGEM, AELTRE, GAVERE.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

undertakes Overseas Banking Transactions—Foreign Exchange Bought and Sold—Mail and Cable Transfers—Collection and Negotiation of Clean and Documentary Drafts—Opening of Commercial Credits—Imports and Exports Financed—Letters of Credit.

Telegraphic Address: BANGA.

LONDON CORRESPONDENTS:

Banque Belge pour l'Etranger; London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited; London Merchant Bank, Ltd.; Kleinwort, Sons and Co.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

Established 1889

(National Joint Stock Bank.)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.
BRANCHES: 125 all over Finland.

PAID-UP CAPITAL and RESERVES - - - F.m. 247,000,000

Every kind of Banking and Exchange Business transacted at most favourable terms.
Deposits Received. Bills Collected.
Mail and Telegraphic Remittances Made.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "Kansallispankki."

LONDON AGENTS: The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.

A/B NORDISKA FÖRENINGSBANKEN

(O/Y POHJOISMAIDEN YHDYSPANKKI)

(established by amalgamation of Föreningsbanken in Finland and Nordiska Aktiebanken för Handel och Industri).

CAPITAL & RESERVES: Fmks. 275,000,000

Head Office: HELSINGFORS

FIFTY-ONE BRANCHES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED

Telegraphic Address: UNITAS.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—January 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
£		£	
Capital paid up, £10 per share	1,500,000	Specie and cash at head office and branches	10,360,489
Reserve fund	1,500,000	Bills receivable	2,130,272
Current accounts and deposits in currency at branches, £19,570,325; current accounts and deposits at head office, £450,451	20,030,777	Bills discounted, loans, &c.	15,064,020
Bills payable	2,924,932	Cash and remittances in transit, &c.	260,036
Agents and sundry accounts	1,618,750	Bills for collection, as per contra	6,950,763
Bills for collection on account of customers	6,950,763	Bank premises at head office and branches	350,159
Profit and loss, £723,622; less dividend (interim) paid to July 31, 1921, £105,000	618,622	Furniture at head office and branches	28,105
Staff pension and benevolent fund trust £179,196, 5% War Loan, 1929-1947)			
	35,143,544		35,143,544

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Charges at head office and branches	408,919	Balance brought down	511,647
Taxes at home and abroad	78,573	Profit to Jan. 31, 1922, after providing for rebate of interest on bills discounted not due, and bad and doubtful debts	699,467
Dividend (interim) for the half-year ending July 31, 1921	105,000		
Balance carried down	618,622		1,211,114

MITSUBISHI BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Yen.		Yen.	
Capital	50,000,000	Uncalled capital	20,000,000
Reserve funds	8,550,000	Advances, Y.201,701,599—	
Deposits, Y.279,311,459—		Loans	167,271,488
Fixed deposits	166,885,886	Bills discounted	18,535,903
Current accounts	26,427,411	Call loans	11,827,437
Special current accounts	29,637,980	Overdrafts	13,066,772
Deposits at notice	55,662,535	Foreign bills bought	10,400,474
Other deposits	697,648	Interest-bearing foreign bills	5,393,885
Bills payable	707,986	Due from other banks	559,468
Foreign bills sold	418,182	Acceptances and guarantees, as per contra	6,716,225
Due to other banks	636,460	Government bonds and Treasury bills	6,542,281
Acceptances and guarantees	2,875,006	Other bonds and securities	76,040,060
Interest accrued on deposits		Office premises	5,645,665
Rebate on bills discounted not yet due	1,878,168	Suspense accounts	89,078
Suspense accounts	360,342	Cash on hand and in banks	15,327,034
Accounts en route	470,518		
Income-tax on fixed deposit	64,962		
Balance brought forward from last profit and loss account	1,064,955		
Net profit for the current half-year	4,371,506		
	387,415,770		387,415,770

B.W. BLYDENSTEIN & Co.,

55-56, Threadneedle Street,
London, E.C.2.Bankers and
Discounting AgentsALL BANKING AND DISCOUNT
BUSINESS TRANSACTED.Dealers in British Treasury Bills of any
Maturity.Special Facilities for Business with
Holland.FORWARD CONTRACTS IN DUTCH
GUILDERS.

THE P. & O. BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—March 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
£		£	
Capital issued, 259,416 shares of £10 each, fully paid up	2,594,160	Cash at bankers and in hand	1,069,007
Reserve fund, viz.: Refund of stamp duty on authorised capital, £37,500; balance of share premium account after charging additional preliminary expenses, £272; transferred from profit and loss account, £52,328	90,000	Bullion in transit	219,789
Current, deposit, and other accounts, including exchange adjustment account, rebate on bills not due, provision for bad and doubtful debts, income and corporation profits taxes, &c.	6,316,930	Money at call and short notice	1,630,000
Loans against security	2,675,000	Investments—British Government securities at market value, £197,109; Indian Government securities at market value, £76,890; Allahabad Bank—23,413 ordinary shares of Rs.100 each, of which 14,675 are fully paid and 8,738 are paid up to the extent of Rs.50 per share, at cost, £589,864	863,863
Liabilities for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	1,008,527	Bills discounted, including British and Indian Government Treasury bills	3,712,164
Liabilities to customers on account of bills receivable for collection, as per contra	111,432	Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	1,008,527
Profit and loss account—Balance brought forward from March 31, 1921, £6,846; net profit for the year ended March 31, 1922, £159,300—£166,146; deduct transferred to reserve fund, £52,228	113,918	Bills receivable for collection, as per contra	111,432
NOTE.—There is a contingent liability in respect of bills re-discounted amounting to £14,830,274, of which £10,392,160 had run off by June 29th.		Advances to customers on current & other accounts	3,490,758
Outstanding forward exchange contracts for purchase and sale of bills and telegraphic transfers, &c., £11,226,295.		Remittances, &c., in transit	793,276
	12,909,967	Furniture at head office and branches	11,151
			12,909,967

The report presented at the meeting held on July 7th states that the net profits for the year, after setting aside £79,770 for taxation, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and valuing investments at market rates, amount to £159,300, which, with £6,846 brought forward from last year, gives an available balance for disposal of £166,146.

THE LONDON
MERCHANT BANK
LIMITED

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid-up Capital - - - 750,000
Reserve Fund - - - 350,000

F. LUBBOCK, Chairman. A. HARTE, Manager.
F. POOLE, Secretary.

Office:
38, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3

Clearing Agents:
BANK OF ENGLAND: COUTTS & CO.
Telegraphic Address: "Londomerc, Thread, London."

The ANGLO-EGYPTIAN
BANK, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital £1,800,000
Paid up - - £600,000
Reserve Fund - - £720,000

Head Office: 37 to 39 King
William St., London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES:

EGYPT: Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, Suez,
Tantah, Zagazig, Mansourah, Assiut, Beni-Suef.
SUDAN: Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan.
PALESTINE: Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah,
Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN: Malta, Gibraltar.
TRANS-JORDANIA: Amman.

THE Bank transacts every description of Banking
Business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit,
and affords facilities to Travellers proceeding to
Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be
obtained on application.

On current accounts Interest at the rate of 2 per
cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly
balances provided they do not fall below the sum
of £200.

THE
MERCANTILE
BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

HEAD OFFICE:
15, Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3.

Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
Capital Paid Up ... £1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided
Profits ... £1,287,671

Branches and Agencies in:
INDIA, CEYLON, BURMAH,
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA,
and PORT LOUIS (MAURITIUS).

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues
Letters of Credit, and conducts every description of
Banking Business in connection with the East.

FIXED DEPOSIT RATES
will be quoted upon application.

On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at
2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided
interest for the half-year amounts to £1.

"The Swedish Bank
of Commerce."



Svenska Handelsbanken
STOCKHOLM

Travellers' Letters of Credit,
Documentary Credits,
Collections,
Payments,
Etc.

Own Funds: Kr. 181,000,000

FREDRIKSSTAD
PRIVATBANK

Fredriksstad
(NORWAY).

Established 1891.

Capital and Surplus,
Kr. 21,000,000.

General
Banking
Business

Telegraphic Address: PRIVATBANK, FREDRIKSSTAD.

The directors have placed to reserve the sum of £52,228, together with £37,500 recovered in respect of stamp duties, and £272, being the balance at credit of share premium account, making a total reserve of £90,000. Out of the balance of £113,918 they propose to pay a dividend of 5½ per cent., less income-tax, absorbing £99,875, carrying £14,043 to next account.

SOCIETE GENERALE DE CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	£	Assets.	£
Deposit accounts	3,843,800	Cash in hand	1,249,141
Current accounts	14,071,265	Due from other banks	252,451
Fixed deposits	3,154,088	Coupons for collection	78,252
Acceptances guaranteed	120,000	Bills receivable, "Bons de la Défense Nationale"	17,248,943
Foreign exchange business guaranteed	1,247,452	Current accounts	1,780,267
Unclaimed interest and dividends	4,190	Advances against stock	85,438
Transitory and sundry accounts	586,245	Acceptances guaranteed	879,473
Rebate	139,201	Foreign exchange business guaranteed	1,247,452
Reserve fund	1,160,000	Payments made on account of interest and dividends for 1921	47,411
Capital subscribed	4,000,000	Investments	1,198,629
Brought forward from 1920	1,688	Shares of affiliated societies	1,455,942
Profit and loss account for 1921	254,274	Bank premises	240,000
		Uncalled capital	2,688,450
	28,582,203		28,582,203

The balance of profit and loss account for 1921 amounts to £254,274, which the board, at the general meeting in Paris on March 21, 1922, has appropriated as follows:— (1) Interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid in November, 1921, on paid-up capital, viz., 5f on 179,230 shares (125f paid up) and 20f on 20,770 fully-paid shares, £52,462—£201,812. (2) 10 per cent. to the board, £20,181—£181,631. (3) Final dividend of 15f per share on 200,000 shares, £120,000—£61,631. (4) Income-tax on dividends, £19,158—£42,473. Amount carried from 1920, £1,688—£44,161. Transfer to extraordinary reserve fund, £40,000. Balance to be carried forward to new account, £4,161. Dividend, 1921, 17.77 per cent., free of French tax.

SOCIETE GENERALE.

(Pour Favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.)

BALANCE-SHEET—August 31, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	Assets.	Francs.
Capital	500,000,000	Cash in hand and at bank	541,417,979
Reserve	54,324,885	Bills receivable	3,510,789,139
Drawing accounts	1,243,487,732	Coupons for collection	24,587,388
Deposit accounts	128,337,800	Short loans	11,680,927
Bills payable	62,837,791	Loans on security	204,583,485
Current accounts	3,801,102,850	Current accounts	1,113,040,786
Interest and dividends	3,804,565	Investments	48,830,871
Profit and loss	4,638,997	Syndicates	37,850,956
		Premises, &c.	56,397,039
		Uncalled capital	250,000,000
	5,799,184,570		5,799,184,570

Telephones: Avenue 3123 & 3124.

Telegrams: "Easportico. London."

Eastern Export Co., Ltd.

5 LLOYD'S AVENUE, LONDON, E.C.3.

EXPORTERS TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD OF

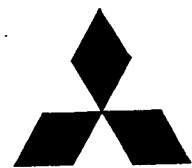
**IRON AND
STEEL** (All descriptions)

**GALVANIZED
SHEETS**

**TINPLATES
ETC.**

Brands: 'Mikasa' 'Three Rabbits' 'Khaki' 'All Clear'

Weekly C.I.F. Price List and Report Issued



THE MITSUBISHI BANK, LTD.

(Incorporated in Japan.)

Subscribed Capital: Yen 50,000,000.

Paid-up Capital: Yen 30,000,000. Reserve Fund: Yen 10,000,000.

General Banking and Exchange Business. Deposit Rates on Application.

Head Office: TOKYO.

Branches: TOKYO, OSAKA, KOBE, KYOTO, NAGOYA, SHANGHAI, NEW YORK, LONDON.

London Office: 3, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

BANCO ITALIANO LIMA (Peru).

Capital:
Lp. 400,000.

Reserve:
Lp. 350,000.

BRANCHES AT
CALLAO, AREQUIPA,
CHINCHA-ALTA, MOLLENDON,
& TRUJILLO.

London Agents:

Banca Commerciale Italiana,
30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA Limited.

Established 1837. Incorporated 1880.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED AND ISSUED £9,000,000
Capital Paid-up - £3,000,000
Reserve Fund - £3,250,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors - £6,000,000

DIRECTORS:

HENRY P. STURGIS, Esq., Chairman.
The Rt. Hon. LORD CARMICHAEL, G.C.S.I. SOMERVILLE R. LIVINGSTONE-LEARMONTH, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. THE EARL OF CHICHESTER. ROBERT C. NESBITT, Esq.
JOHN DENNISTOUN, Esq. FREDERICK G. PARBURY, Esq.
HUGH D. FLOWER, Esq. The Hon. EDMUND W. PARKER.
The Rt. Hon. LORD HILLINGDON. Sir WESTBY B. PERCEVAL, K.C.M.G.
ARTHUR C. WILLIS, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE:

71 Cornhill, London, E.C.3.

Manager—W. J. ESSAME. Assistant Manager—W. A. LAING.
Secretary—F. H. MCINTYRE.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, viz.:

In VICTORIA	43
" SOUTH AUSTRALIA	14
" NEW SOUTH WALES	42
" WESTERN AUSTRALIA	20
" QUEENSLAND	19
" TASMANIA	3
" NEW ZEALAND	46

187

Drafts upon the Branches are issued by Head Office, and may also be obtained from the Bank's Agents throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland. Commercial and Circular Travelling Credits issued—available throughout the World. Telegraphic Remittances are also made. Bills on the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand are purchased or sent for collection. Deposits are received at Head Office at rates of interest and for periods which may be ascertained on application.

AKTIEBOLAGET MÅLAREBANKEN

ESTABLISHED 1847.

Head Office: STOCKHOLM.

About 100 Branches in Stockholm and the Provinces.

Telegraphic Address:
MÅLAREBANK.

PAID-UP CAPITAL:
SWED. KR. 24,000,000

RESERVE FUNDS:
SWED. KR. - 8,000,000

London Correspondents:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.
BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

THE BANK OF CANTON, Ltd. HONGKONG.

Authorised Capital - £1,200,000
Paid-up Capital - £1,066,520
Silver Reserve Fund - \$800,000

Branches at
CANTON : SHANGHAI
BANGKOK
AND
NEW YORK.

All descriptions of Banking
Business transacted.

Chief Manager - Mr. LOOK POONG SHAN
Exchange Manager - Mr. J. D. F. MULDER

London Agents:

RUSSO - ASIATIC BANK

SOCIETE BELGE DE CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET
COMMERCIAL ET DE DEPOTS.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Subscribed capital	20,000,000	Premises	1,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,346,018	Uncalled capital	15,200,000
Special reserve	400,000	Cash	1,254,458
Deposits	27,395,718	Current accounts	10,944,270
Current accounts	27,795,512	Coupons for collection	174,244
Other accounts	274,840	Bills receivable	36,299,831
Profit and loss	808,999	Short loans	2,700,235
		Advances	5,255,130
		Other assets	189,679
	73,021,887		73,021,887

SUMITOMO BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Yen.	ASSETS.	Yen.
Subscribed capital	70,000,000	Capital unpaid	20,000,000
Reserve funds	19,000,000	Loans, bills discounted and	
Pension reserve	1,200,000	exchange purchased	356,450,987
Deposits	369,776,325	Due from other banks	8,166,997
Exchange sold and bills		Customers' liabilities on	
payable	4,913,051	foreign credits, acceptances	
Exchange adjustments	643,121	and guarantees	18,955,805
Due to other banks	22,632,189	Government bonds	60,901,007
Foreign credits, acceptances		Municipal and other securities	
and guarantees	18,955,805	Foreign currencies	14,792,955
Dividends not yet paid	910	Bank premises and furniture	6,854,635
Rebate on bills not yet due		Cash in hand	34,465,573
and interest accrued on			
deposits	7,782,645		
Balance brought forward			
from last half-year	1,046,590		
Net profit for half-year	4,648,871		
	520,599,517		520,599,517

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Reserve funds	2,000,000	Balance brought forward	
Dividends	2,172,000	from last half-year	1,046,591
Pension reserve	300,000	Net profit for the half-year	4,648,871
Bonus	120,000		
Balance carried forward to			
next half-year	1,103,462		
	5,695,462		5,695,462

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The net profit of the bank for the half-year ended December 31, 1921, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, rebate on bills, &c., was 14,847,143 yen, inclusive of 4,754,936 yen brought forward from last account. The directors proposed that 4,000,000 yen be added to the reserve fund, and recommended a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, which absorbed 6,000,000 yen. The balance,

4,847,143 yen, was carried forward to the credit of next account.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

LIABILITIES.	Yen.	ASSETS.	Yen.
Capital	100,000,000	Cash in hand and at bankers	101,850,861
Reserve fund	57,000,000	Investments in public securities	159,316,038
Reserve for doubtful debts	6,153,637	Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	256,512,172
Notes in circulation	8,278,432	Bills payable, bills rediscounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	462,200,784
Deposits (current, fixed, &c.)	508,441,693	Bullion and foreign money	7,478,117
Dividends unclaimed	301,424,847	Bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	8,812,875
Balance of profit and loss brought forward from last account	4,754,936		
Net profit for the past half-year	10,092,207		
	996,170,847		996,170,847

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Reserve fund	4,000,000	Balance brought forward, June 30, 1921	4,754,936
Dividend—6.00 yen per share for 1,000,000 shares	6,000,000	Net profit for the half year ending December 31, 1921	10,092,207
Balance carried forward to next account	4,847,143	(After making provision for bad and doubtful debts, rebate on bills, &c.)	
	14,847,143		14,847,143

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

BALANCE-SHEET—December 31, 1921.

(£1 = 25 Francs.)

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Share capital	4,800,000	Cash	4,270,180
Reserves	3,320,000	Banks and bankers	5,655,278
Fixed deposits	5,104,117	Bills receivable	12,089,149
Current accounts, &c.	29,638,348	Loans at short dates on securities	75,037
Bills payable and acceptances	1,883,942	Current accounts	18,518,655
Profit	511,484	Permanent investments	380,491
	43,317,891	Government, railway, and other securities	1,701,524
		Syndicates	74,031
		Bank premises and other property	553,546
	43,317,891		43,317,891

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
General expenses and taxes ..	985,992	Balance from 1920	49,494
Provision for bad and doubtful debts (less return of amounts previously written off), and writing down new premises, &c.	78,788	Discounts	816,724
Net profit available	511,484	Interest	199,414
		Commissions	375,601
		Investments and foreign moneys	74,274
		Coupons and foreign moneys	60,757
	1,576,264		1,576,264

HOLLANDSCHE BANK
VOOR ZUID-AMERIKA.

(Dutch Bank for South America.)

Capital & Surplus Fl. 30,080,000

Cable Address: "Bancolanda."

Head Office: 438, Heerengracht, AMSTERDAM.

Branches: Hamburg, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Sao Paulo, Santiago de Chile, Valparaiso.

Every description of Banking Business transacted.

The WORKS and LIFE of WALTER BAGEHOT
EDITED BY Mrs. RUSSELL BARRINGTON

10 Vols. (Works 9 Vols., Life 1 Vol.), 8vo. £3 15s. net. The "Works" only will also be supplied, £3 7s. 6d. net. Prospectus sent on application.

* * The Life of Walter Bagehot

By his Sister-in-Law (Mrs. RUSSELL BARRINGTON). With portraits and other illustrations. (In the Original Binding). 8vo. 14s. net. (1914.)

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO., 89, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

VICKERS
LIMITED.

Works: Barrow-in-Furness, Sheffield, Birmingham, Crayford, Erith, Dartford, Weybridge.

THE MITSUI BANK, LTD.,
TOKYO

(The oldest Banking Institution in Japan—Founded in 1880.)

Capital Subscribed...	Yen 100,000,000.00	Reserve Fund ...	Yen 25,000,000.00
Capital Paid up ...	60,000,000.00	Special Reserve Fund ...	7,900,000.00
		Reserve Fund for Dividend ...	1,000,000.00

HEAD OFFICE: No. 1, SURUGACHO, TOKYO, JAPAN.

LOCAL BRANCHES:

FUKUOKA, HIROSHIMA, KAWAGUCHI (Osaka), KOBE, KYOTO, MOJI, NAGASAKI, NAGOYA, NAKANOSHIMA (Osaka), OSAKA, OSAKA, NISHI (Osaka), OTARU, SHIMONOSEKI, WAKAMATSU, YOKOHAMA.

FOREIGN BRANCHES—NEW YORK, SHANGHAI.

FOREIGN AGENTS:

LONDON—BARCLAYS BANK, LTD.
LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LTD.
NEW YORK—THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.
BANKERS TRUST COMPANY. THE CHASE NATIONAL BANK.
PARIS—COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.
BANQUE DE L'UNION PARISIENNE.
HAMBURG—COMMERZ-UND PRIVAT-BANK.
BOMBAY—NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LTD.
COX & COMPANY.

BALANCE SHEET.
30th June, 1922.

Dr.	Yen.	ASSETS.	Yen.
Capital	100,000,000.00	Capital unpaid	40,000,000.00
Reserve Fund	22,600,000.00	Cash in hand and at Bank of Japan	28,390,898.30
Special Reserve Fund	7,900,000.00	Money at call and short notice	39,850,000.00
Pension and Provident Funds	1,252,405.57	Japanese and Foreign Government Bonds	51,251,893.78
Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	428,717,019.49	Debentures and Stocks	45,603,283.00
Foreign Bills of Exchange sold	12,352,756.57	Foreign Bills of Exchange Purchased	40,289,081.04
Due to Foreign Correspondents (including Discount)	2,072,531.63	Customers' Liabilities under L/C per contra	2,072,531.63
Liabilities under L/C	611,466.29	Due from Foreign Agents and Correspondents	1,989,980.57
Due to local Banks	4,582.84	Loans and Discounts	341,728,519.00
Dividend unpaid	3,933,486.70	Due from local Banks	114,070.00
Interest accrued on deposits not due	3,426,126.70	Provisional Payments	462,376.71
Rebate on Bills not due	1,117,260.40	Bank Premises and Real Estates	3,658,649.46
Provisional Receipts	1,992,454.73		
Balance from last account	7,688,019.08		
Net profit for the half year	594,860,493.90		594,860,493.90

APPROPRIATION OF PROFIT.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Reserve Fund	2,400,000.00	Net profit for the half year	7,688,019.08
Reserve Fund for Dividend	1,000,000.00	Balance brought forward from last year	1,992,454.73
Pension and Provident Funds	159,000.00		
Bonus	538,100.00		
Dividend to Shareholders	3,600,000.00		
Balance carried forward to next half year	1,983,373.81		
	9,680,473.81		9,680,473.81

The Bank sells Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers, buys approved inward and outward Bills, grants Commercial Credits, issues Travellers' Letters of Credit available in all important places in the World, and makes collections.

POLSKI BANK PRZEMYSLOWY
THE POLISH INDUSTRIAL BANK.

Paid-up Capital Mkp 1,050,000,000
Reserve Funds Mkp 550,000,000

HEAD OFFICE AT LWÓW.

Branches at:

BĘDZIN, BORYSLAW, DĄBROWA-GÓRNICZA, DROHOBYCZ, GDĄNSK (DANZIG), JASŁO, KRAKÓW, KROSNO,
ŁÓDŹ, NOWY-SĄCZ, RZESZÓW, SANOK, SOSNOWIEC, STRYJ, WARSZAWA.

All kinds of Banking business transacted.

BANCO DEL ECUADOR
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR.

Paid up Capital - - - - S/4,500,000.—
Reserve Fund - - - - „ 2,100,000.—
Undivided Profits - - - - „ 848,609.27

Correspondents in England:—London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.; London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.; N. M. Rothschild and Sons; Credit Lyonnais (London Agency); Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris; Baring Brothers and Co.; Société Générale; Banco Español del Rio de la Plata; Lazard Brothers and Co.

ALL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

BANK OF MONTREAL

ESTABLISHED IN 1817.

CAPITAL PAID UP	-	-	-	-	\$27,250,000
REST	-	-	-	-	\$27,250,000
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	-	-	-	-	\$579,675
TOTAL ASSETS (29th April, 1922)	-	-	-	-	\$653,869,071

HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL.

Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart. - - - - - President.
Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor - - - - - General Manager.

Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland, also at New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Spokane in the United States and at Mexico City.

LONDON OFFICES { 47, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
9, WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, S.W.1.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart. F. R. S. Balfour, Esq.
George Cyril Cassels, Manager.

PARIS AGENCY: BANK OF MONTREAL (FRANCE),
6, PLACE VENDOME, PARIS.

PARIS COMITE CONSULTATIF: M. le SENATEUR GASTON MENIER.
W. F. BENSON, Manager.

FINANCIAL AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

The Bank has reciprocal arrangements with leading banks covering all countries, and is, therefore, in a position to offer favourable competitive rates for business in all parts of the world. With its numerous Branches it offers exceptional facilities for the transaction of general banking business in Canada, Newfoundland, the United States, Mexico and France.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

Established 1872.

BASLE, ZURICH, ST. GALL, GENEVA, LAUSANNE, LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, NEUCHÂTEL, SCHAFFHOUSE, BIENNE, CHIASSO, HERISAU, LE LOCLE, NYON, AIGLE, BISHOPZELL, MORGES, RORSCHACH, VALLORBE.

LONDON OFFICE - - - 43, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.

WEST END BRANCH: 11c REGENT STREET, Waterloo Place, S.W.1.

General Manager: X. CASTELLI.

Paid-up Capital	-	-	-	-	£4,800,000
Reserves	-	-	-	-	£1,320,000

The Corporation places at the disposal of the mercantile and industrial community all banking facilities required in connection with imports and exports. Banking business of every description. Current and deposit accounts. Transactions in foreign exchanges for forward delivery. Purchase and sale of investment securities.

Agents in Great Britain to the Swiss Government Postal and Travellers' Cheque Service.

BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY, LONDON.

FOUNDERS COURT,
LOTHBURY, E.C. 2.

OFFICE FOR TRAVELLERS:

123, PALL MALL, S.W.1.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

COMMERCIAL CREDITS & CONSIGNMENTS.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

CABLE TRANSFERS. FOREIGN COLLECTIONS.

TRAVELLING CREDITS.

SECURITIES PURCHASED and SOLD.

DIVIDENDS COLLECTED. COUPONS PURCHASED.

DEPOSIT and CURRENT ACCOUNTS OPENED.

AGENTS and CORRESPONDENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BROWN BROTHERS & COMPANY, NEW YORK, 59, Wall Street.

PHILADELPHIA.
4th and Chestnut Streets.

BOSTON.
60, State Street.

BALTIMORE.
(Alexr. Brown & Sons.)

ESTABLISHED 1800.

ULSTER BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED APRIL, 1836.

AFFILIATED TO LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

CAPITAL AUTHORIZED AND SUBSCRIBED £2500,000 £23,000,000.
CAPITAL PAID UP £2700,000 £1,300,000.
RESERVE FUND

HEAD OFFICE—WARING STREET, BELFAST.

Managing Directors:

STANLEY FERGUSON. | ROBERT K. L. GALLOWAY. | A. H. MOODY. | W. M. FULLERTON.
Secretary—M. W. BLACKWOOD. | Chief Cashier—CHAS. W. PATTON. | Chief Accountant—J. WALLACE BLACKWOOD.
Head Office Manager and Assistant Secretary—JOHN GRAHAM. | Assistant Cashier—R. M. B. HARRISON. | Controller of Branches—JOHN KNOX PATTEN.
Chief Inspector of Branches—FREDERICK F. HYDE. | Inspectors of Branches—HENRY ADAMS and CHARLES PENDER.
Chief Inspectors of Branches—J. H. COULSON and J. G. MADILL.

BRANCHES.

DUBLIN	College Green. Lower Camden Street. Lower Baginbun Street.	Lower Camden Street. Ranelagh. Sackville Street.	BELFAST CORK—88, Patrick Street.	Carlisle Circus. Connswater. Crumlin Road.	Markets.	Shaftebury Sq. York Street.
ANTRIM ARDARA ARDER ARMAGH ARVA ATHBOY ATHENRY AUGHNACLOY BALLINA BALLINAMORE BALLINROBE BALLYCASTLE, Co. BALLYCLARE (Antrim) BALLYCONNELL BALLYHAUNIS BALLYJAMESDUFF	BALLYMENA BALLYMONEY BALLYMOT, Co. Sligo BALLYNAHINCH, Co. BANBRIDGE (Down) BANGOR, Co. Down BELMULLETT BELTUBBET BLACKROCK, Co. Dublin BLESSINGTON CARRICKMACROSS CARRIGALLAN CASTLEBERRY CASTLEFOLLARD CASTLEREA CASTLEWELLAN	BALLYMENA BALLYMONEY BALLYMOT, Co. Sligo BALLYNAHINCH, Co. BANBRIDGE (Down) BANGOR, Co. Down BELMULLETT BELTUBBET BLACKROCK, Co. Dublin BLESSINGTON CARRICKMACROSS CARRIGALLAN CASTLEBERRY CASTLEFOLLARD CASTLEREA CASTLEWELLAN	CAVAN CLOGHER CLONE COLERAINE COOKSTOWN COOTEHILL DELVIN, Co. Westmeath DONAGHADEE DONEGAL DOWNPATRICK DRAHERSTOWN DROMORE, Co. Down DROMORE, Co. Tyrone DUNDALK DUNGANNON DUNLAVIN	EDENDERRY, King's Co. EDGEWORTHSTOWN ENNISKILLEN ENNISKEENE FERRIS GARY, Co. Derry GLENMADADDY GLENTIES GORTIN GRANARD IRVINESTOWN KILKENNY KILLESHANDRA KILLYBEGS KILLYLEAGH KILMACTHOMAS KILNALECK	KINGSTOWN KIRKCUBBIN LARNE LETTERKENNY LIMAVADY LIMEICK LISBURN LISNAKEA LONDONDERRY LONGFORD LUGAN MAGHERA MAGHERAFELT MANORHAMILLON MOATE MONAGHAN	MULLINGAR NAAS NEWRY NEWTOWNARDS NEWTOWNHAMILTON OMAGH PORTADOWN RATHFRILAND SLIGO STEWARTSTOWN. STRABANE TRIM TUAM TULLAMORE WATERFORD WESTPORT WEXFORD
AGENCIES (open on Market and Fair Days).						
Ardglass Augher Ballisborough Ballinagh Ballinaloe Ballinlough Ballintra Ballivor (Fair Days in April and October) Ballybay Ballycarry Ballycastle, Co. Mayo (Fair Days) Ballygawley Ballyhalbert Ballymageauran (Fair Days) Ballymena (Market) Ballymacargy (Fort- nightly & Fair Days) Ballyvaughan	*Bangor Erris (Fair Days) *Bawnboy *Blacklion *Bonmahon *Brookeborough *Bushmills *Carnlough *Carriok, Co. Donegal *Carrikmore *Castlebellingham *Castletin *Celbridge *Clear *Cloughan *Clonsilla *Clonmellon *Coagh *Collinstown (Fair Days) *Collooney (Fair Days) *Comber	*Crossdoney (Fair Days) *Crossgar *Crossmolina (Fair Days) *Crumlin *Derrylin *Dervock (Fair Days) *Donemana *Dromahair (Fair Days) *Dromara *Drumkeeran *Drumlish *Dundrum *Dunkineely *Dunleer (Fair Days) *Dunmurry *Dunshaughlin *Easky *Enfield *Enniscorthy *Enniskillen (Belmore Street) (Fair Days) *Lanesborough	*Farnaharpy *Fintona *Fivemiletown *Frankford (Fair Days) *Frenchpark *Freshford *Geesala (Fair Days) *Glennarm *Grange (Fair Days) *Johnstownbridge (Fair Days) *Kilcar *Kilcock *Kilkerin (Fair Days) *Killaia *Killester (Fair Days) *Killican *Kilmacrennan *Killybegher (Fair Days) *Lanesborough	Lisbellaw Longwood (Fair Days) *Louisburgh *Markethill *Millfield *Millisle *Moira *Mountcharles (Fair Days) *Moy *Newcastle (Co. Down) *Newport *Newtownmore *Newtownsville *Omagh (Marketa) *Plumbridge *Pomeroy *Portavogie *Ramelton *Rathascan *Rathmolyon (April Annual Fair)	*Ratoath (Fair Days) *Riverstown (Fair Days) *Roslea *Shannon Bridge *Sixmilecross *Sixmilecross *Streets *Summerhill *Swanlinbar *Swatragh *Taghmon (Fair Days) *Tempo *Thomastown (Fair Days) *Tobermore *Trillick *Tullinadaly (Fair Days) *Wellington Bridge *Williamstown (Fair Days in May and Nov.)	
* Temporarily closed owing to the present disturbed state of the country.						

* Temporarily closed owing to the present disturbed state of the country. The Bank has Agents in all the principal Towns in the United Kingdom, on the Continent of Europe, and in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States of America, South America, India, China and Japan. BANKING BUSINESS of every description is conducted on the usual terms at the Head Office and Branches. THE MANAGING DIRECTORS devote their time exclusively to the affairs and business of the Bank, the Deed of Co-Partnership requiring that they shall not be engaged in any other business.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - £6,154,988

Capital Subscribed and Paid Up

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	.	.	.	.	.	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares	Issued to N.Z. Government					500,000
"B" Preference Shares	Issued to N.Z. Government					625,000
Ordinary Shares	.	.	.	.	.	2,250,000
						£3,904,988
Reserved Fund and Undivided Profits	.	.	.	.	.	2,105,818
						£6,010,806

HEAD OFFICE: WELLINGTON, N.Z. LONDON OFFICE: 1, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C. 4.
BRANCHES AND AGENCIES AT OVER 200 POINTS IN NEW ZEALAND,
And at Melbourne, Victoria; Sydney, New South Wales; Suva and Levuka, Fiji; Apia, Samoa.

THE LONDON OFFICE GRANTS DRAFTS on any of the above places; MAKES TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS; OPENS CURRENT ACCOUNTS for the convenience of its Colonial Constituents; NEGOTIATES AND COLLECTS BILLS payable in any part of Australasia, Fiji and Samoa; UNDERTAKES all descriptions of Colonial Banking and Monetary Business, and affords every facility to persons in their transactions with the Colonies.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862 on the 23rd of March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta 29th September, 1863.

Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.

Subscribed Capital	.	.	.	.	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	.	.	.	.	£2,000,000
Reserve Fund	.	.	.	.	£2,600,000
Number of Shareholders	.	.	.	.	2,148

Head Office: 26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy-Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. SIR CHARLES C. MCLEOD. J. N. STUART, Esq.
ROBERT MILLER, Esq. J. D. NIMMO, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

BRANCHES:

CALCUTTA	CAWNPORE	MANDALAY	ZANZIBAR	ENTEBBE
BOMBAY	DELHI	COLOMBO	MOMBASA	KAMPALA
MADRAS	LAHORE	KANDY	NAIROBI	JINJA
KURRACHEE	TUTICORIN	NEWERA ELIYA	NAKURU	TANGA
CHITTAGONG	COCHIN	ADEN [ADEN	KISUMU	DAR-ES-
AMRITSAR	RANGOON	STEAMER POINT		SALAAM

The Bank grants Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers on all places where it is represented; negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange; collects Pay, Pensions, and generally transacts every description of Eastern Banking Business. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods, not exceeding one year, at rates to be obtained on application.

The Bank opens Current Accounts, and, provided they do not fall below £200, allows Two per cent. per annum interest on the minimum monthly balances.

Telephone:
Barre 44-03.
" 54-24.
Inter. 102.

Adresse Telegraphique:
MITSUI, LYON.

H. HAMASAKI.

Agent de

MITSUI & CO., LIMITED,

(Incorporated in Japan).

TOKIO, YOKOHAMA, OSAKA, KOBE,
SHANGHAI, HONGKONG, CANTON, BOMBAY,
LONDON, HAMBURG, NEW YORK, etc.

**1 RUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE 1.
LYON, FRANCE.**

Codes used:
Bentley's complete
Phrase Code 1912.
Private

Scott's Code 10th.

A.B.C. 5th.

NEDERLANDSCHE HANDEL-MAATSCHAPPIJ

(NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY).

Established by Royal Charter A.D. 1824.

Capital Paid up	.	.	.	.	f.80,000,000 Neth. Currency (£6,666,666)
Statutory Reserve Fund	.	.	.	.	f.19,455,211 " " (£1,620,434)
Extraordinary Reserve Fund	.	.	.	.	f.22,660,000 " " (£1,888,333)

Head Office: AMSTERDAM.

Branches: ROTTERDAM, THE HAGUE.

Branches in the NETHERLANDS INDIES: BATAVIA, SOURABAYA, SAMARANG,
MEDAN, and further Principal Ports.

Branches in the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, BRITISH INDIA, CHINA and JAPAN:
SINGAPORE, PENANG, RANGOON, CALCUTTA, BOMBAY,
HONGKONG, SHANGHAI and KOBE.

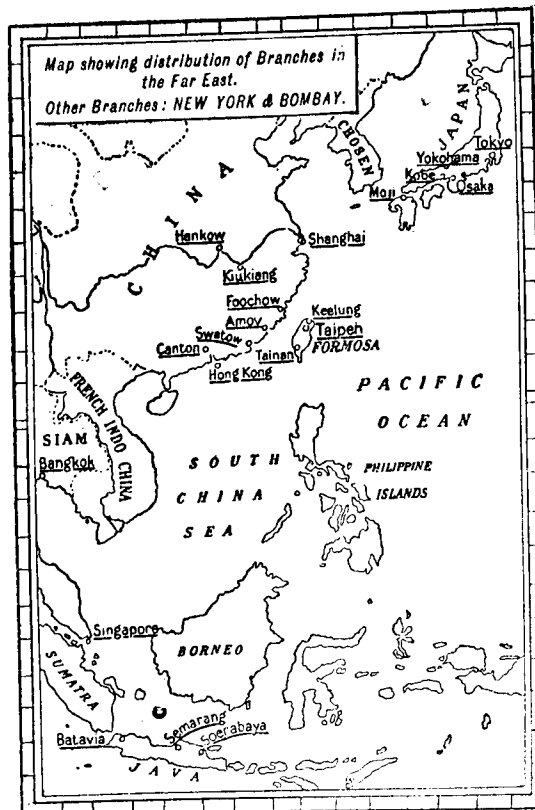
Grant Drafts and Issue Letters of Credit on all their Branches and Correspondents in the East,
on the Continent, on Great Britain, Africa, America and Australia, and transact
Banking Business of every description.

**LONDON CORRESPONDENTS: The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd.,
LONDON.**

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, Ltd.

(REGISTERED IN JAPAN, 1899.)

Head Office - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.



Capital Subscribed - - - Y. 60,000,000.⁰⁰
 Capital Paid up - - - Y. 52,500,000.⁰⁰
 Reserve Funds - - - Y. 12,180,000.⁰⁰

The Bank is incorporated by special charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue notes in Formosa, being under the special supervision of the Government.

The Bank transacts General Banking and Foreign Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business, and acts as Business Agents for other Banks.

Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

TOKYO OFFICE : Yeirakuchō, Kohjimachi-Ku, Tokyo
 LONDON OFFICE : 25, Old Broad St., London, E.C.2

Correspondents in every principal town in the World.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

PAID UP CAPITAL AND RESERVE FUND - £4,140,000

AFFILIATED WITH LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

DIRECTORS:

Chairman—J. W. BEAUMONT PEASE, Esq.
 E. ROSS DUFFIELD, Esq.
 RICHARD FOSTER, Esq.
 FOLLETT HOLT, Esq., M.I.C.E.
 KENNETH MATHIESON, Esq.
 HERMAN B. SIM, Esq.
 R. A. THURBURN, Esq.

ESTABLISHED AT:

ARGENTINA: BUENOS AIRES, with sub-branches at BARRACAS-AL-NORTE, BOCA DEL RIACHUELO, ONCE DE SETIEMBRE, CALLE SANTA FE, CALLE BERNARDO DE IRIGOYEN. Also at BAHIA BLANCA, CONCORDIA, CORDOBA, MENDOZA, PARANA, ROSARIO, TUCUMAN.
 URUGUAY: MONTE VIDEO, and at CALLE RIO NEGRO (Monte Video), PAYSANDU, SALTO, RIVERA.
 BRAZIL: RIO DE JANEIRO, BAHIA, CURITYBA, MACEIO, MANAOS, PARA, PELOTAS, PERNAMBUCO, PORTO ALEGRE, RIO GRANDE, SANTOS, SAO PAULO, VICTORIA.
 CHILE: VALPARAISO, SANTIAGO, ANTOFAGASTA
 PARAGUAY: ASUNCION.
 COLOMBIA: BOGOTA, MEDELLIN.
 U.S. AMERICA: NEW YORK, 51, Wall Street.
 FRANCE: PARIS, 9, Rue du Helder.
 BELGIUM: ANTWERP, 22, Place de Meir.
 PORTUGAL: LISBON, 44, Rua Aurea.

AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

BANKERS:

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

Purchases and sales of stocks and shares effected through the Bank's Brokers. All kinds of Banking Business transacted.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT:

Commercial information and up-to-date Reports on South American Firms are available on application, but although every care is taken that the information given is accurate, the Bank cannot guarantee or accept responsibility for same.

MONTHLY REVIEW POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

Head Office: 7 PRINCES STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.
 Agencies: MANCHESTER: 86, Cross Street. BRADFORD: 43, Hustlergate.

WILLIAM F. MALCOLM & CO.,

52, Leadenhall Street, LONDON, E.C.3.

Merchant Shippers

FLAX, HEMP,
JUTE & GRAIN

WM. F. MALCOLM & CO. - - -

Dundee, Scotland.
 Bologna, Italy.
 New York, U.S.A.
 Nakuru, B.E.A.

MALCOLM & CO. - - -

Reval, Esthonia.
 Riga, Latvia.

Telegraphic Address: "MALCOLM."

THE COUNTY BANK.

THE MANCHESTER & COUNTY BANK LIMITED.

Directors:

Sir FRANK FORBES ADAM, Bt., C.B., C.I.E., Manchester, Chairman.
 GEORGE HESKETH, Esq., Bolton, Deputy Chairman.
 The Hon. MARSHALL J. BROOKS, Rawtenstall.
 T. GILBERT DUGDALE, Esq., Blackburn.
 ERNEST S. GLADSTONE, Esq., Liverpool.
 Sir FRANK HOLLINS, Bt., Preston.
 JOHN W. MAKANT, Esq., Bolton.
 HENRY J. REISS, Esq., Manchester.
 Joint Managers: J. W. NIGHTINGALE and R. B. MARTIN.

Head Office - - - 55, KING STREET, MANCHESTER.
 Foreign Department 59, KING STREET, MANCHESTER.
 Liverpool Office - - - 53, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL
 (With Foreign Department Attached).

And 155 BRANCHES in LANCASHIRE and Adjacent Counties.

Capital Subscribed	-	-	-	-	-	-	£5,460,200
" Paid up	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,092,040
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	950,000
Deposit, etc: (31st Dec., 1921)	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,378,176

Current and Deposit Accounts are Opened. Interest is allowed in accordance with the current value of money.

Drafts and Letters of Credit issued, and Telegraphic Transfers of funds made, to all parts of the world.

Foreign Bills and Coupons collected or negotiated.

Purchases and Sales of Stocks and Shares effected.

The Officers of the Company are bound to secrecy in respect of the transactions of its customers.

AKTIEBOLAGET

GÖTEBORGS BANK

GOTHENBURG (Sweden), STOCKHOLM.

Established 1848.

100 PROVINCIAL BRANCHES.

Telegraphic Address: "GÖTABANK."

Capital (fully paid)	-	-	-	Kr. 43,750,000
Reserves	-	-	-	„ 35,000,000

Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

LONDON AGENTS:

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, LTD., Lombard Street.
HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.**WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK**

(Members of the London Bankers' Clearing House.)

LIMITED.

TOTAL ASSETS, 30th June, 1922 - - - £42,582,241LONDON OFFICE: - - - 20, BIRCHIN LANE, E.C.3.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: - - - MOSLEY STREET.
And 168 other Offices, in London, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire,
Derbyshire and Staffordshire.The Bank is prepared to act as Trustees under Wills, Settlements, Debentures, Trusts, &c.
Trustee Departments: LONDON and MANCHESTER.**SAVINGS ACCOUNTS OPENED.**Money received on deposit, bearing interest and repayable on demand.
Current Accounts conducted on agreed terms.**ACCEPTANCE CREDITS ARRANGED**AND
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.**STOCKHOLMS ENSKILDA BANK.**

BANK WITH UNLIMITED LIABILITY.

Established in 1856.

— STOCKHOLM. —

CAPITAL (paid up) - - - Kr. 43,500,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - - - Kr. 41,500,000.

Banking and Exchange Business of every description.

Bills negotiated or forwarded for Collection.

Letters of Credit and Travellers' Cheques issued available in the principal
Cities of the World.

Remittances made by Telegraphic Transfer.

Deposits received for fixed periods or at notice.

LONDON AGENTS:

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, LOTHBURY, E.C.; FREDK. HUTH & CO.;
HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.**BANCO DO BRASIL**
RIO DE JANEIROCAPITAL - - - - - 100.000 : 000\$000
RESERVES - - - - - 44.690 : 000\$000

Agencies in Brazil: Aracajú, Bagé, Bahia, Barretos, Bauri, Bello Horizonte, Cachoeira, Camocim, Campos, Carangola, Cataguazes, Corumbá, Curitiba, Cuyabá, Feira de Sta. Anna, Florianópolis, Fortaleza, Ilhéos, Ipameri, Jahu, Joinville, Juiz de Fora, Livramento, Maceió, Manaus, Maranhão, Mossoró, Natal, Pará, Parahyba, Parnahyba, Pelotas, Ponta Grossa, Porto Alegre, Recife, Ribeirão Preto, Rio Grande, Santos, São Felix, São Paulo, Therezina, Tres Corações, Tres Lagoas, Uberaba, Uruguayana, Varginha and Viçosa. To be shortly opened: Buenos Aires (Argentina), Montevideo (Uruguay).

Correspondents in all the other main places of Brazil.

London Bankers: N. M. Rothschild and Sons; London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.; and Baring Brothers and Co., Ltd.

Paris Bankers: Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Hottinguer & Cie., Banque Imperiale Ottomane.

New York Bankers: The National City Bank; Guaranty Trust Company of New York, and Dillon, Read & Co.

Every description of banking business transacted. Drafts drawn and single or circular Letters of Credit issued. Purchases and sales of securities effected. Accounts current opened and money received on deposit for fixed terms. Payments made; bills, cheques and other documents collected; dividends and annuities received for customers, and net proceeds remitted by first mails under the most favourable conditions.

Correspondence conducted in Portuguese, French and English.

Telegraphic Address: "Satellite"—for all offices. Codes used: Private, ABC 5th ed., Lieber's, Peterson's, Broomhall's Bentley's, Ribeiro, etc.

THE P. & O. BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 122 LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital	-	-	-	£5,000,000
Subscribed Capital	-	-	-	£2,594,160
Paid-up Capital	-	-	-	£2,594,160
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	£90,000

BRANCHES: 16 Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1; Calcutta; Bombay; Madras; Karachi; Colombo; Singapore; Shanghai.
To be opened shortly: Hongkong.

Affiliated Bank:

THE ALLAHABAD BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital	-	-	-	Rs. 40,00,000
Paid-up Capital	-	-	-	Rs. 35,50,000
Contingency Fund	-	-	-	Rs. 6,00,000

Head Office:

ALLAHABAD; with 32 Branches and Sub-Agencies in India.

Subscribed Capital	-	-	-	Rs. 40,00,000
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	Rs. 35,50,000

London Bankers: Bank of England; The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd.; London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd.; Lloyds Bank, Limited; Royal Bank of Scotland.

Every description of Banking Business transacted. Correspondents in all parts of the World.

THIRD IMPRESSION WITH ADDITIONAL CHAPTER AND STATISTICS.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PRICES

with special reference to the History of the Nineteenth Century.

By **WALTER T. LAYTON, M.A.** 7s. 6d. net.*The Economic Journal*:—"The high qualities he possesses and exhibits will, we are sure, recommend his 'Introduction' to all who would make at once the easiest and the safest approach available to the fascinating but complicated 'study of prices.' That is, perhaps, the most crucial of present popular economic questions, and it must always occupy a prominent place in the scientific discussions of professional economists."*The Westminster Gazette*:—"Mr. Layton, who is one of the ablest of the younger Cambridge economists, has refrained deliberately from a long exposition of the theory of the relation between price levels and the quantity of circulating currency. He has adopted that historical method which appeals to the instinctive empiricism of the practical man. His tracing of the price fluctuations of the past ninety years in England, and his analysis of their causes and results are admirably lucid. And if the book secures the wide circulation which its merits deserve, it should do much to draw public attention to the vital importance of a neglected question."*The Economic Review*:—"His excellent and clear little book ought to be in the hands of every student of social conditions."*The Practical Engineer*:—"This book should be valuable to the student of monetary values and prices, especially of the nineteenth century."**MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON, W.C.2.**

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

Governor: B. HORNSBY, C.B.E.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL	£3,000,000
RESERVE FUND	£2,200,000

London Agency:

6 & 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4

Branches in all the Principal Towns in
EGYPT and the SUDAN.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED.

(FOUNDED 1866.)

HEAD OFFICE: 64 Cornhill, London, E.C.3.

BRANCH: 11 Calea Victoriei, Bucarest.

DIRECTORS.

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. de CERJAT, Esq.

The Viscount GOSCHEN.

General The Hon. Sir H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.

Lieut.-Col. Sir ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

BANKERS: BANK OF ENGLAND; Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co.

A General Banking Business with Roumania is conducted, and Correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA

ESTABLISHED 1894. LIMITED.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£3,000,000
Paid-up Capital	£1,200,000
Reserve	£400,000

Chairman:

The Right Hon. THE EARL OF SELBORNE,
K.G., G.C.M.G.

Head Office:

17-18, LEADENHALL ST., LONDON, E.C.3.

General Manager:
LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

Liverpool Manchester Hamburg New York
West Africa Canary Islands Egypt Morocco

PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS:

Lloyds Bank, Ltd.; London County Westminster &
Parr's Bank, Ltd.; National Provincial & Union Bank
of England, Ltd.; Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.

Mellon National Bank

of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.,

Offers its wide experience and
comprehensive services to British
banks, merchants and manufacturers
in the transaction of American bank-
ing business of every description.

Complete facilities for handling
drafts, cheques, money orders,
bills of exchange, letters of credit,
and all other instruments of inter-
national banking.

Direct connections with all parts
of the United States.

Your correspondence is solicited.

Capital and Surplus - \$12,000,000.00

CABLE ADDRESS: "MELLONSON, PITTSBURGH."

London Agents: The NATIONAL PROVINCIAL
AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LTD.

UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, THE BANK OF ADELAIDE

ESTABLISHED 1830.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£5,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND	£1,100,000
DEPOSITS	£34,694,481

Chairman.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ATHOLL, K.T.

Deputy Chairman.

JOHN Y. BUCHANAN, Esq., F.R.S.

Ordinary Directors.

ROBERT CLARK, Esq., Shipowner, Glasgow.
ROBERT ELMSALL FINDLAY, Esq., Merchant, Glasgow.
ARTHUR C. D. GAIRDNER, Esq., Banker, London.
HENRY E. GORDON, Esq., of Aikenhead, Cathcart.
JAMES NOBLE GRAHAM, Esq., Merchant, Glasgow.
SIR LUDOVIC JAMES GRANT, Bart., Edinburgh.
WILLIAM HUTTON, Esq., Actuary, Glasgow.
ARCHIBALD R. C. PITMAN, Esq., Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh.
PETER RINTOUL, Esq., Chartered Accountant, Glasgow.
SIR H. ARTHUR ROSE, D.S.O., Merchant, Edinburgh.
The Right Honourable J. PARKER SMITH, of Jordanhill.
NORMAN L. HIRD, Esq., General Manager, Glasgow.

Every description of HOME AND FOREIGN Banking Business
transacted.
Letters of Credit on all places abroad, and cable remittances
arranged.

Duties of Trustee and Executor undertaken.
The Bank is closely associated with, and represents at its Scottish
Branches, THE BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK, LIMITED, 31, Lomb-
ard Street, London, E.C.3, which has been SPECIALLY
ORGANISED FOR FOREIGN BUSINESS.
At London Office, Current Accounts and other business conducted
on the usual terms of London Banks. Deposits received at interest.
NORMAN L. HIRD, General Manager.

HEAD OFFICES:

GLASGOW—Ingram Street. EDINBURGH—George Street.

LONDON OFFICE—62, Cornhill, E.C.3. John Alexander, Manager.

WITH
164 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

CAPITAL ALL PAID UP	\$20,000,000
SILVER RESERVE	\$23,500,000
STERLING RESERVE, held in London	£4,500,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS	\$20,000,000

Head Office - HONGKONG.
Chief Manager - Hon. Mr. A. G. STEPHEN.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:

Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Chefoo,
Colombo, Dairen (Dalny), Foochow, Haiphong, Hamburg,
Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe
(Hiogo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila,
Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San
Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Sungei Patani,
Tientsin, Tsingtao, Vladivostok, Yloilo, Yokohama.

COMMITTEE IN LONDON:

Sir Charles Addis, K.C.M.G., Chairman.
Hon. Cecil Baring. C. A. Campbell.
David Landale. Sir George Sutherland.
A. M. Townsend. C. F. Whigham.

MANAGERS IN LONDON:

SIR NEWTON J. STABS. H. D. C. JONES.
Sub-Manager, John MacLennan. Accountant, A. Moncur.

9, GRACECHURCH STREET,
LONDON, E.C.3.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE

(Established 1865).

Paid-up Capital	£825,000
Reserve Fund	650,000
	1,275,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,900,000

Head Office—Adelaide, South Australia.

MELBOURNE OFFICE—267 COLLINS STREET.

SYDNEY OFFICE—105 PITT STREET.

LONDON OFFICE—11 LEADENHALL ST., E.C.3.

Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.

Drafts and Letters of Credit issued and
Remittances cabled.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be
ascertained on application, and every other description of
banking and exchange business transacted.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

PAID-UP CAPITAL (25,000 shares of £10 each)	£250,000
RESERVE FUND	£750,000
RESERVED PROFITS	£15,822
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS	£250,000

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected, Deposits
received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all
Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted
through the

London Agents:

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE, 11 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT CO. LIMITED,

24 Lombard Street, E.C.3.

Capital Authorised	£1,250,000
Capital Subscribed	1,100,000
Paid up	600,000
Reserve Fund	320,000

DIRECTORS.

COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Chairman.

ROBERT ERNEST ALEXANDER.

GEORGE CLEVERLY ALEXANDER.

PHILIP PEMBROKE ALEXANDER.

SIR AUSTIN EDWARD HARRIS, K.B.E.

Manager—F. NEWCOMB.

Sub-Manager—E. D. SPRING RICE.

Secretary—A. K. BRUCE.

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Loans
granted on negotiable securities. Money received
on deposit at call and short notices at current market
rates, as advertised from time to time in the daily
papers. For longer periods on specially agreed terms.

The Company deals in British Treasury
Bills of any maturity.

LONDON & BRAZILIAN BANK LIMITED.

Established 1862.

7, TOKENHOUSE YARD, E.C.2

Manchester Agency:
36, CHARLOTTE STREET.

Subscribed Capital - £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital - 1,500,000
Reserve Fund - 1,500,000

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Manáos, Pará, Maranhao, Ceara, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, San Paulo, Curitiba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Pelotas. River Plate—Buenos Ayres, Rosario and Montevideo. United States—New York (Agency). Europe—Paris, Lisbon and Oporto.

Agents or Correspondents in all the principal cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

Drafts, Letters of Credit and Cable Transfers issued on Branches and Agents. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent for collection, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

THE EASTERN BANK LIMITED.

Head Office:

4 CROSBY SQ., LONDON, E.C. 3.

Authorised Capital ... £2,000,000
Paid-up Capital ... £1,000,000
Reserve Fund ... £300,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman.
J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Deputy Chairman.
Sir JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.
JAMES H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCOU, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
Sir PERCY NEWSON, Bart., M.P.

Branches—

BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, COLOMBO,
BAGDAD, BASRA, BAHREIN, AMARA,
HILLAH, MOSUL.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for one year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On current accounts Interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, Manager.

Telegraphic Address. "Compdebar, Amsterdam."

Handel-Maatschappij
H. Albert de Bary & Co.
AMSTERDAM

Merchant Bankers

Capital Fl.6,000,000
(FULLY PAID)

BANCO DE CHILE

94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - \$100,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - 58,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS - - - 100,000,000
RESERVE FUND IN GOLD OF 18d - 13,333,333
= £1,000,000

Chilian
Dollars

Head Offices—SANTIAGO & VALPARAISO.

BRANCHES.

Santiago (Estacion), Santiago (Matadero),
Santiago (San Pablo), Santiago (Bella Vista),
Valparaiso (Almendral), Ancud, Antofagasta,
Arica, Chillan, Concepcion, Copiapó, Coquimbo,
Curicó, Illapel, Iquique, La Calera, Lebu,
Ligua, Los Andes, Los Angeles, Mulchen, Nueva
Imperial, Osorno, Ovalle, Puerto Montt, Quillota,
Rancagua, Rengo, San Carlos, San Fernando,
San Felipe, Serena, Tacna, Talca, Talcahuano,
Taltal, Temuco, Tomé, Tocopilla, Traiguén,
Valdivia, Vallenar, Vicuña, Vina del Mar.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current Accounts also opened and Deposits received.

DAVID BURNS, Manager.

FINLANDS BANK

HELSINGFORS.

The only Bank authorized to issue
Bank Notes in Finland.

ESTABLISHED 1811.

Governor: OTTO STENROTH.

Managing Directors:
K. BASILIER, ERNST GRÄSTEN,
ERIK von FRENCKELL,
LAURI af HEURLIN.

CAPITAL Fmk.156,000,100

Branches at: Björneborg, Joensuu,
Jyväskylä, Kotka, Kuopio, St. Michel,
Sordavala, Tammerfors, Tavastehus,
Uleåborg, Wasa, Wiborg, and Åbo.

THE Sumitomo Bank, Limited.

OSAKA, JAPAN.

ESTABLISHED 1895.
(Successors to the Sumitomo Bank.)

Capital Subscribed Yen 70,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital - Yen 50,000,000.00
Reserve Fund - Yen 22,500,000.00
Deposits (Dec., 1921) - Yen 369,000,000.00

BARON K. SUMITOMO, President.
K. YUKAWA, Esq., Managing Director.
T. KANO, Esq., " "
S. YOSHIDA, Esq., " "
N. YATSUSHIRO, Esq., " "

Home Branches.—Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto,
Kobe, Hyogo, Onomichi, Niihama, Kure, Hiroshima, Yanai,
Shimonoseki, Moji, Kokura, Wakamatsu, Hakata, and Kurume.
Foreign Branches.—Shanghai, Hankow, Bombay,
London, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Honolulu.
London Bankers.—Lloyds Bank Limited.

Correspondents in all important places at Home and Abroad.

The Bank buys, sells and receives for collection Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers; issues Commercial and Travellers' Letters of Credit available in all important parts of the world, besides doing general Banking Business.

London Office: 67, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2.
K. OHDAIRA, Manager.

Cable Address: "OKSUMITBAN, LONDON."

THE DAI-ICHI GINKO, LIMITED

(FORMERLY THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK)
ESTABLISHED 1873.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - Yen 50,000,000.00
PAID-UP CAPITAL - Yen 36,350,000.00
RESERVE FUND - Yen 33,500,000.00

Y. SASAKI, President.

K. ISHII, Managing Director.

Y. NOGUCHI, Managing Director.

S. SUGITA, Managing Director.

HEAD OFFICE:

No. 1, KABUTO-CHO, NIHONBASHI-KU, TOKYO.

T. AKASHI, Manager.

CITY BRANCHES:

Isecho, Shin-Osakacho, Fukagawa, Marunouchi.

HOME BRANCHES:

Yokohama, Nagoya, Yokkaichi, Kyoto, Nishijin (Kyoto),
Gojo (Kyoto), Fushimi, Osaka, Nishiku (Osaka), Minamiku
(Osaka), Honmachi (Osaka), Kobe, Hyogo, Hiroshima,
Shimonoseki, Chofu, Moji, Fukuoka, Kurume, Kumamoto,
Hakodate, Otaru, Sapporo, Muroran.

BRANCHES IN COREA:

Seoul, Fusan.

LONDON & NEW YORK BANKERS:

LONDON: NEW YORK:
London County Westminster The National City Bank of
& Parr's Bank, Ltd. New York.
The London Joint City & The National Bank of Com-
Midland Bank, Ltd. merce in New York.
The Yokohama Specie Bank, The Yokohama Specie Bank,
Ltd. Ltd.

CORRESPONDENTS:

The Bank, in addition to its own Branches, has numerous Agencies or Correspondents in the principal Cities and Towns at Home and Abroad.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £750,000
SUBSCRIBED & PAID-UP CAPITAL - 240,000

HEAD OFFICE:

AMSTERDAM, Keizersgracht 389.

LONDON AGENCY:

2, Great Winchester-street, E.C.2.
London Manager: J. Cost-Budde.

LONDON BANKERS:

Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Capital & Counties Bank Branch)
Messrs. B. W. Blydenstein and Co.

BRANCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Cape Town, Bethlehem, Bloemfontein, Breyten, Brits, Bronk-
horstspuit, Dullstroom, Durban, Ermelo, Hartebeestfontein,
Johannesburg, Pietersburg, Port Elizabeth, Potchefstroom,
Premier Mine, Pretoria, Witbank.

The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts and Letters of Credit, and to make Telegraphic Transfers upon its Branches as well as upon its Agencies in Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal.
Bills negotiated and collected, and every description of Banking Business transacted in connection with South Africa.
Current Accounts kept and Deposits received for fixed periods.
The Bank acts in South Africa as Agents for the

PRETORIA HYPOTHEEK MAATSCHAPPY

(Pretoria Mortgage Company).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Money advanced on loan on the security of landed property.

BANQUE DES PAYS DE L'EUROPE CENTRALE

Société Anonyme Française.

Capital - - - 100,000,000 Francs

Head Office: 12, RUE DE CASTIGLIONE, PARIS.

Office at VIENNA

and Branches at Graz, Innsbruck, Linz, Salzburg,
Baden (near Vienna), St. Pölten.Principal Affiliated Banks and Correspondents in
Central Europe:—

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Commercial & Industrial Bank, formerly Laenderbank.

Head Office: Prague.

Branches at Asch, Jablonec (Gablonz), Graslitz, Jihlava
(Iglau), Königgratz, Plzeň (Pilsen), Liberec (Reichenberg),
Schönlinde, Teplitz, Warnsdorf, Weipert, Joachimsthal,
Nixdorf, Nachod.

ROUMANIA.

Banque de Crédit Roumain. Head Office: Bucarest.
Branches at Braïla, Galatz, Constantza.

POLAND.

Banque Générale de Crédit. Head Office: Lemberg.
Branches at Cracovie, Drohobycz, Borislav.

HUNGARY.

Banque Hongroise d'Escompte et de Change, Budapest.

SERBIA, JUGO-SLAVIA.

Banque Croate d'Escompte, Zagreb (Agram).

Every Class of Banking Business Undertaken.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

CAPITAL - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - £3,700,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER,
Chairman.
Sir DUNCAN CARMICHAEL,
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
Sir WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE
GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
The Right Hon. LORD GEORGE
HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.

W. E. PRESTON, Chief Manager. J. S. BRUCE, G. MILLER, Managers.

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.

ALOR STAR (Malay States)	HANKOW	PENANG
AMRITSAR	HONG KONG	PUKET
BANGKOK	ILOILO	RANGOON
BATAVIA	IPOH	SAIGON
BOMBAY	KARACHI	SEREMBAN
CALCUTTA	KLANG	SHANGHAI
CANTON	KOBE	SINGAPORE
CAWNPORE	KUALA LUMPUR	SOURABAYA
CEBU	MADRAS	TAIPEING (F.M.S.)
COLOMBO	MANILA	TAVOY
DELHI	MEDAN	TIENTSIN
HAIPHONG	NEW YORK	YOKOHAMA
	PEKING	

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
THE LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND,
LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant
Drafts payable at the above Agencies and Branches, and transact general
Banking business connected with the East. Deposits of Money are received for
fixed periods at terms which may be ascertained on application; interest
payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December. On Current Accounts
interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances
provided they do not fall below £200.

DEN NORSKE CREDITBANK

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY.

Established 1857.

Branch: ARENDAL.

Telegraphic Address: "Creditbank."

Capital, Fully paid Kr. 44,000,000
Reserve Funds Kr. 29,000,000

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING
BUSINESS TRANSACTED. Bills
collected all over Norway. Deposits
received at favourable rates. Foreign
Exchange bought and sold.

LONDON AGENTS:

Hambros Bank, Limited; London Joint City and
Midland Bank, Limited, Overseas Branch, 65/66
Old Broad Street; Messrs. Cox & Co., City Office,
38 Lombard Street.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

35 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegraphic Address:
"NATDIS, STOCK, LONDON."Telephones:
No. 1484 AVENUE (2 lines).
No. 11948 CENTRAL.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £1,693,380 0 0

PAID-UP CAPITAL

"A" Shares of £2 10s. fully paid £423,332 10 0
"B" Shares of £7 10s., £2 10s. paid 423,332 10 0

RESERVE FUND .. £846,665 0 0

DIRECTORS.

Col. The Hon. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O., M.P., Chairman.
LAWRENCE E. CHALMERS, Deputy-Chairman.
FREDERICK W. GREEN.
The Rt. Hon. F. LEVERTON HARRIS.
WALTER J. HERIOT.

Sir SIGISMUND F. MENDL, K.B.E.

CHARLES D. SELIGMAN.

PHILIP H. WADE.

Manager.—PHILIP H. WADE.

Sub-Manager.—FRANCIS GOLDSMITH.

Secretary.—CHARLES H. GOUGH.

Auditors.

FRANCIS W. PIXLEY (Jackson, Pixley & Co.).
SIR ALBERT WYON, K.B.E. (Price, Waterhouse & Co.).

Bankers.

BANK OF ENGLAND.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.
Bank and Approved Mercantile Bills Discounted.
Money received on Deposit at Call and Short Notice, and Interest
allowed at the Current Market Rates; and for longer periods upon
specially agreed terms.
Loans granted upon negotiable securities.
Investments and Sales of all descriptions of British and
Foreign Securities effected. All communications on this subject
to be addressed to the Manager.

The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney,

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1834.

INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Capital Paid Up £3,000,000 . 0 . 0

Reserve Fund £2,460,000 . 0 . 0

Reserve Liability of
Shareholders £3,000,000 . 0 . 0

Drafts payable on demand and Letters of Credit on
Australasia are issued by the London Branch. Bills on
Australasia negotiated or collected. Remittances cabled.

London Offices:

18 BIRCHIN LANE, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

F. A. SCRIVENER, Manager.

TELEGRAMS

FOR
AUSTRALASIA, CHINA, JAPAN,
DUTCH INDIES, STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS, INDIA, AFRICA,
SPAIN, PORTUGAL, THE
MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTH
AMERICA.

"Via Eastern"

STATIONS:

LONDON: 4 ELECTRA HOUSE, MOORGATE, E.C.2.
8 Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.
Market Buildings, 29 Mining Lane—26 Mark Lane, E.C.3.
"The Baltic" Exchange, Bury Street Entrance, E.C.3.
190, Strand, W.C.2.
41 and 42 Parliament Street, S.W.1.
37 Holborn Viaduct, E.C.1.
6 Denman Street, Borough, S.E.1.
115 Cannon Street, E.C.4.
BIRMINGHAM: Guildhall Buildings, Pinfold Street.
BRADFORD: 4 Commercial Street.
BRISTOL: 2 Small Street.
CARDIFF: 33 Merchants' Exchange, Bute Docks.
DUNDEE: 46 Bell Street.
EDINBURGH: 38 Frederick Street.
GLASGOW: 5 Royal Bank Place.
HULL: 76 Lowgate.
LEEDS: 72a Wellington Street.
LIVERPOOL: K13 Exchange Buildings.
The Cotton Exchange.
MANCHESTER: 55 Spring Gardens.
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE: Maritime Buildings, King Street.
PORTHOUNOW: Cornwall.

AND FROM ALL POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES
The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1911.

Head Office: BOMBAY.

Local Branches:

MANDVI, ZAVERI BAZAR, SHARE BAZAR AND
ABDUL REHMAN STREET.

Branches:

CALCUTTA (with a Sub-Branch), KARACHI, LAHORE
(with a Sub-Branch), AMRITSAR, JHARIA,
LYALLPUR AND KASUR.

London Agents:

THE LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND
BANK, LIMITED.

Agents in America:

THE EQUITABLE TRUST CO. OF NEW YORK

Agent in Germany:

THE DEUTSCHE BANK, BERLIN.

Subscribed Capital Rs. 1,00,00,000

Paid-up Capital - Rs. 50,00,000

Reserve Fund - - Rs. 25,00,000

Deposits (30/6/1922) - Rs. 13,44,00,000

S. N. POCHKHANAWALA, Managing Director.

If you want
the best Tea
buy from the firm
that grows it

LIPTON'S TEA

LIPTON'S

TEA PLANTERS, CEYLON

The Largest Tea Distributors,

Manufacturers and Retailers

of Food Products in the World

Head Office: CITY ROAD

LONDON, E.C.1

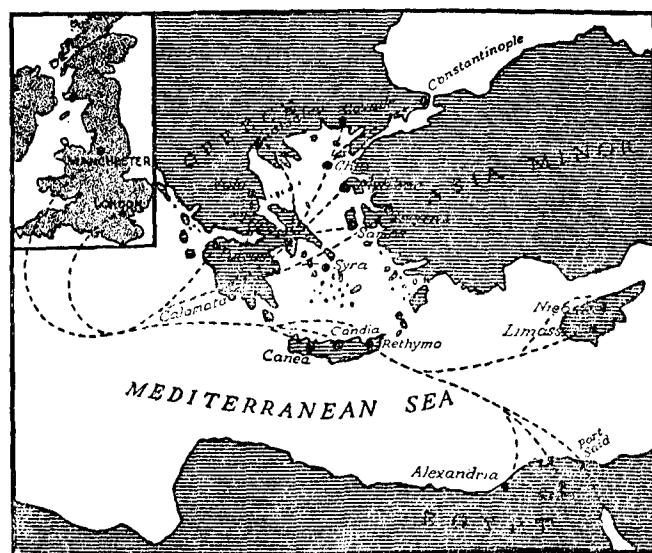
Branches & Agencies through-

out the United Kingdom

LIPTON, LTD.

The
BANK OF ATHENS

draws the attention of
British merchants and
manufacturers to the
very important markets
of the
NEAR EAST



Traders contemplating opening up business in these countries are invited to apply for information and guidance, in addition to the usual banking facilities,

to

THE BANK OF ATHENS
Fenchurch Street, London.E.C.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY.

LORD INCHCAPE ON THE TRADE OUTLOOK.

SHIPPING POSITION—NECESSITY FOR LOWER COSTS.

"EGYPT" DISASTER—COMPANY'S FINE RECORD.

The eighty-second annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held, on the 18th instant, at the offices, 122 Leadenhall street, London, Lord Inchcape (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the meeting had been called a few weeks earlier than usual, as he had been commandeered by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy to be Chairman of an Indian Economy Committee, and he was leaving next day for Delhi. Incidentally, stockholders would get their dividend earlier. He felt he had acted rightly in obeying the summons of the Government to take up a duty which he hoped might lead to economy and an arrest of increased taxation in India.

THE " EGYPT " DISASTER

Referring to the loss of the company's steamship "Egypt" by collision during fog, his Lordship remarked that the board had lieutenants and experienced technical advisers to guide them, and the regulations laid down by the directors were, as the Court stated, very complete. The record of the P. and O. and Associated Companies spoke for itself. During the past year the ships of the combined companies had traversed over 16,000,000 miles and carried 2,500,000 passengers and crew. Nothing had been or would be wanting to ensure the carrying out of every possible precaution to protect the lives of those entrusted to them. He had travelled on a great many P. and O. steamers and ships of other lines, and could safely say that the organisation and discipline in the P. and O. were second to none, but, no matter what the regulations or instructions might be, the human element had always to be reckoned with. The "Egypt," expensively reconditioned after five years' Government service, was commanded by a man who had an unblemished record of 34 years' service in the P. and O.; she was well manned and well found, and a slight variation in speed of either of the vessels would have averted the disaster; but nothing was more dangerous at sea than fog which came down suddenly and in patches.

ADVERSE TRADE CONDITIONS.

Many of their voyages had shown an adverse result. Outward freights had been scarce; homeward rates of freight to a great extent unremunerative; operating expenses had continued far in excess of the pre-war level. The strike of ship repairers, ended by an acceptance of the masters' terms, had involved the company in serious difficulties, and ships had consequently had to go to sea with dirty hulls, or, in some cases, to be docked and overhauled at Continental ports, where money was spent in labour and material instead of in London.

The company had raised £3,500,000 by debenture issue on favourable terms for new construction. These debentures, chiefly taken up by the company's own stockholders, had considerably increased in value. The new debentures were redeemable not later than 1940, and the directors had set aside an initial sum of £60,000 towards the sinking fund; they had, besides, written off the discount and expense of issue, about £192,000. They had obtained authority under a supplementary charter for a further £3,500,000 of debentures, but had no immediate intention of making the issue. Although the insurance account had not gone so well as in the past year, they had increased the amount at credit by £94,242 7s 11d, bringing it to £3,094,242 7s 11d.

DIVIDENDS.

Recently, in reply to a question by Sir Eric Geddes, he (the Chairman) had said that shipping was doing badly. Sir Eric's caustic reply was, "Oh, I suppose you will be paying your dividend out of your losses." (Laughter.) It had not come to that; their associated companies had helped materially; their conservative policy had assured a handsome sum from their investments, and the directors felt justified in proposing dividends of 5 per cent. on the preference stock, less tax, and 12 per cent. on the deferred stock, tax free.

Although there were signs of a break in the clouds they had apparently a poor year or two ahead. Operating costs must come down to secure an equilibrium, or disaster must follow. Fortunately, the P. and O. and associated companies had provided for

bad years, and could carry on; but meantime they must try to get back to something more than making both ends meet. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was, he continued, manfully grappling to reduce public expenditure, and the country looked to him to bring down taxation. The community wanted to be permitted, by saving again, to build up the wealth of the country for reproductive enterprise.

Five large new vessels for the branch service were now all in commission, and, for their special service, were second to none. Last year this service was able to fill only 30 per cent. of its outward cargo space, and although things were now no better they hoped for an early revival in the Australian trade.

AUSTRALIAN TRIBUTE TO SHIPPING COMPANIES.

Of the enormous stock of Government wool in Australasia the last of the New Zealand wool had, under a contract made soon after the Armistice by their lines and others, been transported; the last of the Australian wool would not be shipped before the spring. He mentioned this because in the report of the Government Controlling Committee, just issued, the following passage occurred:—

"As shipping companies generally have the reputation of enforcing the highest rates, the present is an opportune occasion to state that the treatment received by the British Australian Wool Realisation Association, Limited, from the contractors has been most considerate in respect of freight rates, and particularly in respect of the extension of the period for the shipment of wool stored in Australia."

He would like in return to say that in all the negotiations there had been that policy of give-and-take essential to the conduct of large operations.

REDUCTION OF WAGES.

Dockers' wages had been brought down to 11s a day, with a further agreed reduction of 1s as from June next. It had been agreed that where necessary piece-rates should be reviewed by the special committee, and it was hoped that consequently peace in dockland all over the country was assured for some time to come. Under the National Maritime Board reductions in sea pay had been agreed—£2 a month for seamen, firemen, and stewards, and more in the higher-paid grades. Distasteful as it was, he feared there must soon be further considerable reductions if the ships were to be kept running. The directors were greatly indebted to their colleague Mr Allen for the work he had done as Chairman of the Employers' Committee in these negotiations and for the patience he had exercised in bringing about these amicable arrangements.

With regard to the accounts, it would be observed that the items on the assets side were now given in more detail, but it was not in the stockholders' interest to disclose, for the benefit of competitors, the whole of the working of the company.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD.

He regretted that Mr Ernest Cunard had had to retire from the board owing to ill-health. Lord Chalmers had also retired, and the directors had co-opted Mr G. F. Hotblack, Mr F. C. Allen, and Sir John Denison-Pender, all business men of large experience, who would be invaluable on the board, and whose appointment he hoped the stockholders would confirm.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Walter R. Lawrence, Bart., seconded the resolution.

In reply to some points regarding passenger arrangements, the Chairman thanked Mr Hastie, the speaker, adding that suggestions from passengers were always welcomed by the board. Recently some improvement had been made regarding special trains from Plymouth for the service of homeward passengers disembarking there.

VALUE OF THE FLEET.

Dealing with questions on the accounts raised by Mr Grinnell-Milne, his Lordship remarked that the sum shown in the accounts as the value of the fleet did not include any steamers owned by the associated companies; it did include the cost—some £900,000 apiece—of the five new steamers built during the war for the branch

line and the cost of the "Moldavia," about £1,200,000, and payments on account of their new 16,000- and 20,000-ton steamers. They hoped soon to reduce the book value of their new ships—he would not say how. As he told them last year, of the total £12,000,000 cash and securities no less than £7,500,000 were represented by Government securities which had cost £6,893,784. Their investments were all very much under market value, but it would not be in the interests of the shareholders to disclose the figures. The credit balance was arrived at by the profit they had earned on running their ships and dividends on investments. As to the effect on the insurance fund of the losses of the "Egypt" and "Wiltshire," P. and O. steamers were not included in the fund—they never had been—but the loss of the "Wiltshire" was charged to that account. Cash in hand varied from day to day, and it was now in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million. The average valuation of the fleet was considerably under the figure of £20 a ton mentioned by Mr Milne, even taking the new ships into consideration.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the dividends recommended were declared.

The appointment of the new directors was confirmed, and the retiring director was re-elected, as were also the auditors. A further resolution was passed consenting to the acceptance of the tenth supplemental charter sanctioned by His Majesty in Council.

Sir Fortescue Flannery, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman and the board, said that the results attained in a difficult year must be a source of satisfaction to the shareholders.

The vote was unanimously accorded, and, the Chairman having briefly responded, the proceedings terminated.

COLTNESS IRON COMPANY, LIMITED. RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR. COLLIERIES' IMPROVED OUTPUT.

The annual general meeting of the Coltness Iron Company, Limited, was held on Friday, 13th instant, within the registered office of the company, 138 West George street, Glasgow.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr Robert Russell, the chairman of the board, Mr J. Hamilton Houldsworth presided.

He said that the report now before the meeting shows that during the past year, owing to the serious and continued depression in trade—the blast furnaces and bye-products plant having been practically idle during the whole year—the results are regrettable poor, but, at the same time, they may not be regarded as unsatisfactory.

YEAR'S PROFIT.

The accounts for the year showed a profit of £14,733 on the year's operations, as against a profit of £111,013 in the previous year, and after writing off £24,948 for redemption and depreciation, and bringing in £7,000 for appreciation in the value of the special reserve fund for investments, and transferring £40,000 from the ordinary reserve fund, there was a credit balance of £36,785.

ALLOCATIONS.

They have set aside this year to meet the expense of relining of blast furnaces, &c., £9,000, and after deducting this sum and adding the amount brought forward from the previous year of £19,703, there is a balance left of £47,488. Interim dividends have already been paid on the first and second preference shares amounting to £12,875, leaving a balance of £34,613, which the directors recommend should be dealt with as follows:—

In payment of the dividends on the first and second preference shares for the second six months of the year, £12,875, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £21,738.

Owing to the continued depression in trade, he regretted that, for the first time in the history of the company, the results did not admit of any dividend for the ordinary shareholders.

BLAST FURNACE DEPARTMENT.

With regard to the blast furnace department, which includes the bye-products plant, these had been idle for the whole of the year, and while there might be some little sign of improvement in the condition of the iron trade, he regretted that the difference between the cost and selling price of pig-iron did not yet admit of the relighting of the furnaces. The effect of the introduction of the three-shifts system into coal-fed furnaces, such as they had in Scotland, was a severe handicap to the Scottish works in their competition with English coke-fed furnaces, with their large production.

Before the manufacture of pig-iron can be successfully carried on in Scotland, the cost of labour, railway charges, and the price of coal and other materials must all be reduced.

COLLIERIES.

As to the collieries, these were working steadily all the year, although during the first three months the full output of coal was

not reached owing to the disastrous strike of last year. The output was better this year than last by about 300,000 tons. It appeared that the only way to reduce the cost of coal and add to the wages of the miners was to increase the output by working 11 days per fortnight and eight hours per day. The output at Kingshill Colliery was now well over 20,000 tons per month, as compared with 9,000 tons at this time last year, but it is still handicapped for the want of houses for the workmen.

The steel foundry was practically at a standstill nearly all the year, and the immediate prospect of securing more work was far from being bright.

The brickworks were fully employed all the year.

ALQUIFE MINES.

The Alquife Mines were idle during the whole of the year. The railway service has been most unsatisfactory, only 5,000 tons of ore having been transported to the shipping port. In the negotiations with the railway company no arrangements have as yet been arrived at, but a Bill for reorganising and developing the railways is now being considered by the Spanish Parliament, and it is hoped that when this is passed an adequate service, conforming to contracts with the railway company, will be given. The stock of ore at the mines is still about 250,000 tons.

WARWICKSHIRE COALFIELDS.

With regard to the Warwickshire coalfields, the Coventry colliery was now sufficiently developed to allow of the present output of 10,000 tons per month being doubled, but owing to the state of trade in Warwickshire, the demand at present was less than we could produce. Even were there an improvement in the industrial situation, the output could not be increased much further owing to the shortage of houses. The company were hopeful of the Government building houses, but they had stopped further building meantime. It was imperative that other arrangements be made, and it had therefore been decided to form an industrial housing company for providing the necessary houses. The Government, knowing the necessity for providing houses for the working classes, were lending 75 per cent. of the cost, and the company to be formed would provide the further 25 per cent. of the capital.

The directors' report and the balance-sheet as at July 31st last were adopted, and the retiring directors, Mr Peter Rintoul and Sir Henry Hamilton Houldsworth, Bart., were re-elected.

The auditors (Messrs Kerr, MacLeod, and Macfarlan) were re-appointed, and the usual vote of thanks terminated the proceedings.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED. INCREASE IN TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London. Viscount St Davids (chairman of the company) presided.

The secretary (Mr F. Sanders) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said that when he addressed the stockholders a year ago he said that they were in for a bad year. It had been a bad year, but bad as it had been, it had been a good deal better than he expected. The board had been able to put a pretty fair face upon things, but that had only been possible by exercising the most drastic economy in Argentina. There was one most gratifying feature during the last twelve months in their case. The reports of most of the other Argentine railways showed a decrease in traffic of something like £500,000, but the Buenos Ayres and Pacific had an increase of £600,000, and he wanted to point out that what had saved them had been the irrigated districts. This traffic had not come from a good crop here or another, he believed they could reckon on holding it.

There was a great deal more land in these provinces which could be put under irrigation. He was so immensely struck when out there with the success of these branches that he telegraphed to ask the board to let him authorise the construction of three £100,000 of that would be cash outlay. The other £200,000 would be found by using up stores which they had had by them for many years, which had been producing nothing, but which from the day they put them into the lines would begin to produce revenue. There was another reason for building the lines. They had been very fairly and honourably treated by the Government in the matter of their rates, and he thought it was a good thing and a decent thing that before the stockholders got a penny benefit from the increased rates they should show the Government that they were ready to meet them and at once do their best to resume the development of the country. Happily the decent thing was the wise thing as well. The stockholders might ask, Did this mean raising capital? It meant nothing of that

kind. For any plans which they had before them he saw no need to raise any fresh capital.

As to the immediate future, he asked the stockholders to watch the traffic returns. Up to date they had an increase of £58,000. To make a gain of £350,000 on the year they had to have an average increase from now to the end of June next of £8,200 a week. In the three months July, August, and September, which were in the lean half-year, they had had a gross increase in traffic of £30,000. Last year in those three months they made a net profit of £209,000, whereas this year their net profit for the corresponding period had gone up to £424,000, or more than double. If they got an average crop, and exchange stood where it was, he was very confident that next spring they would be paying an interim dividend on their second preference stock and on their ordinary stock. He remarked, generally, that any forecast as to the remoter future could only be guesswork. He pointed out, however, that for many years past many of their branches, and especially the long branches through the desert, had been a heavy burden upon them, but in those districts the traffic was now growing up to the branches. This was irrigated traffic, and not dependent on the fluctuations of weather to any great extent; it was traffic, therefore, on which, taking one year with another, they could depend. Unless he were quite wrong in his expectations, they had better times ahead of them.

In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr J. A. Goudge, C.B.E. (the managing director), seconded the motion, and after some discussion it was unanimously carried.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED. REDUCED EXPENDITURE—INCREASED PROFITS.

The ninety-first ordinary general meeting of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at Electra House, Moorgate, London, Sir John Denison-Pender, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr A. R. Hardie) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: The gross revenue for the year was £4,124,976, as against, for the preceding year, £4,381,856, showing a decrease when comparing the two years of £256,880.

In considering these figures it should be borne in mind that the year 1920 produced the highest gross revenue in the history of the company, a figure which we could scarcely hope to maintain under the adverse conditions of general trade depression which affected commercial undertakings generally during the period with which we are now dealing.

As regards the expenditure side of the revenue account, I am pleased to say that the total expenses for the year show a reduction of £550,682 when compared with the preceding year, the respective totals being, for the year 1920, £2,988,783, for the year 1921, £2,438,101.

SALARIES.

Several items of expenditure, particularly salaries and wages of staff, show increases. Regarding the question of salaries, I explained to you fully on a former occasion the principle on which we had dealt with this rather difficult problem. Owing to the revolution which took place in the scales of pay for all classes both at home and abroad, in consequence of the radical change in the conditions of living occasioned by the war, it was necessary to reconstruct our standard scales of salaries and wages. In our case the position was complicated on account of the adverse effect which the depreciated currency in several countries had on the local salaries abroad.

To enable us to ascertain with a greater degree of certainty how far the new standard scales should be permanently increased so as to be more consistent with the altered conditions at home and abroad, we decided in the interests of all concerned to defer the final consideration of the matter until affairs become more settled and the economic conditions more stable. In the meantime, however, we made special payments to the staff and granted temporary allowances to compensate them for the extra cost of living. As you are aware, it has always been our policy to consider the welfare of our staff, and the special payments and temporary allowances were given on a liberal scale.

The standard scales were increased in 1920, and finally reconstructed and increased as from January 1, 1921, and a suitable reduction made in the special temporary payments, which are £263,000 less than the previous year. Although these special payments amount for the year under review to the very substantial sum of £433,000, they will be further reduced gradually as circumstances warrant.

YEAR'S PROFIT.

The net result of the year's working shows a profit of £1,686,875, as compared with, in 1920, £1,393,073, or an increase

of £293,802, and as there was a reduction in taxation to the extent of about £39,000, due to the abolition of the excess profits duty, the final balance available for distribution was £332,472 more than for the preceding year.

In 1920 we made a special contribution of £100,000 to the maintenance ships fund, and no similar item appears in this year's accounts, but, on the other hand, we had to meet the full extra dividend equal to £100,000 on the ordinary stock consequent upon the issue of £1,000,000 additional capital raised to provide part of the expenditure on new cables to which I shall refer later.

As a final result of the year's business, not only have we been able to maintain the dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, but we have also carried to reserve the same amount that we have transferred to this fund for the past five years—namely, £500,000, and to carry forward the substantial balance of £568,000. (Hear, hear.)

I am glad to be able to say that the new cables already laid, the extensive renewals, &c., all of which were held up during the war, have had a beneficial effect in reducing the delay in the transmission of telegrams and have improved our system generally. We hope to complete our programme early next year, when we will be in a position to deal satisfactorily with any eventuality that may arise.

We do not think that H.M. Post Office is treating us fairly in the matter of competition for Australian traffic. They are actively supporting the Pacific Cable Board route against our route to Australia.

You will also have noticed the practice lately adopted of obliterating stamps on envelopes containing the correspondence of the public—including our own—soliciting the public to send their telegrams by the Government Pacific route to Australia.

We have asked for a similar facility to advertise our route, but the request has been refused. This is not treating us fairly, and, to use a common expression, is not playing the game.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA, AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED. EXPENSES CONSIDERABLY REDUCED.

The eighty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at Electra House, Moorgate, London.

The secretary (Mr R. T. Wolfe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

Sir John Denison-Pender, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., who presided, said that the gross receipts for 1921 amounted to £2,394,324, against £2,514,824 for 1920, showing a decrease of £120,500, due, without doubt, to the general depression in trade. The working and other expenses amounted to £1,051,684, against £1,196,241 for 1920, showing a decrease of £144,557. This was mainly accounted for by the reduction in the item "special payments to staff and temporary allowances, &c.," (£108,376). This item first appeared in the accounts for 1915, and had increased to a very high figure, but as conditions of living were becoming more normal, it might confidently be expected that further reductions would be shown on this item in the future. The excess profits duty having been abolished, there was also a very big reduction in the item for taxation—namely, £481,285.

The balance they had to deal with was £1,127,100, plus the carry forward from 1920 of £80,779, making altogether £1,207,880. From this sum £500,000 had been transferred to the general reserve fund, £400,000 paid in dividends, and the balance, £307,880, it was proposed to carry forward to the 1922 account. On comparison with the account for the year 1920, it would be seen that the amount placed to general reserve fund had been increased by £50,000; that was, from £450,000 to £500,000. The directors considered it advisable to make this further provision in order to meet expenditure in connection with the laying of new cables. They also considered that, in view of the decrease in traffic receipts, as evidenced by the returns for the first six months of the current year (the working expenses still being very high), it was expedient to carry forward £307,880. Further capital expenditure had been incurred during 1921 to the amount of £409,740, of which amount £280,265 represented the balance of the cost of the Madras-Singapore direct cable, and £129,475 new offices and houses for the staff, &c.

IMPROVING TRANSMISSION TO FAR EAST.

Since the last meeting, delays in the transmission of Far East and other traffics had been very greatly reduced. A new cable between Madras and Singapore was successfully laid and opened for traffic on April 18, 1921. A contract had since been entered into with the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company for the manufacture of a cable to be laid between Colombo and

Penang, which they hoped to have working in April next. When this had been effected, it was confidently hoped that they would be in a position to give a good and fast service to the Far East. The work of installing automatic apparatus was being pressed on as much as possible, which, it was hoped, would eventually lead to a reduction in working expenses. The Great Northern Telegraph Company, with whom, in the interest of general cable communication, this company was associated, and whose lines across Russia and Siberia to China and Japan had been interrupted since 1914, had recently been able to restore their communication with those points. Although this had, so far, not been quite satisfactory, owing to the difficulties against which they had to contend, it was hoped that before long their service would improve, thus enabling them to take their share in the transmission of Far East traffic.

The resolution was seconded by Colonel the Hon. Arthur C. Brodrick, T.D., A.D.C., and carried unanimously.

The formal business having been transacted, Mr Bisgood, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff for the magnificent way in which they had looked after the company's interests, said he had had a lot to do with companies, and he knew of no concern whose affairs were more capably managed than their own.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED. INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

An extraordinary general meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, London, W.C., to consider resolutions increasing the capital and extending the borrowing powers of the board. Senator G. Marconi, G.C.V.O., the chairman, presided.

The secretary (Mr A. Ogle) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have called you together to-day for the purpose of passing two resolutions, the first of which provides for the increase of the capital of the company to four million sterling by the creation of one million new ordinary shares of £1 each, and the second that the powers of the board to raise or borrow money be extended in order that a sum equivalent to the

amount of the capital for the time being of the company may be borrowed if the directors think it advisable to do so.

I would remind you that Article 40 of the Articles of Association gives power at the present moment to borrow up to 50 per cent. of the nominal capital, and this amount cannot be exceeded unless authorised by resolution of the shareholders.

WIRELESS DEVELOPMENTS.

The development of wireless telegraphy throughout the world is making very great progress, and a number of important stations are being or have yet to be built. To ensure efficient working, avoidance of interference, and provide the highest degree of economy, both in the matter of construction and subsequently in the conduct of the telegraph services, the Radio Corporation of America, the Compagnie de Telegraphie Sans Fil, of Paris, the Telefunken Company of Berlin, and our company have joined together to erect these stations in many foreign countries. At Buenos Aires, in the Argentine Republic, a station is in the course of erection, and it is hoped will be opened for service about May 1st next. In Rio, and elsewhere in Brazil, similar work has been commenced. At Bogota, in the Republic of Colombia, a service will be opened very shortly, the station having been recently completed. Other arrangements are in course of negotiation, and, it is contemplated, will shortly establish direct telegraph services between the several South American republics and Central America, and also from the South American republics and Central America to the United States of America, the principal capitals of Europe, and by relays from these to pretty well every part of the world.

AGREEMENTS WITH COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS.

You have no doubt read of the increase of the capital of the company in Australia, in which the Australian Government is taking a considerable share interest, and which company is to construct a station for direct service with this country. We are taking a substantial part in that company.

You have also been informed through the public Press that our company has signed an agreement with the Government of the Union of South Africa to create a direct wireless telegraph service between South Africa and this country.

Very big developments are taking place in Canada in which we shall be taking part, with the Canadian company, two of our directors being at the present moment in Canada for this purpose.

It is also public property that we have signed an agreement

with the Austrian Government to take over the existing wireless telegraph stations in Austria and to construct additional stations for the purpose of conducting telegraph services with foreign countries.

There are a number of very important arrangements which by now may be completed or on the eve of completion, particulars of which, I regret, I must not give you at this moment, but I have already told you sufficient, perhaps, to satisfy you of the progress which we are making and the considerable building programme which we have in front of us, I hope, both at home and abroad.

In addition, however, to the construction of telegraph stations, we have the advent of broadcasting. This is an entirely new business, which we have every reason to believe will assume very big dimensions and will add very considerably indeed to the earning powers of our company. This is a business which, according to our present estimates, will keep a sum of approximately seven or eight hundred thousand pounds, more or less, continuously and profitably employed for some time to come.

SCHEME EXPLAINED.

In these circumstances, you will no doubt all appreciate that additional capital must be found, and therefore it is that we have asked you to meet us to-day and furnish us with the necessary authority to provide the moneys which are required. You have no doubt understood from the circular which you have received that we are intending, subject to your approval, to issue short-term debenture stock giving to the holders of that stock a right to convert it into ordinary shares of the company at any time prior to April 1, 1929, at the rate of £3 of debenture stock for one ordinary share. Our view is that this is the most economical and the most satisfactory way of raising additional capital at this moment. When our construction work is complete, and our vast telegraph service gets into full operation, we have great confidence that additional capital will then be fully justified, and the debenture holders will have readily availed themselves of their option to convert the debenture issue into the ordinary shares which we shall be holding in reserve for that purpose. I want to make myself quite clear upon this point that there may be no misunderstanding. Whilst we are increasing the capital of the company to-day, there will be no issue of the shares—they will be held in the treasury of the company for the purpose of giving to the debenture holders the right of conversion.

The resolutions were adopted.

HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD, LIMITED. SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF YEAR'S TRADE. TEA AND RUBBER PROSPECTS.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, was held on Wednesday, the 18th instant, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 3 Idol Lane, Eastcheap, London, E.C., Mr C. Heath Clark (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr E. C. Cleveland-Stevens, D.Sc.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—

The year's profit amounts to £149,138 os 7d, an amount which does not fall very far short of the profit made in the previous year, and, in view of the stagnation in trade, we have, I think, done as well as we could have expected.

We brought forward a balance of £44,525 os 8d from the previous year, and consequently the total available profit is £193,663 7s 3d.

ALLOCATIONS.

Out of this amount we have already paid the full dividends on the cumulative preference and preferred ordinary shares, amounting in all to £137,800. This leaves a balance of £55,863 7s 3d, out of which we propose paying a small dividend of 5 per cent. on the capital subscribed in the deferred ordinary and management shares, leaving a balance of £45,114 is 3d to be carried forward to the current year.

After referring to the difficulties of the past year, Mr Heath Clark expressed a hope that there would be continued improvement in the future, but did not think this could go very far until some degree of stabilisation in the foreign exchange position and a practical settlement of the "reparations" question had been attained.

PROSPECTS OF THE TEA INDUSTRY.

With regard to the tea industry, he said: At the end of August, 1921, the stocks of tea under bond in the United Kingdom amounted to 197,000,000 lbs; at the end of August, 1922, they had fallen to 140,000,000 lbs.

The production this year has been held in check by weather that, on the whole, has been against heavy flushing, and in the case of

many estates by an insufficient labour force, and also by a continuance of careful plucking on the part of most producers.

The outlook for tea production in India, Ceylon, and the Netherland Indies is at the present time very promising, and remunerative prices throughout the present season appear assured. If trade with Russia were to expand appreciably, and if coarse plucking is not again put into practice by producers, I think the tea industry should now experience a period of prosperity.

THE RUBBER POSITION.

The plantation rubber industry showed some signs of improvement at the time of our last meeting. Unfortunately, the good effect of the restriction practised throughout the year was not sufficiently realised by many producers, and the Rubber Growers' Association were unable to obtain the necessary support to continue their restriction scheme to the end of June, 1922.

The actual production during 1921 agreed closely with the estimate of 280,000 tons which I gave at our last meeting, and represented an output of just over 70 per cent. of the normal output.

The actual output of plantation rubber during the current year will probably be about 340,000 tons, against a possible unrestricted crop of between 380,000 and 390,000 tons, excluding the output of wild rubber, which will be about 20,000 tons.

WORLD'S ABSORPTION OF RUBBER.

With regard to the amount of rubber used by manufacturers during the current year, I estimated at our last meeting that it would amount to from 300,000 to 350,000 tons. It is now possible to estimate this more accurately, and the experience of the first eight months indicates that the absorption for the year will prove to be about 340,000 tons, of which the United States will take 230,000 tons and the rest of the world 110,000 tons.

I think there is no important use of rubber in respect of which the consumption is not increasing. The American production of automobiles continues on a colossal scale. The output during this year will be well over 2,000,000.

The new uses to which rubber is put are also increasing, and some of them promise to affect considerably the figures of future consumption.

I should incline to the opinion that the absorption of crude rubber next year will not prove to be anything less than 360,000 tons.

RESTRICTION OF OUTPUT.

Referring to the Colonial Office Committee's scheme for the compulsory restriction of rubber shipments, Mr Heath Clark showed how it had proved impracticable to arrange any voluntary restriction, and said: That being so, we are clearly left with only one alternative to Government control—that of letting the present crisis, and loss continue until eventually it works out its own remedy. I think most of us who have heavy responsibility resting upon us as trustees for large amounts of capital invested in the industry, as well as for the well-being and employment of the large labour forces equally necessary to its continuance, must support the former rather than the latter course. At the same time, I venture to express the hope that the Committee who may be chosen to advise the authorities in regard to the working of the proposed scheme may give it all the elasticity possible in the working, so that supplies may be kept available in sufficient quantities to prevent anything approaching high prices being artificially maintained, as that would, I am convinced, be against the true interests of the industry.

The report was adopted unanimously.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliated Institutions:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

● BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
+ BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
* BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

EDWARD LLOYD, LIMITED.

IMPROVED POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of Edward Lloyd, Limited, was held, on Monday, the 16th instant, at the head office of the company, 4-7, Salisbury court, Fleet street, London, Mr Frank Lloyd, the chairman and governing director of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr T. Gerald Denson) having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said:—

Your directors regret that they are not yet in a position to present the balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended December 31st last owing to the delay in obtaining a settlement of the company's claim for repayment of excess profits duty.

The fall in the value of the stocks of raw material on hand on January 1st, coupled with the reduced production of paper owing to the coal strike in the first half of the year, resulted in a serious loss to the company, and it is evident that, even after recovery of the estimated amount of our claim for return of excess profits duty, the accounts will show a heavy loss for the year. We shall consequently be unable to declare any dividend on the ordinary shares for 1921.

PRESENT POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

The stocks of raw materials we carried at the beginning of the year, though very large, were only sufficient to meet the anticipated demand of our customers at that time, who relied on us to meet their full requirements of paper.

We are now making a fair profit on a largely increased production, sufficient to justify us in paying the interim dividend of 1½ per cent. which has recently been declared on our ordinary shares for the current year.

All the machines at Sittingbourne are now running at their fullest capacity, and, thanks to the cordial co-operation of our employees, with an even greater efficiency than in pre-war days. We have gone through a period of great difficulty, and I think we can congratulate ourselves on having emerged from it successfully with our resources unimpaired and with the goodwill of all our customers.

I believe we can now look forward with the greatest confidence to a return to normal conditions and to further expansion in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our staff and employees for their effective help in making good the aftermath of the war and in bringing up our machinery and plant to its former high standard of efficiency, and I cannot let this opportunity pass of expressing our warmest thanks to them for the zeal and energy which they have exhibited in bringing about such happy results.

The retiring directors, Mr Harry Lloyd, Mr F. N. Lloyd, and Mr R. B. Miller, were re-elected, and Messrs Turquand, Youngs, and Co. were reappointed auditors.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF.

The Rev. F. E. Coggin, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff, stated they fully understood the debt which they owed to them, especially in view of the difficulties which they had been called upon to face.

Mr H. W. Clarke drew attention to the fact that the chairman, Mr Frank Lloyd, had completed 50 years of business life, 32 years of which he had been the supreme head of the firm, and the position which it now held was due entirely to him.

The Chairman, in replying, stated it was one thing to look back upon the past, but the future was more important, and he could look forward with confidence, as he knew the traditions of the company were in good hands.

The Chairman then moved that the meeting be adjourned until the accounts were ready for presentation, and the motion, upon being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

FREDERICK HOTELS, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS—GOOD PROSPECTS.

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Frederick Hotels, Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at the Hotel Russell, Russell square, London, Mr Ronald Peake (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I think you will all agree that the result of the past year's trading is satisfactory. After paying the debenture and mortgage interest there is a balance of £89,871, out of which the preference dividend, amounting to £27,500, has already been paid. The payment of the ordinary dividend will absorb £13,750, leaving a balance of £48,531, out of which we propose taking £10,000 to add to the existing reserve, making it £30,000 in all, and carrying forward £38,531. The trading for the year under review has been good, although the business done

is less than that of the previous year, this being due to the reduction in prices and not to the number of visitors catered for, as prices have been considerably reduced and the drop in the receipts from wine, spirits, and cigars to which I referred last year, still continues. The course of business at our various hotels has been very much as we anticipated, except at the Hotel Bristol, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, which, I regret to say, in common with the other hotels on the Riviera, suffered from a very bad season.

With regard to the profit and loss account, the only item to which I need refer is compensation paid for the occupation of the Hotel Great Central by the Government. Our claims are now finally settled, and I feel free to express the opinion that we have been treated very badly in the matter of compensation.

There is a certain advantage in having our annual meeting in the middle of October, as we have the results of the three months' trading before us, and it enables us, in a measure, to express an opinion on the outlook for the current year. I am pleased to say that the result for the three months to the end of September has been satisfactory. During these three months our seasonal hotels do most of their business, and the returns from the London hotels are also satisfactory.

At last year's meeting a shareholder suggested that more detailed information might, with advantage, be given in the balance-sheet, and particularly that the values of the properties should be shown separately from that of furniture, equipment, &c. I fear that this suggestion cannot be adopted—we have no means of knowing what proportion of the purchase price was in respect of the buildings and what proportion was in respect of the furniture, equipment, &c. I can assure the shareholders that the amount at which their properties stand in our books is considerably less than the hotels would cost to build and equip at the present time.

Sir John M. Bethell, Bart, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the board.

KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LIMITED.
COMPANY'S STRONG POSITION.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the Kern River Oilfields of California, Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London.

Mr William Ivey (the chairman) presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he thought they might feel proud to think that the company stood practically alone in the world of oil companies, as a large producing company, in having done as well as it had under the conditions existing. Some companies with a much larger amount of capital involved had had to reduce their dividends considerably, and in a few instances their trading had resulted in a heavy loss. There was one great advantage which the Kern Company had over many other companies—even the larger companies—and that was its strong financial position, which was due to the conservative policy followed by the directors in the past in having refrained from paying large dividends and giving bonus shares.

The dividend of 17½ per cent. this year, as he had said, was no doubt a disappointment to shareholders, but when compared with the results of other companies, they could hardly have expected anything better. Last year they paid 20 per cent. on the capital then paid up, which amounted to about £900,000, whereas this year they were paying 17½ per cent. on a paid-up capital of £1,200,000—a vast deal of difference. It took only £149,447 to pay 20 per cent. last year, whereas this year it took £209,969 to pay 17½ per cent.—a difference of nearly £60,000. It would thus be seen that they were not doing so badly after all, and that the company was practically maintaining its dividend. Having referred to the results achieved on the several leases forming the St. Helen's properties, and to the substantial reduction which had been effected in operating expenses as a result of rigid economy, the chairman said that the purchase of the Sunset gasoline plant had been an excellent "deal" for the company. Their object was to enable them more effectively to use their own gas and thus make an additional profit.

In Rumania everything was in an excellent condition, but at present they were only "marking time," because the rate of exchange was so heavily against them. In Trinidad they had discovered oil in every well which they had sunk, and recent cablegrams announced that on a new area a well had come into production yielding 2,000 barrels a day. If the water trouble Mexico should again be a very rich oil-producing country. In Texas their "wait-and-see" policy had been the means of saving them an immense amount of money.

The future was more than hopeful, and their strong financial position was a stone wall of defence against any crisis that might arise.

The motion was seconded by Mr Henry H. Haldin, K.C., and carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.						
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio of Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.		
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£		
Aug. 26.	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	..	9,924	11,423		
Dec. 30.	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	481	9,924	9,286		
1915.											
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	276	54,621	20,536		
1916.											
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	190	118,102	6,868		
1917.											
Dec. 26.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	134	186,637	5,486		
1918.											
Dec. 31.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	89	305,133	4,566		
1919.											
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	91	337,537	2,802		
1920.											
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	130	336,504	134		
1921.											
Mar. 30.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	..	28,500	19,450	139	311,334	141		
June 29.	323,884	14,965	..	..	28,500	19,450	148	287,750	150		
Sept. 27.	293,127	12,648	..	..	28,500	19,450	152	278,119	143		
Dec. 28.	314,382	14,830	..	..	28,500	19,450	147	289,131	161		
1922.											
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	..	..	28,500	19,450	159	261,479	177		
June 28.	295,374	13,338	..	..	28,500	19,650	163	254,312	250		
Sept. 27.	291,143	13,258	..	..	27,000	21,150	166	246,456	169		
Oct. 4.	291,397	12,522	..	..	27,000	21,150	165	249,108	153		
11.	289,338	12,560	..	..	27,000	21,150	166	246,618	150		
18.	289,338	12,560	..	..	27,000	21,150	166	246,618	150		

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		Apl. 1, 1922, to Oct. 14, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to Oct. 15, 1921.	Week Ended Oct. 14, 1922.	Week Ended Oct. 15, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—					
Bank of England....	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
..	..	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	112,250,000	67,710,000	68,807,000	3,029,000	2,367,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	80,436,000	97,594,000	1,576,300	2,397,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	5,172,000	2,938,000	178,000	321,000
Stamp, &c., Duties.....	18,250,000	9,302,000	8,211,000	750,000	685,000
Stamps.....	..	..	..	..	..
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	570,000	430,000	..	10,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax) ..	329,000,000	150,772,000	150,874,000	3,271,000	3,577,000
Excess Profits Tax.....	27,800,000	954,000	29,464,000	..	820,000
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	9,047,000	6,260,000	450,000	320,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	28,000,000	25,250,000	500,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands.....	750,000	380,000	290,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	6,133,343	6,678,131	..	13,305
Miscellaneous.....	..	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts..	22,000,000	17,222,323	13,968,264	226	198,217
Special Receipts.....	90,000,000	28,359,099	53,256,329	2,036,128	839,234
Revenue.....	910,775,000	435,598,765	488,186,724	12,552,354	13,403,756
Total, inc. Balance ..	..	446,772,295	491,261,230	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	800,000	4,130,000	..	200,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	2,660,000	440,000	..	120,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922 ..	..	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	..	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	..	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 ..	..	950,000	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	..	1,553,300	..	1,553,300	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	2,510,000	4,655,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,628,235,000	2,284,848,000	61,928,000	73,385,000	..
By National Savings Certificates ..	39,168,000	21,130,000	1,120,000	1,150,000	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	..	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year, 1925-35 ..	..	121,708	1,024,990	..	1,140,000
5%, 1927 ..	..	61,423,074	57,875,000	..	..
4½%, 1932 ..	..	52,648,508	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	..	11,869	6,990,529	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	519,514,000	739,957,000	8,450,000	28,750,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments ..	..	..	..	..	..
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919 ..	..	7,250,000	..	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	183,435	35,888	..	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	162,425	178,666	..	..	..
Total ..	2,767,170,806	3,625,077,282	85,603,654	118,148,756	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apl. 1, 1922, to Oct. 14, 1922.	Apl. 1, 1921, to Oct. 15, 1921.	Week Ended Oct. 14, 1922.	Week Ended Oct. 15, 1921.
	£	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE					
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	9,275,471	9,875,161	181,120	252,698
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	160,284,058	190,901,137	1,437,917	2,311,280
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	2,444,999	2,519,000	110,000	446,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	2,853,797	3,820,738	250,000	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	1,096,042	..	500,000	..
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	598,895	1,888,495	25,439	79,425
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,650,000	1,209,480	915,029	..	32,230
Supply Services.....	529,999,000	215,901,829	342,370,031	7,072,875	8,830,000
Expenditure ..	893,437,000	393,664,571	552,289,591	9,377,351	11,951,633
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion ..	..	4,050,000	..	250,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	..	169,818	169,818	84,909	84,909
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 ..	..	3,310,000	4,805,000	250,000	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922 ..	..	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	..	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	..	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 ..	..	950,000	..	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	..	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,535,300 ..	..	1,553,300	..	1,553,300	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..	..	2,110,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,777,054,000	2,254,313,000	57,910,000	84,910,000	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919 ..	..	6,065,099	21,018,003	1,044	720,645
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	5,276,211	..	..	400,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—					
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	14,550,000	10,100,000	1,100,000	950,000	..
(b) Repaid otherwise ..	..	8,500,000	..	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off					
5½% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000 ..	19,612,208	18,454,490	..	750,000	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off ..	42,284,182	..	1,750,000	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	11,255,348	30,513,659	..	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	477,751,000	688,663,000	13,435,000	17,500,000	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917 ..	399,521	15,960,134	..	660,022	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919 ..	243,012	..	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4) ..	5,000,000	9,990,000	..	500,000	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911 ..	55,656	61,200	..	..	..
	2,764,690,926	3,622,511,869	85,861,604	118,277,209	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England ..	1,905,834	1,957,702	In or Dec. for week, 1919-50 ..	54,623	..
Bank of Ireland ..	573,846	607,711	..	78,000	73,830
Total ..	2,479,680	2,565,413	257,850	128,453	..

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 18, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Notes issued	144,050,130	Government debt 11,015,100
		Other securities 7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion 125,600,130
144,050,130		144,050,130

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Capital	14,553,000	Government securities 46,057,900
Res.	3,133,587	Other securities 68,836,204
Public deposits	12,217,903	Notes 22,360,600
Other deposits	109,167,203	Gold and silver coin 1,835,324
Seven-day & other bills	18,335	
139,090,028		139,090,028

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Oct. 18, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,133,587	+ 13,641	- 17,875
Public deposits	12,217,903	+ 2,942,323	- 2,575,694
Other deposits	109,167,203	+ 2,884,542	- 47,641,656
Government securities	46,057,900	+ 8,334,073	- 33,658,007
Other securities	68,836,204	+ 2,131,895	- 17,579,480
Reserve	24,195,924	+ 889,126	- 1,012,993
Note circulation	121,689,530	+ 880,360	- 1,994,600
Coin and bullion	127,435,454	+ 8,766	- 981,607
% of reserve to liabilities	19%	+ 1%	+ 6%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.
1922.						
July 26	127,403,930	124,757,630	121,873,106	118,748,150	21,096,300	17%
Aug. 2	127,399,520	125,774,190	123,325,355	121,260,295	20,075,330	16%
9	127,399,880	125,542,210	122,542,210	118,748,150	20,075,330	16%
16	127,407,660	124,261,430	123,954,385	119,616,305	22,413,644	18%
23	127,411,172	123,918,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	17%
30	127,412,713	122,879,715	123,035,544	120,237,248	22,982,998	18%
Sept. 6	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,218,983	23,809,071	19%
13	127,426,811	121,490,640	124,320,645	118,141,617	24,366,171	19%
20	127,431,595	122,199,180	125,660,586	115,448,940	25,414,415	16%
27	127,422,231	123,569,775	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,506,798	18%
Oct. 4	127,426,688	123,569,775	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,506,798	18%
11	127,435,454	121,689,530	121,385,106	114,894,104	24,195,924	19%

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Oct. 16, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Oct. 20, 1919.	Oct. 19, 1921.	Oct. 18, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	28,628,130	28,933,380	127,053,635	123,684,130	121,689,530
Public deposits	9,359,611	19,014,809	16,539,019	14,793,597	12,217,903
Other deposits	46,795,927	41,248,964	125,844,505	156,808,859	109,167,203
Government securities	13,037,909	11,046,570	61,619,800	73,715,907	46,057,900
Other securities	33,505,912	41,461,280	83,878,751	86,415,684	68,836,204
Reserve of notes and coin	27,387,666	25,463,980	14,544,807	23,182,981	24,195,924
Coin and bullion	37,565,796	35,947,360	123,148,442	128,417,061	127,435,454
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	48%	42%	10%	13%	19%
Bank rate of discount	5%	3%	7%	5%	3%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	7%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Price of Consols	29 3/4	26 3/4	51 3/4	39 3/4	34 1/4
Average price of wheat	31 1/2	33 1/2	90 1/2	52 1/2	39 1/2
Exchanges	25 25/27	25 17/20	53 00/15	54 25/73	59 20/60
on New York	84 1/2	84 7/8	83 42/44	83 89/92	84 45/48
on Amsterdam	12 18/24	12 05/10	11 12/18	11 47/52	11 40/43
on Berlin	20 50	20 49	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
Clearing house return	353,493,000	199,913,000	734,546,000	632,040,000	715,447,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—October 11	27,210,652,000	2,201,105,000	29,411,757,000
October 18	658,334,000	57,113,000	715,447,000
Total to date 1922	27,868,986,000	2,258,218,000	30,127,204,000
Do 1921	25,192,007,000	2,439,763,000	27,631,770,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,676,979,000	+ 818,455,000	+ 2,495,434,000
	10 1/2%	7 1/4%	9 1/4%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8 1/2%	- 26 2/3%	- 10 1/4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to October 14.			
BIRMINGHAM	100,028,500	89,332,500	- 10,696,000
BRISTOL	61,481,000	55,615,000	- 5,866,000
DUBLIN	288,118,200	252,187,400	- 35,930,800
HULL	44,433,900	44,433,900	
LEEDS	45,740,300	43,387,000	- 2,353,300
LIVERPOOL	30,703,700	32,473,500	+ 1,769,800
MANCHESTER	363,914,100	338,478,200	- 25,435,900
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	579,403,300	613,344,900	+ 33,941,600
NOTTINGHAM	74,039,100	75,378,600	+ 1,339,500
SHEFFIELD	28,418,000	26,843,600	- 1,574,400
	46,312,300	38,108,500	- 8,203,800

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1921.
Resources.				
Total gold reserve	3,089,380	3,089,280	3,076,940	2,728,920
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	120,040	123,730	124,180	140,000
Bills bought in open market	524,790	434,190	420,180	1,402,410
Government obligations owned	246,620	235,460	238,120	61,390
All other resources	474,560	483,340	451,450	216,390
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	12,460	14,900	13,950	54,270
Other deposits	1,909,770	1,862,800	1,820,130	1,670,590
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,340,120	2,274,650	2,243,380	2,476,310
All other liabilities	42,720	44,730	46,070	97,530
Capital and surplus	24,250	23,640	23,640	22,410
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	75.7%	77.4%	78.4%	68.5%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	July 31, 1921.
Assets.				
Cash and bank balances	447,719	459,360	439,802	476,812
Bank balances abroad	126,760	136,248	136,159	65,128
Call and short loans	271,589	274,418	287,786	268,443
Securities	318,753	318,753	318,753	385,571
Loans in Canada	1,196,524	1,215,936	1,236,334	1,338,883
Loans abroad	144,072	148,225	144,896	155,238
Other assets	97,315	100,558	101,906	106,207
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation	161,887	166,085	155,652	193,339
Government	87,546	89,024	96,412	128,778
Public in Canada	1,668,224	1,687,162	1,691,975	1,820,312
Foreign	347,529	365,770	367,434	274,332
Bank balances—Canadian	6,379	9,973	8,793	10,300
Foreign	34,284	35,493	37,171	39,030
Bills payable, &c.	21,872	24,521	25,758	40,429
Other liabilities	2,328	2,363	4,182	2,816
Capital and rest	255,068	254,414	254,291	264,326

BANK OF FRANCE.

	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 5, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
Assets.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,532,951	5,532,951	5,532,672	5,523,686	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,897,967	1,897,967	1,948,367	1,948,367	1,948,367
Silver coin and bullion	287,639	287,639	287,639	287,639	287,639
Discount and advances	4,353,223	4,405,427	4,959,210	4,700,998	6,320,550
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	37,128,805	37,418,442	37,514,493	37,406,813	5,811,875
Government deposits	42,820	20,695	17,121	29,995	183,700
Private deposits	1,982,005	2,062,448	2,341,315	2,544,364	846,950

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 16, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	7,853	7,853	7,853	7,853	7,853
Bankers' deposits	4,973	4,982	5,227	5,254	5,091
Assets.					
Gold coin and bullion	263	262	256	255	255
Gold certificates	9,882	9,832	9,832	9,735	9,637
Subsidiary coin	250	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic)	870	907	979	1,043	546
Do (foreign)	10	10	11	12	7
Loans and advances to the Government	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,700
Other loans and advances	1,089	1,111	1,095	1,121	514
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	81.0%	80.5%	78.9%	78.3%	81.2%

BANK OF SPAIN.

	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	2,523,396	2,523,396	2,523,396	2,523,396	2,523,396	2,523,396
Silver	637,529	637,529	637,529	637,529	637,529	637,529
Loans and discounts	2,080,509	2,060,827	2,013,644	2,013,644	2,013,644	2,013,644
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,223,369	4,219,685	4,140,332	4,142,385	4,308,662	901,550
Deposits	1,142,096	1,135,347	1,137,505	1,141,547	1,031,080	477,500

BANK OF JAPAN.

	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1921.	Position June 30, 1914.
Assets.						
Cash and bullion	1,197,333	1,192,529	1,283,143	1,280,467	1,281,013	221,31
Discounts	104,871	219,714	139,730	139,730	139,730	41,74
Advances	171,977	166,907	161,919	141,490	138,122	108,852
Notes	1,146,218	1,273,586	1,168,604	1,101,884	1,098,506	362,2
Govt. deposits	741,762	762,240	767,602	759,491	756,693	1,397,881
Other deposits	63,672	38,380	43,976	39,737	49,127	88,293

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 14, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	June 25, 1922.	Aug. 27, 1921.
Assets.					
Gold and balances abroad	1,356,069	1,371,187	1,372,632	1,385,350	1,391,598
Government loans and securities	2,738,272	2,714,212	2,693,084	2,701,399	2,015,419
Discounts and loans	981,671	950,879	921,611	873,766	738,630
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,908,856	1,842,329	1,708,004	1,426,046	1,831,843
Government deposits	507,137	624,351	761,521	972,994	135,386
Private sight deposits	995,346	939,943	982,328	885,466	777,429
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,013,605	1,012,348	1,011,446	1,009,955	858,244

IMPERIAL BANK

BANK OF FINLAND.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)				
	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 25, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
Gold	F. mk. 43,212	F. mk. 42,802	F. mk. 42,625	F. mk. 42,625	F. mk. 35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	593,406	371,558	329,655	401,650	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	687,304	685,531	695,535	891,993	21,826
Discounts and loans	583,929	679,736	745,694	452,480	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,403,781	1,397,169	1,354,750	1,398,817	123,941
Deposits at notice	227,156	111,465	180,339	99,352	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)				
	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 16, 1922.	Aug. 9, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1921.
Gold and bullion	26,657	26,660	26,655	26,660	27,826
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	3,978	3,143	3,355	3,661	4,022
Discounts	153,140	152,747	151,349	150,417	118,865
Government loans	720,097	720,097	720,097	720,097	608,109
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	851,325	849,511	847,286	843,659	648,004
Deposits	41,622	41,418	42,602	44,869	57,046

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)				
	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.
Gold	Leva. 38,164	Leva. 37,998	Leva. 38,163	Leva. 38,138	Leva. 38,101
Silver	19,563	19,703	19,868	19,935	20,252
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613
Bills discounted	27,357	27,644	22,577	20,372	17,292
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,223,033	1,282,762	1,325,322

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)				
	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 20, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1922.
Gold	Polish Marks. 34,400	Polish Marks. 32,072	Polish Marks. 31,719	Polish Marks. 31,625	Polish Marks. 31,535
Silver	44,153	44,144	44,137	44,132	44,121
Foreign coin	1,002,991	1,002,991	1,002,991	1,002,991	1,002,991
Foreign banks	1,036,893	1,036,893	1,036,893	1,036,893	1,036,893
Advances to the Govt.	312,500,000	312,500,000	312,500,000	312,500,000	312,500,000
Private loans and discounts	85,334,002	85,334,002	85,334,002	85,334,002	85,334,002
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	463,706,047	417,850,94	409,266,102	385,787,489	351,343,208
Deposits	64,510,265	79,217,571	66,010,146	59,213,859	62,296,256

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)			
	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.	August 16, 1922.	August 1, 1922.
Total cash	Lat. Rbls. 53,705	Lat. Rbls. 241,245	Lat. Rbls. 134,880	Lat. Rbls. 282,165
Foreign bank	81,193	785,091	721,892	611,667
Discounts and loans	361,087	355,634	316,793	327,525
Other assets	633,762	1,212,110	642,314	1,045,167
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Reserve	4,929	4,929	4,929	4,929
Deposits	668,485	819,827	688,289	769,127
Other liabilities	888,313	1,419,324	822,661	1,192,268

BANK OF ESTHONIA.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)			
	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.
Gold, for coin and notes	E. Marks. 102,066	E. Marks. 102,120	E. Marks. 227,708	E. Marks. 217,670
Total cash	352,941	206,858	264,859	315,451
Discounts and loans	2,633,397	2,552,533	2,330,793	2,305,754
Foreign banks	1,435,846	1,229,164	1,249,373	1,187,923
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,771	37,770	37,771
Notes in circulation	850,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Deposits	3,328,511	2,544,837	2,530,524	2,997,241

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)				
	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 25, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1921.
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 25, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1921.
Discounts and advances	10,096,713	10,096,713	10,096,713	10,096,713	10,084,471
Gold and silver holdings	1,806,249	1,888,569	1,894,793	1,880,540	3,510,053
Foreign bills & balances abrd.	1,601,326	1,635,127	1,670,60	1,736,393	1,366,764
Other assets	689,560	722,892	667,804	667,445	1,252,220
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circulation	10,024,989	10,196,880	9,664,517	9,837,009	11,534,438
Deposits	2,971,408	2,732,228	3,253,372	3,125,080	1,746,787
Other liabilities	2,175,812	2,191,530	2,202,297	2,145,267	2,934,223

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENES.

Assets.	(000's omitted.)				
	Oct. 8, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Oct. 8, 1921.
Gold	Dinars. 78,286	Dinars. 78,312	Dinars. 78,287	Dinars. 78,287	Dinars. 78,287
Other coin and notes	16,506	16,506	16,506	16,506	16,506
Foreign credits	311,054	365,374	377,703	403,816	38,970
Bills	1,460,335	1,435,358	1,361,943	1,315,791	501,832
Govt. advances	4,567,359	4,600,074	4,565,075	4,565,075	4,325,400
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,336,672	5,221,612	5,144,923	5,149,031	4,472,694
State credits	329,903	329,903	329,903	329,903	329,903
Deposits	899,021	944,899	902,792	915,440	346,501

LONDON RATES.

	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 17, 1922.	Oct. 18, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.
Bank rate (reduced from 3½% July 13, 1922)	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
3 months' do.	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
4 months' do.	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
6 months' do.	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Discount (Treasury Bills):—							
3 months	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Loans—Day to day	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%
Short—	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%
Deposit allowances: Banks	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%
Discount houses at call	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%
At notice	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%

1 Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.	Trade Bills.
	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1922.			
Aug. 4	1½%	2½%	2½%
11	1½%	2½%	2½%
18	1½%	2½%	2½%
25	1½%	2½%	2½%
Sept. 1	1½%	2½%	2½%
8	1½%	2½%	2½%
15	1½%	2½%	2½%
22	1½%	2½%	2½%
29	1½%	2½%	2½%
Oct. 6	1½%	2½%	2½%
13	1½%	2½%	2½%
20	1½%	2½%	2½%

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T. 25-22½	54-15-20	58-45-50	60-02-07
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T. 20-43	650-655	11,700-11,800	17,700-17,900
Vienne	krone to £1	T.T. 24-02	6400-6600	3,500-3,600	31,000-33,000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T. 24-02	360-370	130-132	135-136½
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T. 20-43	16000-18000	10,000-45,000	16,000-49,000
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T. 25-22½	531-536	700-720	720-740
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T. 24-02	2800-3000	10,250-11,250	10,000-12,000
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T. 110	730-760 nom	730-750	735-755
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T. 25-22½	500	680-700	650-703
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T. 25-22½	260	270-280	250-260
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T. 12-107	11-55-59	11-38-39½	11-41-42
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T. 25-22½	55-00-05	62-70-75	64-85-90
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T. 18-159	30-48-63	24-27-32	25-05-10
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T. 18-159	20-63-17-01	16-60-63	16-70-73
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T. 18-159	20-63-58	21-35-22-00	22-20-35
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T. 25-22½	247-252	194-193½	186½-188½
Italy	lire to £1	T.T. 25-22½	90-92 nom	175	215-220
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T. 25-22½	99-1-100	104½-104½	106½-106½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T. 25-22½	21-32-37	23-87-90	24-49-52
Barcelona	pesetas to £1	T.T. 25-22½	29-65-70	29-01-07	29-12-15
Liège	pence to escu.	T.T. 63-4	nom	7½	6½
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight 97½	47-47½	47½	47½
New York	dollars to £1	Cable 4-866	3-944-944	4-434-434	4-468-4
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable 4-866	4-30-32	4-42-42½	4-46-46½
Buenos Aires	pence to £1	T.T. 47-62d	44-4½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Rio de Janeiro	pence to £1	T.T. 47-62d	44-4½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Montevideo	pence to £1	T.T. 47-62d	44-4½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Valparaiso	pence to £1	T.T. 47-62d	44-4½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Lima	pence to £1	T.T. 47-62d	44-4½	44½-44½	44½-44½
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T. 10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10
Singapore	ster. to rupee	T.T. 10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T. 10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T. 10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10	10 to 10
Shanghai	ster. to dollar	T.T. 24-58d	24-58d	24-58d	24-58d
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T. 24-58d	24-58d	24-58d	24-58d
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T. 24-58d	24-58d	24-58d	24-58d
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T. 24-58d	24-58d	24-58d	24-58d
Mexico	pence to dozs.	T.T. 32½-33½	25d-28d	25d-28d	25d-28d

† Rate for previous day.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—		Par Level	Oct. 20, 1921.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.
London—						
50 days						
Cable	Dollars for £1	4-8666	3-9025	4-3662	4-4025	4-4512
Cheques			3-9525	4-3937	4-43	4-4612
Paris			3-9475	4-3912	4-4275	4-4787
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc		19-30	7-34	7-585	7-5850
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc		19-30	7-22	7-15	6-93
Italy	Cents for 1 franc		19-30	18-15	18-64	18-31
Berlin	Cents for 1 lire		19-30	3-9650	4-02	4-2750
Vienne	Cents for 1 mark		23-83	0-6775	0-06	0-0313
Madrid	Cents for 1 krona		20-26	-0625	0-0013	0-0014
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 peseta		19-30	13-25	15-15	15-25
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 guildt		40-195	34-05	38-75	38-89
Stockholm				19-15	20-64	20-39
Christiania	Cents for 1 kroner		26-80	12-94	16-97	17-81
Athens				23-20	26-33	26-64
Montreal	Cents for 1 draachma		19-30	4-55	5	5
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen		100	91-376	100-09	100-13
Hong Kong	Cents for 1 Hong \$		49-85	47-625	48-10	48-06
Shanghai	Cents for 1 Shing tael		..	57-75	57-15	56-95
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee		..	79-60	76-75	75-90
Buenos Aires	Gold pesos for \$100		..	27-375	28-45	28-75
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis		103-65	137-00	124-15	122
Saopaulo	Cents for 1 milreis		33-49	13-30	11-75	11-65
	Cents for 1 peso		20-60	19-00	14-10	13-75

civil war was being waged, and there is a prospect of a discount instead of the premium which recently obtained on such coins. In these circumstances, the mint's working may be suspended for an indefinite period. Much of the silver imported into China of late has been sent into the Canton Mint, hence the marked effect upon the silver market of the changed conditions. The Indian bazaars have bought moderately for shipment by this week's—the settlement—steamer; but, unless China is in a position to help absorption of supplies, India is hardly likely to tackle the work unaided, unless, of course, prices reach a more tempting level.

A certain amount of bear covering is due for near dates; but, failing confidence in the future of the market, bears will probably be tempted to prolong their shortage for a further two months. The Government has announced that silver coin, other than coin current in the United Kingdom, may now be melted without a special licence.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,076	18,132	18,116
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,967	9,017	9,072
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	6,092	6,099	6,028
Securities (British Government) ..	585	584	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 14th inst. consisted of about 40,300,000 ozs in sycee, 38,000,000 dollars, and 2,450 silver bars, as compared with about 40,000,000 ozs. in sycee, 37,500,000 dollars, and 3,390 silver bars on the 7th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as below:—

1922.	Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.		
Oct. 14..	93 0	34 1/2	34 1/2	34 1/2	Oct. 27, 1916	32 1/2
16..	92 10	34 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	26, 1917	42 1/2
17..	92 10	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	26, 1918	49 1/2
18..	92 5	34 1/2	34 1/2	34 1/2	24, 1919	64 1/2
19..	92 0	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	22, 1920	53 1/2
20..	92 3 nom.	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	21, 1921	40 1/2

NOTICES.

The directors of Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that Mr Evan Williams, J.P., of Glyn-Dwr, Pontardulais, has been elected to a seat on the board. They also announce that a branch of the bank is now open at the corner of Beel street and Blackburn road, Accrington, under the management of Mr W. A. Jones and at 30 High road, Kilburn, N.W. 6, under the management of Mr T. C. Merry. A sub-branch of the bank is now open on Fridays at Ruskington, under the management of Mr A. R. Thomas, of the Sleaford branch.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of new offices in Halifax road, Todmorden, Yorks; at 9 West street, Wilton, Salisbury; and in Hatherley, Devon.

A branch of the Queensland National Bank, Limited, has been opened at Wardell, New South Wales.

We are informed that the branch at Smyrna of Banco di Roma, which was recently destroyed by fire, has resumed business there in temporary premises.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Lat'st Pre-vious.	%	%
Railways							
Bombay, Baroda and C.I.	3%	Jan.	..	..	..	..	..
Buenos Ayres Great Southern ..	2%†	..	..	Less tax	..	4	4
Buenos Ayres Western	2%†	..	..	Less tax	..	4	4
Central Argentine	2%	..	..	Less tax 5/6 in £	..	4	4
Banks							
Hambros'	6%*	Oct. 23	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Royal of Canada	3%	Nov. 1	..	..	..	..	..
Standard of Canada	3 1/2%	..	..	..	..	..	..
Insurance							
City Fire Office	5%	Oct. 20	..	Less tax	..	..	..
North British and Mercantile ..	5 1/2 p.s.	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Northern	8 p.s.*	Nov. 2	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Royal Exchange	7 1/2%	Nov. 6	..	Less tax	..	..	..
United British	7 1/2%	Nov. 14	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Mining							
Great Boulder Proprietary	16 p.s.	Nov. 20	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Miami Copper	500 p.s.	Nov. 15	..	..	..	..	..
Premier (Transvaal) Diamond ..	125%	..	..	Less tax 3/6 in £	..	..	..
Wahit Gold	1 p.s.*	Dec. 1	..	Tax free	..	..	..

Tea and Rubber.

Batak Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax 5/9 in £	..	5	..	..	..
Brieh Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax	..	24	..	..	..
Ceylon and Indian Planters	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
Doomoo Tea of Ceylon	7 1/2%	Nov. 8	..	Tax free	..	15	..	..	..
Kamuning (Perak) Rubber	7 1/2%	Nov. 1	..	Less tax 5/9 in £	..	12 1/2	..	..	..
Lanka Plantations	10 1/2%	..	..	Less tax 5/3 in £	..	16	..	..	..
Lunuvu (Ceylon) Tea	7 1/2%	Oct. 26	..	Less tax	..	40	..	..	..
Mocha Tea of Ceylon	7 1/2%	..	..	Less tax	..	15	..	..	..
New Dimbula	10 1/2%	..	..	Tax free	..	15	..	..	..
Nuwara Eliya Tea	7 1/2%	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..
Palmadula Rubber	7 1/2%	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..
Saffragam Rubber and Tea	10 1/2%	Oct. 25	..	Tax free	..	15	..	..	..
Standard Tea of Ceylon	10 1/2%	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..
Other Companies									
A. J. Stevens and Co.	..	..	..	Less tax	..	12 1/2	..	..	..
American Shipbuilding	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..
Anglo-American Debenture	6%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arundel, Conthard, and Co.	15 p.s.	Nov. 1	..	Less tax 5/9 in £	..	..	..	..	..
Atherton Mills	7 1/2%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Babcock and Wilcox	8 1/2%	..	..	Tax free	..	4 1/2 p.s.	..	..	..
Bay Tree (Spinning)	5 p.s.	..	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	..
Brazilian 'raction, Light	1 1/2%	Dec. 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bristol United Breweries	2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
British Canadian Trust	4 1/2%	..	..	Less tax	..	7	..	..	..
British India Steam Navigation ..	4 1/2%	..	..	Tax free	..	8	..	..	..
British Portland Cement	5%	Nov. 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brotherod (Spinning)	13 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caledonian Property Invest.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carlton Hotel	..	..	..	Less tax	..	3	..	..	..
Castlebellingham and Drogheda ..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
Clydesdale Investment	9 1/2%	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
Consolidated Trust, Def.	4 1/2%	Nov. 16	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Cuban Telephone	8 1/2 p.s.	Oct. 16	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Drake and Gorham	1 1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Urban (Spinning)	3%	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	6	..	..	..
Empress Brewery	10%	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
E. Robins and Son	3%	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
Gieves, Limited	10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grape (Spinning)	3%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hans Crescent Hotel, Pref.	10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herbert Morris, Limited.	5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hilland Distilleries	12 1/2%	..	..	Tax free	..	10	..	..	..
Hodgson's Kingston Brewery	9 p.s.	Nov. 1	..	Tax free	..	20	..	..	..
Imperial Continental Gas	6%	Nov. 16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Industrial and General Trust ..	5 1/2%	Nov. 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
John Clegg Spinning	8%	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
John Walsh	13 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kaministiquia Power	2 1/2%	Nov. 15	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
King (Spinning)	1 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lion Brewery	1 p.s.	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Longmorn Glenlivet Distilleries ..	1 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexican Eagle Oil, First Pref.	5 1/2%	Oct. 31	..	Less tax 5/9 in £	..	..	..	..	..
Montreal Light, Heat, and Power ..	2 1/2%	Nov. 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do Consolidated	1 1/2%	Nov. 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson Bros.	12 1/2%	Nov. 14	..	Tax free	..	10	..	..	..
Northern States Power	8 1/2 p.s.	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Olympic Portland Cement	5 1/2%	Nov. 15	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Oxford Canal Navigation	2 1/2%	Nov. 15	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Picardie Tobacco	2 1/2%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pine (Spinning)	2%	Nov. 15	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Prince Line	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Realisation & Deb. Corporation.	..	..	..	Tax free	..	10	..	..	..
Scotland, Ord. Corporation.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do Def.	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Richard Kay and Bros.	37 1/2%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Mail Steam Packet	5%	Nov. 3	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	..
Sadler and Co.	2%	Nov. 3	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Salat del Carmen Nitrate	5%	Nov. 2	..	Less tax	..	6	..	..	..
San Paulo Coffee, Def.	5%	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..
Scottish Lands and Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish Mortgage and Trust	6 1/2%	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..
Second Scottish Inv. Trust, Def.	6 1/2%	Oct. 31	..	Less tax 5/8 in £	..	3	..	..	..
Sir Elkanah Armitage and Sons ..	13 p.s.	..	..	Less tax	..	10	..	..	..
South Australian Land, &c.	2 1/2%	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Steel Coulson	2 1/2%	..	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	..
Stephen Smith and Co.	2 1/2%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stuttford and Co.	5 1/2%	..	..	Less tax	..	17 1/2	..	..	..
Sun Plantations	15 p.s.	Dec. 15	..	Tax free	..	15	..	..	..
Swan Lake Spinning	15 p.s.	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..
Thos. Hulton and Co.	16 p.s.	..	..	..	..	35	..	..	..
Tweedall's and Smalley	4 1/2%	..	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..	..
Union Corporation, Limited.	1 p.s.*	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
United Alkali, Pref.	7 p.s.	..	..	..	..	12 1/2	..	..	..
United Dairies	7 1/2%	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..	..
Val de Travers Asphalt	16 p.s.	Oct. 31	..	Less tax	..	12 1/2	..	..	..
William Longmore and Co.	5 1/2%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wren Spinning	13 p.s.	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..
Wright, Bindley, and Gell	..	..	..	Tax free	..	5	..	..	..

BRITISH CANADIAN AND GENERAL INVESTMENT.—For first time for many years directors are unable to recommend dividend.
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY OF VICTORIA.—Directors regret they are unable to recommend a dividend on ordinary share capital.
LAWES' CHEMICAL MANURE.—Accounts for two years ended June 30, 1921, and for two years ended June 30, 1922. Directors do not recommend a dividend.
SABANA AND SANTIAGO RAILWAY.—No interim dividend is paid on either the preference or ordinary shares.
UNITED PREMIER OIL AND CEMENT COMPANY.—The directors recommend that the July 8, 1922, be confirmed as a final dividend, making a total distribution of 5 per cent., less tax, for the year.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

UNITED DAIRIES, LIMITED.

June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with June 30, 1921.	ASSETS.		Compared with June 30, 1921.
	Amount.			Amount.	
Prof. shares	1,831,674	.. + 229,110	Investments and loans	3,837,019	.. + 499,751
Ord. shares	2,027,125	.. + 228,448	National War Bonds (at cost) ..	..	.. 93,877
Mortgages	21,251	.. + 1,511	5% War Stock (at market value) ..	158,896	.. + 158,896
Unclaimed divs.	1,123	..	Freehold & leasehold property ..	372,561	.. + 127,664
Sundry creditors	933,626	..	Sundry debtors	754,115	.. + 264,571
Insurance fund	11,166	.. + 383,034	Furniture	2,284	.. 89
Reserve	33,159	.. + 3,600	Cash	212,037	.. 6,710
Profit and loss ..	427,788	.. + 104,525			
Total	5,336,912	.. + 950,384	Total	5,336,912	.. + 950,384

BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION.

September 30, 1922.					
LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.		Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.
	£	£		£	£
5% cum. pref. stock	700,000 ..	..	By steamers, tugs, payments on account of new steamers, coal, stores, heritable and other property, debtors, cash and sundry investments	16,876,261 ..	+ 97,870
Ord. shares	957,200 ..	..			
4% deb. stock	1,657,200 ..	..			
Debs. issued	18,380 —	1,950			
Reserve fund	400,000 ..	100,000			
Insurance fund	1,000,000 ..	..			
Debits and liabilities	12,063,291 ..	200,914			
Profit and loss	80,190 ..	1,094			
Total	16,876,261 ..	+ 97,870	Total	16,876,261 ..	+ 97,870

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	August, 1922.			September, 1922.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Aurora W. United (10s shares)	11,000	m 13,637	1,825	11,500	£ 14,487	2,011
Brakpan	64,000	m 46,070	65,070	62,000	p 117,468	49,036
City Deep	89,000	m 171,955	63,701	83,000	p 162,596	55,538
Consolidated Langlaagte	45,200	m 56,927	11,366	47,200	p 57,127	12,122
Consolidated Main Reef	53,000	m 86,607	18,431	53,300	p 87,170	18,634
Crown Mines (10s shares)	226,600	m 307,653	84,865	216,000	p 310,485	95,888
Durban Deep	31,800	m 49,054	8,058	30	p 48,374	6,789
East Rand Proprietary	125,000	m 115,000	11,200	128,000	p 137,859	5,326
Ferreira Deep	46,000	m 44,479	8,007	34,700	p 45,556	11,116
Geduld Proprietary	46,800	m 75,807	8,288	45,000	p 76,698	33,227
Glenhulu Deep	54,560	m 62,220	3,977	54,181	p 61,656	3,705
Glyn's Lydenburg	3,862	m 7,440	959	4,285	p 8,368	220
Goch, New	17,500	£ 17,477	1,201	17,197	p 17,197	1,197
Government Areas	150,000	m 239,384	12,542	143,500	p 291,485	167,158
Kleinfontein, New	47,900	m 53,884	5,371	45,300	p 52,850	3,152
Knights Central	32,500	m 29,081	1,681	32,000	p 30,202	3,802
Langlaagte Estate	51,300	m 73,928	20,706	49,700	p 74,900	23,009
Langlaagte Vlei	12,000	m 21,189	3,286	19,692	p 19,520	3,150
Meyer and Charlton	15,200	m 39,324	2,221	15,000	p 39,156	2,531
Modderfontein B	62,000	m 149,531	82,029	61,000	p 149,519	84,713
Modderfontein Deep	62,000	m 110,613	69,956	43,400	p 108,542	68,145
Modderfontein East	27,000	m 52,507	15,159	26,600	p 67,014	34,067
Newfontein, New (£4 s shares)	112,000	m 237,677	140,603	110,000	p 238,273	144,917
Our Mines	11,900	m 11,361	1,159	11,000	p 11,270	1,255
Primerose, New	48,000	m 67,803	9,300	47,400	p 68,002	10,598
Randfontein Central	20,200	m 27,222	2,114	21,700	p 22,219	3,619
Robinson (£5 shares)	157,000	m 209,834	55,684	163,000	p 267,810	55,367
Rose Deep	18,300	m 27,295	11,000	18,000	p 26,780	10,835
Rose Deep	10,500	m 103,722	36,142	70,100	p 103,791	36,142
Simmer and Jack	53,700	m 57,513	9,043	53,700	p 59,396	9,261
Spring Mines	53,700	m 57,513	9,043	53,700	p 59,396	9,261
Sub-Nigel	41,000	m 95,579	42,600	46,000	p 97,519	42,627
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	18,200	m 26,416	5,296	19,000	p 26,228	6,365
Wolfontein	16,170	m 24,965	2,353	15,850	p 24,752	2,608
Van Ryn	34,900	m 45,307	9,820	34,000	p 132,557	74,988
Village Deep	37,000	m 130,126	72,001	56,600	p 58,800	17,644
West Rand Consolidated	57,600	m 81,444	16,835	54,000	p 84,057	17,644
Witwatersrand Deep	34,300	m 47,654	4,604	34,000	p 44,119	4,717
Witwatersrand Deep	34,300	m 57,494	14,067	43,500	p 59,981	15,938
Witwatersrand (Knights')	48,000	m 55,925	15,074	46,300	p 55,208	16,116
Woluter	32,100	m 36,048	2,903	32,900	p 34,566	3,087

15 BEDFORD ST. LONDON

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., Ltd.
Bankers' Engineers, BOLTON, Eng.

Description.	Com.	1921.					Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
		Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
Florida do.....	Ord	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
Georgia do.....	Ord	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
American Brazilian:	Mid	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
Pernam.....		1140	1290	1420	..	..	1012	1262	..	1067	1617	
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.		1140	1290	1420	..	..	1012	1262	..	1067	1617	
Macaelo, &c.....		1140	1290	1420	..	..	1012	1262	..	1067	1617	
Mosoro, &c.....		1140	1290	1420	..	..	1012	1262	..	1067	1617	
Ceara.....		1140	1290	1420	..	..	1012	1262	..	1067	1617	
Maranhã, &c.....		1190	1270	1315	..	..	1012	1262	..	1067	1617	
São Paulo.....		Fr. G. F.	For Gd. Fne									
Egyptian:		1240	1340	1390	1440	1490	..	1800	2100	..	nm	
Upper.....		1440	1665	1740	1940	2140	..	..	..	..	..	
Sakellariadis.....		1240	1390	1490	1565	1740	..	1825	2225	..	nm	
Brown.....		MF Fr. G. F.	Gd. Fne									
Peruvian:		1400	1450	1500	..	..	..	1550	..	..	2900	
Rough.....		1100	1375	1425	..	..	..	1325	1500	..	1600	
Moderately Rough.....		1275	1425	1500	1550	1650	1212	1487	1662	1667	2117	
Smooth.....		1275	1425	1525	1575	1725	..	..	..	..	..	
Tanguis.....		1100	1300	1450	1500	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Midland.....		1100	1300	1450	1500	..	..	..	..	..	..	
West Indian:		2200	2525	2825	2900	..	..	3000	3600	..	6500	
Do Sea Island.....		1000	1300	1400	1500	..	..	1350	1550	1330	1600	
African, East, &c.....	9-25	1025	1150	1200	1225	nm	MF	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	
Do West.....		G F	For Gd. Fne	G F	Fne	S'n	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	For Gd. Fne	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....		1040	1080	1120	1210	1250	1155	1180	1255	1210	1260	
Machine Ginned Broach.....		8-45	9-55	9-85	10-25	10-65	9-19	9-69	10-69	10-19	11-19	
Mac. Ginned Brownuggar.....	8-45	9-55	9-85	9-95	10-35	10-75	9-25	9-75	10-75	10-25	11-25	
Mac. Ginned Comra. No 1.....		8-45	9-55	9-85	10-10	10-50	9-30	9-70	10-10	10-50	11-50	
Mac. Ginned Comra. No 2.....		8-55	9-55	9-45	9-85	10-25	8-50	9-50	10-00	7-50	8-50	
Machine Ginned Khandesh.....		1010	1050	1050	1050	1050	9-55	9-55	9-55	9-55	9-55	
Machine Ginned Compaish.....		6-70	7-10	7-40	7-80	8-30	7-80	7-80	8-15	9-15	9-25	
Machine Ginned Bengal.....		6-60	7-10	7-50	7-80	8-20	7-50	8-03	9-03	6-07	6-82	
Machine Ginned Scinde.....		6-60	7-10	7-50	7-80	8-20	7-50	8-03	9-03	6-07	6-82	
Tinivelly.....		1170	1210	1250	1250	1250	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	
Madras, Western.....		9-45	9-45	9-45	10-55	10-55	9-95	9-95	9-95	9-95	9-95	
Madras, Northern.....		9-45	9-45	9-45	10-55	10-55	9-95	9-95	9-95	9-95	9-95	
M. G. Coconada, Red.....		Fr. 1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	9-95	9-95	9-95	9-95	9-95	
hine, Suvraya, &c.....		1100	1100	1100								

Insurance.

PROVISION FOR OLD AGE.

Provide a competency for old age by means of an Endowment Assurance Policy.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Chief Office: OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER.

(For the year ending December 31st, 1921)
ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS £6,600,000.
ASSETS EXCEED £21,600,000.
CLAIMS PAID EXCEED £34,900,000.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE CO., LTD., 60 Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2. Premium Income exceeds £1,350,000. Funds exceed £3,000,000. Claims paid exceed £6,000,000. Annual Reports and Prospectuses can be obtained on application.

THE BEST INVESTMENT For Capital, Effort & Enterprise

Is in the participation in the quick industrial development of the splendid Pastoral, Agricultural, Mineral and other resources, aided by the increasing population and settlement, of

NEW ZEALAND.

Good ports, expanding railways and other communications, convenient sites, cheap electricity, efficient workers, reliable markets, well established for all kinds of produce, raw materials and manufactured goods.

THE STATE FACILITATES PRODUCTION

APPLY TO—
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
NEW ZEALAND, 413, Strand, W.C.2.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE. NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue Circulars or Business Communications to persons other than their own Principals. Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or in any way under the control of the Committee. Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature. A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE, Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange, Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.2.

THE INVESTOR'S MONTHLY MANUAL. Estd. 1864.

Published at the beginning of each month.
Price, 1s. 8d., post free. Annual
Subscription £1 1s. 0d.

THE MOST COMPLETE PERIODICAL RECORD OF THE DEALINGS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM IN EVERY DESCRIPTION OF STOCKS AND SHARES IN EXISTENCE. OVER 4,000 SECURITIES ARE DEALT WITH EACH MONTH, SHOWING RECENT DIVIDENDS AND YIELDS AT LATEST PRICES.

NEW YEAR DOUBLE NUMBER (Post Free, 2s. 3d.).

The Double Number of *The Investor's Monthly Manual*, to be published on January 2nd, 1923, will give, in addition to the usual information, the highest and lowest prices of all stocks and shares for 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922, the latest quotations for 1922, a tabulated chronicle of the half-year's events, the names of the markets where each security is chiefly dealt in, besides memoranda relating to the financial position of Foreign and Colonial Governments, to Railways, &c., &c. In addition, there will be furnished the addresses of the various companies, with the names of the Chairmen and Secretaries, or managers.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The above Double Number is subscribed to by investors of all classes. Its circulation, therefore, is of a widespread and influential character, and affords a most valuable medium for advertisements of all descriptions.

Full particulars on application to—

Publishing and Advertisement Offices:
3, ARUNDEL ST., STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Subscribed Capital (150,000 Shares of £20 each) £3,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - - £1,500,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - £1,500,000

MANCHESTER AGENCY: 36 Charlotte Street.

BELFAST AGENCY: Northern Banking Co., Ltd.

BRANCHES:

BRAZIL: Rio de Janeiro, Manáos, Pará, Maranhão, Ceará, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, São Paulo, Curitiba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Pelotas. **RIVER PLATE:** Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Rosario. **UNITED STATES:** New York (Agency). **FRANCE:** Paris (5, Rue Scribe). **PORTUGAL:** Lisbon, Oporto.

Agents or Correspondents throughout the World. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection. Exceptional banking facilities offered through the branches of the Bank, and its numerous Agents and Correspondents for the promotion of Trade with **SOUTH AMERICA** and **PORTUGAL**.

Head Office: 7, TOKENHOUSE YARD, LONDON, E.C.2.

If the bonuses just declared continue uninterruptedly an assurance at death will be doubled after 37 years and trebled after 55 years. An assurance of £1,000 costs £27 or £34 a year to men aged 30 or 40 next birthday respectively.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

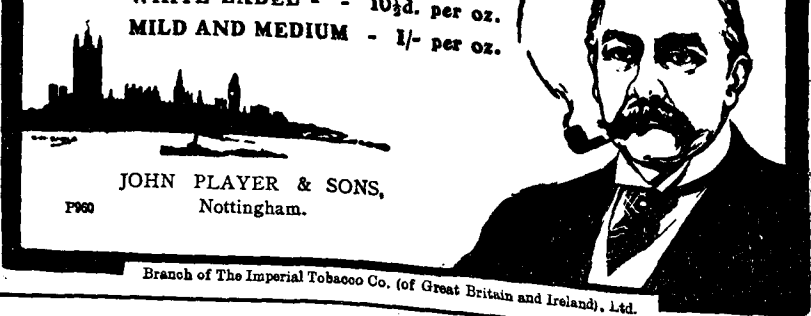
MANSION HOUSE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.
NO SHAREHOLDERS. NO COMMISSION.

EVERYBODY SMOKES

PLAYER'S
"NAVY"
MIXTURE

"THE MIXTURE OF
MATCHLESS MERIT."

SOLD IN THREE STRENGTHS:
WHITE LABEL - 10½d. per oz.
MILD AND MEDIUM - 1/- per oz.



JOHN PLAYER & SONS,
Nottingham.

Branch of The Imperial Tobacco Co. (of Great Britain and Ireland), Ltd.

THE GREAT ALTERNATIVE:
SANER POLITICS OR REVOLUTION.

By LEONARD J. REID, M.A.

CROWN 8vo. 6/6 NET.

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO., 39, PATERNOSTER ROW.

Banks, &c.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL ALL PAID UP ... £20,000,000
SILVER RESERVE ... £23,500,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London £4,500,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$20,000,000

Head Office—HONG KONG.

Chief Manager—Hon. Mr. A. G. STEPHEN.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:
Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Chefoo, Colombo, Dairen (Dalny), Foochow, Haiphong, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Higo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Sungei Patani, Tientsin, Tsingtau, Vladivostok, Yokohama.

COMMITTEE IN LONDON:

Sir CHARLES ADDIS, K.C.M.G., Chairman.
Hon. Cecil Baring, C. A. Campbell.
David Landale, Sir George Sutherland.
A. M. Townsend, C. F. Whigham.

MANAGERS IN LONDON:

Sir NEWTON J. STARR, H. D. C. JONES.
Sub-Manager, John MacLennan.
Accountant, A. Monner.

GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA

(Guaranteed by the Australian Government.)

Sir DENISON MILLER, K.C.M.G., Governor. JAMES KELL, Deputy-Governor.

Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.

Banking and Exchange Business of every description transacted. Bankers to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Government of the State of Queensland, the Government of the State of South Australia, the Government of the State of Tasmania.

8,167 Savings Bank Branches and Agencies at Post Offices in Australia. At 30th June, 1922.

Savings Bank Balances ... £38,056,980
General Bank Balances ... 44,550,163
Note Issue Department ... 53,558,898
Other Items ... 4,398,637

£140,552,478

London Office: 36-41 NEW BROAD ST., E.C.

C. A. B. CAMPION, London Manager.

Also at Australia House, Strand, W.C.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Established 1869.

Paid-up Capital and Reserve ... \$40,800,000

Total Resources ... \$471,000,000

Head Office: MONTREAL.

Sir HERBERT E. HOLT, President.

E. L. PEASE, Vice-President & Managing Director.

C. E. NEILL, General Manager.

LONDON OFFICE:

BANK BUILDINGS, PRINCES STREET, E.C.2.

T. R. WHITLEY, Manager. J. MACKIE, Joint Manager.

100 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland; Cuba,

Porto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Costa Rica,

Venezuela and Colombia; British West Indies,

French West Indies; British Honduras, British

Guiana, Buenos Aires, Argentine; Montevideo,

Uruguay; Rio de Janeiro, Santos and São Paulo,

Brazil, Spain, Barcelona; New York Agency, 68,

William Street.

FRENCH AUXILIARY:

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA (FRANCE).

PARIS, 28, Rue du Quatre-Septembre.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LTD.

(Registered in Japan.)

Established 1880.

Capital Subscribed & Fully Paid ... Yen 100,000,000

Reserve Fund ... 85,000,000

Head Office ... YOKOHAMA.

Branches at—

Batavia, Bombay, Buenos Ayres, Calcutta, Chang-

chun, Dairen (Dalny), Fengtien (Mukden), Ham-

burg, Hankow, Harbin, Honolulu, Hong-Kong, Kai

Yuan, Kobe, London, Los Angeles, Lyons, Manila,

Nagasaki, Nagoya, Newchwang, New York, Osaka,

Peking, Rangoon, Rio de Janeiro, Saigon, San

Francisco, Seattle, Shanghai, Shimoda, Singa-

pore, Sourabaya, Sydney, Tientsin, Tokyo, Tsinan,

Tsingtau, Vladivostok.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of

Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers

and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere,

and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be

obtained on application.

London Office: 7 Bishopsgate, E.C.2

K. YANO, Manager.

BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—

94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

Chilian Dollars.

Paid-up Capital ... 100,000,000

Reserve Fund ... 50,000,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders ... 100,000,000

Reserve Fund in Gold of 18d. = £1,000,000 13,333,333

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.

Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of

Banking Business with Chile. Current accounts

also opened and deposits received.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament.

Established 1825.

Affiliated with Lloyds Bank, Limited.

Capital Subscribed, £3,000,000. Paid-up, £1,100,000. Uncalled, £2,900,000.
RESERVE FUND ... £1,100,000.

HEAD OFFICE—EDINBURGH.

WILLIAM CARNegie, General Manager. GEORGE A. HUNTER, Secretary.

LONDON OFFICE—37 Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.4.

T. O. RIDDELL, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Branches in all the principal cities and places in Scotland.

Every description of Banking Business transacted.

There is a specially equipped Foreign Department at the principal Glasgow Office.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Bankers to the New Zealand Government.

Authorised Capital ... £6,154,988

Paid up Capital—Ordinary Shares ... £2,250,000

Do. Preference Shares issued to N.Z. Govt. 1,125,000

Do. Four per cent. Guaranteed Stock ... 529,988

Reserved and Undivided Profits ... 2,105,818

£6,010,806

London Office: 1 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4.

Issues Drafts and Letters of Credit, makes Telegraphic Transfers, Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange.

ROBERT MILL, Manager.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office: WINNIPEG.

Paid-Up Capital (30th Nov., 1921)... \$8,000,000

Rest and Undivided Profits (ditto) ... \$8,764,996

TOTAL ASSETS (ditto) ... \$162,625,386

The Bank has over 350 Branches in Canada.

And Agents in the Principal Cities in America,

DEPOSITS RECEIVED at favourable rates,

which may be ascertained on application to

London Offices: 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C.3.

New York Agency: 49 WALL STREET.

26 HAYMARKET, S.W.1.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

Limited.

BUENOS AIRES.

Established 1880.

Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.

Fully Paid Up Capital, Reserves and

Surplus \$15,701,258.16 Gold equal

to £3,115,329 Sterling.

GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING

AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

ADMINISTRATION OF REAL AND

PERSONAL PROPERTY.

CRÉDIT SUISSE

Established 1856.

Capital and Reserves - - - - - Francs 130,000,000

Head Office: ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.

Basle, Bern, Frauenfeld, Geneva, Glaris,

Kreuzlingen, Lausanne, Lugano, Lucerne,

Neuchâtel, St. Gall.

General Banking Business.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.

LONDON OFFICE—29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.3.

Paid-up Capital... £5,000,000

Reserve Fund... 3,600,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors ... 5,000,000

£13,600,000

Aggregate Assets, 31st Mar., 1922 ... £71,661,756 6 7

The London Office issues drafts on demand on

all the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, and

Papua. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers, Negoti-

ates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Arranges

Wool and other Produce Credits. Receives Deposits

for fixed periods on terms which may be known on

application; and conducts every description of

Australasian Banking Business.

H. MELDRUM, Acting Manager.

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office:

24/28, Lombard St., London, E.C.3.

Branches:

Vienna and throughout Austria.

Budapest, Trieste, Marburg.

Czerowicz, Naryrad, Suczawa.

Correspondents in Czechoslovakia:

Anglo-Czechoslovakian Bank, Prague and Branches.

CAPITAL:

Authorised ... £2,000,000

Paid up ... £1,406,370

GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS

TRANSACTED.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LTD.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £1,800,000

PAID-UP... £600,000 | RESERVE FUND £720,000

BRANCHES—EGYPT: Alexandria, Cairo, Port

Said, Suez, Tanta, Zagazig, Mansourah, Assiut,

Beni-Suef, SUDDAN: Omdurman, Khartoum, Port

Sudan. PALESTINE: Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem,

Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN: Malta,

Gibraltar. TRANS-JORDANIA: Amman.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking

business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and

affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt

LONDON ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY

4½% Redeemable Second Debenture Stock, 1942-72.

FURTHER ISSUE OF £2,250,000 STOCK.
Being the balance of a total authorised issue of £3,250,000 Stock.

CITY & SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY COMPANY

4½% Redeemable Second Debenture Stock, 1942-72.

FURTHER ISSUE OF £1,250,000 STOCK.
Being the balance of a total authorised issue of £2,750,000 Stock.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY COMPANY

4½% Redeemable Debenture Stock, 1942-72.

ISSUE OF £458,000 STOCK.

ALL THE ABOVE STOCKS ARE GUARANTEED AS TO PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE FACILITIES ACT, 1921.
Interest payable half-yearly on the 1st JANUARY and 1st JULY. A first payment of 5s. per £100 will be made on the 1st JANUARY, 1923.

PRICE OF ISSUE - £93 Per Cent.

	Payable as follows:	
On Application	£ 5 per Cent.	
On Friday, the 3rd November, 1922	£18	
On Thursday, the 7th December, 1922	£35	
On Monday, the 8th January, 1923	£35	
	£93 per Cent.	

THE STOCKS ARE INVESTMENTS AUTHORISED BY "THE TRUSTEE ACT, 1893."

The GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to receive applications for the above Stocks.

The Stocks are repayable at par on the 30th June, 1972, but any or all of them may be redeemed at par, in whole or in part, at the option of the respective Companies on, or on any interest date after, the 1st July, 1942, on three calendar months' notice.

The present issues by the London Electric and City and South London Railway Companies are authorised by the London Electric and City and South London Railway Companies Act, 1922, under which they respectively rank pari passu with the similar Stocks already issued, which are also guaranteed by H.M. Treasury. This Act provides that notwithstanding anything contained in Part III. of the Companies (Clauses) Act, 1863, or such Act (a) any subsequent Act which authorises either of the Companies to raise money by borrowing or by mortgage or by the creation and issue of Debenture Stock may authorise such Company to raise the same so as to rank as regards the principal and interest thereof and the security therefor either in priority to or pari passu with the Second Debenture Stock which such Company is authorised to create and issue by its Act of 1919 and such Act or otherwise as such subsequent Act may provide and (b) the interest on all Debenture Stock which is at any time created and issued under any subsequent Act so as to rank pari passu with the Second Debenture Stock which either of those Companies is authorised to create and issue under its Act of 1919 and such Act shall (subject to the provisions of such subsequent Act) have priority over all principal monies secured by such Debenture Stock and by the second Debenture Stock which such Company is authorised to create and issue by its Act of 1919 and such Act or either of them.

The present issue by the Central London Railway is authorised:—

(1) As to £374,000, by the Central London and Metropolitan District Railway Companies (Works) Act, 1920, Section 29 (1).

(2) As to £76,322, Debenture Stock to a total amount of £1,160,000 was authorised by the Central London Railway Acts, 1891 to 1909, but owing to the payment of interest out of capital, this amount was reduced by £76,322, the issue of which was again authorised by the Act of 1920.

(3) An unissued balance of £7,673 is also included in the total amount now offered for subscription.

Power to make the issue in the form of redeemable Debenture Stock is conferred by the said Act of 1920. The Debenture Stock, the subject of this issue, ranks pari passu with the existing Debenture Stocks of the Company under the provisions of Section 24 of the Act of 1891 and Section 29 (1) of the Act of 1920.

The interest on the Stock of each Company is a "Revenue Liability" of that Company and is secured:—

(1) In the case of the London Electric and City and South London Railway Companies by the balance of their respective earnings remaining after payment of interest upon their respective First Debenture Stocks, and in the case of the Central London Railway Company by its earnings; and
(2) In the case of all Companies by the "Common Fund" established under the London Electric Railway Companies Facilities Act, 1915.

His Majesty's Government, under the provisions of the Trade Facilities Act, 1921, have agreed to guarantee both principal and interest in respect of the present issues.

The proceeds of the present issues will be applied towards

all or any of the purposes to which they are respectively applicable under the Agreement dated the 26th May, 1922, Treasury and the London Electric and City and South London Railway Companies, and the Agreement dated the 13th October, 1922, made under the same Act between H.M. Treasury and the Central London Railway Company, including

(a) In the case of the London Electric Railway Company the construction and equipment of the Edgware and Hampstead Railway forming an extension from the terminus of Golders Green, to Hendon and Edgware, as authorised by the London Electric Railway Acts, 1902 and 1912; construction of connecting railways at Camden Town to City and South London Railway and the London Electric Railway, as authorised by the London Electric Railway Act, 1913; and the construction of the connecting railways at Hammersmith, authorised by the London Electric Railway Act, 1914, to enable through services of trains to be worked between the Piccadilly section of the London Electric Railway by the Metropolitan District Railway from Hammersmith.

(b) In the case of the City and South London Railway Company, the enlargement of the tunnels, the improvement of the stations, and the provision of new rolling stock and Railway Acts, 1913 and 1919.

(c) In the case of the Central London Railway Company the installation of escalators at Tottenham Court Road, Oxford Circus, Bank, Shepherd's Bush, Bond Street and Liverpool Street Stations, and the re-arrangement and re-equipment of the booking offices at those stations.

Interest upon the Stocks will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in respect of the half-year first payment will be made on the 1st January, 1923, and will be at the rate of 5s. per £100. Interest Warrants for Dividend due on and after the 1st July, 1923, will be transferred by post.

The Registers of the Stocks will be kept at the Bank of England.

The Stocks will be transferable by ordinary transfer deed in sums which are unbroken multiples of £1.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of 5 and 6 Lombard Street, London, E.C.3. In case of partial allotment the balance of the amount paid as deposit will be there be a surplus after making that payment such surplus will be refunded by cheque.

Applications must be for sums which are unbroken multiples of £100.

Installments may be paid in full after allotment under discount at the rate of £1 10s. per cent. per annum. In the case of full payments made before the 3rd November, 1922, the discount will only be allowed from the latter date. Default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date will render the deposit and any instalments previously paid liable to forfeiture, and the allotment to cancellation.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer, with Coupon attached for interest payable 1st January, 1923, will be issued in exchange for the Allotment Letters. Fully paid Scrip Certificates may be registered on and after the 2nd December, 1922.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:
A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCV

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1922.

No. 4,131.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2
ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD, President

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

issued by the Company may
be obtained on application
from the Head Office or any
of the Offices or Agencies
of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

Christiania, Norway,

transacts all kinds of banking business.

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Aalesund	Haugesund
Bergen	Sandefjord
Christiania and S.	Skien
Drammen	Stavanger
Fredrikstad	Trondhjem

and all Norwegian places of any importance.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS

1 Jan., 1920... Kr. 69,000,000

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Fully Paid	... Lire 300,000,000
Reserve	... Lire 90,000,000
Deposits and Current Accounts at 31st Dec- ember, 1921	... Lire 4,419,768.340

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."
Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	785	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	809
The Election Programmes	787	New Issues	810
Mr Lloyd George: Some		Active Securities	810
Glimpses of His Career...	788	Company Meetings.....	811
The Agenda of the Peace		Government Returns—	
Conference	790	Public Income and Expen-	
The Reduction in Wages ..	791	diture	824
Argentine, Railways	792	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Economic Conditions in		by Public Tender	824
Venezuela	793	Currency Notes Account ..	825
The Machinery of Industrial		Bankers' Gazette—	
Negotiation	794	Bank of England	825
Notes of the Week—		Clearing Returns	825
Ireland and the New		Overseas Bank Returns....	825
Government.....	795	Loan and Discount Rates..	827
Anglo-American Debt—A		Overseas Bank Rates.....	827
Stock Exchange View ..	795	Rates of Exchange	828
The American Trade Revival	796	Indian Treasury Bills	828
A Loss to the Treasury....	796	Bullion	828
The New Indian Loan	797	Imports and Exports of	
Lloyd's Register.....	797	Gold	829
Southern Railway Group..	797	Gold and Silver Prices	829
Ebbw Vale Dispute Ended	797	Company News—	
Organisation of the Cotton		Mining Outputs	829
Trade	798	Railway and Tramway	
British Gas-Mantle Industry	798	Traffics	830
The Future of Bawra	798	Dividend Announcements..	831
Amalgamated Zinc	798	Reports and Notices	831
Cornish Tin Mines	799	Summary of Company Profit	
Overseas Correspondence—		and Loss Accounts.....	832
United States	799	Rhodesian Gold Output ..	832
France	800	Oil Outputs	832
Germany	802	Commercial Reports—	
Canada	803	Corn Trade	832
Sweden	804	Iron and Coal Trade	833
Spain	805	Cotton Trade	833
Argentina	805	Wool Trade	834
Letters to the Editor—		Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	834
The Mark and Inflation ..	807	Hide and Leather Trades ..	835
Process of Inflation in		Overseas Produce Markets	835
Germany	807	Price Current	836
Books and Publications—			
The Last of Lord Bryce ..	807		
A Book on South America..	808		
Books Received	809		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s. 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 53 Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de L'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

ON Monday the market found itself in the Bank of England borrowing a large amount, once more proving that except when the Bank is providing credit for the Government it has to do so for professional borrowers. Discount rates accordingly hardened, especially when it was found, later in the week, that even with this addition, the market's resources were by no means overabundant, and that 2 per cent. was easily obtained by lenders for loans over the night. But commercial bills remained ex-

tremely scarce, and so prevented any substantial advance in quotations.

	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1% (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	1% (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½

The Bank return showed an increase of £197,000 in the note circulation, and a decrease of £3,000 in the stock of gold, and a consequent decrease of £200,000 in the Reserve. Government and Other securities advanced by 1½ and 2½ millions, and so Public and Other deposits rose by three millions and one. Currency notes outstanding were reduced by £2,168,500 to £287,170,000 in the return dated October 26, 1922, which includes £1,545,100 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £237,475,900, or £72,512,500 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Apart from the disturbing effect on markets of the political situation, there have been several minor factors contributing to the slight depression in most of the Stock Exchange markets. The sudden offer of the new Indian Loan came as a jar to the Consol market, while French bonds have been upset by the pronounced weakness of the franc, and this led to weakness in other foreign bonds. Brazilians have been falling sharply but steadied yesterday. Stocks of the railways in the Southern group have fallen since the publication of the amalgamation details, but Argentine Rails have been prominent owing to official optimism as to the outlook. Rubber shares suffered from realisations, and the oil market is neglected. Iron and steel shares have been strong on the settlement of the strike in South Wales, while the shares of the Eastern cable companies have advanced, but the banking, insurance, and shipping share markets have been dull. Weakness has been the feature of the mining markets.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The announcement of the General Election has had no appreciable adverse effect on commodity markets, which continue, in the majority of cases, to give the impression of better trade conditions. A perceptible improvement is noticeable in the cotton industry; prices have continued to harden, in sympathy with the further upward movement in the raw material, but spinners and manufacturers have found it difficult to do business on the higher values. Signs of decreased activity are, however, apparent in the wool trade; there is little speculative buying, but prices have been fairly well maintained by American demand. Although quotations for pig-iron continue firm, business is reported as dull, and the American demand rather easier. No improvement is reported in the manufactured iron and steel trades, but our Sheffield correspondent takes a brighter view of the industrial outlook. A healthy tone prevails in the South Wales coal trade; prices are slightly higher, and an increasing demand both for export and inland trade is recorded. Better business is reported in the vegetable oils and oil-seeds markets, prices, if anything, being a shade higher. Further details of markets and prices from our special trade correspondents will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

On the foreign exchange market the week has been disturbing, with a further rapid depreciation in several of the leading currencies. The Paris rate, which on the 20th was 60.07½, has risen with exceptional rapidity, till at one time on Thursday it was over 65. On Friday morning, after some recovery on the previous evening, it was again offered, and a short recovery on some covering was followed by a renewed rising tendency to 64.60. This renewed outbreak of depreciation is attributable not so much to any new factor, as to the growing appreciation of the seriousness of the financial position in France, and the recognition in increasingly wide circles in France itself that little is to be hoped for from Germany, at least for

a long time to come. A significant illustration of this change in attitude is the determination which is now being shown in all parts of the French Press to face squarely this decidedly unpleasant situation. As usual, the Belgian rate has moved in sympathy, and stood yesterday morning at 69.50. It is surprising, in view of the relatively more favourable position of Belgium, that the two rates remain so closely interlocked, and that, indeed, the Belgian franc is showing a tendency to depreciate slightly more rapidly than the French. The quotation for forward francs is about 15-20 centimes per month over spot in Paris and 2 to 3 centimes under spot in Brussels. In Italy depreciation, mainly as the result of renewed Fascist activities, has been even more rapid, the lira having risen during the week from 106½ to 116½. In Germany during the first part of the week the collapse continued unabated, from 17.150 on the 20th up to 20.200 on the 24th. Since then there has been some steadying of the rate to 19.400, round which it has remained for the last few days. It is possible that for the moment the recent panic movement has been arrested, but there can be little confidence of any lasting stability, nor can much be hoped for from the advice of experts summoned from Berlin or from the presence there of the chief members of the Reparation Commission unless a drastic revision of Reparation payments can be arranged. At the beginning of the week came the expected reaction in the dollar rate, which moved on Monday from 4.47½ to 4.45. Since then it weakened quietly to just below 4.44½ on Thursday, but yesterday morning was rather firmer again at 4.44½, and is showing a remarkable power of resistance to the general European collapse. Among the neutral exchanges, the Swiss rate has again moved markedly in our favour, from 24.44½ to 24.70½, apparently as the result of fears of a drastic capital levy in Switzerland. Amsterdam, after a sharp movement against us, is rising again, but is still slightly below last week. Madrid continues to rise quietly, and has now reached 29.24, while Portugal has had a sharp improvement to 3½d on reports of a Lisbon loan in London. Among the Northern countries, both Christiania and Copenhagen have moved against us, and Stockholm also to a less marked extent. Helsingfors has also appreciated, though less rapidly than last week, from 186½ to 186. It is surprising that efforts are not made to keep the Finnish rate more steady at a slightly higher level, and one more season has passed. In Poland the upward movement continues, the rate being now 58,000, as compared with 48,000 a week ago. At 320,000 the Viennese rate is undoubted being felt in Austria as to whether the drastic of Nations' assistance can be carried through. The Prague rate has moved upwards rather rapidly, from 135½ to 144, but this, in view of a too rapid appreciation and its effect on Czech industry, is lower than the 730 of a week ago. Athens at 215 shows some recovery from the high figure of 228 reached earlier in the week. In the East the rupee shows little change at 3½d, while the yen is rather more expensive. The demand from India, has been very strong, but this has seemed high. Hongkong and Shanghai, after both being more expensive, reacted again yesterday morning. In South America, Rio is rather dearer at 6½d, Buenos Ayres at 44½d is ½d higher, and Monte Video ½d higher at 42½d. Valparaiso, on the other hand, at 33 has depreciated 1 peso.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 21, 1922:—

REVENUE.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	20,338	Interest on Debt	12,721
Amount borrowed	314	Supply Services	7,000
		Added to Exchequer Balances ..	301
		Sundries	630
			20,652

The principal item of revenue during the week ended October 21, 1922, was Excise, which yielded £9,308,000, against £12,887,000 in the corresponding week a year ago. The yield from Property and Income-tax at £4,419,000 compares with £2,863,000. Customs pro-

duced £2,721,000, against £2,634,000 in corresponding week last year. Special Receipts amounted to £1,360,551, against £2,060,736. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £314,227, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 450	National War Bonds paid off ..	- 750
Public Depts. Advances	+ 2,408	Bank of England Advances ..	- 6,750
Treasury Bills	+ 3,762		
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 1,144		
Unemployment Insurance ..	+ 50		
	+ 7,814		- 7,500

The floating debt was reduced by £627,000 to £921,732,500 during the week ended October 21, 1922.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to October 21, 1922).

Total spent	414,016,302	Raised by revenue ..	455,936,957
Dec. in balances	8,393,162	Net repayments	50,313,817

Total	405,623,140	Total	405,623,140
-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		

Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Surplus

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,953	1,980
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,047	1,047
4% Funding Loan	...	...	409	409	405	405	405	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	360	357	348	346	346	335	335
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	266	266	266	274
5-15 Year Treas. Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	273	381	311	311
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,050	878	737
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	366
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,076
Other Debt	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,076
American Loan	...	51	51	51	51	...	...	...	...
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	185
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,669
	57	49	46	46	46	49	51	66	67
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,736

* Figures for the year ended March 31, 1922, have now been adjusted in accordance with the Finance Accounts recently published.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Oct. 22, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Oct. 21, '22.	Oct. 21, '22.
Temporary Advances Outstanding ..	£ 2,750,000	£ 2,750,000	£ 2,750,000	£ 2,750,000
Advances by Bank of England	156,958,000	147,301,500	182,472,500	2,408,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,119,330,000	882,219,000	737,010,000	3,715,000
Total Floating Debt	1,350,038,000	1,039,520,500	921,732,500	627,000

THE ELECTION PROGRAMMES.

POLITICAL events this week have conformed closely to expectations. Mr Bonar Law, having received a unanimous mandate from his party, has accepted the Premiership, and has already announced the composition of the greater part of his Government. His list is adequate rather than inspiring, but it will perhaps find a lack of brilliancy no handicap with an electorate that has wearied of the results of clever opportunism. The new Premier has decided, as was expected, upon an immediate election, and this has forced the various political parties to issue manifestoes of policy. Mr Bonar Law himself outlined the Conservative policy at Glasgow on Thursday; Mr Lloyd George his "national unity" programme a day earlier. In addition, the public have been treated to three manifestoes—one from the Independent Liberals, one from the Labour Party, and one from the Manchester Liberal candidates. At the same time, the torrent of oratory, which will swell to full force in the next three weeks, has begun to flow, notable contributors this week having been Mr Bonar Law, Lord Grey, Mr McKenna—who provided a sensation by appearing on a City Conservative platform—Mr Lloyd George, Mr Henderson, Mr Clynes, Sir Donald Maclean, and Lord Birkenhead. In a very few days the country will have plunged into the thick of the political battle. Before the plunge is taken we

should like (leaving detailed criticism for a later occasion) to analyse as briefly and as dispassionately as possible the programmes officially promulgated by the various parties, with the assistance in interpretation, here and there, that may be culled from the speeches of the respective leaders. At the outset we may notice and welcome the fact that several features are common to all the programmes. All recognise tacitly or explicitly that the Irish Treaty must be ratified. All preach peace abroad and economy at home. In their broad diagnosis of the country's needs all the political doctors agree; in the prescriptions they differ widely. This diversity, confined as it happily is in this country, within the bounds of constitutionalism, we welcome as a sign of public health. The country, we believe, is glad to get back to more or less clear cut divisions of political principle, and to have the opportunity of returning to power a Government whose preoccupation will be, not compromise and conciliation between conflicting views, but a frontal attack upon its tasks along lines of declared political tenet.

Let us take a rapid glance at some of the most important points in these manifestoes and pronouncements. Take first some outstanding points in the wide field of foreign policy. All parties include support of the League of Nations in their programme, and their support differs only in emphasis. Mr Bonar Law promises "whole-hearted and practical support." Mr Lloyd George and the Labour Party pledge themselves to the attempt to make it a League of All Nations. Labour and the Independent Liberals would approach the whole problem of peace and disarmament through the League; the Manchester Liberals would make the League "the pivot of international policy." Lord Grey makes the statesman-like pronouncement that agreement with France must be inside and not outside the League. Remembering that the new Government contains in Lord Derby a powerful advocate of a straight pact with France, we should like to see Mr Bonar Law more explicit on this point. We hope, too, that he will tell the country that he is in favour, as Mr Lloyd George and, apparently, all other parties are, of including ex-enemy countries as full members of the League. As regards other points of foreign policy, Mr Bonar Law and Mr Lloyd George both realise the necessity of close co-operation with America, and we trust the former will, therefore, allow no delay in sending to Washington the postponed financial mission. Elsewhere he will honour old obligations, and resist, "and on suitable occasions curtail," new commitments. He is clearly aware of the folly of the Coalition's Greco-phil policy, and better still, is determined to restore to the Foreign Office its proper functions, thus obviating, we trust, the recurrence of such blunders as the Balfour Note and the Near Eastern imbroglio. Liberals and Labour demand the dropping of costly adventures abroad. As the election progresses, it will, perhaps, become clearer whether either advocates a clean cut of the responsibilities accepted in Palestine and Iraq, which Mr Bonar Law apparently accepts, as he must, in our opinion, accept, but will curtail as occasion arises. Labour demands independence for Egypt and self-government for India. Mr Bonar Law, silent as to Egypt, promises India development on present lines.

So far correspondence between the various programmes

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN: The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS: FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	10,860,652
Reserve Fund ..	10,860,652
Deposits (June 30th, 1921) ..	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,650 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

is more noticeable than divergence. Nor do divergencies develop very strikingly on the all-important questions of Reparations and Inter-Allied Debts. The Independent Liberal, the Manchester, and Labour manifestoes all demand revision of Reparations in accordance with German capacity to pay. Mr Lloyd George takes the same line; but stands on the Balfour Note position that we cannot, while paying America in full, remit all Continental debts, and he adds that Reparation reductions should not be entirely at the expense of this country. Mr Bonar Law frankly recognises that old estimates of Reparation possibilities were fantastic, but thinks there is a disposition to underestimate them now. The subject does not perhaps lend itself to definite and detailed election pledges, and we are glad at least to find nothing in his words to preclude the hope that he will try to get back to the position as it stood before the Balfour Note—a position which appeared to provide a unique opportunity for achieving a Reparations agreement with France, and making a gesture that would unlock the door to Anglo-American co-operation.

It is when we approach the more domestic problems of finance, economy, unemployment, social reform, and trade and industrial policy that the divergencies between the various programmes emerge more sharply. Mr Bonar Law promises administrative economy. The Cabinet Secretariat is to go—a small saving in money, but a welcome reversion to old machinery, although many will doubt whether, in addition to a Secretary to the Cabinet, a co-ordinating official for League of Nations work should not also be retained. The Pensions Ministry is to be merged with another Department (a decision unacceptable to Labour), and it is thought possible that the same fate awaits the Labour Ministry. Other economies are also to be pursued. But here, as in much of his programme (by his own admission) his policy is negative. Economy is to be pursued by masterly inactivity as regards social reform. The unemployment burden he cannot shelve, and he will give "assistance" to agriculture, as also would Mr Lloyd George. Labour would "reorganise" agriculture at the expense of the landlord rather than of the worker. But Mr Bonar Law gives no pledge as to housing. Labour insists upon "a national housing scheme"; Liberals promise "defence of such essential social services as education, housing, and public health." Labour demands larger old-age pensions and pensions for widowed mothers. The Independent Liberals and the Manchester Liberals would further industrial peace by co-operation between employers and unemployed; Labour demands work or maintenance; Mr Bonar Law, while promising emergency unemployment measures now, looks forward to the time when industries will shoulder their own unemployment problems, and would in the main leave industry to work out its own salvation. It is on industrial matters that the cleavage between parties is most pronounced. For Labour would nationalise railways and mines. As regards the latter, the Manchester manifesto is in favour of the acquisition by the State of mining royalties, but is vehement in general support of private enterprise. Mr Henderson has been trying to commit Labour to a war on the whole present system of industry, while his Labour colleagues are at pains to tone down his declarations.

Turning to finance, we find the Labour party under the necessity of explaining how to find the money for big social expenditure. They, like Mr Bonar Law, and everyone else, preach administrative economy, and like the Liberals they would hope to save money through disarmament. But they would also increase the death duties and super-tax; they would tax land values, as also would the Liberals. Labour advocates further the redemption of debt through a graduated capital levy on fortunes over £5,000. This proposal, coupled with State control of industry, will serve to rouse the fierce antagonism of the business community, and will doubtless scare away from the Labour party many moderate progressives. It is safe to assert that, had a capital levy been instituted after the war, it would have collapsed with the sensational drop in values. Of its imposition in today's difficult circumstances, no man could foresee the ramifications of effect, and to put it into force in the teeth of fierce and general opposition of those subject to it might be well nigh impossible. But it is perhaps worth while to remember the possibility that if prices remain at

their present level, the time may come before many years are passed, when the business world itself will at least consent to consider such a scheme as one of two very unpleasant alternatives.

Only two manifestoes mention the House of Lords, the Labour party and the Manchester Liberals demanding the abolition of the hereditary principle; while the Independent Liberals support proportional representation. Labour also stands for adult suffrage, while the Independent Liberals desire "political and legal equality for men and women." All parties are aware of the important fact that this is the first party election at which the women's vote will operate. Mr Bonar Law will doubtless have something to say on the question of sex equality when he addresses a mass meeting of London women. To many other points in the manifestoes space forbids reference. But we have left to the last one that is of vital importance—namely, the question of Free Trade and Protection. Mr Bonar Law said at Glasgow that his policy of "leaving things alone" applies to fiscal matters. That is satisfactory so far as it goes. But it does not go far enough. We trust that he will state plainly whether he will or will not repeal the Safeguarding of Industries Act, and the so-called "McKenna" duties, and with them all the tinkering attempts at Imperial preference which have marked the legislation of recent years. The "free breakfast table" demanded by Labour may be a distant goal to aim at rather than an immediate possibility; but as regards the safeguarding of Industries Act and other post-war changes in our fiscal system, the clean sweep advocated alike by Liberals and Labour is in our view one of the first postulates of economic sanity.

In reading this brief summary of political programmes the citizens of many foreign nations would probably be struck mainly by two things. First, the similarities of view on many vital points; secondly, the absence (in intention, at any rate) of subversive or unconstitutional proposals. Even the Labour Party, two or three of whose proposals will in some quarters be regarded as subversive, are at pains to state that their policy is neither Communism nor Bolshevism, but is, on the contrary, "the best bulwark against violent upheavals and class war." Of equal importance is the contrast between the election promises of 1922 and of 1918. In 1918 Utopia was dangled before the electorate, and from the folly of that intemperate electioneering we have been suffering ever since. In 1922 promises everywhere are sober, except, perhaps, in parts of the Labour programme. Mr Bonar Law is cautious in the extreme. He may, if returned to power, find himself forced to give far more than he promised at the polls. Tranquillity is the most modest of all election mottoes in recent times, and Mr Bonar Law's refusal to go vote snatching with glittering gifts is entirely creditable. Nevertheless, although we agree with Mr McKenna that peace and quiet are what we need, there are some urgent problems that cannot be solved by inactivity, and we predict that quiescence will prove less possible in many directions than Mr Bonar Law imagines. The Liberals, as well as the Conservatives, frankly avow that this is not a time when the country can afford costly reforms, which in happier financial circumstances they would advocate. So the electors are to go to the polls in no unreal atmosphere, but with the hard limitations of economic fact before their eyes. In some respects issues are still confused. But the next week or two will produce clearer definitions of doubtful points; and we are confident that from the multitude of counsellors and the conflict of principle will emerge a better Government and a better Parliament than that which was born of emotional stress and insincerity in 1918.

MR LLOYD GEORGE: SOME GLIMPSES OF HIS CAREER.

WITH the fall of his Government Mr Lloyd George brings to an end one of the longest continuous terms of Cabinet office in our political history. That it is the close of his public career we do not for one moment suppose. The ex-Prime Minister is the same age to-day as Mr Gladstone was when he entered on the first of his four Premierships, and if Mr Lloyd George is young in years, as age is reckoned among politicians, he is equally young in those

essential qualities of vigour and vitality. It is not surprising—indeed it can hardly be otherwise—that of late months the Prime Minister has been ageing somewhat and showing evidences of fatigue, but a man, who after 17 years of the most strenuous public service, can display the energy which Mr Lloyd George is putting forth to-day is anything but a spent force. This, therefore, is not the occasion to write Mr Lloyd George's political obituary; but it is appropriate to recall, before the new chapter opens, some of the leading features of the part which he has played in our political history since the resignation of Mr Balfour's Government in December, 1905.

In the three phases of history which have occurred since that date, Mr Lloyd George has made a quite distinctive contribution. Even if the war had not made him one of the leading statesmen of Europe, Mr Lloyd George would have secured, and, indeed, had to some extent already secured when the war broke out, a European reputation. The eight years before the war were as full of Liberal legislation, or attempted legislation, as any in our recent history, and although many of the most notable contributions of this period were the work of other Liberal Ministers, Mr Lloyd George himself was in popular estimation associated with the most outstanding economic developments of this period. The two most important features, and far-reaching in their effect, were the principle of National Insurance of the working classes against ill-health, accident, and unemployment, on the one hand, and on the other the development of the system of graduated and differential taxation culminating in the super-tax and graded estate duties of the Budget of 1909. A moment's thought will show the immense importance of these two conceptions, in enabling Great Britain to shoulder the financial burden of the war on the one hand, and on the other to maintain a population free from acute distress in the unexampled post-war slump in world production. It is interesting to find in many text-books on public finance published on the Continent of Europe that "Lloyd Georgeism" has nothing to do with international affairs or even homes for heroes, but is a synonym for very steeply graduated direct taxation. It is still possible that the most abiding developments associated with Mr Lloyd George's name may be the principles embodied in Liberal legislation between 1906 and 1914.

This is not the place to enlarge upon Mr Lloyd George's personality. The number of persons who have come into personal contact with him during his long period of office is so large, his personality is so clearly mirrored in his public activities, and his exceptional manner and charm have been so frequently analysed and publicly discussed that every citizen interested in public affairs feels that he has an intimate knowledge of Mr Lloyd George's characteristics. But if our conception that the achievements of Mr Lloyd George in 1910 may outlive all but one of the achievements of the post-war Ministry, even if they do not rival his war successes, is correct, it will perhaps illustrate the view that the ex-Premier is a bad captain, but a superb first mate. The partnership between Mr Lloyd George and Mr Asquith was one in which, at all events until 1916, the guidance of the older statesman was a help to and in no sense fettered the energy and enterprise of his younger colleague, and it will perhaps be the verdict of history that a better result is achieved when great driving force and imagination are under the direction of balanced judgment and highly trained intellect than when the process is reversed.

As regards the vexed question of Mr Lloyd George's war activities, we number ourselves among those who have profound admiration for the contribution he made during that great struggle. His measures at the Treasury on the outbreak of war were those of a man of action, and throughout the war his fundamental conceptions in such matters as the foundation of British credit in America, of the part that artillery and other material implements would play at the front, and of the need of unity of command were often intuitively seized months or even years before they came home to his colleagues. The story of his ordering of heavy artillery in the teeth of the active opposition of the War Office, the Treasury, the Board of Trade, and the barely concealed distrust of many of his Cabinet colleagues, and the sudden vindication of his foresight within a week of the opening of the Battle of the Somme, reads almost like a

fairy tale. It may perhaps be said by his critics that his early support of the introduction of conscription, which involved so radical a departure from the principles of his political faith, illustrates the lightness of the hold which Mr Lloyd George's mind has upon fundamental political ideas, but the events proved that he was right in urging this break with deep-rooted British tradition, and it illustrates Mr Lloyd George's ability to gather ideas from all and every source that he was able to urge on his side that among many of the progressive political parties on the Continent the idea of national service was defended as the most democratic form of national defence. In our opinion the time is still not yet ripe to speak of Mr Lloyd George's accession into the highest honour in the Kingdom. But the criticism that the administrative changes which he made in the first twelve months of his Premiership, such as the institution of the War Cabinet, the establishment of the Ministries of Food, Shipping, and National Service, were changes which had been prepared, and would have taken place under his predecessor, cannot in our opinion rob him of the credit that it was his régime which carried them into effect, and that under his leadership there was undoubtedly a great speeding up of the machinery of war administration. The friction between overlapping departments was eased, and though in a few cases, perhaps, ineffective pieces of machinery were instituted, which were subsequently jettisoned, the war administration developed gradually increasing power and efficiency. Against these achievements, no doubt, something has to be off-set on the score of Mr Lloyd George's confirmed distrust of the professional soldiers, which led him to intervene in strategy, and sometimes to thwart the considered views of the General Staff. But even if the verdict of history is given in favour of the full indictment against him, which General Maurice and Sir William Robertson have made on these grounds, there will remain, in our opinion, a very heavy credit balance to his account with the nation during the greatest struggle in its history.

With the Armistice, however, in November, 1918, came his great miscalculation, which is mainly to be attributed to the little strand of self-distrust which is woven into the warp of Mr Lloyd George's mental equipment. Before Mr Lloyd George took the decision of appealing to the people, the possibility of an indemnity from Germany had been very fully examined and explained to the Government by both Treasury and Board of Trade experts, and although Mr Hughes, Lord Cunliffe, and others differed from the very modest estimates of the Government's official advisers, the Prime Minister had all the material available for forming a fair judgment on this vital question. Moreover, Mr Lloyd George had before him all the arguments for a peace of reconciliation, and his prestige both here and in Europe was sufficient to enable him to put such a policy before the country. All the world knows how his courage failed at the critical moment, and although he himself was guarded in his statements about Germany, he became a party to the coupon election, and allowed the Coalition candidates to go to the polls with rash promises of impracticable reparations and Utopian social reform. The election promises of 1918, and the Conservative majority in the House of Commons, which was never really in sympathy with the radical tendencies of the head of the Government, have been mill-stones round his neck from that day to this.

Into the record of post-war Coalition we do not propose to enter here, but will leave the record of its merits and achievements, no less than its blunders and vacillations, to be dissected into atoms before the public gaze by the political protagonists in the electoral battle of the next three weeks. But it is impossible to close any retrospect of Mr Lloyd George's career, however sketchy, without some reference to the possibilities of the future. At the moment Mr Lloyd George is preaching the doctrine of national unity. But national unity is not a policy. It is either a fact or not a fact. We are, for example, as a nation united in loyalty to the Throne, and in affection to its present occupant, and we are at one in our fight against disease and misery. But to call for "unity" where there is no foundation of agreement is a harmless but futile pastime. Devotion to such a pastime is explicable in the case

of a Minister still sore at the destruction of the edifice of political compromise which he had laboriously constructed. But this phase is one which the country is not likely to take very seriously. Of far greater importance is the question as to where Mr Lloyd George will eventually find his political home. Of the direction of his future orientation there can be little doubt. The roots of the Tory revolt against his administration lie in the belief that Mr Lloyd George has been and remains a Liberal in outlook, tradition, and sympathy. When he realises that the forces which produce unity—such as the pursuit of victory, or the vindication of national honour—are no longer operative, and that there are no substitutes, he will turn in the direction in which the whole of his past history tells us he must turn. The political ideals of to-morrow, or those of them that will appeal to his mentality, will be such as can only be furthered by the organisation of the progressive forces. Among the chief organisers Mr Lloyd George must in the end inevitably be found.

THE AGENDA OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

THE moment that the danger of a new war between Great Britain and Turkey was removed, the Near Eastern question relapsed into its usual place in the far background of the public consciousness. Our interest in the crisis abroad was diverted to the domestic crisis which it had precipitated. Yet though the Mudania Armistice ensured the meeting of a peace conference, and settled—or shelved—one or two of the most dangerous questions, a host of other questions (equally important, though less immediately conducive to a breach of the peace) were passed over in silence; and all or any of these may produce a deadlock when the parties assemble.

A controversy as to who the parties are to be threatened difficulty. The principal Allied Powers were apparently ready to admit Russia to a separate conference on the régime to be established in the Straits, but not to the peace conference between Turkey, Greece, the Powers of the Little Entente, and themselves. Russia, on her side, however, maintained, with good reason, that the status of the Straits will virtually be predetermined by the conditions of the peace treaty. We are, therefore, glad to see that the Allies have advanced a step towards meeting Russia's case by inviting her to participate in the peace conference so far as it relates to the question of the Straits. Bulgaria receives a similar limited invitation; but Bulgaria, it must be admitted, has also a direct interest in any change of sovereignty over the province of Eastern Thrace, with which her frontier marches, and a still more vital interest in the future of Western Thrace, which involves her promised outlet to the open Aegean Sea. Lastly, when the question of the Capitulations is raised, as it certainly will be (and that in a rather truculent way) on the Turkish side, Powers which have carefully held aloof from Near Eastern affairs will suddenly find themselves affected. It will be curious, for instance, to see what line is taken by the United States—a country that has founded a number of important educational, medical, and philanthropic institutions in Turkey, with valuable land and buildings and large American staffs. The American people are bent upon non-intervention, but they are also tenacious of established claims and vested interests in foreign countries. The denunciation of the Capitulations by Turkey would force this issue upon the Americans, especially in view of the fact that their capitulatory rights, secured under a commercial treaty of 1830, are so favourably formulated in respect of consular jurisdiction that (on the "most-favoured-nation" principle) they have become one of the pillars of the entire structure which the Turks now hope to overthrow. It is hoped that Washington will accept in some form the invitation extended to her to take part in the Conference.

The Capitulations are a body of rights, vesting partly in foreign Governments and partly in individual nationals of foreign Powers when resident in Turkey; and these rights are derived partly from bilateral treaties, still more from unilateral charters promulgated by the Ottoman Government, to which the name "Capitulations," or in plain English "Articles," seems properly to belong, and still more again from custom and case law. The essence

of a legal system is its interpretation, and, during the last century and a-half, the Capitulations have been construed more and more in favour of the foreigner and less and less in favour of the Turk, in proportion to the weakness of Turkey and the strength of the Powers. When interpretations conflicted, as they frequently did, in dealing with such a miscellaneous and amorphous body of law, the Powers generally got their way, because in the last resort they could exercise naval and military pressure upon the outlying extremities of the Ottoman Empire. But how will the bargaining go now when the tables are turned, and the Turk, secure in the fastnesses of Anatolia, can threaten the Powers either at the Straits or along the open frontiers of Syria and Mesopotamia? The Turks are determined to compensate themselves for the loss of their non-Turkish provinces by becoming masters in their own house, and, apart from any questions of justice or expediency, the factors of geography and strategy are certainly working in their favour.

Possibly a compromise may be sought by an analysis of the capitulatory rights into their component elements. The Powers might consent to give up their capitulatory veto upon changes in the Turkish tariff, or their minor privileges, such as their right to maintain their own post offices on Turkish soil, in order to retain at least part of their consular jurisdiction. And individual foreign nationals might reconcile themselves to losing their present immunity from most Turkish taxes, so long as they retained the privileges included under "Personal Statute." Both sides have a genuine case. The Turks feel that they cannot carry on the Government of their country with the Capitulations in their present form, and the foreign residents feel that, without Capitulations, they cannot carry on their business in Turkey. There is infinite possibility of compromise, and it is to the interest of neither party to push their contention to extremes, but, unfortunately, that is no guarantee that they will not do so in practice. The stakes are great, and the negotiations will be extremely hard.

An equally difficult matter of negotiation will be the protection of those non-Turkish minorities in Turkey who are not foreign, but Ottoman subjects. Their ancient privileges of cultural and religious autonomy have ceased to be effective during this last period of internecine strife between the various Near Eastern nationalities, while, on the other hand, considerable Turkish minorities have come under the government of the non-Turkish Near Eastern countries, and are in need of safeguards as well as the Greeks and Armenians who may remain under Turkish rule. Reciprocity is the key to a solution of this problem, and the Turks, in their National Pact, have declared themselves willing to grant to their minorities the same privileges as are secured, under the peace-treaties, in defeated, aggrandised, or newly-created States in Europe. It may be argued, however, that these privileges, whether sufficient, or not in Western or Central Europe, are inadequate for minorities in Near Eastern countries, and if this is so, the diplomatic difficulties in the way of getting a satisfactory charter will be serious, for Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Jugoslavia will be up in arms against any proposal, even if applied to all of them, which differentiates them from other Powers. There is a question of status and amour propre involved here of a very delicate kind.

In addition to these general questions, there are a number of territorial problems to be disposed of, even after the settlement of Eastern Thrace. There is Western Thrace, for instance, where the Turks will demand a plebiscite and the Bulgars an economic right of way. There are the Greek islands of Cyprus and the Dodekanese, on which all three of the principal Allied Powers have liens—liens that differ from one another in effectiveness, but which are all alike invalidated by the principle of self-determination. There are the non-Arab parts of Mesopotamia, which contain not only the Kurds, but the oil-fields of that blessed country, and which the Turks are determined to reclaim. And finally, there is the Armenian National Home, which we have a last faint chance of bargaining for in connection with a revision of frontiers in Kurdistan.

This formidable list of items by no means exhausts the catalogue. We have still to define, by agreement, the very

elastic formula regarding the freedom of the Straits, which has been implicitly embodied in the Armistice of Mudania. And there are all manner of financial, military, naval, and air controls asserted over Turkey in the text of the Treaty of Sèvres. It is true that these have never been operative, because the major part of Turkey had come *de facto* under the government of Angora more than a year before the treaty was signed. Yet even this litter of waste-paper has its dangers, for if the negotiators trip over it, they may fall upon the sharp edges of swords.

THE REDUCTION IN WAGES.

IN searching the economic horizon for signs of a real revival in trade it is natural and necessary that attention should be largely concentrated upon the great outstanding problems of international finance, whose solution must precede the restoration of activity in international trade and of prosperity in a manufacturing and exporting country like Great Britain. But it is desirable occasionally to turn from the study of those problems and to consider what progress British industry is making in respect of the domestic adjustment which is necessary if it is to be in a position to avail itself to the full of better world trade conditions when they arrive. In particular, attention is claimed by the degree to which this country has achieved the drastic reduction, which was so essential, in the costs of manufacturing those commodities which are exported in return for imports of the food and raw materials which the country requires for its livelihood. Unfortunately, data are not available for any generalisation as to the extent by which industrial production costs as a whole have been curtailed. But with regard to the essential item of wages, it is possible to trace the course of recent reductions.

In an article entitled "The Wages Tangle" in the *Economist* of January 21st we gave some figures showing average wage reductions in certain leading industries in the calendar year 1921. With the assistance of statistics compiled by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* it is now possible to continue those figures by showing the average reduction for the same industries in the nine months ended September 30th last. In the following table the first three columns appear as printed in our January article, while the last column adds a calculation with regard to the past nine months, based on the latest official information:—

	No. of Work- People Affected by Wages Changes in 1921.	Net Reduc- tion in Weekly Wages Bill in 1921.	Net Reduc- tion per Head per Week in 1921.	Net Reduc- tion per Head per Week in Period Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1922.
Mining and quarrying ..	1,290,000	2,588,000	2 0 0	0 10 4
Iron and steel ..	240,000	475,000	1 19 7	0 19 0
Building and allied trades ..	450,000	304,000	0 13 6	0 15 1
Textiles ..	1,010,000	651,000	0 12 11	0 7 1
Engineering and ship- building ..	1,730,000	1,054,000	0 12 3	0 17 1
Transport ..	910,000	388,000	0 8 6	0 8 11
Public utility services ..	340,000	134,000	0 7 10	0 9 0

In the coal mining industry the fall in average wages in the past nine months has been little more than a quarter of the fall recorded in 1921. But a drop of over 50 shillings per week over the whole period of 21 months from January 1, 1921, to September 30, 1922, is sufficiently striking. The iron and steel industry, however, shows even more remarkable figures. Here an average weekly wage decline of only 5d short of £2 in 1921 has been followed by a further fall of 19s in the past nine months. These large wage cuts have been the principal factor in restoring the British iron and steel industry to an economic basis, and in enabling it to produce at prices at which foreign competition can be met. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades the average wage has fallen more heavily in the past nine months than in the whole of 1921, and the same is true of the building trade, and of public utility and transport services.

There are, as we pointed out on a former occasion, great diversities in the levels of wages prevalent for the same classes of work in different districts. Naturally, also, the fall in wages has taken place in widely varying proportions in different branches of industry. The *Ministry of Labour Gazette* points out that while in some

cases full-time weekly rates at the end of last month were only 20 per cent. above the pre-war level, in other cases they were as much as 120 or 130 per cent. higher. But our official contemporary ventures, in a very tentative fashion, on an estimate that the average general level of full-time weekly wages is now 75 or 80 per cent. above that of July, 1914, whereas it was estimated to be 170 or 180 per cent. above that level at the end of 1920. We quote the relevant passage: "The information in the possession of the Department is not sufficiently complete to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of September, 1922, weekly full-time rates of wages of adult workpeople, in the industries for which particulars are available, averaged about 75 or 80 per cent. above the pre-war rates. As the length of the normal working week had been considerably reduced in the same period, the usual range of full-time working hours in industry generally being about 44 to 48 weekly at the end of September, 1922, as compared with 48 to 60 before the war, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages would be substantially greater. At the end of 1920, shortly before the decline in wages began, the increase on pre-war rates in the same industries is estimated to have been about 170 or 180 per cent. The average reduction in rates of wages from the beginning of 1921 until the end of September, 1922, therefore, would appear to have been equivalent to about 35 per cent. of the rates current at the former date."

It will be noticed that the average increase in the wage level, as here tentatively computed, is in close correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number, which showed at October 1st an increase of 78 per cent. over July, 1914. The close similarity in the two percentage calculations is rather remarkable. But there would still appear to be considerable scope for adjustment not only as between one industry and another, but also between one district and another in which the same industry is pursued.

One important point that emerges from a review of the wage position is that the unskilled labourer in many industries seems to have been able to retain a larger proportion of his war and post-war advance in wages than his skilled companion. The following figures illustrate the point. In the building trade the latest figure for the labourer's wage shows an advance of 98 per cent. on the 1914 level; that for bricklayer, 76 per cent. In the engineering trades fitters and turners are now earning on an average 48 per cent. more than before the war, and labourers 77 per cent. more. Similarly, in the shipbuilding industry, shipwrights' average wages are 42 per cent., and labourers' 75 per cent. above the level of August, 1914. But it also appears that the position as between skilled and unskilled, in the matter of wage increase over the pre-war level, has been undergoing some readjustment. For at December, 1920, the excess over the pre-war level shown by labourers' wages was 225 per cent. in the building trades, 210 per cent. in the engineering trades, and 208 per cent. in shipbuilding, while in the three industries the excess shown at December 30, 1920, in the average wage levels of the skilled workers mentioned above was 149 per cent., 130 per cent., and 121 per cent. respectively.

The close approximation, to which we have referred above, between the relative position of wages and costs of living to their respective pre-war levels is no doubt satisfactory from some points of view. But the time has come to remember that the cost of living, which in times of war stress served as a handy and perhaps necessary standard, is not an ideal wage level criterion even for trades which are not subject to acute competition. In the long run the standard of living in the country as a whole must be regulated by wage levels in the export industries, and wage levels there must be regulated in accordance with the ability of these industries to pay. One of the most satisfactory features of recent industrial tendencies is that wages in export and competitive industries have been steadily adjusting themselves to the levels dictated by the economic necessities of these industries. But in other industries, particularly those engaged in transport and distribution, the tendency is still to regulate

wage levels by the cost of living. This mere fact may in itself be an influence tending to keep up the cost of living, and therefore to depress the real value of wages of other workers whose money rates of pay are determined by the pressure of international competition. Herein lies an important problem, demanding the careful attention of organisations of employers and employed—namely, whether economic wisdom and common interest do not lie in the direction of modifying the too rigid use of cost of living standard (where it is still adopted) in such a way as to permit more rapid adjustment to those levels which in other industries are being fixed by purely economic considerations.

ARGENTINE RAILWAYS.

THE year ended June 30, 1922, is described by the general manager of one of the four great Argentine railway companies as colourless, and it appears to be a true description in so far as it compared unfavourably with the boom year 1919-20, and was considerably better than the year 1920-21, one of the poorest on record. Labour troubles were conspicuously absent, and while industrial depression was responsible for some falling off in traffic, the fall in prices, especially of fuel, enabled the companies to show considerable expansion in net receipts, although tariff increases did not come into operation during the year under review. The previous year's dividends are repeated, with the addition of a payment of the statutory dividend on the 5 per cent. second non-cumulative preference stock of the Buenos Aires and Pacific Company, which received no distribution a year ago. The dividend record of recent years reads as follows:—

Company.	1913-14.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
B.A. and Pacific, ord.	% nil	% nil	% nil	% 2	% 5	% nil	% nil
Do 5% 2nd non-cum. pref.	5	12	5	5	5	nil	5
B.A. Great Southern	5	4	2	3	7	4	4
B.A. Western	5	2	2	2	7	4	4
Central Argentine, ord.	5	1	2	2	6	nil	4
Do deferred	5	nil	nil	nil	6	nil	nil

The dividends paid for 1920-21 were only possible in the case of the Buenos Aires Western and Buenos Aires Great Southern Companies by withdrawals from reserve of £500,000 and £550,000 respectively, while the Buenos Aires and Pacific, after payment of fixed charges, showed a debit balance of £587,160. Fortunately this company had a large carry forward, upon which it was able to draw to the extent of over £647,000. In the next table the results for the year 1921-22 are set out:—

	Pacific.	Southern.	Western.	Central.
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	7,465,112	8,412,836	4,098,030	9,442,562
Working expenses	5,318,508	6,259,563	3,226,063	7,389,951
[Ditto for 1920-21]	(5,872,227)	(7,364,273)	(3,767,246)	(7,779,799)
Net receipts	2,146,604	2,160,273	871,967	2,052,611
[Ditto for 1920-21]	(981,397)	(1,368,254)	(377,884)	(1,966,865)
[Ditto for 1919-20]	(2,487,990)	(2,938,813)	(1,603,196)	(3,164,809)
Other income (less charges)	Dr 112,562	168,003	157,175	73,993
Net income	2,034,042	2,328,276	1,029,142	2,126,604
Fixed charges	1,881,054	818,473	454,776	873,337
Balance	152,988	1,509,803	574,366	1,253,267
Preference dividends	110,000	400,000	129,855	436,306
Ordinary dividends	nil	1,163,600	598,494	1,127,479
		(4 %)	(4 %)	(4 %)
Reserves	..	..	Dr 120,000	Dr 150,000
Inc. (+) or dec. (-) in carry-forward	+ 42,988	- 53,797	- 33,983	- 160,518

A year ago the Central Argentine showed by far the best results, but the accounts for the past year show a less favourable position, net income being nearly £300,000 lower, while there was no profit on exchange, whereas for 1920-21 nearly £341,000 was credited on this account. To maintain its dividend the company has not only to withdraw £150,000 from reserve, but reduces the carry-forward by over £160,000. The Western withdraws £120,000 from reserve, and reduces the carry-forward to less than £4,000, while the Great Southern carries forward only £2,700. The B.A. and Pacific carries forward £70,000, or less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the ordinary capital.

The next table distinguishes the receipts from passenger train traffic and goods traffic, giving a comparison with the figures for 1920-21:—

	Passenger Train Traffic.			Goods, Merchandise, and Live Stock.			Total (Including Miscellaneous).		
	1921-22.	Inc. or Dec.	%	1921-22.	Inc. or Dec.	%	1921-22.	Inc. or Dec.	%
B.A. Pacific	1,975,874	- 65,803	3.2	5,466,732	+ 713,026	15.0	7,442,606	+ 647,223	8.9
B.A. Gt. Sthn.	3,731,693	- 133,733	3.5	4,688,143	- 175,958	3.8	8,419,836	- 312,691	3.6
B.A. Western	1,348,602	- 75,899	5.3	2,749,428	+ 28,799	1.1	4,098,030	+ 47,100	1.1
Central	2,816,438	+ 15,943	0.3	6,201,665	- 290,070	4.5	9,018,103	- 304,102	3.1

A year ago passenger receipts showed an increase, while goods traffic receipts were all substantially down. In the past year the changes are by no means uniform, but with the exception of the B.A. and Pacific, total receipts are slightly lower. The changes in total receipts are compared in the table below with those of recent years:—

	1913-14.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
B.A. Pacific	- 12.7	+ 2.6	- 5.0	+ 19.2	+ 19.0	+ 30.8	- 16.4	+ 8.9
B.A. Great Sthn.	- 16.8	+ 12.3	+ 3.3	+ 1.8	+ 25.6	+ 30.1	- 8.4	+ 3.6
B.A. Western	- 13.0	+ 7.6	- 7.7	+ 14.8	+ 30.3	+ 41.0	- 21.1	+ 1.1
Central Arg.	- 6.6	- 0.3	- 8.5	+ 17.8	+ 12.0	+ 41.0	- 0.2	+ 3.1

The best showing is made by the Central Argentine, whose receipts during the past two years have fallen away only slightly after the substantial rises of the three preceding years. This company, however, has conspicuously failed to effect the substantial reduction in the ratio of working expenses to receipts recorded by the other three lines, as may be seen from the appended table:—

	1913-14.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
B.A. and Pacific	62.63	61.16	65.68	65.80	71.51	69.69	85.68	71.24
B.A. Great Sthn.	58.56	57.04	61.06	76.16	77.96	69.19	84.33	74.34
B.A. Western	58.82	58.22	66.88	75.68	75.08	69.48	90.88	78.72
Central Arg.	58.54	64.53	68.71	73.93	84.60	67.66	79.82	78.26

Three of the companies now show a lower ratio than in 1918-19, but the Western, which last year recorded an abnormal increase, although it has achieved a considerable reduction, has not been able to reduce the ratio below the 1918-19 level. The next table shows the divisions of expenditure in which the reductions have been effected:—

(000's omitted.)

	Running Expenses.				Maintenance.				General and Miscellaneous.							
	1920-21.		% of Revenue.		1921-22.		% of Revenue.		1920-21.		% of Revenue.		1921-22.		% of Revenue.	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
Pacific	3,832.1	55.9	3,279.5	43.9	1,519.2	22.1	1,472.3	19.8	520.8	7.6	566.7	7.8				
Great Southern	4,680.2	53.6	3,598.6	42.7	1,950.1	22.3	1,954.9	23.2	733.9	8.4	706.1	8.1				
Western	2,272.8	54.8	1,843.5	45.0	1,132.9	27.4	1,029.5	25.1	361.5	8.6	352.7	8.8				
Central	5,021.8	51.5	4,668.8	49.4	1,003.7	20.6	1,942.6	20.7	754.1	7.8	773.6	8.1				

Running expenses have been substantially lowered, thanks to a very large fall in the price of coal. The case of the Great Southern is probably typical of the other companies. The general manager in his report says:—"Whereas in previous years the price of fuel has been the main factor of increased expenditure, this year our fuel bill is the influencing item of decrease, the reduced expenditure under this head amounting to £1,025,457, or 49 per cent. This is chiefly due to the fall in the price of coal, for which the average issue rate over 1921-22 was £3 11s 3d per ton, as against £7 0s 1d per ton over 1920-21." The Central Argentine report, on the other hand, mentions that while the cost of fuel was lower, the settlement, after protracted negotiations, of various outstanding staff matters involved higher pay bills, whilst the upkeep of the carriage stock was higher than in the previous year. Maintenance expenditure, on the whole, however, was no higher than in the previous year, and the rate per mile of track was lower in all cases, except the Pacific:—

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	Ten Years Average.
Pacific	248	295	451	414	429	290
Southern	254	367	464	507	500	320
Western	312	422	411	371	273	328
Central	376	426	525	606	588	393

From this brief examination of the statistics it is clear that a considerable recovery from the bad year 1920-21 has been made, and from the traffic returns for the current year to date it would appear that a further improvement will be shown in 1922-23:—

	Gross Receipts.		Net Receipts.	
	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.
B.A. Pacific	£ 2,069,000	+ 90,000	£ 544,000	+ 311,000
B.A. Great Southern	2,341,000	- 34,000	544,000	+ 311,000
B.A. Western	1,213,000	- 52,000	309,000	+ 151,000
Central Argentine	2,988,000	+ 130,000	..	..

Moderate increases in tariffs came into force at the end of July last, the necessary decree having been issued on June 24th. The general manager of the Great Southern states that official sanction was given to tariff increases a year ago, "but no sooner was this given than it was annulled, and the companies were obliged to withdraw the increases in October and November." Prospects are undoubtedly brighter than they were a year ago. The soberly optimistic forecasts of the managers of the companies are confirmed by the remarks of Mr R. J. Hose, chairman of the Anglo-South American Bank at the annual meeting on Tuesday, who said that all indications pointed to a bumper crop, while the labour situation is satisfactory, and the general outlook is regarded optimistically. Reference was made by the chairman at the meeting of the Great Southern Company to the oil undertaking in which three of the companies are interested, and he stated that steady progress was being made with exploratory work, and that there had been a small but regular output of oil throughout the year, which had been used on their railways. He also held out the hope that for 1922-23 there might be a return to the pre-war rate of dividend, namely, 7 per cent., provided that the harvest proved to be an average one.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN VENEZUELA.

(BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VENEZUELA, more favoured than other Latin-American nations, suffered little from the effects of the European war during its spell. But, as in other countries of the New World, the post-bellum results of the conflict have been reflected in the trade and commerce of this Republic. These are particularly noticeable in the figures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, when the revenues showed a deficit of 21,095,026 bolivares, as against a surplus of over 26,000,000 bolivares in the previous year, the revenue then having reached the record total of 104,887,330 bolivares. The notable difference in the two periods may be accounted for by the fact that in 1920 the Government enjoyed special revenue receipts from imports, while expenditures had been kept down to a reasonable figure.

On the other hand, the estimates for 1921-22 showed a marked reduction from 1920-21, revenue being reduced from 81,560,716 (actual) in 1920-21 to 63,234,000 bolivares (estimated) in 1921-22, or a decrease of 18,326,716 bolivares. Expenditures were reduced from 102,655,743 bolivares (actual) in 1920-21 to 63,234,000 bolivares (estimated) in 1921-22, or a decrease of 39,421,743 bolivares. Although, at the time of writing, the figures showing the actual revenues and expenditures for 1921-22 are not to hand, there are indications to suggest that receipts have dwindled considerably.

The Budget for the current year (1922-23) displays a more hopeful aspect. Revenues and expenditures are reduced by something like 1,500,000 bolivares from the corresponding estimates of 1921-22, the Budget balancing at 61,706,000 bolivares against 63,234,000 bolivares in 1921-22. The reduction in revenues is due to a decrease in the Treasury reserve, and in no way to a decrease in the actual receipts as estimated for the fiscal year. The Minister of Finance, in fact, points out that this Treasury reserve was calculated in the 1921-22 Budget

estimate at 8,205,000 bolivares, whereas it actually amounts to no more than 809,140 bolivares in the estimates for 1922-23. It is, therefore, due to this decrease in reserve that the total of estimated revenues is reduced, and not to any decrease in Customs receipts, Consular receipts, or other sources of revenue. On the contrary, most of the items on the revenue side have increased, notably Customs, which have advanced from 11,550,000 bolivares in 1921-22 to 15,566,000 bolivares in 1922-23; while mines, for the same period, are estimated to produce a revenue of 2,700,000 bolivares for the current year, as against 1,400,000 bolivares for the past twelve months. Other considerable advances are displayed by reason of the imposition of 30 per cent. and 25 per cent. tax respectively on certain import duties, by the transit tax, sanitation tax, and Consular receipts.

A noteworthy feature of the last Venezuelan Budget is the reduction effected in the National Debt, notwithstanding the difficult economic conditions which have prevailed during the past two fiscal years. Comparing the figures of 1921 with those of 1920, it appears that, in spite of the deficit in the Budget for 1920-21 of 21,095,026 bolivares, the National Debt has been reduced by as much as 6,837,059 bolivares. There is only one foreign obligation, namely, the 3 per cent. Diplomatic Debt of 1905, from which date the financial history of Venezuela may be said to begin, following upon the consolidation of the debt of 1880-81 and the 5 per cent. 50,000,000 bolivares German loan of 1896. Of the total Diplomatic Debt, namely, £5,229,700, there had been redeemed up to the end of 1921 £2,590,520, leaving the outstanding total at £2,639,180. In striking contrast to certain other Latin-American States, the Venezuelan Government, both during and since the war, maintained the service of its debt in sterling with commendable promptitude. But objection is taken in certain quarters, and not without reason, to the non-payment of coupons which were not presented at the proper dates during the war period in consequence of the occupation of parts of France and Belgium by the enemy. While investors would appear to have here a substantial grievance, there is reason to believe that the resumption of Presidential power, for a further period of seven years, by General Juan Vicente Gomez, will lead to favourable consideration of these claims and an equitable adjustment.

General Gomez's first Executive term was in 1908, from which date may be traced the gradual economic revival of Venezuela. The several international troubles which had been occasioned by the policy of his predecessor in office, General Cipriano Castro, had first to be straightened out, particularly the serious dispute with Washington, which had originated over expelling some Americans from Venezuela and the cancellation of their concessions. The controversy between Venezuela and Holland (which resulted in the Venezuelan guardship "23 de Mayo" being taken by the Dutch battleship "Jacob van Heemsterker" and towed to Willemstad, Curaçao); and that between Venezuela and the United Kingdom, relative to the British surcharges on imports from Venezuela into the West Indian Colonies, as well as the frontier dispute between Venezuela and Colombia (settled by arbitration as recently as April last in favour of the latter State), were all amicably arranged, thanks to the sound, commonsense, and tactfulness of President Gomez, whose attitude also towards the Allies during the war was wholly sympathetic. In fact, the President-Elect has proved himself as good a statesman as he is a soldier, with all his personal interests engaged in agriculture, which he has done much to promote and encourage throughout the Republic. It is no less noteworthy that under his régime foreign capital has had little reason to complain, in marked contradistinction to experiences gained under previous Venezuelan presidents.

British capital is interested in many Venezuelan industrial enterprises, such as railways, ports, public works, &c., representing a total of £2,382,756. It is understood that it is the intention of the Venezuelan Government, through its Legation in London, to initiate an economic propaganda throughout Europe with the object of encouraging investors to assist in the further exploitation of the minerals of that country.

THE MACHINERY OF INDUSTRIAL NEGOTIATION.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

FEW people realise the extent and complexity of the machinery of industrial negotiation. It is doubtful whether those who are engaged in industry and from time to time take part in negotiations are aware of the network of machinery which now exists. How many employers know how negotiations are carried on in industries other than their own, how wages are adjusted, to what extent and by what means unions in the same industry co-operate, whether agreements are national or local, and whether they are long term, short term, or undetermined agreements? And yet if industrial relations are to be put on a proper basis and industrial controversies settled by the most expeditious methods, these things should be known and studied in order that the best possible instruments of negotiation may be devised.

It has been left to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party to collect the facts on the subject. They are to be found in a volume of 76 large pages published under the title of "Industrial Negotiations and Agreements," with a Foreword by Mr J. R. Clynes (2s net). The volume in question is analytical and descriptive, and not polemical. It will, therefore, be of service to a wider public than that for which it was produced, its object being, quite naturally, the enlightenment of the trade union movement. It is confined to the machinery by which negotiations between trade unions and employers are carried on, the provisions, where they exist, for common action and consultation by trade unions in the same or allied trades, and the extent and duration of collective agreements. Two special types of agreement embodying the sliding scale method of readjusting wages are singled out for special consideration.

Industrial agreements are broadly of two kinds—those which are legally enforceable and those which are not. The Trade Boards' decisions are the chief example of the former. The vast majority of agreements, however, depend for observance on the goodwill of the parties to them, and, notwithstanding the charges which have been made in the Press as to the violation of agreements, the terms of negotiated agreements are almost always observed. These voluntary agreements, operating to-day over a large part of industry, cover a wide field and regulate, often in very considerable detail, the general conditions of labour, though, as might be expected, wages questions take a prominent place in agreements.

The most striking feature of our system of industrial negotiation is its diversity as regards both structure and powers. Before the war there were in existence a large number of conciliation and arbitration boards and other devices for preventing or settling disputes. Though the number of these bodies increased rapidly in the years before the war, the proportion of workers covered by this machinery was not very great. In 1913 no less than three-quarters of the disputes, involving over two-thirds of all workers directly affected, were settled by direct negotiation.

Recent years have witnessed the development of a good deal of new machinery for discussion and negotiation. The Reports of the Whitley Committee inaugurated the policy of Joint Standing Industrial Councils for each industry, with district councils and works committees, and though these bodies have not fulfilled the dreams of their enthusiastic supporters, they have at least extended the scope of our permanent negotiating machinery. At the present time there are 70 Joint Standing Industrial Councils and 32 less formal Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees on the same model. In addition, there are 93 other joint bodies on Whitley lines. The total number of workers covered by standing joint bodies of all kinds is about three and a half millions.

Where there is no Whitley Council or similar body there may be a permanent committee for negotiation when differences arise. In many industries *ad hoc* bodies are set up in cases of dispute. In others reference is only made to a permanent or *ad hoc* body when direct negotiations have failed. In some cases, again, there is a hierarchy of bodies, so that if agreement is not reached on

the first committee the dispute may be referred to a higher body, and ultimately, perhaps, to arbitration. Though the organisation varies from industry to industry, there are certain common broad features. The body usually consists of equal numbers of employers' and workers' representatives, with an independent chairman. There is often recourse to arbitration as a final way out, in which case there may be an independent board whose decision is binding. In other cases the final recourse is the strike or lock-out.

In every industry of importance there is to-day a well-defined procedure for the settlement of disputes and an agreed method of negotiation. Only in a small proportion of instances does the prescribed machinery fail in its object of securing agreement. This may appear to many to be a wild exaggeration, but it is literally true that vastly more disputes are settled by negotiation than by resort to strikes or lock-outs. The fact is, of course, that the public rarely hears of settlements reached by discussion, but is made fully aware of every stoppage following a breakdown of negotiations. It was pointed out not long ago that involuntary unemployment accounts for far more loss of time in industry than stoppages arising from disputes.

The development of this machinery has meant that the operation of collective agreements has become more widespread. In 1910 there were no less than 1,696 agreements in force, covering directly about two and a-half million workers, and indirectly many more. This, however, represented only about a quarter of the total number of wage-earners in the United Kingdom. Detailed statistics have not been published since 1910, but it is well known that the number of agreements and the number of workers covered by them have very largely increased. To-day at least three times as many workers are covered directly by agreements, and a substantial proportion of the remainder are employed on similar conditions, and their conditions are, therefore, indirectly determined by agreements. With the growth of organisation amongst both employers and workpeople agreements have in recent years operated over a greater field than heretofore. The tendency has been towards national agreements. In localised industries, such as cotton, "national" agreements are much easier to secure, but even in widely dispersed industries there has been a strong movement towards agreements covering the whole trade. It does not, of course, follow that national agreements lay down identical conditions all over the country, though there is more uniformity to-day than there was a few years ago. In the building, mining, printing, transport, textile, boot and shoe, and metal industries there are national agreements in operation. In some of these trades, and in hosiery, dyeing, bleaching and finishing, and furnishing there are district agreements. What may be termed local agreements are nowadays unimportant.

The duration of agreements varies very considerably from trade to trade. In some cases agreements are made for two or three years; in others, for a year or even less. In the majority of cases, however, agreements are not made for a fixed period, but there is provision for due notice to terminate on the part of either side, the period of notice sometimes being stated in the agreement. Policy varies from industry to industry, and in the labour movement there are at least two schools of thought on the subject. On the whole, employers are more strongly in favour of long term agreements, though the attitude of both trade unions and employers' associations towards the question of the duration of agreements depends very largely upon the state of trade when they come into operation. Employers naturally avoid as far as possible the termination of agreements at a time when labour can by a fresh agreement secure better terms, whilst the trade unions attempt to avert agreements terminating when economic conditions are such that less advantageous wages and conditions will be imposed by the employers.

One of the difficulties in the way of effective negotiation is the number of trade unions. The recent engineering dispute provided an excellent illustration. There were over 50 unions ultimately concerned, but only one employers' association. The employers have, indeed, in most industries, come nearer to "industrial unionism" than the workers. This question of the multiplicity of unions is one which, on its practical side, concerns the workers

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

alone. The movement towards amalgamation is primarily the result of a recognition of the weakness of overlapping organisations. When complete amalgamation has not been reached, many unions have formal agreements to consult each other, and there is frequently a permanent joint body or federation for this purpose. Many unions, again, have informal consultations whenever matters of common interest arise, but others, unfortunately, have no arrangements for joint consultation and action. The force of events is, however, making for the provision of means of consultation between unions concerned with the same problems.

Collective bargaining and all that it implies is now well established in British industry, and imperfect though the machinery may be in some industries and under some circumstances, it has, nevertheless, proved itself to be workable, and has been of enormous service in securing the settlement of disputed questions without an appeal to force. It may be argued that the logical outcome of a system of consultation and negotiation must be compulsory arbitration. That is a large question which cannot be discussed here. It may, however, be said that it is ruled out of court because the trade union movement will not accept it, and many employers' associations would refuse to surrender the power to lock out the workers. Moreover, agreements reached by give-and-take are more likely to work in practice than the edicts of an independent body. So far as industrial peace is attainable, it is attainable only by voluntary agreements, made by those directly concerned with observing them.

Notes of the Week.

Ireland and the New Government.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—In Ireland, as in Great Britain, the downfall of the Coalition Government and the pending General Election are prominent, if not the predominant, factors in discussion of public events. Irishmen have been interested to hear from Mr Lloyd George that Mr Bonar Law is honest to the point of simplicity. And although neither the positive attribute nor its alleged qualification have been markedly characteristic of Mr Lloyd George's political record, they do not view the advent of his successor with any greater apprehension on that account. Yet apprehensions there are. It is of vital importance for Anglo-Irish peace and for the internal peace of Ireland not merely that the Treaty should be finally ratified by both sides, but that the policy and the spirit which underlie the Treaty should continue to guide British statesmen in the handling of all the detail matters leading up to the final ratification of Treaty and Constitution at Westminster, and incidental to carrying it into effect. It is true that Mr Bonar Law voted for the Treaty in the critical division, and that in the last few days he has given assurances that he intends to go through with it—indeed, for the honour of England he could do no less. On the other hand, Mr Bonar Law's record as an Ulster Covenanter in 1913-14 is not forgotten, and his avowed willingness in those days to resort to revolutionary bloodshed in defiance of the will of the Imperial Parliament in which he led the Opposition. The Irish public has noted the elaborate propaganda conducted in Great Britain by the N.E. Ulster faction, and now it is announced that strong Ulster deputations are to interview the Unionist associations throughout Great Britain before the elections. The Constitution is now complete and merely awaits ratification at Westminster before coming into operation on December 6th next. It is by no means a triumph of the draftsman's art nor a monument of ripe thinking on problems of political theory, but it can be amended at will during the next eight years by the Irish Parliament so long as the amendment does not touch the Treaty. Indeed, amended or not it should work well enough with any Parliament marked by the intelligence, moderation, industry, and respect for minority interests which Dail Eireann, acting as Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament, has displayed during the last two months. While the N.E. Ulster Parliament has been abolishing the proportional representation designed by

Westminster for the protection of its Nationalist and Catholic minorities, Dail Eireann, preserving proportional representation intact, has almost unsolicited and certainly unconstrained made special provision for the direct representation of the Protestant and Unionist Dublin University in the popular Chamber as well as in the Senate. Meantime the business community is feeling the pinch of adverse conditions which, however soon terminated, will continue to operate with ever-increasing effect for many months to come. One instance will illustrate. The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society is a co-operative organisation designed primarily to buy and sell for the farmers on wholesale lines; it has branches and affiliations, it accepts deposits of money and pays interest on them, and it had grown to the point of having an annual turnover of some £1,500,000. It is the protagonist of the co-operative movement—which, as a whole, has a turnover of some £14,000,000—started by Sir Horace Plunkett's Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. The purchase of large stocks just before the rapid fall in prices, the giving of long credits, the consequent piling up of overdrafts, the victimisation of co-operative stores and creameries, the great losses of agriculture both in the pre-truce and the post-truce disturbances, have created for this undertaking a situation of extreme difficulty. The I.A.O.S., realising that the fate for a generation at least of the whole co-operative cause in Ireland is at stake, is assisting by seconding its secretary, Mr R. A. Anderson, the practical and organising brains of the movement, and the I.A.W.S. yesterday appointed him managing director, with special powers in view of the emergency. Many proprietary and joint-stock concerns are very similarly situated for similar reasons. It is most inexpedient in the public interest that sound enterprises honestly and efficiently conducted should be submerged by the shock of political upheavals. It is to be hoped, therefore, that there are official plans for dealing with the crisis, and that they will be ready in time. If, as has already been suggested, the banks and the Government will act in concert, each within their own province, they could mutually assist each other, and could certainly do much to forestall a great deal of private hardship as well as a definite economic loss and dislocation for the business community at large. There is everything to be gained and little to be risked in an effort to maintain the prestige and the financial credit of the country. The latest Exchequer returns show revenue received at £13,770,453, and the balance to credit on October 21st, £2,171,050.

Anglo-American Debt—A Stock Exchange View.—A

Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—Political diversions do not abate the profound interest taken by more thoughtful City circles in the approaching discussion, between British and American authorities, upon the subject of funding the war debt due from this country to the United States. The Mission may be prevented from going next Wednesday, the date previously arranged, and, if so, American opinion may not be the more placated by a second postponement of the Mission, which was to have included Sir Robert Horne, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the Governor of the Bank of England and a Treasury representative. That the Americans are not unprepared in some quarters to take a courageous view may be observed from many indications. "There should be no attempt on our part," says the fortnightly Review of a firm of New York Stock Exchange brokers, "to

disguise the fact that Europe needs our help, and that it is to our advantage to give it.....Even assuming that there is to be a substantial cancellation of foreign indebtedness to us, we still have to face the problem of obtaining payment for our surplus products. We need a foreign outlet for our wheat, corn, and other food-stuffs.....If the basic attitude of Europe towards its own problems changes, and a more conciliatory policy is adopted, we may be encouraged to make concessions that will provide a new basis for rehabilitation. First of all, however, it would seem that Europe must set its own house in order." Ten thousand bankers from all parts of the United States met in convention at New York during the first week of this month. The assembly was convened by the American Bankers' Association, and papers were read, to be afterwards discussed, by men experienced in the subjects upon which they spoke. It is reported that an influential Wall Street authority summed up the addresses, after the conference, by saying they expressed most clearly three things that the world required for its readjustment to-day. Readers of the *Economist* will at once recognise a familiar ring in the speaker's call for a "common honesty, hard work, and economy by governments and individuals alike the world over." To America, Europe may reply that hard work on Europe's part would be the more willingly undertaken if her produce were assured of a market where high tariffs did not inevitably exclude it. Yet, in the teeth of the rampart deliberately raised higher by the latest revision of American tariffs, the trade between our own country and the United States might be stimulated by the adoption of a wise, far-sighted method for repayment of our debt. One proposal suggests the handing to America of a bond issue possessing an international character of negotiability, with interest coupons payable at fixed rates on both sides of the Atlantic. Such bonds might easily become popular investments in our own country, and would be bought back by British investors appreciative of their security. The gradual effect would be to replant the loan in its country of origin, and thus to make Great Britain debtor to her own citizens instead of owing money to the United States. This is one of several plans put forward for making repayment of the debt an assistance to industry, and, whoever may be its members, the Mission to the United States to discuss the question of funding our war loans will have a great opportunity for demonstrating that present-day statesmen are capable of living up to the best traditions of British financial foresight inculcated in the past.

The American Trade Revival.—All communications from the United States dwell upon the business revival that has set in in that country, and recent letters of our own New York correspondent have given many facts and figures illustrating the movement. Of the improvement in American trade that has taken place and is progressing there can be no question, but it may be of interest to our readers to have before them the views as to the future of this movement of an American observer, who is in an exceptionally good position to form an accurate estimate of the position. Without in any way applying the cold douche to current optimism in this matter, he sounds a note of considered caution:—"Some of the more optimistic elements of the business community," he writes, "have been insisting that a new period of inflation was about to begin. This claim was supported by numerous facts, such as the recent increase in wages in the iron and steel, coal, and textile industries, the failure to reduce wages in the railroad industry, and by advancing prices of steel products and all building materials, which took place during August and early September. Probably the soundest basis for this claim was the fact that business houses have been buying from hand to mouth, and have only carried the smallest stocks of goods possible. The banked-up demand caused by the railroad and coal strikes and the tightening in the money market which took place early in this month gave the optimists an opportunity to advance their claims. However, in considering the various important industries of the United States, I cannot

be optimistic of the immediate future of many of them. The steel industry will quickly respond to every advance and setback in business. Although the railroads, which are one of the main sources of demand for steel products, are in need of equipment, this need is not nearly so keen as it was eighteen months ago, and it is doubtful if it will be filled, except in a very gradual way. There has been an enormous amount of apartment house, hotel, and office building throughout the country during the past two years. This market for steel will undoubtedly diminish. The demand for steel from the automobile, agricultural implement, and oil industries is good at the present time, but prospects for the future are not so encouraging. Many firms which had large surpluses at the end of the war built new plants and installed new machinery, rather than pay dividends and excess profit taxes. It is estimated that the machinery in factories and mills is in good condition, and the demand from this market should not be unusually heavy for some time to come. The lumber industry has been enormously stimulated during the last few years, but it is the consensus of opinion that the peak has already been passed in building. Although the demand for lumber will not stop suddenly, it will undoubtedly slacken during the winter, and it is very doubtful whether the spring demand will be anything like as much as it was this year. Rubber manufacturing plants in the Cleveland area are reported running to capacity, working especially on automobile tires. Prices of hides and skins have shown an upward trend. The leather markets in consequence have remained firm, with many tanners effecting increased prices. Prices of shoes and leather goods are still high, however, and until these show greater reductions demand will probably continue cautious. Woollen mills are reported very active, and textile mills are gradually resuming normal operations. Activity in the knit goods and hosiery trade is excellent. There is a question, however, whether or not the woollen and textile industries will continue to show such activity." The views of this well-placed observer may or may not prove to be unduly cautious. But his contention that the appearance of boom is accentuated by the natural revival of overdue activities after the strike period (a point of view by no means left out of calculation in the articles from our New York correspondent) is one that is apt to be overlooked, and of which sight should not be lost.

A Loss to the Treasury.—It has been announced this week that Sir Basil Blackett, Controller of Finance at the Treasury, has been appointed to the post of Finance Member of the Legislative Council of India. We offer him our sincere congratulations on his well-deserved promotion, but we cannot fail to regret that the Treasury is deprived of his services at a time when the problems of finance, both at home and abroad, are of supreme importance. As a rule, the outside public knows very little of the personality of its leading Civil Servants, but Sir Basil Blackett is one of those forceful men whose opinions have not only visibly influenced from time to time the policy of his political chiefs, but have also impressed themselves upon the City and upon the business world. It is matter for public regret that on the problem of international debts the views of Sir Basil and his colleagues at the Treasury, voiced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Cabinet, were overruled when the late Government by a narrow majority decided on the policy of the Balfour Note. Sir Basil's work on all the international conferences which have taken place since the end of the war has earned for him the confidence of the financial experts of the Ministries of Europe. Not the least of his achievements has been his service on the Finance Committee of the League of Nations. To his perseverance in wrestling with the baffling problem of the rehabilitation of Austria is due in no small measure the final elaboration of the scheme which was recently unanimously adopted at Geneva. Sir Basil goes to India at a time when the finances of that country call for the best brains that can be made available for their service, and his departure from the Treasury is an instance of the price which home administration has to pay for Imperial responsibility.

The New Indian Loan.—In another column we give particulars of a new loan of the Indian Government for £20,000,000, which is the largest loan of the kind put upon the London market since war borrowing ceased. It will be recalled that the Indian Government proposes to spend £100,000,000 during the next five years upon its railway system, and this issue is the second of a series of which part of the proceeds are to be devoted to this specific purpose. The prospectus, however, states that the proceeds of the loan may also be utilised for "general purposes." In view of the fact that certain taxes were rejected by the Legislative Assembly, with the result that there is a deficit in the Budget, it is to be presumed that these words in the prospectus are intended to enable part of the proceeds to be used to cover the ordinary current expenditure of the Budget. It has been announced that the loan has been underwritten, but the terms are not stated. The yield of the present issue, calculated at the latest date of redemption and allowing for the profit at maturity, works out at approximately £5 10s per cent. The previous issue, which was for £12,500,000, gave a yield of £6 1s per cent., but this it should be noticed was a short-dated loan running for but ten years, while the present issue is redeemable at the earliest in 1950 and at latest in 1955. Thus, when the comparatively generous offer of the 7 per cent. Indian loan and the subsequent successes of the various issues following are considered, it must be admitted that the Indian Government has been able to take considerable advantage of cheaper money rates, although whether to its fullest extent may be a questionable point. Indeed, assuming that the political risks in India are not of serious moment, and that the Budget deficit is only a passing phase, the issue, when considered in relation to yields of home gilt-edged securities, look cheap at the price offered. According to an India Office return issued last May, the total outstanding debt of the Indian Government on March 31, 1922, amounted to just under £185 millions, and the interest payable on this sum for the half-year ending on this date is given as slightly under £3 millions. The internal debt at this date was, we are informed, approximately 420 crores of rupees. The most promising point about these debt figures is that the greater part of the proceeds has been devoted to building and equipping railways and undertaking irrigation schemes. It is stated that reducing the sterling debt to Indian currency (10 rupees to the £) the total of sterling and internal debt is about 532 crores, out of which 500 crores represent productive debt. These figures, showing the vast sums invested in productive undertakings, reveal in a striking manner the prosperous course which India could steer given efficient administrative officials and reasonably stable but progressive government.

Lloyd's Register.—The annual report of *Lloyd's Register* for 1921-22 shows that the world-wide depression in the shipbuilding industry referred to in the previous report has not been relieved during the past twelve months. "Disturbed political and economic conditions, disorganisation of the exchange, and stagnation of international trade, provide adequate explanations for the continued falling off in shipbuilding." Although at the time of writing this report there are in some directions signs which may be indicative of a possible recovery in the shipbuilding industry, it will take much more than is at present on the horizon to enable builders to have any confident expectation of re-filling the berths which are left vacant by the completion of tonnage now in hand; and, with the world outlook as it is, it would seem that the only consideration which would dispose shipowners to make themselves responsible for outlay on new tonnage, except as regards passenger liners and vessels intended for special trades, would be the knowledge that there will be a sharp demand for the most up-to-date types as soon as the upward movement of freights begins, in order to meet the severe competition which must then arise. The total tonnage of merchant vessels afloat at the end of June, 1922, holding the classification of *Lloyd's Register*, was 27,231,129 tons—the highest figure ever recorded. The British share of this total was 13,724,562. If to this total be added those vessels coming under the heading "Class Contem-

plated" we find that the aggregate of shipping coming under the aegis of *Lloyd's Register* classification comprises 10,325 vessels, of more than 28½ million tons gross. This compares with 24,809,000 in 1914. The following table, contained in the report, gives particulars of the new tonnage classed by the Society during the last nine years:—

Year.	Steam and Motor. Tons.	Sail. Tons.	Total. Tons.
1913-14	2,014,397	5,788	2,020,185
1914-15	1,289,827	5,796	1,295,623
1915-16	789,688	521	790,209
1916-17	1,371,915	4,210	1,376,125
1917-18	2,552,607	16,517	2,569,124
1918-19	3,760,806	40,415	3,801,221
1919-20	4,186,882	66,641	4,253,523
1920-21	3,229,188	15,943	3,245,130
1921-22	2,517,513	6,479	2,523,992

The annual shipbuilding returns, particularly for the post-war period, afford an admirable illustration of the extraordinary fluctuations which form so typical a feature of the shipbuilding industry.

The Southern Railway Group.—The long awaited details of the terms of amalgamation of the principal railways forming the Southern group of railways under the terms of the Railways Act, 1921, were issued at the end of last week. The companies concerned are the London and South-Western, the London, Brighton, and South Coast, the South-Eastern and the London, Chatham and Dover, and the South-Eastern and Chatham Companies' managing Committee. The terms of the scheme, which is to come into force on January 1st next, are necessarily somewhat complicated owing to the divergence in the capitalisation of the companies concerned. An estimate has been framed of the revenue of the constituent companies of the group, and when applied to the payment of interest and dividends on the several amounts of the amalgamated company's stock proposed to be allocated to the constituent companies, the amalgamated company's debenture, guaranteed, preference and preferred ordinary stocks would yield an income equal to that received by the holders of similar stocks for the year 1921. The circular issued by the South-Western mentions that the balance of standard revenue is estimated to produce a dividend of £2 18s per cent. on the new company's deferred shares. Market anticipations as to the terms of exchange of the junior stocks were rather on the optimistic side, and prices of both South-Western and South-Eastern deferred have fallen this week, while some criticism on the part of prior-charge holders has been heard. Details were published on Wednesday by the directors of the London and North-Western and Midland Railways of the terms of the agreement for amalgamation of the Furness, Glasgow and South-Western and Highland Railway Companies into the group of which the North-Western and the Midland Companies will be the chief constituents. The name of the new company will be subsequently decided upon.

Ebbw Vale Dispute Ended.—Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The outstanding events in the South Wales coalfield this week have been the failure of the policy of the men's leaders on the question of non-unionism and the settlement of the Ebbw Vale dispute. Last week the Executive Council of the Federation instructed the workmen throughout the coalfield to hand in notices on Monday, October 23rd, to terminate contracts on November 4th. Only 28 per cent. of the workmen complied with those instructions. The following are the official figures issued by the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners' Association:—(1) Numbers of collieries from which returns have been received, 282; (2) Number of collieries at which notices were given, 201; (3) Number of collieries at which notices were not given, 81; (4) Number of workmen employed at collieries from which returns had been received, 195,361; (5) Number of workmen who had given notice, 55,631. There is no precedent for so general a revolt against an official Federation policy, and it effectually removes the menace of a stoppage of work a fortnight hence, in order to compel workmen to pay their arrears to, or, if not members, to join the Federation. The figures reveal a remarkable degree of disunity among the miners, and Mr George Barker, one of the leaders, stated in the course of a speech on Tuesday

that he was "appalled" at it. A conference has been convened to consider the position. The immediate effect of the disclosure of the above figures was the termination of the Ebbw Vale dispute. The company had previously agreed to reopen the pits if the leaders guaranteed that there would be no stoppage at Ebbw Vale on the non-unionist question if the pits were reopened as proposed on October 30th. The leaders would not give that assurance. They have now given it, and work will be recommenced at the Ebbw Vale collieries next week.

Organisation of the Cotton Trade.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—During the last month or two there has been considerable discussion in Lancashire cotton trade circles with regard to organising the industry on a better basis, and the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations has considered proposals for sectionalising the mills that use American cotton. With a view to more readily ascertaining in the event of depressed trade in what particular section of the trade the depression is most acute, it is suggested that steps for dealing with it may more promptly be taken with the prospect of success if the trade is split up into several departments. It has been decided to consult the members as to what should be done. The first proposal is that the mills should be divided into ring mills and mule spinning mills, the latter section to be sub-divided into—(a) coarse counts up to and including 30's, (b) medium counts 31's to 46's inclusive, and (c) fine counts 47's and upwards. An alternative scheme is that mule spinning mills should be divided into two sections—(a) yarns up to and including 24's counts, and (b) all other counts. A ballot of the members is now being taken on this question, and the result is expected to be known at the end of next week. There is some difference of opinion in trade circles as to whether the proposals now being made will be to the advantage of the trade, but it is believed that in the future when the question of short time is considered, the varied position of coarse and fine mills will have to be taken into consideration.

British Gas-Mantle Industry.—The effect of a new Order of the Board of Trade is to impose an import duty of 33.3 per cent. on the value of mantles for incandescent lighting (and component parts thereof), whether finished or not, manufactured in Germany. There is already an import duty on the thorium and cerium content of gas mantles equivalent to about 5 per cent. of the value of the whole mantle, but whether this will be levied in addition to the general duty of 33.3 per cent. is not clear. Presumably it will. The Committee which recently inquired into the state of the gas-mantle industry in this country, more particularly in reference to competition from Germany, reported that while German mantles can be sold profitably at 21s per gross wholesale in Germany, they are offered here at 34s 6d wholesale, "free to door," this latter price being fixed by a Convention comprising all the gas-mantle manufacturers in Germany. German policy, the Committee added, appears to be, firstly, to give the British public no benefit of the cheap production, and secondly, to adjust export prices in such a way as to secure a large volume of trade. In March last, when the English Association reduced prices, the minimum wholesale prices of British-made mantles varied from about 47s to 54s per gross. The gap between the German cost of production and the selling prices in England is a wide one, and apparently sufficiently so to allow for the new import duty without materially affecting German sales in this country. Before the war the annual consumption of incandescent gas mantles in the United Kingdom was about 70 millions, of which rather more than 50 per cent. was imported from Germany. In addition a considerable quantity was imported in an unfinished state, to be burnt off in German-owned factories in this country. If this be included, the total of German mantles of German origin probably amounted to between 70 and 75 per cent. of the total consumption. British production was estimated at

about 20 per cent., English manufacturers being considerably handicapped by the fact that Germany had practically a monopoly of monazite sand, from which thorium and cerium salts are extracted. During the war, when German supplies of mantles were cut off, they adapted themselves to the circumstances, and helped by expropriation of German rights over monazite sand deposits in Travancore (India), extended their factories and made Great Britain almost self-supplying. Latterly, however, German mantles have again found their way into the English market, about one in every three sold now being of German manufacture. German imports, which were round three millions in 1920, rose to nine millions in 1921, and this year have been at the rate of 16 millions per annum, as will be seen from the following:—

	From Germany.		From Other Countries.		Total.	
	Gross.	£	Gross.	£	Gross.	£
1920.....	21,357	51,710	56,998	125,506	78,357	177,216
1921.....	63,756	111,917	47,780	92,915	111,536	204,832
1922 (Jan-June)	56,825	86,123	17,072	30,067	73,897	116,190

Sales by the associated English firms representing 95 per cent. of the trade were, according to the figures presented to the Board of Trade Committee, 443,731 gross in 1920 and 275,931 gross in 1922, and 64,619 gross in the first three months of this year. Exports of British mantles fell from 51,737 gross in 1920 to 21,005 gross in 1921. Adding together British production and imports and deducting exports, the consumption of gas mantles in the United Kingdom would appear to be 71 millions in 1920 and 55 millions in 1921, the present year indicating about the same rate as last year. Compared with pre-war figures there is a substantial decline in consumption, which may be accounted for to some extent by the increasing popularity of electricity as an illuminant, and, coincident with high prices, the more economical use of gas. The capital invested in the incandescent gas-mantle industry in the United Kingdom is £1,500,000, apart from £350,000 invested in subsidiary industries.

The Future of Bawra.—A full meeting of the London board of directors of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association was held on Wednesday, and, amongst other subjects, the discussion was renewed of the proposals recently made in Australia by an important section of shareholders to convert Bawra into a permanent co-operative institution for the defence of Australian farmers' interests, not only in the matter of wool, but also mutton and beef and possibly also wheat and dairy produce. It was unanimously agreed by the London directors that this question was one for the sole decision of the Australian proprietors of the company. It is understood that Sir John Higgins intends to call an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to meet within the next five or six weeks. The Supreme Court of Victoria on October 19th granted consent to the reduction of capital in Bawra to £6,000,000 paid up. It is not understood that the present proposals will interfere with the cash payment to the shareholders of £6,000,000, which was agreed to at the last extraordinary general meeting. The proposal is to retain in the hands of the company the remaining £6,000,000.

Amalgamated Zinc.—The dividend policy followed by the directors of this Australian undertaking is a trifle puzzling. In respect of the half-year ended December 31st last a distribution of 1s per share was made by means of the transfer of the necessary amount from the equalisation reserve, being profits earned prior to the end of 1912. In March last a distribution of 1s was announced, and another in September. The cabled summary of the report for the half-year to June 30th indicates that the profits of the period were sufficient to cover one of these distributions; the other was provided by transfer from the reserve of profits earned prior to June, 1914. It is satis-

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—BOND ISSUE SUCCESS—CROP OUTLOOK—FURTHER TRADE IMPROVEMENT—STOCK DIVIDENDS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 13.

The most important financial event in the United States this week was the offering by the Treasury Department of approximately \$500,000,000 4½ per cent. 25-30-year gold bonds, at par, and accrued interest, for refunding purposes—the first long-term financing undertaken by the Government since the war. The new bonds are dated October 16, 1922; they will mature October 15, 1952, and are redeemable in whole or in part at the option of the Government at par and accrued interest on and after October 15, 1947, on four months' notice by the Secretary of the Treasury. They are exempt from all Federal, State, Municipal or local taxes, present or future, with the exception of estate or inheritance taxes, surtaxes and excess profits and war profits taxes. Although the offering was limited to \$500,000,000, or thereabouts, the Treasury reserved the right to allot additional bonds to the extent that 4½ per cent. Victory notes or Treasury certificates of indebtedness maturing December 15th of this year are tendered in payment. Subject to the limitations on the amount of the offering, allotments will be made in full upon subscriptions for amounts not exceeding \$10,000 for any one subscriber and upon subscriptions for which either 4½ per cent. Victory notes maturing December 15th are tendered in payment. Applications for amounts exceeding \$10,000 will be subject to allotment. Holders of the Victory 4½'s, whether or not the latter are called, and holders of the December 15th Treasury certificates of indebtedness were given the privilege of presenting their holdings in lieu of cash as subscriptions to the new loan. In his letter to banking institutions throughout the country requesting their co-operation in the undertaking, and urging them to assist in securing the widest possible distribution of the new bonds, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon pointed out that this was a refunding issue, which afforded "a particularly favourable opportunity to holders of 4½ per cent. Victory notes to acquire a long-term Government bond on attractive terms in place of Victory notes which will mature or be redeemed within the next few months." He gave also interesting data showing what has already been accomplished in the refunding of the Government's short-dated debt, and what remains to be done. On April 30, 1921, according to Secretary Mellon, when the Treasury first announced its refunding programme, the gross public debt, on the basis of daily Treasury statements, approximated \$24,000,000,000, of which over \$7,500,000,000 was maturing within about two years. On September 30, 1922, the total gross debt on the same basis stood at about \$22,800,000,000, and of the early maturing debt about \$4,000,000,000 had already been retired or refunded, chiefly into short-term Treasury notes, with maturities spread over the next four fiscal years. There will fall due this fiscal year, he says, about \$1,100,000,000 of Treasury certificates of indebtedness, approximately \$625,000,000 maturity value of war savings certificates of the series of 1918, and about \$1,800,000,000 of Victory notes. After October 16th, when about \$100,000,000 of loan certificates will mature and will be paid out of funds already in hand, the next maturities fall on December 15th, and include some \$870,000,000 face amount of 4½ per cent. Victory notes called for redemption, and about \$420,000,000 of maturing tax certificates, against which the Treasury will receive in December approximately \$250,000,000 of income and profits taxes. Through exchange and otherwise, the new bonds now being offered are expected to provide a substantial part of the heavy Government maturities on December 15th; those which remain to be refunded after that date will be met, according to the Treasury's plans, through issues of refunding securities, adjusted to market conditions. The new bonds, in the opinion of bankers, meet every requirement of investors who desire absolute safety, a moderate interest for a long

Cornish Tin Mines.—The shares of some of these undertakings having participated in the share market revival, it will be useful, writes our mining correspondent, to elucidate the position. One important factor consists in the grant of Government assistance to several of the leading concerns. The doyen of the group—the Dolcoath—is now in process of reconstruction. A circular just issued sets out the terms of the scheme, and gives extracts from a report on the development programme by Mr Frank Merricks, who is to supervise on behalf of the authorities. In brief, members are offered one 10s share credited 5s paid in respect of each £1 ordinary share now held, while those who provided funds to cover maintenance during the period of stoppage, receiving priority shares of 1s each, are to get one new share, fully paid, for every ten priority. Debenture-holders are offered in respect of each £100 bond, 133 new Dolcoath shares, with arrears of interest in the same currency; also 50 Tehidy Minerals shares. The Government will lend £1 for £1 up to £50,000, as provided by the shareholders, repayment—by annual instalments of £10,000—not to commence until the expiration of four years. It may be well to emphasise the point that the undertaking is virtually a new one, as fresh property is to be exploited, although the mill of the former company will be available. Production is not expected to be resumed until 1925. The East Pool early this year placed itself in funds for the sinking of a new shaft by an issue of preference shares. Crushing has been in abeyance since February, 1921. The Geevor is marking time, except as regards improving the machinery. It is claimed that profits could be made with tin at its present price. While proceeding with the erection of the new mill, the Levant is producing tin and arsenic on a small scale. For this company a loan of £10,000 was guaranteed by the Government. The South Crofty, which enjoyed such high prosperity during the war period, has been shut down since February, 1921. To enable the company to provide additional pumping facilities, a loan of £30,000 has been made by the Treasury; the directors were also successful in effecting an advantageous arrangement with the Inland Revenue authorities on the question of taxation. A moderate further advance in the price of the metal, in conjunction with the changed position as regards labour, would put the Cornish tin industry on its legs again.

period of years, and liquidity. That they have been highly attractive is evidenced by the fact that the offering met an immediate and widespread response from large and small investors, corporations and financial institutions in all sections, to such an extent that the new loan has already been heavily oversubscribed. No official figures are available at the time of writing, but it is confidently expected that the total of applications will exceed \$1,000,000,000, and may approach \$2,000,000,000. The flotation, it might be added, caused no disturbance whatever in the money or bond markets.

During September heat and drought in agricultural sections adversely affected many crops, as is shown by the Government's latest estimates of yields. Some of the principal losses were spring wheat 8,351,000 bushels, corn 21,360,000 bushels, oats 25,230,000, white potatoes 5,383,000, apples 2,900,000, and peanuts 16,382,000 bushels. Barley, on the other hand, gained 2,581,000 bushels, tobacco 2,819,000 pounds, and a few other crops made a substantial gain. It is noteworthy that the staple crops this year suffered little or no damage from frosts—an exceptional occurrence in this country. The following table summarises the estimated yields in bushels, unless otherwise indicated, based on the September 1st condition, as compared with the harvests last year and in the record years of the past:—

	Production in Millions of Bushels.			Year.
	1921.	1922.	Past.	
Winter wheat	587	542	760	1919
Spring wheat	208	268	356	1918
All wheat	795	810	1,025	1915
Corn	3,080	2,853	3,208	1920
Oats	1,061	1,230	1,593	1917
Barley	151	196	256	1918
Rye	58	79.6	91	1918
Rice	36.5	39.1	51.7	1920
Buckwheat	14.1	14.0	23	1866
Total seven cereals	5,195	5,221	5,896	1915
White potatoes	347	433	442	1917
Sweet potatoes	98.7	105	104	1920
Tobacco, pounds	1,075	1,355	1,582	1920
Flax	8.1	11.7	29	1902
Hay, all, tons	96.8	108.7	111	1916
Cotton, bales	8.0	10.1	16.1	1914
Apples	98.1	203	253	1914
Peaches	32.7	56	64	1915
Peanuts, pounds	816	674	1,234	1917
Grain sorghums	115	96	137	1920
Beans	9.1	13	17.7	1918

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the winter wheat crop is 45,000,000 bushels smaller and spring wheat 60,000,000 larger than last year, making a total crop of 810,000,000, or 15,000,000 bushels in excess of last year's harvest. Corn shows a yield of 2,853,000,000 bushels, which is 227,000,000 below that of 1921, and 355,000,000 under the record harvest of 1920. Oats show an enormous increase, amounting to 169,000,000 bushels, over last year. The level of prices paid to producers for the principal crops declined about 2 per cent. during September, as compared with a 10-year average drop of 4.5 per cent. in that month. As at October 1st, the index figure of prices was 1.3 per cent. lower than a year ago, 45.5 per cent. lower than two years ago, and about 30 per cent. below the average of the past 10 years on October 1st.

Further improvement is seen in practically all lines of trade, and many industries are becoming increasingly active. More seasonable weather is stimulating business everywhere, especially retail, and the expansion in such trade is reflected in wholesale and primary markets. Fears of a scarcity of merchandise, or delays in deliveries, due to transportation congestion, have caused something like a rush to get additional supplies. The freight congestion and car shortage are becoming more serious, delaying shipments of lumber from the Pacific coast and the south, finished steel from mills, coal from the mines, and crops from farms to market. The volume of railroad business continues to grow, and is apparently taxing the carriers' facilities to the utmost—in fact, overtaking them. Car-loadings in the last week in September, the latest statistics available, show a total of 988,381, the largest ever recorded, barring a few weeks in the autumn of 1920, but requisitions for cars exceed supplies by more than 130,000. Building operations continue very active; reports to *Bradstreet's* from the largest cities throughout the country show that September expenditures were only

9.4 below those of August, the fourth largest month on record, while building expenditures for this year to October 1st exceed those of 1921, hitherto the record year, by 60 per cent. Improvement in the steel industry is reflected in the increase of 741,502 tons in the volume of unfilled orders on the books of the United States Steel Corporation during September, the total at the end of that month amounting to 6,691,607 tons—the highest point reached since February of last year. Owing to the heavy railroad buying of steel rails in anticipation of the advance of \$3 a ton on October 1st, a greater increase in the corporation's unfilled tonnage had been expected. A large part of last month's rail buying, however, was probably in the form of reservations, and actual orders or specifications under such reservations will doubtless be reflected in the corporation's report at the end of October.

Wild speculation and violent price swings in certain groups of stocks have featured this week's stock market. Activity centred chiefly in shares of oil companies, and industrial corporations have large surpluses, which are expected to declare big stock dividends. Such action has already been taken by four of the Standard Oil companies, including the Standard Oil Company, of New Jersey, which declared a 400 per cent. stock dividend, and by two large manufacturing concerns. Advances of 10 to 20 or more points have been common in such shares, while the stock of the Atlantic Refining Company soared nearly 200 points this week. Profit-taking caused sharp reactions from top levels. A desire to reduce the par value of stock and to secure a wider distribution is generally given as the reason for the huge stock dividends. It has also been suggested that the possibility of additional taxation on surplus accounts of corporations has prompted the stock dividend movement. A report was widely circulated that Federal legislation to that end would be undertaken, but the rumour was promptly denied from Washington. It is probably realised that any attempt to increase the tax burden at present would be most vigorously opposed.

FRANCE.—REPARATIONS COUNTER-PROPOSALS— THE LUBERSAC-STINNES AGREEMENT—LATER REPARATION FIGURES—THE HARVEST AND GERMAN FERTILISERS—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 24.

THE French counter-proposals, put forward in response to those of Sir John Bradbury, as to the steps to be taken by the Allies to bring about the restoration of the public finances of Germany and the stabilisation of the mark, may be summarised thus: really effective control by the Allies over Germany's revenue and expenditure; refusal to admit that Germany is even provisionally totally unable to meet her engagements, in view of her economic activity; the gradual inclusion of the reparation debt in the German Budget; the German Treasury to be forbidden to discount bonds of any kind through the Reichsbank, and to be compelled to submit all issues of Treasury bonds to Allied control; the Reichsbank to be placed under Allied control to prevent exportation of German capital; German Treasury bonds to be issued, the yield from which to be devoted (1) to increase the gold reserve, in view of assisting monetary reform, and (2) to pay that portion of the reparation debt not provided for in the Budget; the 25 per cent. on the value of the German exports which the Government is allowed to levy in gold or foreign currencies, together with the yield from Customs duties, to be paid into a special account at the Reichsbank, which shall be under the control of the Allies, the money in this account to be at the disposal of the German Government as long as it fulfils the obligations imposed upon it, or to be imposed upon it, by the Reparation Commission.

The plan put forward by Sir John Bradbury and the French counter-proposals have been discussed by the Commission during three long "semi-official" sittings, during which, it is asserted, the British delegate drew appreciably nearer to agreement with his French colleagues. Sir John's principal argument appears to have

been the irrefutable one that really effective control over the German internal finances, in the English sense of the word, is impossible, except at the cost of an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, which forbids the Allies to interfere in German internal affairs. "If you can induce the Germans to consent, without compulsion, to your proposals," the British delegate said, in effect, "I am entirely in agreement with you." In the result, the Commission unanimously decided to visit Berlin in a body, and negotiate with the Germans on the spot, with a view to seeing if it is impossible to obtain their consent, in the interest of all parties, to place the control of their finances in the hands of the representatives of the Allies. M. Barthou and the other delegates are expected, according to present arrangements, to leave Paris for the German capital on Sunday evening, and to be absent for about a fortnight. It is obvious, however, that no progress is likely to be made until the results of the British General Elections are known, therefore, it is not expected that the Commission will obtain much satisfaction from their trip to Berlin until after November 15th, at the earliest.

Meanwhile there are circumstantial reports that, owing to the continued fall of the mark, the German Government is placing obstacles in the way of the carrying out of the Lubersac-Stinnes agreements. If this system of payments in kind is utilised for the purpose of hastening on the reconstitution of the devastated regions of France, it is argued in German political circles, the Government will be compelled to issue an enormous additional amount of paper currency for the purpose of paying the manufacturers and others by whom the goods will be furnished, for delivery to their French creditors. Many important German firms are reported to have declined, for these and similar reasons, to associate themselves with Herr Stinnes's plans. At the time of writing there are fears that the fall of the mark, which has hitherto apparently proved so beneficial to him and his fellows, will be a fatal obstacle to the fulfilment of Herr Stinnes's ambitions to reap a profit from the restoration of the devastated regions of France.

Reliable figures have recently come into my possession which enable me to set forth the situation of Germany in regard to her reparation debt, down to the end of September, or five months later than the accounts given in the official statement recently issued, showing the position down to April 30th last. The whole effect is to show that not only is the capital debt of Germany still on the increase, owing to accrued interest charges, but that she is scarcely covering such current expenditure on her behalf as the cost of the Armies of Occupation. The statement recently issued by the Reparation Commission shows that Germany's capital debt for Reparations amounted on April 30th last to 133,895,823,000 gold marks. Since then this amount has been increased by 2,104,177,000 marks. Accrued interest on the capital debt has already reached 39 milliard gold marks. The cost of the French, British, and Belgium troops on the Rhine is being reimbursed as incurred, but nothing has yet been paid on account of the maintenance of American troops. This amounted on September 30th to 78,000,000 gold marks, as compared with 56,000,000 on April 30th, but is secured many times over by sequestered German property in America. Allied advances to Belgium during the war were originally returned as 4,000,000,000 gold marks. This, under the fresh valuation made down to September 30th, including interest at 5 per cent., is now estimated at 6,160,000,000 gold marks. The special Gold Marks Bonds that were to have been issued by the German Government against this debt, and which were to have been redeemed on May 1, 1926, are not yet in existence. Of Belgium's priority Reparation claim of 2,250,000,000 gold marks, 250,000,000 gold marks are still outstanding. The delivery of German shipping to the Allies has now been completed, and 598 vessels have been handed over. Germany was credited with 660,000,000 gold marks in respect of these ships, but they realised on sale only 280,000,000 marks, so that it appears as if she has been overcredited with 380,000,000 marks, which the Reparation Commission will doubtless be called on to write off as irrecoverable. Between April 30th and October 1st Germany paid over to the Reparation Com-

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

mission 20,538,845,000 gold marks in cash and 216,866,291 gold marks in kind, which just met the cost of the Allied armies of Occupation.

French economists are beginning to show some anxiety in regard to the serious shortage in the wheat harvest for 1922, which yielded only 64,000,000 quintals, whereas the normal requirements of the population amount to 88,000,000 quintals. This shortage of 24,000,000 quintals, or over 25 per cent. of the total requirements, means, of course, that France will have to make good the difference from overseas. Taking the average price of wheat at 80f the quintal, this will involve purchases of foreign wheat by this country during the next six or eight months, to the extent of about 2,000,000,000f. The effect of this substantial increase in foreign purchases must inevitably tend to keep the franc down, and to render still more onerous the burden of the cost of living. The decree issued some weeks ago fixing the quality of bread-making materials at 80 per cent. of pure wheat flour is already having a good effect in economising the national stock of wheat, but it is felt that this will have only a very limited effect in compensating for the reduced yield from the last harvest. Appeals are now being made to the public, and particularly to housewives, to restrict the consumption of bread to the minimum necessary, and to avoid all possible waste, in the National interest. The French Government has decided to take advantage of its situation in regard to the reparation problem to see if it is not possible to utilise its claims against Germany for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the French wheat fields. M. Paul Petit, of the Nancy Faculty of Science, recently called attention to the fact that France might be rendered independent of foreign-grown wheat if agriculturists had a larger quantity of nitrates placed at their disposal. He suggested that the German payments in kind should include the supply of 500,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia per annum, this being the amount of this manure of which France is at present short, and which is ignored by the reparation provisions of the Versailles Treaty. The matter was brought before the last Ministerial Council by M. Chéron, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Council decided to include the necessary amount of sulphate of ammonia in the payments in kind that are to be demanded from Germany. As a matter of fact, the Treaty at present calls on Germany to supply 30,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia per annum during the three years that follow its coming into operation. Not only will this supply cease, however, at the end of that period, but it is in any case much below the quantity necessary to complete the normal requirements of the country. At present France produces a bare 50,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia every year, and has to buy some 295,000 additional tons of nitrates per annum from Chile and England. On the other hand, Germany produces something like 1,500,000 tons of nitrates every year, so that France should from this source not only be able to obtain all the chemical manures she requires, but should also be able, at one and the same time, to liquidate a substantial portion of the debt owing to her by Germany and also avoid having to expend money on purchasing this material abroad.

So far as live stock is concerned, the outlook is rapidly

improving. In a speech at Moulins a day or two ago, M. Henry Chéron stated that the French flocks and herds are being reconstituted with such rapidity that in two or three years this country will certainly again be able to export produce of this kind.

The resignation of Mr Lloyd George, as might have been expected, has been welcomed with distinct satisfaction in this country, and has brought a feeling of relief to the Bourse. It is generally felt that whatever Government may succeed to that of the fallen Premier, there is every probability that the financial world has now in front of it a period of at least less unsettlement and more consistency of policy. Whatever bull factors may exist in the change of political direction in England, however, have been more than counterbalanced by the sudden and serious fall in the value of the franc. The pound sterling, which stood at 58 a fortnight ago and 58.66 on October 12th, rose slowly during the following week to 60.69, and then soared spectacularly until during the earlier part of the present week it touched 64, the highest point reached since April, 1920. So far there has been little sign that French holders are inclined to dispose of their international securities, under the influence of the sudden drop in the value of the franc, and the tendency of the Bourse, generally speaking, may be regarded as based on a policy of wait and see.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES—BARTHOU PLAN—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 24.

A REICHSTAG majority has voted for the postponement of the presidential election until June 30, 1925. The ground is the unsettled state of the country, but it is not clear what the unsettlement, other than unsettling official speeches, is. The postponement involved an amendment to the Constitution, and as President Ebert would almost certainly have been re-elected, this amendment, according to many of his adherents, might have been avoided. A re-election against the small Royalist minority would have strengthened the Republic. The practice of amending the Constitution for special, immediate party aims is becoming common, and is all the more remarkable because the last preceding amendment provided for the severe punishment of persons who impugn the Constitution. Dr Wirth has made a useful statement to a Vienna newspaper that the present panic is "economically baseless," and that there is no fear of disorders resulting from the latest currency depreciation. With the dollar at around 4,000 this statement is all the more welcome, because when the dollar rose to a mere 1,000 Dr Wirth told the foreign correspondents in Berlin that the result would be "revolts of desperation by the masses and subversion of governmental authority." Nothing more has been announced about the gold Treasury bills. The bills will be welcome, not merely because they will secure savings against depreciation, but because they will also give good opportunities, as does the hoarding of dollars and pounds, for increasing real wealth. The holder of a gold bill will be able to sell it for paper marks immediately after a heavy mark exchange drop, and to buy goods immediately before the exchange fall has materially sent up prices. The decree restricting purchase of exchange and forbidding home sales in foreign currencies continues to evoke criticism, but the Cabinet does not seem inclined to abandon it. The critics point to the new rise in the foreign exchanges as proof that the measure was, if not injurious, at least ineffective. The Social-Democrats, now strengthened through reunion with the Independent Socialists, threaten to leave the Cabinet if their numerous demands are not fulfilled. They stand strongly for exchange control, demand support of the mark by means of a special fund fed with the Reichsbank's gold, the reintroduction of the food control (*Zwangswirtschaft*) system, and the expropriation of food supplies in private

hands. From October 30th the 1,900 gramme loaf will cost 98½ marks. The old quarrel about the price of the compulsorily deliverable part of the harvest has revived, and the Cabinet has to find a compromise between the demand of the Socialists, who hold that breadstuffs should be delivered at below production cost, and the resistance of the farmers, who refuse to sell at a loss.

The Reichsbank statement for October 14th showed further large increases in the credit pressure and inflation. Had the mark stayed at around 2,000-3,000 to the dollar the credit demand and the inflation would have tended to decline sooner or later, but now, before the supply of credit and cash has had time to increase into proportion with the new higher price level, a new exchange collapse has come. Unless there is a great recovery the money crisis is bound to be worse for some time to come. Again this week the banks rationed their distribution of cash to customers. The present biggest note, 10,000 marks, of gold value about 10s and buying power of perhaps £1, is much too small for business use. The Reichsbank statement, side by side with that of the same week in 1921, shows the great change in the money value that has taken place:—

	1921.	1922.
Metal reserve	1,038,565,000	1,051,414,000
Thereof gold	1,023,633,000	1,004,854,000
Darlehns-notes	3,193,609,000	31,480,080,000
Notes of other banks	5,895,000	3,601,000
Bills and cheques	1,047,408,000	63,648,932,000
Treasury Bills	94,981,626,000	389,721,358,000
Advances	12,883,000	239,544,000
Investments	270,454,000	387,270,000
Other Assets	5,964,091,000	19,556,218,000
Note Circulation	87,728,207,000	374,506,332,000
State Deposits	5,708,288,000	30,624,698,000
Private Deposits	11,178,677,000	85,488,004,000
Other Liabilities	1,598,006,000	15,102,119,000

A new increase in the Reichsbank's discount rate is being discussed. The present 8 per cent. is far behind the rates of the private banks. The rate was raised on August 29th from 6 to 7 per cent., and on September 1st to 8 per cent. On the credit demand an increase would probably have no visible effect. A private Bill has been submitted, reducing the nominal income-tax rates by means of raising the rate limits. The minimum 10 per cent. will be imposed on taxable income not exceeding 200,000 marks, 15 per cent. on the next 200,000, 35 per cent. on taxable income exceeding 2,000,000 marks, and thereafter 5 per cent. increases on each additional 500,000 marks until the maximum 60 per cent. is reached. The October railway rates will be quadrupled on December 1st. A table in the *Berliner Tageblatt* shows that on September 30th, with the dollar at 1,650 marks, English first-class fares were more than 30-fold German, English third-class actually 50-fold more. At present dollar exchange, and allowing for the October rise in German fares, English fares are about 100-fold more in gold, and perhaps 50-fold more in buying power, which is the proper test. Official salaries are again being raised. Salaries of the highest rank of permanent official, which in 1913 were about 6-fold more than those of an unskilled labourer, are now under 2-fold. If half the officials, who are doing unnecessary and even vexatious work, were dismissed, the rest might be properly paid, and the ever-increasing crop of corruption trials might dwindle. The Ministry of Posts is dismissing a large number of officials, but against this the Socialists protest, not seeing that it is better to pay unproductive forces permanently. The Reichsbank has raised its price for the 20-mark gold piece to 10,000 marks, at which low price nobody will part with coins.

The English political crisis is considered by some persons to be a cause of the new mark fall. These persons hold that the prospect of French independent action is increased by England's preoccupation. The Barthou scheme provokes very little comment. At first sight the plan to put a great country under permanent tutelage looks impracticable, and in view of the confusion of the plan with political and military designs, it looks highly undesirable, but experience shows that Germany, after a first emphatic *non possumus*, yields to any Ally demand. The ability of foreigners to improve the mark currency and the State finances is very doubtful; the currency depreciation is not due to lack of skilled financiers, and

there are other countries which would willingly accept foreign skilled advice if they believed that their finances could be bettered thereby. The grounding of M. Barthou's plan does not (if the German translation is correct) show the knowledge of facts which might be expected from experts with such comprehensive designs. The memorandum states that the real value of the German Revenue is declining, and it speaks of the very considerable profits of German industry. These statements are both incorrect. The value of German real revenue, though often temporarily, as just now, thrown back by a price-rise, coming ahead of an increase in nominal revenue, has over any long period increased very much; and that is the cause of the decline in the proportion of deficit to revenue. That may be seen from the following table, showing monthly receipts in millions of marks:—

	Revenue.	Wholesale Index.	Real Revenue Index.
1920—January	1,014	100	100
1921—January	8,721	143	..
1922—January	14,619	317	..
„ —March	23,414	435	..
„ —May	30,040	584	507

Since May, as in any short time of rapid exchange fall and rise in the price index, the real revenue has declined (though not below that of January, 1920), but during the exchange lulls or recoveries the real revenue always increases, hence though the above 2½ years embraced some heavy mark falls, the real revenue as a whole greatly increased. Calculated partly on the basis of the cost of living index, which governs official salaries, the result would be even more favourable.

Industrial real buying power profits have fallen so much, and gold profits so much more, that the whole net income of a very great industrial concern would not provide much more than a middle-class income for a single citizen. A good instance is the report of the important Steelworks van der Zypen and Wissener Smelting Company, a limb of the new Wolff Trust, which last week had the daring to announce a dividend of 100 per cent. (most companies which earn such high nominal dividends distribute them in various oblique ways). In 1916-17 this company had a capital of 17,000,000 marks, and paid a 25 per cent. dividend of 4,250,000 marks, worth, at the then exchange, about \$900,000. For 1921-22 the company, now capitalised at 27,000,000 marks, pays 100 per cent., or 27,000,000 marks, of gold value about \$6,000, and buying power probably \$12,000. At the present Bourse quotation, 18,000, a new buyer would receive a paper mark dividend of about ½ per cent. Practically all companies are in the same way or worse, the reason being that the war burden must be borne by someone, and that it is not borne by the manual worker, who manages, and must manage, to maintain his minimum existence real wage. The shareholder pure capitalist has been expropriated almost as much as the bondholder capitalist. The prosperity of German industry does not lie in profits, but in the fact that it gives productive employment to the whole nation at a fair real wage.

The Bourse boom continues. The Deutsche Vereins Bank and the Frankfurter Bank have formed a combination. Both are subordinates of the Deutsche Bank. Herr Stinnes has acquired a third of the shares of the leading bank, Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, a preserve of Herr Karl Fuerstenberg. Owing to pressure on banks and stockbrokers, resulting from the stock boom, the Bourse is closed two days this week. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* dividend-payers' index for October 20th shows 162,459, against 113,132 a week before, and 33,442 on January 5th. Since January the mark's gold exchange has fallen to one-quarter, so that the gold price of stocks has dropped to one-quarter, this although the "liquidation value" (capital value of company assets) has not in general decreased. Reasons for the drop in gold prices are (1) the shortage of money, and (2) the fall in the gold dividends. State loans yesterday were:—War Loan, 77.50; Federal Fours, 250; Three and a-Half, 150; Threes, 800 (jump from 625 on preceding day); Colonial Fours, 166; Savings and Premium, 82.25. Federal Threes continue to be an object of foreign and home speculation. Prussian Threes, which are much better secured, but not so well advertised, sell at 94.75.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.
The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

CANADA.—SIR H. THORNTON AS PRESIDENT OF THE C.N.E.—HARVESTING CONDITIONS—TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES—PRICE LEVELS—BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS—STOCK AND MONEY MARKETS—EXCHANGE—TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA—HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, October 10.

The Government are regarded as having done a good stroke of business in securing the services of Sir Henry W. Thornton, the American-born manager of the Great Eastern Railway, as President of the Canadian national system. The appointment has had a very good Press, and the public, which was becoming impatient at the long delay in filling the post and inclined to suspect the pressure of hostile influences, has hailed it with positive gratification. Sir Henry has a great asset in his complete dissociation from local political cliques and business interests, and the country expects him to grapple heroically with the problem of slashing many millions off the deficits which at present make the national system bear the aspect of a white elephant. Simultaneously, the Government have appointed a new board of seven directors to assist him. The calibre of some who have obviously been chosen to represent political and sectional interests could have been improved upon, but men like Mr James Stewart, the former chairman of the Wheat Board, Mr J. H. Sinclair, an ex-M.P., Mr Graham Bell, the Deputy-Minister of Railways, and Mr Ruel, formerly counsel for the C.N.R., are all competent, and command public confidence. Sir Henry Thornton will assume his duties within a month, and his first task will be to accomplish the amalgamation of the Grand Trunk lines with the rest of the C.N. system. The selection of the headquarters of the unified system threatens to produce a bitter controversy between Montreal and Toronto, and to solve it Ottawa may be chosen. The problem of the American lines of the G.T. may also present difficulties, but the fact that the new president is an American by birth may smooth his path in this connection.

A prolonged spell of warm sunny days and cool nights, which lasted almost a whole month to the 9th, has produced ideal conditions for harvesting and threshing, and even the latter operation is practically completed in many districts of the west. A tremendous volume of wheat and other grain is now pouring down to the seaboard, and a serious congestion is threatened at the Lake ports. It is charged, and not denied, that the Canadian shipping lines on the Great Lakes have been giving discriminatory rates in favour of American ports, and their excuse is that they can get return cargoes more easily there than from smaller ports on the Canadian side. Accordingly, the Minister of Trade and Commerce is threatening to suspend the Canadian coasting laws, and introduce the competition of American vessels. This year four times as many cars of wheat had been inspected by September 25th as at the parallel date in 1921, and the average quality is much better. But prices, though slightly advanced by the war scare, continue to keep low, and the farmers complain that the selling pressure exercised by the creditor groups, like the banks and mortgages companies, is flooding the market with grain, and forcing prices lower than they need be. Mr Dunning, the Premier of Saskatchewan, has repeated his threat to cure this condition by the enactment of a special moratorium; but the farmers' creditors indig-

nantly retort that they can be trusted to accord sympathetic leniency. The final returns of the wheat crop will probably exceed the 371 million bushel estimate of the *Manitoba Free Press*, but Professor Gilbert Jackson, of the Political Economy Department of Toronto University, has lately advanced in an able pamphlet, and fortified by statistics, the theory that bumper crops are not really a source of any great profit to farmers in new countries.

The American Fordney Tariff is at last in force, and the tariff experts of the Government are studying its effects, many of which had previously been discounted by the Emergency tariff. One result will be to lower the price of foodstuffs grown on Canadian farms, and the latest index figures show that 20 average foodstuffs declined in September from 175.7 to 171.5. There was, however, in the same period a small rise in the price of manufactured goods, but the general index figures of wholesale prices showed a drop of from 164.7 to 162.9. Until new markets are discovered for the Canadian farm produce the dwellers in Canadian cities are likely to benefit by cheaper costs of living.

Now that the farmers are realising on their crops they are beginning to purchase their winter supplies, and wholesalers report a gratifying flow of orders from country storekeepers, who find it necessary to supplement or replenish their stocks. Most manufacturers are reasonably busy, and expect to be able to run their factories at fuller capacity than last winter. The barometer of railway traffic returns also points to a growing pressure of traffic. Up to August the Canadian Pacific Railway had to confess a decrease of \$2,858,205 in net earnings, but in August it showed an increase of \$370,297, as compared with August, 1921, and it is now prophesied that increases in the last four months of the year will almost wipe out the losses of the earlier months. Another sign of prosperity is the activity of the building trade, which in some cities is enjoying a minor boom. During September contracts totalling \$29,300,000 were awarded; this is four million dollars greater than the August figures, and ordinarily the September contracts in view of the approach of winter show a steep decline. The iron and steel industry is still in rather a lame condition. The almost complete cessation of railway construction has affected its rail business, and though betterment is shown in other branches of the industry, such as the manufacture of nails, wire products, bars, pig iron, and so forth, it can only regain its old prosperity once the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. are in a position to place substantial orders for rails and structural steel for bridges.

The stock markets have continued feverish, and reacted to the varying quality of the news from the Near East. Money continues to be fairly plentiful, and domestic bond sales for the year just passed the 300 million dollar mark at the end of September. The new Dominion of Canada bonds, which will be issued in exchange for the \$178,000,000 of the 1922 issue, have now been listed on the Montreal Exchange, and will be traded in flat until the new securities are distributed to their owners on October 31st. The Finance Department reports a most satisfactory response to its conversion invitation, and about 60 per cent. of the holders of 1922 bonds are accepting it. Bank clearings for September totalled \$1,220,120, which is a decline of 6.5 per cent. compared with the figures of September, 1921, but is a great improvement on the 11.7 per cent. decline recorded in August. The progress of deflation is shown by the decrease of 31 per cent. in Dominion and chartered bank note issues between November 30, 1918, and July 31, 1922. This fact is largely responsible for the return of the Canadian dollar to par in New York; in fact, last week, Americans were forced to pay a premium on Canadian funds.

Mr Robb, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, leaves on October 20th for Australia, to continue the negotiations for a reciprocity treaty, but in view of the fact that Australia and Canada are competitors in many lines, no high hopes of a far-reaching agreement are entertained. If some reductions on the duties on agricultural machinery were conceded by the Australian Government they would be welcome, but local protectionist influences will resist them. Trade between the two countries is at present decidedly one-sided, for while Canada exported to Australia during the twelve months ended August 31st, goods

valued at \$13,595,000, she only took imports worth \$1,362,782.

The Gregory Commission, which was appointed by the Ontario Government to investigate the operations of the Hydro-Electric Commission, has already disclosed some very disturbing facts about the system. The Commission finds that the provincial treasury will this year have to provide \$348,000 to take care of the deficit on the Nipigon plant, which was built to supply the needs of Thunder Bay district, at the head of Lake Superior. Figured at strict cost according to the agreement, the city of Port Arthur ought to be paying \$60 per h.p. for its power, but it refuses to pay even the \$25 demanded by the Hydro authorities, and offers \$20. Other disclosures justify the alarm felt by many taxpayers that a dangerous policy of extravagant expenditure and unjustifiable expansion had been embarked upon by the Hydro management.

SWEDEN.—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—PRICES—LABOUR—TRADE BALANCE—PROFESSOR CASSEL AND RUSSIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, October 19.

THE situation in general remains unaltered, but the better tendency and the optimism and faith in the future is not slackening. The fall in prices is continuing for some goods, probably mostly because of very strong competition among the retailers. In the grocery trade, for instance, a union has been formed, which is promising a certain rebate on all purchases for cash, and even those outside the union have to join in giving the rebate so as not to lose their customers. In Stockholm the retailers in the main business streets have organised special advertising weeks, when they are doing their utmost in arrangements of all kinds to attract the public. On October 1st a reduction in postal and telephone charges came into effect, which has been much approved of. The Government has also consented to a great reduction—of about 30 per cent.—in the price of sugar from November 1st. The sugar industry in Sweden belongs to a Trust, and the prices are under the Government's special control. The price index issued quarterly by the Board of Social Welfare, and including all necessities of life (not to be confused with the index issued monthly, which only includes foodstuffs, light, and fuel), has remained unaltered at 190 since last quarter, owing to increase in some foodstuffs, while the prices for fuel, light, and clothing have gone down. The situation on the labour market is rather good, and the number of unemployed, which at September 1st was 36,000 persons, shows a decline of 2,300 during August, and is lower than was expected at this time of the year. The sum of 85 million crowns granted by the Government as unemployment money is not yet exhausted. As to the unemployment in Norrland, which was very bad last winter, some improvement this year is expected, as the timber cutting is to be more lively during the forthcoming winter. The trade agreements for most of our home industries expire on January 1st, with three months' notice to be given on October 1st. That day, however, passed without much trouble, as hardly any notices were given, and it is thus expected that we shall have a peaceful labour market during next year, at least as far as the home market is concerned. Those who belong to the export industries were in 1920 estimated at 150,000, but this number is, of course, during present circumstances considerably reduced, and as their agreements expire at other dates or not, it is not known whether there will be any troubles or not. The strike at the private railways, which has been going on since the beginning of August, and now involves 5,000 workers, seems to be drawing to an end, as the negotiations now going on, of which the result is still secret, are said to be in favour of a settlement. The latest negotiations have taken part on the intervention of the Social Minister. The Ironworks Association has issued a warning of a lock-out at the ironworks, to begin November 1st if the strikes now going on at some ironworks are not previously settled. Hitherto it has been impossible to get the negotiation proposals accepted by the workmen.

The report on the crops has now been published, and for wheat the crop is estimated to possess a value of 135 million crowns, reckoned upon an average price of 16 crowns per 100 kilos. The average price for the same quantity in 1920 was 40 crowns, so that the farmers have no reason to congratulate themselves, as their expenses have by no means fallen as quickly as the price of wheat. The aggregate crop figures are looked upon as normal, and in some parts are a little above the average. The quotation of the German mark is down at rock-bottom level—i.e., 0.13½ crown for 100 marks, and even 0.12½ has been quoted in the open market. The value of sterling has been low, too, the quotation having been down to 16.60, but it has now recovered a little, and is to-day 16.80. That the sterling quotation is low at present is quite natural, as the payments from England are large, and the exporters convert their cheques as quickly as possible, thus depressing the quotation.

The export surplus for August is 27.1 million crowns, compared to 29.6 million crowns for July. Both imports and exports were larger in August than in July. For the first eight months of this year the import total amounts to 15.3 million crowns, and the export to 668.8 million crowns, compared to 832.3 million crowns and 681.7 million crowns during the same period last year. The import surplus has thus been reduced from 150.9 million crowns during January-August, 1921, to 46.5 million crowns for the same period this year. The timber market is lively, and it does not seem unlikely that this export will amount to about the normal if present progress continues. At present the quantity sold is estimated as 775,000 standards. The low sterling quotation has, however, proved a great trouble to the exporters, as not only the English sales, but also those made to France and Belgium (owing to the heavy drop in these countries' currencies) have been made on a sterling basis, and thus the small increase in prices obtained has been lost by the fall in sterling. The demand on the cellulose market is strong, but the prices obtained are but poor.

The early days of October are always a strenuous time in the money market, but the State bank has been able to meet the situation very well. The famous economist, Professor Gustav Cassel, is reported to have been appointed economic adviser to the Russian State Bank. He has declared to one of the papers that as he is deeply interested in the general restoration of the world, he has, after much consideration, consented to act as adviser to the Russian Bank, and he is studying, and has for a long time past been studying, the Russian problem. Of course, this new work of Professor Cassel will not interfere with his present occupation.

SPAIN.—NEW TREASURY BOND ISSUE—OBLIGATORY FORM FOR BANK ACCOUNTS—MADRID MOTORBUS COMPANY—STOCKS AND EXCHANGES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, October 20.

As anticipated in my last letter, the Spanish Government has published a decree authorising the issue of one-year Treasury bonds for a total of 500,000,000 ptas. bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The subscription was opened on the 15th inst., and was a complete success, being considerably over-subscribed in one day. The greater portion of the loan was taken up in Madrid (313,333,500 ptas.), Bilbao (296,000,000 ptas.), and Barcelona (147,000,000 ptas.). This issue increases the present circulation of Treasury bonds to 3,077,644,500 ptas.

The Minister of Interior has decided upon the form of balance-sheet which it is now obligatory for all banks and bankers in Spain to publish on the last day of March, June, September and December of each year. The rumours of a reduction of the Bank of Spain's official discount rate proved to be unfounded, and it is stated that such a measure is not deemed necessary at the present moment.

With a view to helping coal mine owners in this country to face British competition, certain dispositions have been set forth by the Government, in a Royal Decree, which embody premiums on coal exported from Spanish ports and a reduction of taxes at the mine. This measure may

offset to some extent the effect of the Commercial Treaty which is to be signed with England, and thereby reduce the opposition of the mine owners to it.

It is announced that an issue will shortly be made of shares of the Madrid Motorbus Co., the capital of which, representing principally the motorbuses themselves, is held by Messrs Vickers, Limited, with the exception of that part which is to be offered for public subscription. The motorbuses, of English make, are already in service, and were very well received, without the usual adverse comments which usually accompany any innovation in Spain. I am told that when the Madrid Tramway Company opened their first lines they were obliged to give a free service for a week or two in order to accustom the people to the new mode of locomotion, and a big detour which the Northern Railway makes just before reaching Madrid is explained by the opposition put up by a village to being contaminated by such "inventions of the evil one." After some hesitation and a lot of ridicule, the Metropolitan Railway proved to be a success, and now any innovation which tends to relieve the congested traffic of the centre will encounter welcome instead of difficulties.

Parliament will not open again until after November 11th, when it will have to decide, amongst other things, the question of an increase of the railway tariffs, and will have to make some definite declaration as to what progress has been made in the pacification of Morocco, and consequently what prospects there are of a serious reduction of national expenditure.

The issue of Treasury bonds, as was expected, caused some weakness in the share market, but the effect will soon pass, especially as it is anticipated that only 40 per cent. of the bonds subscribed will be allotted. Apart from this, the Stock Exchange showed signs of increased animation, favoured by the return to "winter hours," i.e., at 3.30 p.m. instead of 1.30. The foreign exchange ring also plucked up a little courage, and the business done was above the usual average.

ARGENTINA.—PROJECTED U.S. LOAN REJECTED—THE GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN CAPITAL—THE BANCO DE LA NACION—MONETARY CONDITIONS—CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, September 26.

DESPITE the large majority which the present Government can boast in the Chamber of Deputies, it is now certain that it will be unable to persuade the legislators to sanction the *ad referendum* agreement made with a group of American financial interests relative to a 25-year loan of \$200,000,000 U.S., terms of which were published early in September. The issuing bankers (Blair and Co., and the Chase Securities Corporation) offered 97, while the rate of interest was to have been 6½ per cent. per annum, with 1 per cent. amortisation. It was, however, far from clear as to what actual amount the lenders proposed to take at the outset; the conditions being so vague, and capable of such distinct interpretations as to lead to somewhat caustic comment by the Argentine Press, and, eventually, to unanimous rejection of the proposals by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Deputies. Coming as it did after a sharp discussion in the Chamber over the advisability of archiving a peremptory request for prompt sanction of the agreement aforesaid, which the Minister of Finance declared to be unquestionably the best in point of terms that could be looked for, this rejection is generally regarded as highly significant. It bears out the opinion expressed on previous occasions in this correspondence, to the effect that Argentine national finance will be subject to closer and more reasoned investigation by the legislature in the course of the next administration than has been the case during the presidency of Señor Irigoyen. Meanwhile, the Government has no difficulty in renewing its short-date obligations at 5 per cent. per annum, close on \$100,000,000 Argentine paper having been arranged on these terms during the past month. Money being exceedingly plentiful, and likely to remain so over the turn of the year, the Argentine banks are glad to undertake what is, after all, perfectly safe business. It leaves but a small margin, with time deposits

earning from 3 to 4½ per cent. per annum, and current account balances being paid 1 per cent. per annum, but, so high are the cash percentages of the Argentine banks, considered collectively, at the present time, that the failure of the effort to obtain an external loan is, temporarily, at any rate, a blessing in disguise viewed from their standpoint.

Another proposal to seek a foreign loan has been sanctioned by the Senate of the Province of Buenos Aires, but it is yet uncertain whether the measure will be approved by the Deputies. It calls for \$30,000,000 Argentine gold, its equivalent in Argentine paper, \$68,000,000 approximate, or any foreign currency on a gold basis. The issue price is not to be under 92, nor the interest above 6½ per cent. per annum, amortisation being the usual 1 per cent. per annum. Efforts are also being made to obtain offers for the extension of the provincially owned railway system known as the Meridiano V., on the basis of payment in bonds; but although certain American contracting concerns are reported to be studying the matter, it is hanging fire. Dr. Cantilo, the Governor of the Province, has protested against the comments of certain London financial journals who saw in the proposed extensions damaging competition for the Anglo-Argentine lines. He stigmatised the idea that a tariff war would be initiated as absurd; affirmed that the steady development of the province afforded ample scope for all; and generally enunciated his determination to maintain cordial relations with all forms of productive enterprise financed by foreign capital throughout the province. Admitting the personality and reputation of the speaker, it is felt that full weight should be given to this timely statement by a man who, next to Dr. Alvear, will have the most direct political influence on the development of what is the richest and most populous region of the republic. It must, however, be borne in mind that, sooner or later, and probably sooner, the ever-growing tendency towards nationalisation will lead to a conflict of interests which is bound to affect the situation of the railways in Argentina. Again and again the Socialist deputies, with Catonian persistency, call for reconsideration of the various enactments dealing with the railway tariffs, while already, with the recent increases scarce a month old, a private proposal has been laid before Congress by one of the Deputies, Dr. Bauschi, calling for a reduction of freight on sundry items of livestock and goods traffic classified as being calculated to benefit agricultural, pastoral, or mining interests. It is probable that Argentina does but follow her destiny in this matter of giving special preference to national as opposed to foreign initiatives, but one sometimes doubts whether London interests fully realise that this trend of events must be followed sympathetically and closely if its subsequent development is not to prove unpleasantly abrupt. Abrupt, that is to say, to those who have not followed step by step the reasoning and the ambitions of the present-day young Argentine, who, be it said *en passant*, is both technically and intellectually on a far higher plane than his immediate predecessors.

Many were the official measures placed before Congress by the executive power during September, but few of them are likely to become law. One proposal which is likely to be approved, however, is that which seeks to empower the Banco de la Nacion to open foreign branches. Should the necessary change in its statutes be sanctioned this institution will in all likelihood establish offices in London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Berlin, and Rio Janeiro. Transacting 38 per cent. of the banking business of the Republic, and covering the republic with a network of branches, the Banco de la Nacion Argentina is to-day beyond all question the most powerful financial entity in South America. At the present moment, in addition to having \$76,396,000 Argentine paper out on cattle and agricultural pledges and financing the treasury of the Argentine Government to an extent far in excess of the 20 per cent. of its capital—\$150,000,000 paper—authorised by its statutes, it carries a large amount in rediscounted paper, chiefly treasury bills, endorsed by the other Argentine banks. Unquestionably solid and admirably managed though the concern must be considered, the official tendency to treat it as a sort of financial *deus ex machina*, able of itself to discharge any and every financial obligation that the Government may see fit to assume, from the regulation of

international exchange to the arrangement of credits to cover shipments of foodstuffs to Germany and Greece, is disquieting at times. It is, therefore, expected that one of the first measures of Dr Alvear's Government will be to bring practice and precept into line, either by increasing its capital, or by reducing the total of official indebtedness. This latter course was recently taken by the province of Buenos Aires. Being above its statutory limit in regard to loans incurred with the Bank of the Province of Buenos Aires, the provincial government borrowed from various Argentine banks, and with the proceeds reduced its overdraft by \$12,000,000 paper. The four banks interested in the transition took provincial government notes at par to mature on February 27, 1923, the interest being 6½ per cent. per annum. It is understood that they were at once rediscounted with the Banco de la Nacion, and an interesting point, which well illustrates the nature of local business is afforded by the fact that one bank handled \$5,000,000 Argentine paper of the \$12,000,000 above-mentioned, notwithstanding that its total deposits are but \$2,300,000 paper, and its capital one and a-quarter million; both capital and deposits being presumably fully employed, seeing that its loans and discounts totalled \$4,259,000 paper on August 31st. Indeed, it is not too much to say that the banking position of Argentina generally considered rests to all intents and purposes on the shoulders of the Banco de la Nacion. While well able to bear the burden in fine weather under its existing constitution, it might find itself heavily overlaid should the sea get up; hence the growing feeling in favour of measures calculated to promote safety as well as expediency in the near future.

General business during the past month has been more satisfactory in promise than in performance. Money, as has been said, is barely worth 5 per cent., and first-class discounts have been even listed at 4½ per cent. Exchange, following on the news that nothing was to be expected from the loan negotiations, moved still further against Argentina for U.S. dollars, and sterling appreciated in sympathy. \$125 Arg. gold p.\$100 U.S. is the latest quotation for banks' sight drawings on New York, with sterling at 43½. News from the Near East probably accounted for the weakness of lire and francs, but in truth there has been very little real business offering, export bills being almost non-existent. In the cereal markets an attempt was made to force up wheat quotations on the ground of probable trouble in Europe, but with small effect. \$12 Arg. paper p.100 kilos was touched in Buenos Aires, but latest quotations were \$11.50 for spot wheat and \$11.70 November shipment. Quotations are being made in the futures market for the new season's crop, \$11.20 being listed for February delivery. The maize position is very uncertain. Much damage has been done by excessive moisture, but it may well be that a month's fine weather will still be in time to condition a fair quantity. The actual quotation of \$8.40 includes more or less a dollar for mechanical drying. Wool quotations are at present purely nominal, but it is worthy of mention that the new clip is expected to be one of the smallest registered for the past 20 years; which should prove satisfactory to those as has been the case with many, especially among the Rios. Hides and sheepskins are very firm. Freight rates, which fell away to even lower quotations than the 12s 6d grain to U.K. mentioned last month, are improving with Lorenzo-U.K./Cont.; and berth rates also moving upwards. German, Scandinavian, and Dutch ports are, however, still over-supplied with available space, and for these destinations little improvement is noticeable. It is now admitted that Argentina has had more wheat and linseed to ship than was first indicated by the official estimates. These latter have been revised, and give 3,850,000 tons of wheat and 770,000 tons of linseed as the probable export total for 1922. Which is virtually proved correct by the fact that down to September 10th shipments had reached 3,237,000 tons of wheat and 657,000 tons of linseed. Crop prospects for 1922-3 are at present almost too good. Should no abnormally bad weather supervene the yield of linseed is likely to be a record. Wheat is not so satisfactory, being weak in the stalk and unduly advanced,

though this is not universal, and opinion inclines to the belief that, barring accidents, the yield should be fully normal, and may even be on the large side. It must be remembered that it is still too early for any opinion to be of more than merely speculative value.

Letters to the Editor.

THE MARK AND INFLATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In glancing back at your issue of September 2nd I was amazed at the attempt of your correspondent in Berlin to prove (a) that fluctuations in the mark exchange are having no seriously detrimental effects on Germany's economic life; (b) that German State finances are in a pleasantly healthy condition, and "are far better than in 1919"; (c) that the fall in the mark has been actually beneficial to the German industrial system; (d) that "there is no basis at all" for the belief that currency difficulties are bringing Germany to the brink of a serious economic crisis. More amazing than his contentions were the arguments with which he supported them.

First, he appears to think that the claim that a falling exchange brings an economic crisis is cancelled out by the claim that a rising exchange also involves danger of an economic crisis; and in this way he endeavours summarily to dispose of the economists' statement that *instability of exchange rates is economically harmful*. He then refers to "stable-exchange countries," and claims that they are also "deep in industrial commercial crises." What does your correspondent mean by "stable-exchange countries"? Britain may have a stable exchange with U.S.A., but a very unstable exchange with Germany. If he calls Britain a "stable-exchange country" then his remark is pointless in this connection. If he does not, then "stable-exchange countries" do not exist.

Second, he maintains that "the more the mark has depreciated, the better have grown the State finances," because an increasingly large part of expenditure is met by floating debt operations. This burden, he says, is removed from the State to "foreign creditors," and to "native pure capitalists"; and, moreover, "the ratio of interest charges (on the floating debt) to revenue becomes ever smaller and smaller" as the nominal value of revenue is raised. But he neglects the fact that the need for fresh floating debt operations (and hence the interest burden) increases faster than revenue, so long as the mark continues to slump, and State expenditure as a result rises faster in proportion than revenue! Further, he seems regardless of the fact that the existence of a large floating debt is a continual element of instability in State finances, and that a point may be reached where the Government is incapable of meeting its needs by this method.

Third, he tries to make out that, because the trade boom in Germany has increased profits and employment, therefore this indicates the economic soundness of the German industrial system. Is he oblivious of the fact that a trade boom, especially when artificially stimulated by inflation, produces great maladjustment between the various parts of the economic machine—maladjustment which can only be corrected by a painful process of trade depression? Does he not realise that in judging the "health," say, of the British industrial system since the war the depression of 1921 has to be put in the balance over against the boom of 1919?

Fourth, whatever warrant has your correspondent for assuming that the German trade boom is "mainly a home boom"? His statement that because "buying power is a result of production, and buying power cannot cease first," therefore an economic crisis could not occur in Germany, need, surely, only be stated for its absurdity to be manifest? If this is so, how has a trade depression ever occurred?

Fifth, it is no contradiction, as your correspondent assumes it is, to say that production must cease because the slump in the mark makes it difficult to purchase imports, and at the same time to say that "ruin is impending because of the threatening surplus of imports over exports." Is not the existence of an unfavourable trade

balance one of the symptoms of the inability of Germany to purchase necessary imports—an inability which will manifest itself in a crisis, so soon as inflation and borrowing prove inadequate to supplement the deficit?

Finally he quotes figures of imports in metric tons, which are completely inadequate to prove what he tries to make them prove, simply because in attributing certain effects to an assumed cause it is always advisable to ensure that "other things are equal," and in this case "other things" are very far from being "equal."—Yours, &c., MAURICE H. DOBB. Cambridge.

PROCESS OF INFLATION IN GERMANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your Berlin correspondent gives the following links in the chain of rising prices in Germany:—

1. The mark exchange falls abroad, and the foreign exchanges in Berlin simultaneously rise.
2. The result is a rise in prices.
3. The price causes an increase in State expenditure and (at least at first) in State deficits, and makes private working capital insufficient.
4. The State deficits are covered, and the insufficiency of private capital is repaired by credit operations; the Finance Ministry presents Treasury bills to the Reichsbank for discounting, and private business men raise money by various means, of which the discounting of bills is one.

5. The Reichsbank disposes of the discounted bills to private capitalists as far as these can be taken up.

6. Against the undisposed-of residue the bank prints and issues notes holding the bills in security, and the note circulation is correspondingly increased.

Link 6 in the process of inflation calls for some explanation. It is generally understood in this country that in Germany the currency is inflated because the Government uses the printing press instead of resorting to direct taxation to meet expenditure charges. In this way the community is paying taxes through the invidious process of increased prices for everything. But according to the information your correspondent supplies increased prices do not end the matter, because it is the bank and not the State that prints the notes, and the State practically pays the bank a discount for doing this work. Before the effect of this operation can be gauged the rate of discount charged would require to be known, and perhaps your correspondent can supply this information. If the situation is as he sets out, then the German people will not only have to face the huge task of having to redeem, at some future date, those milliards of notes that have gone through the printing press, but they will have to pay an immense annual tribute to the bank for printing them. This process of raising revenue suggests two questions: first, why should the State not print the notes itself; and second, what will be the competitive position of Germany in world markets with this heavy load weighing down its industrial and commercial resources?—Yours faithfully, JAS. MCCONECHY.

44 Spring gardens, Manchester.

Books and Publications.

THE LAST OF LORD BRYCE.*

THE career of Lord Bryce as a historian falls in a curious interval between two periods of historical writing. When he was a young man (he remembered a speech delivered at Glasgow by Kossuth in 1850) historians were the magnates of literature. The world waited breathlessly for Lord Macaulay's next volume, and fastidious stylists disputed eagerly over the anfractuosités of Mr Carlyle. History in those days was a form, and almost the highest form, of literature. But before Lord Bryce reached middle life the scene was changed. Clio began to speak with a strong German accent; the adornments of litera-

* "International Relations." Eight lectures delivered in the United States in August, 1921. By James Bryce. Macmillan, 10s 6d net.

ture were laid aside with shamefaced alacrity; and the new vogue for research and the *manie de l'inédit* installed the bricklayers of history in the seat of the architect. In the earlier period history had been florid, in the later it was dull; and the contemporaries of Lord Bryce, finding themselves a shade bewildered in the interregnum between the two, evolved a historical method which combined the qualities of both. Floridity was ensured by the retention of mechanical eloquence and facile characterisation from the repertory of the literary historians; and a belief, borrowed from the researchers, that facts were ends in themselves, lent a saving modern quality of dulness. With this remarkable equipment they set out in pursuit of historical generalisations. They explored the archives of the past for the form of political wisdom usually described as "the teachings of History"; and Lord Bryce was true to the tradition of his time when, lecturing in America so late as the summer of 1921 upon the relations of States, he undertook "to supply some materials for answering the questions aforesaid by throwing upon them the light of history."

In the broad sweep of his preliminary survey of the past he is true to his period. The old gods of Nineteenth Century history sniff once more the rich Victorian incense which they must almost have forgotten. Italian patriots and Hungarian patriots put on again the lofty ideals in which they appealed to their British contemporaries; and the hateful despot who was so disobliging as to do most of their work for them appears in the lurid light in which Mr Swinburne used to see him—"Cavour when dealing with Louis Napoleon gave expression to much less than he thought; but then Cavour knew the kind of trickster he had to handle." One rejoices to catch the brave old ring of a past era of historical criticism.

But when Lord Bryce approaches the problem, he becomes more serious. His condemnation of the Peace treaties is whole-hearted and weighty:—

"There is not one of the treaties of 1919-20 which is not already understood to need amendments. Some are utterly condemned by results already visible. Some are seen to be leading straight to future wars." His Turkish policy is refreshingly Gladstonian, and there is a gallant attempt to bring the shadow of a blush to American cheeks for the desertion of Armenia. He takes his audience, with a wealth of instances, through the history of modern wars and alliances and emerges with the rather cheerless discovery that "alliances, meant to secure against war the nations that make them, have proved more often causes of strife than remedies against it," whilst the Super-State is "outside the range of practical politics." Nothing remains but the chilly realisation that he must endeavour to break the League of Nations—gently—to his American audience. He points out its minor faults; he calls it by another name; he wrings his hands and almost declaims to the solemn rows of his complacent hearers that "You in America are well fitted to set an example"....."your help, your powerful and disinterested help".....But somehow beneath the rhetoric and self-abasement of his appeal one seems to detect a faint note of reproach, almost of scorn, for the amalgam of selfishness and ignorance which, with a few parts of natural diffidence, made up the Republican policy that failed civilisation.

A BOOK ON SOUTH AMERICA.*

IF it may be said that practically everything here set forth in this volume with so much patient persistence has been said before, and, in many cases, with a greater degree of accuracy, the industry of the author should be duly conceded. It would have been, perhaps, more precise to have entitled this work "An Anthology of Industrial and Commercial South America," since the collection of statistical and descriptive matter, amounting to some 500 pages of closely printed matter, has been largely, if not wholly, collated from existing volumes, to the authors of which, however, no special reference is made except in the large paragraph of the "Foreword," which records the "grateful appreciation" of the writer for cer-

* "Industrial and Commercial South America." Annie S. Peck. A.M., F.R.G.S. (London) T. Fisher Unwin. Price, 18s net.

tain unspecified (but none the less often recognisable) assistance afforded by existing volumes.

While much of the geographical information (obtainable in any encyclopædia or other book of reference) might without disadvantage have been abbreviated, a great deal more might have been said regarding commercial banking operations carried on in the Latin-American States. Trade and industry of South America depend, as in other communities, largely upon the assistance rendered by monetary institutions; yet little or nothing beyond a bald list of some of the banks, their branches and respective addresses (Appendix II.), can be found, nor is any reference made to the valuable services accorded by such old-established institutions as the London and Brazilian Bank, the London and River Plate Bank, the Commercial Bank of Spanish America, the British Bank of South America, &c., &c. Of commercial, marine, or fire insurance companies there is no mention either, nor, indeed, is any reference to either banks or insurance to be found in the Index.

It would be surprising to those interested in Colombia and who have expended—not without advantage—considerable capital in developing its mines, to learn that "as yet bare scratching of the surface has taken place," a statement refuted by the author on page 49, where it is shown that "the sum of \$400,000,000 (£80,000,000) was taken by the Castilians from shallow waters," and that "the gold production in Colombia since the Spanish Conquest is above \$600,000,000 (£120,000,000). For a mere 'scratching of the surface' these results (assuming the accuracy of the figures) would appear to have been remarkable. Further on, investors are advised "upon no account to attempt to obtain a possible concession for emerald mining in Colombia without thorough investigation and ample capital." No concessions for emerald mining are now—or for many years have been—granted by the State, the enterprise being a strict monopoly of the Government.

Among the information furnished in connection with Venezuela (p. 98), investors are advised to purchase for agricultural purposes land which "is so cheap that little capital is needed for the agriculturist unless engaging on a very large scale." Nothing is said—perhaps nothing is known—of the heavy taxes and royalties payable to the Venezuelan Government, which imposts in the past have proved a heavy burden upon enterprise of this character, one which must be carried on to no small extent in competition with State-aided interests. Neither is it possible to endorse the further assurance "to individuals with small capital the gold region of Orinoco would be attractive" (p. 99). The climate in this part of Venezuela is generally found so unhealthy that even the Americans find it difficult to work there. For Europeans or chance.

Under the Argentine Republic we are afforded certain information respecting its railways. Here reference is made to the "Central Argentina" (p. 308), and the "Argentina North-East Railway" (p. 311), the author the Argentine North-Eastern Railway and last-named system traffic statistics carry us no further than the years 1917 and 1918. In other cases such as that of the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway, the figures Western Railway they are for 1912 and 1913. For the and the Entre Rios Railways no traffic statistics whatever are given. It would have been a simple matter to have obtained the 1921 traffic figures, since all these and other Argentinian transport companies publish their returns with commendable regularity. In the account given of the *grigori*-American capital, the latest export figures are those of 1918 and the first four months of 1919. Of land companies' operations we learn nothing, notwithstanding the are devoted to stock-raising. The subject is also dealt with under Paraguay, concerning which State we are informed "perhaps no other country of South America presents to the small farmer and willing worker, with or without small capital, openings more favourable than

Paraguay." No regard is paid to the damage that can be, and has been, inflicted upon foreign vested interests in land and other securities during the time of revolution, such as that which has now been in existence since last May.

Criticism is largely disarmed by such a defensive statement as "it may seem presumptuous that one with no practical experience should venture to discuss foreign trade" (p. 434). But the author proceeds to discuss the subject over nearly 500 pages, and to lay down regulations for the conduct of commerce with the South American countries. Apart from occasional crudities in construction and ungrammatical sentences, this volume is likely to offer but little practical assistance to British traders or shippers, while it is noticeable that it has been written for Americans. The volume contains eight well-drawn line maps relating to countries dealt with, while several pages are devoted to a bibliography which, however, is singularly incomplete. The index, extending over nearly 20 pages, is a mere record of geographical names, and provides no useful guide to the labyrinth of subjects treated.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Bell's Handbooks of Commerce and Finance. Finance.* By A. Risdon Palmer. Vol. II. (London) G. Bell and Sons, Limited. 4s net.
- The Betrayal of the Slums.* By the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.D., M.P. (London) Herbert Jenkins, Limited. 2s 6d net.
- Debentures: The Purposes They Serve and How They are Issued.* Herbert W. Jordan. Tenth Edition. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited. 1s 6d net.
- Education for Business.* By Leverett S. Lyon. (Chicago) The University of Chicago Press. \$3 50c.
- Lithuania: Past and Present.* By E. J. Harrison. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. 16s net.
- Report of the Chinese Post Office, 1921.* (Shanghai) Directorate General of Posts.
- Wholesale Prices 1890 to 1920.* (Washington) Bureau of Labour Statistics.
- The Therm. Reports of the Fuel Research Board on Gas Standards.* (London) H.M. Stationery Office. 3d.
- The Education and Training of Teachers.* (London) The Labour Party, Eccleston square. 6d.
- First Year Book of the International Federation of Trade Unions.* (Amsterdam) 61, Vondelstraat. Fl. 1.50.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
October 31.	November 2.

The stock markets have been unfavourably affected by the political developments at home, and the renewed slump in the French franc. Various minor factors have contributed to bringing about depression in most of the markets, though in some parts of the House there are indications that, if the home and foreign political atmosphere were lightened, people will not be unwilling to adventure money where possibilities exist for sound investment on the one hand, and speculative opportunities on the other. The War Loan is ex dividend, but the Consol market, as a whole, came under the influence of the General Election, with the mild apprehension that this might result in a substantial increase in the Labour Party's seats. Moreover, the new twenty million pounds India 4½ per cent. loan offered at 85, while it provides a useful addition to the lists of trustee stocks, tends to divert money from existing securities. The Conversion Loan showed a fair amount of strength, and attracted a good deal of business.

French bonds, of course, are extremely flat, on the slump in the franc, the pessimists jumping to the conclusion that this fall, which has succeeded the presentation of a gloomy French budget statement, is the prelude to further acute weakness. French railway bonds naturally suffered to some extent with the weakness of the Government issues. In Germany there is not much doing. Brazilians gave way heavily as the milreis sank beneath 6d. The franc demoralisation led to depression in the bonds of other foreign countries, and the recent buying of Danish, Scandinavian, Finnish, and other such issues has been checked. Peruvian Corporation stocks have been turned out by the speculating brigade.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch - 108, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.
West End Foreign Branch - 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch - 42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch - Corner York St. & Fountain St., Manchester.

Publication of the grouping terms for the Southern railways had the effect of bringing in sellers who had been nursing the stocks for some time past in the hope of what the actual announcement would be. Consequently, the deferred stocks of the Brighton, South-Eastern and South-Western companies are lower. Chatham's fell sharply, and the company's two preferences also gave way, though the debenture stocks are better. The final terms of the North-Western-Midland grouping appeared on Friday, and caused a smart drop in Furness ordinary, although some of the prior-charge issues hardened. The Undergrounds have been dull for choice, and the new debenture issues of the three tube railways, which came out at 93, dwindled to a small discount, in spite of the fact that the subscription lists were closed before the advertised date.

Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debenture dropped to 42, before recovering to 46. Mexican Rails are lower. Argentine Railway stocks declined to sympathise with the general tone throughout the Stock Exchange, and rose substantially, thanks to the chairman's speeches at this week's meetings of the B. A. Great Southern and Central Argentine. Brazilian railways gave way, in company with the prices of the country's bonds. United of Havana rose on the good dividend announcement of 4 per cent. Nitrate shares, including those of the railways carrying the produce, are lower where they have moved at all.

Rubber shares suffered a shake out in the middle of the week, as profit-takers came in to secure the handsome gains which many were able to take who had bought before the boomlet started. The price of the produce keeps steadily about 1s per lb, and the Stevenson report having been adopted by the F.M.S. and Ceylon Legislatures is held as a bull point, though it would appear as though a good deal of opposition may yet be encountered before the scheme can become fully operative. The oil market swung idly at the tail of whatever mood has prevailed in the leading markets, and speculative interest has died out completely from this section. The banking, insurance, and shipping markets have relapsed into quietude, changes being few and far between. Something of a feature is the way in which the stocks and shares of the Eastern cable companies have been advancing, material gains being established on the week. On the other hand, Marconis dwindled as a result of the meeting at the end of last week, when the proposal to issue debentures was duly carried. Iron and steel shares stand out with conspicuous strength in consequence of the settlement of the strike in South Wales. In the textile market the disposition has been to let prices drift. Daily Mail debentures hold their premium of 6 points, and it is expected that dealings will begin on Monday or Tuesday in the deferred shares of the Associated Newspapers. The recently issued debenture stock of the Cellulose Holdings Company dropped to 4 discount. Gas stocks are a trifle better, and electric lighting shares show no halt in their steady upward progress. Sudan Plantations, after their vivid rise, gave way from the top, while Hudson's Bays, which had been bought on the prospect of oil discoveries being announced at an early date, also reacted. Forestals, on the other hand, are improving, in spite of the expectation that the next dividend announcements may be disappointing. Fresh rises occurred in the leading tea shares, where the supply of stock is extremely meagre. Ridgways strengthened by reason of the terms offered to the shareholders. Gramophones advanced on a satisfactory dividend statement and report. United Dairies have held their improvement. The motor group has been less active, and prices began to dwindle. Dunlops went back to 9s sellers, though the debentures stand higher on the week. Breweries have moved somewhat irregularly, and the Tobacco market weakened on sales by stale bulls.

The Kaffir market is weak, in sympathy with other departments affected by French and Belgian influences. A good many options fall due at next week's settlement, and sales against these emphasised the prevailing depression. Rhodesians, diamonds, and other mining shares are also heavy. This week's rise of £6 per ton in the price of tin failed to galvanise either activity or strength into shares connected with the metal. Russians have given way, and the tendency in other mining sections sympathised with that shown elsewhere.

Earl Balfour unveiled yesterday the Stock Exchange Memorial which has been erected to the memory of members and clerks who fell during the war. Invitations were issued to the near relatives of those whose names appear on the Memorial. No business was transacted in the House until after the ceremony, which was both solemn and impressive.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital. £	Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded ..	..	519,139,749 ..	..	..
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender October 20, 1922), £2,400,000, at 99½ ..	..	2,379,750 ..	..	..
NATIONAL SERVICE CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 21, 1922.				
April 1 to Oct. 21, 1922, £25,068,000	£	450,000 ..	£	450,000

To the Public—				
Government of India, £20,000,000 4½ % Loan, issued at 85½, red. at par 1950-1955 (Oct. 26) ..	20,000,000	17,000,000	1,000,000	16,000,000
South Staffordshire Waterworks, £400,000 5½ % Red. Pref. Stk. at 99½, red. at par Jan. 1, 1938 (Oct. 26) ..	400,000	398,000	20,000	378,000
Chelonia, Limited, 80,000 10 % Cum. Ptg. Pref., £1, at par (Oct. 23) ..	80,000	80,000	20,000	60,000
Do 80,000 Ord. Shares, 1s, at par (Oct. 23) ..	4,000	4,000	..	..
Total offered to public ..	..	17,482,000	1,044,000	16,438,000
To Shareholders only—				
Coloiti Syndicate, 1,200,000 Shares, 1s, at par ..	60,000	60,000	15,000	45,000
Raja Musa (Selangor) Rubber and Coconuts, 5,000 Ptg. Pref., £1, at par ..	5,000	5,000	625	4,375
Total to Shareholders only ..	..	65,000	15,625	49,375
Total offered for subscription to date for whole year—				
1922 ..	£539,516,499	1921 ..	£388,978,203	
1921 ..	230,784,413	1920 ..	367,549,666	
1920 ..	321,875,125	1919 ..	1,036,059,251	
1919 ..	955,254,373	1918 ..	1,393,381,441	
1918 ..	1,138,190,516	1917 ..	1,318,596,010	
1917 ..	1,161,729,860	1916 ..	585,436,850	
1916 ..	471,580,231	1915 ..	685,236,326	
1915 ..	660,968,076	1914 ..	512,522,653	

Government of India 4½ per Cent. Loan, 1950-1955.—Issue of £20,000,000 at 85½ per cent., repayable, presumably in London, at par in May, 1955, but right is reserved to redeem the loan at par on giving three months' notice after May 15, 1950. Interest is payable half-yearly at the Bank of England in May and November. This stock is a trustee investment as laid down in the Trustee Act, 1893, unless expressly forbidden in any instrument creating the trust. We refer further to this loan on another page under "Notes of the Week."

South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.—Issued capital £1,348,509. This is an issue of £400,000 5½ per cent. redeemable preference stock at 99½, and an offer for sale by tender of £150,000 ordinary stock at a minimum price of £95 per cent. The preference stock now offered will be redeemed at par on January 1, 1938. It will rank equally with £181,300 existing preference stocks, and after £175,000 of preference issues and a £276,960 debenture issue. The existing ordinary stock is £715,240, while the statutory maximum dividend payable on the ordinary stock now issued is 8 per cent. For the last few years dividends on ordinary stocks have been limited, it is stated, by the operation of the Temporary Increase of Charges Act to 4½ per cent., and this rate was paid for 1920 and 1921. This limit has now been removed, and an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum has been paid for the first half of the year 1922. The prospectus contains much matter which may be of general interest, but a short table showing the actual surplus revenue of the undertaking over a period of, say, ten years would have been better welcomed by cautious investors.

The Mediterranean Asbestos Quarries, Limited.—Authorised capital £200,000, divided into 175,000 per cent. cumulative participating preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 300,000 ordinary shares of 1s each. The issued capital consists of 113,227 preferred and 458,227 ordinary shares. The following details are taken from an advertisement published in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Stock Exchange Committee, in order to secure official quotations for shares of the company. Briefly, participating rights are that after the 10 per cent. dividend on preferred shares has been paid preferred shareholders are entitled to one-third of remaining available profits. The company has been formed to exploit about 3,000 acres of asbestos-bearing deposits in Corsica, and the purchase consideration is given as £82,750 in cash and 345,000 fully-paid ordinary shares, the vendors subscribing for 45,000 £1 shares and 45,000 1s shares. A speculative proposition, which possibly has merit, but only suitable for the consideration of those with knowledge of this industry and this particular locality.

Chelonia, Limited.—Share capital £125,000, divided into 100,000 10 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each and 500,000 ordinary shares of 1s each. This is an offer of 80,000 preference and 80,000 ordinary shares at par. Subscribers are entitled to apply for one ordinary share for every preference share applied for, but application for ordinary shares alone will not be considered. The participating rights are that all profits after payment of the 10 per cent. dividend on preference shares shall be divided equally between ordinary and preference shareholders. The company has been formed to acquire a concession from the Government of Western Australia to take the turtle, and it is intended to market turtle soup in this country and utilise by-products. The purchase price is £35,000, of which only £2,000 is payable in cash. It would be interesting to know the consideration given to the Government of Western Australia for this concession; in the prospectus no payment is mentioned, and the valuation amount of £35,000 appears to be a fairly large sum in the absence of more information. It is noticeable that it will be difficult for preference shareholders to make their opinions effective at meetings owing to the voting powers laid down in the prospectus. A highly speculative proposition.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.				
	Price Week.	Price Last Week.	Price Week.	Price Last Week.
War 4½, 1925-28 ..	95½	95½	..	..
Loans 4½, 1929-47 ..	101½	98½	..	..
4½, 1929-47 ..	100½	100½	..	..
Funding Loan 4½ ..	85½	85½	..	..
Victory Bonds 4½ ..	85½	85½	..	..
Conversion Loan 3½ ..	74½	74½	..	..
Consols 2½ ..	57½	57½	..	..
Irish Land Stock 2½ ..	58½	58½	..	..
Local Loans 3½ ..	63½	63½	..	..
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) ..	248½	248½	..	..
Chartered Bk of India 17½ ..	17½	17½	..	..
Lloyds (£5 with 1d. pd.) ..	28½	28½	..	..
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with 2d. pd.) ..	84½	84½	..	..
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with 4d. pd.) ..	174½	174½	..	..
Colonial and Foreign Railways.				
Antofagasta Cons. ..	72½	71½	..	..
B. A. & Pacific ..	65½	66½	..	..
B. A. & Southern ..	80½	82½	..	..
Buenos Ayres West. ..	74½	75½	..	..
Central Argentine ..	69½	71½	..	..
Foreign Government Securities.				
Argentina 5½, 1886-7 ..	100	100	..	..
Belgian 4½ ..	68	68	..	..
Brazil 5½ Fund 1914 ..	65	61	..	..
Obilina 4½, 1895 ..	83½	83	..	..
Do 7½ ..	104	103½	..	..
Chinese 5½, 1912 ..	73	73	..	..
Egyptian 4½ ..	71	71	..	..
French 5½ ..	35	30½	..	..
Do 4½ ..	28½	25	..	..
Greek 4½, 1888 ..	34½	34½	..	..
Japanese 4½ ..	104	105	..	..
Do 4½, 1910 ..	70	71	..	..
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	59	57	..	..
Peruvian Corp. Pref. ..	53	57	..	..
Russian 5½, 1906 ..	124	128½	..	..
Spanish 4½ ..	79	76	..	..
Seine (Dept.) 7½ ..	102	109½	..	..
Siam 7½ ..	105½	106½	..	..
Telegraphs.				
Anglo-American "A" ..	23½	23½	..	..
Marconi Wireless ..	28½	28½	..	..
British Railways.				
Great Central Pref. ..	22½	21½	..	..
Great Eastern ..	36½	35½	..	..
Great Northern Def. ..	41½	40½	..	..
Great Western ..	101	102½	..	..
London, Brighton, & A. ..	64	61½	..	..
London, Chatham ..	91	74½	..	..
L. & N.W. (New) ..	100½	99½	..	..
L. & S. Western, Def. ..	34½	31½	..	..
Metropolitan ..	54½	54½	..	..
American Railroads.				
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	84	83	..	..
Erie ..	18	17	..	..
Do 4½ 1st Pref. ..	28	26	..	..
Miscellaneous.				
Aerated Bread (£1) ..	13½	14½	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) ..	54½	54	..	..
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) and Co. (£1) ..	16½	16½	..	..
Ass. Phos. Cement (£1) ..	176	176	..	..
Barker, John (£1) ..	24½	24½	..	..
Bham Small Arms (£1) ..	44	45	..	..
Brazil Traction (£100) ..	47½	45	..	..
British American Tobacco (£1) ..	46½	44	..	..
Bria & Arg. Meat (£1) ..	34½	33½	..	..
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	34	34	..	..
Costs (J. and P.) (£1) ..	24	24	..	..
Courtauld (£1) ..	28½	28½	..	..
Cunard (£1) ..	1	1	..	..
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	4	4	..	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	4	4	..	..
Fin. Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	2	1½	..	..
Forestral Lax (£1) ..	82½	82½	..	..
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	1½	1½	..	..
Highlands and Low- lands Rubber (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
Brakpan (£1) ..	248	24	..	..
Broken Hill Prop. (8) ..	148	148	..	..
Chartered (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
Crown Mines (10) ..	34	34	..	..
De Beers Def. (£24) ..	138	128	..	..
Gold Rand Prop. (£1) ..	34	34	..	..
Geduld (£1) ..	34	34	..	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) ..	57½	57½	..	..
Hudson's Bay (£1) ..	77½	77½	..	..
Imperial Tobacco (£1) ..	348	348	..	..
Linggi Plantations (£1) ..	134	134	..	..
Lipton (£1) ..	134	134	..	..
Lever Bros. 7½ Cmp (£1) ..	1	1	..	..
Do 8½ Cmp A Pr (£1) ..	1	1	..	..
Do 8½ Cmp P (£1) ..	1	1	..	..
Lister (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
Lobitos Oilfields (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
Lyons (J. & Co.) (£1) ..	58	58	..	..
Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.) ..	48	48	..	..
Mexican Eagle (£10) ..	24	24	..	..
Pekin (2) ..	148	148	..	..
Rubber Plantations Investment (£1) ..	1	1	..	..
Shell Transport (£1) ..	48	48	..	..
Smithfield Argentine Meat (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
United Berdang (2) ..	148	148	..	..
United Tobacco (£1) ..	24	24	..	..
Vallambrosa (2) ..	148	148	..	..
Vickers (£1) ..	148	148	..	..
Watney Def. Stk. ..	236	240	..	..
Mines.				
Knights ..	48	48	..	..
Modderfontein (10) ..	48	48	..	..
Modderfont. "B" (5) ..	48	48	..	..
Modderfont. Deep (5) ..	24	24	..	..
Promer Def. (24) ..	64	64	..	..
Rand Mines (5) ..	24	24	..	..
Rio Tinto (£5) ..	24	24	..	..
Spring Mines (£1) ..	24	24	..	..

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF GENERAL TRADE AND FINANCE.

CONDITIONS AND PROSPECTS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The thirty-fourth annual general meeting of the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, was held, on the 24th instant, in the Great Hall of Winchester House, Old Broad street, London.

Mr. Robert John Hose (chairman of the bank) presided.

The secretary (Mr E. E. Hayes) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman (who was received with cheers) said: Ladies and gentlemen,—When addressing you a year ago I more than once referred to the uncertainties of the outlook, and when I found it possible to speak of a coming improvement it was more in hope than in expectation. As I said, I did not think that we were by any means completely out of the wood, and, as matters have turned out, the doubts have been justified. The year which has just ended has been the reverse of satisfactory, for the world is still unsettled, economic conditions in many countries are still inherently unsound, and recovery in trade still tarries. And for the root cause of this unpleasant condition of affairs we have again to look to the political factor, or, rather, to the politico-financial factor, which has been in the ascendant since the Armistice, now nearly four years ago.

INFLATION IN GERMANY.

In the first place, a settlement of the Reparations question is still wanting, and, in the absence of such settlement, Germany is becoming daily more and more involved in the toils of inflation, and, to all appearances, daily less able to meet her liabilities under and the Treaty. Whether she is so, in fact, time alone can show, but there are many who feel that the continued drop in the exchange value of the mark is secretly applauded in Berlin, and that the depreciation is fostered rather than feared, for every rise in the quotation can be pointed to by Germany as evidence of her growing financial impotence and as an argument for lighter treatment in regard to reparations, while it can also be made to illustrate the inevitability of devaluation, which term, amplified, means an enforced composition with her creditors and a partial repudiation of her debt.

Amongst other political factors which have troubled the financial world of late has been the revival of the Near Eastern problem, now happily solved, and we are now confronted with the prospect of a General Election at home—an event which is almost invariably accompanied by disturbing effects on business.

PROGRESS TOWARDS NORMAL CONDITIONS.

Politics have not been the sole cause of disturbance, however, for the world has not even yet fully recovered from the shock to credit which followed the post-war boom, the restoration of confidence to-day being all the more difficult of achievement by reason of the over-confidence of two years ago. The reaction has been comparable only with the extent of the rise; and the fact that prices to-day, although very substantially below the top, are yet so much in excess of the old-time level calls for continued caution in our estimates of the future. Even so, however, the past year, although it has had its disappointments, has not been altogether unfavourable, and there are many directions in which we have progressed towards more normal conditions. It is true that we have still been suffering from the effects of deflation, but we have to some extent reaped deflation's benefits.

FACTORS ESSENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL RECOVERY.

As I mentioned a year ago, there were two main factors which were essential to commercial recovery—a greater degree of financial and political stability amongst our potential customers, and the power on our part to supply them at competitive prices. As to the latter, much has been done during the year to reduce working costs, though to some extent the effect has been offset for the time being by the stimulus to production in other countries arising from a seemingly chronic depreciation in exchange. Wages have fallen, and with them the cost of raw materials and of foodstuffs, and as a result we are again approaching a sounder level of prices, which of itself at once warrants and induces greater enterprise.

On the other hand, there is evidence that some of the Continental countries are struggling towards financial and commercial con-

valence, and in South America one of the bright spots is the recovery in the nitrate industry which has taken place since the end of our financial year, and which is of such good promise for Chilean finances in general. Argentina, like many another country, has suffered during the greater part of the year from the over-importations of the past, but evidence accumulates that the surfeit is passing, and also that Argentina's purchasing power is likely to be increased during the present year by bountiful crops. Further, as I mention later in dealing with individual countries, Peru reports a noticeable reduction in the stocks of old-imported goods, and after very many years of travail, there is the hope of better conditions in Mexico if only she can be blessed with a stable and progressive Government. It will be a disappointment to us, therefore, if, 12 months hence, we are unable to report some revival in the demand for goods, not only in Argentina, but other parts of Central and South America served by our institution. Our advices from Spain, also, report a greater confidence as to the outlook there, and the matter is of the greater importance to us in view of the signing of the commercial treaty between Spain and Great Britain, which should increase the commercial interchange between the two countries, to the advantage, we will hope, of both.

CONDITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

I have dwelt rather particularly upon the conditions obtaining in those countries abroad where the bank is established, and upon the prospects there so far as these may be gathered from the evidence at present available, but I know you will not think it out of place if I now refer briefly to affairs nearer home. If you will contemplate the financial history of the past few months, I think it will be agreed that we are entitled to congratulate ourselves on the manner in which Great Britain is bearing the financial burdens which have fallen to it as a result of the recent war. Waste has not been entirely eliminated from our expenditure programme, and taxation, consequently, is still unnecessarily, and, I fear, uneconomically high, but, on the other hand, something has been done to straighten the financial tangle which resulted from four years' war finance. The first half of the nation's financial year ended on September 30th last, and in the six months to that date the revenue amounted to just over 400 millions sterling and the expenditure to 347 millions, there being thus a surplus of revenue over expenditure of about 56½ millions sterling. Partly as a result of this, but mainly owing to conversion operations, a further substantial reduction has been effected in the floating debt, which, by reason of its magnitude, constituted one of the most unpleasant features of our financial position. During the six months, the total of the ways and means advances and Treasury bills together were reduced from 1,029 millions sterling to 872 millions, a contraction of 157 millions during the period, while if the comparison is carried back six months further, it will be found that our floating debt since September of last year has been reduced by no less than 450 millions sterling.

BRITISH CREDIT IMPROVED.

There can be no doubt as to the soundness of this policy, which, indeed, has not been without its effect upon the national credit, as is evidenced by the general rise in British Government securities since we last met, which rise has in many cases ranged from about 10 per cent. to 18 per cent. Expressed in another way, British credit during the period, as gauged by the long-term securities of the Government, has so improved that the yield in interest is reduced from over 5½ per cent. to under 5 per cent., while its short borrowing is now being effected at less than half the interest cost of a year ago, the average rate for Treasury bills being about 2½ per cent. as compared with nearly 4 per cent. in October of 1921. The movement has been assisted by the steady decline in the value of money in the open market, and while, in so far as this has resulted from the stagnation of general trade, it has necessarily militated against our activity as an element in commercial finance, it has at the same time offered opportunities of profit in other directions which have not been lost sight of.

Apart from any such consideration, however, it must be a matter for general satisfaction that British credit, as indicated by

her principal Government securities, should again be approaching a level more consistent with peace, and it may be hoped that this movement will not be interrupted in the coming year by any event less desirable than a real recovery in trade. Before this latter can be attained, however, political settlement is necessary, and an agreement not only on the question of reparations, but of inter-Ally debts, for no country can turn her serious attention to meeting a liability until its limit is fixed. So far as our own war liabilities abroad are concerned, of course, the question of amount does not arise, that having been fixed at the time the original loans were raised; but the rate of interest to be paid on these huge sums must be a matter of arrangement, and negotiations to this end are now impending between representatives of the United States and British Governments.

With your consent, I will now briefly review the economic and trade conditions in the principal foreign countries in which the bank is interested.

ARGENTINA.

Although from an economic standpoint Argentina, with her immense production of the primary commodities, might have been expected with comparative ease to weather the storm caused by the world-wide commercial depression, that country has been unable entirely to escape from its effects, and business activities during the past year have to a large extent been reduced to a holding of the position pending the return of more propitious times. When I last addressed you the effects of the crisis were already being felt, and in the interval matters appear to have reached a climax, so that it may be felt to-day with a certain amount of confidence that the worst has been seen. The matter may be expressed in a word—deflation—and the continued fall in commodity prices which is symptomatic of this condition has brought with it the usual crop of commercial difficulties, which have had a widespread effect upon the business situation. The liquidation of last year's large stocks of manufactured goods, imported at high prices, has, however, proceeded steadily, and while there may still be a certain amount of such merchandise awaiting disposal, the figures have undoubtedly been reduced to much more manageable proportions.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The official statistics of foreign trade for 1921 are not yet available, but the President in his Message to Congress in July last, estimated the imports at \$320,000,000 (gold) and the exports at \$670,000,000 (gold), the former being based on Custom House values and the latter on average market quotations. The actual value of the imports would be in the neighbourhood of \$710,000,000 (gold), thus showing for the first time for many years an adverse balance of trade, which amounted to about \$40,000,000 (gold) as compared with an export surplus of \$109,000,000 (gold) in the previous twelve months and one of \$375,000,000 (gold) in 1919. The volume of imports in 1921 was more or less equal to that of the previous year as regards quantity, but the real value declined by about \$224,000,000 (gold), while the exports registered a substantial falling off in both quantity and value. No statistics are available for the first part of the present year, but some guide to the position is afforded by the figures of the Buenos Aires Customs House, the import and export duties for the first eight months of the present year being practically the same as a year ago, at \$131,600,000. The railway traffic receipts, however, showed a moderate decline in the first nine months of the present year, notwithstanding the advance in rates, and there was also a reduction in the amount of bills, cheques, &c., passed through the Buenos Aires Clearing House, the total for January-June last being \$17,400,000,000 (paper), as compared with \$18,785,000,000 in the first half of 1921. The credit statistics also are not very favourable, the total liabilities in commercial and private failures throughout the Republic during 1921 having amounted to 145 million dollars paper, as compared with 58 millions in the previous year, while in the first seven months of the present year the total was \$82,969,000 (paper) as compared with \$83,097,000 for the corresponding period of 1921.

Further indications of the unfavourable trend of Argentina's foreign commerce during the twelve months are to be found in the fact that the repatriation of Argentine securities was on a much smaller scale, while, on the contrary, New York, aided by the favourable exchange position, was able to absorb certain issues which are payable in that city. As has already been indicated, the Argentine exporter has not derived any advantage from the exchange position, many of the local industries suffering severely in sympathy with the unfavourable conditions at the principal consuming centres.

CEREALS.

A partial recovery has followed the heavy reduction in exports of the principal cereals reported a year ago. The position in regard to wheat is especially satisfactory, the shipments for the first nine months of the present year being nearly double those for the whole of 1921, the exact figures being as follows:—

	1920. Tons.	1921. Tons.	To Sept. 21, 1922. Tons.
Wheat	5,033,000	1,680,000	3,204,000
Linseed	1,050,000	1,360,000	731,000
Maize	4,410,000	2,835,000	1,437,000
Oats	410,000	390,000	259,000

With regard to market movements, the price of wheat is lower than a year ago, though at the same time above the lowest point touched. Quotations of maize, oats, and linseed, on the other hand, are substantially higher on the 12 months, as may be gathered from the following table:—

	Oct. 21, 1921. (\$ paper).	Oct. 21, 1922. (\$ paper).	Highest Level touched 1921-22. (\$ paper).	Lowest Level touched 1921-22. (\$ paper).
Per 100 kilos.				
Wheat	12.35	12.50	14.35	10.95
Linseed	15.90	22.18	22.74	15.90
Maize	6.90	9.00	9.51	6.90
Oats	7.40	10.25	10.25	7.30

It is officially estimated that at September 10th last the quantity of wheat available for export was 615,000 tons, and that of linseed 106,800 tons. A recent estimate of the maize available for export placed the amount at 2,000,000 tons.

PROSPECTS FOR CURRENT YEAR.

With regard to the prospects for the current year, some apprehension has been felt as to the position, owing to superabundant rains. The actual damage caused was not great, however, and though seeding was delayed in many parts, the latest reports are very satisfactory, and, given only comparative freedom from frost damage, all the indications point to a bumper crop.

As regards flour, Brazil continues to be Argentina's chief market for this product, but there is an increasing tendency on the part of merchants in the former country to import wheat for the purpose of treatment in their own mills rather than the finished product. As was the case with wheat, exports in 1921 were comparatively negligible, amounting to only 46,500 tons, against 172,900 tons in the preceding 12 months, but the figures for the first half of the current year are more favourable, the shipments amounting to 59,000 tons, as compared with 15,500 tons in the corresponding period of 1921.

MEAT AND SUGAR.

The livestock industry has been passing through a period of acute crisis. The consumption of meat in Great Britain, which is the principal market, has been reduced, owing, presumably, to the unfavourable economic and industrial conditions prevalent. As a result, Argentine stock breeders have experienced very difficult times, and were it not for the liberal manner in which the industry has been assisted by the national and private banks the financial consequences might have been truly disastrous. The principal difficulty has been in regard to frozen beef, the exports of which during the first seven months of the present year amounted to only 934,000 quarters, as compared with 2,115,700 quarters in the corresponding period of 1921, but much better figures are reported for chilled beef and for frozen sheep and lamb, exports of the former for the periods mentioned amounting to 1,803,500 quarters, against \$44,200, and those of the latter to 2,138,000 carcasses, as compared with 1,795,000 carcasses. The present price of chilled beef quality cattle is about 20 cents (paper) per lb., this and as it is not generally expected that prices will go higher, the freezing establishments will doubtless make strenuous efforts to add to their output.

The local production of sugar during the current year is estimated at 193,000 tons, or practically the same as a year ago, while the stock of this commodity in hand at June 1 last was placed at 45,000 tons, and since that date about 15,000 tons has been imported. As the annual consumption in the Republic equals approximately 230,000 tons, local requirements for the next 12 months would appear to have been covered.

WOOL.

The wool situation has been one of the brightest features of the year, there having been a distinct improvement both as regards the quantity shipped and the prices obtained. The volume of exports greatly exceeded any previous record, and prices, too, have been satisfactory, particularly for the fine wools, current quotations for the latter being in the neighbourhood of \$12.50 (paper) per 10 kilos, as compared with \$8.50 a year ago, while the price of coarse wools is about \$3.00, against \$2.50. At the corresponding \$5.00 per 10 kilos, and fine wools were quoted at about for the period October 1, 1921, to September 21 last were 193,000 tons, as compared with 121,000 tons in the corresponding period of the previous year. The principal buyer was Germany, which absorbed about 60,000 tons, or nearly one-third of the total

sales, partly under the special barter agreement, which, in effect, provides for the exchange of Argentine wool for German iron and steel materials for the construction of railways and bridges. The stock of wool held at the Buenos Aires Central Produce Market at about the middle of September last amounted to 4,878 tons, as compared with 9,727 tons at the corresponding date last year, and was in the main composed of low-grade qualities, for which the demand is small.

WINE HARVEST.

The wine harvest of 1921-22, after promising exceedingly well, did not come up to that of the previous year, the total production being estimated at 5,630,000 hectolitres, as compared with 7,200,000 hectolitres in the previous year. Of this total, Mendoza was responsible for 3,630,000 hectolitres and San Juan for 1,400,000 hectolitres. The average annual consumption is about 5,000,000 hectolitres, and, including stocks, there would appear to be an excess supply of about 1½ million hectolitres. Endeavours have recently been made to foster the export of Argentine wines to Brazil and other countries, but, so far, little progress has been made, and in view of the surplus crop referred to above, the fall in the price from 32 cents per litre a year ago to 28 cents at the end of August is by no means surprising, even though the current quotation compares with one of 53 cents per litre in 1920.

Owing to the heavy supplies of Danish, Australian, and New Zealand butter, the demand for the Argentine product in Great Britain (the principal consumer) has been smaller, and prices have consequently been less remunerative. Exports for the current year up to the beginning of last month amounted to 11,100 tons, as compared with 15,040 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year.

QUEBRACHO, HIDES, AND PETROLEUM

The shipments of quebracho extract during 1921 amounted to 123,000 tons, as compared with 114,000 tons in the preceding year and 172,600 tons in 1919, while the total for the first eight months of the present year was 111,350 tons.

The United States remains the principal market for Argentine hides, and the premium on the U.S. dollar has stimulated exports, 2,616,300 salted ox-hides being shipped during the first eight months of the present year, as compared with 1,385,100 in the same period of 1921, the corresponding exports of dry ox-hides being 1,739,400, against 495,700.

The possibilities of the oil zones of Comodoro Rivadavia, Neuquen, and Santa Cruz continue to attract attention, and representatives of all the leading petroleum interests in the world are actively engaged in boring operations. Owing to administrative difficulties, the production of the State oilfields at Comodoro Rivadavia has not increased to the extent which might have been expected, the total output for 1921 being 1,730,500 barrels, against 1,425,200 barrels in the preceding year, and that for the period January-June last, 1,013,000 barrels, against 949,300 barrels in the first half of 1921.

GOLD MOVEMENTS AND EXCHANGES.

The Government has continued to maintain the closure of the Caja de Conversion and the prohibition of gold exports, and there has consequently been very little change in the figures of that institution. The stock of gold held in the Caja remains at \$466,476,969, the amount deposited at the Argentine Legations abroad being \$4,123,158. In addition, \$10,000,000 (gold) is held by the Banco de la Nacion on account of the conversion fund. The note circulation on September 14th last amounted to \$1,362,563,073 (paper), and the proportion of gold to the total note issue was therefore 80.16 per cent., \$1 paper being the legal equivalent of 44 cents gold.

As regards foreign exchanges, the value of the peso shows very little change on balance as compared with the principal foreign currencies, yesterday's sterling quotation for telegraphic transfers, for instance, being 44½, as compared with 44½d at the date of our last meeting. This comparative steadiness would hardly seem to be warranted by the trade figures so far as these are available, but the position has been affected to some extent by the loans raised by the Argentine Government in the United States and by heavy exports to that country coupled with reduced imports therefrom, the effect of which is seen in a reduction in the premium on the U.S. dollar as compared with the Argentine dollar from 51 per cent. in July of last year to about 18 per cent. a month or so ago. In the same period the sterling value of the Argentine dollar showed an improvement of about 3½ per cent., the difference being accounted for by the appreciation of sterling in New York.

POSITION OF LOCAL BANKS.

In the following table, the position of the local banks at June 30th last is compared with that at the same date in 1921:—

	June 30, 1922. (\$ Paper).	June 30, 1921. (\$ Paper).
Deposits	3,347,576,314	3,455,410,554
Advances	2,474,430,961	2,538,108,743
Cash holding	1,139,754,158	1,179,676,936

It will be noted that there has been a slight reduction in both deposits and advances, and similar changes are shown in the position of our own bank and the British Bank of South America.

Money is cheap, the demand being very poor, and the fact that large sums still await remittance abroad on any substantial improvement in exchange continues to have an important bearing on the situation. The lack of other outlets for capital has doubtless also been a factor in the rise in prices of gilt-edged securities.

The general labour situation is satisfactory, and in this connection the only unpleasant incident during the year was the outbreak in Patagonia, which, however, was promptly and very effectively dealt with by the Government. The cost of living appears to be adjusting itself, though very gradually, to the new conditions ruling. Building operations are on a more extensive scale, but a scarcity of housing accommodation remains apparent and rents are still very high.

GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

With regard to the Government finances, the revenue for the year 1921 (including about \$60,000,000 from various loans) was estimated at \$495,841,000 (paper), and the expenditure at \$558,950,000, and the Budget for 1922, which has not yet been passed, estimates the revenue at \$572,548,000 (paper) and the expenditure at \$599,956,000. It is proposed to cover the resultant deficit of about \$27,000,000 by the issue of bonds of internal or external debt up to an amount of \$30,000,000, these to be subject to interest at 6 per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. amortisation. The new taxes proposed in the Finance Bill include a 3 per cent. *ad valorem* tax on income from movable property (*i.e.*, dividends, interest on bank deposits, &c.), and also an ordinary income-tax scheme, the revenue from each of these new taxes being estimated at \$25,000,000 (paper). At the end of September of 1921, the Government floated a loan of \$50,000,000 (U.S.) in New York for the purpose of repaying advances made by the Banco de la Nacion. The loan, which runs for two years from October 1, 1921, bears interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and was offered at 97 per cent. A further issue of \$27,000,000 was made in New York in March of the present year, the rate of interest in this case being 7 per cent. per annum and the issue price 95 per cent., the loan running for five years. Negotiations for another issue of \$100,000,000 have recently been in progress, the proceeds of this loan, with another of similar amount, being required for the purpose of funding the floating debt, which at December 31st last was officially stated at \$558,360,000 (paper). The consolidated debt of the nation at the same date was \$1,217,690,000 (paper).

LATEST CONDITIONS.

As usual, we have received cable advances from our Buenos Aires branch giving us the latest conditions in Argentina, and these read as follows:—

"Railways showing increased takings. Labour situation satisfactory all round, and views business and general outlook optimistic. Hides strong. Wool prospects excellent. Cattle situation obscure and meat prices low. Pasturage good. Cereal crop prospects considered excellent, and ploughing and sowing for next harvest are proceeding under favourable conditions. Textiles dull, current stocks being reported large. Much interest being evinced in prospects oil industry. Sales wine slow. Money abundant and difficult to employ. Government floating debt September 30th amounted to 700 million dollars paper."

URUGUAY.

Although trade conditions in Uruguay have certainly been no better during the past year than in the 12 months preceding, the tendency of exchange has been more favourable to that country, owing, no doubt, to a large extent, to a natural reaction from the heavy fall recorded in the first few months of 1921. During that period, it may be recalled, the sterling value of the Uruguayan dollar fell from about 51d to about 38d, having in the previous 12 months dropped from the record height of 76d, and it is, therefore, not surprising that, despite the continued inactivity of trade, there should have been a moderate recovery during the past year. From a level of 39½d quoted in July last year, the quotation advanced in the following month to nearly 45d. After falling to 40½d in January of the present year, it had recovered again at the date of our accounts to about 44½d. As already mentioned, however, the trade position is, on the whole, less favourable than a year ago, for, while the value of imports was practically unaltered, there was a further substantial falling-off under the head of exports, and as a result an import surplus of over 38 million dollars was established, as compared with one of 29 million dollars in the previous year and with an actual excess of exports over imports of 8½ million dollars in 1919-1920. The figures may be summarised as follows:—

Year Ended June 30th.	Imports. \$	Exports. \$	Excess of Imports. \$
1921	104,252,260	75,335,078	28,917,182
1922	104,406,371	66,273,795	38,132,576
Increase or decrease +	154,111	9,061,283	+ 9,215,394

The reduction under the head of exports was almost entirely due to smaller shipments of livestock products, which were valued at 63 million dollars as compared with nearly 72 millions in the previous twelve months, while in imports, the year's purchases from abroad of ironmongery and paper were valued at only seven million dollars, against 11½ millions, and those of textiles at nine million dollars, against 10½ million dollars. On the other hand, comestibles and groceries imported increased by 3½ million dollars, to \$25,211,000, and there was a sharp advance under the head of fuel, the total for the past year being 22 million dollars, as compared with 10½ millions in 1920-21. It should be noted that the exports are given at real values, as shown in the official returns, but the value of imports is taken on a basis of 163 per cent. over the "official" values as compared with 140 per cent. premium a year ago, indicating a moderate advance in prices of imported articles in the interval.

LIVESTOCK AND WOOL.

Referring now to the principal local industries, it may be reported, with regard to livestock, that the winter was milder than had been feared, and that the prospects appear good if normal weather prevails in the coming summer season. Values, however, have been, and still are, very low, and although there is a fair demand for the many animals coming into the market, breeders complain that, owing to the low prices obtaining and the high cost of transport, the proceeds in many cases are hardly sufficient to cover expenses. Killing in the freezing establishments continues, but the demand is still only for the best class of cattle, and the Uruguayan Rural Association is persevering in its endeavours to induce breeders to purchase pedigree sires, with the object of improving the standard of cattle generally and thus obtaining the class of animal which is productive of the high quality of beef required for the European markets. During the twelve months ended June last, 310,513 head of cattle of a total value of \$10,872,407 were sold in the Montevideo market to various freezing establishments, these figures comparing with 369,702 and \$22,491,897 in the preceding year. The average price per head of cattle sold in June, 1922, was \$30.25, as compared with \$45.04 in June, 1921, and \$73.74 in July, 1920.

The wool clip was disposed of readily at prices which were considered satisfactory, although naturally far below the abnormal figures realised in previous years. Hides, both dry and salted, are being sold without difficulty, and there is a ready market for most of the by-products.

From the above, it may be gathered that general trading conditions were not very favourable during the period, and the position of several of the large importing houses was so seriously affected as to involve losses to some of the local financial institutions.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

With regard to labour conditions, strikes have occurred in various public services, and the municipal council, which has given its support to the employees of the tramways and telephone companies in their demands for higher wages, is now itself involved in a dispute with sections of its own employees, who have also ceased to work in the hope of obtaining better conditions. On the whole, however, labour troubles have been comparatively unimportant.

The revenue and expenditure returns for the financial year which has just ended show a deficit of over eight million dollars, and in order to cover this there has been some discussion of the raising of a further foreign loan of \$10,000,000 (U.S.), though, so far, no definite proposal for this purpose has been presented to Congress. As I mentioned at our last annual meeting, the deficit for the previous year amounted to about six million dollars, which was covered by a loan of \$7,500,000 (American). Of this amount, \$7,023,634 (U.S.) was drawn for, and produced \$9,306,387 in Uruguay currency, the balance of \$476,366 (U.S.) being left in the United States for the purpose of meeting part of the services of the loan. The shortage of eight million dollars above referred to is accounted for in part by a reduction in Customs receipts of \$1,669,791, and also by the provision of \$1,500,000 for amortisations of the three external loans, which have been suspended since 1915. The Government now seems to be showing a commendable desire to effect economies, and in the Budget now before the Senate the estimated deficit, so far, is only two million dollars.

CHILE.

During the 12 months ended June 30th last, conditions in Chile were distinctly unfavourable, and, indeed, one has to go back many years to find its equal in commercial depression; but I am glad to say that, as recent events suggest, it seems to have been a case of "the darkest hour before the dawn," and all indications to-day point to the fact that Chile is once again on the high road to recovery.

The worst period was during the second half of 1921, and some measure of the depression which prevailed during that time may

be gauged by the sudden drop in the figures covering 35 principal articles of import and 28 of export, which was nothing short of remarkable. In the half-year ended June, 1921, Chile's exports of the commodities in question were valued at 276 million dollars gold of 18d, but 12 months later—that is to say, during the second half of the financial year covered by the present accounts—the total dropped to 119 million dollars, while in the same period the value of imports was reduced by about 60 per cent., dropping to a little over 30 million dollars gold of 18d. Such figures are obvious evidence of a considerable shock to confidence, and they were naturally accompanied by a very heavy fall in the exchange value of Chilean currency, which in January last touched the lowest point recorded for very many years—namely, 5½d.

DROP IN EXCHANGE.

In view of the general trade position, the drop in exchange is not surprising, but, as is so often the case, Chile's difficulties have to a large extent brought their own remedy, the trade position in the first six months of the present year having shown a gradual improvement, which has been accompanied by a fairly consistent, though at the same time moderate, recovery in exchange. By the end of June last the quotation had recovered to about 7d, and it has since been nearly 1d higher, the actual quotation yesterday being 32 pesos to the £, or 7½d per peso. The highest point touched during the bank's financial year was on October 7, 1921, when the rate was 7½d. As is our custom, we reproduce below various statistics of Chilean trade during the past few years:—

Year.	Imports. \$ Gold of 18d	Exports. Gold of 18d	Excess of Exports. \$ Gold of 18d	Excess of Imports. \$ Gold of 18d
1918.....	436,074,000	763,622,500	327,548,500	..
1919.....	401,324,000	301,458,000	..	99,866,000
1920.....	455,079,000	778,885,500	323,806,000	..
1921.....	381,302,500	433,758,500	52,456,000	..

The following table compares the values of the principal Chilean products exported from the country in each of the past five half years:—

	1920. Jan.-June.	1920. July-Dec.	1921. Jan.-June.	1921. July-Dec.	1922. Jan.-June.
	\$ Gold of 18d	\$ Gold of 18d	\$ Gold of 18d	\$ Gold of 18d	\$ Gold of 18d
Nitrate	214,675	243,753	204,845	39,934	40,480
Copper	70,584	17,787	21,626	16,006	36,381
Cereals, &c..	21,439	11,038	13,162	13,692	21,651
Borax	9,495	13,736	18,353	13,972	20,645
Wool	22,210	5,905	5,609	1,667	2,664
Iodine	3,662	4,325	9,358	633	3,132
Hides	3,959	1,299	109	499	454
Frozen meat	2,465	5,057	2,292	6,240	2,319

CHILEAN LOANS.

Striking though the above figures are, however, they do not, of themselves, seem to justify the exceptionally low level of exchange during the past year (when, after all, an excess of exports was still maintained) as compared with, for instance, 1919, when, although Chilean trade showed an adverse balance of nearly 100 million dollars, the lowest point touched by exchange was \$ 29.32d, and the real explanation seems to be that while Chile's national revenues, which are mainly derived from export duties, were thus being considerably curtailed, the expenditure, if any, was again under the necessity of borrowing abroad in order to her foreign debt during 1921 increasing by £549,400 sterling and cent. loan for £1,657,500 was issued in the London market at 95 per cent. This last was a distinct success, for, although the offered was nearly three times over-subscribed. In passing, I may mention the reports of further negotiations in this market for approximately £4,000,000, and, subject to the arrangement of the result should be satisfactory. Chilean loans being well spon-sorred in this market, while, also, the recovery in the nitrate in January last should not be without their effect upon the demand for any new stock which may be offered. The extent to which the internal revenue has been reduced during recent half-years may be gathered from the following table:—

(000's omitted.)

Year.	January-June.	July-December.	Total.
	\$ Gold. \$ Paper.	\$ Gold. \$ Paper.	\$ Gold. \$ Paper.
1918.....	.. ..	.. ..	167,410 54,308
1919.....	.. ..	.. ..	74,472 50,442
1920.....	75,150 30,719	66,137 20,515	141,287 51,234
1921.....	56,425 19,039	29,753 7,957	86,178 26,996
1922.....	28,054 1,979	.. ..	.. ..

AGGREGATE OF NOTE ISSUES REDUCED.

As already mentioned, the expenditure was considerably in excess of the revenue, and in order to meet the deficit, the Government during 1921 issued a further internal loan of 130 million dollars (paper), while further borrowings of up to 135 million dollars (paper) have been authorised on account of the current calendar year, which have not yet been fully availed of. It is gratifying to note, however, that there has been no attempt on the part of the Government to meet the position by inflating the currency, which subterfuge has been resorted to by so many of the European countries. Indeed, the aggregate of the various note issues has been slightly reduced during the 12 months, as is shown below:—

	Fiscal Notes Against Conversion Fund.	Fiscal Notes Against Private Deposits of Gold or Lien on Nitrate.	Treasury Vales Issued to Banks and Nitrate Producers.	Total.
June, 1920	150,853,119	59,619,152	78,988,500	289,460,771
December, 1920....	150,853,119	44,845,800	107,123,000	302,821,919
June, 1921	150,853,119	46,480,334	131,869,500	329,202,953
December, 1921....	150,853,119	43,576,001	130,202,000	324,631,120
June, 1922	150,853,119	40,788,125	104,706,000	296,347,244

In addition, it is estimated that the silver and nickel coins in circulation amount to \$11,000,000. The conversion funds held against the fiscal notes now amount to \$114,724,780 gold of 18d, of which \$21,502,780 is held in the Bank of England and \$93,218,999 in the Treasury at Santiago, the proportion of gold to the issue of fiscal notes in question being thus about 77 per cent.

The same freedom from inflation is also shown by the figures of banking deposits, the total of which during the year has contracted moderately. The gold deposits of the banks as a whole on March 31st last amounted to \$125,644,000 gold of 18d, as compared with \$184,502,000 12 months previously, and the currency deposits with \$960,208,000, as compared with \$890,495,000. You will be interested to note that of the total deposits in Chile our bank holds about one-sixth, the gold deposits amounting to \$36,200,000 and the currency deposits to \$140,498,000, as compared with \$76,673,000 and \$112,927,000 respectively a year ago.

NITRATE STOCKS.

You will recall that, when reviewing the nitrate situation at our last meeting, I stated that although, in my opinion, the outlook had recently become much brighter, there were several points which had to be specially borne in mind, these including the great reduction in the demand for the fertiliser, the large stocks then held by the Pool, and the still larger accumulations which remained in the hands of the producers. As one result of these accumulations, many oficinas had to be closed down altogether during the past year, and others reduced their output, and this materially assisted in bringing about a healthier situation; but, drastic though the remedy was, it failed to meet the situation, for although the production in the nitrate year ended June 30th last was very substantially curtailed, the falling off in the export demand was greater still, and, as a consequence, the stocks of nitrate in Chile showed a net increase as compared with 12 months previously. The principal statistics for the past two years are given in the following table:—

Nitrate Year.	Production. Metric Quintals.	Export. Metric Quintals.	Stock in Chile at End of Year. Metric Quintals.
1920-1921	21,740,994	20,515,120	13,586,987
1921-1922	8,909,643	6,120,352	16,262,816

IMPROVED CONDITIONS.

In addition to the reduction in output, however, there were three other important factors during the year which were chiefly responsible for the restoration of more healthy conditions in the nitrate industry. In the first place, there was the arrangement made between the Producers' Association and the Pool, whereby the fixed selling prices for 1921-1922 were gradually reduced; secondly, we had the fixing of minimum selling prices for the new nitrate year (1922-1923) at still lower figures; and, finally, the

practical liquidation in July of this year of the balance of the Pool's stocks. The minimum prices fixed for the current year vary according to season, ranging from 18s 6d to 20s 8d per metric quintal of 100 kilos, which measure, I may mention in passing, has been adopted by the nitrate industry as the common unit, in lieu of the Spanish quintal of 46 kilos. These prices are equivalent to a range of from 22s 3d to about 30s 6d in the nominal prices fixed in the previous nitrate year; and the reduction gave an immediate impetus to the demand, as is demonstrated by the fact that the sales of nitrate for delivery from July 1st to the 20th instant amounted to no less than 9½ million metric quintals.

In view of the quantity sold for spot and forward delivery in the first four months of the new nitrate year, there seems to be a reasonable prospect that the estimate of total sales of 18,000,000 to 19,000,000 metric quintals may be realised within the 12 months ending June 30th next, but this, as is the case with other commodities, depends upon a number of more or less extraneous factors whose influence it is impossible to gauge, including, for instance, the condition of the exchanges, the value of money, &c., &c. Failing a more or less substantial revival in demand on the part of countries such as Germany, the world consumption for the current 12 months seems likely to be considerably short of the pre-war standard, perhaps to the extent of about 33 per cent.; but so good a beginning has been made that it is perhaps not unreasonable to anticipate the gradual development of a greater activity, which should bring with it an all-round improvement in business in Chile, where so much depends upon the prosperity of the nitrate industry.

ARTIFICIAL NITRATE.

With regard to the production of artificial nitrate by Germany, which country was formerly so large a consumer and distributor of the Chilean nitrate, it has to be remembered that the marked progress made in this comparatively new industry has been much assisted by the heavy depreciation in the exchange value of the mark, and when a stable unit of currency is established in Germany, as is bound to be the case some day, it remains to be seen whether that country can compete successfully with the natural product of Chile, especially if, as is hoped, greater efficiency in working can be secured at the oficinas. I may here mention that in Chile there has been considerable activity of late in research work and in practical experiments with a view to reducing the working costs in connection with her staple product, and also with a view to the utilisation of a lower grade of raw material than is now possible, thereby prolonging the life of a nitrate property. Good progress has already been made in this direction, and we may hope to hear more of the matter in the course of the next few months.

While on this subject, it may perhaps also be usefully recorded that tests which have been made demonstrate that although synthetic nitrate may be as effective as the natural product in the manufacture of explosives, the value of the latter is immensely greater for fertilising purposes, owing to the much shorter time which it takes to affect a soil treated with it. I look forward to the time when the value of Chilean nitrate as a fertiliser will be appreciated as fully by agricultural interests in this country as it is on the Continent and elsewhere. Not only in Germany, but in France, Belgium, and many other countries, much greater quantities of nitrate are used for this purpose than in Great Britain, yet there is no country which imports such enormous quantities of foodstuffs as we do. The point I desire to make is that the import and use of one cargo of Chilean nitrate would result in an increased output of foodstuffs equivalent to very many cargoes of such products which at present have to be obtained from abroad. The matter, I think, is one of great practical interest from several points of view—labour, social, and economic—and I commend it especially to the very serious attention of all engaged in the agricultural industry in this country.

TRIBUTE TO CHILEAN NITRATE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION.

As I have indicated above, the better conditions which now prevail in the nitrate industry are to be attributed almost entirely to the wise policy of the Chilean Nitrate Producers' Association and the able manner in which that policy has been carried into effect. The reduction in the price of the fertiliser, as we have seen, quickened the demand therefor, but quite as important a factor in the revival was the steps taken for stabilising prices at the lower level, which greatly facilitated the financing of imports. Had selling prices been liable to the ordinary market fluctuations the financing of shipments would have been very difficult to arrange, but with stability of value assured by the action of the association, this difficulty was at once removed and the way cleared for the steady movement of nitrate into consumption. The valuable work done by the association for the industry, and consequently for Chile, cannot be spoken of too highly, and so long as this body continues in being we have every reason to hope for a greater prosperity in this important branch of our business.

The labour situation has continued to cause some anxiety during the year, principally because of the large amount of unemployment inseparable from the temporary closing down of certain of the nitrate oficinas and mines and partly owing to dissensions between different workers' organisations in the coalfields and differences between the miners and colliery owners, which the latter consistently, and ultimately with a fair measure of success, have endeavoured to settle.

COPPER.

The better tendency in the copper market during the last few months has also had a favourable effect upon this, the second in importance amongst Chile's industries. Exports of the metal, which in the 12 months ended June, 1921, amounted to 66,584 tons, as compared with 78,968 tons in the preceding year, showed a further falling-off in the second half of last year, shipments for that period being only 24,530 tons. With the expansion in demand and the recovery in the price of the metal by which it was accompanied, Chile's exports showed a substantial improvement, the total for the period January-June of the present year amounting to no less than 58,650 tons, bringing the total shipments for the 12 months up to 83,180 tons. The outlook may, therefore, be said to be much more satisfactory than it was a year ago.

NEW TRANS-ANDINE RAILWAYS.

Before closing this review of Chilean conditions, I would mention two international events which may have an important and lasting effect upon the trade of the country. The first in order of date was the signing in April last of an agreement between Argentina and Chile for the construction of two new trans-Andine railways, one to join the Argentine town of Salta with the Chilean port of Antofagasta, and the other to prolong the Argentine railway systems from Bahia Blanca to join the Central Chilean Railway system in the southern sector. The second was the provisional signing of the Protocol between Chile and Peru as a basis for the settlement of the long-standing dispute regarding Tacna and Arica. It is to be hoped that both these will be ratified by the Governments concerned, and that they will lead to practical results.

PERU.

Owing to the low prices ruling for Peru's principal products—cotton and sugar—the trade statistics for 1921, which are the latest available, show a very heavy drop in the value of exports from that country, the value being £P.15,700,616, against £P.35,322,226 in 1920. The imports totalled £P.15,521,706, against £P.17,956,758 in the previous 12 months, and the net result was a slight balance of trade in favour of the country, the excess of exports over imports amounting to £P.178,910.

It is some satisfaction to note, however, that the position during the second half of the year was decidedly better than in the first six months, owing to a considerable contraction in purchases from abroad, as the result of which an import surplus of about £P.2,000,000, established during the months January-June, was entirely negated during the second half of the year, being replaced, as already mentioned, by a small surplus of exports. Later figures are not yet available, but from the course of the exchange it would seem that this favourable tendency has continued, for, although in March last the premium on sterling at Lima rose to about 29 per cent., it has since fallen back to under 4 per cent., and is now in the neighbourhood of 11 per cent. The better conditions recently prevailing in the exchange market, however, have been partly due to the recovery in prices of sugar and cotton and to the increase in the country's foreign balances resulting from the Government loan of \$2,500,000 contracted in New York in July last.

REVENUE.

As was only to be expected, in view of the reduced volume of trade, the Customs revenue has shown a very considerable falling off, the total receipts for the twelve months ended June 30th last being £P.1,527,939, of which £P.1,106,148 was derived from import duties and £P.421,791 from export duties. In the year ended June 30, 1921, the total of the import duties was £P.2,203,435 and that of the export duties £P.1,391,492. The reduction in the yield from export duties is mainly due to the fall in prices of cotton and sugar, which during the greater part of the year were at prices which rendered them free from export duty.

Naturally, in view of this great reduction in revenue, the pre-occupation of the Government has been to raise money to carry on the administration. Early in 1922 a law was passed authorising the withdrawal from circulation of notes of the denomination of one sol and 50 cents up to a total value of over £P.700,000, and providing for their replacement by nickel coins of similar denominations, and as a result of this operation the gold and good-class securities which were previously held against the cancelled notes have been released and made available for the purposes of the Treasury. In addition, the previous existing nickel coinage of twenty, ten, and five cent pieces, having a total value of £P.260,000, was declared inconvertible, and the guarantee fund held by the

Junta de Vigilancia for redemption purposes was also freed. By this means the Government obtained the equivalent of an additional revenue of nearly £P.1,000,000, thus offsetting to the extent of about one-half the contraction in the yield of the import and export duties.

BANCO DE RESERVA DEL PERU.

In May last, the long-talked-of State Bank, which was formed through the instrumentality of the Government, commenced operations, under the title of the Banco de Reserva del Peru. The new institution, which has a capital of £P.716,890, of which one-half has been paid up, is modelled on the lines of the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States. It took over the assets and liabilities of the Junta de Vigilancia, which latter was a committee nominated by the interested bankers and by the Government for the purpose of controlling the issue of "cheque circulares." These latter will shortly be withdrawn from circulation, and the Reserve Bank will then have the sole right to issue notes, at least one-half of which, under the regulations, must be covered by gold, and the balance by approved securities.

The political situation has remained satisfactory, and labour troubles have been few, but, taking it altogether, the year has been a difficult one for traders, and the position of some of the smaller merchants has consequently been adversely affected. Practically all the merchandise which had accumulated in the Customs House at the end of 1920 has now been liquidated, and although the prices obtained have been exceedingly low, and must have entailed heavy losses upon the American and European suppliers of the goods in question, their dispersal has considerably improved the outlook for the import trade, especially in view of the recent recovery in prices of the principal Peruvian articles of export.

MEXICO.

In Mexico, the principal event of the past twelve months has been the agreement reached between the Government and the International Committee of Bondholders for the resumption of interest payments and the general service of the debt, though this has yet to be given practical effect. In this connection, it may be interesting to note that, according to a recent statement, the total debt of Mexico at June 30th last amounted to \$1,056,973,713, of which about 666 millions was in the form of external debt, 392 millions having been incurred prior to the Revolution and 274 millions during its progress.

GENERAL MINING SITUATION.

The general mining situation in the Republic has been satisfactory, the total output of silver for the first half of this year amounting practically to 1,200,000 kilos., and if the present rate of progress is maintained the total for the twelve months promises to be one of the largest in Mexico's history. The market prices of metals mined in Mexico, principally silver, copper, lead-silver, and zinc, have shown an upward tendency during the past year, and in June were about 12, 18, 35, and 34 per cent. respectively higher in New York than a year previously.

OIL INDUSTRY.

Conditions in the oil industry have not been altogether satisfactory. Production reached its highest point in 1921, with a total of about 193,000,000 barrels, but by October of that year a number of operating companies had closed down owing to the incursion of salt water in the Southern Fields. At the end of that month 56 wells were showing a high percentage of emulsion, and the daily output was heavily curtailed. In spite of this fact, 173 oil companies were still operating, according to the official returns, but by April of the present year 60 per cent. of these had closed down.

OIL TAXATION.

Very little exploration work has been done, and new development has been on a small scale, owing to the attitude of the Government regarding Article 27 of the 1917 Constitution. Briefly stated, the Government claims that this article gives it rights over the subsoil since May, 1917, and even where a company has purchased the land prior to that date, or has secured tenancy by rental or otherwise, the right of continued exploitation is only to be granted on payment of 3 pesos per hectare, plus 5 per cent. royalty on the gross production, over and above the 5 per cent. royalty which has to be paid on all wells brought in. On export of oil, also, the taxation has been increased by 125 per cent., and by May last it had reached 37 cents gold per barrel of 42 gallons, but since then a lower rate has been fixed. There is every reason to believe that once Article 27 is clearly defined and the export tax fixed at a set figure, oil companies will begin exploration on a large scale. It is known that big programmes are laid out and waiting for the right moment to be started, and of late a certain amount of interest has been exhibited by European companies in taking up large tracts of oil-bearing land.

Although, therefore, the outlook for the moment is not bright, the general belief seems to be that, given reasonable treatment of

the producers by the authorities, still greater activity will be developed in the future, and that Mexico will retain her place as the second largest of the oil-producing countries of the world.

TRADE OUTLOOK.

As regards general trade, it may be said that the difficulties experienced by import houses a year ago, resulting from the long delays in the execution of orders, from the slump in prices after such orders had been placed, and from the transportation troubles, have to a large extent disappeared. Notwithstanding this, however, it is still impossible to report anything very favourable with regard to the commercial outlook, the internal economic situation being still adversely affected by labour troubles, the effect of which is increased by the continued socialistic tendencies of the Government. The national revenue, however, has been well maintained, the total for the six months ended June last being \$143,779,000, as compared with an aggregate of \$280,602,000 for the whole of 1921.

FRANCE.

It is satisfactory to be able to report some increase in commercial activity in France, where, as you know, we are now rebuilding the premises of our Paris branch. In most of the principal lines of business an increased turnover is reported, but the complaint is general that the margin of profit is small. The labour situation, generally speaking, has been satisfactory, and there has been no lack of employment, notwithstanding the contraction in the values of French imports and exports, as shown by the official returns, which have been due in the main to the set-back in prices during the period. For the 12 months ended June 30 last, the imports were valued at about 23½ milliard francs, as compared with 34 milliards in 1920-21, the exports totalling 20 milliard francs as compared with 25½ milliards.

There was thus an excess of imports over exports of about 3½ milliard francs as compared with one of 8½ milliards in the previous year; but this is not the only satisfactory point about the returns, for if account is taken of the weights of goods imported and exported rather than their value, it will be found that French trade, instead of contracting during the year, showed a quite considerable expansion.

It is a regrettable fact, however, that the national finances of the country are still in a somewhat unsettled state, owing to the continued absence of the receipt of reparations payments from Germany, and, until this question is settled, it seems impossible to look for any real recovery, either in the general finances of the Republic or in commercial activity there. For the time being, the total expenses of the extraordinary budget are still being met by the offer of additional blocks of National Defence Bonds issued either by the Credit National or by associations of various industrial works under the guarantee of the State.

HANDICAPS TO TRADE.

When viewing the situation across the Channel, it should never be forgotten that France is greatly handicapped by the loss of production in the devastated areas and by the heavy costs of reconstruction which she has so far had to bear; but the efforts that are being made towards better things financially find some reflection in the return of the Bank of France, the total advances of that institution to the State having been reduced in the 12 months ended June last from 25,000 million francs to 23,300 millions, and, as a consequence, it has been possible to curtail the paper currency, the Bank of France having reduced its note circulation in the same period from 37,422 million francs to 36,039 millions.

An important legal decision during the year was that involving the revision of the *Règlement Transactionnel*, so as to prevent these arrangements from being too easily obtainable, and as the law now stands only those debtors who can undertake to effect a settlement in full within a period of five years are entitled to the benefit of this law.

SPAIN.

In Spain the trade position has been worse rather than better. Exports have shown a heavy reduction, owing partly to the special competition of countries whose currency has depreciated in relation to the peseta and partly to the restrictions imposed by successive Governments upon the export trade in oil and the obstacles placed in the way of the shipment of Spanish wines to France and Norway prior to the signing of the trade agreements with those countries. Exports of iron ore have fallen off appreciably, owing principally to the reduction in the demand on English account, while the same remark may be applied to copper pyrites and to lead. The Spanish textile industry has also suffered as a result of the smaller South American demand, heavy stocks of Catalan goods being still held in that country, and the financial crisis in Cuba has also found reflection in Spanish manufacturing circles. While the export trade has suffered, however, imports have been on a larger scale,

this applying in particular to foodstuffs such as wheat, maize, flour, and also to dry goods, while purchases of English coal, despite the campaign by Spanish mineowners, showed an increase of fully half-a-million tons over those of the preceding year. The internal trade of the country has been more active, the demand being principally for Spanish manufactured goods, and, taking everything into account, it may be said that Spain, also, is on the road towards normal conditions, although, like so many other countries, she is still far distant from the goal.

TAXATION OF NON-SPANISH COMPANIES.

One unsatisfactory feature of the year has been the continued heavy expenditure necessary in connection with the military campaign in Morocco, though there seems to be reason to hope that this latter is now nearly at an end. It is also regrettable that the difficulties amongst certain of the Spanish banks, to which reference was made a year ago, have not yet been entirely settled. Certain of the foreign institutions have, for various reasons, found it necessary to cease operations in the country; but, as we have already taken occasion to emphasise, this bank has no intention of relinquishing the business which it has been building up in Spain during the past few years, and, given reasonable conditions of trading, such as are granted in Great Britain to all comers, we have every ground for expecting continued good results from our branches there, constituting as they do a ready channel for business between Spain and the numerous territories in Central and South America which look to her as their Motherland. The future, however, will depend very largely upon the trend of taxation proposals, to which reference has been made in the past, and in this connection it may be mentioned that there have been certain modifications during the year as regards the taxation of non-Spanish companies operating in the country. From a perusal of the Act it would appear that such companies may be called upon to bear even heavier taxation than at present, but it is to be noted with satisfaction that it contains a reciprocity clause conceding specially favoured treatment to the companies of those nations which, in their turn, favour Spanish undertakings operating within their borders.

UNITED STATES.

If only because of the extremely important position which the United States now occupies in the financial and commercial world, we would that we were able to give something like a comprehensive review of financial events in that country during the past 12 months, but, recognising the impossibility of effecting this in the limited time at our disposal, I would still like to touch upon a few points which may be taken as illustrative of the trend of affairs there.

In some respects America's experience has been different from that of other countries, and this has been particularly so in regard to the general value of money, quotations for both loans and bills having remained high in comparison with other markets. With regard to general conditions, one unsettling factor has been the unsatisfactory labour conditions which have prevailed during the year, especially the long-drawn-out strike of the workers in the coal and railway industries; and the new tariff legislation has been another. This latter has now come to a head, and in well-informed quarters the general opinion is that it must result in a further all-round advance in commodity prices, and that, with other of the circumstances which I have enumerated, it points to a period of renewed inflation in the United States, with an unsatisfactory effect upon the export trade of the country. Already the latter has shown a great falling-off during the past few months, the value of the United States exports in the period January-July of this year being only 2,126 million dollars, as compared with 2,860 millions in the corresponding period of last year, but the imports for the period reached 1,670 million dollars, as compared with 1,499 millions a year ago. In other words, the excess of exports over imports, which in the first seven months of last year amounted to 1,361 million dollars, totalled only 456 millions in the corresponding period of 1922.

CONTRACTION IN U.S. TRADE.

In considering these figures, it may be of interest to mention that the total exports from the United States to Europe during the 12 months to June 30th last fell from 3,403 million dollars to 2,067 millions, while her imports from Europe were valued at 830 million dollars against 938 millions, and that there has been a similar contraction in United States trade with the principal South American countries may be gathered from the following table:—

U.S. Imports—			
	June 30, 1922.		June 30, 1921.
	\$		\$
Argentina	60,767,964	....	124,299,424
Brazil	100,435,733	....	147,529,040
Chile	38,912,591	....	77,854,552
Peru	14,442,775	....	40,822,263
Uruguay.....	11,588,604	....	17,564,731

U.S. Exports	
	June 30, 1922.
Argentina	80,595,060
Brazil	38,330,449
Chile	16,716,462
Peru	12,496,790
Uruguay.....	9,702,557

When consideration is paid to the difference between America's present-day position and that of pre-war days, this falling-off in trade, and especially in export trade, may not seem to be a matter of great moment. Before the war, America had to remit abroad large sums each year in respect of interest and dividends on United States railway and industrial securities, which were then so largely held by the foreign—and principally by the British—investor. Not only, however, have remittances on this account been very greatly reduced, but they are now being replaced by contra remittances from certain of the European countries, and notably from our own, the first half-year's interest on our debt to the United States Government having been paid only quite recently.

TARIFF LEGISLATION AND ITS EFFECTS.

In view of the importance of these interest payments, which are only now beginning, it has been questioned whether America has been well advised in the tariff legislation which has recently been introduced. The effect of such legislation, it must be assumed, will be to reduce her imports, and this, almost inevitably, will result in a further contraction in her export trade also, especially as it comes at a time when she is beginning to secure a substantial annual revenue from abroad as a result of services rendered during the war period. With a growing population, such a result would be highly undesirable, and it seems probable that in course of time any such tendency must be corrected either by a reversal of legislation tending to reduce imports or by a direct encouragement of America's export trade by the inculcation among American investors of the habit of purchasing foreign securities.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

I will now refer briefly to the accounts for the year, which, you will observe, reflect in the general contraction of the various items the lower prices of commodities and the condition of trade, to which I have already alluded. I think that, in the circumstances, we may regard the diminution, especially so far as it relates to the moneys due by us to the public, as being quite satisfactory. It is true that the deposit and current account balances, which in 1920 totalled £58,458,000 and last year £49,473,000, are now £45,467,000, but this figure, after making due allowance for the lower values now current, actually represents a larger clientèle. This reduction in deposits is well within the normal, for it represents a contraction during the 12 months of only 8 per cent.

The issued capital shows a trifling increase, due to a few more shares of the British Bank of South America having been delivered in exchange for our own shares, and we now hold practically the whole of the shares of that institution. The sight drafts and bills payable together total £8,708,000, as compared with £10,270,000 a year ago, whilst, on the other side of the account, the advances to customers are £19,673,000, against £27,181,000 in 1921. The cash holding, together with bills receivable and investments in high-class securities, which are practically equivalent to cash, aggregate £37,000,000, or about the same amount as last year. These items together represent a larger proportion of our liabilities than a year ago, and this circumstance has naturally reduced the amount of our earning power.

The bank premises item has been increased by £430,000, and later on will show a further small addition, but the new buildings which we have in hand are in large part paid for and completed, and there will not in the near future be any very large increase in this item, which has gone up so very much in the last two years owing to the necessity and desirability of rebuilding at various places in order to cope with our increased trade.

BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA.

Our holdings of shares in other banks deserve some special mention at the present juncture, and I may say, as regards our holding in the British Bank of South America, that the surplus of assets over liabilities of that bank shows that the shares have an intrinsic value about equal to that at which they appear in our balance-sheet, except in regard to depreciation of capital, which, as you may know, has been somewhat serious in the last two or three years, especially in Brazil. We do not, however, regard this question of depreciation of capital by reason of a fall in exchange as one that should be dealt with from year to year, because it is a fluctuating quantity, as liable to recover as to depreciate. For this reason, two years ago, we refrained from taking credit in our accounts for the appreciation which then existed, nor do we propose now to deal with the depreciation which has since occurred. I think you will agree that, in principle, it is wise to pursue this course.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA.

You will note that our investment in the Commercial Bank of Spanish America appears for the first time in our balance-sheet as a separate item, it being considered more correct that any institution in which we hold practically the whole of the capital should be brought to your notice in that manner, whilst those in which we hold only a small percentage are included in the item of holdings in foreign banks and kindred companies. In common with many institutions of a similar character engaged in commercial banking of a somewhat different class from that which we ourselves transact, the Commercial Bank of Spanish America has had a very difficult and unprofitable year, and it is conserving its resources by refraining from paying a dividend. You will observe that the shares of that bank stand in our books at somewhat under par, and we hope that in the course of a little time they may be of a value equal to the price which we paid for them.

BANQUE GENERALE BELGE.

For the year ended December 31st last, the Banque Générale Belge earned a profit of 7,000,000f, and paid a dividend of 10 per cent., placing 2,000,000f to extraordinary reserve. The paid-up capital of this bank now amounts to 50,000,000f, but only one-half of this sum was available for six months of the year.

BANCO DE A. EDWARDS AND CIA.

During the year we participated in a new issue of capital by the Banco de A. Edwards and Cia., raising our holding to 126,000 shares of \$100 each, being rather over 50 per cent. of the total capital of \$25,000,000. The profit for the year ended June 30th last amounted to \$2,606,628, this having been earned on a capital of \$10,000,000; and the bank has paid a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum on the old capital, adding \$800,000 to the reserves. In addition to this amount, taken from profits, the reserve was also increased to the extent of \$3,875,000 out of premiums on the new issue of capital, raising its total to \$88,275,000, or about one-third of the capital of the bank.

As regards the Banque Générale Belge and the Banco Edwards, the current valuation of the shares held is about equal to the amount which we paid for them.

BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK.

The British Overseas Bank secured a profit for its second year of £102,090, as compared with £199,000 in the first year. This institution has been conducted on extremely conservative lines—no doubt a wise course in existing circumstances, but one which has naturally affected earnings. The liquid position of the bank is evidenced by the fact that in their last balance-sheet they showed a total holding of cash and first-class securities almost equal to the total amount of their liabilities to the public and their paid-up capital together.

Our holdings in other banks are of much less importance than those to which I have alluded in detail, and I may mention that they now stand in our books individually and, in the aggregate, at prices which are represented by the value of their shares to-day.

BURDEN OF TAXATION.

Turning to the profit and loss account, you will notice that we have an item of £91,000 deducted from the previous year's surplus in respect of the item of excess profits duty and corporation profits tax for the year ended June 30, 1921. It was quite impossible for us, when last year's balance-sheet was published, to be quite sure of the basis on which these items would be settled by the authorities, and the provision which we made required this addition. As you are no doubt aware, the item of excess profits duty will not appear again. I regret that I cannot say the same of the corporation profits tax, which, in itself, appears to me to be a most unfair and burdensome addition to the already heavy load that we have to bear in the form of taxation, and one can only trust that the very general condemnation which it receives at the hands of the business date. You will notice that the excess profits duty, income-tax, and for 1921, amount to £430,000, so that actually the year's accounts are charged with a larger sum for these items than our shareholders receive in the form of dividend.

DECREASED CHARGES.

Our gross profits are more or less the same as in the previous year, but our charges have been reduced by £167,000. Of this I may say that about £67,000 is due to the lower rates of exchange, but there is a real saving of £100,000, and we are endeavouring to effect further savings, always taking care that we do not thereby reduce efficiency.

ALLOCATIONS AND PROSPECTS.

As regards the distribution of our profits, the board has felt that the worst has now been realised in regard to the effect of the fall

in prices on the position of the customers of the bank, and they therefore deemed it wise to review in a spirit of healthy pessimism the condition of many of the accounts. As a result of that process they have concluded that the sum of £300,000 should be set aside out of profits as a special allowance to provide for certain book debts which in prevailing conditions may not be readily recoverable; and, as you will observe from the report, it is their considered opinion that this is ample to provide for all necessities.

After providing for this allocation, the disposable balance is £655,051, and we propose to pay a further dividend of 6s per share, making a total of 12 per cent. for the year, to place £25,000 to the staff pension fund, and to carry forward £256,684. I look forward to the future earnings with much hope, but I must warn you that, in our opinion, the recovery can only be gradual, and that we must ask you to very kindly regard the profits of a year or two ago as having been due to wholly exceptional circumstances, and to look upon the earning capacity of the bank as being on a somewhat lower basis than then obtained, until, possibly, a considerable improvement takes place in trade.

I now have the pleasure to move:—

"That the report and balance-sheet as distributed be adopted, and that a final dividend of 6s per share, less income-tax, be, and is hereby, declared, payable on 30th inst."

This resolution will be seconded by Sir Robert Harvey, and, after he has done so, any shareholders who wish to make any observation will receive our careful attention.

Sir Robert Harvey: Ladies and gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in seconding the chairman's proposition.

The Chairman: Has any shareholder any remarks to make?

SHAREHOLDERS' REMARKS.

Mr S. S. Seal: Mr Chairman and gentlemen,—No one can doubt that you have had great difficulties to contend against, as all banks have had, during the last four years, as we all know during the first two years of that period there was a boom which led to much inflation and subsequent losses by many industrial concerns. Doubtless some explanations have been sent to you at home accounting for the loss of £300,000 to which you have referred. No one suggests that there has been any lack of attention on the part of our board here, but I personally should think a matter of this kind should be dealt with in greater detail than you have dealt with it in your report and accounts, or even in your address to-day. With regard to other items, a diminution here or there is perhaps necessarily incident to a banking business, and no advantage or good could arise from anything like a protracted discussion of such matters; but I do think with regard to this £300,000 loss that something more should be told us, and in that direction I venture to make the suggestion I put before you.

A Shareholder: Mr Chairman and gentlemen,—I think the amount of the liability in depreciation of foreign currencies should be incorporated in the balance-sheet.

Mr W. J. Welch: In reply to the gentleman who first spoke, I think those acquainted with all the conditions which have obtained in South America during the period covered by our present account may regard the diminution of profits as a surprise, yet I think a greater surprise would be that the diminution is so small. A variety of export and import figures could easily be given to illustrate the adverse trend of business not only in South America, but in every country of the world. I, however, will

content myself by giving you one set of figures which I think fully illustrates my point. During the year ending June 30, 1921, 46 million quintals of nitrate were made, and of those 46 millions, 44½ million quintals were exported. Now, for the year ended June 30, 1922, only 19 million quintals of nitrate were made, and 13 million quintals exported. Everyone in this room knows that nitrate is Chile's staple industry, and when you reflect what a difference the discrepancy in the figures I have given must make to that country, you must realise how business conditions generally have suffered.

Mr W. Johnston: I am sorry to intervene in the proceedings, but in view of the remarks made by the first speaker in the discussion with regard to your having written off £300,000 to meet bad debts, I think it only right to say that I myself was in South America last year, and I can testify to the fact that there have been a great many commercial bankruptcies in those countries, as a result of which a bank like this must have incurred some losses. I consider that the bank has acted very wisely in writing off this £300,000, and I, personally, as a shareholder, am very grateful to the directors for the careful way in which they have managed our affairs. That they have escaped from this crisis with a possible loss of only £300,000 is to my mind very creditable.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman: I think, Mr Seal, you have already been answered by the two gentlemen who last spoke. Mr Seal may not have had experience in South America, but he is an experienced man of the world, and I ask him if he knows one quarter of the globe where prices of commodities have not fallen, and if prices fall, the securities a lender holds from his debtors necessarily have a lesser value, and in certain cases securities may contract to a point at which they are not equal to the amount lent upon them. This contingency naturally has to be provided for by such allocations as that made on account of the past year, which, as I have said, we regard as quite ample, if not, perhaps, a little more than may be necessary. As regards the districts in which the losses have been incurred, I can only say that there is no particular business or locality in which the losses or possible losses have been incurred, but they have been experienced in a variety of places owing to the fall in values and the ordinary risks of trading.

The resolution was then submitted, and passed unanimously.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

Mr Thomas Woodsend: Mr Chairman and gentlemen,—It is with very great pleasure that I rise to move the following resolution:—

"That Sir Robert Harvey, retiring director, in accordance with the articles of association, be and he is hereby re-elected." There is no necessity for me to say more than half-a-dozen words in regard to this matter. Sir Robert Harvey, as you all know, is a gentleman associated with the West Coast, and a gentleman who has been associated with the nitrate industry for over half-a-century. During that time it has been my privilege to regard him as one of my friends, and, though that may not of itself necessarily be a recommendation for his re-election, yet at the same time it gives me a little extra weight in proposing this resolution, and I think the bank is very fortunate in having such a vice-chairman as Sir Robert Harvey, whose knowledge and experience, as I have already stated, are almost unique.

Mr Alfred Naylor: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Baron Emile Beaumont d'Erlanger: Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in proposing, "That Mr Auguste de Lantscheere, retiring director, in accordance with the articles of association, be and he is hereby re-elected." Mr Lantscheere is a director whose advice is valued very highly by his colleagues.

Sir Clarendon G. Hyde: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr F. N. Joordain: I have much pleasure in moving, "That Messrs Price, Waterhouse, and Co. be and they are hereby re-appointed auditors for the year ending June 30, 1923."

Mr John D. Strathmore: I beg to second that resolution.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

VOTE OF THANKS TO STAFF.

Mr J. A. Goudge, C.B.E.: Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have been asked to propose the next resolution, which is a vote of thanks to the staff at home and abroad. Without permission, the circumstances of the day and the circumstances of the bank have induced me to ask you to include the whole of the executive staff in the resolution, and that necessarily brings in our chairman, who is also the managing director of the whole business. I will not detain you long, but I would say that most of us here at some time or another must have been bound on a voyage when the winds were contrary, and it was borne in upon us then as at no other time that, however stanch the ship, the great responsibility for the safety of everybody lay in the foresight, character, and leadership of the captain, in the promptness and loyalty of the officers, and the hard and unremitting work of the crew. Gentlemen, I think to-day we ought to have somewhat the same feelings. The weather may have been contrary, and the officers may have had to spend a good deal of time "on the bridge," but they have come through with a good heart and a smile on their faces. Gentlemen, I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the whole of the executive staff of the bank, at home and abroad.

Mr Andrew Geddes: I have much pleasure in seconding.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Mr William E. Wells (general manager): Ladies and gentlemen, once again there is accorded to me the pleasure and privilege of acknowledging on behalf of the staff at home and abroad the vote of thanks which has just been proposed in such kindly terms by Mr Goudge. During the past year, as our chairman has told you—and as, indeed, every one here is well aware—the ways of commerce and finance have not been of the easiest and smoothest. There have been pitfalls to avoid, and problems to be solved almost daily; never, perhaps, has experience been so trying, or has earnest co-operation been so essential as under the circumstances which have prevailed during the reaction from the abnormal and artificial conditions which set in some two years ago. But, under the guidance and inspiration of our chairman and his colleagues, these difficulties have been surmounted, and we look forward to the future with perfect confidence. The kind expressions and hearty manner in which this vote has been passed will be deeply appreciated by all the staff, and will prove a real encouragement. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues at home and at the branches, I thank you.

VOTE OF THANKS TO DIRECTORS.

Mr W. J. Welch: I should like to propose a vote of thanks to the directors for the successful administration of our bank. Now I say "bank" advisedly, for whether it is the London office or any of the branches, you invariably feel at home, and assured that any reasonable facilities you require will be granted. Now, in my humble opinion, it is that spirit which has been the dominant factor in the phenomenal success of our business, and I therefore put it to you that we should pass a very hearty vote of thanks to the directors, and will ask one of the many satisfied shareholders I see around me to second that motion.

Mr M. B. Snell: Gentlemen, I shall be pleased to second the proposition moved by the gentleman on my left. I am sure that all of us recognise the fact that we have been going through a period of great anxiety all the world over. Therefore I think we owe a debt of gratitude to the board for the way in which they have conducted our affairs during the past year, and I hope that next year we may, at any rate, look forward to a change in the position, and that we shall go ahead again before very long.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman: On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I thank you very much for the kind way in which this vote has been proposed and seconded and for the enthusiasm with which you have passed it.

The proceedings then terminated.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED. BRIGHTER FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The 23rd ordinary general meeting of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 23rd inst., at Winchester House, London, the Viscount St. Davids, (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said that the Bahia Blanca Railway, as a system, was the last built of all the Argentine railways, and had not had a very long time for development. Moreover, the zone which it served was mainly a wheat zone, and progress had been retarded by their having had several bad seasons. One thing, however, which had helped them recently was the fact that, whereas the wheat from the northern part of the Bahia Blanca line used to go almost entirely to Buenos Ayres, of late years more and more of it had been coming to Bahia Blanca. Proceeding, he said: But you must remember that the main feature of the railway is the Nueva Roma line, which joins up with the Pacific line at Huinca Renanco and serves as a trunk line for other purposes. It has served the Pacific company very well, because it has helped to develop the Province of Mendoza by giving an outlet to the products of that province to the south of the Republic. For wine, for instance, to travel to all the branches of the Western Railway and Southern Railway, the route for it is from Mendoza down the Pacific line, and then down our Nueva Roma line, and this traffic is bound to increase as the population of all those great districts in the south of Argentina increases, which it is sure to do. Besides that, we have the fact that at the end of our line there is the town of Bahia Blanca, which is an important town, and one which is increasing in size and has great possibilities. You know there is a big output of oil at Comodoro Rivadavia, from various enterprises, Government and others, working there. It looks as if there was a very great amount of oil at Comodoro Rivadavia, and if the output increases, as it looks like doing, the probability is that sooner or later that oil will be brought up to Bahia Blanca, which is the nearest big town, and will be refined there. If so, Bahia Blanca will undoubtedly increase and go ahead, and all this must add to the value of our property—the Bahia Blanca line. At the moment the prospects of the whole zone are better than they have ever been, as an unusual amount of rain has fallen in the district. One can never be certain about the wheat crops in the Argentine until very much later than this, but at the present moment, at any rate, there is an increase of 20 per cent. under cultivation, and prospects could not possibly be brighter.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY, LIMITED. INCREASED RATES—REDUCED WORKING EXPENSES.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Limited, was held, on the 24th inst., at River Plate House, London, E.C., Sir Henry Bell, Bart., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the accounts, although better than last year's, showed an altogether inadequate return for the services rendered, and the cost of such services. This was in consequence of the delay on the part of the Government in settling the question of the increases in the company's rates and in spite of the advantage of cheaper fuel. The rates under which they had been working had been restricted by the Government against their most earnest protesting that their applications for increased rates were "just and reasonable," and authorising the company to put them into force. The principal increases did not come into operation until August 15th. Though the gross receipts were £47,100 less, the net profit was £494,083 greater owing to the decrease in the working expenses of 12.16 per cent., a result which reflected great credit on the general manager and staff. There would be a further improvement as they used up the high-priced stores which they had still for in all directions. To enable them to pay 4 per cent. for the year they had transferred £120,000 from the general reserve fund. To have so small a balance as £255,530 for the ordinary stockholders in a company like this, which rendered such important and good services to the public and the country generally, and had an ordinary stock capital of £17,000,000, could only reflect upon those who precluded them from obtaining a fair and just return to those who found the capital to expand from a small system of 334 miles to one of 1,882 miles. In addition to a fair return to the ordinary shareholders, it was also essential that they should build up adequate reserve funds.

The labour situation was far easier than it had been for a long time past, but this was not altogether surprising in view of the

concessions made to the men. It was not only in Argentina that harsh Acts were imposed, for in this country they were suffering from the iniquitous Corporation Profits Tax. As regarded the future, there were distinct indications that in Argentina the worst was passed, and there would be an improvement in the future. There had been a net increase for the 16 weeks of the present working year of £151,000, notwithstanding that their gross traffic was down £52,000.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED. SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED NET RECEIPTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the company, River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, on the 25th instant, Sir Albert Bowen, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman said: It is satisfactory to be able to report that, mainly as a result of cheaper fuel, the net receipts at £2,160,000 show an increase of no less than £792,000, or nearly 58 per cent. You will see from the general manager's report that, excluding fuel, the direct expenditure is decreased by £123,620, and I must ask you to remember that our efforts in the direction of reduction of working expenses have not been focussed upon merely transitory cheese-paring economies, so much as on the achievement of equal or, if possible, greater efficiency at less cost, by the adoption of the most modern methods, which we hope will prove of permanent benefit to the railway.

Apart from direct expenditure, we have maintained contributions to the various renewal and other funds on the usual scale, these items aggregating £638,849 for the year, additional evidence that we have no intention of starving the line.

Turning to the capital account, there is a new entry for the purchase of the freehold of River Plate House at a cost of £57,329 6s. We formerly held leases of the ground upon which this building stands, and in view of building operations in the near neighbourhood, and in order to consolidate our position, we decided to open negotiations for the acquisition of the freehold. These have been brought to a successful conclusion.

The capital invested in the Compania Ferro-Carrilera de Petroleo—£204,431—shows an increase over last year. Steady progress is being made with exploratory work; there has been a small but regular output of oil throughout the year, which has been used on our railways, and there are at present some 12 wells producing.

It will no doubt interest you to know that so far as the board can see at present there will be no necessity to ask for any further capital in the immediate future.

The report and accounts were adopted.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, LIMITED. BETTER PROSPECTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of the Central Argentine Railway, Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, Sir Joseph White Todd, Bart., presiding.

The Chairman said that the results of the past year had been very disappointing, owing to the general state of the world and its consuming markets, the adverse effects of exchange, and abnormal rains, which had contributed to a curtailment of the usual exportation of Argentina's national products by way of cereals and cattle. The gross receipts, at £9,442,600, exhibited a decrease of £304,000. The past year's income had not benefited from increased rates. These higher tariffs would apply to the revenue of the present financial year, and, therefore, whatever accumulation of traffic there was in the company's zones and all new traffic would fall to be transported at the higher rates now in force.

The shrinkage in gross income had been accompanied by a reduction of £389,850 in working expenses, giving a net profit larger by £85,750. Whatever capital had been expended had been of an indispensable nature, and no new capital works of importance were contemplated. The debit in the capital account would require to be set right sooner or later, but he was not yet able to indicate when an issue was likely to be made, or whether they would have recourse to notes or debentures. Without in the smallest degree desiring to appear unduly optimistic, he felt justified in giving the stockholders hopes of a distinctly more promising and prosperous anticipation as far as their railway was concerned. The increased tariffs recently put in force should, if they had the same traffic to deal with this year as last, benefit them to the extent of perhaps some £700,000, and they might reasonably anticipate a reduction in fuel costs by another £500,000. If the harvests should fail, those amounts would vary accordingly, but if they were no better than last year that £1,200,000 ought to materialise, and practically the whole of it should prove net income. On the other hand, if the crops were better and the European demand for Argentine products



HEAD OFFICE:
1 Dale Street,
LIVERPOOL.

LONDON:
Chief Office,
1 Cornhill, E.C.3

TOTAL ASSETS exceed - - £20,000,000
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID over - £107,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. ANNUITIES.

Marine, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee, Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, &c.

OFFICES IN ALL THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL CENTRES

reverted to anything like normal, the actual increase in net receipts should exceed his estimate. The aggregate gross receipts for the 17 weeks from July 1st last were £2,988,000. The net receipts for the first three months of the present financial year amounted to some £540,000, or £160,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1921-22, and it was only in six weeks of the quarter that they profited by the more reasonable rates.

The report was unanimously adopted.

UNITED PREMIER OIL AND CAKE COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR GUEDALLA ON TRADE AND TAXATION.

POSITION OF THE SUBSIDIARIES.

The third ordinary general meeting of the United Premier Oil and Cake Co., Limited, was held, on the 24th inst., at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Mr Herbert Guedalla, F.C.A. (the chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr F. S. Tomkins) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—In rising to move the resolution—"That the report of the directors and the statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1921, thereto annexed, submitted to this meeting, be received and adopted, and that the two dividends each of 2½ per cent. less income-tax on the ordinary shares of the company paid in respect of that year on January 16 and July 8, 1922, respectively, be approved"—I would remind you that this is the third ordinary general meeting of the company, and again I have to apologise to you for the long delay in issuing the accounts. We are a holding company, and are dependent on the dividends declared by the various subsidiary companies, and I can assure you that the accounting system of these concerns is thoroughly up to date, and would permit us to know in the ordinary way the results for the financial year within a few weeks after the date of its expiration.

The delay in presenting the accounts is solely caused by the lengthy negotiations with Government officials in coming to a settlement on various taxation questions. Some of these matters are not yet finally settled, but in declaring their dividends our subsidiary companies have made provision for claims which they do not admit. It is a great relief to think that this is the last time, as far as we know, when these complications will arise, and the management will be able to devote all their energies to the actual business of their companies.

BALANCE-SHEET

I trust you will permit me to take the report and accounts as read, and, if you will now turn to the balance-sheet, I shall endeavour to explain the various items to you. The preference and ordinary capital of the company remain the same, and with regard to the debenture stock, the amount of £394,250 outstanding at the end of the financial year is the same as in the preceding year, but you will note that a provision of £4,715 was made for the purchase of debenture stock, and since that date £5,000 of this stock has been purchased with this amount and redeemed. The sundry creditors and credit balances this year amount to £12,352, as against £41,137 last year, thus showing a reduction of about £29,000. In this year's accounts we have added £9,775, being the sinking fund for the debenture stock, to the reserve, where it more properly applies, so that the reserve now stands at £59,775.

Taking the other side of the balance-sheet, our investments in subsidiary companies show an increase of some £52,000, and now stand at a total of £1,396,952. This is due to the fact that this year we have re-classified our chief assets so as more clearly to

exemplify the position of the company, distinguishing between fixed investments, advances to our own subsidiaries for the purposes of their business, and other secured loans.

The intrinsic position of our various holdings has been carefully investigated, and I am happy to say that the result confirms my opinion that the value of these holdings, taken as a whole, has not deteriorated, and that therefore we are fully justified in taking them in our accounts at their cost price. The cash and loans amount to about £150,000, whilst the item for discount on debenture stock will gradually eliminate itself by the process of the redemption of stock year by year. We have applied £9,675 to writing off the balance of preliminary expenses, so that this charge finally disappears from the accounts.

THE SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

Our chief subsidiary concerns are, as many of you are aware, Wray, Sanderson and Co., Limited, J. L. Seaton and Co., Limited, the Premier Oil Extracting Mills, Limited, Sowerby and Co., Limited, and the Universal Oil Co., Limited, and these are managed by our able Hull executive, who are untiring in their efforts to produce successful results in these difficult times. During the year under review these companies practically completed the immediate programme of capital expenditure which had been embarked upon. The buildings, plant, and all other equipment have been maintained in the highest possible state of efficiency, and are in a condition capable of meeting any competition and of dealing with a very large output, when the opportunity occurs, and on this point I may remind you that the association of interests provided by the combine puts it in a position to reap advantage from a revival in many differing trades. In addition to a considerable expenditure on maintenance, reserves for depreciation have been made on the usual liberal basis.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Turning now to the revenue account, the dividends received from our subsidiary companies amount to £89,330, as compared with £156,521 in the previous year, and, if we add income-tax recovered, interest received, and transfer fees, we have a total of £103,785, as compared with a total of £172,038. After charging general expenses and directors' fees, we have a balance of £93,943, against which we charge the debenture interest and sinking fund and also write off £9,675 for preliminary expenses, leaving a net profit for the year of £55,898. To this must be added the net balance of £24,920 brought forward from last year, so that there is an amount of £80,819 to the credit of revenue, out of which the preference dividend has absorbed £34,431, leaving a net balance of £46,388. The two interim dividends on the ordinary shares, amounting to £26,250, and representing 5 per cent. in all, less tax, have been paid during this year, and therefore, as no further dividend is recommended, there will be a balance of £20,138 to go forward to the current year's accounts. The interim dividend of 2½ per cent, which you received on July 8th last was in reality the final dividend for the year under review, and it was declared in this way because we were of the opinion that you would prefer to receive the dividend before the accounts could be approved owing to the delay with the revenue authorities.

I would like to add in connection with the revenue account that commission is only due to the directors after a 10 per cent. dividend is paid to the ordinary shareholders, and that therefore this year no commission is due, but also with regard to the future, when we hope for better results, your directors have decided to waive this commission altogether, and it will possibly be necessary to hold an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of altering the articles in this respect. This commission arrangement, which was clearly set out in the prospectus and articles of the company, only comes into operation in normal or good times, and it is in the difficult period through which we are passing that, as you can imagine, we have to pay the closest attention to the business. We, however, prefer to seek our reward in seeing your company attain the prosperity which the hard work of your Hull executive and the solid value of your undertaking fully justify.

COST OF PRODUCTION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Now, with regard to trade, the two main factors have been the cost of production and the far more important question of foreign exchange. With regard to the former, all possible economies in working are being effected, but despite this there are many charges which are beyond the control of the management. The effect of much economy is nullified by the heavy standing charges, which continue to run even when the mills cease working entirely. I might point out, for example, that local rates last year absorbed about £9,000, or about 25 per cent. of the amount distributed as dividends to the ordinary shareholders. Many of our men have unfortunately been compelled to work on short time, but the executive are doing their utmost to spread out the work as favourably as possible, and so obviate the working of full time by some of the men and the complete standing off of others.

Our industry is not alone in this respect, and others are perhaps in a worse position. There are thousands and thousands of shareholders who receive no return on their industrial investments, and yet within a few hours' journey of this country you will find overtime being worked, practically no unemployment, and fair wages, according to conditions, being paid. We have to recognise that the spending power of the nation has been sapped by vicious taxation, and therefore that it is all the more necessary to seek markets abroad. The exchange position makes fair competition an impossibility, and this is the great problem upon which those who govern us must concentrate. Every rise in the value of the £1 sterling abroad spells continuance of unemployment at home, and what is considered to be sound finance is gradually killing some of the most important industries of the country.

SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION.

I have deviated thus far to explain some of our difficulties where trade is interdependent, but in supplying a necessity we always must have a certain amount of business, which our management and equipment enable to be carried through at a profit. Our financial position is sound, and I know that our Hull executive are doing everything in their power to expedite the time when our works can be fully employed and when a larger margin of profit can be secured. With regard to the current year, it may interest you to know that the profits for the first six months were as satisfactory as we could expect in the circumstances, and we believe that the September quarter will maintain the same average. We shall have to bear a large charge for income-tax, and we have sold a holding in a subsidiary business which involves a loss of £12,000, but this perhaps may be more fairly charged against reserves. I now have pleasure in moving:—"That the report of the directors and the statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1921, thereto annexed, submitted to this meeting, be received and adopted, and that the two dividends each of 2½ per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary shares of the company paid in respect of that year on January 16th and July 8, 1922, respectively, be approved."

Sir Frank B. Sanderson, Bart., seconded the motion, and it was carried after a short discussion.

The retiring directors (Mr A. T. Cocking and Mr F. Dalton) were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs Price, Waterhouse, and Co.) having been re-appointed, the proceedings terminated.

RUSO-ASIATIC CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED. MR URQUHART CONFIDENT OF RATIFICATION.

The annual general meeting of Russo-Asiatic Consolidated, Limited, was held, on the 23rd instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Mr Leslie Urquhart (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that at to-day's date cash in hand amounted to £36,000, they held Government securities worth to-day £637,000, and secured debtors amounted to £8,817—a total of £681,817. Creditors amounted to £102,780, leaving a surplus in cash and War Bonds of £579,037 at to-day's date. In addition, exercised, would bring in a further £275,667 cash, giving a total cash position of £854,704.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

After mentioning that developments at Villemagne continued to be satisfactory, and that diamond drilling had already proven a large tonnage, he went on to allude to their recent negotiations with the Soviet Government. "You will remember," he said, "that the Conference at The Hague broke up without having achieved anything very definite. It was not, however, a failure. It elicited from M. Litvinoff an offer, which will, I think, come to be regarded as a milestone in the progress of Russia from a ruinous and unpracticable Communism towards a modified form of Capitalism. We supported and did everything we could to assist the Government in trying to make the Conference a success. When decided, at the suggestion of the Soviet authority, to resume negotiations on our own account. We felt confident of finding them in a more tractable mood than they were a year and a-half ago, when our attempt to reconcile Communistic theories with business realities proved a failure. But a great deal has happened in Russia since then, and it has all been in the direction of convincing the rulers of the country that nothing but ruin resulted from a system under which the State owned everything and tried to manage everything itself; that Russia desperately needed foreign capital, and that foreign capital would never think of coming in so long as the Russian Government repudiated Russia's debts, and imagined it could seize and nationalise anything and everything that didn't belong to it without paying a penny of compensation.

WHY AGREEMENT WAS NOT RATIFIED.

"As you are aware, our agreement with the Soviet was not ratified. It is still in suspense. It failed to secure the necessary endorsement for reasons that had nothing whatever to do with its business aspects. They were political reasons, and they were set forth in a document that must always rank as a curiosity among State papers. This document began by proclaiming the 'extreme desirability' of getting foreign capital to help in the reconstruction of Russia. It went on to lay stress on the particular desirability of an agreement with the Russo-Asiatic Consolidated. But it held that before any such agreement could take effect there ought to be 'friendly, stable, and regulated relations' between the Soviet Republic and the British Government. Such relations, it proceeded to argue, did not at present exist. On the contrary, it charged the British Government with the intention of denying to Russia an equal right with other nations in settling the Near Eastern and the Black Sea questions. Therefore, this amazing document concluded, the ratification of the agreement ought to be withheld. My very strong belief is Moscow already understands the blunder it has made, and that the agreement will before very long be duly ratified. There is simply no other way in which the Soviet rulers can now hope to win the confidence of the British investing public and undo the harm done by an act of precipitate stupidity. From other Governments they have nothing to hope in the way of financial assistance. But there is no reason why they should look to any Government for the means to set Russia on her feet again. If they get the goodwill and the confidence of the investing public in Great Britain, France, the United States, and Germany they will be in possession of resources infinitely greater than any Government can provide. But to do this they must act sensibly and straightforwardly, and not play fast and loose with an agreement on which the attention of business men in all countries has been focussed.

THE POSITION.

"While I do not wish to give you too optimistic an impression, it is right we should have a fair conception of our position. Our properties are in the richest country in the world, so far as natural resources are concerned. We have suffered from temporary decrees and laws of the Soviet Government, but laws of Nature are natural laws, and above those made by human kind. Natural laws have forced the Government of Russia to accede to the economic requirements of the peasant population against their Communistic theories. I have, therefore, a certainty of conviction, and very good reasons for my belief, that the time is now very near when we shall be called back to work for the benefit of Russia and of ourselves, as shareholders in this corporation."

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted. From both sides of the table striking tributes were paid to Mr Urquhart for his zeal and work on behalf of the shareholders.

UNITED DAIRIES, LIMITED. GOOD RESULTS—INCREASED PROFITS.

The annual general meeting of the United Dairies, Limited, was held on the 27th inst., at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen street, London. In the absence of the chairman, Sir Reginald Butler, Bart., Mr Joseph H. Maggs presided.

The secretary (Mr John Butler, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profit and loss account spoke for itself. The total increase in profits of £96,506 was very gratifying. The trading year was not free from anxieties, but the wisdom of spreading their interests in various directions had again been justified by results. All the shareholders had received during the past few days an illustrated brochure dealing with the multifarious activities of their subsidiary companies, and that would serve to bring home to them better than anything he could say the magnitude of their business, and remove the impression that their business was practically confined to the retail delivery of milk in London; that trade represented less than one-third of their turnover. Almost every article, if not every article that could be made from milk, they made, and they aspired to make every article the very best possible of its sort.

IMPORTS OF CONDENSED MILK.

The business of the subsidiary companies continued to show healthy growth. On the manufacturing side, in spite of such competition from abroad as had never before been known, Diploma Condensed Milk continued to grow in public favour. England had been the dumping ground of the U.S.A., and other countries for condensed milk, and had absorbed enormous quantities of that product, not all of which was above suspicion. The quantities of condensed milk imported into this country during 1921 reached the enormous total of 259,355,212 lbs. Whether that was for the good of the nation as a whole he was not enough of an economist to say, but there could be no two opinions as to its discouraging effect on our greatest industry, agriculture. Under the New Milk

Bill, the Ministry of Health had taken powers to make regulations as to the standards and labelling of condensed milk, and they could only hope that effective use would be made of those powers so that in the near future the British public might be to some extent safeguarded in its purchases of that article.

Their relations with the milk producers were, he was pleased to say, on a better footing than ever before. On the vexed question of milk prices, the National Farmers' Union put forward a scheme this autumn, the effect of which was that every farmer's dairy was automatically graded according to the regularity or otherwise of his supply. Now that scheme was in operation for the 12 months ending September 30th next, and having settled prices, it behoved everyone to do their utmost to develop the consumption of milk. To effect this purpose, the National Milk Publicity Council had been formed, and if sufficient support was obtained this Council hoped to launch a definite "Drink more milk" campaign early in the new year. He was very glad to note that milk was really coming to the front in this country. The Guildhall Milk Conference marked the beginning of a new era. All this public discussion on milk must have a good effect on the trade, if the trade itself kept abreast or ahead of public opinion on the question. The New Milk Bill, although not going so far as many would have liked, was undoubtedly on the right lines, and did furnish the machinery for setting an official and independent certificate of standard which would carry weight with an educated and discriminating public.

STEPS TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC.

For United Dairies, he could honestly say they were all out for co-operation with the health authorities for the betterment of the milk supply. The growth of United Dairies milk trade in the Metropolis had been coincident with a remarkable decrease in infantile mortality, and in that connection it would interest the shareholders to know something of what they did to safeguard London's milk. In London alone, in the 12 months ending August 31st last, United Dairies, by its own inspectors, took 354,921 samples of milk and cream, which were submitted to chemical analysis. Of that number, 20,580 were samples taken while the milk was being sold or delivered to customers, and of these, less than one-third of 1 per cent. were slightly below the Government standard, while the rest of the samples averaged over 20 per cent. above the Government standard for butter fat.

MILK AND TUBERCULOSIS.

Dangers in connection with the milk supply had been grossly exaggerated and misunderstood. That applied particularly to the question of tubercle in milk. In London the figures of the London County Council showed that samples containing tubercle germs only amounted to 3.48 per cent., none of which could be United Dairies milk. He submitted that that difference was due to the fact that so much of the milk reaching London had been submitted to pasteurisation. United Dairies, Limited, had adopted the position that every particle of milk, with the possible exception of Grade "A" certified, had to be pasteurised before sale, and this process assured the freedom of their supplies from that and all similar dangers. London led the largest cities of the world in the lowness of its infant mortality rate. It was recently remarked by the *Times* that the infant mortality figures in London for the twelfth week in succession, during the dreaded third quarter of the year, was below 50, and that paper also recommended the pasteurisation of all milk supplies as a great factor in such results. United Dairies recognised the responsibility and the privilege which was theirs of placing the milk supply of this country, and particularly of London, on a plane of absolute safety. They were prepared to take any steps to effect this, and would co-operate with any workers having the same objects.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

PICCADILLY HOTEL, LIMITED.

The thirteenth annual general meeting of the Piccadilly Hotel, Limited, was held on the 25th inst., Sir Charles T. Ruthen, F.R.I.B.A. (the chairman of the company), presented to the shareholders the accounts for the year ending July 31, 1922, and said:—

The accounts you have before you have been arranged in such a form that you are able to compare the trading figures of this year with those of the previous year. I am pleased to be able to inform you there has been a satisfactory increase in turnover, and this during a period when the prices charged to customers have had a tendency to fall. The extra volume of business may, therefore, be considered very encouraging, and from the figures we have at our disposal, since the close of the year, it is apparent that this increase is being maintained. The popularity of the hotel, the restaurant, and the grill room is as great as ever, and the success of the ball room has been so marked that your directors decided to enhance the attractiveness of that magnificent room, and have therefore just completed extensive alterations and improvements. I have no hesitation in saying that we now have the finest ball room

in London, and we look forward to a great increase in receipts from this department. The condition of the hotel, including furniture and fittings, has been kept up to the usual high standard, and the comfort of the visitors is one of our greatest considerations.

From the accounts before you it will be seen that the trading profit has exceeded last year by nearly £9,000, and we are satisfied that the strict supervision which has been exercised in the management of the hotel and the economies that have been effected will doubtless result in a still further increase of profit during the year. The year under review has had to bear heavy charges in respect of mortgage interest, but I am glad to be able to announce that owing to the arrangements we have made the present year will show a considerable saving in this item. The directors recommend that the balance of profit should be utilised in strengthening the position of the company, as they feel that it would be unwise at this time to make any distribution on the shares. To this end they propose that the sum of £11,000 should be transferred to general reserve.

I have every confidence in the future of the hotel, and, with the prospects before us of a gradual revival of trade throughout the country, I look forward to giving you next year a report which will again reflect the increasing prosperity of the company.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	RECEIPTS.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Oct. 21, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Oct. 22, 1921.	Week Ended Oct. 21, 1922.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England	9,363,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.				
Excise	112,250,000	70,431,000	71,441,000	2,721,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	160,750,000	89,804,000	110,581,000	9,308,000
Stamp Duties	10,600,000	3,172,000	2,938,000	..
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	48,000,000	34,121,000	27,629,000	640,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	18,250,000	9,472,000	8,236,000	170,000
Excess Profits Tax, &c.	3,000,000	580,000	430,000	10,000
Corporation Profits Tax	329,000,000	155,191,000	153,737,000	2,863,000
Post Office	27,800,000	9,547,000	8,480,000	220,000
Crown Lands	19,750,000	28,600,000	26,250,000	600,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	54,625,000	28,600,000	29,000,000	1,000,000
Miscellaneous	750,000	380,000	290,000	..
Ordinary Receipts	14,000,000	6,450,848	6,877,297	317,505
Special Receipts	22,000,000	17,614,459	14,070,805	392,136
Revenue	90,000,000	29,719,650	55,517,065	1,062,736
Total, inc. Balance	910,775,000	455,936,957	513,991,168	20,338,192
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion	800,000	4,430,000	..	300,000
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,710,000	440,000	50,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	1,553,300	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	2,510,000	4,655,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	1,580,447,000	2,358,172,000	52,212,000	73,324,000
By Treasury Bills for Supply	40,168,000	22,180,000	1,000,000	1,150,000
By National Savings Certificates	20	5	..	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—				
5-15 year, 1922-25	121,708	1,024,990	..	2,739,459
5%, 1927	61,422,074	60,614,459	..	..
4½%, 1932	53,792,735	..	1,144,227	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	11,869	7,849,822	..	859,293
(d) Ways and Means Advances	530,064,000	778,707,000	10,550,000	38,750,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company	243,012	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired	..	7,250,000	..	..
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	183,435	35,888	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	178,666	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	..	..	..	..
Total	2,852,465,025	3,767,904,478	85,294,419	142,827,196

Note—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Oct. 21, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Oct. 22, 1921.	Week Ended Oct. 21, 1922.
EXPENDITURE				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	9,275,471	9,875,161	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	173,705,210	195,608,258	12,721,172
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,444,999	2,519,000	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,788,000	3,453,797	4,345,738	600,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	1,096,042	1,996,372	525,000
Land Settlement	3,500,000	629,454	..	30,559
Other Settlements	2,650,000	1,209,480	915,029	107,877
Supply Services	529,999,000	222,901,829	356,440,031	7,000,000
Expenditure	893,437,000	414,016,302	571,699,589	14,070,000
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	4,300,000	..	250,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	3,310,000	4,805,000	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	1,553,300	..	..	..
Under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	2,510,000	4,655,000	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600: less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300	1,553,300	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	2,110,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	1,825,504,000	2,358,298,000	48,450,000	103,985,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) War Loan Act, 1919	6,065,099	21,398,019	..	350,016
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	5,276,211	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	15,100,000	10,800,000	550,000	700,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	8,500,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5%, 1922, £20,612,208: less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	18,454,490	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds	43,034,182	..	750,000	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	11,255,348	31,738,131	..	1,224,472
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	492,643,000	702,488,000	14,892,000	13,825,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	399,521	16,460,134	..	500,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	10,865,000	..	875,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	55,656	61,200	..
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,213,282	1,939,154	1,074,488	41,452
Bank of Ireland	767,016	2,234,969	193,240	1,636,258
Total	2,780,358	4,243,123	1,267,728	1,677,710

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, October 30-November 4, were opened on October 27, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £56,905,000. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 8s 6d about 61 per cent. and above in full; Saturday bills £99 8s 8d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 5s 2.94d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £2,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
1922.				
Aug. 11	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,795,000	2 2 0.09	100 3 144
Aug. 18	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 65,335,000	2 11 0.17	None allotted
Aug. 25	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,790,000	2 7 9.29	None allotted
Sept. 1	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 58,605,000	2 11 8.33	None allotted
Sept. 8	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 67,675,000	2 11 3.29	None allotted
Sept. 15	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 7 1.56	None allotted
Sept. 22	(a) 60,000,000	(a) 74,555,000	2 0 11.97	None allotted
Sept. 29	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 66,550,000	2 10 0.30	None allotted
Oct. 6	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 78,775,000	2 8 3.57	None allotted
Oct. 13	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 72,560,000	2 5 5.03	99 1 4.15
Oct. 20	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 61,905,000	2 5 11.06	99 3 1.75
Oct. 27	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 56,905,000	2 5 2.94	99 4 6.3

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, November 3, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govern- ment Secur- ities.	Balance at Bank.	Bank of England.
	£	£	£	£			%	£	£	
1914.	21,535	..	6,302	5,810					11,423	
Aug. 26.	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	481	9,924	9,286	
1915.										
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	276	54,621	20,536	
1916.										
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	190	118,102	6,688	
1917.										
Dec. 26.	212,782	8,554	39	875	28,500	..	134	186,637	5,486	
1918.										
Dec. 31.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	89	305,133	4,566	
1919.										
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	91	337,537	2,802	
1920.										
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	130	336,504	134	
1921.										
Mar. 30.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.		28,500	19,450	139	311,334	141	
June 29.	323,884	14,965	3,000		28,500	19,450	148	287,750	150	
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	3,000		28,500	19,450	152	278,119	143	
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	3,000		28,500	19,450	147	285,131	161	
1922.										
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	5,000		28,500	19,450	159	261,479	177	
June 28.	295,374	13,338	6,000		28,500	19,450	163	254,317	250	
Sept. 27.	291,177	12,648	7,000		27,000	21,150	166	245,456	169	
Oct. 18.	291,377	12,522	7,000		27,000	21,150	165	248,620	149	
19.	289,338	12,60	7,000		27,000	21,150	164	246,618	130	
25.	287,150	12,381	7,000		27,000	21,150	163	244,253	143	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,388,400.

The Clerical, Medical & General

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Publishes A DETAILED LIST OF INVESTMENTS.

Apply 15, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

OR
8, King William Street, E.C.4.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 25, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	144,052,320	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	125,602,320
	144,052,320		144,052,320

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital	14,553,000	Government securities	47,653,803
Reserve	3,131,809	Other securities	71,435,208
Public deposits	15,201,277	Notes	22,165,870
Other deposits	110,180,337	Gold and silver coin	1,830,214
Seven-day & other bills	18,672		
	143,085,095		143,085,095

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Oct. 25, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,151,809	1,778	3,824
Public deposits	15,201,277	+ 2,983,574	+ 1,667,991
Other deposits	110,180,337	+ 1,913,134	+ 51,524,816
Government securities	47,653,803	+ 1,395,503	+ 39,522,104
Other securities	71,435,208	+ 2,594,041	+ 10,767,976
Reserve	23,999,084	+ 1,938,807	+ 2,221,800
Note circulation	121,886,450	+ 196,520	+ 2,221,800
Coin and bullion	127,432,534	+ 2,920	+ 980,399
% of reserve to liabilities	194%	..	194%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

||
||
||

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.
ASSETS.				
Cash and bank balances.	419,981	447,719	459,350	477,083
Bank balances abroad.	111,015	126,760	136,248	263,877
Call and short loans.	276,778	271,989	279,418	372,735
Securities.	350,646	323,471	318,753	1,331,201
Loans in Canada.	1,132,614	1,136,524	1,215,936	1,507,764
Loans abroad.	145,120	144,072	148,228	105,199
Other assets.	99,412	97,315	100,588	183,530
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation.	158,087	161,887	166,085	121,176
Deposits—				
Government.	92,595	87,546	89,024	1,807,193
Public in Canada.	1,639,485	1,668,224	1,687,162	268,089
Foreign.	339,385	347,529	365,770	10,079
Bank balances—				
Canadian.	8,348	6,379	9,973	46,093
Foreign.	22,236	21,872	24,521	37,222
Bills payable, &c.	3,756	2,328	2,363	1,884
Other liabilities.	255,197	255,068	254,414	264,331
Capital and rest.				

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 16, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.	8,193	7,853	7,853	7,853	7,853
Notes in circulation.	4,932	4,973	4,982	5,227	5,254
Bankers' deposits.					
Assets.					
Gold coin and bullion.	263	263	262	256	255
Gold certificates.	9,882	9,882	9,832	9,810	9,797
Gold securities.	250	250	250	250	250
Subsidiary coin.	1,181	870	907	979	1,043
Bills discounted (domestic).	10	10	10	12	12
Do (foreign).					
Loans and advances to the Government.	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,700
Other loans and advances.	1,082	1,089	1,111	1,095	1,121
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.	79.2 %	81.0 %	80.5 %	78.9 %	78.3 %

BANK OF SPAIN.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold.	2,523,406	2,523,396	2,523,391	2,523,392	2,505,411	521,775
Silver.	641,160	637,529	632,850	648,259	619,098	728,650
Loans and discounts.	2,964,448	2,960,509	2,960,827	2,913,644	2,844,475	344,475
Spanish 4% stock.	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	150,000
Treasury bills.	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation.	4,146,043	4,223,369	4,219,635	4,140,332	4,301,027	301,560
Deposits.	962,307	1,142,096	1,135,347	1,137,505	1,043,099	477,500

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	July 13, 1922.	June 28, 1922.	Aug. 27, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances abroad.	1,356,068	1,371,187	1,372,632	1,385,350	1,391,598
Government loans.	2,738,272	2,714,212	2,693,084	2,701,399	2,015,419
Discounts and loans.	981,671	950,879	921,611	873,786	738,630
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	1,908,856	1,843,399	1,708,004	1,426,046	1,831,843
Government deposits.	507,137	524,351	761,521	972,994	135,386
Private sight deposits.	995,346	939,945	882,328	885,466	977,429
Private deposits at fixed dates.	1,013,605	1,012,348	1,011,446	1,009,955	858,244

BANK OF JAPAN.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 16, 1922.	Sept. 9, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 19, 1922.	Sept. 17, 1921.	Position June 30, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Cash and bullion.	1,199,221	1,197,333	1,192,529	1,283,143	1,280,467	221,380
Discounts.	73,583	104,871	219,714	139,730	92,082	41,740
Advances.	168,951	171,777	166,907	161,919	141,490	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
Notes.	1,103,391	1,146,218	1,275,586	1,168,604	1,101,841	362,270
Govt. deposits.	748,388	741,762	762,249	761,602	759,491	87,340
Other deposits.	61,794	63,672	58,380	43,976	39,737	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold.	1,004,854	1,004,855	1,004,856	1,023,633	1,131,940
Of which deposited in Bank of England.	50,032	50,032	50,032	14,932	321,920
Silver.	31,420,080	22,848,430	21,828,959	3,193,609	943,460
Treasury notes.	453,370,296	399,616,122	400,004,070	96,029,034	60,780
Bills discounted.					
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	374,506,332	344,171,631	316,869,799	87,728,107	2,011,860
Deposits.	116,112,702	87,390,199	110,012,377	16,886,905	843,340

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	August 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
ASSETS.		
Cash.	2,353,799	2,353,799
Loans.	5,894,164	5,894,164
Special credits on merchandise.	2,050,310	2,050,310
Food credits.	294,242	233,416
Debtors.	465,300	594,364
Merchandise.	512,166	127,785
Discounts on securities.	162,078	148,172
Advances on coin and bonds.	512,839	409,895
Precious metals.	478,194	311,517
LIABILITIES.		
Subscribed capital.	575,000	575,000
Loan account.	6,772,649	3,246,143
Deposits bearing interest.	2,376,766	1,277,471
Deposits in foreign currencies.	121,637	121,637
Public deposits.	7,400,995	2,690,677

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 20, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Aug. 20, 1922.	Sept. 20, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Total cash.	1,317,911	1,301,786	1,333,072	1,339,913	1,337,486	1,221,875
Inland bills.	4,431,312	4,447,283	4,481,713	4,436,742	2,938,398	418,400
Foreign bills.	9,591	9,530	9,506	9,725	19,512	81,300
Advances to the Treasury.	6,111,578	6,107,522	6,088,738	6,112,626	6,492,934	nill
Other advances.	2,395,640	2,483,449	2,602,331	2,461,852	2,566,284	791,775
Securities.	534,257	534,374	534,350	533,272	404,837	305,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation.	13,641,168	13,771,086	13,805,275	13,737,727	13,992,744	1,556,926
Deposits & drafts.	1,856,257	1,795,011	1,860,385	1,878,601	1,615,678	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Oct. 2, 1922.	Oct. 24, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold.	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	163,092
Silver.	8,804	8,804	8,804	8,804	8,804	8,436
Govt. & advances.	397,700	394,014	398,559	414,982	456,472	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.	975,418	987,166	991,735	1,001,970	1,020,628	316,632
Deposits.	25,828	25,508	26,115	39,755	53,586	6,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

	Sept. 9, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 18, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold.	511,339	511,037	511,032	511,032	495,459
Silver.	125,705	125,705	125,705	125,705	125,705
Government loan.	3,509,877	3,509,877	3,509,877	3,509,877	3,509,877
Other advances.	3,509,877	3,509,877	3,509,877	3,509,877	3,509,877
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	14,729,676	14,569,673	14,448,142	14,411,813	12,069,910
Deposits.	6,328,883	6,058,160	6,079,632	6,100,509	6,352,421

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold.	520,251	506,266	505,764	505,292	544,850	171,175
Silver.	114,118	114,318	114,424	114,689	124,025	18,350
Darlehens-Kasse.	10,983	10,983	10,983	10,983	15,406	103,000
Assets & advances.	311,231	306,823	302,920	301,739	307,532	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.	811,395	789,145	797,770	811,008	915,719	875,925
Deposits.	200,937	205,249	189,387	173,972	92,656	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to September 30, 1922, total issues were Fr.18,835,515, of which Fr.10,983,225 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Gold.	273,514	273,533	273,598	273,616	275,571	104,918
Balance abrd. and foreign bills.	77,096	77,623	78,327	77,186	103,887	112,171
Swedish and for.	72,946	73,946	73,961	73,966	20,754	33,465
Govt. securities.	368,288	375,808	393,823	399,751	400,533	112,568
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.	527,080	548,126	564,372	604,616	601,541	226,555
Deposits at notice.	199,273	196,106	190,035	180,196	132,323	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 5, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion).	336,286	336,448	336,206	333,267	328,872	322,855
Securities.	574,945	564,082	507,911	506,536	403,804	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.	6,524,478	6,542,912	6,539,502	6,517,769	6,109,935	934,156
Current accounts.	783,588	822,327	778,764	545,558	844,077	112,112

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills.	604	677	742	695
Silver coin.	21	21	21	21
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts.	825,717,248	806,302,544	783,289,424	735,014,786
Loans.	1,550,235	1,499,493	1,626,828	1,645,602
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation.	1,590,414,336	2,453,968,531	2,277,677,738	1,960,309,571
Deposits.	217,040,559	226,179,555	249,971,028	169,439,811

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills.	14,598	14,042	13,551	13,495
Silver coin, &c.	596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	48,294,852	48,312,274	46,962,638	44,795,455
Loans.	1,730,055	1,825,581	1,848,313	1,851,113
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation.	61,940,752	60,263,732	58,458,093	55,412,200
Deposits.	5,636,263	6,311,964	5,928,870	6,553,611

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Present Rate.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.	Present Rate.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.
Discount	4 ..	July 13, 1922 ..	4 1/2 ..	June 15, 1922 ..	2 ..
Deposit	1 1/2 ..	June 15, 1922 ..	2 ..	Feb. 16, 1922 ..	

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Oct. 28, 1921.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	54-07-12	60-02-07
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	80-43	700-703	17900-17900
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Warsaw	zlotys to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Calcutta	rupees to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Batavia	rupiahs to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Sourabaya	rupiahs to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Manila	pesos to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000
Mexico	pesos to £1	T.T.	24-02	800-8200	310,000-330,000

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Oct. 27, 1921.	Sept. 21, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.
Call money	5 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	5 ..	5 ..
Time money (90 days)	5 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	5 ..	5 ..
Bank acceptances	4 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	4 ..	4 ..
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	4 ..	4 ..
Non-members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	3 1/2 ..	4 ..	4 ..
Ineligible, 90 days	5 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	5 ..	5 ..
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..	5 ..	5 ..

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level	Oct. 27, 1921.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.
London	Dollars for £1	4-8666	3-8425	4-4025	4-41875
Paris	francs for £1	19-30	7-2650	7-5650	7-4750
Berlin	marks for £1	19-30	7-1150	6-97	6-93
Vienna	krone for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Prague	krone for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Warsaw	zlotys for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Bombay	rupees for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Calcutta	rupees for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Batavia	rupiahs for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Sourabaya	rupiahs for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Manila	pesos for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31
Mexico	pesos for £1	19-30	18-38	18-68	18-31

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level	Oct. 27, 1921.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	1-76	0-105	0-058
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123-45	3-30	0-22	0-17
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	3-30	0-20	0-125
Stockholm	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	3-30	0-20	0-125
Christiania	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	3-30	0-20	0-125

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £1	10-00	Sight London	Oct. 21 20-50
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	25-25	"	Oct. 24 24-40
Colombia (Bogota)	Dollars to £1	100	"	Oct. 24 22-25
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £1	4-8665	"	Oct. 6 4-50
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	97-15	"	Oct. 21 9-25
Guatemala	Colonos to £1	90-23	"	Oct. 21 25-50
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	10-45	"	Oct. 6 18-20
Bolivia	Pesos to £1	19-20	"	Sept. 9 15-1

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Oct. 3, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Oct. 11, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	1,525	1,525	1,525	1,525
New York	\$1	347-50	345	344-75	344
Berlin	100 Rmk	19-5	16-15	14-40	12-50
Helsingfors	100 Fmk	765	775	777	781
Stockholm	100 Kr	9,165	9,160	9,150	9,130
Copenhagen	100 Kr	7,115	7,100	7,010	6,990
Paris	100 Fr	2,635	2,630	2,620	2,585
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	13,452	13,425	13,450	13,370
Riga	100 Lrbl	137	138	140	140
Praha	100 pmk	1,080	1,185	1,175	1,210

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	Sept. 23, 1922.	Oct. 2, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.
London	£1	1,150	1,142	1,148	1,152
New York	\$1	260 1/2	261	260 1/2	259 1/2
Paris	100 frs.	1,975	1,975	1,975	1,975
Berlin	100 Rmk	1,875	1,875	1,875	1,875
Stockholm	100 Kr	4,850	4,875	4,850	4,800
Copenhagen	100 Kr	1,100	1,100	1,125	1,100
Christiania	100 Kr	6,875	6,875	6,875	6,875
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	5,425	5,275	5,300	5,200
Prague	100 pmk	4,375	4,450	4,450	4,725
Helsingfors	100 Fmk	821	810	810	874
Reval	100 Rmk	10,075	10,125	10,125	10,125
Warsaw	100 pmk	76	76	78	78

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
From Oct. 16, 1922.	From Oct. 16, 1922.	From Oct. 16, 1922.
London on South Africa.	South Africa on London.	South Africa on London.
Buying.	Selling.	Buying.
T.T.	2 1/2 % prem.	2 1/2 % dia.
30 days	1 1/2 % prem.	1 1/2 % dia.
60 days	1 1/2 % prem.	1 1/2 % dia.
90 days	1 1/2 % prem.	1 1/2 % dia.
120 days	1 1/2 % prem.	1 1/2 % dia.

* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. + Plus ad valorem stamp duty.
(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
Buying.	Selling.	Buying.
Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.
T.T.	101	101
30 days	98	98
60 days	97	97
90 days	96 1/2	96 1/2
120 days	96 1/4	96 1/4

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	27,57,85,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	51,65,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	79,22,85,000

Tenders for Rs.1,50,00,000 six months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 nine and twelve months' bills together were opened on October 18th. The total amount applied for was Rs.1,21,75,000 six months' bills, Rs.10,00,000 twelve months' bills. All tenders for six months' bills at Rs.97 13a and above were accepted in full. Tenders for twelve months' bills were rejected. The average accepted rate for six months' bills was Rs.97.13.6 per cent., equivalent to a discount rate of 4.4075 per cent. per annum. Intermediate bills for six months only will be offered for sale in India during this week at Rs.97 14a per cent. Tenders were received on Friday, October 27th, for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills, and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills for issue during the week beginning October 30th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended October 25, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £2,920 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.
Countries from which Consigned.	Countries to which Exported.
Week Ended Oct. 25, 1922.	Week Ended Oct. 25, 1922.
Latvia	Norway
Sweden	Germany
Germany	Netherlands
Belgium Congo	Belgium
U.S.A.	Italy
British West Africa	U.S.A.
British South Africa	British India
British Guiana	
Total value of imports of gold	Total declared value of exports registered in the week

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write as follows on October 26th:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold was available, and was taken by India and the United States of America. Gold to the value of \$4,468,000 has arrived in New York, \$4,168,000 from London and \$300,000 from Sweden. Excellent gains have been made in the output of gold by the two important producing provinces, Ontario and British Columbia. The total for Canada during the first six months of the year amounted to about 63 per cent. of the whole of the 1921 production, and is an increase of 42 per cent. over the production for the corresponding period last year. The following figures, which are in lacs of rupees, and include bullion and rupee paper movements, show the Indian monthly balance of trade:—

	Year 1920-21.	Year 1921-22.	Year 1922-23.
April	+ 13.87	— 6.85	+ 4.17
May	+ 5.74	— 2.00	+ 3.48
June	— 82	— 1.67	— 1.11
July	— 3.14	+ 1.35	+ 32
August	— 9.36	+ 2.34	+ 2.96
September	— 4.69	+ 93	+ 10
October	— 10.32	— 8.65	
November	— 11.07	— 9.22	
December	— 9.02	— 2.55	
January	— 8.97	— 7.12	
February	— 7.03	— 59	
March	— 4.86	+ 1.42	

(+) denotes balance in favour of India, and (—) adverse balance.

SILVER.

The tendency of the market during the earlier part of the period under review was distinctly heavy, and prices reached on the 20th inst. the lowest level (cash 33 1/4d, two months 33 1/4d) since mid-April last. The downward impetus was derived from China sales, which, coupled with a reluctance upon the part of buyers, left no alternative. Some revival of demand, however, set in from the Indian bazaars for prompt shipment by this week's, the settlement, steamer. Supplies of spot silver being somewhat scarce, quotations naturally stiffened, but the market had no real stamina, for speculators, China, and the Continent readily offered supplies on the rise yesterday to 34 1/4d for cash and 34 1/4d for two months' delivery. To-day some stringency was shown in the demand for cash delivery, but other inquiry languished, and a fall of 1/4d ensued for cash and 3/4d for two months' delivery. The difference between the two prices is the largest since March 15th, when 3/4d premium was established for cash delivery. According to the American Mining Congress, reports from Fitzgerald, Alberta, Canada, indicate that silver has been discovered on barren lands north-east of that town which will equal silver mines of Northern Ontario. The ore is said to have been gone over by geologists, who have pronounced the find valuable. Examinations of geologists were conducted independently and at different times, one stating that the ore would run \$800 to the ton, while another estimated the value of silver at \$775 a ton. It is reported as being a high-grade free milling ore. Prospectors have been at work in the territory since 1921. The shipments of silver from San Francisco to China during the month of September amounted to 3,514,000 ounces.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,132	18,116	18,028
Silver coin and bullion in India	9,017	9,072	9,079
Silver coin and bullion out of India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India	6,099	6,028	5,932
Securities (Indian Government)	584	584	585

No silver coinage is reported during the week ending 22nd inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 21st inst. consisted of about 40,700,000 ounces in sycee, 37,500,000 dollars, and 1,820 silver bars, as compared with 40,300,000 ounces in sycee, 38,000,000 dollars, and 2,450 silver bars on the 14th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows:—

1922.	Gold.	Silver.	Forward.	Dated.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.		Cash Per Ounce.
Oct. 21 ..	21.92	33 1/4	33 1/4	Nov. 3, 1916	32 1/2
23 ..	22.5	33 1/4	33 1/4	2, 1917	45 1/2
24 ..	22.7	34 1/4	34 1/4	2, 1918	49 1/2
25 ..	22.9	34 1/4	34 1/4	3, 1919	65 1/2
26 ..	22.10	34 1/4	34 1/4	Oct. 29, 1920	52 1/2
27 ..	22.8	34 1/4	34 1/4	28, 1921	40 1/2

NOTICES.

A branch of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, is now open in Upper Kennington lane, Kennington, under the management of Mr A. J. White, with Mr R. A. Smith as clerk in charge.

We much regret to announce the death at his residence, Wood Norton, Evesham, on the 21st inst., of the Hon. Algernon Henry Mills, the senior partner in the banking house of Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67 Lombard street, E.C.3.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of new branches at 512 and 514 Brixton road, London, S.W.9, 30 Bridge street, New Swinlon, Wilts, under the management of Mr G. Fry and Mr A. J. T. Davies respectively. A new branch has also been opened at 176 High street, Camden Town, London, N.W.1, under the management of Mr R. S. Clark.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.	Gold Recovered.	Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Yards.	Mill.	Yards.
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.
Esperanza	1,400	...	508	...
Jumbo	3,600	...	3,478	...
London and Rhodesian	18,603	...	875,172	9,143
Orion Consolidated	...	...	...	...
Oroville Dredging	...	...	...	...
Nechi (29 days to Oct. 2nd)	...	...	...	...
Pato (32 days to Oct. 1st)	7,000	...	2,548	...
Quarter ended Sept. 30th:—				
Aurora West	190,000	...	353,331	140,388
Brakpan	261,000	...	508,190	187,947
City Deep	373,000	...	418,368	20,987
East Rand	99,000	...	129,011	12,110
Ferreira Deep	...	...	...	...
Geldenhuis Deep	96,500	...	86,329	7,040
Knight Central	...	...	...	...
Meyer and Charlton	185,000	...	464,980	261,073
Modderfontein B	79,000	...	168,636	50,585
Modderfontein East	...	...	...	...
New Kloof	...	...	...	...
New Kleinfontein	330,000	...	700,094	418,058
Nourse	141,600	...	208,377	27,231
Roodepoort United	157,900	...	174,308	29,325
Rose Deep	135,400	...	280,748	131,500
Springs	...	...	62,030	28,406
Van Ryn	...	...	245,236	50,416
Village Deep	171,000	...	...	13,529
West Rand Cons.	...	...	...	...
Witwatersrand Deep	123,050	...	...	43,731

* Loss.

Other Notable Returns.

	Output.	Other Notable Returns.
--	---------	------------------------

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended Oct. 22, 1922.			Aggregate 42 Weeks 1922.		
		Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (e)	676½	43,500	136,600	179,100	2,136,600	5,481,400	7,618,000
Do Joint Lines	161½	10,000	30,000	40,000	500,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
Great Eastern (e)	1,207½	105,700	95,600	201,300	5,019,800	3,857,200	8,877,000
Great Northern (e)	1,050	78,000	137,000	215,000	4,072,300	5,726,600	9,798,900
Great Western (d)	1,567	263,000	370,000	633,000	12,469,000	15,900,000	28,369,000
London & North Western (d) ..	2,636	308,000	434,000	742,000	15,897,000	21,762,000	37,659,000
London & South Western (d) ..	958	115,000	55,100	170,100	5,612,300	2,404,600	8,016,900
London, Brighton & C. (e)	487	88,519	21,819	110,338	4,076,845	1,161,169	5,238,014
Metropolitan & City (e)	427	1,164	2,119	3,283	50,760	78,924	129,684
Metropolitan (e)	79½	33,751	3,838	37,589	1,421,366	151,850	1,573,216
Midland (e)	1,585½	160,000	313,000	473,000	7,633,000	13,222,000	20,855,000
Midland & S.W. Jnc. (e)	63	1,425	1,302	2,727	64,328	59,223	123,551
North Eastern (e)	1,850	125,600	266,200	391,800	5,705,100	10,152,300	15,857,400
North London (e)	16	4,594	9,802	14,396	202,000	407,784	609,784
South-East & Chatham (e)	654	117,800	45,300	163,100	5,844,700	1,828,400	7,673,100
Underground E.R. (e)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (e)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caledonian	1,097	67,700	101,700	169,400	3,098,000	4,146,900	7,244,900
Glasgow and S.W. (e)	476	28,000	35,500	63,500	1,352,300	1,537,800	2,890,100
Gt. N. of Scotland (e)	344	7,610	8,000	15,610	405,390	376,230	781,620
Highland (e)	492 (a)	10,623	12,182	22,805	519,678	439,465	959,143
North British (e)	1,577½	60,406	121,100	181,506	2,815,000	4,886,200	7,701,200
Belmont and County Down (b)	80	4,998	6,295	11,293	228,531	55,217	283,748
Dublin and S. East. (b)	160	6,097	3,435	9,532	255,419	144,403	399,822
Midland G. West. (b)	538	10,502	22,202	32,704	412,001	636,621	1,048,622

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended October 20, 1922.
(c) Week ended October 21, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Amman Bawal	25 weeks	Sept. 23	1,043	Rs. 3,001,380	+ 86,642	Rs. 58,23,176	+ 23,38,640
Barru L. Ry.	26 weeks	30	118	35,300	+ 13,000	8,89,000	+ 2,82,101
Bengal & N. Western ..	25 weeks	23	67	5,655,520	+ 81,308	1,56,33,566	+ 13,94,599
Bengal Nagpur	24 weeks	16	2,703	13,92,000	+ 2,86,000	3,22,50,190	+ 40,22,457
Bombay, Bar. & C.I. ..	29 weeks	Oct. 21	2,871	18,90,000	+ 152,000	56,14,000	+ 4,02,000
Burma	25 weeks	Sept. 23	1,344	6,14,708	+ 4,199	1,63,69,043	+ 18,36,167
Dahli, Umballa & Kalka ..	25 weeks	Oct. 21	239	1,09,000	+ 3,857	3,20,000	+ 6,497
East Indian	25 weeks	21	8,779	28,61,000	+ 79,000	90,45,000	+ 5,51,000
G. Indian Peninsula	24 weeks	14	5,721	22,01,400	+ 32,000	7,16,22,863	+ 38,86,642
Madras & S. Mah.	26 weeks	Sept. 30	3,028	13,00,000	+ 118,312	3,75,40,523	+ 38,91,406
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	25 weeks	23	259	43,073	+ 11,167	15,02,734	+ 54,179
Do Lucknow-Braillly	25 weeks	23	302	42,306	+ 7,005	17,02,444	+ 45,151
South Indian	26 weeks	30	1,852	11,18,668	+ 1,16,337	2,49,19,469	+ 27,44,051
Sahn, Punjab (monthly) ..	3 mths	June 30	717	9,87,071	+ 187,883	24,71,120	+ 46,980
Argentine (A).							
Argentine N. Ry.	16 weeks	Oct. 21	752	7,900	+ 5,400	154,900	+ 34,600
Argentine Trans.	16 weeks	21	111	3,140	+ 2,240	31,800	+ 5,205
B. A. and Pacific	16 weeks	21	3,426	135,000	+ 32,000	2,069,000	+ 90,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	16 weeks	21	3,947	167,000	+ 43,000	2,341,000	+ 34,000
B. A. Western	16 weeks	21	1,822	53,000	+ 50,000	544,000	+ 311,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	41,145	+ 12,798	78,379	+ 25,404
Central Argentina	16 weeks	Oct. 21	5,305	196,000	+ 43,000	2,968,000	+ 130,000
Cordoba Central	16 weeks	21	1,206	52,000	+ 6,000	971,000	+ 53,500
Entre Rios	16 weeks	21	811	17,400	+ 2,400	264,400	+ 50,700
Brazilian (B).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	9 mths	Sept. 30	30	Ms. 51,500	+ 3,250	387,500	+ 44,900
Gt. West. of Brazil	42 weeks	Oct. 21	1,005	15,400	+ 3,900	520,800	+ 37,000
Leopoldina	42 weeks	21	1,831	34,555	+ 1,084	1,232,583	+ 184,463
San Paulo	42 weeks	22	1,534	29,656	+ 2,304	1,194,610	+ 91,045
State of Bahia, S.W.	5 mths	Sept. 30	62	Ms. 125,000	+ 35,000	469,000	+ 166,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	42 weeks	Oct. 22	838	41,800	+ 27,635	935,185	+ 36,980
Nitrato (monthly)	15 weeks	15	366	27,059	+ 13,719	67,635	+ 17,497
Peruvian Corp.	3 mths	Sept. 30	1,659	1,231,060	+ 111,540	3,775,960	+ 298,880
Talca	3 mths	30	172	12,923	+ 3,548	38,506	+ 10,695
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	\$110,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,080,221
Havana Central	14 weeks	Oct. 7	Net	\$474,495	+ 18,578	1,412,662	+ 1,404,329
United of Havana	16 weeks	21	1,210	9,564	+ 197	131,682	+ 17,497
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	16 weeks	21	873	25,976	+ 20	337,648	+ 24,819
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	16 weeks	21	311	4,744	+ 623	165,190	+ 1,264
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	16 weeks	21	185	2,615	+ 16	35,068	+ 4,893
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	16 weeks	21	311	2,307	+ 313	34,760	+ 790
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	..	..
North-West Uruguay	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	+ 1,201	10,638	+ 1,548
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	73	2,449	+ 714	..	..
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gaudin	42 weeks	Oct. 21	53	Ps. 18,000	+ 4,000	794,950	+ 144,350
Bilbao	9 mths	Sept. 30	15	1,149	+ 521	9,449	+ 5,471
Bolivar	9 mths	30	136	8,700	+ 2,674	82,350	+ 10,939
Costa Rica	1 mth	July 31	183	19,271	+ 1,370	19,207	+ 1,370
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,255	+ 54,500
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	7 mths	31	45	7,000	+ 1,000	35,750	+ 6,000
Egyptian Delta	27 weeks	Oct. 10	659 (e)	11,924	+ 3,665	160,381	+ 31,368
Gt. Southern Spain	41 weeks	14	104	Ps. 74,958	+ 8,948	3,861,243	+ 1,098,711
International of Central America ..	9 mths	Sept. 30	Net	51,200	+ 1,168	555,943	+ 4,816
La Guaira & Caracas	9 mths	Sept. 30	Net	6,278	+ 611	939,226	+ 15,534
Mexican Railway	15 weeks	Oct. 21	403	9,690	+ 460	90,940	+ 3,240
Do	2 mths	Aug. 31	403	\$240,500	+ 117,300	4,122,400	+ 1,046,700
Nasajo Ocarahama	8 mths	31	Net	\$109,000	+ 210,300	2,217,500	+ 437,900
Occidental Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	193	12,103	+ 4,500	370,500	+ 25,100
Puerto Cabello, &c.	16 weeks	Oct. 21	100	35	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Salvador	16 weeks	Oct. 21	100	1,820	+ 378	43,474	+ 6,537
Santa Fe Province	1 mth	Sept. 30	..	133,114	+ 5,738	..	..
Somana & Santiago	9 mths	30	..	6,180	+ 2,244	78,240	+ 15,208
Zafra and Huévalo	9 mths	30	113	14,267	+ 377	107,476	+ 19,110

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	235,653	236,625	400,430,580	+ 4,712,834	76,706,840	+ 54,882,820
Mar.	234,202	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,426	113,468,843	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May	235,333	234,331	447,239,150	+ 4,069,751	92,331,565	+ 28,064,928
June	235,208	235,110	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678
July	234,556	235,082	412,736,397	+ 19,960,889	102,238,414	+ 1,964,485
Aug.	235,815	235,294	472,242,561	+ 31,911,054	86,565,595	+ 36,787,070

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.		Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross	\$186,737	+ 37,086	388,749	+ 18,760
Canadian N.W.	42 weeks	Oct. 21	Gross	\$1,908,200	+ 339,512	48,723,030	+ 1,785,432
Canadian Nto.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$1,718,400	+ 149,712	42,939,700	+ 7,831,356
Canadian Pac.	42 weeks	Oct. 21	Gross	\$5,466,000	+ 205,000	139,949,000	+ 10,981,000
Canadian Pac.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$5,918,000	+ 114,600	106,677,000	+ 10,216,000
Grand Trunk.	42 weeks	Oct. 21	Net	\$2,946,000	+ 370,000	14,722,000	+ 2,859,000
Temiscouche	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross	\$448,435	+ 10,695	17,029,160	+ 121,923
				\$34,205			

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	July 31	810	£11,592	+ 7,888	..	..
Mid. of W. Aust.	2 mths	Aug. 31	277	11,513	+ 2,939	19,481	+ 3,414
New Cape Central.	48 weeks	Sept. 30	805	2,515	+ 473	99,699	+ 465
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	July 31	1,397	£51,081	+ 4,778	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	42 weeks	Oct. 21	329	\$91,425 +	9,240	3,557,001 +	189,575
Burnley Corporation	1 week	12	12	£3,270 +	150		
Calcutta Tramways	41 weeks	14	351	Rs. 108,761 +	12,902		+ 11,25,622
Chatham & District	42 weeks	19	15	£1,623 +	146	70,250	
Egyptian Markets	41 weeks	14	.	£1,813 +	553	69,179 +	12,49
Glasgow Corporation Tramways	20 weeks	21	101	\$45,051 +	644	863,146 +	66,08
Isle of Thanet	3 weeks	18	..	2748 +	161	2,112 +	69
Leamashire United	42 weeks	17	39	£3,053 +	534	128,124 +	17,74
Liverpool Corporation Tramways	42 weeks	21	124	£23,189 +	436	1,738,103 +	18,63
L.C.C. Tramways	30 weeks	25	160	£33,768 +	5,552	2,789,873 +	245,43
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	41 weeks	15	..	Rs. 47,337 +	1,523	930,042 +	149,83
Perambuco Trama	41 weeks	15	..	£3,870 +	31	153,445 +	10,88
Singapore Electric	30 weeks	July 29	..	£7,095 +	6,142	365,271 +	8,50

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Preferential.	Ordinary.	Rate.			
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			Dividend.
Breweries.										
Hammord's Bradford	Sept. 30	£ 6,552	£ 44,276	£ 50,828	£ 4,5 0	£ 16,875	15	£ 23,000	£ 7,453	£ 44,912 15
Financial, Land, &c.										
British North Borneo	Dec. 31	199,494	82,269	281,763	..	55,571	3	..	226,190	154,743 3
Iron, Steel, and Coal.										
Kayser, Ellison, and Co.	June 30	6,687	Dr 43,327	Dr 36,640	3,000	..	..	..	Dr 39,640	14,375 5
Motor and Cycle.										
A. J. Stevens and Co. (1914) ..	Aug. 31	16,797	21,354	38,151	..	9,920	12½	10,000	18,231	23,562 12½
Rubber.										
Abaco (Selangor)	Mar. 31	1,832	Dr 1,264	568	..	..	..	..	568	Dr 3,636 ..
K.M.S. (Malay States)	June 30	5,368	Dr 201	5,167	..	..	..	..	5,167	Dr 1,269 ..
Mambau (F.M.S.)	June 30	1,660	3,833	5,493	1,600	..	..	2,000	1,893	Dr 6,747 ..
North Latis (Johore)	June 30	20,171	175	20,346	..	..	..	3,000	17,346	3,755 ..
Telegraphs, &c.										
Montevideo Telephone	July 31	12,157	28,996	41,153	..	17,370	8½	10,000	13,783	27,775 8½
Trusts.										
Stock Conversion and Investment	Aug. 31	10,815	18,454	29,269	14,625	..	..	..	14,644	8,867 ..
Other Companies.										
Gramophone Co.	June 30	128,453	43,102	171,555	5,000	112,500	15	..	54,055	Dr 2,659 6
Rosario Drainage	June 30	51,557	Dr 3,019	48,538	7,200	11,076	3	..	30,262	22,578 3
Slaitwaite Spinning	Sept. 30	Dr 108,779	5,901	Dr 102,878	..	..	..	..	Dr 102,878	.. ..

† Free of tax.

and tax, £6,303; dividend on preference shares for the year ended June 30, 1922, £5,000; dividend of 6 per cent. on ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, 1921, £45,000; income-tax and corporation profits tax, £23,102; leaving a balance of unappropriated profits of £166,555. The directors recommend that out of such unappropriated profits there be paid a dividend of 15 per cent. on the 750,000 ordinary shares, less income-tax. In making this recommendation the directors consider that so large a distribution in proportion to the profits earned is justified only by the arrangements made as to preferential dividend at the time of the increase of capital in 1920, and by the sound cash position as shown in the accounts.

MONTEVIDEO TELEPHONE.—The report for year ended July 31, 1922, shows that, after providing for all charges in Montevideo and London and making provision for income-tax and corporation profits tax, the net profit amounts to £28,996. The sum of £12,156 is brought in, making £41,152 available. An addition of £10,000 is made to reserve fund, while the ordinary dividend of 8 per cent., free of income-tax, absorbed £17,370, leaving £13,782 to be carried forward.

SMITHFIELD AND ARGENTINE MEAT COMPANY, LIMITED.—Notice is given to holders of share warrants to bearer that the committee of shareholders appointed at the general meeting held on July 28th last, to investigate the company's affairs, have informed the board that their report upon the result of their investigations cannot be ready in time to be considered on the 31st inst., the date to which the general meeting was adjourned, and the meeting must take place on that date as arranged, viz., at Winchester House, Old Broad street, E.C., on Tuesday, October 31, 1922, at 12 o'clock noon, but will be of a purely formal character, and the only resolution will be a resolution to be put by the chairman that the meeting stands adjourned for a further four weeks, viz., to Tuesday, November 28th, at the same time and place.

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January	211,917	211,851	293,794	240,056
February	220,885	260,020	288,225	304,488
March	225,008	199,881	134,332	257,356
April	213,159	208,934	282,306	265,591
May	218,267	403,255	285,841	273,562
June	214,215	194,194	238,209	247,151
July	214,918	313,126	279,269	263,918
August	207,339	241,270	266,151	271,142
September	223,719	231,226	271,452	240,846
October	204,184	248,085	363,374	..
November	186,462	282,237	306,636	..
December	158,835	272,470	267,005	..
Total Gold	2,499,492	3,056,549	3,217,275	2,364,120

NOTE.—The value of the gold output fluctuates each month in accordance with the amount of premium which may be declared to the Mines Department of Southern Rhodesia in that month.

OIL OUTPUTS.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for week ending Wednesday, October 18th, amounted to 1,265 tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Fine open weather has prevailed during the past week, and ploughing operations are now in full swing. In some districts the new plant is already above ground, and presents an even appearance. Potatoes are being lifted, the crop being very heavy, while other roots are also plentiful. Quieter conditions prevailed at market, and rates displayed an easier tendency, especially with regard to breadstuffs. English wheat in fair demand, but prices gave way slightly in sympathy with imported descriptions. Suitable milling qualities rule at 43s to 44s 6d per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions exhibited a quieter tone, and rates eased owing to liberal arrivals, though closing steadier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 55s. No. 2 hard winter 54s 6d, and Rosafé 63½ lbs 55s, all ex ship to arrive, per 496 lbs. Cargoes moved off slowly at easier rates. Australian February-March shipment changed hands at 50s 3d, No. 1 Northern Manitoba December 48s 6d, Pacific November-December 50s 9d per 480 lbs. Crop prospects in the principal exporting countries continue favourable, while North American visible supplies show a substantial increase. Flour trade generally quiet, and prices were reduced by 1s per sack for home milled. London standard straight run quoted 42s 6d, patents 44s 6d to 45s 6d, town households 40s 6d per sack delivered in London area. Imported firm. Manitoba patents range from 39s to 44s as to quality, Pacific 37s 6d, and Australian 39s to 41s per 280 lbs ex store. Barley, English, tended firmer, with a better demand, and prices range from 35s to 60s per 448 lbs free on rail according to sample. Imported quiet. Californian quoted 39s to 43s, Australian 49s to 53s ex store per 448 lbs. American malting 48 lbs 33s, Persian 32s landed, Danubian ex ship to arrive 32s, landed 33s per 400 lbs. Maize in moderate demand, and occasionally rather easier for shipment. American mixed ex ship 39s 6d, yellow La Plata ex ship 39s, ditto landed 41s. Cargoes in quieter demand, and values somewhat irregular. A steamer of yellow La Plata shipment guaranteed by October 31st sold at 36s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats in generally good demand, and prices firmer. English grey and black quoted 25s to 28s 6d, and whites 29s to 31s per 336 lbs free on rail. Of imported, Plate f.a.q. quoted 29s 9d, ditto clipped 30s 6d, No. 2 Canada Western 35s 6d, No. 1 Canadian feed 32s 6d, American white clipped (38 lbs) 29s 3d, ditto (36 lbs) 29s, all per 320 lbs landed terms. Oatmeal in demand, and prices the turn dearer. London made, all cuts, quoted at £19 15s, rolled oats £19 15s, flaked oats £22 15s. Ordinary Scottish oatmeal £19 10s to £20, and American, all cuts, £18 to £18 10s per ton. Millers' offers meet with fair attention at full rates.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to October 21	Cwts. 526,007	Cwts. 285,408	Cwts. 341,650	Cwts. 313,656
7 weeks to October 21	2,602,788	2,832,025	3,547,671	1,597,601
Average price of English wheat per				
quarter	s d 39 9	s d 47 7	s d 50 8	s d 73 0
= per cwt	9 2½	11 1	12 1½	17 0

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	qrs bsh	s d	s d	s d
Oct. 14	114,009 7	79,094 7	32,693 4	39 1	38 2	25 2
21	122,735 1	106,840 5	30,305 4	39 9	40 0	25 7
1917	55,841 6	93,708 4	14,381 3	70 10	60 1	43 0
1918	73,899 1	78,181 1	10,832 4	72 5	60 3	50 5
1919	73,186 4	167,734 1	16,957 2	73 0	95 1	57 5
1920	83,045 0	151,001 3	27,999 6	90 8	90 11	54 9
1921	66,595 1	141,047 1	16,192 3	47 7	51 5	25 1

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business in the steel trade continues to expand but very slowly. The outlook for the early future is improved by the certainty that two battleships are to be built, as this work will bring many orders to Sheffield for tools and materials wherever the contracts are placed. Sheffield will also make the bulk of the armour-plate. Outside this district the recovery of trade is proceeding apace, and the Sheffield industries are certain to benefit by the movement before long. Railway work is coming in rather more freely, and a few foreign orders for the best tool steels are reported. Pig-iron has quietened down in this district, and consequently makers are unable to raise their prices to cover the increased cost of production caused by dearer coke and scrap, and their operations for the moment are unremunerative. American buying has declined, but is expected to continue on a smaller scale than heretofore. Belgian and French billets are being offered here at cut prices. The output of the steel furnaces is mostly going into consumption at home, as the export markets are not taking large quantities. Russia is buying saws and files on satisfactory terms as to payment, and continuous business from this source is anticipated. Makers of files and various hand tools report that trade is picking up a little, but the condition of these branches leaves much to be desired. Silver and electro-plate is active, both in the Sheffield and Birmingham centres, and the brass and copper trades are better employed than formerly. The cutlery trade is patchy, but some lines are selling freely. The home demand for steam coal continues to gain strength. The house coal market is quiet for the time of year, but there are signs of a buying movement. Gas and railway companies are specifying substantial tonnages. Exports of steam coal and coke are active. Slacks are selling readily in the Lancashire district. South Yorkshire best hards are quoted at 21s, and best quality house at 33s. Seconds house coal can be bought at favourable rates.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated October 26th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Although prices are firm, business is dull, and will probably continue so until after the General Election. The American demand is easier. 62s 6d per ton still remains the price for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. and East Coast mixed numbers hematite pig-iron. Manufactured iron and steel: There is little improvement in the demand for steel. Cheaper foreign currency is likely to have an adverse effect. The principal quotations are: Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s.; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £10 10s.; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ores: Consumers are still holding for lower prices, but with firmer freights they cannot well buy at lower prices. Best Bilbao Rubio is nominally 23s per ton.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says:—Ship plates have been cut 10s a ton at £8 10s for export to both China and India, while the home figure is £9. Sections are the turn lower at £8 for export, and £8 10s. for home (Glasgow) delivery. Interest in the locomotive industry centres round several Indian inquiries for powerful engines that are in the market, including one for 92 engines. Bar iron branches are in a poor way for orders, and steel bar producers are feeling the effects of keen Belgian competition. Locally, steel bars are quoted £9 5s. for home consumption, and 5s less for export. Black sheet makers remain fairly well off, on colonial commissions, but they are quieter on near-by work. Several respectable lines of steel tubes have been secured this week, on Indian and Australian accounts, as prospects are more encouraging. An active trade, comparatively, continues to pass in Scotch foundry pig-iron, almost entirely, however, as for some time past, with the United States. Singularly enough, there is no lack of inquiry on home interest, and buyers are starving for material, for no sooner are purchases fixed than their delivery is pressed for, showing that consumers have no reserves. Yet purchasers decline to go ahead, and if any

forward emergency were to arise, they, it is seen, would be sharply caught short. Nearly the whole of the current make is going across the Atlantic. Last week the shipments reached 7,700 tons, and practically all outputs for the remainder of the year are booked up, and these will not, it seems, be added to until the forward situation is more clearly defined. Prices keep firm at 10s for No. 3, and 10s 7s for No. 1, both f.a.s. on trucks at Glasgow. Coals strong in tendency, the feature continuing the generality of inquiry—for all qualities—from Scandinavia, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and France. Authorities are satisfied that the foreign markets are gradually being regained.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The position in the coal market is a very healthy one. The American demand has been practically exhausted. The shipments last week to the United States and Canada were only about 27,000 tons, compared with an average of over 150,000 tons per week in August and September, and chartering for the States has now been almost entirely discontinued. Demand from other markets, however, is very active, and particularly for South America, where bumper crops are promising good homeward charters. Outputs are being maintained at over one million tons per week, but an active export and an improving inland demand is absorbing all that is being produced and prices this week-end are even a little higher than they were last week. The following are the current market prices:—Best Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s 6d; second Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; best drys, 28s to 29s; best Black Veins, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 17s; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s to 14s; anthracite Big Vein, 57s 6d to 60s; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 65s to 67s 6d; anthracite French and stove nuts, 70s to 73s; Rubbly Culm, 14s to 14s 6d; coke for export, 35s to 40s; inland blast surface coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 25s 6d to 27s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 30s to 31s. Coke is an improving market, but patent fuel is extremely depressed. The high cost of pitch, the high cost of small coal, the increased cost of labour, the effects on the depreciated currencies of France and Belgium on the relative cost of labour, and the increased severity of competition from those countries, have all combined to reduce the patent fuel trade of South Wales to approximately about 50 per cent. its pre-war volume. In the upplate trade there is more activity. The effect of the recent price regulation agreement has so far been beneficial; there is a better understanding between the steel bar manufacturers and the tinplate manufacturers; and foreign demand generally is stronger. Prices are firm at from 10s. 3d. to 10s. 4½d. Galvanised sheets are also a brighter market, with corrugated sheets at £16 4s to £16 10s per ton f.o.b., while the scrap market is also steadier.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—October 20, 1922.

Description.	Com.						Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.			
		Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	
		d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	
Sea Island.....	..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
Florida do.....	..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
Georgia do.....	..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
American.....	Ord	G	O	L	M	Mid	G	M	M	G	L	M	
Brazilian :		1195	1245	1315	1380	1375	1460	1004	1134	1344	8-38	1193	1848
Pernam.....		1215	1330	1460	..	..	..	1009	1259	..	1148	1698	..
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.		1215	1330	1460	..	..	..	1009	1259	..	1148	1698	..
Maceio, &c.....		1215	1330	1460	..	..	..	1009	1259	..	1148	1698	..
Mossoro, &c.....		1215	1330	1460	..	..	..	1009	1259	..	1148	1698	..
Ceara.....		1215	1330	1460	..	..	..	1009	1259	..	1148	1698	..
Maranhão, &c.....		1215	1330	1460	..	..	..	1009	1259	..	1148	1698	..
São Paulo.....		1230	1310	1355	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian :		Fr.	G	F	Fr.	Gd	Fne	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upper.....		1300	1400	1450	1500	1550	..	1700	2000	..	nm	2200	..
Sakellaridis.....		1450	1675	1750	1950	2125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown.....		1300	1450	1550	1625	1800	..	1725	2125	..	nm	3100	..
Peruvian.....		MF	Fr.	G	F	Gd	Fne	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rough.....		..	..	1400	1450	1500	..	..	1550	..	2700	..	..
Moderately Rough.....		..	..	1300	1375	1425	..	..	1325	1550	..	1400	2300
Smooth.....		1315	1485	1540	1590	1695	1209	1484	1659	1648	2098	2748	..
Tanguis.....		1315	1465	1565	1615	1710	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mitafi.....		..	..	1100	1300	1450	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Indian, &c.....		..	..	1225	1325	1400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do Sea Island.....		..	..	2200	2500	2800	2900	3000	3500	..	6200	7200	..
African, East, &c.....	9-25	1025	1200	1300	1400	1500	1150	1350	1550	1200	1500	2900	..
Do.....		..	..	1215	1265	1290	nm	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do West.....	G	F	rer	Gd	F	G	Fne	S	Fr	Fr	Gd	F	Fr
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	..	..	..	1210	1250	1290	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Broach.....	..	1080	1120	1160	1200	1240	1080	1105	1180	1160	1210	1310	..
Mach. Ginned Bhowngugur.....	8-85	9-35	9-85	10-25	10-65	11-05	8-90	9-44	10-14	9-69	10-69	12-29	..
Mach. Ginned Oomra No. 1.....	9-45	9-95	10-35	10-75	11-15	..	9-00	9-50	10-50	9-75	10-75	12-35	..
Mach. Ginned Oomra No. 2.....	..	..	..	9-70	10-10	10-50	10-90	10-90	10-90	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Khandeish.....	..	8-95	9-45	9-85	10-25	10-65	8-25	8-75	9-75	7-00	8-00	9-60	..
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	1050	..	1090	..	..	..	..	9-20	..	..	1210	..	..
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	710	750	790	830	870	910	765	815	915	7-25	7-75	8-75	..
Machine Ginned Scinde.....	700	740	780	820	860	900	775	803	903	7-07	7-57	8-57	..
Tinnivelly.....	1210	1250	1290	..	..	..	1230	1255	..	1310	1335	..	..
Madras, Western.....	9-85	1025	1165	1105	..	..	9-20	9-45	..	1185	1235	..	..
Madras, Northern.....	..	..	1090	..	..	..	..	..	..	1025	..	..	..
M.G. Coconada, Red.....	Fr.	1050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

certain makers of well-known styles have sold more freely. Plenty of inquiry has been about for India, and a fair trade has been done, chiefly for Calcutta. Sized goods have been in request for Egypt, finishing descriptions for South America, and fancies for the United States. More activity is now showing itself in home trade goods. All kinds of yarns have been dearer in quotation, and the total sales have been rather better. It is still hard work for spinners to obtain remunerative rates.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Oct. 25, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Oct. 13.	Oct. 12.	Oct. 5.	Sept. 28.	Sept. 21.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	14-34	13-85	13-15	12-44	12-78	13-24
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	17-75	17-75	17-40	17-15	17-25	17-50
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	20 1/2	20 1/2	20	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2
— 40's twist .. per lb	20 1/2	20 1/2	19 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2	19
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	23 1/2	23 1/2	23	22 1/2	22 1/2	23
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	30 9	30 6	30 0	30 0	30 0	31 0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	31 6	31 0	30 6	30 6	30 6	31 0
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	18 0	17 9	17 6	17 3	17 3	17 6
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	16 3	16 0	15 9	15 9	15 9	16 0

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Oct. 25, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	14-34	12-55	12-21	25-20	22-25	22-27
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	17-75	23-00	43-00	35-50	29-40	31-95
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	20 1/2	21 1/2	41	47 1/2	54 1/2	29 1/2
— 40's twist .. per lb	20 1/2	21	39	45 1/2	55 1/2	29 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	23 1/2	40	58	68	69	44
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	30 9	35 0	66 0	67 0	72 0	38 0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	31 6	35 0	63 0	64 0	69 0	37 0
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	18 0	21 0	37 0	38 3	39 3	22 6
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	16 3	20 0	29 0	33 6	35 0	20 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market has not been quite so active during this week, at least so far as home trade is concerned. Users have evidently bought sufficient during the last three weeks to cover their immediate requirements, and many are now inclined to take things easy for a bit before adding to their commitments. Some firms are uneasy about the position of merinos, and it is noticeable that none will do anything in the nature of speculative buying. The contention appears to be that merinos have gone up to a dangerously high level, and although there are no indications of any easing in values, it is felt that trade would be on a sounder basis if prices could be brought to something like 4s 9d for 64's tops instead of, as at present, about 5s 3d per lb. But while the home trade has been less active, there has been considerable activity on American account, and some very big weights of crossbred tops have been taken off this market for export to the States. This, combined with the strong demand for fine crossbred wool in London, has had a hardening effect on quotations, and if only the recent spurt can be maintained the position of crossbreds should greatly improve. It is also noticeable that the present high price of merino is bringing fine crossbreds more into favour, though the piece trade shows little change in the popular taste for the soft-handling Botany fabrics. Spinners are busy, and most firms report a fair amount of new business, though current quotations are mostly too high for manufacturers. The manufacturing section, indeed, is still rather under a cloud. Reports of financial difficulties, both in Manchester and Bradford, are having a disturbing effect on trade, and it is obvious that merchants are in anything but a comfortable position. Wool, tops, and yarns appear to be very strong, but pieces cannot be sold at anything like to-day's production costs.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The London sales finished on Thursday, and though the prices paid during the closing days did not include such extreme figures as were made during the second week, the final results cannot but be regarded as exceedingly good. The series has been characterised by the fact that crossbred offerings have been in the majority, and this may have had something to do with the figures during the last few days for fine crossbreds scarcely coming up to the previous level. The offerings, however, have been good as well as large, and have indicated the popularity among growers of the rotation breeds. American competition has given a real "lift" to prices. At one time 50-56's fleeces were as much as 20 per cent. above September rates, but at the close 15 per cent. covered all the advance. Medium and coarse qualities were 7 1/2 to 10 per cent. dearer; in fact, the demand experienced and the distinct increase in prices has left behind a very satisfactory impression, both with the directors of B.A.W.R.A. and those watching the interests of Australian and New Zealand growers. It would have been just as well if there had been a better selection of merinos, but, all the same, the wools available have been satisfactorily cleared. The home trade has again been the mainstay of the series, although increasing quantities have been taken on export account, America proving to be a most valuable customer. French and other Continental buyers have felt the effect of the depreciation in their

currencies, and it is regrettable that practically all Continental exchanges have been so severely depressed. If this does not arrest the upward tendency of wool values, one can almost conclude that the wool trade can stand anything.

America purchasing so extensively of crossbreds augurs well for the future, and it is to be hoped that this class of staple will continue to be bought on trans-Atlantic account. By the means indicated the outlook for crossbreds has been very greatly changed for the better, and there is every likelihood of the New Zealand sales opening next month under far better conditions than last season. Many think that, owing to the excessively high cost of botany suits, the American public will go on to crossbreds. Evidently American clothiers are doing their utmost to provide wearing apparel at little more than the prices current for the spring trade. Clean-cut serges made from 48-56's will present a very good appearance, the American public not being entirely used to such fine, soft-handling fabrics as the general populace in this country. Many have been expecting the high prices for botany cloths to drive demand on to fine and medium crossbreds, but although there are better signs to-day of fabrics made from 56's becoming popular, spinners and manufacturers are finding that fashion still largely leans towards botanies. At the same time, more interest is being shown in crossbreds in manufacturing centres, which is always the first move towards these cloths being taken by the public.

The manufacturing situation to-day is such as to give rise to a fair degree of optimism, but, as I have repeatedly said, I see no necessity for higher prices for merinos. There are indications that the quantity of wool available, even merinos, will be sufficient to cover all requirements. The trade would be wisely advised to push the sale of crossbred cloths. The higher merinos go the greater will be the probability of an increased demand for crossbred fabrics from the general public. America can do a good deal by setting fashions in this respect, and if the weight of crossbred wool of 48's upwards purchased by that country during the past month is anything to go by, the outlook for that class of raw material has substantially improved.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The improved tone in the oil and seed markets has been maintained, and seeing no immediate prospect of reduced prices home consumers have shown more interest. Raw linseed oil has been in good demand, and this, together with scarcity for prompt delivery, has assisted to maintain values, which, if anything, are somewhat dearer on the week, 4s 4d having been paid for spot oil and 4s 3d for the later months of the year. The January-April position has been done at 4s 3s 10s, but has since eased off to 4s 3s 10s. Cotton oils have been a firm market, with a brisk inquiry for both crude and refined at advanced prices. Crude Egyptian has been very scarce in near positions, but relief is promised by the first arrivals of new crop seed, oil from which is commanding good prices. A substantial trade has been done in old crude, which is firmly held for 4s 3s, while ordinary refined (soap makers' grade) quotes 4s 3s 10s per ton naked, ex Hull mill. Crude soya bean oil has benefited in sympathy, and has sold well at 20s advance. Rape oil in prompt and near positions is still very scarce, though home supplies of late have been supplemented by imports from Belgium. Ground nut oil is firm and dearer, and palm kernel oil steady at about unchanged values. Castor oil (first pressure) offers at 4s 4s ex Hull mill (barrels free).

Linseed continues firm, old crop Plate offering sparingly and shippers holding out for full quotations. Late last week Hull crushers were in the market, and bought between 4,500 and 5,000 tons on spot at 19, current value being 19 10s spot and September-October shipment. For December-January 17 has been paid, and for January-February 16 12s 6d; but these positions are now easier, new crop January-February offering at 16 5s. Calcutta to London has commanded up to 21 7s 6d, October shipment. The new Egyptian cottonseed has begun to move off, and a good trade to Hull has been done in black at 10 2s 6d. October, and in sakellarides 9 10s to 9 12s 6d, October and November, since when prices hardened to 10 10s for black and 10 10s for sakellarides. Soya beans are steady. Fair quantities have been taken by Liverpool at 10 11s 3d to 10 6s 3d for shipment. Rapeseed quieter, and what trade there is is chiefly on Continental account.

Rather a better demand for both linseed and cotton cakes is reported, but prices show little change.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market appears to have reached its maximum as far as price is concerned, at any rate for the present, as all classes were steady at Thursday's Bernandsey auctions. Best ox again made from 8 1/2 to 10d, the only advance being on Herefords and Runts, which made from 9 1/2 to 10 1/2. Cows and calf showed no alteration, wools again making from 4s 10 to 9s, and hogs 3s 2d to 11s. Tanners are buying very sparingly of imported hides, although the price in the River Plate still shows an advance owing to the demand of the U.S.A. for River Plate hides. Dry hides are selling rather better, sales of Capes being reported at 9 1/2 to 9 3/4 for best grades. The American position is cabled as strong, with best Chicago packers selling at 23 cents.

The demand for sole leather remains steady, although some operators report a decline in their turnover. Tanners are doing their best to obtain higher prices for sole bends and butts, but consumers resist this, and pass to something of a lower grade. Repairers have been in the market for 12 1/4 lb bends, which are wanted round about 24d to 30d. Rough dressing leather is selling slowly, as tanners have advanced prices. E.I. kips are slow, as shippers' prices are too high for carriers.

The tone of the upper leather market is quiet, although better inquiry has been felt for wax butts and splits, whilst semi-chrome at a low price is also again wanted. Glacé kid is moving off better, but the low grades seem to be the most popular. Prices are very firm, and importers of American leather asking advances for many grades.

The boot trade remains fairly good, and news from the most important centres is to the effect that spring sampling has been the great feature of late. Fear is expressed in the leather trades, however, that the coming election will again adversely affect business.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, October 27.

SUGAR.—The market opened the week with a generally dull tone, the trade in general being content to operate merely to satisfy pressing requirements, but subsequently transactions were on a more extended scale, while trend of values is still firm. This is due to the fact that supplies of refined coming forward from producing countries remain small, also stringency existing with regard to raws. Of British refined, Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, quoted, 50s 6d to 57s 6d; crushed, 53s 6d; nibs, 56s; granulated, fine and coarse, 51s 10 1/2d; No. 1, 51s 7 1/2d; No. 2, also London, 51s 4 1/2d; Easter, finest, 55s 1 1/2d; A, 53s 4 1/2d; B, 52s 9d; yellow crystals, 45s 4 1/2d; pieces, 35s 6d to 40s for yellows, and fine white 46s 1 1/2d. Forward granulated, December, sold, 50s 9d; and January-March, 50s 6d. Glebe K granulated, spot, London, 50s 9d; and orchard, fine, 59s 7 1/2d. Crystallised West India sold quietly at 42s to 45s 6d, as to quality. White Mauritius, spot, changed hands at 47s 3d to 47s 9d, as to sample; good dry white Brazilian, 47s 3d. American granulated, spot, done 50s; white Java cleared at 48s 1 1/2d to 48s 9d for fair to fine, with afloat parcels 20s 7 1/2d to 20s 9d, c.f. and i. terms, London. Czecho-Slovakian, granulated, December, held for 22s, and cubes 24s 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch granulated, W.S.R., &c., 22s 9d; cubes, 27s; J granulated, 22s 3d, all prompt shipment, f.o.b., Amsterdam. Belgian crystals, October-December, sold, 19s 10 1/2d; granulated, October, 20s 4 1/2d, and November-December, 20s 3d, f.o.b., Antwerp. Good grocery French crystals, November-December, sold, 20s 3d, f.o.b., Boulogne. Cuban basis, 96 per cent., November, quoted 19s; Peruvian ditto, 17s 9d; Brazilian basis, 80 per cent., November-December, 9s 3d, c.f. and i. terms, U.K. Terminal market steadier. White December sold, 21s 3d to 21s 6d, and May, 21s 6d to 21s 9d, 21s 7 1/2d. Cuban stocks stand at 254,100 tons, against 1,163,400 same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 25s.

COFFEE.—There was a moderate trade doing, and prices for the main part ruled steady. In auction, good bold Nairobi, sold, 102s 6d. Vera Paz, 103s to 105s 6d; good middling, Costa Rica, 113s 6d. Future delivery market very quiet, and small sales include December delivery at 60s 3d.

COCOA.—Actual dealings on spot were confined to a limited compass, but sellers adhered to steady asking prices. Fine Grenada, sold, 53s. Accra, FF quality, November-January, sold, 37s, f.o.b. terms. Butter slow at 1s 7d per lb.

TEA.—During the week 43,650 packages Indian were brought to auction, and with no abatement in demand, a strong market resulted, most medium and common qualities being higher. Fine sorts realised very full rates. Slightly over 9,000 packages Ceylon were catalogued, and while fine samples fetched full rates, grades up to 1s 7d per lb were eagerly competed for, and values ruled 4d to 1d per lb dearer. Some stand-out lots of Indian broken pekoe sold 3s 6 1/2d to 4s 6d per lb in bond. Java and Sumatra sold readily 1d to 3d per lb advance.

RICE.—Market firm forward, but general course of trade is quiet. Two stars, spot, 15s to 15s 3d; October-November sold, 14s, c.f. and i. Continent. No. 1 garden Siam, October-November, double bags, quoted 14s 7 1/2d. Broken kinds slow, unaltered. Rangoon beans dearer, and hand-picked, spot, sold, 7s 9d. Japanese peas firm, but general trade quiet. September-October, sold, 26s 9d to 28s 6d; October-November, 25s 6d to 27s; December-January, 24s 6d to 25s 6d.

SPICE.—Only quiet trading resulted in pepper, and prices forward tended in buyers' favour. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 3 1/2d; October-December, 3 1/2d; December-February, 3 1/2d. Aleppy, spot, quoted 4d; Tellicherry, 4 1/2d; Ceylon, 4d; white Singapore, 5 1/2d; Muntok, 6d; ditto, December-February, sold, 5 1/2d to 5 3/4d. Zanzibar cloves, on spot, quoted 1s 5d; October-December, 6 1/2d; January-March, 6 1/2d, c.f. and i. terms. Pimento, spot, quiet at 2 1/2d; flake tapioca, spot, 2 1/2d per lb; ditto, October-November, steamer, to Havre, sold, 23s 6d; fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 20s 9d. Sago flour, October-December, done, 12s 6d. American corn flour, spot, 14s 1 1/2d. Desiccated coconut, spot, sold, fine cut, 36s; medium, 36s; halves, October-November, 35s 6d. Ginger steady, quiet.

FRUIT.—The market for currants remained steady, and there was a moderate inquiry. Pyrgos quoted 74s; bold Patras, 77s to 80s; Vestizza being quiet at 95s to 100s. Valencia raisins firm to slightly dearer, and during the week the bulk of the 328 tons offered was disposed of. Quarters sold from 77s to 130s; eights, 104s to 130s; seedless, 96s to 118s. Muscatels in auction met with rather quiet support, and prices gave way to the extent of 5s to 10s per cwt on the week. Ordinary 10 good, sold, 70s to 90s; fine to choice, 95s to 132s 6d; and extras, 140s to 145s. Sultanais quiet of sale. Smyrna, 132s to 148s; choice, 150s to 160s. Figs quietly, steady. Layers range from 130s to 160s; pulled, 160s to 200s; Malaga, on edge, 42s to 50s. Dates steady, quiet. Siar, spot, 20s.

JUTE.—After ruling dull and prices lower, this market improved owing to buying orders coming to hand from Calcutta, and which caused sellers to exercise reserve. First grade, November-December, Continent, sold, 430 15s to 431 10s; December-January, 431 5s to 431 15s; lightning grade, November-December, 428 10s to 429 10s. Hessians quiet, and rates much lower on the week. 10-oz, spot, 30s; October-December, 28s; January-March, 28s; 8-oz, spot, 24s; October-December, 23s. A twills, spot, 81s; October-December, 76s; B, spot, 64s; October-December, 63s; sugars, spot, 75s; flour, 75s.

HEMP.—Manila in moderate support, and market steady. F grade, October-December, quoted 439; G, 434 10s; H, 433; J, 431 10s; K, 430 10s; L, 429 10s; M, 425 10s. New Zealand idle, and quotations largely nominal. African sisal, No. 1 G.E.A., October-December, 434 10s; and B.E.A., 434.

SHELLAC dealer, with fair general inquiries. T.N., spot, 315s; D-cember, sold, 285s to 302s 6d.

COPRA.—Market slightly unsettled during the week, and actual trade was confined to a moderate compass. F.M.S., Straits, November-January and December-February, Rotterdam, sold, 423 17s 6d to 424 3s 9d and 424 1s 3d; Ceylon, October-December, done, 425 5s; Java, 424 12s 6d, sellers; Dutch East Indies, sellers, 424 5s; mixed, 423; South Sea Islands, 422 17s 6d. Palm kernels, November-January, Liverpool, sold, 416 15s to 416 18s 9d.

“UBBER.”—Quite a good volume of business was carried through daily, but irregularity prevailed at times. Standard plantation crepe and sheet, spot, sold, 11 1/2d to 1s 0 1/2d, 11 1/2d; December, 1s to 1s 0 1/2d, 11 1/2d; January-March, 1s 0 1/2d to 1s 0 1/2d, 1s; April-June, 1s 0 1/2d to 1s 0 1/2d. To New York standard sheet, December-January, sold, 1s 0 1/2d to 1s, c.f. and i. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 1/2d; soft fine, 1 1/2d; bail, 10d.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market firm, and prime liquid yolk, spot, sold, 105s; October-December, 99s per cwt. Dried yolk, spot, 0 1/2d; native dried whole egg, 8d; spray, 10d. Albumen, spot, 3s per lb.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 32s 6d; forward, sold, 28s 6d; aniseed oil, spot, 2s 2d; forward, 2s. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 7s 6d; forward, 6s 9d; slab camphor, spot, 3s 7d; crude, 3s 4d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 81s cwt.

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD PRIVATBANK,

Fredriksstad.

Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21.000.000.

Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

GIRARD TRUST COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



Equipped to perform all
kinds of fiduciary ser-
vice—under appointment
by courts, corporations
and individuals.

Correspondence invited.

Chartered 1826.

Capital and Surplus - \$10,000,000.

Member of Federal Reserve System.

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 4,132

London Office - 56a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
Manager: E. CONSOLO.
Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

The Money Market	839	Books and Publications	
		Merchant Shipping	857
Leading Articles —		Books Received	857
Negative and Positive	839	Stock Exchange News —	
The Fascisti in Power	840	The Stock Markets	858
The French Exchange	841	New Issues	858
The Facts of Unemployment	841	Active Securities	859
Fiscal Consequences of the		Company Meetings	860
Irish Treaty.....	845	Government Returns —	
Our Index Number.....	843	Currency Notes Account ..	865
		Public Income and Expen-	
Notes of the Week —		diture	865
Preparing for the Lausanne		Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Conference	844	by Public Tender	866
Austrian Politics and the		Bankers' Gazette —	
League Plan	845	Bank of England	866
The Municipal Elections	845	Clearing Returns	867
Stock Markets and the		Overseas Bank Returns	867
Election.....	846	Loan and Discount Rates ..	869
The Trade Facilities Act	846	Overseas Bank Rates	869
The Fall in Brazilian Bonds ..	847	Rates of Exchange	869
The Central American Con-		Indian Treasury Bills	870
ference	847	Bullion	870
Mr Hoover's Speech	847	Imports and Exports of Gold ..	870
Charges for Finishing Cotton		Gold and Silver Prices	870
Goods	847	Company News —	
Cotton Trade Wages	848	Analysis of Balance-sheets ..	865
Union Cold Storage	848	Mining Outputs	871
The Swedish Iron Trade	848	Dividend Announcements ..	871
Cam and Motor	848	Railway & Tramway Traffic	
New Band Treatment		Reports and Notices	873
Method	848	Oil Outputs	873
Overseas Correspondence —		Summary of Company Profit	
United States	849	and Loss Accounts	874
France	850	Commercial Reports —	
Germany	852	Corn Trade	873
Italy	853	Iron and Coal Trade	875
Switzerland	854	Cotton Trade	875
Holland	854	Wool Trade	876
Czechoslovakia	855	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds ..	877
		Hides and Leather Trades ..	877
Letters to the Editor —		Overseas Produce Markets ..	877
Foreign Interests in Turkey ..	856	Price Current	878
Currency and Business.....	857		
Inflation in Germany.....	857		

Quarterly, 14s. 6d.; Half-yearly, 1l. 9s. 6d.; Yearly, 4l. 18s. 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, 4l. 15s. 6d. per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s. 6d.
Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."
Office: Granville House, Abchurch Lane, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5 Birchlin lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 53 Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 22 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: *Economist* Office, 20 Broad street (Room 1,709).

HAVING succeeded, rather to its own surprise, in paying the Bank of England on Monday, and, nevertheless, getting through the demands of the last day of the month without further borrowing, the market experienced unexpected stringency on Wednesday, when a considerable sum was disbursed in interest on Government debt. A mysterious demand for short Treasury bills eased the position on the last day of October, and gossip, as usual, talked of the "hidden hand," but a more commonplace explanation suggested that one of the big banks found itself with more

				Per Cwt.					Per Cwt.				
			s	d					s	d			
English	British	Queens	3	0	to	3	3	Majestic.....	3	0	to	0	0
"	Eclipse		2	6		3	0	King Edwards	3	0		4	3

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.			DRUGS.			INDIA RUBBER—lb.			PROVISIONS.			SPICES—per lb.		
0000A—Duty, British grown			Alcane fine E.L. p.cwt 120	150	0	Para, fine, hard spot	1	10	Butter—per cwt.			Singapore, fair white	0	50
25.4d. foreign 22cwt.	4	0	Cape, good to fine.	23	0	Plantation crepe	8	112	Irish creamery	194	0	Singapore, fair white	0	50
Grain, per cwt.	6	72	Balaam Peru. per lb.	0	0	RENUO—per lb.			Do factory	145	0	White Blam	0	50
Trinidad, per cwt.	47	0	Cashew	0	0	Kenai, good, red vio	6	0	Arctic	173	0	Chimento	0	50
Ceylon, plantation	79	0	Japan, refined	3	3	Nid. red vio	6	0	Dutch	222	0	Chimento—let sort.	0	50
Guayaquil	50	0	Cardamoms, ceylon	4	3	Low to good, ord.	5	6	New Zealand	200	0	Do	0	50
Bahia, Brazil	50	0	Do Java or B.	4	3	Malaya, dry leaf, good	5	6	Beacon, engd.—Irish.	115	0	Do 3rd	0	50
0000B—British grown			Castor-oil, cwt.	85	96	Do low to good	5	6	Danish	115	0	Do 4th	0	50
25.4d. foreign 22cwt.	4	0	Gum Bulim, Bismarck	500	100	Kupah, mid. to gd.	5	6	Danish	125	0	Charles Ligures	0	50
E India seed good fine	103	0	Olibanum	0	0	Low to mid.	5	6	American	100	0	Oloves—Zanzibar	0	50
Good to fine	105	0	Do to good, ord.	0	0	HERM—per ton	6	0	Hams—Irian	nom	0	Penang	0	50
Good to fine	105	0	Peperumcahu	0	0	Russian Spices	6	0	America	108	0	Gochin, crg.	100	0
Central America	89	0	Yalap	0	0	Net. Belg.	31	10	Lead—Irish bladders	1	0	Do small rough	55	0
Mid to fine	88	0	Mid. Ind. China	0	0	N.Z., spot, high fair	34	0	American boxes, sold	72	0	Do washed	57	0
Colombia, ord to mid	88	0	Aniseed	0	0	JUTE	0	0	For. to be made	9	0	Jamaica, small	176	0
Do good to fine	88	0	Pepperim, H.O.H.	24	0	Native first marks	0	0	Beef—Frozen, per lb	9	0	Small	16	0
Do good to fine	88	0	Rabha, China to fine	0	0	LEATH—per lb.	0	0	Scotch	7	0	Small to medium	0	0
Do good to fine	88	0	DYE STUFFS, &c.	70	0	Do do 10 1/2	1	0	New Zealand—Canadian	104	0	Obilles—per lb.	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Galla China, per cwt	27	0	Do do 12 1/2	1	0	Eng, Cheddars	96	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Turmeric, per cwt	27	0	Do do 14 1/2	1	0	Cheddars	nom	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Madras, finger	36	0	Do do 16 1/2	1	0	Eng, per 127—English	58	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Gambler, block	32	0	Do do 17 1/2	1	0	Irish	24	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Onion, ord to fair	36	0	Do do 18 1/2	1	0	FLAX—per lb.	0	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 19 1/2	1	0	Eng straight to mid	41	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 20 1/2	1	0	RICE—per cwt. c.f.	6	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 21 1/2	1	0	Bangkok No. 2	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 22 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 23 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 24 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 25 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 26 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 27 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 28 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 29 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 30 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 31 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 32 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 33 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 34 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 35 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 36 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 37 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 38 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 39 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 40 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 41 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 42 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 43 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 44 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 45 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 46 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 47 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 48 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 49 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 50 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 51 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 52 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 53 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 54 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 55 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 56 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 57 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 58 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 59 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 60 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 61 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 62 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 63 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 64 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 65 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 66 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 67 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 68 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 69 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 70 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 71 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 72 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 73 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 74 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 75 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 76 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 77 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 78 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 79 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 80 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 81 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 82 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 83 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 84 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 85 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 86 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 87 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 88 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 89 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 90 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 91 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 92 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 93 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 94 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 95 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 96 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 97 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 98 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 99 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 100 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 101 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do small	16	2
Do good to fine	88	0	Do to good, ord.	36	0	Do do 102 1/2	1	0	Do small	14	0	Do		

cash in hand than it had anticipated. On Thursday ease had returned, thanks, as was shown by the Bank of England's figures, to fresh borrowing by the Treasury, and discount rates slackened slightly in sentiment, though there was hardly enough business to test them. Yesterday money was in fairly comfortable supply, but the unexpectedly high rate at which the Treasury Bills were allotted had some effect on market rates of discount. Commercial bills, which had been placed previously at $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., were quoted rather nominally at $2\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.

	Nov. 3, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	$3\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase, owing to the end-of-the-month demands for currency, of £1,272,000 in the note circulation, but as there was a small increase in the gold stock, the Reserve declined by only £1,270,000. Government borrowings increased the Government securities by three millions, and the market's repayments diminished the Other securities by $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions. There was a small decline in the Public deposits, and Other deposits were a million and a quarter lower. The circulation of currency notes was increased by £822,900 to £287,992,900, on the return dated November 2nd, which includes £1,543,200 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £238,299,700, or £71,688,700 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The monthly settlement, the November 1st holiday, and the approach of the General Election, naturally proved to be a sufficiently strong combination of influences to keep the stock markets quiet. War Loan, Consols, and other British Government stocks were worked down, but rallied towards the end of the week on the results of the municipal elections. That the Indian Government had chosen an unfortunate moment to float its huge loan was proved by the announcement that 91 per cent. was left on the underwriters' hands, the stock being initially quoted at $1\frac{1}{2}$ discount. French bonds have moved sharply with the exchange, but lower levels have brought in speculative purchasers. Brazilian stocks rallied on an improvement in the milreis. Among home rails, Great Westerns were a strong feature in a market that improved in the latter part of the week. Argentine rails continue to show strength. The rubber share market remains fairly active, and was encouraged by news that the Stevenson Committee's recommendations have been put into force in Ceylon, Malaya, and Straits Settlements. Among industrials the iron and steel section has been prominent on provincial support, but the motor show has produced no more than a languid interest in motor shares. The oil market is quiet. South African mining shares developed fresh strength, and were supported by Cape orders.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Markets as a rule are dull, most of them probably being affected by the amount of energy diverted to preparations for the General Election. Although the larger inquiry in the Manchester cotton market has been well maintained, reports of actual business are rather disappointing, and though there is little sign of any weakening in wool values, the market is quieter, business being on restricted lines. Our wool trade correspondent mentions that "it is generally admitted that the state of the piece trade does not warrant current prices for tops and yarns." There is still some demand for pig-iron from America, and this tends to keep prices steady, both for Cleveland and hematite; whilst the price of the former remains at 92s 6d per ton, the quotation for mixed numbers East Coast hematite is now 93s per ton. A slight improvement is noticeable in the demand for steel. A further improvement is this week reported in the tinplate industry, while considerable strength is recorded in the South Wales coal market; coal shipments at South Wales ports recorded by Customs authorities last week amounted to 698,000 tons, as against

an average weekly export trade in 1913 of 600,000. The good demand continues for linseed oil, and the price is well maintained. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Speculation has dominated the exchanges during the past week, and in consequence the markets have shown great activity. The depreciation in the principal exchanges which started a short time ago has continued, and there appears nothing to stop this movement until the international political situation has been cleared. The French franc now stands at 65.10, compared with 62.90 on the 28th ult., no doubt on account of the serious view taken in regard to the financial position of France at this moment and her great dependence on the German Reparations payments and the deficit shown in the Budget. The German mark has fallen to 28,500, showing a depreciation of over 10,000 since our last report. Herr Schröder's evidence before the Reparation Commission, indicating that he estimated the present deficit in the German Budget at 450,000 million marks had a disastrous effect on the quotation, and it would appear that there is nothing to prevent Germany's bankruptcy under present conditions. Belgian francs have moved in sympathy with France, and are now 70.00. The Italian lira has appreciated to 106, after having been seen as high as 117, the rate being sympathetically affected by the Fascist triumph. Rumours are current of exchange control again being introduced, but no confirmation is obtainable, and Italian financial circles are against this official interference. The dollar has moved between very narrow limits, and in view of the fluctuations in the other principal exchanges, it is satisfactory to note that the dollar value for sterling has maintained its high level, being now 4.46. The Swiss franc has risen to 2.458; this movement is attributed to the proposed introduction of the tax on capital, which, if introduced, must have a serious effect on the banking position of the country, owing to the large balances held by the Swiss banks on account of foreigners. Holland is round about 11.38, showing very little movement, and this exchange has not so far been seriously affected by the fall in the mark, in spite of the obvious liquidation by holders of this currency which must be occurring in view of the large amounts held there. Madrid is about 29.25, showing a further rise, and Portugal is $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. In regard to Scandinavian exchanges, these have been very quiet, Sweden having fluctuated very little at 16.56, Norway at 24.45, and Denmark 22.16. The Finnish rate still continues to appreciate at 17.2. In Poland the depreciation in the quotation continues, the Polish mark now being seen at 65,000; very little explanation appears to be forthcoming as to the actual cause of this. Vienna is approximately 320,000, and pessimistic opinions still prevail as to the country's financial position. Prague is 140, showing a slight improvement, and Bucharest at 710 also shows an appreciation. The Athens rate has depreciated to 230. In the East the rupee shows very little alteration at 1s 3 21-32d; whilst the yen has been steady at 2s 1 31-32d. In South America, Buenos Aires is quoted at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$, whilst Brazil is slightly better at 64. Valparaiso is 33d, and there is talk of a 20-year loan from America to Chile to the extent of \$18,000,000, to be issued at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 28th:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	11,332	Interest on Debt	1,735
		Supply Services	6,370
		Added to Exchequer Balances ..	435
		Sundries	936
		Reduction of Debt	1,856
	11,332		11,332

Property and Income-tax at £2,806,000 was the largest item of revenue during the week ended October 28, 1922, which compares with £1,877,000 in the corresponding period. Customs yielded £2,743,000, against £2,869,000, while Excise receipts at £1,719,000 compare with £1,842,000. Estate, &c., Duties amounted to £1,270,000, as compared with £1,172,000. Special Receipts yielded only £180,000, against £2,816,000 in the corresponding week last year. The week's operations reduced the

National Debt by £1,855,864, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 400	National War Bonds paid off ..	- 250
Treasury Bills	+ 2,929	Bank of England Advances	- 250
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 2,380	Public Depts. Advances	- 354
Unemployment Insurance	+ 100	War Loan Surrenders	- 532
		Funding Loan, &c.	- 500
		Depreciation Fund	- 758
	+ 5,809		- 7,664

The floating debt was reduced by £2,654,000 to £919,078,500 during the week ended October 28th.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to October 28, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	423,057,857	Raised by revenue ..	467,269,129
Dec. in balances	7,958,409	Net repayments	52,169,681
Total	415,099,448	Total	415,099,448

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	18	17	16	16	16
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,983	1,979	1,979
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,047	1,047
4% Funding Loan	...	...	...	...	...	405	405	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	...	360	357	348	346	335	335
4% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	266	266	266	266
5½% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	275	281	311	311
D. by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	40
D. by tender 4%	...	...	...	...	...	...	878	878	878
Treasury Bills	15	961	967	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	1,060	1,060
Exchequer Bonds	20	322	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	367
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	1,097	1,087	1,076	1,076
Other Debt	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,076
American Loan	...	51	51	51	51	...	200	147	179
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	47	66	67
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,667
Total Liabilities	57	49	46	46	47	47	51	66	67
	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,734

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Oct. 29, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Oct. 28, '22.	Oct. 28, '22.
Temporary Advances Out- standing	£ 2,250,000	£ 2,250,000	£ 2,250,000	£ 2,250,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	51,000,000	147,391,500	179,158,500	3,334,000
Advances by Public Deposits ..	164,758,000	882,219,000	739,910,000	2,930,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,125,977,000	882,219,000	919,078,500	2,654,000
Total Floating Debt	1,337,735,000	1,029,520,500	919,078,500	2,654,000

NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE.

We attempted last week to review and summarise as impassionately as possible the programme of the various parties in the coming election, and in doing so studiously avoided detailed criticism and intricate controversy. Having thus dissected the programmes, we are free to turn to matters of detail and to lay stress on what, in our opinion, are sins of omission and of commission in various quarters. There is one point, above all, that cries out for urgent notice. There is one supreme problem that will face any British Government which may be returned to power on November 15th, and that is the problem of German Reparations, together with its allied problem of international war debt. Upon the sane solution of these problems everything else depends. The parties and their leaders all talk, and rightly talk, of economy and other important subjects, but there is no policy which can possibly bring adequate alleviation to the troubles from which this country is suffering, so long as the great outstanding problems of international finance remain unsolved. On these questions Mr Bonar Law has so far been practically silent. He has, indeed, up to the present, contented himself with saying that while former estimates of Germany's capacity to pay were grossly exaggerated, the present tendency is to make an under-estimate. But he has given us no hint at all of the line of constructive policy which he proposes to adopt. Here, at any rate, is

a problem in which a negative policy is not only useless but impossible. The late Coalition Government declared its policy on these questions in the notorious Balfour Note, the harmful effect of which we hope may now be dying down. The Liberal leaders, Mr Asquith and Lord Grey, have made it clear beyond question that they are prepared to forgive the war debts of our Allies if by such paper sacrifice a sound economic solution of the Reparations problem can be reached. But so far Mr Bonar Law is silent. We are anxious to do Mr Bonar Law no injustice. To expect him to parade before the electorate a detailed programme of solution would be the height of unreasonableness, but we do regard it both as reasonable and as of vital importance that before the country goes to the polling booths the new Premier should make it quite clear along what lines his policy in this matter will be developed. We do not for one moment assume that his intention is to adopt the disastrous policy of the Balfour Note, but we do ask that he should, as the Liberal leaders have already done, define his attitude towards those great problems upon the solution of which must depend in the first instance the return of prosperity to a great manufacturing, trading, and exporting nation like Great Britain. There is still plenty of time for him to tell the country what is the general line of his policy in these matters. It is to be hoped that he will take the earliest opportunity to do so.

When we turn to the subject of economy, we are still left facing first of all the old problem of reparations and inter-Ally indebtedness. It is impossible to get away from it. As advocates of severe retrenchment in the public expenditure we yield place to none, and we join with those who maintain that there is still plenty of room for administrative saving. But until the leading international questions are settled, it is only upon what we may call the trimmings and minor items of national expenditure that saving can be achieved, for until these problems are solved we shall not get the peace and stability in Europe upon which alone great savings in the principal spending departments can be based. Let us look at the problem from another aspect. A large part of the present harassing burden of taxation is due to the huge debts piled up during the war. Interest payments upon these are obligations that no Government can fail to meet or can eliminate from its Budget. They are a lasting burden. The weight of this burden can only be made less galling to the shoulders of the taxpayer if the national income is increased; and the national income cannot be increased to a satisfactory degree until the wheels of international trade have been set into revolution at their full speed. This cannot possibly be done by any human device unless and until we have reached a solution of the outstanding problems of international finance, and of the Reparations problem first of all.

There is one essential election issue on which Mr Bonar Law's negative policy appears to imply a positive which is profoundly disquieting. In his Glasgow speech Mr Bonar Law ranked fiscal reform among those measures which must wait for a more propitious opportunity. This negative is satisfactory in so far as it reveals the temporary abandonment of tariff reform by the party which before the war found it a millstone round its neck at three General Elections. But the negative seems to imply the positive policy of maintaining on the Statute Book the Safeguarding of Industries Act and of continuing the "McKenna" duties, the patchwork measures of preference, and all the petty interferences with the free flow of trade which in recent years, some of them under the pressure of war conditions, have been imposed upon our fiscal system. It is not enough, in our opinion, that Mr Bonar Law should refuse to go further along the tariff road. It is necessary that the steps that we have taken along that road should be immediately retraced. The interests of our own trade and industry demand it; but leaving those considerations out of account, a clean sweep of the recent tariff-mongering experiments is imperatively demanded in the interests of international trade and economics generally. One of the curses of post-war economic development has been the world-wide epidemic, particularly among the new States, of the passion for raising high tariff walls. In all these countries there are Free-trade parties which have valiantly attempted to stem the tide of economic nationalism, but their hands have undoubtedly

been weakened by the failure of Free-trade England to stand by the doctrine which she has preached to other nations and on which she has waxed prosperous herself. To retrieve the reputation which England has earned in recent years of preaching Free-trade while she herself was flirting with Protection is an essential duty to the nation which is long overdue. A clean sweep of the Safeguarding of Industries Act and all the legislation in the direction of trade interference which recent years have seen would be an object-lesson, the result of which would surely redound to the economic advantage of the whole of Europe. Labour's attitude towards Free-trade is apparently dictated not so much by economic as by class feuds. Free-trade as an industrial and trade policy is glossed over. That Labour's view of the problem is a class view is suggested by the fact that while disapproving of all indirect taxation, they propose to exempt all incomes up to £250 from income-tax. In simple language, the Labour party's policy aims at entirely exempting the great mass of the people of this country from paying any taxes at all. Such a proposal is as dangerous socially as it would be unacceptable financially to any Chancellor of the Exchequer trained in the tradition of sound finance.

But however important these questions are, their consideration inevitably brings us back in the end to our main thesis, namely, that all other problems are transcended in urgency by the problem of securing a sound economic reparations settlement. So long as that problem is allowed to drift, sound policies on other questions cannot have full scope for beneficent effect. We have frequently indicated our belief that solution can only be reached through a bold offer of remission to our Continental debtors. Any political programme which places in the forefront the determination to secure a reparations settlement through the only channels by which it can profitably be approached has fulfilled the first essential requirement. Any political programme which does not explicitly include an effective policy in this matter is found fatally wanting, however sound it may be on other political and economic questions. We hope that Mr Bonar Law will let no more time pass without making it quite clear to the electorate that he intends to seize the first favourable opportunity to attempt a solution of reparations and inter-Allied debts on the broad line that we have indicated. It is, of course, possible that even on such a line he might fail, but a new Premier and a new Government will have a better chance of success than the old Premier and the old Government, and on any other lines failure is almost a foregone conclusion. The attempt may fail, but it ranks first among the national interests that the attempt should be made speedily and with determination. In some spheres of public affairs a negative policy may provide a steadiness that will be welcome after the fluctuations and variations of the past few years. But on this main question, policy must be positive, and the country ought to know quickly what Mr Bonar Law's positive policy is.

THE FASCISTI IN POWER.

THE fall of the Government of Signor Facta, and the assumption of office by the Fascisti under the leadership of Signor Mussolini, is an event of outstanding importance in Italian political life. To place in power whatever Government they like is the business of the Italian people and of no one else. But there are many reasons why the processes and causes of the Fascist rise to power should be clearly understood in this country. In the first place, we are at this moment very closely and materially interested in Italian policy in international affairs. Secondly, the path by which Signor Mussolini reached the Premiership may seem to English eyes to lie too much through the fields of force and unconstitutionality; and thirdly, there is an erroneous impression abroad that the Fascist *coup d'état* is, in the first instance, a direct demonstration against the Socialists. The Fascisti, it is sometimes supposed, are a purely bourgeois party. This supposition is keenly disputed by well-informed Italians, who point out that the party, born in the country among peasant proprietors, rapidly spread to the towns, and now recruits a large proportion of its members from the ranks of industrial workers. It must be admitted that the threat of a march on Rome

by the "black shirts," which preceded Signor Mussolini's invitation to form a Government, leaves an unpleasant taste in English mouths. It inevitably also provokes the question whether this precedent of a successful threat of force will not eventually recoil with great danger to Italy's social and political fabric. That question can only be answered by the future course of Italian politics. Meanwhile, those who base disapproval of the new Italian Government on that ground alone, will be forming an immature judgment which leaves out of account the action of political forces that have recently been at work in Italy.

Any intelligent review of the episodes in Italian history which have led up to the recent *coup d'état* must recognise that recent political and social developments in that country have to be divided into three periods. The first period opens in August, 1920, with the Socialist Revolution, if revolution it can be called. We refer, of course, to the industrial disturbance in the north of Italy, in the course of which the workers seized control of the factories and of the industries in which they were engaged. Signor Giolitti, who was Prime Minister at the time, deliberately adopted the policy of allowing the workers the fullest possible scope and opportunity for giving the experiment of workers' industrial control a good trial. Very speedily the trial proved a complete failure, and before long the failure became so manifest that the workers themselves and the Socialist party could not hide it, and even eliminated workers' control from their official programme. That is the first episode.

The second episode starts with the creation of the Fascisti party. This party, which had its origin in agricultural regions, and was doubtless "bourgeois" in its original conception, was formed with the avowed object of putting an end to subversive strikes and unreasonable industrial disputes. It is, however, claimed by those who have authority to speak that the period following on the failure of the workers' control experiment—that is to say, roughly, the latter part of 1920 and the early part of 1921, was abnormally free from strikes and industrial disputes. The general strike on May Day may be written off as an annual observance, while other strikes in which the Fascisti came into conflict with strikers were mainly political in nature. Thus, indeed, the principal purpose for which the Fascisti were avowedly brought into being did not arise in serious form.

Now we come to the latest episode in which we see the Fascisti devoting their power to an attempt to procure stable politics and efficient administration. It is necessary to follow this phase closely in order to see how erroneous is the idea that the latest *coup d'état* by the Fascisti is a direct answer to the Socialist seizure of the workshops. It is nothing of the sort. In recent times the political situation in Italy has been tending to become more and more confused. For many years there has always been a tendency in Italy towards unstable Coalition Government, because of the existence of a larger number of parties than we are accustomed to in this country; but since the introduction after the war of proportional representation—or rather as a result of the unsuitable form in which that perfectly sound principle was superimposed upon the peculiar electoral conditions of Italy—the position has become doubly confounded. The method by which this electoral system has been applied in Italy appears to have been unsuited to Italian conditions, and it has greatly intensified the evils of the group system; and whereas before the war there were, perhaps, five or six parties, there are now perhaps 20 or 25 groups, and any Government that hoped to hold a Parliamentary majority of an enduring nature was bound to include in its Cabinet ministers nominated by possibly as many as ten or a dozen groups. We in this country, with our unfortunate but limited experience of Government by the coalition of only two parties, can conjure up some dim imagination of the result. To the idea of remedying the instability and administrative inefficiency that resulted, the Fascisti turned their attention, and a strenuous campaign culminated in a demand for a share in the Government. The stage was thus set for a political crisis, but what precipitated it was this. The late Italian Government decided that Martial Law for the whole of Italy was desirable. They drafted a decree to that effect and presented it to the King for his signature. The King,

exercising what apparently in Italy is a constitutional right, refused to sanction the Martial Law project. This, of course, meant the fall of the Government, and after sundry other attempts the King sent for the head of the Fascisti to form a Government. Incidentally the powerful support which the Fascisti derive from the ranks of the Army would probably have made the application of Martial Law a fiasco.

Apparently the object of Signor Mussolini is to form a Government of the best men of his own choice, not at the dictation of the groups from which they come, and one of the first planks in his programme is drastic cutting down of public expenditure. The grave urgency of this question will be realised by all who are aware of the financial position in Italy, some features of which are discussed by our Turin correspondent on a later page. The task will not be an easy one, for the new Premier will, in the first place, have a stern battle with the bureaucracy, and will also find that, as in other countries, drastic economy is the reverse of popular, so soon as its effects begin to be felt. The attempt to perform it will be watched with sympathy by observers of whatever nationality, who realise the crying need for sane finance in Europe. But it is naturally the foreign policy of Signor Mussolini that will be awaited with the most acute interest in this country. In this sphere the new Italian Premier's first steps have been happily conducive to confidence, both in France and Great Britain. To the Premiers of both countries he has addressed letters announcing his determination to work for Allied solidarity; and he has made a declaration calculated to dispel anxiety over the Dalmatian question. If this happy beginning strikes the true note of his foreign policy, and if he is able to assure a steady policy in place of the frequent variations, due to changes of Government, which in recent years have helped to add to the confusion of European politics, then Signor Mussolini will have merited and won abroad the confidence which he hopes shortly to receive at the polls from his fellow countrymen; and the growth of confidence will dispel any suspicions or misconceptions that certain steps on his way to power have inevitably tended to arouse.

THE FRENCH EXCHANGE.

THE recent fall in the French exchange has once more directed attention to the economic and financial position of France. It is suggested that one of the proximate causes of the weakness of the franc is to be sought in an attempt by the Banque de France to repay a portion of the money borrowed from the Bank of England during the war, while perhaps an even more important factor is the payment made for American wheat, the importation of which has been necessitated by the relative failure of this year's harvest in France. But overriding these temporary factors is the fact that the failure to secure adequate reparations from Germany has seriously prejudiced the financial, as distinct from the economic, outlook in France. With the removal of the influence of the proximate causes making for weakness, the markets are being forced to form an opinion on the future of French finances.

While it is true that the balance of trade is not this year as satisfactory as it was in 1921, exports having diminished and imports increased, the difference is not such as to give rise to anxiety. Employment remains fairly constant, and the production figures for coal, pig-iron, and steel are decidedly better this year than last. Ignoring local issues, it is true to say that up to the present there has been no new inflation. In fact, the circulation of notes of the Banque de France has been very slightly reduced during the last few weeks. These considerations have not, however, been sufficient to remove the sense of uneasiness which has arisen. Speculation, of course, plays a part in this as in all exchanges. But though it is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy the extent of foreign holdings of francs, it is in some quarters believed that the total has been reduced during the last 18 months or so. If so, the tendency may not be unconnected with a distrust of the French budgetary position.

So far the Government has made good the Budget deficit by increasing the amount of the floating debt. National Defence bonds now total over 60 milliards of francs, and the unfunded debt is more than a quarter of the total public debt of France. M. de Lasteyrie has made no attempt to conceal the fact that the ordinary Budget of 1923 will show a deficit of 4 milliards, in addition to the amount required for work on the devastated areas and other extraordinary expenditure, and people are beginning to understand that if the accumulation of national indebtedness continues very much longer at present rates, the annual debt charge will soon be greater than the present total revenue. Some are even wondering whether it will be possible to continue internal borrowing indefinitely in this manner on a sufficiently large scale. The "ordinary" Budget may well be made to balance, with a little fiscal effort, but the extraordinary expenditure is far beyond the capacity of the taxpayer, even were the burden of taxation raised to a level approximating to that of Great Britain.

What courses of action then remain open to restore the finances of France, and to check the growing concern as to the future of the French exchange? There are five ways in which France may fill the gap between her immense expenditure and her revenue:—(1) The continued issue of internal loans for the work of reconstruction in the devastated areas. The peasant class is rich; it has profited by the war, and by the fact that taxation has hitherto been comparatively light. The most serious feature of the present situation is the doubts that have recently been raised as to whether these loans can be maintained, in spite of the relative success of the 7 milliard loan recently. (2) Reparations from Germany. This, the favourite French device, is perhaps not so much believed in as a practical proposition as it used to be. (3) A foreign loan. In the present state of opinion this would certainly be impossible to carry out until the moratorium question is settled, and the whole Reparations problem solved in a manner consistent with economic facts. (4) Inflation. This, the simple remedy, might be welcomed by numbers of Frenchmen who desire above all things to reduce the burden of the National debt. It is, however, interesting to remember that the eminent French industrialists, bankers, economists, and professional men, who in June last met together for a monetary conference (called the "Semaine de la Monnaie") unanimously decided on every count against inflation. (5) The Postponement of Restoration. Much progress has already been made in rebuilding and generally making good the damages of the war. To stop this important work would certainly be regarded as a counsel of despair. But, failing the adoption of one of the other methods referred to, the postponement of the work of restoration follows as an inevitable consequence. An internal loan would almost certainly be inadequate. No immediate help can be looked for from Germany, though even such papers as the *Journal des Débats* have reopened the question of "pledges." Inflation would be disastrous, and no Government would dare to advocate the postponement of restoration. There remains, therefore, the one sensible course. Almost every European problem to-day is connected, directly or indirectly, with the problem of reparations. Until the debtor's liability is determined in accordance with his capacity to pay, there is no hope of economic peace. The recent fall in the French exchange will serve as a reminder of this obvious fact.

THE FACTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

UNEMPLOYMENT, with nearly a million and a-half persons unemployed, is bound to figure in the election. An issue it can, however, hardly be: since, while every party agrees that it must somehow be met, no party, not even the Labour Party, has a definite plan of how to do it. This is in the nature of the case. There is no solution for the unemployment problem, as it exists to-day, of a purely domestic character. The remedies, like the causes, lie to an overwhelming extent outside these islands.

* See their Report: "La Politique Financière et Monétaire de la France." (Paris) Maison du Livre Français.

This is not to say either that no solution is possible, still less to refer responsibility to superhuman or quite general causes. On the contrary, the vagaries of British foreign policy in the last four years—particularly in the economic field—have much to answer for, and the account of their stewardship which is given on this most vital of all questions will be a very important factor in the elections.

The object here, however, is neither to discuss responsibility nor search for remedies, but to set out the facts. This is the more necessary that the first problem with which the new Government will have to deal will be that presented by the unemployed. For about this there can be no dispute; even if the signs, which some deary and others deny, of gradual trade recovery begin to operate and arrest the growth in the numbers of the unemployed, distress will this winter be more acute than last. The very interesting and careful report issued the other day from Toynbee Hall makes this clear. A main reason why the abnormal unemployment (twice as bad as in 1909, and four times as bad as in any other year before the war) had not already produced acute misery and revolt is that the doles from the State and from the guardians have been supplemented by the savings the workers had been able to make, whether in the form of purchase of furniture, clothes, &c., or in deposits. "The absence of distress is accounted for by the savings that men and women accumulated out of the generous wages of the war period, the liberalised scale of allowances adopted by the Boards of Guardians, and the benefits derivable from unemployment insurance." The savings are now exhausted. The houses and the cupboards are bare.

In this connection it must be borne in mind that a heavy rate of unemployment has been resting on our major industries for 18 months. Since January, 1921, the percentage of insured workers unemployed has never been below 10 per cent. Of these, only 80 per cent., according to official estimates, are normally in receipt of relief. The enormous sums expended by the great trade unions in out-of-work benefit (nearly 7½ millions in 1921) have exhausted their resources. As unemployment protracts itself, the funds out of which it can be relieved (whether voluntary, in the form of union contributions, or compulsory, under the insurance scheme) become depleted; the wage-cutting process, described in last week's *Economist*, further impoverishes them; and, meantime, the distress and deterioration are progressive and cumulative.

With this in mind, we may look at the figures. According to the latest issue of the *Labour Gazette*, the total number of people registered as unemployed through the machinery of the exchanges was 1,414,378, or 11.9 of those insured. The trade union figure was 14.6, as compared with 14.4 at the end of August. Thus, the latter figure shows a slight increase in unemployment; the insurance figure a very slight decline. Neither of these figures gives a complete picture. The official 1,414,378 does not include all the unemployed in the insured trades. (1) A feature of the scheme is that, at any moment, considerable numbers have run out of benefit; others, being in receipt of National Health Insurance, are excluded. (2) The insurance scheme itself is not comprehensive. Those, e.g., employed by local authorities, on railways, in agriculture, are excluded. (3) Many persons are on short time; 47,724 in September, or 0.6 of the insured, are given as in receipt of benefit; but the short time figures are very incomplete, and give no real idea of the amount of short time in the country.

That 11.9 per cent. of the working force of the country should be out of action, and have to be supported, in unwilling idleness, by the exertions of the rest—for it must not be forgotten that the whole insurance scheme is on a basis of contributions from employers and employed—is a sufficiently serious fact, representing a very heavy drag on production. But this 11.9 per cent., being an average figure, conceals the true gravity of the problem. Unemployment is highest and the burden heaviest on all major, and, in the true sense, key, industries. Thus shipbuilding, engineering, the iron and steel trades, toolmaking, iron mining, constructive trades, all had more than 20 per cent. of unemployment. In industry generally, one in eight is idle, but in shipbuilding one in three, in engi-

neering and the iron and steel trades one in four, in constructional industry, mining, and at the docks one in five.

Sept. 25, 1922.	Number Unemployed.	Percentage.
Shipbuilding	130,416	37.1
Iron mining	7,219	29.4
Other mining	2,631	27.8
Iron and steel trades	77,195	25.4
Cutlery and tools	6,576	22.9
Bolts, screws, &c.	8,593	23.2
Engineering	261,062	22.9
Construction (works)	24,459	21.7
Glass (inc. optical)	8,815	20.2
Transport—Seamen	21,977	19.1
Do canal, river, docks, &c.	38,225	19.6
Building	117,423	15.2

If one looks at numbers, rather than percentages, in the following groups there were, in September (and had been for the past year and a-half) nearly two-thirds of all unemployed.

September, 1922.	Number Unemployed.	Percentage.
Engineering and ironfounding....	261,062	22.9
Building, construction, saw-milling	156,728	15.3
Metal trades	153,686	19.8
Shipbuilding	130,416	37.1
Transport	119,212	13.0
Coal mines	70,693	6.1
	901,797	

In addition, cotton had 37,229 unemployed; the distributive trades, 58,638; food and drink manufacture, 37,517; ammunition, explosives and chemicals, 28,093; clothing trades, 43,141.

Employment, it is true, is much better than in the summer of 1921 (when 23 per cent. of trade unionists were out of work), or than January 8, 1922, when 17 per cent. of trade unionists and 16 per cent. of insured workers were out; but it is still very bad. The winter is upon us, and winter means seasonal unemployment in many groups, as well as a marked aggravation of distress to all either out or on short time. Any really general marked improvement depends on trade recovery, and trade recovery is, in these days, a political as well as an economic question. What prospects of improvement can be discerned? The blackest spots in the employment picture are represented by shipping, shipbuilding, and the industries dependent upon them. Here the outlook is still dark. The Russian market is still practically closed; the Central European market is chaos. For the shrunken trade of the world there is far too much shipping in existence. There were more unemployed in shipbuilding in September (37.1 per cent.) than in July (36.8) or August (36.4 per cent.); more than in January, February, or March. Employment at the docks, too, fell back, though it is better than last year. True, Lord Inchcape stated the other day that, in his opinion, "there is a break in the clouds of bad trade, although not much of sunshine yet"; and Lord Aberconway thinks that in twelve months' time there will be a shipping revival. On the other hand, Sir Frederick Lewis, of the Prince Line, refused to be cheerful about the immediate future. Tonnage launched in the third quarter of 1922 (307,232) is better than in the June quarter (158,348), though behind that for the first quarter (334,246).

In engineering there are signs of improvement, though on a restricted scale. The number of unemployed—over 25 per cent. throughout the first half of the year—was down to 22.9 in September, and exports are climbing up. In the iron and steel trades, hampered though they are by the American tariff and the disappointingly small reduction in railway rates, there has in the last six months been a slow but sustained gain of ground. The number of unemployed—37 per cent. in January and round about 30 per cent. throughout the first six months of the year—was 25.4 in September. The general position is better than last year: then there were 77 furnaces in blast, now over 140. In the coal trade the spurt due to the United States strike is being maintained. Not only are exports improving: the average price realised has risen from 22s in July to 22s 11d in September. The weekly output for the week ending October 21st is the highest for three years. The chemical trade is another department in which things are definitely on the mend, with an improvement in overseas inquiry. The textile

position is at the moment dubious: in cotton things are reported to be slowing down, owing to dearer raw materials; in wool, apprehension is caused by the sharp rise in prices. Hosiery, on the other hand, continues to flourish. Building, of course, is depressed; timber quiet. The general outlook gives room for hope; but the translation of that hope into actuality depends on policy.

FISCAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRISH TREATY.

(BY OUR DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

INTERESTING and important consequences will arise from the ratification of the Irish Treaty. Although the British House of Commons last December passed a resolution approving the Treaty, full and formal ratification awaits the assembly of the new Parliament. All parties in England are pledged to support the Treaty, and none more so than that led by Mr Bonar Law, whose manifesto of October 26th proclaimed his intention of "making good that Treaty both in the letter and in the spirit." Any party that sought to do otherwise would get short shrift from public opinion.

Now, under the Treaty, Ireland acquired full fiscal and financial independence, and the six counties of N.E. Ulster obtained the right to "contract out" of the new Irish Free State. Nothing is clearer than that Ireland will set up her own Customs-houses, and it is almost equally clear that N.E. Ulster will, by "contracting out," insist on remaining under the immediate jurisdiction of the British Parliament, and within the Customs and Excise system and boundaries of Great Britain. The results will be almost startling to the business community in Ireland and to the British taxpayer. A land frontier, with its line of Customs-houses, and its preventive service is an absolute novelty in Great Britain. But, if N.E. Ulster exercises its option of "contracting out," a land frontier there has got to be. Great Britain must be satisfied that dutiable articles cannot be introduced into her territories without paying toll to her Customs and Excise officials, and that all her regulations as to the collection of statistical information, immigration, health, and the like, are carried into effect for the protection of her own interests, and of her own territories. And the same is true of the Irish Free State. It is almost an under-statement to say that the resultant inconvenience and expense will be colossal.

The Customs frontier in Ireland will be represented by a line starting near Newry at the northern end of Carlingford Lough and pursuing a devious and deeply indented course in a W.N.W. direction to a point within ten miles of the Atlantic Ocean; thence it proceeds, again deviously, in a N.E. direction to a point on the western side of Lough Foyle near the city of Derry. It will cut off County Donegal from direct land communication with the rest of the Irish Free State, except for the narrow belt of some ten miles wide upon the Atlantic coast, where that county and County Leitrim adjoin. Its total length is not less than 225 miles: it is coincident sometimes with the watershed, sometimes with the waterways, and frequently with no natural geographical or economic dividing lines at all. It is crossed by at least 20 different lines of railway, and by roads, lanes and paths innumerable—a train running from Clones in Monaghan to County Cavan crosses the frontier six times in less than eight miles. What, then, will be the cost of establishing the whole paraphernalia of a Customs frontier, new railway stations, toll stations on the roads, rivers and canals, smuggler-proof fences in the fields, the acquiring of land and the building of offices? What will be the cost of maintaining a 24-hour service, in three shifts, of officials and frontier patrols? The inconvenience to the public may ultimately adjust itself, but the adjustment will mean that domestic trade and commerce will so regulate their flow that their arterial circulation will be practically confined within each fiscal area, and that all crossing of the frontier will be reduced to a minimum.

The prospect from the economic standpoint is preposterous; from the political standpoint it may be inevitable, and it may conceivably be deemed worth the cost by those

who subordinate pounds, shillings and pence to considerations of sentiment. But is this wildly uneconomic arrangement really inevitable? Must Great Britain really be saddled with this large administrative expenditure in addition to the millions she has given for the upkeep of the Special Police and for emergency relief of unemployment in N.E. Ulster? Must N.E. Ulster really subject itself to an economic and political isolation from the rest of Ireland which may very gravely imperil her future prosperity? Must the Irish Free State really burden its annual Budget with the cost of a huge army of Customs officials and frontier patrols, the mere organisation of which will be a most severe additional tax upon her at present admittedly overstrained administrative resources? The business community in each of the three would be positively revolted by the idea that the answers to these questions must necessarily be in the affirmative.

It is undeniably probable that N.E. Ulster will take the first step towards realising this undesirable prospect, but it is quite certain that, having demonstrated her undoubted right under the Treaty and her willingness at all costs, if need be, to stand aloof, she will persist in it to the bitter end? Following upon her "contracting out," there comes under Article 12 of the Treaty the Boundary Commission, to "determine in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants, so far as may be compatible with economic and geographical conditions, the boundaries between Northern Ireland and the rest of Ireland," which will lead to a fuller consideration of some, at least, of the problems touched on above than has hitherto been accorded to them. With further consideration, ripper judgments may emerge on all sides. If the Irish Free State would arrange with Great Britain to continue the present transitional arrangements as to tax collection and tax disposition for a little while longer, it would ease its own burden in the hasty improvisation of elaborate administrative machinery. But it would do more. It would give a breathing space, in which, while it re-establishes order within its own boundaries, conciliatory tendencies and the persuasive force of economic factors would have time to operate. And with domestic peace restored in the Free State, the result might quite probably be the practical restoration of Irish unity. A short and convenient delay is the only price to be paid for the chance.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

THERE was a general upward tendency in wholesale prices of commodities in October, as a result of which our Index Number has reacted from the low level to which it fell at the end of September to approximately the figure recorded at the end of August. During September there was a decline of 68 points, and in October there has been a rise of 75 points, which makes the present total 4,264, as compared with 4,588 at the end of October last year. The advance in October was fairly general, each group, with the exception of miscellaneous products, showing an increase for the month. The table below shows the monthly changes in the five groups and in the total:

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Timber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	Percentage Change.
Base (avg. 1901-5) ..	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914	579	382	618	464	551	2594	118.6
" Dec., 1915	497	446	731	711	848	3634	165.1
" Dec., 1917	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5891	268.2
" Nov., 1918	1289	782	1848	903	1389	6211	282.6
" Dec., 1918	1303	782	1805	866	1337	6094	277.0
" Dec., 1919	1441	881	2442	1145	1453	7364	334.7
" Dec., 1919	1508	914	2974	1246	1709	8352	379.6
" Mar., 1920	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
" Dec., 1921	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
" Dec., 1921	907	654	1066	730	925	4284	194.7
" Jan., 1922	918	640	1037	696	936	4259	193.6
" Feb., 1922	980	687	1038	700	892	4297	195.3
" April, 1922	1008	667	1010	709	890	4285	194.8
" May, 1922	1040	657	1079	710	885	4372	198.7
" June, 1922	1000	674	1135	690	887	4389	199.5
" July, 1922	994	669	1120	712	900	4315	196.1
" Aug., 1922	880	674	1123	691	887	4257	193.5
" Sept., 1922	873	682	1116	699	818	4189	190.4
" Oct., 1922	885	700	1154	712	813	4264	193.8

As regards individual commodities, there are far more upward than downward movements. In cereals foreign wheat is lower, largely owing to heavy arrivals, but home-grown and other cereals are higher on balance. Beef and mutton have dropped, but pork is higher. Among subsidiary foodstuffs the outstanding feature is a sharp advance in tea. There has been keen competition at the auctions, and prices of nearly all grades are higher. Sugar is also a trifle higher, but butter has lost most of the September rise. In the textile section both cotton and wool prices have advanced. There has been a sharp upward movement in American cotton, and yarn and cloth prices have advanced in sympathy, though not to the same extent. Wool prices rose substantially in the first part of the month, but in the closing days there was a slight relaxation. Flax and hemp were unchanged, but jute fell considerably.

In the minerals group pig-iron and steel rails are unchanged, but iron bars, which were stationary in September, have dropped a little. A small rise in steam coal is partly offset by a decline in household coal, but both lead and tin show an increase. In the miscellaneous section, the only group to record a net decline for the month, is the principal movement is a decline in petroleum, which is partially counterbalanced by minor increases in oilseeds and rubber. The appended table gives the month's changes in each commodity's index number, as compared with the figure for the end of September, the figure 50 in each case representing the average price during the base period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	91½	— 4½	Cotton, A.	134	+ 18½	Copper	55	— ½
English	74½	— 7	Cotton, B.	122	— 5	Minerals	712	+ 13
Flour	83	— 1	Yarn	125½	— 7½	Britic timber	103	—
Barley	89	— 2	Cloth	125	— 4½	Amer. timber	89	—
Oats	76	— 6	Wool, Eng.	118	—	Leather	76	—
Potatoes	47	—	Aus. Wool	113½	—	Petroleum	108	— 8½
Rice	107½	—	Silk	138½	—	Oil	75½	+ 2
Beef	84½	— 3	Flax	134½	—	Oilseed	61½	— 1
Mutton	101½	— 6	Hemp	45	— 15	Tallow	115	—
Pork	130½	— 5	Jute	98	— 38	Indigo	115	—
Cereals & Meat	885	+ 11½	Textiles	1,154	—	Crystals	93½	+ 2½
Tea	135	+ 19½	Pig-iron	99½	—	Rubber	131	— 5
Coffee	89½	—	Steel rails	79	—	Miscellaneous	813	— 5
Sugar cane	156	+ 3½	Iron bars	81	—	Total	4,264	+ 75
Sugar beet	106	—	Coal, steam	123	— 5			
Butter	99	— 5½	House coal	93	— 1			
Tobacco	116½	—	Lead	113	— 8½			
Other foods	700	+ 17½	Tin	70½	+ 6½			

The increase of 75 points brings the increase on the figure at the outbreak of war up to 66.2 per cent., which compares with the increase of 63.5 per cent. recorded a month ago. The next table shows the present position of each group as compared with the pre-war level, the index for the end of July, 1914, being taken as 100:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	237.5
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
March, 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
June, 1920	261	263	415	278	281	305.9
Dec., 1920	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
June, 1921	203	188	158	210	185	187.5
Dec., 1921	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
March, 1922	169	195	168	151	161	167.5
June, 1922	174	192	184	149	160	171.1
July, 1922	172	190	181	153	163	171.4
Aug., 1922	153	192	183	149	160	165.9
Sept., 1922	151	194	181	150	148	163.5
Oct., 1922	153	199	188	154	147	166.2

Minerals and primary foodstuffs remain together with an increase of not much over 50 per cent., while the increase in the miscellaneous group is slightly below this figure. Subsidiary food is still furthest from the normal, while textiles are climbing to a point which they have not touched for many months.

In the final table will be found the percentage changes in the indices of commodity wholesale prices as compared with the average in 1913 for some of the principal foreign countries:—

	United States.	France.	Italy.	Germany.	Switzerland.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Japan.
Nov., 1918	205	358	438	..	..	367	292	214
Highest, 1920	227	591	679	..	325	366	403	322
End 1921	123	326	594	3,585	176	172	178	209
End Jan., 1922	124	314	577	3,855	171	170	177	206
Feb., 1922	126	307	562	4,888	170	166	182	205
Mar., 1922	125	308	534	5,899	163	164	178	200
Apr., 1922	127	315	527	6,572	161	165	177	197
May, 1922	129	318	524	7,841	160	164	179	194
June, 1922	131	326	537	9,146	161	164	180	197
July, 1922	131	326	558	13,935	163	165	180	201
Aug., 1922	131	334	571	28,919	163	163	178	195
Sept., 1922	136	330	..	..	..	..	..	192

* Altered to include 16 finished industrial products.

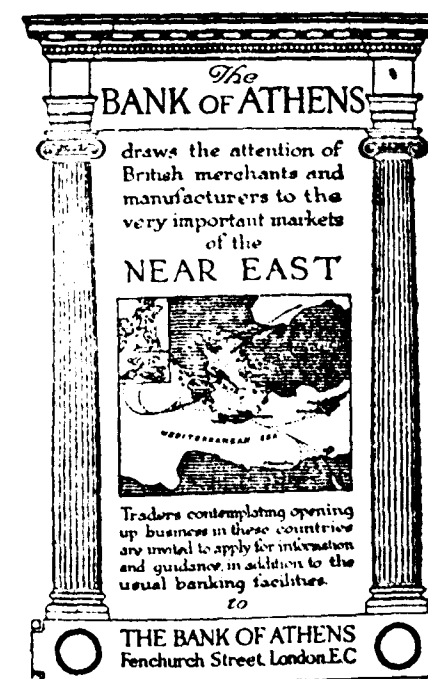
The increase in the figure for the United States (Bradstreet's) is noteworthy as being the first pronounced movement in either direction for quite a long period. The September increase brings the figure to the highest point since January, 1921, and it is now 11.8 per cent. higher than at the corresponding date of 1921. As compared with August 1, 1914, the increase is 43.5 per cent. In France foodstuffs fell in September, but raw materials were higher.

Notes of the Week.

Preparing for the Lausanne Conference.—The Turkish Peace Conference is scheduled to open on November 13th at Lausanne. The Angora Government has accepted this venue under protest, affirming that the choice of Smyrna (their own proposal) would have made for speed owing to the greater facilities there for communication with their capital. This difficulty should, however, be diminished if the Turkish delegates are to be plenipotentiaries, as is reported. There is perhaps less certainty about the date than about the place. No sooner had the British request for a postponement, on account of the elections, been withdrawn than the Fascista Revolution occurred in Italy. Still, if Great Britain is to attend the Conference at the time agreed, in spite of domestic crises, it seems reasonable to expect the same from Italy. Under such energetic leadership as Signor Mussolini's, it ought not to be impossible for her to comply. The full members of the Conference are to be the Principal Allied Powers, Turkey, Greece, Rumania, and Jugo-Slavia. Bulgaria has been invited, but she is only to be called in where her special interests are concerned. Presumably this refers to the economic outlet to the Aegean, which has been promised her in a separate convention between her and the Principal Allied Powers. But the details of frontiers in Thrace, and the military status of that province, cannot leave her unaffected. Russia, as we mentioned last week, has been invited to attend the second part of the Conference, which is to regulate the status of the Straits, but not the main Conference for making peace with Turkey. This proposal does not satisfy Russia, her view being that the settlement of the Straits is an integral part of the Peace Treaty, and that the second part of the Conference will be little more than a formal ratification of things prejudged already. According to an interview with Lenin published in the *Observer*, the rejection of the Urquhart agreement is a direct retort to the British attitude towards the participation of Russia in the Conference. In the same context, Lenin vigorously denies that M. Herriot's visit to Moscow, and the consequent prospective *rapprochement* between Russia and France, will have any adverse effect on Anglo-Russian relations. At the same time, the likelihood of this *rapprochement*, or at any rate of a very important change in Franco-Russian relations, is foreshadowed in the marked change in the tone of the French Press towards Russia which has followed upon M. Herriot's visit, and this cannot fail to affect the peculiar triangular relation between France, the Soviet Government, and Angora. One party that is evidently not destined to be represented is the shadowy Government of the Sultan-Caliph at Constantinople. The Turkish Nationalists are now taking publicly the course which in private they have long indicated their intention of taking. The Sultan is to be "Vaticanised," and his "spiritual" divorced from his "temporal" power—and this not by Christian enemies of Islam, but by the national representatives of the leading Muslim people, as a measure essen-

tial to the well-being of their State. The proposal, put in terms of a resolution in the National Assembly, seems to have aroused contention, but evidently it has the support of the Government, and Mustafa Kemal spoke on behalf of it in person. It is bound to be a shock to Indian Muslim opinion, which is much more orthodoxly inclined than Turkish Nationalism. For the Muslims of the Dispersion, the Caliphate has recently become the main symbol of unity, and fears for the Caliphate were a leading motive for the support which Indian Muslims have given to Angora. From the academic point of view, moreover, the Indian Muslims are probably right. Historically the Caliphate is a temporal office, and its spiritual functions are included in or derived from its temporal aspect. Shorn of temporal power, it is hard to see how it can exist, and the arguments of Refet Pasha and Mustafa Kemal seem like misleading analogies from Western conditions. The Turk has been deeply affected by French culture and political doctrine, and evidently laicism attracts him. The Indian has remained more under the influence of the Islamic tradition. But even for the Indian Muslim, the Caliphate is only a means towards an end—that end being the preservation of a strong independent Islamic Great Power in the contemporary world. Obviously the Turks are the best judges of the measures necessary for this object, and Indian Muslim opinion will no doubt acquiesce in Turkish decisions, albeit with some searchings of heart. Fortunately, this difficulty concerns others than ourselves. The difficulties in store for us are sufficiently formidable already. It is enough to mention Western Thrace, Mosul, Southern Kurdistan, and, above all, the Capitulations, though it is premature at the moment to discuss them in detail.

Austrian Politics and the League Plan.—The *Times* correspondent in Vienna refers in the issue of Monday last to some of the difficulties in the way of carrying out the League plan for the financial rehabilitation of Austria. He says:—"For the last ten days the financial delegate of the League has been settling with the Austrian Government the details of the administrative and financial reforms which are to be carried out, and this week the Geneva Convention comes before the National Assembly for ratification. Under the terms of the Convention the National Assembly is required to give whatsoever Government may be in office during the next two years *carte blanche* to carry through reforms agreed on without bringing them before Parliament in detail. Dr Seipel, the Chancellor, apparently assured the delegate of the League at Geneva that provided the necessary credits were guaranteed he would be able to induce the Austrian Parliament and people to submit to the control proposed by the League. The credits have been guaranteed, but it is not so sure that Dr Seipel will be able to get the clear mandate to agree to the League's conditions without a very hard struggle and at the price of some concessions. The Socialists are evidently bent on making a very determined resistance." The real difficulty in the way of Austrian recovery is undoubtedly political. Even if the wranglings between the different bourgeois parties could be finally overcome—and this is not the issue at the present moment—the country would still be faced with the weakness of any and every Government when confronted with class antagonisms and the very real opposition between the provinces and the capital—"red Vienna," as it is usually referred to by the peasants. Any scheme of financial reform would, of necessity, conflict with the desires of the lower officials and the industrial proletariat. Wage rates on the basis of index numbers of cost of living, for example, for which the Socialists fought so long before gaining their point, would certainly have to be given up in principle, and ruthless reductions made in the number of the officials—of whom the railwaymen are perhaps the most important. To give a Government in which they had no part *carte blanche* to deal with these matters would be tantamount to unconditional surrender on the part of the Socialists. At the same time one cannot help feeling that the administration of the reform, backed by foreign credits, to be given any reasonable chance of success, should be removed from the heated atmosphere of the Parliament. The *Times* correspondent sums up the matter thus:—"What under-



lies the Socialist opposition is the fear that Dr Seipel will try and turn the League of Nations and the Geneva Convention into a weapon for the capitalists to use against Labour. It should be for M. Jansen, the League's delegate, to show that the League is as impartial in social questions as it is in national questions, and to ensure that the sacrifices which Austria has got to make are to be borne evenly by the capitalists and the working classes alike. The next fortnight should see some delicate three-cornered negotiations between Dr Seipel, Dr Otto Bauer, the leader of the Socialist Party, and M. Jansen. If all goes well, the Socialists will be induced to drop their opposition in return for some modification in the programme of reform and a share in the Government which will give them the guarantee that the reforms will not be carried through in a class or party spirit. The present plight and threatening menace of the financial position and financial prospects will, we trust, be sufficient to bring about a denouement of the political tangle, and provide conditions under which the League plan will have a real chance.

The Municipal Elections.—At the moment of writing, it is not possible to sum up the aggregate results for the entire country of the municipal elections which took place on Wednesday, November 1st, but it is at least abundantly clear that the net result is a defeat of Labour with very heavy casualties. In London a clean sweep of Labour representatives has been made in eleven boroughs. Before the election 14 out of London's 29 boroughs had a Labour majority. Now a Labour majority is only left, we believe, in the case of four, and nowhere is there a completely Labour Council. Apparently in London alone Labour lost over 300 seats. The *Morning Post* has taken out figures for 70 provincial boroughs. According to this calculation for these areas Labour put forward 574 candidates and 215 were successful; the Conservatives put forward 450 candidates, of whom 350 were elected; and Liberals with 250 candidates secured 167 seats. Without further investigation, the fact of a very severe setback for Labour must be accepted. This setback will presumably produce some effect upon the Parliamentary elections, although it would not be safe to take the municipal results as a guide to what will happen on November 15th. For one thing, the proportion of electors going to the poll is much smaller in municipal than in national elections. It is being claimed in certain quarters that Labour's defeat was brought about mainly by the influence of women's votes. How much truth there may be in this claim we do not know. But the claim serves to remind us that the forthcoming General Election is the first in this country at which the force of women voters

will make itself felt in deciding between conflicting party programmes. The circumstances of the 1918 election divested the women's vote of real importance in deciding the issue; in this election its influence is all-important.

Stock Markets and the Election.—Apart from the usual effect which the advent of a General Election exerts upon Stock Exchange markets, through the diversion of public interest from financial affairs into the field of politics, there are several special factors operating at the present time which have their influence upon various sets of prices in the Stock Exchange lists. Next week, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, the House is more likely to feel the effect of the political excitement, caused by the Election, from the merely general point of view. Up to the present, whatever injury has been inflicted upon markets through the direction of attention to politics, has been comparatively slight. It is noticeable that amongst industrialists a certain amount of selling has taken place during the past week or so, with the evident intention of obtaining money for carrying on the campaign. The cost of fighting an election may not be a great deal in each individual case, but, taken in the aggregate, and allowing an average of two candidates for every constituency, it is obvious that a good deal of private selling of stocks and shares must be necessary in order to finance the fight. Sellers of industrial shares, especially of those issues which belong to the investment order, find no difficulty in getting good prices for their securities. With Ordinary stocks and shares, however, the effect of a number of selling orders, though they may be small regarded individually, is to depress prices unless there is sufficient demand on the part of the public to counterbalance the sales, and as people are not very keen at the present time upon the purchase of the ordinary run of industrial shares, in which may be included Home Railway stocks—the dullness in a good many descriptions is traceable directly to the shadow of the forthcoming Election. On the War Loan and other gilt-edged securities of this nature, the Labour manifesto had an uncomfortable influence, in that it checked, for the time being, a good deal of what may be described as the mechanical investment business that goes on day by day on behalf of trustees, not to mention other people who have the strength of mind, and the wisdom, to adhere to the best-class stocks. It is assumed that the Labour manifesto is so refreshingly frank that it will carry considerable weight in swaying the votes of those to whom security of income, as well as stocks and shares, is a matter of moment. The House, however, is a little dubious about the result of the present Election, the opinion being frequently heard that, although next week's results are likely to show a majority for Mr Bonar Law, the figures may not be sufficiently overwhelming to enable the new Premier to remain in office for long, and that a second General Election may be within early sight. That this view is not confined to the Stock Exchange may be seen from the fact that some of the underwriters at Lloyds are issuing policies which pay a total loss in the event of a Labour party being returned to power by the end, not of November, but next February. The man with money to invest even in purely investment securities is tempted to await the event of the November Election before he puts his money into stocks and shares, however unimpeachable the security. In the Home Railway market there is a very marked determination on the part of the public to take no hand until the polling results are declared. This factor, coming on top of the state of anti-climax at which the market has arrived by reason of the publication of most of the grouping arrangements, is making prices dull as a whole. When a few of the principal investment markets develop such a tendency, the rest of the House is frequently disposed to follow the sympathetic suit. Kaffirs are put forward as amongst the shares not likely to be influenced, one way or the other, by the Election, and the rubber market also claims that its wares cannot be benefited or damaged by the party in power. Nevertheless, personal experience shows that while the air is charged with uncertainty, whether it be political or financial, the disposition is for the ordinary man to stay his hand from investment of money in Stock Exchange securities. Therefore, during the next fortnight, the Stock Exchange looks for its business to be circumscribed by the effect of the political situation, while investors and speculators alike wait upon the results to be shown by the polls.

The Trade Facilities Act.—A correspondent writes:—The Trade Facilities Act fixes November 10th as the date on which all granting of Government guarantees under the Act shall cease. The scheme has, therefore, now virtually finished its 12 months' run, so it might not be out of place broadly to weigh up its success or failure. The Act is one of the many empirical remedies for the present vast unemployment—empirical because it is frankly based wholly upon expediency, and has no relation to any principle of political economy. Moreover, the procedure was confessedly one which could be defended only when carried out on a very limited scale, namely, the backing of miscellaneous private enterprises by Government guarantees. In the present Act the margin, indeed, is very limited, a guarantee of £25,000,000 being fixed as the maximum. So, in judging of the effectiveness of the Act, full regard must be given to this unavoidable financial limitation. I point this out because the effective relief to unemployment achieved by the projects under the Act is correspondingly restricted; in fact, unless this is borne in mind the results would look as though the Act after all was hardly worth while. The present unemployment figure is 1,368,000. The projects to be set afoot through the Government guarantees under this Act might be estimated at 250,000,000 men-hours, or, say, work sufficient for 50,000 men for two years. But although this figure on the face of it shows only a fractional relief of the vast total volume of unemployment, additional credit must be given on a further score, namely, that the special enterprises which have been set going are of a character (namely, public utility concerns) which should of themselves facilitate the restoring of industry generally. An inspection of the various guarantees given will show this. The total guarantees up to date amount to £17,742,145. (It is possible that one or two further guarantees may be put through before November 10th, say, to bring the total up to £20,000,000, but these would not materially affect the broad result.) The bulk of the guarantees up to the present have been devoted to Public Utility concerns or enterprises akin, commercial projects obtaining less than 10 per cent. of the total. Considering the Public Utility guarantees in detail, £1,306,600 goes to the electric supply industry in England. Part of this guarantee is allocated to the Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Company, which, together with certain smaller undertakings (to which loans are guaranteed), are engaged chiefly on the supply of electric power to industries, the availability of which is a direct impetus to cheap production generally. The most extensive grant is to the railway companies, namely, £12,500,000, which covers improvements in the City and South London Railway (which will afford greatly improved facilities for suburban traffic), an extension of the London Electric Railway from Golder's Green to Edgware, and the electrification of the suburban section of the S.E. and C. Railway, which will indirectly greatly benefit the North Kent industrial district. Dock and harbour construction and allied matters, which also has an important bearing on trade, obtain guarantees of about £2,000,000. It may fairly be said, therefore, that the Act has fulfilled its object. Mr Lloyd George, in his speech on October 25th, said: "We had the experiment of the Trade Facilities Act—it has been a great success"—to which should be added, "within its limited scope." Further, and this is the important point, the whole of this has been achieved without drawing on the National Exchequer, as the Government do no more than guarantee as to principal and interest. It is only if one of the projects fails that the Government will be under any liability. This contingency is decidedly remote, as the Treasury Advisory Committee (Sir Robert Kindersley, Sir William Plender, and Col. G. Schuster) have been scrupulously careful (too careful according to many non-suited applicants) as to security. This can be seen by the fact that only 25 or so out of many hundreds of applications have been approved. There is a good possibility that representations

will be made for an extension of the period. If so, and in view of the present list of approved loans, it would appear that the scope might very well be restricted to Public Utility undertakings. This would give guarantee in a sense as to the projects being of public value in themselves, and also of good security. Further, it would relieve the Advisory Committee of the prodigious task of weeding out among the almost multitudinous applications that are sure to flow in whenever anything like provision of capital is mooted.

The Fall in Brazilian Bonds.—It is unfortunate that the celebration of the centenary of Brazilian independence, which has drawn many foreign visitors to the Exhibition at Rio Janeiro, should have been accompanied by a heavy fall in Brazilian bonds, as exhibited in the following table:—

Brazilian Securities.	Prices of 1921.		Highest Price, 1922.	Price End of Sept., 1922.	Price, Nov. 2, 1922.	Fall from High st. 1922.
	Highest	Lowest				
5% Funding Bonds	76½	62½	87	86	78½	8½
4% Railway Recession Bonds	51½	33½	56	48	44	12
5% Loan, 1913	62	44	67½	58	52	15½
5% Funding Bonds, 1914	66½	49½	75½	68	61½	13½

This week, however, there has been an appreciable recovery. Rumours of a coming default had been contradicted by an authorised intimation in the *Times* of October 10th that a remittance had been arranged of the amount necessary to pay the next interest and sinking fund due on the External Debt. But the recovery has been slow in coming. No doubt the fall is mainly due to the world-wide trade depression and the fall in exchange. The Customs receipts last year were some 30 per cent. less than in 1920; and the London and Brazilian Bank withheld its usual bonus last April, and has since reduced its interim dividend to 10 per cent. per annum, as compared with 14 per cent. in 1921. But there are further reasons in the political troubles last summer. The unsettlement following the dispute over the Presidential election and culminating in the military revolt last July, checked business considerably, though, according to the trade report for October of the London and Brazilian Bank, to which we are indebted for much of this information, there were signs in September of a revival, especially in the North. The Budget, even when reduced after President Pessoa's veto, showed the largest deficit on record, and until Senhor Bernardes, who takes office as President on November 15th, is firmly established, the outlook must continue uncertain. He has a reputation in his own State as a sound administrator and financier, and it is hoped that he will carry on the prudent policy of his predecessor; but, unfortunately, extravagance and reliance on paper currency are established habits in Brazil.

The Central American Conference.—A correspondent writes:—The conference of representatives of the Central American States, to be held on December 4th at Washington, at the invitation of the American Government, may conceivably, if successful, serve as the first step in the formation of a League of American Nations; but its primary and ostensible purpose is to promote peace and peaceful intercourse between the States of Central America. For that end the United States Government desires to effect a limitation of their armaments and to re-establish machinery for the pacific settlement of their disputes. With the increased and increasing interest in them of American financiers their good order and tranquillity is more important than ever to the Washington Government. It intervened in 1907 to secure peace between Nicaragua, which then controlled Honduras, and her neighbours, and induced the five States to conclude treaties facilitating reciprocal intercourse and binding them for ten years to submit differences not otherwise settled to a Court of five judges, one from each State, which should also try suits brought against any of the Governments by citizens of any other Central American State. To protect the Court as far as possible from political influences, its seat was fixed at Cartago, in Costa Rica, where the late Mr Andrew Carnegie provided it with a court house; and when this building was destroyed by an earthquake, he offered to erect another at San José,

the Costa Rican capital, to which the Court was removed. Unfortunately, the Court was not a success. The salaries were large enough to make a judgeship a prize for political services; the States objected to the cost; the Court, indeed, stopped war in 1907 between Nicaragua and Salvador, but the members voted as politicians rather than as judges; the few individual plaintiffs were all non-suited on the ground that they had not previously exhausted other means of redress; and when, in 1910, Honduras and Salvador took proceedings against Nicaragua on the ground that its canal treaty with the United States threatened their interests in the Bay of Fonseca and the Corn Islands, where the treaty permitted the United States to establish naval stations, the Court decided in their favour as against Nicaragua, but declared that it had no jurisdiction over the United States Government. Nicaragua, therefore, ignored the decision, and the agreement establishing the Court was not renewed on its expiration in 1917. Presumably, therefore, the conference will have to seek some simpler and less costly means of settling disputes. But jealousy of the influence of the United States is notoriously acute in Central America. Judging from certain provisions in the abortive Federal Constitution of 1921, federation, which has been favoured in the past at Washington, seems to have been taken up recently as a means of checking such influence. The same jealousy has been shown in the temporary interruption last May of the negotiations for an American loan to Salvador, and in the refusal of Honduras to accept a similar boon. The State Department at Washington will therefore require to bring to bear on these questions a generous supply of caution and tact.

Mr Hoover's Speech.—Our attention has been called to a statement in the *New York World* which purported to be the editorial opinion of the *Economist* on Mr Hoover's statement that it was possible for the Allies to pay their debts, and that America could receive payment in the form of tropical products. We are reported to have cherished the suspicion that "America wants Jamaica," or else that "she wants Jamaican sugar and other products in payment of the debt, but she puts the heel of the tariff on manufactured commodities." We have never suggested that America desires to take Jamaica in part payment of the British debt to the United States, but have always maintained that Great Britain can and will pay her debts provided that reasonable terms are arranged between debtor and creditor. An extreme protectionist policy in America will, however, make this difficult. The suggestion that Great Britain should pay by means of goods sent to raw material producing countries such as Jamaica or the East Indies, who in turn would supply the sugar, rubber, or other tropical products which America requires, is not an adequate solution of the problem, for Great Britain's national economy would be seriously upset unless we could get these raw materials for our own requirements. We cannot hope to pay America unless we are able to make the greater part of the payment direct in the form of goods to the United States, the greatest market for manufactured goods in the world.

Charges for Finishing Cotton Goods.—In Lancashire cotton trade circles it has been realised for some time that it was most desirable to reduce prices as much as possible to a level at which goods can be placed in consuming outlets abroad. Charges of one kind and another have fallen, writes our Manchester correspondent, but the opinion is held that there is still plenty of room for a further drop in the rates for finishing processes. It is believed that until prices for this kind of work are further reduced, there is little probability of Lancashire regaining her pre-war trade. It is rather difficult to give reliable figures in connection with this matter, but it may be said that the bleaching cost of a piece of shirting of 40 yards in 1914 was 1s. 3d. Prices were raised during the war, and the trade boom which followed, to 4s. 3d. and the price to-day is about 3s. With regard to printing costs, the price for a certain quality in pre-war times was 1½d. per yard, and the charge ultimately rose to 4½d. The price to-day is about 3½d. With regard to dyeing, the cost in 1914 for a piece

of shirting of 39 yards was 1s 1d, but the charge advanced to 5s about two years ago. Since then there has been a reduction to about 2s 10d. In trade circles there is a feeling that bleachers, printers, and dyers are not doing their share in assisting to re-establish Lancashire goods in markets abroad. It is much cheaper to send goods to the Continent for these processes. The Board of Trade returns indicate very clearly that this sort of thing is being done. In the nine months ended September last Great Britain exported over 137,000,000 square yards of cotton piece-goods to Switzerland, against less than 18,000,000 square yards in the same period of 1921. It is significant that out of the big total sent this year, over 131,000,000 square yards have been unbleached goods. The figures relating to Germany are also striking. So far this year we have shipped to that market over 88,000,000 square yards, against less than 12,000,000 square yards in the same period of 1921. Of the goods sent to Germany this year, over 75,000,000 square yards have been unbleached cloths. The high prices for finishing processes in this country are not only adversely affecting our trade with Eastern countries, but bleachers, printers, and dyers on the Continent are doing a large amount of work which should be done in this country.

Cotton Trade Wages.—The wages settlement of last April in the Lancashire cotton industry provided for an immediate reduction of 40 per cent. on list rates, and a further reduction of 10 per cent. on list rates in six months. The latter fall has come into operation this week, and means a reduction on present wages of 11.7d in the £. The new wage rates are 95 per cent. above the lists, or 90 per cent. higher than at the outbreak of War in July, 1914. During the War and the trade boom which followed, the operatives secured advances amounting to 210 per cent. on list rates. Last year there was a fall of 70 per cent. on list rates, and this year a reduction of 50 per cent. on list rates. It must be remembered that the rise of 30 per cent. on list rates obtained in July, 1919, was to compensate the operatives for the loss of earnings as a result of the reduction in working hours from 55½ to 48 per week. It is estimated that the 10 per cent. reduction on list rates which has now come into force will mean a saving to the employers of about £30,000 per week in their wage bill. According to the agreement of last April, no further change in wages can take place until next May, and if when that time comes round either the employers or the workpeople want another alteration it will be necessary for one month's notice to be given.

Union Cold Storage.—The report of the Union Cold Storage Company for the year 1921 shows a further substantial increase in profits, the business of the company having been "fully maintained." The balance of working accounts and other receipts was £558,700, as against £467,400 a year ago, and £306,400 in 1919, there having been purchased and cancelled out of earnings £66,500 debenture stock and £12,200 paid off specific mortgages. The table below compares results for a number of years:—

	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Gross profits	£ 137,094	£ 289,922	£ 293,424	£ 306,360	£ 467,393	£ 558,675
Deb. int., &c.	31,727	66,637	62,333	58,133	72,118	74,676
Net profit	105,367	223,285	231,091	248,227	395,275	483,999
Brought forward	20,806	45,014	45,454	51,066	71,717	87,497
	126,173	268,299	276,545	299,293	466,992	571,496
Res. and depr.	43,185	75,048	76,679	78,777	87,939	108,667
Prof. dividends	46,109	117,797	118,800	118,800	261,556	328,800
Ord. dividend	..	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(10 %)
Carry forward	36,879	45,454	51,066	71,716	87,497	104,028

The allowance for depreciation has been considerably expanded, while the dividend on the new 7 per cent. preference stock is for a full year this time, and requires £140,000, as against £95,400 a year ago. In spite of this there is sufficient to maintain the ordinary dividend at 10 per cent. and to increase the balance forward by over £16,000. The report states that properties which

the directors found it advantageous to dispose of have been sold at a profit of £498,800, of which amount £26,050 has been used to write off the item of goodwill, the balance having been placed to depreciation reserve account, which raises it to £1,442,100. Nevertheless, there is an increase of £299,100 in the property item shown in the balance-sheet. The most striking changes in the latter, however, are increases of £3,206,300 in debtors and stocks and of £3,042,000 in creditors. An analysis of the balance-sheet is set out in another column.

The Swedish Iron Trade.—Recent figures show a considerable revival in the iron trade of Sweden. The export of iron ore in September last was 587,953 tons, as compared with 402,991 tons in the same month in 1921. The total exports of iron ore for the nine months January-September, 1922, were 3,804,150 tons, as compared with 3,359,045 tons for the corresponding period in 1921. While the imports of bars, plates, rails, and similar products show a decline, the exports of almost all iron goods show an increase over the first nine months of last year. The importance of Swedish ore makes these figures doubly interesting as an indication of the general revival of trade.

Cam and Motor.—Rather more than three years ago, writes our mining correspondent, this Rhodesian enterprise was reconstructed with the fairly heavy assessment of 7s 6d per £1 share. In the great majority of instances joining a reconstruction simply means throwing good money after bad. In this case, however, those who had faith in the future have met with a substantial reward. For several weeks past an active speculation has proceeded in the shares up to about 24s, on the strength of statements that the forthcoming report would make a good showing, and that the lower levels of the mine were opening up particularly well. The annual statement is now issued. It has a good story to tell, but the facts fall a long way short of some of the figures talked about. For instance, the ore reserves, at 666,000 tons, value nearly 40s, record an increase in both quantity and value. Still, the increase in the former amounts to no more than 66,000 tons, and in the latter to only 1s 9d (averages based on the normal price of gold). It should be noted that these estimates take no account of the exceptionally rich ore proved to exist at and below the eleventh level of the Motor mine. Some operators attach much importance to what may be said on this point at Tuesday's meeting. On the basis of current costs, &c., the "profit in sight" may be reckoned as equivalent to about one-half the market price of the share. This is fairly good. Nevertheless some properties on the Rand can show almost £1 for £1. As regards the finances, it may be recalled that the sum provided at the reconstruction proving inadequate, substantial advances were made by certain guarantors, who received an option on 120,000 shares at par until July, 1923. Of this loan, all but £58,050 had been paid off at June 30th last, so that the company will soon be out of debt, and in the event of the option being exercised—as may be expected—ample funds will be available for the extension of the scale of operations. Last year's profit of £46,900 is applied to depreciation and towards preliminary expenses.

New Rand Treatment Method.—Full particulars are now available of the simplified process for the extraction of gold from the Rand ores, to which reference was made in our columns some time ago. The salient features consist in the elimination of the stamp battery—which, in constantly improved shape, has been in use from the earliest days of the field—and the production of one finely-divided residue. The ore goes direct from the rough-crushers into the tube mills, and the product classified in such a way that the whole is eventually treated in the slimes plant. Not only does this method effect an appreciable reduction in working expenses, but it practically eliminates the possibility of gold stealing, besides effecting a large saving in the initial capital expenditure. Whether the economy in costs is sufficient to warrant the conversion of existing works remains to be proved, but there can be little doubt that new installations will be laid out on

the "all-sliming" system. It has already been adopted at the New State Areas, which is due to commence production early next year.

The Newmarch lectures on statistics will be delivered by Mr A. W. Flux, C.B., on Wednesdays, at 6.15 p.m., beginning November 8, 1922, at University College. The subject will be "The Foreign Exchanges." The syllabus is as follows:—(1) Effects of the War on the Exchanges—the Balancing of International Payments; (2) the Relations of Prices in Different Countries—Facts and Theories; (3) Purchasing Power Parities in Theory and Practice; (4) Inflation and Deflation—the Reaction of Foreign Exchange Movements on Business Conditions at Home; (5) Discount Rates and Exchanges; (6) Stabilisation of Exchanges—Methods and Limits of Control—the Resumption of Gold Payments. The lectures are open to the public without fee or ticket.

The Women's Guild of Empire announces a course of lectures on "Economics for Everybody," to be given in the Caxton Hall, on Monday afternoons during November, at 3 p.m. Sir Henry Penson, the well-known Oxford lecturer, and former Director of the War Trade Intelligence Department, will open the series, taking as his subject the "Danger of Economic Ignorance." The other lecturers include Mr Herbert Williams, M.Sc., who will explain "Why Things are Dear"; Professor Winifred Cullis, who will deal with "The Human Factor in Industry"; and Mr Harold Cox, who is to speak on "The Imperial Aspect of the Population Problem." Full particulars may be obtained in London from the Secretary of the Guild, at 24 Buckingham Palace road.

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—SEPTEMBER TRADE—GOVERNMENT BONDS OVER-SUBSCRIBED—SOUTHERN PACIFIC—CENTRAL PACIFIC CONTROVERSY—SECRETARY HOOVER ON ALLIED WAR DEBTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 23.

ALTHOUGH there had been no evidences of a general rush in this country to import goods in anticipation of the extraordinarily high tariff that went into effect last month, nearly everyone expected that the returns of our foreign commerce for September would show a substantial increase in imports. It was a distinct surprise, therefore, to learn from the Department of Commerce figures that September imports were actually \$51,000,000 less than in August, and much the smallest aggregate of any month since April. The total value of imports was \$232,000,000, approximately, as compared with \$271,000,000 in August, and \$179,200,000 in round numbers during September of 1921. The decrease last month is all the more puzzling because of the abnormally large orders for coal, which it is understood were placed in your market. One quite plausible explanation for the falling off is that importers, expecting an earlier passage of the tariff, were governed accordingly, and brought in additional merchandise before last month, especially in August, when imports reached a larger total in value than in any month since November of 1920. Exports during September were valued at \$317,000,000, as against \$302,000,000 in August, and \$325,700,000 approximately, in September a year ago. The trade balance in favour of this country in September was \$85,000,000, as compared with \$20,000,000 in August, and \$145,500,000 in September, 1921. For the nine months ending with September, exports were valued at \$2,741,000,000, and imports \$2,174,000,000. As compared with the like period of 1921, exports decreased \$811,000,000, but imports increased to the extent of \$301,000,000. For the first nine months of this year the total trade balance in favour of this country was only \$566,000,000, as against \$1,679,000,000 for the corresponding period of 1921. Since the new tariff did not

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over \$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



become operative until the latter part of September, no conclusions can yet be drawn as to the effect of the higher duties on import trade.

While there was no doubt that the Government's recent issue of \$500,000,000 4½ per cent. long-term refunding bonds would be over-subscribed, the response to the offering greatly exceeded expectations. Total subscriptions received up to and including October 14th, according to a Treasury Department announcement, amounted to \$1,550,000,000, of which approximately \$1,400,000,000 represented cash subscriptions, and about \$150,000,000 represented cash subscriptions for which either 4½ per cent. Victory notes or Treasury certificates of indebtedness maturing on December 15th were tendered in payment. Cash subscriptions for amounts not exceeding \$10,000 for any one subscriber amounted to more than \$325,000,000, which reflects the widespread demand from investors throughout the country. All of such subscriptions were allotted in full. Bonds will be issued to meet \$500,000,000 of the cash subscriptions, and also to absorb the \$150,000,000 of Victory notes and Treasury certificates offered in exchange. In other words, allotments already made total \$650,000,000. Subscription books remained open until last Saturday for those who wished to exchange their holdings of Victory notes and Treasury certificates, and it is quite likely that additional subscriptions of that kind have been received. Should the latter reach, say, \$100,000,000, as estimated in some quarters, the total allotments will amount to \$750,000,000.

One of the most important cases brought before the Interstate Commerce Commission was begun last week, when the Southern Pacific Railroad Company filed an application to retain control of the Central Pacific Railway Company. For several reasons the outcome of this controversy is awaited with keen interest and some concern by railroad and financial interests. Primarily, the purpose of the application, it is explained, is to enable the Southern Pacific to control the Central Pacific, pending the determination by the Commission of its plans to group the railroads of this country into some 18 or 20 systems. The

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS COMMISSION— EXCHANGE DECREE AND GOLD BILLS—RAIL- WAYS—FINANCES—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE— INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 31.

THE Reparations Commission delegates were to-day received by the Chancellor. It is expected that the foreign financial experts may take part in the coming deliberations; but little is known as to the programme of either group of visitors. It is assumed that the question of mark stabilisation will be handled; and private financiers are not optimistic about the result. The balancing of the Federal Budget, the cash Reparations payments, and the coal deliveries will presumably also be debated. The more precise and very drastic programme published unofficially in the French Press is here discredited, and the programme contains items which are impracticable, and which indicate imperfect knowledge of German conditions.

As supplementary to what was stated last week as to the profits of German industrial companies, the following data, compiled by the *Berliner Tageblatt*, may be useful. The value of German company stocks at Bourse quotations of December 31, 1913, was 31.24 milliard gold marks; in January, 1921, at the then gold exchange, 8.23 milliards gold marks, which rose to 14.5 milliards in November, 1921, and fell to 6.8 milliards in July, 1922. Apart from the paper mark's gold exchange, the factors in this calculation are (1) the Bourse quotation, and (2) the nominal capitalisations. The lowness of the final figure is due to the fact that this year (unlike last year) Bourse quotations did not rise in anything like the measure of the rise in the mark's gold exchange. Since July, stocks have risen much, but the mark's gold exchange has risen more; and a calculation for October would show a still smaller gold value. Concerning gold dividends it may be added that the value of the 50 per cent. dividend of the Mannesmann Tube Works, one of the largest concerns, is (exchange depreciation 1:1,000) 60,500 gold marks, or £3,250 gold, of the United Königs-und-Laurahütte, the leading Silesian coal and iron company, £810 gold, and of the Lothringer Company and Hasper Iron Company, the two biggest limbs of the Kloeckner Concern, £15,700, and £13,500. These figures show the Reparations value of industrial yields; but (in addition to the fact that the gold value was somewhat higher when the dividends were paid) such calculations have doubtful elements. On the one hand, the real value of the companies' assets, and their potential gold earning power, is unimpaired; on the other hand, the transaction of transferring the dividends abroad would probably lead to further dwindling of their gold value. A Reparations settlement based on direct tribute from industry might equally have the opposite effect; by its influence on the sentiments of the foreign mark interests, that is, it might send up the mark exchange. This shows how unreliable are estimates of the effect of wholesale transfer of wealth from one country to another in paper currency times.

The exchange decree has been amended radically. For first home sales of imported goods payment in foreign currencies may be demanded, also for commissions on import deals, and shipping insurances. Already, pending exchange deals remain legal; and payment in foreign currencies for the wares and services of foreigners in Germany is again legal. The last amendment is objectionable, because the increasing demands for payment in high currencies from foreigners in Germany are mostly a means for extorting unreasonable prices. The gold Treasury Bill plan has not yet been divulged. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* states that the bills will be purchasable in marks at the preceding day's dollar exchange, will be in denominations of 25 to 1,000 dollars, interest 3 per cent., term three to six months, and not discountable at the Reichsbank or accepted as security by the "Darlehnskassen." The bills, it is expected, will be quoted on the Bourse.

The Reichsbank statement for October 23rd shows a continuation of the pressure for credit and cash. Treasury Bill discounts rose from 389,721 millions to 405,820 millions, private discounts from 63,648 to 76,481 millions, and note circulation from 374,506 to 409,973 millions. The

floating debt on 20th inst. was 619,643 millions, against 567,195 millions, the funded debt 64,423 millions, against 85,899 millions on September 30, 1920, since when it has steadily fallen. Both debts total 684,066 millions, against 375,993 millions at the close of the June quarter. The result of the mark exchange decline is visible. The total debt is 139.1 fold more than on March 31, 1913; but the gold debt at present exchange is only about a seventh of that before the war, the burden having been transferred to home and foreign bondholders. The Customs-gold surcharge for the week September 1st-7th has been raised to 70,400 per cent., or 705 fold the nominal.

The State Railway account for the first half of 1922 shows, for the first time over any long period since the war, a balance of revenue and expenditure, in fact, a small surplus. The account is:—

	In Millions of Marks.
Revenue—	
Passenger traffic	10,550
Goods traffic	78,714
Other sources	2,973
	92,237
Expenditure—	
Central direction	74
Traffic operation	89,900
Other outlay	6
Service of debt	2,200
	92,180

This favourable result is due in part to the competent management of the Minister of Railways, General Groener, who has been at his post for more than three years. It is due also partly to the shrinkage, caused by the currency depreciation of the real interest on the railway debt. The main reason for the improvement is that January-June was in general a time of stable exchange, and therefore of (for Germany) moderate price-rise. Until June 25th the dollar never rose more than 20 points above its highest level of November, 1921. On the basis of the November, 1921, falls, rates and fares were put up drastically, and they were not reduced when the mark recovered temporarily (December, 1921) about 100 per cent.; hence revenue continued to come in on nearly the highest values level. Under precisely the same conditions, general State finances improved in this period, the proportion of deficit to revenue falling from 154.4 per cent. in December, 1921 (immediately after the lowest mark level of 1921), to only 27.2 per cent. in May, 1922. The new mark decline has badly upset railway finance (as it has upset State finance), and the reason in both cases is inability (in part neglect) to raise charges in accord with the currency depreciation. The present plan is to raise passenger fares several times, until in December they are (third class) six times higher than in September, and 90 times higher than in 1913. The 90-fold rate lags very far behind the mark's external and far behind its internal depreciation; and it still remains a mystery why rates and fares are not put up as ruthlessly as theatre seats. All prophecies that past increases would kill traffic (or theatre-going) have been falsified; and it seems (on grounds both of theory and observation) wrong to assume that if the real substance of national wealth is not decreasing, an increase of charges up to the full internal currency depreciation would kill traffic. The postal rates are also unreasonably low; the home unit letter rate is at present exchange 1-15th of a penny, the foreign rate about 1d. Citizens who use the railways and posts for business could bear the higher rates, adding the increase to prices as they do in the case of dearer coal, materials, and labour; and citizens who use railways and posts for entertainment ought not to travel at the cost of citizens who do not use them at all. The latest estimate of the posts deficit is 30 milliards; the railway deficit, until a proper relation is established between costs and charges, will be enormous, and the burden will be thrown wholly on the mark-interest part of the population, in the form of avoidable floating debt borrowings followed by inflation. A Government which in eight hours solves the exchange problem by means of proclamation under an exceptional martial law ordinance might be expected to show reasonable speed over problems which could probably be solved.

The Bourse last week continued active, and, owing to inability to cope with work, it is being closed on certain days; but the upward movement slackened. Whereas

French American Banking Corporation

67 William Street
NEW YORK CITY

Cable Address - FRENAMBANK

Capital, Surplus & Undivided Profits - \$2,845,000

We transact a general foreign and domestic banking business and solicit your inquiries.

dividend-payers (*Frankfurter Zeitung's* index) rose in the week October 13th to 20th from 113,132 to 162,132, in the week 20th to 27th they rose only to 184,451. Federal Threes to-day reached the new record height of 910, War Loan being 77.50, Federal Fours 265, Three and a-Halves 155, Colonial Fours 298, and Savings and Premium 83.20. Bond movements in the past two years have been:—

	Lowest.	Highest.	End Sept.	Oct. 27.
Federal Threes	64	110	376	900
.. 3½%	59	77	108	155
.. 4%	66	88	200	265
Colonial 4%	69	190	132	280
Prussian Threes	50	63	91	155
.. 3½%	53	64	70	91
.. 4%	61	76	82	100

The industrial outlook is less favourable than it was a month ago, but it is hard to say whether this is the beginning of the normal seasonal depression, or whether the trade boom is breaking up. Last winter, but some weeks later than now, there was a sharp and brief increase in unemployment, with reports of declining orders; but this condition passed, and trade activity, with an increasing and often unsatisfied demand for labour, continued up to the last weeks. Of the iron and steel branches, Berlin newspapers publish very alarming accounts and prophecies; but the trade journal *Bergwerks-Zeitung* says that the reports are exaggerated, and that "of any tangible reaction, or of considerable discharges of workmen in the heavy industry, there is no possibility." Orders are abundant, but the shortness of working capital threatens danger. The news from the finishing metal industries—in particular the locomotive and car branches—is less favourable. The Solingen branch complains of the new American tariff (70 per cent. of Solingen's exports this year went to the United States); but good orders are coming from England, South America, and the East European frontier countries. The *Vorwärts* holds that the employment statistics show the number of men engaged in industry (on the present area) to be greater than in 1907, while the number engaged in agriculture has declined. Some textile firms (district Rheydt) are working shortened hours; but this, says the *Deutsche Allg. Zeitung*, "is not due to want of orders, but to financial troubles," caused mainly by the Exchange Decree. Since the decree was amended, adds the report, things have improved. The mere scarcity of working capital is likely to be got over—the declining value for industrial financing of the paper mark is met by increasing the quantity of paper marks, so that the predicted crisis may, if the will to buy remains, be avoided. The influential Westphalian iron magnate, August Thyssen, declares that Germans must return to the ten-hours day.

The Potash Syndicate reports a remarkable recovery. Potash sales in the first three quarters of 1922 are described as extremely satisfactory, being 10 million double-centners of pure potash, against 6.2 millions in the same time of 1921, while exports for all 1922 are put at 12½ millions d.c., materially exceeding the exports (11 millions d.c.) of 1913. This is a very good result, because, owing to American unwillingness to buy at the high German export prices, potash exports up to last year were very small.

ITALY.—THE FASCISTI AND THEIR PROGRAMME— GLOOMY SPEECHES OF GIOLITTI AND NITTI— EXCHANGES AND PRICES RISING—ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, October 28, 1922.

THE important question is, what is the economic platform of the new party? Signor Mussolini, the chief, is not an economist. Passionate and full of vigour, he is able to commit his party to headlong plunges into unknown seas. For the moment, he has uttered at Naples only one economic sentence: "Italy needs at the helm a man capable of saying No to all requests of new expenditure." So far, so good. All leaders are saying the same thing. Signors Nitti and Giolitti have recently made speeches, in which Italy's situation was coloured very darkly, and public opinion was seriously and gravely warned of the necessity of putting an end to the increase in public

expenditure, and of reducing even useful expenses. Signor Giolitti was very resolute on the topic, and prophesied the lira going to ruin, following the evil example of the German mark, if the State Budget were not put in order in a reasonably short time. The words of the old statesman, who is passing his eightieth birthday, had an immediate effect. The lira went tumbling in foreign markets, and in a few days the pound sterling rose from 105 to 117 lire, and the dollar from 24 to 26 lire.

From this rise was born in the Italian bourses a faint approximation to a tentative valuta boom, as is apparent from the following table:—

	September 26.	October 25.
Consols 3½	72.70	72.15
.. 5%	81.80	80.30
SHARES.		
Bank of Italy	1,347	1,375
Banca Commerciale	863	878
Credito Italiano	650	670
Meridional railways	293	291
Libera Tristina (navigation)	445	430
Cantoni (cotton)	1,001	1,250
Casacani seta (silk)	582	688
De Angeli (cotton printing)	429	480
Rossi (wool)	2,000	2,120
Terni (iron and steel)	476	468
Fiat (motor car)	233	240
Edison (electricity)	440	466
Fondi Rustici (agricultural land)	230	232
Immobiliari (house property)	510	540
Nebiolo (printing machines and types)	326	397
Silos (wheat elevators)	238	268
FOREIGN EXCHANGES.		
Paris	178	179
London	102.80	115
Switzerland	435	465
New York	23.30	26.45
Berlin	1.67	0.68½

Nearly all shares have participated in the boomlet, rise of prices being the highest in textiles, where high profits are obtained. Consols and all other fixed interest securities are low. Although prices are increasing, the following figures on the cost of living of a working man's family of five in Turin do not yet bear the full repercussion of recent rises in foreign exchanges. This rise in the cost of living has, however, not been accompanied up to date by requests for higher wages.

	Food.	Clothing.	Rent.	Fuel and Light.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
First half of 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100
June, 1920	410	434	100	385	425	374
June, 1921	445	433	110	368	438	429
January, 1922	524	454	120	436	591	465
April, 1922	470	433	120	378	587	494
May, 1922	473	433	120	368	586	436
June, 1922	484	432	120	366	584	437
July, 1922	487	436	120	372	584	438
August, 1922	489	436	120	387	587	458
September, 1922	521	436	120			

Will the new party have the will and the power to redress the awkward financial situation of the State, which is the only true cause of the present unfavourable movements of exchanges and prices? I say the only cause of the trouble, as the economic situation of the country is not bad. Far from it. Agriculture has had some adverse experiences—the wheat harvest under the average, and a deficiency of rain, which in various regions made havoc among the cattle; but the cocoons and vintage seasons went very favourably, and prices of agricultural products are high, so that the agricultural community is faring well. Textile products are, therefore, in good demand, and

building shows, after years of complete quiet, some signs of vitality. State and banking circulation are not increasing, and the State finances itself by means of Treasury bills sold to real investors. The deficit of the current fiscal year was estimated by Signor Giolitti at not less than seven billions lire—i.e., Italian savers are buying this year State securities to the tune of seven billions lire for the sake of balancing the State Budget. If we assume that the present lira is worth only 20 per cent. of the old good money, we must conclude that the minimum capacity to save of Italians is not less than 1,400 millions gold lire. At present, unfortunately, all these savings are poured into the all-devouring State Treasury.

Therefore, the most urgent necessity is the reduction of public expenses. Even if taxes should be somewhat increased, the balancing of the State Budget would set free a large margin of savings for industrial and agricultural investments. Economy in public services is possible; the huge deficit of the State Railways of over one billion lire is related to two principal causes: high exchanges, which raise the price of coal, and the bad organisation of the eight hours day, in virtue of which many railwaymen work effectively only for two or three hours a day. In the postal services the tale is very much the same. Large sums could be saved if the State could buy all they want in the cheapest market; if State bounties and subsidies were suspended or reduced; if war pensions were revised, so as to limit them; if plans for public works were restricted to a minimum. But the man who will attempt to put in practice the Mussolini dictum of replying No to all requests of expenditure will possess remarkable courage. Populists and Socialists have not this sort of courage, as they cater for the vote of multitudes crying always after State aid, and it is to be feared that Fascisti, who are proud of marshalling 800,000 adherents, will hesitate before the task.

SWITZERLAND.—STOCK MARKET PANIC—CAPITAL LEVY PROPOSALS—REJECTION EXPECTED.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, October 24.

DURING the past fortnight the Swiss stock markets have been completely panic-stricken. The panic concerned especially the bonds of public bodies. Within a few days the average yield of public securities dealt with in the Swiss markets rose from 4.1 to 5.4 per cent. The 4 per cent. Federal Loan, which was launched at the beginning of September with quite extraordinary success, was quoted four weeks later 10 per cent. below the price of issue. The causes may be briefly reviewed. On September 24th the Swiss people rejected by a very large majority a project of law suppressing revolutionary attempts. This was how the law was officially described, but the population in many parts of the country considered the law as a breach of constitutional liberty, and rejected it, without, however, the least intention of granting any support to the revolutionary parties. The refusal of the law by a very large majority was, of course, unanimously interpreted by the Socialists and by the reactionaries as a Socialist victory. Now, on December 3rd, the Swiss people will have again to vote concerning an initiative—a constitutional proposal presented by the left wing of Socialists, and providing for a levy on capital of from 5 to 60 per cent. of private fortunes. The proposal differs from all similar laws in other countries in this respect, that the money raised by such a drastic measure shall not be used for the purpose of clearing off public indebtedness, but in the creation of a fund for social insurance. At first glance it looks as if this law would have some chance of being accepted; 99.4 per cent. of the population will have to vote whether 0.6 per cent. of the population is to pay over part of its fortune. But notwithstanding this, the possibility of a Socialist victory in the voting is a very small one. It is only a false interpretation of the result of the vote of September 24th, which really created the fear.

The panic caused a flood of orders to sell at the best price obtainable. There were days when federal, cantonal, and municipal securities depreciated to an

absurd extent. At the same time, foreign holders of Swiss francs, especially Germans, were influenced by these feelings, and bought Dutch florins and English pounds. Under such conditions banks were not in a position to interfere, and the intervention of the National Bank in its capacity as a semi-Government institution came, of course, too late. In this way the nervous elements among the stock-holders in effect voluntarily paid far higher a levy on capital than they would have paid in most cases in the event of the acceptance of the law.

A considerable number of projects of new public loans urgently necessary for the consolidation of public finance which were intended for the month of October of this year have been postponed till next spring, which is not to the advantage of the taxpayer. Some leading industrial shares were, however, not touched by the panic. As to banking shares, they dropped considerably, but recovered far more quickly than public securities. The foreign securities of the kind dealt in in the Swiss markets, especially several American loans, Scandinavian loans, the lately-issued Amsterdam loan, and others, rose when the panic was at its height, and their yield is now somewhat smaller than that of Swiss securities of similar standing.

There are people who believe that this panic, although unjustified in itself, will have lasting and perhaps beneficial effects. First of all, the law will be rejected by an enormous majority, for the peasants, who form the majority of the electorate, and who counted on enjoying a reduction of mortgage interest for this autumn, have now the disappointment of the maintenance of high mortgage interests, and they will make the Socialists pay for it. (Some 99 per cent. of the peasants have smaller net fortunes than would be necessary to be touched by the levy.) Secondly, the orientation in the direction of foreign investment will last, and may to a certain extent weaken the unilateral national tendency of the average Swiss investor since the beginning of the war. Switzerland's balance of foreign payments after the heavy depreciation of her foreign assets in neighbouring countries needs fresh foreign investments.

HOLLAND.—GENERAL SITUATION—BANKRUPTCIES —LOAN TO GERMANY—BALANCE OF TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, October 19.

THE general situation is one of serious depression. Although there are some indications of a rather favourable character, as, for instance, the receipts of the taxes, which might be worse, there is a total lack of initiative and enterprise. It seems as if we are going through a second wave of depression. Six months ago there was a feeling that the most serious phase of the crisis had more or less gone by. To-day it is otherwise. Those banks which expanded too rapidly during the war, and the short period of revived activity after the war, are still suffering from the ill-effects of their too light-hearted policy. Undoubtedly, the network of branch offices affords more banking facilities than normally required. Some of the banks have lost quite considerable amounts of deposits, partly because the Government paid a better rate of interest on Treasury bills, and partly because the public had grown a little alarmed after the disastrous experiences of Marx and Co.'s Bank and the Bank Associatie, and numerous smaller financial institutions and private firms. The elections in the summer brought about a somewhat increased majority of the Conservative parties. The nation had hoped that a strong Cabinet, with a drastic policy of economy, would restore confidence in the Government, but the Minister of Finance has disappointed expectations. The unfavourable condition of business life is illustrated by the number of applications for bankruptcy in the first three quarters of this year, which was 2,243 as compared with 1,565 in the same period of 1921—an increase of 43 per cent.

It will be remembered that this country was the first to grant a credit to Germany after the war. This credit amounted to 200,000,000 fl, of which 60,000,000 fl were to be used for foodstuffs and 140,000,000 fl for raw mate-

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.

1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

With Branches and Associated Companies in Australia, Borneo, Canada, Ceylon, China, India, Japan, Java, Malaya, Morocco, New Zealand, Sumatra, U.S.A.,

Manufacturers desiring representation in any of the above Countries are invited to communicate with the Company.

rials. A year ago Germany had availed herself of the first-named credit to the extent of 20,500,000 fl, but in the meantime 24,100,000 fl had already been paid back, so that practically the whole of the credit was still available. The present position as regards this part of the credit is not known. Of the other part, destined for financing raw materials a year ago, 11,700,000 fl had been utilised. Those who denied that this credit assisted the German industry in competing against the Dutch industry found support from this low figure. But now the situation is quite different. Up to October 2nd, the Dutch Government had granted credits to the amount of 40,000,000 fl, of which 31,000,000 fl were utilised. The increase in the number of applications from the German industries for credits under this arrangement is very rapid, owing to the fact that German banks are much restricted, and are bound to ask exorbitant terms, whereas for loans under the Dutch scheme 8½ per cent. is charged (including commissions), plus ½ per mille. Although not exactly low, these terms are far better than those of the German banks. It may be anticipated that within six months the whole of the credit of 140,000,000 fl will be exhausted, and undoubtedly this means a heavy charge on the floating debt of this country, which already amounts to 735,000,000 fl, of which 295,000,000 fl has been lent to the Colonies. We now face the contrast that Dutch trade and commerce languish while the Government finances German industry, which is the severest competitor of Dutch industry. It must be admitted, however, that the trustees in Berlin try as far as possible to use the funds of the loan for enterprises which do not compete with Dutch industry. And if a considerable part of German industry is being enabled to expand its activity, it cannot be denied that this was exactly what the credit was meant for. The Dutch Government was very soon after the Armistice convinced that an impoverished Germany, incapable of developing her productive energy, would mean a danger for this country. It is only a pity that the impoverishment has come just the same, and to a larger extent than anyone anticipated, and that the credit granted by this country has been, taken all together, of little use.

The value of British imports in September was 164,000,000 fl, and of exports 110,000,000 fl. The balance of imports was thus 48,000,000 fl, which is the smallest monthly balance of this year. The largest was 86,000,000 fl in May, and the lowest 50,000,000 fl in June.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—POLICY OF DR RASIN—COAL—THE NEW BUDGET.

(FROM OUR PRAGUE CORRESPONDENT.)

DR ALOIS RASIN, who at the recent reconstruction of the Czechoslovak Cabinet took office as Minister of Finance for the second time, has been credited with the intention of attempting sensational changes in the financial policy of the country. Among other things, it was predicted that his advent would be followed by another sharp rise of the Czechoslovak exchange, which was to culminate in a currency reform, having the gold standard as a basis. The new Minister took the first opportunity to contradict these rumours, and, in an interview with representatives of the local Press, gave an outline of the general policy he intended to adopt. He said that nothing was further from his mind than to have recourse to sensational measures. During his tenure of office he would rather trust to the gradual process of consolidation and healthy evolution than carry out a plan which, in the present condition of the international money market and of the economic state of the neighbouring countries, would be doomed to failure.

So far as a further rise of the Czechoslovak exchange is concerned his forecast has been borne out by subsequent events. At Zurich the crown is quoted at about 18, while the sterling exchange at Prague has slightly receded to between 135 and 137 to the £. In view of the in-

dustrial crisis, which is almost entirely due to the disproportionate cost of production, this, in all conscience, is high enough. Any additional rise could not fail to aggravate the position. Strenuous efforts are being made all round to raise the internal purchasing power of the crown, and the Government have foreshadowed certain measures tending to alleviate the strain. A small beginning was made with a general lowering of food prices, while textiles and boots show a considerable drop. On the strength of this, labour, being the easiest to be got at, was asked to consent to a cut in wages, amounting to roughly 30 per cent. Notices were served in the mining, metal, chemical, textile, and some other industries terminating existing contracts, and, although in some instances the new scale of wages was accepted without demur, the miners in the Ostrava-Karvin coal district replied with a strike. But strike funds were low, and the large stocks of coal available proved sufficient to meet the restricted demand for some time to come. Thus the strike broke down after a few days' duration, when a compromise was reached, by which the miners accepted an immediate wage cut of 25 per cent., another 5 per cent. to come off in a month's time. The dispute in the Ostrava-Karvin district was considered as a test case for the whole Republic, with the result that the terms agreed upon have become general throughout the land. The consequence will undoubtedly be a drop in the price of fuel, but this will hardly be sufficient unless the Government be prepared to make sacrifices in regard to the coal tax and railway freights. As Dr Rasin admitted, it is an anomaly that Czechoslovak coal should be dearer than British, or Saar Valley coal, delivered in Czechoslovakia. But, from the fiscal point of view, he is reluctant to sacrifice such an important item in the national revenue, and prefers to cast his eye in another direction, viz., the decontrol of coal. The free import of coal for a certain period would, in his opinion, bring down the price of the local commodity without the Exchequer being made any the poorer, and, when this is accomplished, the frontiers might once more be closed against the import of fuel. However this may be, considerable damage to the coal industry has already been done by the reduction of coal exports to Germany, which is directly due to the higher price of the Czechoslovak commodity. The coal exports to Austria have also diminished, and, at the time of writing, negotiations are proceeding at Prague with a view to recapturing this market. To sum up the position, it may be stated that the excessive price of coal is due to three factors: exorbitant profits of the owners, high wages of the miners, and the levy of the coal tax. As these seriously affect the cost of production in almost every industry and render the export of the large surplus output impossible, the only remedy seems to lie in a cut all round.

Of the Budget estimates for 1923, which are to come up in Parliament almost immediately after the opening of the autumn session on the 24th inst., Dr Rasin spoke to the representatives of the Press in an optimistic vein. Without going into figures, he declared that the national revenue would almost certainly exceed the expenditure. The latter, he said, was based upon the prices ruling at present, but, as there could be no doubt that during the coming year prices, wages, &c., would show a drop, very considerable savings would be made on the estimates. He also pointed out his intention of placing the State undertakings, which at present are jumbled up with other national expenditure, on a separate footing, in order to see clearly which of them were carried on at a profit and which entailed a loss. Any unprofitable State enterprises should either be given up or else sublet to private companies under Government supervision.

Letters to the Editor.

FOREIGN INTERESTS IN TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The satisfaction at the re-establishment of full Turkish sovereignty over Constantinople and Thrace, which has been greeted as a triumph of French diplomacy by Mr Franklin-Bouillon and a considerable section of the French Press, does not seem to be shared by the French commercial community at Constantinople, if one is to judge by a memorandum recently forwarded by the French Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople to the French Government. The memorandum is signed by the President, and is dated October 5, 1922. The views expressed therein and the misgivings as to the future so entirely accord with those of the majority of British business men in Turkey that it is worth reproducing it *in extenso*. It might appropriately be entitled "Le revers de la médaille."

The text is as follows:—

"At a time when negotiations with the Turkish Government are about to begin, it is the duty of our Chamber of Commerce to enlighten the Ministry and all those in France who take an interest in the Near East concerning the facts of a situation to which events give a peculiar significance."

"As a result of numerous errors, the responsibility for which largely devolves on our great Allies, we find ourselves faced with unfavourable conditions."

"In 1918, after our victory, the Turks were timorous and meek. At that moment it was possible to organise the country on a practical basis favourable to the Allies. Today those same Turks, who have come to consider themselves the greatest military nation in the world, because they happen to have defeated the Greek army, have become extraordinarily arrogant and want to dictate terms. Outwardly they make a great show of friendship for France, but we know what Turkish professions of friendship are worth; Turkish friendship towards non-Moslems cannot be sincere. Anyhow, it will shortly be possible to put it to the test."

"France and Italy have so openly declared their determination never to fight the Turk that they have lost all prestige with that warlike people, who despise these flatteries."

"What we have to fear is the following:—Firstly, as regards the security of our persons and our property, the suppression of the capitulations."

"Given the character of the Turks, their present temper, and the state of their laws, one can boldly state that it is impossible for honest Europeans to live in Turkey without these indispensable guarantees. Consequently, all that is best in our colony, that element which is the defender of our influence and our interests and the maintainer of our commerce, will be forced to leave the country, which will be an irreparable loss to France."

"It is therefore absolutely necessary—and on this point there are no two opinions even amongst the most ardent Turcophiles—to have guarantees. The most essential of these is the maintenance of the Consular jurisdiction and the Mixed Tribunals, thus securing the inviolability of our persons and our homes."

"In order to give some satisfaction to the Turk's inordinate pride, one might say that the capitulations are abolished while establishing the above-mentioned guarantees in some other form. One might justify this by stating what is undeniable, viz., that the Ottoman laws are defective and need to be recast. On the other hand, the Turkish magistracy is beneath contempt. Not only are the judges ignorant of the law and lacking in judicial experience, but they are scandalously corrupt. In 1914, when they suppressed the capitulations, the Turks themselves recognised the inferiority of their judicial system, and promised reforms which were never realised. Consequently, the judicial guarantees which we demand must go on existing until the reforms become an accomplished fact. The minimum period which one can fix for the disappearance of the capitulations, if Ottoman justice does contrive to give the necessary guarantees, is 15 years; by then those Frenchmen who are wise will have had time to prepare for their departure, if they think fit."

"If the remaining capitulations disappear, Frenchmen,

and other foreigners as well, will be subject to the same taxation as Ottoman subjects. At first sight this seems fair, but those who know the country understand all the dangers underlying such a step. One will have to stipulate that such taxes shall be the same for foreigners and Ottomans."

"What is still more serious is that Turkey is probably going to recover her economic freedom. She will thus be free to modify her Customs tariffs, which until now was subject to the approval of the Powers, and as the leaders labour under the childish illusion that they can create a powerful industry in this impoverished and depopulated country—in the Konia Vilayet, the most prosperous of all, the population, according to the Turks' own admission, is three to four inhabitants per square kilometer—they are sure considerably to raise the tariff, which will become protective. We have already published the tariff in force in Anatolia, which, by its prohibitions and exaggerations, excludes from the Anatolian markets practically all French goods."

"But that is not all. Still with the object of favouring home industries, the Turks intend to put a heavy export duty on raw materials produced in the country, of which France is, after England, the principal purchaser, in order to keep them in the country."

"Further, there is a great risk of Turkey going 'dry.' Prohibition is already in force in Anatolia, and is enforced with the greatest severity; a Frenchman at Zoungouldak spent several months in prison for having taken to his brother a few bottles of wine. After the occupation of Smyrna and Broussa, the Nationalists at once closed the wine shops, seized the wines and spirits, and threatened to search houses. It is practically certain that prohibition will be imposed in Constantinople and the rest of Turkey, which will mean to France the loss of a big market—more than fifteen millions a year."

"Our French companies, representing very big interests, who have been obliged to assume Ottoman nationality, will lead a very difficult existence. The boards of directors, at present in Paris, will have to be transferred to Constantinople, and to include Ottoman members; the management will be closely and unsympathetically controlled, the Government will insist on the accounts and correspondence being in Turkish, and on all the staff being composed of Turks, which means that many of our compatriots will be left without jobs. We have also reason to fear for our shipping, our schools, our hospitals, and our societies. The French, British, and Italian Post Offices will have to disappear, which will deprive us of the secrecy and security of our correspondence."

"In view of this gloomy situation, we must try and rescue a few remnants of our ancient privileges, if it is impossible to preserve them all, which would be preferable."

"We have indicated the indispensable minimum of the personal guarantees required."

"As regards the tariff, we must try to have the duties on our principal articles reduced, to obtain the most favoured nation treatment, for, though to-day we may be their best friends, to-morrow that friendship may go to the Russians, the Germans, and even to our worse adversaries of to-day."

"As regards prohibition, we must try to get round it. We must appear to accept in order to satisfy Turkish pride; but must obtain the admission of imports by means of additional conditions. At the worst, we can throw overboard the "aperitifs," brandies and liqueurs, and save the wines, all the wines. In case of stocks being returned, we must be given a refund on the Customs collected."

"Finally, we must do all we can to defend our shipping, our hospitals, our various companies, and to get our trade-marks respected."

"Never accept verbal assurances, however friendly and effusive. Always have everything in black and white."

"And even if we obtain all this, the economic future of France in Turkey will still be very dark."

Such is the pleasing prospect which the Kemalist triumph, so sedulously fostered by France, opens out for Europeans and European trade in the new Turkey. Yours faithfully,

A. A. PALLIS.

Constantinople, October 21st, 1922.

CURRENCY AND BUSINESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your issue of October 28th contains a letter by Mr Maurice H. Dobb expressing certain opinions on economical questions which are presented as in some way concerning me. I am not interested in Mr Dobb's opinions, and I shall not engage in controversies in the *Economist* unless the accuracy of the figures and facts which it is my duty to report to you is challenged. They are not challenged by Mr Dobb's expression of amazement at them.

Amazement is the quality and charm of innocence. As one of many men who have suffered from the world's oversophistication, I shall do nothing to dispel it.—I am, yours truly,

YOUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.

INFLATION IN GERMANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Since writing you last Saturday I find, on looking over my notes on economics, that the German Bank Act 1875 allows an amount of issue against securities, and should the note issue exceed the limit assigned, a tax of 5 per cent. on the excess issue is charged. In this case the permanent burden on the nation for discount charges on Treasury bills will be reduced to the extent of the tax the Reichsbank will have to pay the Government for the privilege of printing the bank-notes.—Yours faithfully,

JAS. S. MCCONCHY.

44 Spring gardens, Manchester.

Books and Publications.

MERCHANT SHIPPING: THE OFFICER AND THE OFFICE.

BETWEEN the officers who run the vessels belonging to a shipping company and the office staffs which administer the affairs of the same company there is, as Mr Clement Jones observes, a gulf fixed which is unnecessarily and undesirably wide. "The clerk working overtime, perhaps far into the night, in order to get a manifest finished, envies the officer his regular hours, and pictures him, arms akimbo, on the bridge of his ship in a glassy sea. Similarly the officer, peering into the blackness of a foggy night, may perhaps give a passing thought to those lucky shipping clerks safe abed." The groups have no points of contact. No one except the master visits the office, and the office staffs, except at the docks, do not venture upon the decks of the ships. And yet the interests of both groups are the same: the prosperity of the company which it is their lot in life to serve.

What Mr Clement Jones, of the Booth Line, has set himself to do is to reveal the officers to the office and the office to the officers, and both to that vague personage, the "general reader," and has discharged his self-appointed task most excellently. He has technical knowledge of both sides of the shipping business, for, though brought up in the office, he has made it his job to sail the seas and to enter into and sympathise with the difficulties and responsibilities of masters, officers, and seamen. It is a book which in essence is very human, and no book about the sea service, whether of the Navy or the Mercantile Marine, is of any account unless it be human. Ships are the material expression of the stout hearts and souls of men, and so Mr Jones always regards them. No one can make a real success of owning or running ships unless he so regards them.

We have not come across many books in the vast literature of the sea which are so entirely satisfying as this one. It is not long, no longer than an average modern novel, yet Mr Jones packs into it not only a brief account of the rise of British shipping and the slow turn over from sail to steam—which after a hundred years is not yet complete—but gives us a clear view of the various types of ships, their construction, the manner in which they are

* "British Merchant Shipping." By Clement Jones, C.B. (London) Edward Arnold and Co. 10s 6d net.

run, the duties of officers and seamen, the administration of shipping offices on shore, the handling of cargo, accounts, statistics, and insurance. Though everything is there, and presented adequately, there is no overcrowding. Regarded as a piece of "journalism," the condensation of a vast subject into a small readable space, Mr Clement Jones's book commands our professional respect.

There are few men, however long they may have served the sea afloat or ashore, who will not learn much from this book. For Mr Jones reveals how much the men afloat depend upon the men ashore, and how much the men ashore risk their fortunes upon the men afloat. And watching over both appears again and again in the author's pages that sometimes abused yet deeply respected Fairy Godmother, the Mercantile Marine Department of the Board of Trade. This, the most human of Government Departments, receives at the hands of Mr Clement Jones no less than justice. He smiles kindly at its form and ceremonies, yet is evidently on the best of terms with it. We have read countless books upon British merchant shipping, though never a one more sympathetic or illuminating than this.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Economic Motives. A Study in the Psychological Foundations of Economic Theory, with some reference to other Social Sciences. By Zenas Clark Dickinson. (Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.) Harvard University Press.

Obtainable from Mr Humphrey Milford, London, 12s 6d net.

Property Insurance. By S. S. Huebner. Revised Edition. (New York) D. Appleton and Co.

Obtainable from Messrs D. Appleton and Co., London, 12s. 6d. net.

Recent Economic Developments in Russia. By K. Leites. Edited by Harald Westergaard. (Oxford) Clarendon Press.

The ABC's of Business. By Henry S. McKee. (New York) The Macmillan Company. \$1.00.

Americanism. A World Menace. By W. T. Colyer. Preface by Tom Mann. (London) The Labour Publishing Company, Limited. 6s.

Fiscal Policy in India. By Pramathanath Banerjee. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited. 6s net.

Trade and Industry of Finland. (Helsingfors) J. Simelins' Heirs Printing Company, Limited.

The Common Sense of Economic Science. By Edmund Dane, LL.B. (London) Mills and Boon, Limited. 5s net.

Burke's Company Tables. October, 1922. Vol. II. (London) The Winthorpe Press. 20s net.

This is the second edition of this volume issued within six months. It is stated that if this new edition meets "with as favourable reception as the first, the practice of publishing twice a year will be continued." The world of finance is naturally slow to adopt fresh publications as standard works of reference, but once it is found that the facts and figures of a needed book are reliable, a big demand should ensue.

The Companies' Diary and Agenda Book. Edited by Herbert W. Jordan. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited. 4s net.

This useful publication, now in its fortieth year, is a valuable addition to any company secretary's library.

Une Enquête en Allemagne. By Max Hoeschler. Troisième Edition. (Paris) Librairie Felix Alcan. 7f 50c.

City of Manchester Abstract of Accounts, 1921-22. (Manchester) The City Treasurer.

The International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations. (London) League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor crescent, S.W. 1. 3d.

This little pamphlet describes the functions of the International Labour Office. It gives a brief summary of the work of the first three conferences and of the draft conventions adopted by them. Its achievements and activities are also summarised. This publication also contains a useful little bibliography and a list of publications obtainable from the International Labour Office.

The Japan Financial and Economic Monthly. August, 1922. Edited by the Oriental Economist. (Tokyo) The Liberal News Agency.

ACCOUNT.
November 16.

South Africans have developed a fresh accession of strength. Assisted by the Cape, prices of Deep Levels went ahead briskly. Shares in the old-producers took up the running, and the market is decidedly stronger, though there is not much public at the back of the movement. De Beers recovered from the unfavourable effect produced at first by the announcement of a new issue of shares. Chartered fell back upon the reported announcement that the Referendum had gone in favour of the

Pease and Partners, Limited.—Authorised share capital £3,000,000, of which £2,186,399 has been issued and paid up. The loan capital outstanding consists of £400,000 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock, and £100,045 5 per cent. second debenture stock, which is to be repaid out of the proceeds of the undermentioned issue. This is an offer for sale of £1,000,000 5 per cent. debenture stock at 93 per cent. It is to be redeemed on or before April 1, 1954, by an annual cumulative sinking fund, which may operate either by purchase in the market or drawings at par. This issue will be secured by a trust deed constituting a floating charge upon assets, subject to an existing floating charge securing the £400,000 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock. The company reserves the right to borrow from its bankers at any time up to £250,000, and to give prior charges for such loans, and there is an elastic scheme for creating fresh borrowings, which can rank *pari passu* with this issue according to the amount of the paid-up

The Welwyn, Knabworth and District Gas Company, Limited.—The authorised share capital of the company is £24,000, and there is an authorised loan capital of £12,000. Up to the present £6,000 of "original shares," 10 per cent maximum dividend, and £6,000 "additional shares," 7 per cent maximum dividend, together with £1,500 5 per cent first mortgage debentures, have been issued. This is an offer for sale by tender of 400 £10 new ordinary shares ranking for a maximum dividend of 10 per cent, equally with existing original

Broken (41)	22	35	+	Knights	41	48	+
Broken Hand (8)	12	11		Modderfontein (10)	45	48	+
Broken Hill (2)	12	11		Modderfontein "B" (5)	41	48	+
Cons. Gold Fields (41)	1	1	+	Modderfontein Deep (5)	243	243	
Crows Mines (10)	31	35		Premier Del. (26)	64	64	+
De Beers Del. (22)	124	131		Rand Mines (5)	32	38	
East Rand Prod. (41)	1	1		Robt. Tloko (5)	27	27	
Edwards (4)	1	1		Spring Mines (43)	22	22	
Gold Fields (41)	56	58	+				

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ERINOID, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF THE YEAR "VERY SATISFACTORY."

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of Erinoid, Limited, was held, on Tuesday, the 31st ultimo, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate place, London, E.C., Mr Andrew Binnie (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr A. E. Parker) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I have pleasure in submitting for your approval our seventh annual accounts. Having regard to business conditions during the year, the result is very satisfactory. In October and November last year the sales were quite good, but in the succeeding five months trade became stagnant and sales dropped away by about one-third. In May business revived again, sales came up to the old level, and we have been doing very well indeed ever since. If sales be maintained at the present rate, we ought to have a very good account to submit to you next year.

FINANCIAL VITALITY OF THE COMPANY.

One striking feature is the financial vitality of the company. At August 31, 1921, the bank overdraft was £36,000 and the creditors £12,000—in all, £48,000. At August 31, 1922, the bank overdraft was only £12,400 and the creditors £3,596—in all, £16,000—showing a reduction of £32,000. The overdraft to-day is only about £6,000, and that is after placing £3,000 abroad to pay for raw material when delivered, and the whole liability is very much more than covered by the book debts. In this connection you will bear in mind that we have invested £11,000 in cash in the Omnith Company. Were it not for this investment, about which I shall have something to say, the bank overdraft would by this time have been extinguished. I can give you a still more striking illustration of the vitality of the business. I had occasion to look into the figures early in August and to compare them with the position in May, 1921. At that date—May, 1921—the total liabilities, excluding the bank overdraft of £15,000, were £43,000. In August, 1922, they were only £2,000, and the bank overdraft was round about £13,000. These figures speak for themselves, and disclose the remarkable recovery we have made since the disastrous year we had in 1921.

TRADING PROFIT.

The figure to which I would draw your special attention is the trading profit, £27,934, in a year in which, as I have already explained, five months were months of abnormal depression. These trading profits in a lean year are an index to the earning capacity of the business under normal conditions. The profits are depleted this year by two items of an exceptional and, I hope, non-recurring nature. One is the reserve for bad debts, which makes its appearance in our accounts for the first time. The slump of 1921 has brought down many businesses. Owing to excessive taxation, they had no cash reserves with which to face the sudden fall in values and stagnation in trade, and they simply collapsed. As regards the paper stocks, a shareholder has asked me why we use so much stationery. I had better, therefore, explain that in our process we, until recently, used a very large quantity of specially prepared paper. We always had to carry an ample stock lest our factory be brought to a standstill. As everyone knows, paper has fallen very heavily in value this year. We have, therefore, written down the stock in accordance with our usual conservative practice. Our resourceful manager has recently found a more economical substitute for this special paper. The saving in less than a year will outweigh the loss on the stock, and it will be an annual saving in future. These two items, the bad debts and the loss on paper, may be looked upon as the last phase as far as this company is concerned of the evil effects of the great slump.

The professional charges include surveyors' and audit fees and law costs, and should be less in future. We have also made the usual reserve in respect of plant and machinery, £6,783. The total reserve now amounts to £24,000, and, in the opinion of the board, is more than ample. Raw material has risen in price this year, and our stocks, so drastically written down last year, are, therefore, very much on the right side, and we will reap the benefit in due course.

Thanks to the ingenuity of a shareholder, we have found a new opening for the use of Erinoid. This opening has led to further developments, which we anticipate will lead to new business on a considerable scale.

OMNITH COMPANY.

As regards the investment in the Omnith Company, the French tariff has, as you know, given us considerable concern for some years past. We had contemplated manufacturing in France, but

were approached from more than one quarter to co-operate with existing French companies which were making, as we think, an inferior article. The proposition made by the Omnith Company was, however, the only one which we felt we ought seriously to entertain. After an exhaustive investigation by our technical and financial experts we decided to join hands with this company.

The facts are outlined in the report, and I would only add that the shareholding is so arranged that both British and French interests are duly considered. The managing director of the company was formerly with us at Stroud, and therefore we are in very safe hands. We shall get the benefit of our French trade, coupled with the connection which the Omnith Company itself has. We enjoy all the amenities which attach to a French company, and are associated with men of good standing in France. We look forward to the successful issue of the business there, and have achieved our purpose by a modest outlay in cash, besides utilising the plant bought for use at Yate and until now lying idle on our hands.

It is too soon to say what the effect of the new American tariff will be, but it seems to me that what we lose owing to tariffs we ought to gain in the home trade, for, as we are always told, if the foreigner restricts imports he cannot export. Consequently, the manufacturers at home who buy from us ought to find their trade stimulated.

DIVIDEND OUTLOOK.

If, as a shareholder, I might put a question to myself, it would be this: "All this information is quite interesting, but what about a dividend?" The answer is: "We have earned a dividend this year in spite of adverse conditions, and we are earning another one now. When I visited the factory last week every machine was at work, and there is no apparent reason why this state of affairs should not continue. As soon as our cash resources permit it, we shall not delay in making a distribution."

The position as I see it now is this. In order to buy raw material at the most opportune time and on the best terms it is necessary to have a floating cash fund in our hands. When we pay for the raw material this fund will decrease, but when we realise our sales it will be replenished. Our bankers have always given us accommodation and enabled us to pay cash, but that is not the same thing as having a liquid fund at our backs. This fund could be created, as was done before the slump, out of profits, but in the meantime the shareholders would be deprived of what is due to them by way of return on their capital. We are, therefore, negotiating for a loan which will provide us with the floating cash fund which we think necessary. We can then apply our profits in paying dividends, in reduction of the loan, and in building up reserves to maintain the floating fund, and except for additional plant from time to time we do not anticipate any further capital outlay of moment, so that there is nothing in that direction to reduce the fund.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our satisfaction at the loyal and able manner in which the staff at Stroud have worked throughout the year, and to testify to the spirit of goodwill which exists between employer and employees in this company.

Coming up from Stroud last week, and with this meeting in my mind, I was somewhat consoled to read of a strong attack by one of the Bishops on companies which pay big dividends. His Lordship did not refer to companies like ours, which are passing their dividend, but continue to pay good wages. The position of directors is really becoming rather awkward. If we do not pay any dividends our shareholders do not like it. If we do pay dividends we may be excommunicated by the Bishop. This year the Bishop has no case against us, but I hope that at an early date we shall give him a mild shock by declaring a dividend.

I have now pleasure in moving: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended August 31, 1922, as submitted, be received, adopted, and approved."

Mr W. G. Waldron seconded the resolution.

After two or three questions had been asked and answered to the satisfaction of the shareholders, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr W. G. Waldron, the retiring director, was re-elected; and Messrs Woodhouse and Wilkinson were reappointed auditors.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, directors, managers and the staff, and the proceedings terminated.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

GROSS EARNINGS HIGHEST ON RECORD.

HEAVY EXPENSES, BUT BRIGHTER OUTLOOK.

The sixty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 2nd instant, at Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr Robert Miller (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the gross earnings for the year were Rs. 677 lakhs, which gave an average of Rs. 482 per mile per week, and Rs. 5.63 per train mile. These figures were the highest on record for the undertaking. Passenger traffic continued to show an increase in numbers, though the total receipts fell slightly short of the figures of the previous year, being Rs. 188.7 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 191.5 lakhs. This was due to a decline in the average distance travelled. During the year now in progress, 1922-23, the company had obtained sanction to raise passenger fares, and, as a consequence, fares had been enhanced; but in a case of this kind enhancement had to be made judiciously, so as to avoid the risk of repressing traffic. Goods traffic showed a fall-off in tonnage and an increase in freight, the figures for public traffic being in volume 7,611,308 tons, and in freight Rs. 3,92,90,312, as compared with 7,717,815 tons and Rs. 3,76,77,094. Although the decline in the tonnage of manganese was not made good by the increase in the tonnage of general merchandise and foodstuffs, the additional freight produced by the latter more than covered the freight lost by the former.

WORKING EXPENSES.

The working expenses during the year were Rs. 4,84,29,146, absorbing 71.53 per cent. of gross earnings, as compared with Rs. 4,24,08,509, absorbing 66 per cent. of gross earnings. The amount was admittedly very high, and would no doubt be regarded as serious if it were indicative of a permanent alteration in the normal rate of working expenses. That, however, was not the case. Though there was some increase in operating expenses, which had come to stay, it was not large; the bulk of the increase occurred under maintenance and renewals, mainly rolling stock, and was due to an unusually large number of engines having been repaired, to more coaches than usual having been repaired, to heavy repairs done to a large number of goods vehicles, and to an adjustment against working expenses of the cost of 135 American wagons put on the line, being part of a consignment obtained by Government, and later apportioned to various railways. The working expenses of the current year were estimated to show a decrease in the percentage of gross earnings absorbed in working from 71.53 to 60.14, which was less than the percentage (65.98) of 1920-21, and not much in advance of the percentage of 1919-20, namely, 58.57. He would not conceal from the stockholders, however, that he was anxious about the outlay to be incurred on the item of repairs of wagons. His anxiety arose out of the experience obtained of the effect on the wagons stocks of railways of the continuance of the system of the general pooling of broad-gauge wagons. Pooling might, theoretically, be an excellent plan, but it could be successful and economical to the railway systems of India as a whole only on fixed conditions of fact, which in reality did not exist. If the commodities forming the traffic of Indian railways were alike in bulk and rating value all over, and the types and designs of wagons alike or similar, their mutual advantage might ensue. The directors of this company were not in favour of the general pooling of wagons, and had strenuously opposed its continuance from year to year. Hitherto, however, they had not received support from other railways; but there were indications that other administrations were becoming more keenly alive to the disadvantages to them of the system. He hoped that, as a result of the conference of railway administrations, which had recently been held, some more or less radical change would be made which would result in removing from this company the heavy burden of repairing foreign wagons not originally intended for coal or ore.

NET EARNINGS.

The direct effect of this heavy outlay on working expenses was shown in the net earnings, which fell to Rs. 1,92,71,087, as compared with Rs. 2,18,57,718 in the previous year, a difference of Rs. 25.87 lakhs. This shortage by itself was nothing much to worry about, but, unfortunately, the abnormality of the year was not confined to working expenses, and reappeared in the charge on net earnings for interest on capital, where, under the influence of the rapid decline that occurred in the exchange value of the rupee, the charge for sterling interest paid during the year in rupees at an (amounting, roughly, to £500,000) was converted into rupees at an average rate of a little over 16d to the rupee, as compared with an average rate of about 25d in the previous year. This decline in exchange had the effect of increasing the rupee equivalent of the

sterling paid by Rs. 25 lakhs. During the present year the downward tendency of exchange had been arrested, and the value of the rupee had varied between 15½d and 15½d, so that the element which disturbed the financial net results of the undertaking during 1921-1922 was unlikely to operate in creating any appreciable rise in the rupee equivalent of sterling interest charges since made.

These explanations would enable the stockholders to appreciate that, although the net earnings fell short by approximately Rs. 8 lakhs of the interest charges, and consequently produced no surplus profits for division, there was nothing in the position to cause anxiety. The Freight Tax Act of 1917, which was repealed as from April 1 last, enabled the Government to put a tax on all goods consigned by railway, thereby preventing railways from bringing in a readjustment of freight rates. The tax realised by the Government in this way from the traffic of this company amounted last year to about Rs. 50 lakhs, and it would be patent to the stockholders that had the proceeds of the tax been included in the gross earnings of the undertaking, as they should rightly have been, there would have been no deficiency of gross earnings, but substantial profits to divide, and the credit of the railway would have been proportionately enhanced.

PROSPECTS FOR CURRENT YEAR.

With regard to the prospects of the current year, the gross earnings were expected to be something like Rs. 100 lakhs ahead of the corresponding figures for 1921-22, while the working expenses were estimated at some Rs. 20 lakhs less than those of last year. The periodic returns from India indicated that expectations as to gross earnings would be fully realised, the approximate figures for the half-year ended September 30th last being about Rs. 44 lakhs in advance of the figures of the corresponding half of the previous year. At the same time the expenses were likely to be a little less than the estimated figures. It was on the strength of these facts that the directors had felt themselves fully justified in recommending the payment of a dividend from reserves. They realised that 1921-22 was what might be called a freak year, and that there was every likelihood that its successors would, like its predecessors for past years had done, pay dividends from surplus profits year by year as earned.

The development of industries in India had not increased to the extent that might have been expected. One cause of this retardation arose out of the fact that various industries which were started some two years ago failed to come up to expectation, with the result that capital for industrial enterprises could not at the present time be raised in India. Moreover, this reluctance of capital to invest in industrial enterprise had been aggravated by the large loans raised by Government on very favourable terms to the industry.

NEW COAL FIELDS.

With reference to the development of the company's main sources of traffic, namely, coal, stockholders would be interested to hear that progress had been made in the opening out of the new Karanpura and Talchir coalfields—two great fields widely apart and of great value to India. The development of the Karanpura field had progressed rapidly, and the Mohuda branch line of this company was now in course of extension to this field. It had now been established that the Talchir coal area contained a large tonnage of excellent coal sufficient to justify the immediate construction of a branch line from a point near Cuttack on the undertaking to open the field out. The coal traffic of the undertaking would, therefore, shortly be largely increased. The development of the manganese industry was steadily advancing, and a considerable quantity of the ore was now being shipped to Calcutta from the Central Provinces.

STEEL INDUSTRY.

When the expected revival in the steel and iron trade took place, the company would benefit by the increased tonnage of ore which it would be called upon to carry. The necessity for the manufacture of a large tonnage of steel in India, if Indian industries were to be self-supporting, were so apparent that the prospects should be sufficiently attractive to investors and other countries and to public-spirited Indians of means to induce them to subscribe liberally towards raising the required funds. Complete plans and designs had been carefully thought out by a combination of one of the largest firms in India controlling the necessary raw materials, and one of the largest steel companies in England, Messrs Cammell, Laird, and Co., for the establishment of large up-to-date steel manufacturing shops. With regard to the traffic in agricultural products, this year the monsoon had been very favourable, prices were falling, and he understood the restriction on exports had been removed. They could now look forward to considerable increase from this traffic. After a careful review of the present position, he adhered to the opinion he had always held, that their undertaking would steadily maintain its position and steadily increase in prosperity.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.**BRIGHTER PROSPECTS FOR CURRENT YEAR.**

The ordinary general meeting of the Argentine Great Western Railway Company, Limited, was held on the 31st ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, the Right Hon. The Viscount St Davids (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr J. T. Dillon), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, you know that your railway is a railway guaranteed by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company, but that by the terms of the guarantee the amount which you receive annually depends upon the fortunes of that company.

Now, I want to remind you exactly what your rights about dividends are. Your preference stock ranks with the Pacific 5 per cent. first preference stock, which is a cumulative stock, and so your first preference dividend of 5 per cent. is paid year in year out, because the Pacific pays its own fixed cumulative preference dividend. Your ordinary stock ranks with the Pacific second preference stock, which is a non-cumulative stock, and the dividend on which is not paid if it is not earned. Last year, for instance, when the Pacific Company had a very bad year, you received nothing at all. I should like to remind you, however, that your stocks have some contingent advantages. Your preference stock is a 5 per cent. stock, but if the Pacific pays anything over 5 per cent. up to 6 per cent. on its ordinary, your preference stock ranks equally with it, so that if the Pacific were to pay 6 per cent. on its ordinary stock your preference stock would become a 6 per cent. stock instead of a 5 per cent. stock. Again, your ordinary stock with 5 per cent. ranks with anything the Pacific pays above 5 per cent., so that if the Pacific pays 5½ or 6 per cent. on its ordinary stock your ordinary would receive a similar amount. You have certain further contingent rights, which I need not go into at the present moment.

You may be struck by the fluctuations of the Pacific Company, which is your guarantor—fluctuations from which you have sometimes been unhappy sufferers—and may ask the reason for it. The reason is that the Pacific has a very small ordinary capital; it has a large amount of debentures and guaranteed stock, including your own stock, and a very small ordinary capital. The position works out in this way: Supposing there is some unfortunate feature in regard to Argentine railways, and all the big

railways in any particular year have a loss in their net revenue as compared with the year before of £600,000. On the other hand, the big railways that would strike 2 per cent. off their dividend; in the case of the Pacific it strikes off 6 per cent.; on the other hand, supposing there is a wave of good times for the Argentine railways, and something happens which produces £600,000 extra for all the big railways, that would mean 2 per cent. extra dividend for the other companies, and 6 per cent. extra dividend for the Pacific. That is the way the thing works, and I thought that as you are directly concerned you would be interested if I put it before you. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. Charles N. Lawrence seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.**RESULTS OF A "PARTICULARLY TRYING YEAR."**

The eighteenth annual general meeting of the Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, was held, on the 2nd instant, at the offices, 9 Bishopsgate, London, Mr W. E. Wells, the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the gross profit for the past year was £238,267, and, after adding the balance brought forward from the last account and deducting all charges, there remained a balance of £60,301. Having regard to the unsatisfactory state of trade and the adverse conditions which had prevailed during the period covered by the accounts, the directors, after carefully reviewing the position, considered it advisable to create a "contingency account," as a provision for bad and doubtful debts, by transferring £77,750 from reserve fund and crediting thereto £60,000 from profit and loss account, leaving a balance of £301 to be carried forward.

ADVERSE TRADE CONDITIONS.

In common with institutions doing a similar business, the bank had suffered through the effect of the continued universal trade depression. When they met a year ago signs were not wanting in most of the countries where the bank operated to inspire the belief that the worst had been seen, and that a steady improvement in the situation might be looked for. In this way the directors had been disappointed. The much-needed restoration to a more normal condition of affairs had been longer delayed than was then anticipated. Many firms in South and Central America of long

standing and undoubted stability before the "boom" period had not only themselves had to face heavy losses in writing down the depreciation in stocks, but, in addition, and through a similar cause, their debtors had in their turn been unable to discharge their indebtedness. While normal conditions would fully justify the bank in obtaining a foothold in those places where they had more recently become established, the results had not been up to expectations. Opened up during a time of activity and to meet the then existing trade demands, the uncertainty which followed the crisis constrained the directors to discourage operations which in more normal times would have been desirable and profitable. In Manta, Ecuador, in view of the continued poor outlook, it had been considered advisable to close down and so avoid further expenditure in a place where the prospects of a recovery in business seemed remote. The violent fluctuations in exchange rates had added to their troubles, and were no less a problem in the lesser-developed countries where the bank operated than they were in the more advanced sister Republics. The depreciation of capital employed abroad had been provided for in the figures presented. Expenses, relatively high as compared with the profits earned, had claimed, and continued to claim, the directors' earnest attention, and economies, without impairing efficiency, were being given effect to. By reason of the enormous additional work entailed in handling merchandise export drafts, due to the difficulty in obtaining payment or acceptance and by frequently having to take over merchandise for disposal in order to give the customers of the bank adequate service, the staffs abroad had to be considerably augmented and the moderate tariff of charges designed for more normal times had not compensated the bank for the extra expense incurred. He emphasised this point, as some shippers had not appreciated the services rendered in this regard. These remarks applied particularly to Barranquilla, where but slow progress in readjustment had been made since the crisis of 1920, and heavy losses had been suffered by exporters from here and the United States.

CONFIDENCE AND CESSATION OF POLITICAL UPHEAVALS.

Having reviewed the financial and economic situation existing during the period under review in the various countries covered by the activities of the bank, the Chairman said he thought the shareholders would agree that they had passed through a particularly trying year. The board of management had been confronted with forces virtually beyond their control. A restoration of confidence and a world less disturbed by political upheavals was what was needed to encourage traders to carry as in former years the surplus production of raw materials. Agricultural Latin-America provided, besides foodstuffs, numerous raw materials which highly developed industrial countries, such as England, employed to advantage in their factories, and any improvement in the demand would increase these producing countries' purchasing power and enable them in their turn to buy more freely the manufactured articles of this country. It was regrettable that, after the many vicissitudes through which it had passed in bygone years and the hopes expressed three years ago that it had at least emerged from adversity into a period of progressive prosperity, this institution should have suffered a setback, and this in spite of the utmost care exercised in the selection of, and, indeed, an abstention from, much of their usual business at a time when prices of commodities appeared to be on a dangerously high level.

Mr E. Norman seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.**CHAIRMAN'S CONFIDENCE IN COMPANY'S FUTURE.****ACTUARIAL POSITION IMPROVED.**

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the City Life Assurance Company, Limited, was held, on the 27th ultimo, at the Cannon-street Hotel, London.

Mr Arthur E. Turner (deputy chairman) presided.

The secretary (Mr Ernest H. Neville), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, explained that Sir Sydney Lea had resigned and the Earl of Hardwicke been appointed chairman of the company, but did not wish to undertake the chairmanship until more familiar with life insurance business. There had been no disagreements with the board on matters of policy. From things said in certain quarters some of them might think they were attending a funeral ceremony, but there was no corpse. On the contrary, the patient was making a rapid recovery, and would live to enjoy a hale and hearty old age. The revenue accounts were the most satisfactory for several years. The life assurance funds had been increased by £109,973, and management charges and commissions had diminished by £72,283. The premium income was £371,739, a falling off of £70,000, owing to the closing down of business which

was considered undesirable. It was, however, an increase of £19,000 on classes of business considered satisfactory. The increase in sound premium income for the first six months of 1922 had been £213,645, as compared with £182,869 in the previous year. On the contingent liabilities mentioned in the balance-sheet he did not think there would be any claim on the company. With regard to the assets, £656,000 had been advanced to policyholders, of which £137,000 was advanced last year. Considering the housing, unemployment, and general trade conditions, he regarded this as a great public service. The investments, £140,000, were worth £122,000 on December 31, 1921, and by September had appreciated to £133,000. There had since been a further appreciation.

FEATURES CAUSING ANXIETY.

He was anxious to be perfectly frank as to two features which had caused the board some anxiety. The first was the "purchase of business" account, which stood at £297,047. It was clear that this was worth a substantially greater figure. The only remaining feature which the board felt to be open to legitimate criticism was the investment in the "United General," but he wished to take the shareholders into their confidence as fully as possible. The loan amounted to £63,459, secured by a first debenture, and the board were satisfied that this was a good security. With regard to the 320,000 ten shilling-paid shares, which stood at £160,000, records showed that the previous board contemplated the addition of marine and general insurance, and the United General offering the facilities required, they acquired a controlling interest in it, but unexpected difficulties arose. The board had insisted on an independent inquiry into the business of the United General, and the report received satisfied them that that company had an excellent prospect of establishing a sound general insurance business.

With regard to the unfortunate difficulty with the Board of Trade, exceptional causes made the accounts late, and the board had wished to produce simultaneously with the accounts the actuarial valuation. They were still awaiting the Actuary's report.

DEFICIENCY REDUCED.

The Chairman had stated at the last annual meeting that the deficiency might be reduced within twelve months. This hope was based on certain negotiations which had now been successfully concluded, and the matter was being submitted to the Actuary. The outcome would be that the company would be relieved of a very substantial part of their actuarial deficiency. The directors would have preferred to announce the details of this arrangement at this general meeting; an announcement would, however, be made at the earliest moment, probably within a fortnight. It could, moreover, be reasonably deduced from the revenue accounts (apart from these special negotiations) that the actuarial position had been improved during 1921 by over £100,000.

They should, in fairness, remember that the present board were in no way responsible for the actuarial deficiency at the end of 1918, nor for any increase up to the end of 1920, with one important exception, that he had referred to at length; this was also true of all recent criticisms levelled at the company's position. On the other hand, the new board had succeeded in effecting substantial improvements in many directions. A change of board

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
**62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.**

YORKSHIRE BRANCH:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliated Institutions:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

GREAT BRITAIN
MANCHESTER
LONDON
BRADFORD

FRANCE
PARIS
VIGO
BILBAO
MADRID
SEVILLE
VALENCIA

● BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
 * BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
 * BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: **HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.**

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00**124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.**

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

did not, however, give immunity from criticisms made in the interests of the public; he therefore thought it desirable to state explicitly that the board had not the slightest doubt that the company could, without difficulty, meet the obligations under the new policies they were issuing, and that otherwise they would not be parties to the continuance of the business.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. Lea, C.M.G., D.S.O., seconded the motion, and it was carried after a discussion, in the course of which the appointment of a committee of shareholders was moved, but ruled out of order by the chairman.

The retiring directors, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Harwicke, Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. Lea, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Mr. Stafford C. Talbot, were re-elected.

The auditors (Messrs. Sissons, Bersey, Gain, Vincent, and Co.) were reappointed.

RUBBER SECURITIES, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION FOR CENTRAL SELLING AGENCY.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of Rubber Securities, Limited, was held, on the 2nd instant, at the registered offices of the company, 7 Martin's Lane, Cannon Street, London, Mr. W. Arthur Addinsell (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. C. H. Smallwood, on behalf of the secretaries (Messrs. Bright and Galbraith, Limited), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen,—I move "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1922, as submitted to this meeting, be, and they are hereby, approved and adopted."

After nearly two years of extraordinary difficulty and anxiety to everyone connected with the rubber industry, it should be a genuine pleasure to meet to-day under the brighter conditions now existing owing to the adoption by the Malayan and Ceylon Governments of the scheme of the committee appointed by the late Secretary for the Colonies.

COMPANY'S INVESTMENTS.

The accounts for the year are prepared in the usual clear and concise manner. Turning to the balance-sheet, you will notice that the book cost of the company's investments stands at £91,521. The market value at June 30th was £46,865. There was, therefore, at that date a depreciation of £44,656. Values taken out this morning show a deficit of £32,978.

Now that the position has improved, this deficit should, however, quickly disappear, and I hope at our next meeting to be able to report that the value of our investments has appreciated, and show a considerable margin over book cost.

As you are well aware, the majority of the companies in which our funds are invested have materially reduced their working costs during the last twelve months. More enlightened methods of tapping have been introduced and many economies have been effected.

As an indication of the financial strength of most of these companies, you will be pleased to hear that, notwithstanding the adverse results of the past year, their balance-sheets show substantial amounts to the credit of their profit and loss accounts, and in normal times dividends would have been declared. It is anticipated that several will have declared dividends by this time next year, and in due time we shall be participating in those benefits.

FORWARD CONTRACTS.

I spoke at more than my usual length last year, and once again particularly emphasise my views on the all-round mischief of "forward contracts."

Although there have been a few brilliant—and well advertised—illustrations of the results of companies who have not seen any inconsistency in adopting such a policy, I have not seen any reason to alter my views—and I still consider the procedure unhealthy, and I anticipate that sooner or later the evil will be acknowledged more widely, and eventually the demoralising practice will cease.

I am not without hope that the planting companies will be so enamoured of the benefits secured by acting together over restriction, that they will be tempted to test the consequence a central selling agency will have, and when once it is tried, I am sanguine of its success.

CONTROL OF SELLING PRICE.

In my opinion the Rubber Growers' Association will never be the real force that it should be until it is able to control its members both as regards output and selling prices.

Have you noticed how the decision regarding restriction has been received? The lamentations of the manufacturers are ludicrous, and go to prove that if for a little time one gives a person something for nothing, it is soon claimed as a right.

It is estimated that during the last two years £40,000,000 sterling has been lost by rubber investors owing to the unremunerative price of the commodity.

Is it sound and honest to again run the slightest risk of selling below cost when combination as regards tapping and co-operation in selling should now so easily be achieved?

Mr. Edward F. Slade seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors and the auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.

THE STOCK CONVERSION AND INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED.

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS APPROVED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, Mr. Nathaniel Spens (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman said he was thankful to say that on this occasion he was meeting the shareholders with a very much more satisfactory report than he had been able to submit since the beginning of the war. The shareholders were aware that in the early part of the war the board thought it was wise and prudent largely to reduce the Trust's liabilities, and as a result of that policy the liabilities had been reduced from £800,000 to under £535,000, and the restoration in the value of securities had put them back in all save one group to the position of pre-war valuations. He had always told the shareholders that when the war came to an end the board would take them into their counsels with a view to rearranging the affairs of the Trust, so that there might be a complete restoration of its power to go forward and to do the business which in the past they had conducted with considerable success. It was for that reason that the proposals now being submitted to the shareholders were put before them. Having pointed out that the creditors of the company were in a position of paramount security, he said that the object of the Trust when it was founded in 1889 was to enable people to find investments which would yield a greater income than the 2½ per cent. on Consols, and yet to rely upon that income being forthcoming as regularly as the income on Consols. He had been associated for the greater part of his business life with this and other companies whose business it was to provide such investments, and he could claim that they had been most useful organisations in assisting the people of this country to obtain better returns with equal security. Those who had invested in them were not only receiving good rates of dividend, but were daily seeing their capital improve in value.

The board had received so large a measure of support to their proposals for adjusting the capital that unquestionably it might be said that they were approved. The proposal was an eminently fair one, and he could recommend it in all confidence to the preference stockholders.

The report and accounts were adopted, with only two dissentients, the Chairman pointing out that this carried with it the general approval of his scheme. He added that meetings to approve it formally would be held later.

The payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference stock for the past year was approved.

CONSOLIDATED MINES SELECTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ASSETS.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, when an agreement for the sale of the South African assets of the company to the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa was unanimously approved. Mr. W. McDermott, chairman of the company, presided.

He said the close co-operation of this company for years with the Anglo-American Corporation, and the general similarity of their holdings, had developed into a form of joint management in South Africa, which was cumbersome and more expensive than seemed necessary. Many indirect benefits might be expected in future from the proposed change in administration. There was no stipulation in the agreement which limited this company in the undertaking of new business in South Africa or elsewhere. By the scheme they would also be freed from present liabilities, and be in possession of assets of such market value as would permit of easy financing for any inviting new outlay. Although the value of the assets to be sold represented much the greater part of their total liquid assets, there would remain a number of small interests of a speculative character and two important investments, the whole standing in their books at a price which promised substantial profits in future. The two important interests were the Itabira Iron Ore Company and the Mexican Mining Corporation. The

former was a valuable concession, awaiting favourable financial occasion, and the latter was earning a good profit on the working of a great surface deposit of low-grade silver ore, and with extremely promising speculative value in the higher grade ore of the old mine, now being unwatered and developed.

As regarded the future position of the company and the prospect of dividends, assuming that the Anglo-American Corporation could be trusted to administer their valuable interests to the best advantage of their shareholders, this company would stand to benefit by the successful operation of the very same mining properties as they now depended on for dividends, but those dividends would reach them through their holding in the Anglo-American Corporation. They considered the prospects of continued good profit from the mines better than for some years past, and by the change in organisation now proposed the shareholders might expect dividends much earlier than it would be advisable to make distributions from income with their present financial commitments, unless they had first increased their capital or issued debentures.

The adoption of the scheme was carried unanimously.

NORTH ANANTAPUR GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

DEVELOPMENT AT CHOTA NAGPUR.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the North Anantapur Gold Mines, Limited, was held, on the 3rd instant, at 6 Queen's Street place, London, Mr. V. Herget Smith (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profit for the past year was £21,309, as compared with £30,354 in the previous year. The diminution would have been anticipated by the shareholders, as he had informed them at the last meeting that the underground works had not resulted in the discovery of any further payable ore bodies. Subsequent mining work had not revealed any further payable ore bodies, and milling had been stopped in July last. Since then they had had two further gold returns from the clean-up of the mill, namely, one in August, when 1,756 ounces were obtained, and the other in September, when 965 ounces were won. They would not receive any further returns from those sources, but it was anticipated that the tailings work at its full capacity until about January next. The distributions for the 12 months amounted to 5s per share on the preference and 1s per share on the ordinary, both less income-tax.

Information had been received from the superintendent of the discovery of ancient workings on gold-bearing quartz reefs in Southern India, about 35 miles from the Anantapur field. As a result of his inspection, prospecting licences had been taken out by this company over three areas, containing ancient workings of considerable extent, and instructions had been sent to India for preliminary operations to be commenced, with a view to ascertaining the size and character of the lodes below the depths to which the ancients worked. At the Sideshur Block, Chota Nagpur, over which the company held an option, they had installed machinery and commenced exploratory work, to prove the value of the copper lodes on this property. The company had become interested in other mining properties. A company called the Continental and General Exploration Company, Limited, had been formed, with the object of exploring a gold mining property in Sumatra, near which other mines were successfully working. Another proposition was the Anglo-Canadian Explorers, Limited, which had been formed for the purpose of investigating and exploring areas in Canada, with a view to dealing with such of them as might be found worthy of acquisition.

The report was unanimously adopted.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

UNION GOLD STORAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1921.			
LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1920.
6% cum. pl. shrs. 1,480,000 ..	£	Property	£390,515 .. + 225,088
7% cum. pl. shrs. 2,000,000 ..	£	Goodwill	— 25,050
10% " " cum. pl. 1,000,000 ..	£	Discount on deb. stock due to ..	53,643 .. + 6,514
Ord. shrs. 500,000 ..	£	Debts due to company	3,980,203 .. + 3,206,328
4% % deb. stock .. 1,013,153 ..	£	Cash	51,590 .. + 893
Mortgage .. 686,074 ..	£		
Loans .. 769,200 ..	£		
Deb. int. accrued .. 24,016 ..	£		
Prof. int. accrued .. 87,200 ..	£		
Div. on ord. shrs. 30,000 ..	£		
Sundry creditors .. 4,540,135 ..	£		
Depreciat. reserve .. 1,442,145 ..	£		
Profit and loss .. 104,028 ..	£		
Total	13,475,951 ..	Total	13,475,951 ..

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)											
Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Silver Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Securities.	Bank of India.	Bank of China.	Bank of Japan.
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£
Aug. 26.	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	18,500	..	48.1	9,994	11,423	..	..
Dec. 30.	38,478	..	169	600	..	..	..	..	9,285	..	..
1915.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 31.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	77.6	54,621	80,536	..	..
1916.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	114,102	6,868	..	..
1917.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 26.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486	..	..
1918.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 31.	333,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,586	..	..
1919.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,808	..	..
1920.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 29.	367,636	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,460	13.0	336,504	134	..	..
1921.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mar. 30.	343,826	15,599	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141	..	..
June 29.	323,884	14,965	..	..	28,500	19,460	14.8	287,760	180	..	..
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143	..	..
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	181	..	..
1922.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	..	..
June 28.	295,374	13,338	..	..	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312	250	..	..
Sept. 27.	249,127	12,648	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.6	244,456	189	..	..
Oct. 18.	289,338	12,560	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.4	246,618	130	..	..
25.	287,170	12,381	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.8	244,263	148	..	..
Nov. 1.	287,993	12,225	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.7	244,533	138	..	..

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £380,000,000 for 1921 at £317,566,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts—	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Oct. 28, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Oct. 29, 1921.	Week Ended Oct. 28, 1922.	Week Ended Oct. 29, 1921.
Balance in Exchequer on 1st April:—	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of England ..	..	9,963,494	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland ..	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE ..	..	11,173,600	3,074,506	..	..
Customs ..	112,250,000	73,174,000	74,310,000	2,741,000	2,869,000
Excise ..	180,750,000	91,523,000	112,423,000	1,719,000	1,948,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	3,170,000	2,938,000	..	..
Stamps, &c., Duties ..	44,000,000	35,391,000	36,801,000	1,370,000	1,178,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty ..	18,850,000	10,112,000	8,564,000	990,000	339,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax) ..	339,000,000	157,997,000	158,614,000	2,806,000	1,877,000
Succession Duties, &c. ..	27,800,000	9,940,000	9,714,000	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax ..	19,740,000	9,857,000	6,890,000	410,000	400,000
Post Office ..	54,635,000	29,430,000	27,500,000	1,230,000	1,080,000
Crown Lands ..	750,000	480,000	390,000	100,000	260,000
Interest on Sundry Loans ..	14,000,000	6,450,948	7,273,228	..	394,931
Miscellaneous ..	23,000,000	17,428,611	14,735,164	214,179	685,354
Special Receipts ..	90,000,000	29,893,650	54,133,074	180,000	2,616,000
Revenue ..	910,775,000	467,269,129	527,719,466	11,332,175	11,788,296
Total, Inc. Balance ..	..	476,442,659	530,793,972	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS ..	..	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances Repaid:—	..	..	..	..	..
Bullion ..	800,000	4,730,000	..	300,000	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 ..	2,810,000	530,000	100,000	80,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—	..	..	..	..	..
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—	..	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922 ..	3,380,000	3,561,474	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	..	27,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	..	..	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 ..	950,000	..	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	1,553,300	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 ..	2,510,000	4,658,000	..	..	..
(c) For other issues:—	..	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,722,785,000	1,436,411,000	49,338,000	76,469,000	..
By National Savings Certificates ..	41,088,000	23,030,000	900,000	650,000	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	20	5	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 year, 1920-35 ..	181,708	71,544,959	..	10,830,000	..
5% 1927 ..	61,423,074	..	..	..	..
4% 1933 ..	56,172,510	..	2,379,775	..	..
My Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919 ..	11,889	7,849,822	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	533,414,000	790,107,000	3,350,000	10,400,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	..	..	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	943,019	..	..	..	..
Repayments:—	..	..	..	..	..
On account of issues under Civil Consignation Fund Act, 1919 ..	..	7,350,000	..	..	..
Do issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921 ..	183,435	35,888	..	..	..
Do issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	163,426	178,656	..	..	..
Total ..	..	2,919,865,972	3,882,651,776	67,400,947	14,709,546

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	Issues.	
	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	9,275,471	9,875,161	
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	174,740,238	196,904,503	1,296,245
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,444,999	2,519,000	
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,788,000	4,153,797	5,095,738	700,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	1,096,042	1,096,042	
Land Settlement	3,500,000	629,454	1,996,372	
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,445,641	944,596	236,161
Supply Services	529,999,000	229,272,915	365,519,031	6,370,386
Expenditure	893,437,000	423,057,857	582,854,401	9,041,555
TEMPORARY ADVANCES.				
Bullion			4,550,000	250,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1920	169,818	169,818		
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	3,310,000	4,805,000		
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474		
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	27,500		
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	35,000		
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922				
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1920				
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600: less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300.	1,553,300			
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—Repayment of amounts borrowed..	2,110,000			
Redemption of Debt—Treasury Bills for Supply	1,871,914,000	2,432,131,000	46,410,000	73,833,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	6,597,184	21,832,006	532,085	433,987
Loan Act, 1919				
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	5,776,211		500,000	
Principal of National Savings Certificates				
(a) Repaid by issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	15,600,000	10,800,000	500,000	
(b) Repaid otherwise		9,800,000		700,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off				
5%, 1922, £20,612,208: less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	18,704,490		250,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	43,284,182		250,000	
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	11,256,348	31,738,131		
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	504,577,000	729,838,000	8,934,000	27,350,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	1,198,075	17,060,134	798,554	600,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012			
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	10,865,000		
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	61,200		
Balances in Exchequer—Bank of England	2,287,015	2,078,226	273,753	79,141
Bank of Ireland	928,086	2,349,327	161,000	96,358
Total	3,215,121	4,414,622	434,753	175,499

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, November 6-November 11, were opened on November 3, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £57,330,000. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 7s 6d and above in full; Saturday bills £99 7s 7d about 69 per cent. and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 9s 10d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £1,650,000; in bills at 3 months, £39,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	44% Treasury Bonds, 1932. Average Price.
Aug. 18.....	45,000,000 (a)	65,335,000 (a)	£ 1 s d	£ s d
Aug. 25.....	45,000,000 (a)	55,990,000 (a)	2 7 9 28	None allotted
Sept. 1.....	50,000,000 (a)	58,600,000 (a)	2 11 8 33	None allotted
Sept. 8.....	50,000,000 (a)	67,675,000 (a)	2 11 3 29	None allotted
Sept. 15.....	45,000,000 (a)	62,610,000 (a)	2 7 1 56	None allotted
Sept. 22.....	60,000,000 (a)	74,355,000 (a)	2 0 11 97	None allotted
Sept. 29.....	55,000,000 (a)	66,350,000 (a)	2 10 0 90	None allotted
Oct. 6.....	55,000,000 (a)	73,775,000 (a)	2 8 3 57	None allotted
Oct. 13.....	45,000,000 (a)	72,560,000 (a)	2 5 5 03	None allotted
Oct. 20.....	45,000,000 (a)	61,905,000 (a)	2 5 11 96	99 3 1 75
Oct. 27.....	40,000,000 (a)	56,905,000 (a)	2 5 21 91	99 4 6 3
Nov. 3.....	45,000,000 (a)	57,330,000 (a)	2 9 1 02	99 4 8 7

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, November 10, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS £7,657,433
CLAIMS PAID £27,500,000

Accidents and illness, Fidelity Guarantees, Employers' Liability, Fire and Burglary, Motor Cars, Public Liability, Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts, Executories and Trusteeships.

Head Office: 36-44 MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, November 1, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£144,052,400	Government debt	£11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	125,602,400
	144,052,400		144,052,400

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital	£14,553,000	Government securities	£50,664,553
Reserve	3,128,144	Other securities	68,189,891
Public deposits	15,034,269	Notes	20,893,560
Other deposits	108,844,733	Gold and silver coin	1,832,922
Seven-day & other bills	20,780		

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Nov. 1, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£12,184,144	£3,665	£16,247
Public deposits	15,034,269	167,008	1,215,954
Other deposits	108,844,733	1,335,604	16,807,182
Government securities	50,664,553	3,010,750	6,279,159
Other securities	68,189,891	3,245,317	12,722,725
Reserve	22,726,482	1,269,602	961,588
Note circulation	123,158,840	1,272,390	1,982,510
Coin and bullion	127,435,322	2,788	982,922
% of reserve to liabilities	184%	4%	34%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.
1922.						
Aug. 9.....	127,399,880	125,542,210	120,739,131	118,482,895	20,307,670	164
16.....	127,407,660	124,261,430	125,756,606	122,247,262	21,596,230	174
23.....	127,417,304	123,453,660	123,954,385	122,413,644	22,413,644	184
30.....	127,417,172	123,918,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	184
Sept. 6.....	127,412,713	122,879,715	125,035,544	120,237,248	22,982,938	184
13.....	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,141,617	24,386,171	194
20.....	127,426,811	121,490,640	124,320,645	115,448,940	23,414,415	194
27.....	127,431,595	122,467,180	120,660,386	113,862,852	22,672,456	168
Oct. 4.....	127,422,231	123,199,775	121,596,282	113,856,507	22,672,456	168
11.....	127,426,688	122,569,800	121,211,971	112,596,282	23,306,798	168
18.....	127,435,454	121,683,530	121,385,106	114,894,104	24,195,524	168
25.....	127,432,534	121,886,450	125,381,614	119,089,011	23,996,084	194
Nov. 1.....	127,435,322	123,158,840	123,879,002	118,854,444	22,726,482	184

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Oct. 30, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Nov. 3, 1920.	Nov. 2, 1921.	Nov. 1, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	£28,589,070	28,933,380	128,437,805	125,141,350	123,158,840
Public deposits	11,751,259	19,014,809	18,142,761	16,250,223	15,034,269
Other deposits	45,245,016	41,248,964	115,135,201	125,651,915	108,844,733
Government securities	13,037,906	11,046,570	63,972,909	56,943,712	50,664,553
Other securities	34,532,800	41,461,280	73,869,823	80,912,616	68,189,891
Reserve of notes and coin	27,197,884	25,465,980	13,158,155	21,726,834	22,726,482
Coin and bullion	37,336,954	35,947,360	123,145,960	128,418,244	127,435,322
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	477%	423%	91%	151%	184%
Bank rate of discount	4%	3%	7%	5%	3%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	4%	3%	7%	5%	3%
Price of Consols	78	78	62	34 1/2	28 1/2
Price of silver per oz.	29d	29d	44d	48 1/2	33 1/2
Average price of wheat	33s 1d	33s 0d	90s 6d	44s 9d	41s 6d
Exchanges on New York	25 1/2-25	25 1/2-25	54-80 55-10	53-25-58-60	62-80-63-80
London	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
Amsterdam	12 1/2-13	12 1/2-13	11-29 3/4	11-43 1/2	11-35 1/2
Berlin	20 1/2-21	20 1/2-21	26 1/2-27	26 1/2-27	26 1/2-27
Clearing house return	370,365,000	199,913,000	792,787,000	756,309,000	701,717,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.	£	£	£
January 1—October 25	28,500,722,000	2,310,295,000	30,811,017,000
November 1	652,651,000	49,066,000	701,717,000
Total to date 1922.	29,153,373,000	2,359,361,000	31,512,734,000
Do 1921	26,529,311,000	2,544,169,000	29,073,510,000
Increase or decrease in 1922.	+ 2,624,062,000	+ 805,192,000	+ 2,429,254,000
	9 3/4%	7 1/2%	8 3/4%
Total for 1921.	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921.	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	8 6/8%	26 7/8%	10 4/8%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to October 28.	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	103,591,500	92,883,500	- 10,708,000
BRISTOL	64,310,000	57,943,000	- 6,367,000
DUBLIN	301,175,400	265,441,000	- 35,734,400
LIVERPOOL	46,408,800	45,485,200	- 923,600
LEEDS	47,896,300	33,714,600	- 14,181,700
MANCHESTER	32,203,200	35,897,200	+ 3,694,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	38,722,500	35,897,200	- 2,825,300
NOTTINGHAM	60,565,100	64,512,500	+ 3,947,400
SHEFFIELD	76,821,300	78,720,500	+ 1,899,200
	29,568,900	27,906,700	- 1,662,200
	47,917,900	35,541,600	- 12,376,300

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,083,080	3,083,810	3,083,980	2,786,240
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	126,400	127,380	120,040	150,910
Bills discounted for member banks	469,400	511,100	521,790	1,308,750
Bills bought in open market	257,690	256,820	246,620	62,330
Government obligations owned	40,610	418,000	474,360	190,960
All other resources	63,930	63,640	63,490	55,680
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	21,660	12,550	12,460	46,620
Other deposits	1,811,110	1,943,560	1,909,770	1,691,930
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	2,298,540	2,315,440	2,320,120	2,408,780
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	38,000	40,610	42,720	88,720
All other liabilities	25,310	24,800	24,250	22,740
Capital and surplus	321,680	321,730	321,670	316,830
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	77 1/2%	75 1/2%	75 1/2%	70 1/2%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.
ASSETS.				
Cash and bank balances..	419,981	447,719	459,360	477,083
Bank balances abroad	111,015	126,760	138,218	65,887
Call and short loans	276,778	271,989	274,418	263,872
Securities	330,646	323,471	318,753	372,735
Loans in Canada	1,152,614	1,156,524	1,215,916	1,331,201
Loans abroad	145,120	144,072	148,225	150,764
Other assets	99,412	97,315	100,558	106,199
LIABILITIES.				
Note circulation	158,087	161,887	166,085	183,530
Deposits—				
Government	92,595	87,546	89,024	121,176
Public in Canada	1,639,485	1,668,888	1,687,162	1,807,193
Foreign	339,385	347,529	365,700	268,089
Bank balances—				
Canadian	8,348	6,379	9,973	10,079
Foreign	35,073	34,284	35,493	46,093
Bills payable, &c.	22,236	21,872	24,521	37,002
Other liabilities	7,756	2,268	2,963	3,884
Capital and rent	255,197	255,068	254,414	264,331

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold.....	500,254	506,266	505,764	505,292	544,850	171,175
Silver.....	114,159	114,318	114,424	114,689	124,025	18,360
Darlehens-Kassen.	10,983	10,871	10,893	10,983	16,406	
Assets & advances	311,231	306,823	302,920	301,739	307,532	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	813,395	789,145	797,770	811,008	915,719	875,925
Deposits.....	200,937	205,249	189,387	173,972	92,656	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to September 30, 1922, total issues were Fr.18,835,515, of which Fr.10,983,225 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 29, 1922.	May 24, 1914.
Gold.....	273,545	273,545	273,533	273,598	275,520	104,918
Balance abt. and foreign bills	78,736	77,096	77,623	78,327	103,752	112,172
Swedish and for Gov. securities	73,946	73,946	73,946	73,961	20,754	32,465
Discounts and loans	358,405	358,405	375,808	393,823	410,129	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	532,956	527,080	548,126	564,372	629,035	226,555
Deposits at notice	185,363	199,273	196,106	190,035	120,954	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 26, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Oct. 5, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	May 28, 1914.
Coin and bullion	336,493	336,286	336,448	336,206	327,714	322,650
Securities.....	557,484	574,945	564,682	507,911	421,223	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,543,145	6,524,478	6,542,912	6,539,502	6,110,722	934,150
Current accounts	708,835	781,588	822,027	778,764	901,981	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, and drafts	494	494	604	742
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	845,862,594	825,717,248	806,302,544	783,289,424
Deposits.....	1,473,027	1,350,235	1,439,493	1,626,828

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, and drafts	14,816	14,598	14,042	13,551
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	65,329,411	61,340,752	60,263,732	58,458,393
Deposits.....	4,233,016	5,636,263	6,311,954	5,928,870

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Coin and bullion	228,299	228,304	228,310	228,326	228,342	76,644
Loans & discounts	516,854	421,652	415,941	398,400	336,901	88,470
Deposits.....	15,910	16,499	16,298	14,014	46,305	11,988
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	466,555	423,751	432,305	441,940	481,391	157,266
Deposits.....	211,064	147,015	142,399	119,028	88,629	6,696

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.
Govt. securities	8,18,24	8,75,62	8,96,19	9,60,27	13,68,52
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,51
Loans	17,26,48	17,93,61	17,68,78	17,91,04	23,87,82
Discounts	26,72,62	26,71,92	25,31,46	25,13,30	23,10,93
Cash credits	3,67,66	4,12,45	4,68,94	3,92,48	8,06,81
Inland bills	9,40	9,65	9,34	6,61	5,09
Foreign bills	2,46,44	2,46,08	2,46,25	2,45,80	2,12,65
Dead stock	40,27	36,91	29,38	30,91	32,26
Sundries	7,95	9,36	6,36	20,91	21,68
Balance with other banks	36,67,48	36,72,78	37,65,49	39,06,71	25,85,16
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,08,72
Capital paid up	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,58,43
Reserve	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	3,83,66
Public deposits	9,84,92	13,36,10	13,78,48	14,67,66	9,62,37
Other deposits	75,65,9	73,18,93	72,96,54	72,96,54	78,09,15
Loans against securities	94,19	1,45,69	1,38,24	1,2	69,82
Gundries	8,51	8,73	71,36	67,78	83,18

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold.....	3,359	3,360	3,359	4,592	2,084
Government securities	34,975	36,801	38,046	32,825	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	25,560	26,631	28,334	29,248	2,400
Government deposits	4,106	4,636	4,216	2,145	2,315
Other deposits	12,346	12,528	12,632	13,639	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in New at gold.

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,290	147,291	147,291	147,293	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,149	45,997	44,580	31,753	28,533
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	482,954	474,853	443,960	429,503	76,911
Deposits at notice	175,548	167,240	138,783	94,311	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold.....	43,214	43,212	43,212	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	903,756	718,406	593,406	416,748	90,379
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	471,749	686,304	687,304	895,408	21,826
Deposits at notice	474,051	375,508	227,156	166,995	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1922.	Aug. 16, 1922.	Aug. 9, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	Aug. 21, 1922.
Coin and bullion	26,657	26,660	26,655	26,660	27,826
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	3,978	3,143	3,355	3,661	4,022
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	851,326	849,511	847,285	843,659	648,004
Deposits.....	41,622	41,418	42,602	44,869	57,046

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Gold.....	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,138	38,101	38,044
Silver.....	19,563	19,703	19,568	19,935	20,252	20,583
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613	111,535
Bills discounted	27,357	27,644	25,577	20,372	17,292	9,041
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489	3,587,627
Deposits.....	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,325,322	1,442,811

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 20, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1922.
Gold.....	32,837	32,550	32,400	32,072	31,719
Silver.....	44,164	44,160	44,153	44,144	44,137
Foreign bills	126,726	192,377	1,002,991	334,752	99,185
Advances to the Govt.	419,530,000	388,500,000	342,500,000	314,000,000	304,500,000
Private loans and discounts	99,625,404	91,486,269	85,332,402	81,567,721	79,131,072
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	525,954,784	499,039,094	463,706,047	417,850,944	409,266,102
Deposits.....	80,264,038	71,863,045	64,310,265	79,217,571	66,030,146

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 1, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.
Total cash	103,056	103,056	103,056	103,056
Foreign bank	339,385	339,385	339,385	339,385
Discounts and loans	399,385	415,124	415,124	415,124
Other assets	191,528	1,466,001	633,762	1,212,110
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Reserve	4,929	4,929	4,929	4,929
Deposits	664,978	741,994	668,485	819,827
Other liabilities	487,772	1,657,626	888,333	1,469,324

BANK OF ESTONIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.
Gold, for coin, and notes	102,056	102,056	102,056	102,056
Discounts and loans	2,539,097	2,552,533	2,390,793	2,305,754
Foreign banks	1,435,846	1,249,373	1,249,373	1,187,923
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,771	37,771	37,771
Notes in circulation	850,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Deposits.....	3,328,511	2,544,837	2,530,524	2,997,241

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1921.
Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715
Discounts and advances	1,933,445	1,906,249	1,884,669	1,884,793	3,530,956
Gold and silver holdings	808,775	808,161	807,237	805,786	1,439,479
Foreign bills & balances abrd.	1,657,821	1,601,326	1,636,127	1,670,890	1,247,434
Other assets	653,607	689,360	722,892	667,804	
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circulation	9,835,981	10,024,989	10,196,880	9,664,572	11,235,219
Deposits	3,140,383	2,901,028	2,763,220	3,268,577	2,050,522
Other liabilities	2,173,999	2,175,812	2,191,530	2,202,237	2,966,599

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERES, CROATES, AND SLOVENES.

(000's omitted.)

	Oct. 22, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 8, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1921.
ASSETS.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.	Dinars.
Gold	63,843	77,540	78,286	78,112	74,546
Other coin and notes	16,857	16,543	16,596	16,644	16,644
Foreign credits	342,093	327,290	311,051	311,051	311,051
Bills	1,479,452	1,479,528	1,460,335	1,435,358	531,736
Govt. advances	4,567,359	4,567,359	4,567,359	4,567,074	4,431,157
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,102,772	5,153,297	5,236,672	5,211,618	4,497,257
State credits	332,903	332,903	332,903	332,903	369,672
Deposits	1,055,992	991,636	899,021	944,899	500,365

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

		Par Level.	Nov. 3, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.	Nov. 2, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59.26	1.38	0.89	0.058	0.054
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123.45	2.55	0.17	0.125	0.113
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88.88	2.55	0.1525	0.111	0.103
Stockholm			2.07	0.115	0.084	0.077
Christiania			3.48	0.171	0.125	0.114

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Aus. stralia.	New Zealand.	Aus. stralia.	New Zealand.	Aus. stralia.	New Zealand.	Aus. stralia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sight	..	..	101	101	99	99	100	100
Cable	..	..	101	101	99	99	100	100
On demand	98	98	100	100	98	98	99	99
30 days	97	97	..	..	97	97	98	98
60 days	96	96	..	..	96	96	97	97
90 days	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.
Outstanding with public	Rs. 54,01,65,000	Rs. 26,82,30,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	50,65,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	77,47,30,000

India Office, November 1, 1922.

Tenders for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills were opened on October 27th. The total amount tendered for three months' bills was Rs.2,92,50,000. Tenders at Rs.99 1a received about 66 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs.99 2a 1p, equivalent to a discount rate of 3.5096 per cent. per annum. The total amount tendered for six months' bills was Rs.82,30,000. Tenders at Rs.97 12a received about 66 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs.97 12a 1p, equivalent to a discount of 4.5926 per cent. per annum. Intermediate bills for six months only will be offered for sale in India during the week at Rs. 97 13a per cent. Tenders were received on Thursday, November 2nd, for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills, and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills for issue during the week beginning November 6th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended November 1, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £2,788 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended Nov. 1, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended Nov. 1, 1922.
Esthonia	790	Norway	162
U.S.A.	2,355	Netherlands	2,000
Belgium	38,376	Belgium	6,520
British West Africa	917,266	U.S.A.	1,438,598
British South Africa	200	British India	352,784
Other Countries	..	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	1,816,014
Total value of imports of gold	958,987		

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on November 2nd, as follows:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold was on offer, and was taken for New York, with the exception of a small amount required to meet inquiry from India. Gold valued at \$3,686,000 has been received in New York—\$3,536,000 from London and \$150,000 from France—while \$500,000 in gold has been despatched from New York to Montreal.

SILVER.

The market has lacked animation during the week, and the undertone kept rather poor. In Indian bazaars have sent a few buying orders, and easier rates tempted bears to cover some of their commitments. Scarcity of spot supplies has checked the tendency of prices to fall. Offerings have been somewhat freer from the Continent, and China sales have been frequent, though not large in amount. America has been inclined to let out silver now that China requirements seem to be satisfied for the present. To obtain effective support from China, a lower level of prices must be attained. It is announced from Washington that the total amount of silver purchased under the Pittman Act up to October 23rd last was 137,075,576 ounces,

including a purchase of 300,000 ounces on that date. The State banks of France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, return in their official statements from time to time a certain amount of silver as part of the reserve against their notes. Others, such as Italy, Belgium, Denmark, &c., simply state so much bullion. It is therefore difficult to ascertain the exact quantity of silver, coined and uncoined, thus held—especially as in the case of France, Spain, and Switzerland, the three largest holders, no distinction is drawn between coin of .900 and .835 quality. Including the £7,000,000 of silver coin held by the Bank of England on account of the British Treasury currency note reserve, it is a fair estimate that the banks above mentioned hold the equivalent of about 200,000,000 standard ounces. Notwithstanding that the note circulation of India is almost as large as it has ever been (October 22, 1922, 18,028 as compared with 18,691 lacs on January 15, 1920), the ratio of the bullion reserve to the note circulation is on the increase—63 per cent. on October 22, 1922, as compared with 31 per cent. on July 7, 1918. Of the reserve on the later date, 9,079 lacs of the combined total of 11,511 lacs, consisted of silver. It is not surprising, therefore, to read in the *Times of India*, of October 7, 1922, that it had been suggested that "the Government of India should, therefore, sell off some of the huge holding of silver in the currency department before the inevitable slump comes, and specially in view of the Controller of the Currency's report on the growing popularity of the paper rupee and the waning use of the coined rupee. The suggestion, therefore, needs to be carefully considered, both by the Government and the mercantile community in India, as the percentage of silver in the currency appears to be abnormally large." The silver contents of the holding on October 22nd last are equal to 337,395,270 standard ounces. No fresh Indian currency returns have been received. The stock in Shanghai on the 28th ult. consisted of about 40,900,000 ounces in sycee, 38,000,000 dollars, and 2,080 silver bars, as compared with about 40,700,000 ounces in sycee, 37,500,000 dollars, and 1,820 silver bars on the 21st ult. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s 3½d the tael. Statistics for the month of October are appended:—

	BAR SILVER.		BAR GOLD.	
	Cash Delivery.	Two Months' Delivery.	Per Ounce Standard.	Per Ounce Fine.
Highest price	35 7/8	35 7/8	s. d.	
Lowest "	33 3/4	33 3/4	93	9
Average "	34.497	34.353	92	10.1

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows:—

1922.	Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.	
	Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.			Cash, Per Ounce.	
Oct. 28..	92 8	34 1/4	33 1/4		Nov. 10, 1916	34 1/4	
30..	92 5	34 1/4	33 1/4		9, 1917	43 1/4	
31..	92 6	34 1/4	33 1/4		9, 1918	49 1/4	
Nov. 1..	92 5	34 1/4	33 1/4		7, 1919	66 1/4	
2..	92 4	34 1/4	33 1/4		5, 1920	53 1/4	
3..	92 3	33 1/4	33 1/4		4, 1921	39 1/4	

NOTICES.

Some interesting changes in the banking world have been announced this week. Mr Angus McPhail, one of the managers of the British Overseas Bank, has resigned his position in order to take up the position of managing director of the London and Eastern Trade Bank, Limited. The other manager, Mr F. H. Hope Simpson, and Mr W. J. Carnegie, have resigned their position with the B.O.B. to act as joint managers to the same institution. Meanwhile, the British Overseas Bank has appointed Mr R. Stephenson as foreign exchange manager, but no general manager has been decided upon as yet. The London and Eastern Trade Bank, Limited, has an authorised capital of £600,000, divided into shares of £10 each, of which £385,100 has been subscribed and paid up. These appointments form part of scheme for increasing the scope of the latter bank's activities.

Sir W. H. N. Goschen, K.B.E., has been appointed chairman, and Mr J. W. Beaumont Pease deputy-chairman, of Lloyds and National Provincial Foreign Bank, Limited.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new sub-branch at Pitsea, Essex, on Wednesday, November 1st, under the management of Mr I. C. Paddison (also manager of Stanford-le-Hope branch). They also announce that they have opened a new branch at 10 South street, Dorchester, under the management of Mr H. W. Hodgetts. On and after November 1st their office at Welling, Kent, will be converted into a full branch under the management of Mr W. H. Chamberlin, also manager of Bexley Heath branch. On and after Monday next, November 6th, their Manchester foreign branch will be

removed from 45 Fountain street to more commodious premises at 94, Portland street, Manchester. Manager, Mr A. C. Booth.

The agency of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, at 100 Beaver street, New York, will be transferred to the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, at 68 Wall street, New York, as from January 1, 1923. The Standard Bank's agency will give full facilities to the customers of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, whose agent in New York, Mr Rowland Smith, will join the service of the Standard Bank.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim div.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'st Pre-vious.
Railways.						
Barranquilla	13%	Dec. 1	..	..	5	5
Illinois Central	13%	..	..	..	8	8
South Indian	13%	..	..	..	10	10
Bank of Taiwan	..	..	..	..	10	10
Royal of Australia	10	..	..	..	13	12
Royal of Scotland	12 1/2	(and bonus 2%)	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.						
Standard of New Zealand	9 p.s.	..	..	..	1/6p.s.	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Anglo-Sumatra Rubber	5%	..	..	Less tax	5	6
Carolina Tea	16 1/2	..	..	Less tax	30	..
Ceylon Land and Produce	15% +	(& bonus 5%)	..	Less tax	..	..
Ceylon Proprietary Tea	6% +	Nov. 22	..	Less tax	..	..
Chubwa Tea	10% +	Nov. 30	..	Less tax	15	8
Elmhurst (Ceylon) Tea & Rubber	10 1/2	..	..	Less tax	5	..
Jong-Landor Rubber	20% +	..	..	Less tax	30	..
Namunakula Tea	24% +	Nov. 10	..	Less tax	..	..
Ourak, Ceylon	24% +	Nov. 10	..	Less tax	..	..
Pabbajan Tea	5% +	Nov. 9	..	Less tax	..	..
Ragalla Tea	5% +	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Spring Valley Ceylon	15% +	Nov. 10	..	Less tax	..	..
United Sun Beang Rubber	5% +	..	..	..	..	..
Mining.						
Glynn's Lydenburg	1/6 p.s.	Nov. 4	..	Less tax	12 1/2	..
Hyderabad (Deccan) Company	2 1/2	Nov. 8	..	Less tax	..	..
Kleinfontein Estates	2 1/2	Nov. 8	..	Less tax	..	..
Scottish Australian	1/2 p.s.	..	..	Tax free	4	4
Transvaal and Rhodesian	2 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Other Companies.						
Aberdeen Trust	15% +	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Acme Tea Chest	16	Nov. 21	..	(& bonus 6 1/2%) Tax free	2 1/2	..
Agar, Cross, and Co.	10 1/2	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Allan and Stark	2 1/2	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Andrew Knowles and Sons	40% +	Nov. 16	..	Less tax	..	..
Associated Newspapers	4	Nov. 18	..	Less tax 5s. 6d in £	..	..
Bankers' Investment Trust, Defd	1/2 p.s.	Nov. 18	..	Tax free	..	..
Borax Consolidated, Defd.	4% +	..	..	..	..	..
Bristol College Green Hotel	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Brooks and Dookey	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Broomhill Collieries	7 1/2	..	..	Less tax	5	..
Brunner-Mond	4% +	Nov. 15	..	Less tax 2 1/2 in £	5	5
Calcutta Electric Supply	10%	..	..	Tax free	10	..
Claymore Shipping	..	..	..	..	2 1/4 p.s.	2 1/4 p.s.
Drybrough and Co.	10%	..	..	..	..	..
Fassfern Coal	..	..	..	..	..	..
Geo. H. Hirst, Defd.	5% +	Nov. 21	..	Less tax (arrears to Aug. 1907)	..	..
George Newnes, Limited	6% +	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Glenburn Hydrophic, Pref.	3%	..	..	Tax free	..	..
G. P. and J. Baker	1/2 p.s.	Dec. 20	..	Tax free	..	..
Guest, Keen, and Nettletons	8% +	Nov. 1	..	Tax free	..	..
Holbrook's, Limited	8% +	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	6	..
Hugh Baird and Co.	8 (and bonus 2%)	..	..	..	..	..
Hyde Park Hotel	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ingersoll-Rand Co.	2 1/2	Oct. 31	..	..	..	..
International Petroleum	25c p.s.	Nov. 20	..	..	20	15
J. Hey and Co.	10% (and bonus 5%)	..	..	Less tax	15	15
Joseph Lucas	7 1/2	(& bonus 5%)	..	Less tax	..	..
Joseph Stocks and Co., Pref.	20%	..	..	Tax free	12 1/2	8
Leicester Waggon	10	..	..	..	..	..
Linkwood Glenlivet Distillery	4% +	..	..	Less tax	..	..
London Maritime Investment	10% +	Nov. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Malmebury and Parsons Dairies	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	15	15
Maple Spinning	20% +	Nov. 15	..	Less tax	..	..
Matthew Brown and Co.	3% +	Nov. 15	..	..	..	..
Meters, Limited	3% +	April 10	..	..	..	..
Mexican Petroleum	2% +	Dec. 1	..	Tax free	..	..
Montevideo Gas and Dry Dock	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nanyklo and Blains Ironworks, Pref.	£3 p.s.	..	..	Less tax (arrears)	7 1/2	10
Nautilus Steam Shipping	..	Nov. 11	..	..	15	15
North of Scotland Milling	..	Nov. 8	..	..	..	..
Picardo Tobacco Co.	8% +	Nov. 25	..	..	..	..
R. Johnson, Clapham, & Morris	5% +	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Robert Addie and Sons Collieries	10	Nov. 11	..	Less tax	..	..
Rochdale and Manor Brewery	5% +	..	..	..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Santiago Nitrate	..	..	..	Less tax	5	5
Scottish and Dominion Trust	9% +	..	..	Less tax	15	15
Second Edinburgh Inv., Defd.	14% +	..	..	Less tax	10	10
Stanton Ironworks	4% +	Dec. 9	..	Tax free	..	..
State Spinning	1/3 p.s.	Nov. 1	..	..	10	8 1/2
Steel Co. of Canada	1/3 p.s.	Dec. 15	..	..	..	..
Stuttsford and Co.	1/3 p.s.	..	..	..	5	7
Swan Spinning	10% +	Nov. 11	..	Less tax 5 in £	..	..
Texas Land and Mortgage	1/6 p.s.	Nov. 20	..	Tax free	..	..
Trust and Agency of Australasia	10% +	..	..	..	..	..
Unity Mills	6% +	..	..	Tax free	..	..
William Cowan	5% +	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson's and Clyde Coal	..	..	..	..	..	..

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, announce that the dividend on the second preference shares, postponed from October 1st last, will be paid on November 22nd.

DENT, ALLCOCK.—The directors announce that they are unable to recommend the payment of dividends (or any arrears thereof) on the 7 1/2 per cent. cumulative first preference shares.

ENGLISH MARSHALL WORKS (1919).—It is decided to postpone payment of the preference interim dividend.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.—The directors, in accordance with the policy explained at the general meeting on June 30, have decided not to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended September 30th. For the corresponding half-year a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (8s per share), less tax, was paid.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Frontino and Bolivia	1,910	..	..	..	..	6,985	..
Jumbo (quarter)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,027
Lake View and Star (Aug. 16-Oct. 15)	5,542	..	..	..	..	16,265	291
Mining Corp. of Canada	8,051	..	..	..	173,290	..	..
Quarter ended Sept. 30th:—							
Consolidated Main Reef	158,400	..	..	..	..	265,939	62,135
Crown Mines	656,600	..	..	..	..	900,494	245,525
Durban Roodepoort	93,500	..	..	..	..	145,853	20,463
Geduld Proprietary	138,100	..	..	..	..	227,343	97,474
Modderfontein Deep	131,400	..	..	..	..	324,786	207,188
Robinson Gold	53,300	..	..	..	..	79,737	31,906
Transvaal G.M.F.	47,960	..	..	..	..	5,206	..

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Oct. 29, 1922.			Aggregate 43 Weeks 1922.		
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Central (c) ...	6762	40,500	140,300	180,800	2,177,100	5,621,700
Do Jolly Lines ...	1611	...	...	...	...	...
Great Eastern (c) ...	1,2072	109,100	96,300	205,400	5,128,900	5,953,500
Great Northern (c) ...	1,050	74,300	142,700	217,000	4,146,600	5,869,300
Great Western (d) ...	2,656	297,000	357,000	596,000	1,704,000	1,574,000
London & N. Western (d)	2,656	297,000	357,000	596,000	1,704,000	1,574,000
London & S. Western (d)	968	110,600	54,400	165,000	5,722,200	4,593,000
Lon. & South-Western	487	82,720	23,140	105,860	1,159,560	1,184,300
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c)	422	11,107	2,099	3,206	51,867	81,023
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	794	34,175	3,720	37,895	1,455,541	155,570
Metropolitan (c) ...	1,585	159,000	331,000	490,000	7,792,000	1,355,500
Midland (c) ...	63	1,375	1,326	2,701	65,703	60,549
Midland & S. W. Jno.	1,850	112,900	281,300	394,200	5,818,000	10,435,700
North Eastern (c) ...	16	4,580	9,482	14,062	205,365	417,666
North London ...	654	113,700	46,500	227,579	160,200	5,958,400
South-E. & Chatham (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Underground E.R. (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Caledonian ...	1,097	63,400	98,500	161,900	5,161,400	4,245,400
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	476	25,900	36,800	62,700	3,378,200	1,574,600
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	334	7,210	1,156	2,489	529,011	450,621
Highland (c) ...	492	9,331	11,156	2,489	529,011	450,621
North British (c) ...	1,377	59,900	120,000	179,900	2,874,900	5,006,200
Belmont and County ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Down (b) ...	80	4,936	1,307	6,203	233,427	56,544
Dublin and S. East. (b)	160	6,561	3,792	10,353	261,980	148,995
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	11,044	21,993	33,037	423,051	658,614

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended October 27, 1922.
(c) Week ended October 28, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	26 weeks	Sept. 30	1,043	2,76,572	+ 62,470	60,99,748	+ 24,01,110
Barelly	27 weeks	Oct. 7	118	17,000	+ 70	9,06,000	+ 2,82,800
Bombay & N. Western	26 weeks	Sept. 30	67	4,71,230	+ 15,713	1,61,04,596	+ 13,78,886
Bombay Nagpur	26 weeks	Sept. 30	2,703	12,95,000	+ 81,000	5,61,93,366	+ 53,77,842
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	10 weeks	Oct. 28	2,471	19,57,000	+ 2,19,000	75,71,000	+ 6,21,000
Bombay & Central	26 weeks	Sept. 30	1,342	7,07,124	+ 1,41,418	1,70,76,171	+ 20,39,614
Bombay & Western	13 weeks	Oct. 21	239	1,09,000	+ 3,857	3,20,000	+ 6,900
East Indian	4 weeks	28	2,772	29,45,000	+ 57,000	1,19,30,000	+ 2,94,000
G. Indian Peninsula	29 weeks	21	3,721	21,15,800	+ 1,47,000	7,37,36,760	+ 38,86,886
Madras & A. Mahr.	26 weeks	Sept. 30	3,028	13,00,000	+ 118,312	3,75,40,523	+ 38,91,400
Rohtak & Kumaon	26 weeks	30	859	51,993	+ 18,337	15,54,703	+ 35,840
Doon & India	26 weeks	30	302	51,293	+ 15,989	18,53,577	+ 59,120
South Indian	27 weeks	Oct. 7	1,852	9,51,000	+ 1,24,083	2,58,70,469	+ 28,81,350
Sabu, Punjab (month)	3 mths	June 30	717	9,87,071	+ 187,883	24,71,420	+ 46,968
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	17 weeks	Oct. 28	752	9,800	+ 2,600	16,700	+ 3,727
Argentine Trans.	17 weeks	28	111	3,500	+ 470	35,900	+ 6,770
B. A. and Pacific	17 weeks	28	3,428	138,000	+ 30,000	2,27,000	+ 120,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	17 weeks	28	3,947	178,000	+ 49,000	2,519,000	+ 15,000
B. A. Western	17 weeks	28	1,882	63,000	+ 55,000	607,000	+ 365,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	88,000	+ 20,000	1,301,000	+ 34,000
Central Argentine	17 weeks	Oct. 28	3,305	33,000	+ 30,000	342,000	+ 181,000
Cordoba Central	17 weeks	28	1,255	41,485	+ 25,000	78,579	+ 35,400
Entre Rios	17 weeks	28	811	19,700	+ 1,500	2,026,800	+ 64,500
Brazilian.							
Bras. Gt. Southern	9 mths	Sept. 30	30	15,500	+ 3,250	387,500	+ 44,900
Gt. West. of Brazil.	43 weeks	Oct. 21	1,005	14,400	+ 2,400	535,200	+ 39,400
Leopoldina	43 weeks	28	1,831	33,881	+ 2,232	1,266,424	+ 18,600
San Paulo	43 weeks	29	1,534	29,000	+ 2,359	1,226,424	+ 18,600
State of Bahia, S.W.	5 mths	Sept. 30	59	22,500	+ 39,000	469,000	+ 166,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	45 weeks	Oct. 29	838	39,280	+ 19,740	974,464	+ 56,700
Nitrato (3-monthly)	43 weeks	31	366	36,343	+ 22,268	—	+ 43,300
Peruvian Corp.	3 mths	Sept. 30	1,059	1,231,060	+ 111,640	3,775,960	+ 298,840
Taitai	3 mths	30	172	18,293	+ 3,548	38,500	+ 10,600
Cuban.							
Cuba Railroad	8 months	Feb. 28	Gross	\$1102,974	+ 500,572	7,020,807	+ 3,080,220
Havana Central	17 weeks	Oct. 28	Net	\$474,495	+ 15,378	1,421,662	+ 1,404,338
Union of Havana	17 weeks	28	1,210	10,103	+ 1,390	161,269	+ 19,700
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	17 weeks	28	973	27,519	+ 4,486	364,801	+ 20,300
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	17 weeks	28	311	5,195	+ 1,031	70,769	+ 3,000
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	17 weeks	28	185	2,805	+ 40	37,873	+ 4,900
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	17 weeks	28	211	3,010	+ 744	35,760	+ 4,500
Midland Uruguay	1 month	July 31	319	16,383	+ 3,084	—	+ 1,500
North-West Uruguay	2 mths	Aug. 31	113	5,000	+ 1,201	10,638	+ 1,500
Uruguay North	1 mth	July 31	73	2,149	+ 714	—	+ 1,500
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	43 weeks	Oct. 28	33	Pa 16,500	+ 3,500	811,450	+ 147,800
Bilbao	9 mths	Sept. 30	15	1,149	+ 521	9,493	+ 500
Bolivar	9 mths	Sept. 30	136	8,700	+ 2,674	82,350	+ 10,900
Caraacas	9 mths	Aug. 31	183	20,091	+ 6,131	39,298	+ 7,500
Cosma Rica	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,250	+ 54,500
Dorado Hopewy, Ext.	7 mths	31	45	7,000	+ 3,500	35,750	+ 6,000
Egyptian Delta	27 weeks	Oct. 10	659	(e) 11,844	+ 3,666	150,800	+ 1,404
Gt. South. of Spain ..	42 weeks	Oct. 28	Gross	51,230	+ 1,468	655,943	+ 15,000
International of	9 mths	Sept. 30	Net	5,278	+ 611	239,226	+ 16,500
Central America	9 mths	Sept. 30	233	9,690	+ 460	90,940	+ 3,000
La Guaira & Caracas	15 weeks	Oct. 21	403	\$240,500	+ 117,300	4,122,400	+ 1,016,000
Mexican Railway	3 mths	Sept. 30	Net	\$1157,400	+ 330,900	5,74,900	+ 768,800
Do	3 mths	Sept. 30	Net	\$245,700	+ 142,100	1,63,200	+ 15,000
Nasajo Owarrahman	8 mths	Aug. 31	135	12,760	+ 1,000	87,391	+ 2,800
Ottoman Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	35	3,750	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Puerto Cabello, &c.	8 mths	Sept. 30	100	2,387	+ 1,521	45,859	+ 4,000
Salvador	17 weeks	Oct. 28	100	133,114	+ 5,738	—	+ 15,000
Samarang & Poro	9 mths	Sept. 30	30	16	+ 2,244	78,240	+ 15,000
Samarang & Santiago	9 mths	30	112	4,618	+ 377	107,476	+ 19,000
Zafra and Huéla	9 mths	30	112	(a) 12,627	+ 377	—	+ 15,000

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				
		£	£	£	Amount	Amount	%	£	£	%
Banks.										
Commercial of Spanish America...	June 30	11,610	55,291	66,901	..	..	..	63,600	301	65,453
Breweries.										
Bristol United	Sept. 30	35,077	54,154	89,231	10,200	41,400	15	..	37,631	63,584
J. Hey and Co.	Sept. 30	20,921	40,208	61,129	2,719	15,521	20	21,000	21,889	34,499
Rochdale and Manor	Sept. 30	36,784	11,005	47,789	2,436	6,132	8	..	39,221	11,932
Financial, Land, &c.										
International Financial Society...	Sept. 30	23,893	8,866	32,759	..	..	..	..	32,759	..
London Maritime Investment...	Sept. 30	5,018	60,015	65,033	18,108	28,972	8	12,931	50,022	..
Realisation and Debenture Corporation of Scotland	Aug. 31	..	52,368	52,368	3,025	38,176	4/7 1/2 Def.	11,167	..	56,712
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
North of Scotland Milling	Sept. 30	1,787	2,717	4,504	700	2,291	15	..	1,513	1,116
Sheffield Forge and Rolling Mills	June 30	5,063	Dr 53,321	Dr 48,258	..	..	..	Dr 48,258	..	..
Motor and Cycle.										
Joseph Lucas	Aug. 31	70,075	73,298	143,373	9,984	48,926	15	10,000	74,463	66,587
Nitrate.										
Santiago	June 30	9,171	3,162	12,333	..	2,829	7 1/2	..	9,504	15,198
Rubber, &c.										
Beaufort Borneo	April 30	138	8,136	8,266	..	..	..	..	8,266	1,209
Bukit Lintang	June 30	Dr 3,124	Dr 740	Dr 3,864	..	..	..	..	Dr 6,196	..
Bukit Tambun	June 30	5,174	2,968	8,142	..	..	..	..	8,142	2,494
Ceylon Land and Produce	June 30	7,738	14,874	22,612	2,138	10,687	30	1,191	8,596	Dr 10,803
Inch Kenneth (F.M.S.)	June 30	3,017	Dr 3,083	Dr 6	..	..	..	..	Dr 4,442	..
Java Para	Dec. 31	56,635	8,119	64,754	..	..	..	54,678	10,076	Dr 8,655
Shipping.										
Claymore	Sept. 30	14,986	75,874	90,860	..	15,000	5	74,770	1,090	89,975
Tramways.										
Auckland Electric	June 30	8,491	33,208	41,699	9,000	23,625	5 1/2	..	9,074	31,506
Trusts.										
East of Scotland	Sept. 30	1,786	6,683	8,469	4,423	2,359	4	..	1,687	7,671
Second Edinburgh Investment ..	Sept. 30	53,469	38,533	92,002	9,668	21,750	15	..	60,584	44,620
Second Scottish Investment	Oct. 1	9,068	24,658	33,626	9,360	13,868	10	..	10,398	22,647
Other Companies.										
Geo. H. Hirst and Co.	Aug. 31	30,113	47,298	77,411	7,587	(24,800) (Pt. Od. 12 Df.)	..	21,024	94,334	(Pt. Od. 12 Df.)
Hugh Baird and Sons	Aug. 31	..	25,098	25,098	4,000	7,100	10	..	13,998	30,272
Lancashire Waggon	Sept. 30*	1,517	3,445	4,962	672	1,088	10 1/2	1,500	1,702	3,191
S. and W. Berisford, Limited	Sept. 30	41,562	31,727	73,289	4,500	22,500	15	8 1/2	45,466	38,801
Stuttard and Co.	July 31	48,384	68,589	116,973	12,600	30,015	10	27,000	47,358	59,900
Union Cold Storage	Dec. 31	87,497	513,998	601,495	328,800	30,000	10	108,667	134,028	395,275

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

cargoes is restricted, and values moved in buyers' favour, especially for distant positions. La Plata, part cargoes, October-November, sold 35s 3d, January-February 36s to 35s 9d, and December 15th-January 35s 6d, all to Bristol Channel per 480 lbs. English barley somewhat irregular, and large deliveries are now being made, but really choice samples appear in small compass. Prices range from 35s to 63s per 448 lbs f.o.r. Imported quiet, and tendency weak. Californian, 39s to 45s; Australian, 49s to 53s per 448 lbs ex store. American malting 48 lbs 33s, Danubian 33s 6d to 34s 6d both landed, and Persian 28s ex ship, all per 400 lbs. European cargoes were obtainable on easier terms, with a limited inquiry. English oats were in less demand, and larger supplies are now coming forward. Black and grey winters rule at 25s to 28s 6d, with best whites up to 32s 6d per 336 lbs f.o.r. Imported dull and occasionally the turn easier. Plate f.a.q. 29s 9d, ditto clipped 30s 3d, black Irish 27s 3d, No. 2 white clipped American, 36 lbs, 28s 3d, No. 2 Canadian Western 35s 6d, No. 1 Canadian feed 32s 6d, all landed terms per 320 lbs. Oatmeal in good demand owing to cold weather and lighter shipments from the United States, which resulted in a firm price level. London made, all cuts, quoted £19 15s, rolled oats £19 15s, flaked £22 15s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £19 10s to £20 10s, and American, all cuts, £18 5s to £18 10s per ton.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to October 28	Cwts. 595,961	Cwts. 344,403	Cwts. 327,752	Cwts. 329,181
3 weeks to October 28	3,199,749	3,176,428	3,875,423	1,926,782
Average price of English wheat per quarter	s d 41 6	s d 44 9	s d 90 6	s d 72 9
— per cwt	6 3	10 5	21 1	16 11

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past

week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1917 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.						
Oct. 21	124,735 qrs bsh	106,840 qrs bsh	30,305 qrs bsh	s d 39 9	s d 40 0	s d 25 7
Oct. 28	139,291 4	135,269 6	32,643 2	41 6	41 2	26 7
1917	60,483 4	108,336 0	13,478 5	70 4	59 11	42 4
1918	68,827 0	84,121 6	10,708 4	74 4	60 5	50 8
1919	76,809 1	169,161 0	21,195 0	72 9	36 0	56 4
1920	76,475 4	159,471 3	20,849 6	90 6	92 9	54 4
1921	80,360 6	145,353 7	18,039 5	44 9	49 9	24 5

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

And over 1,600 Branches in England and Wales.

Authorised Capital	£20,000,000
Issued and Paid-up Capital	£15,592,372
Reserve Fund	£8,250,000
Deposits (30th June, 1922)	£321,167,218

Every description of British & Foreign Banking Business Transacted

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated November 2nd, is as follows:—Pig-iron: We shall not have much change until the General Election is over. Two blast furnaces are expected to re-start shortly on Cleveland foundry pig-iron. There is still some demand for pig-iron from America, and this tends to keep prices steady both for Cleveland and hematite. Whilst the price of the former remains at 92s 6d per ton, the quotation for mixed numbers and East Coast hematite is now 93s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Some slight improvement may be recorded in the demand for steel. Prices remain unchanged. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £10 10s; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: There is a considerable difference between buyers' and sellers' ideas of the value of ore, and consequently business is slow. Best Rubio is reported as having been offered as low as 22s 6d.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The volume of business in this district continues to progress, but still lags behind the improvement which is in operation in other great metal centres, and the distribution of orders is exceptionally uneven. Local works producing basic steel in various forms have a good deal of work in hand, and while unremunerative for the most part, it employs labour, and keeps plants moving. The call for acid steel, while improving a little each week, must be described as disappointing. The rolling mills and forges are working considerably below capacity, and the busier ones cannot earn a profit. In fact, the complaint of unremunerative operations is pretty general here, and the prospects of shareholders for the next year or two are the reverse of encouraging. The extent of the revival in pig-iron is seen in the fact that the number of blast furnaces at work has doubled since the beginning of the year. Allowance must be made for the recent heavy purchases of pig-iron by the United States, as this trade is now coming to an end. The further depreciation of the European currencies has tended to curtail the business which Sheffield is doing with Belgium and France in tool steel and engineers' small tools, while it has also given the steel workers in those countries an advantage over Great Britain in various overseas markets as regards mild steels, strip, and so forth. Makers of edge and agricultural tools, saws, and files report that business is picking up at home and in colonial markets, but the orders, while numerous, are individually small, and prices are being severely cut. The plate and cutlery trades are busy on seasonal orders in certain departments, and here again competition for the business is abnormally keen. The coal market is gaining strength in all departments. Sales of household coal have been below the average for this period of the year, but a buying movement now appears to have set in. The call for steam coal and smalls from the steel, iron, and general manufacturing trade has been progressive for some time. Prices are firm, but unchanged.

Our Glasgow correspondent (writing on Thursday) says: Scotch pig-iron shipments from Clyde ports to the United States last week reached 1,339 tons, comparing with 230 tons in the same week last year. The home conditions for foundry iron are far from cheerful, consumers continuing to confine their operations within narrow and non-speculative limits, and as production is increasing and producers' stocks slightly accumulating, values have inclined to ease. Yesterday sellers were quoting No. 1 at 102s 6d and No. 3 at 97s 6d (on trucks at works), or 25s 6d a ton back from what was commanded eight days ago, with certain dealers naming 1s 3d a ton less, or 3s 9d for a cut. Conditions in the steel trade are quiet, and that though a number of transactions in plates and sections have been put through. Prices are a shade off, at barely £9 for ship plates, for home delivery, and £8 10s for export. Sections run from £8 to £8 10s. A slightly better inquiry is experienced for bridge-building material. Black sheets are in more general request, round £10 10s for 3-inch gauge. Crown bars idle at £10 10s. Hematite iron firmer at £5 7s 6d. Scrap steel not so plentiful as of late, and therefore inclined to harden. Tube-makers are better off than has been the case for months. Bolt, nut, and rivet makers are pretty well off, and have fair prospects. The coal trade position is strong on the presence of an active inquiry for rounds and large sizes from nearly all Continental markets. Over 30 steamers have been daily waiting at Clyde and Forth ports this week for cargoes.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The South Wales coal market has shown considerable strength this week. There has been no sharp advance in prices; salesmen are reluctant to exploit the situation. They might easily ask from 6d to 1s per ton higher, but they are profiting from their experience on other occasions this year when there has been a spurt in the demand, and are satisfied with filling up their stem lists at reasonable prices. The shipments recorded by the Customs authorities last week establish a record in the history of the South Wales ports; the total cargo shipments in that week amounted to 668,000 tons, compared with an average weekly foreign cargo export trade of about 600,000 tons in the record year of 1913. There has been no abatement this week in the

pressure of the demand. On the contrary, towards the end of the week the Great Western Railway Company were compelled to enforce regulations compelling vessels to wait in the roads until berths were ready for them, and thus avoid dock congestion. There has been a resumption of work at four of the Ebbw Vale Company's pits; these have an output of between 25,000 and 30,000 tons per week, and the market has absorbed the extra production quite easily. Inquiries are active for contract supplies over next year. Under pre-war normal conditions approximately between 60 per cent. and 80 per cent. of the following year's output was contracted for in the autumn. That practice is now being restored for the first time since 1914. So far very little coal has been sold for delivery over 1923, but colliery quotations are ruling from about 25s for Monmouthshire coals to 27s 6d for best Admiralty coals. One or two of the French railways have bought at prices less than these, but while contractors are hesitating about paying the prices asked by the colliery salesmen, they are reconciled to the prospect of having to pay several shillings per ton more for their coal next year than they have paid for supplies this year. The audit for September is disappointing. The wage certified is only 19.55 per cent., and to pay the minimum of 28 per cent. on the standard rates the owners are called upon to sacrifice £105,977 out of their standard profits, bringing the total sum thus sacrificed since last November to £2,665,000. The following are the current market prices:—Best Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s 6d; second Admiralties, 26s 6d to 27s 6d; best drys, 28s 6d to 29s 3d; best black veins, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 17s; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s to 15s; anthracite big vein, 57s 6d to 60s; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 65s to 67s 6d; anthracite French nuts 72s 6d to 73s; anthracite stove nuts, 70s to 71s; rubbly culm, 14s to 14s 6d; coke for export, 37s 6d to 40s; inland blast-furnace coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; pithead fuel, 28s 6d to 30s; pitwood ex ship, 30s 6d to 31s. There has been a further improvement this week in the tinplate trade. Prices have been advanced to 19s 6d per box, and demand is improving.

THE COTTON TRADE.

MANCHESTER, November 3.

Although the larger inquiry in the market has been well maintained, the reports as to the actual business passing have been rather disappointing. Buyers are very slow in coming up in price, and in most quarters much doubt is expressed as to whether

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(with which is incorporated the AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.)

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£2,176,660
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,185,185
RESERVE FUND	£2,893,335
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,687,496
	£11,809,995

Board of Directors.
William Jefferson Arbuthnot, Esq., Solomon B. Joel, Esq., J.P.
Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., Horace Peel, Esq.
Edward Clifton Brown, Esq., Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.O.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq., William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq., Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.

Senior General Manager in South Africa—J. P. Gibson.
Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey,
James S. Shiel,
Asst. Gen. Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
London Manager—Francis Shipton. Secretary—Herbert G. Hoey.

Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4.
London Wall Branch: 63, London Wall, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.
(Opposite the Royal Colonial Institute.)
NEW YORK AGENCY: 68 WALL STREET.
ROTTERDAM BRANCH: 15 COOLINGSTRAAT.
HAMBURG AGENCY:
Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53 SCHAUBENBURGER-STRASSE.

Over 370 Branches, Sub-Branches and Agencies in
CAPE PROVINCE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE, TRANSVAAL, RHODESIA,
NYSALAND, BASUTOLAND, KENYA COLONY, KENYA PROTECTORATE,
UGANDA, ZANZIBAR, PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA, SOUTH WEST
AFRICA, TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, BELGIAN CONGO.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION transacted at all
Branches and Agencies.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the usual terms, and DEPOSITS
RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on
application.
SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS opened on terms, particulars of which
may be obtained at Branches.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
DRAFTS issued, and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and COMMERCIAL CREDITS established.
TRAVELLER'S LETTERS OF CREDIT issued available in all parts of
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected. (the world.)
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received and COUPONS COLLECTED.
STRONGROOMS provided for the safe custody of Securities and Valuables
of Customers.
ASSAY DEPARTMENT—Gold, etc., and all Mineral Ores assayed and
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE business undertaken. (realised.)
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

a really big trade can be done on the present level of values. Plenty of inquiry has been met with in cloth for India, and scattered sales have occurred in light bleaching descriptions, grey shirtings, and printing goods, the bulk of the buying being for Calcutta and Madras. Exporters to China have displayed more interest in quotations, but only isolated transactions have been mentioned in sheetings and fancies. For several minor outlets there has been a little more activity in stock lots, and a steady demand has been met with in home trade fabrics. All along the line it is very difficult for manufacturers to secure profitable prices. Home users of American yarns continue their policy of purchasing from hand to mouth, but there are indications of spinners improving slightly their position by reducing stocks. Fine Egyptian yarns have attracted rather more attention. Not much has been done in shipping bundles.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Nov. 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Oct. 26.	Oct. 19.	Oct. 12.	Oct. 5.	Sept. 28.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	14.54	14.34	13.85	13.15	12.44	12.78
Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .. per lb	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.40	17.15	17.25
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	21	20.3	20.3	20	19.3	19.3
— 40's twist .. per lb	20.3	20.3	19.7	19.3	18.8	18.8
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28.3	28.3	28.3	28	28	28
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	31	30	30	30	30	30
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	32	31	31	31	30	30
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs ..	18	18	17	17	17	17
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs ..	16	16	15	15	15	15

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Nov. 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	14.54	12.77	17.47	26.28	23.56	21.88
Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .. per lb	17.75	23.75	43.00	37.50	29.40	31.95
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	21	21	40	48½	54	30
— 40's twist .. per lb	20.3	20.3	38	46½	54	29½
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	28.3	28.3	58	71	69	44
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	31	33	66	69	71	39
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	32	33	66	66	68	38
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs ..	18	32	37	39	39	23
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs ..	16	19	29	34	34	20

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—October 27, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.		Same Period 1920.	
						Med.	Fine.	Med.	Fine.
Sea Island ..	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Florida do ..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do ..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American ..	1259/1309	1379/1414	1439/1519	9.82/1112	1317	9.80/1275	1905		
Brazilian ..	Mid M F	Fr. G F	Gd. Fne.	M F	Fr. Gd.	M F	Fr. Gd.		
Pernam ..	1274/1389	1519	..	1017/1267	1230/1780	..	..		
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c. ..	1274/1389	1519	..	1017/1267	1230/1780	..	..		
Maoeio, &c. ..	1274/1389	1519	..	1017/1267	1230/1780	..	..		
Mossoro, &c. ..	1274/1389	1519	..	1017/1267	1230/1780	..	..		
Cocao ..	1274/1389	1519	..	1017/1267	1230/1780	..	..		
Maranhão, &c. ..	1274/1389	1519	..	1017/1267	1230/1780	..	..		
São Paulo ..	1324/1384	1424	..	..	..	..	..		
Egyptian ..	Fr. G F	For Gd. Fne.	..	..	..	..	..		
Upper ..	1350/1450	1500	1550/1650	..	1600/1900	..	2400		
Sakellaridis ..	1475/1700	1715	1950/2100	..	1625/2025	..	3200		
Brown ..	1350/1500	1600/1675	1825	..	..	..	..		
Peruvian ..	MF	Fr. G F	Gd. Fne.	..	..	..	..		
Rough ..	..	1450/1500	1550	..	1500	..	2700		
Moderately Rough ..	..	1350/1425	1475	..	1250/1450	..	1400/2300		
Smooth ..	1374/1524	1599/1649	1749	1217/1492	1667	1730/2180	2830		
Tanguis ..	1374/1524	1624/1674	1774	..	..	..	..		
Mitafi ..	..	1200/1500	1450/15	..	..	..	..		
West Indian, &c. ..	..	1275/1375	1450	..	..	..	..		
Do ..	..	2200/2500	2800/2900	..	3000/3600	..	6000/7000		
African, East, &c. ..	9.75/1075	1250/1350	1450/1550	1150/1350	1550	1200/1500	2900		
Do ..	..	1274/1324	1349/149	..	..	..	..		
Machine Ginned Surtee ..	G F	For Gd. Fne	3 Fne	..	..	..	..		
Machine Ginned Broach ..	..	1105/1145	1185/1225	1265	1055/1080	1155	1235/1285	1385	
Machine Ginned Bhowanagar ..	9.10	9.60/1010	1050/1090	1130	8.94/9.44	1044	1019/1119	1279	
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 1 ..	9.20	9.70/1020	1060/1100	1140	9.00/9.50	1050	1025/1125	1285	
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 2 ..	..	9.95/1035	1075/1115	..	..	..	..		
Machine Ginned Khandeish ..	1075	9.20	9.70/1010	1050/1090	8.25/8.75	9.75	7.50/8.50	1010	
Machine Ginned Comptah ..	..	1115	..	..	8.95	..	1235	..	
Machine Ginned Bengal ..	7.35	7.75/8.15	8.55/8.95	9.35	7.65/8.15	9.15	7.50/8.00	9.00	
Machine Ginned Scinde ..	7.25	7.65/8.05	8.45/8.85	9.25	7.53/8.03	9.03	7.32/8.22	8.82	
Tinnivelly ..	1235/1275	1315	..	..	1205/1230	..	1385/1435	..	
Madras, Western ..	1015/1050	1090/1130	..	..	8.95/9.20	..	1210/1260	..	
Madras, Northern ..	..	1115	..	..	..	..	..	..	
M.G. Cocoonada, Red ..	Fr. 1075	..	..	..	8.95	..	1050	..	
China, Smyrna, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market is undoubtedly quieter, but although new business is being done on more restricted lines, there is as yet little sign of any weakening in values. Of course, the reports from the primary markets in Australia and South Africa indicate that the demand for wool is as strong as ever, and topmakers are inclined to pin

their faith to that demand being maintained. At the same time, it is generally admitted that the state of the piece trade does not warrant current prices for tops and yarns, and manufacturers are only covering their immediate requirements. On the other hand, it is obvious that consumption is very heavy, especially in the hosiery trade, and the strength of the raw material market is also partly due to the large purchases in recent weeks on American account. Generally speaking, it is these outside influences that are supporting values, and so long as the world demand for wool continues on the present scale, there can be little prospect of any material decline in prices. Compared with quotations ruling last Thursday, tops show practically no change. An occasional spot lot of 64's might be picked up at a fraction under last week's price, but the majority of topmakers are still very firm, and will not consider offers under current quotations. Cabled reports from the Cape indicate a reduction in the extreme prices recently ruling there, and on this market to-day good Cape tops are quoted at about 5s 6d per lb, a reduction of 2d compared with last Thursday's rates. These tops, however, are still relatively dearer than Australian. Spinners report a steady inquiry for most yarns, but present prices are checking business in Botanies, and fine crossbreeds are receiving more attention. There is no change in the piece-goods trade. Manufacturers assert that they cannot sell cloth on to-day's basis of yarns, and among users there is something approaching organised opposition to current prices.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

After three weeks' brisk sales in Coleman street, interest is now centred largely in Australia, where this week wool is being offered at three centres. Cables show a strong market, but the extreme prices of last week are hardly seen at Melbourne, and though there was a very good sale at Perth during the earlier part of the week, we think values are reasonable compared with either Melbourne or Sydney. If we reckon an average advance of 15 per cent. on merino fleeces (good topmaking wools), the improvement is barely what might have been expected in view of the extreme rise which has taken place in London since the middle of July, but as the bulk of West Australian wools are unsuitable for Continental requirements, and with America not being an extensive purchaser of the wools from this State, the rise is quite creditable. Really superior lines suited for America are reported to be 25 per cent. higher, and this is seen in the best Murchison and lightest conditioned South-Western wools, which come from two of the best growing districts in West Australia. There is no State in the Commonwealth whose wools have shown such a marked improvement during the past 10 years as West Australia. Not only have they increased in quantity, but also improved in quality and general appearance. This is largely due to the sound educational influence of Bradford appraisers during the time of Government control. Several Bradford valuers visited a good number of stations, and gave practical advice, which was much appreciated, and Murchison clips have since come to the front in a most wonderful way. Some of the West Australian station owners might be warned not to allow the quality of their clips to depreciate in the same manner as has happened to many South Australian clips, it being a fact that many of the pastoralists in West Australia are replenishing their stud flocks from South Australia. The very fact that Murchison wools sold last Tuesday at 30d and southern wools at 3½d is ample proof of the suitability of the West Australian pastures for producing really good, sound acceptable merino wool. There is no need for the pastoralists of this State to go in for cross-breeds. Surely the present era of low values should convince hundreds what a mistake they made in so doing, for the world is calling for bigger supplies of merinos, and Australia is well suited to turning them out.

According to the prices cabled by Dalgety and Co., Limited, from their Melbourne branch, excellent figures were made in that centre last Tuesday for well-known Riverina clips. One observes that Cobran touched 30d, Murray Downs/Spectacles 20½d, Wopelana 3½d, Boabula 28½d, and Hartwood 28½d. These are very good prices, and we should say that the best lines would give a clean yield of 53 to 54 per cent. It will be remembered that during the boom Murray Downs made a colossal price, while Cobran is a well-grown, shaggy clip, but no more than 64's quality.

Wherever one turns, wool markets are still found to be excellent, and the raw material is being absorbed with the greatest freedom. Prices at the Cape are easier, and, after the urgent needs of the trade have been satisfied, values look like coming down to a level with those current for merinos in Australia. After giving all possible credit to Cape wool, it must be said that there was no sound reason for paying from 4d to 6d more per clean lb for 12 months' Cape combing wools than the price at which corresponding descriptions could be bought in Australian selling centres.

The Sixty Policy

Secures protection for your dependants
And a pension for yourself
And eases the cost during the present years of uncertainty.

Write for particulars to the

National Provident Institution,
48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The feature of the oil market is the firmness of linseed oil for prompt delivery, due equally to a shortage and a good demand. Spot oil commands £40, but for delivery to the end of the year prices are about maintained round £38. More seed is now arriving, and there is an improvement in the quantity on passage to the United Kingdom, although this is much below that going to the Continent. A fair inquiry for January-April delivery is reported, current value again being lower on the week, and something under £34. Cotton oil crushed from the new Egyptian seed is now offering round £35 for crude, but trade generally is slow. Nevertheless, the market is firm and values sustained. Soya bean oil is in fair request, and rape oil is still very scarce for near delivery, and is somewhat dearer. Ground nut oil is firm and scarce, but palm kernel oil is quiet, and value unchanged. Castor oil (first pressure) offers at £48 (barrels free).

Rather more interest has been evinced in linseed. Plate on spot is scarce, and held for £19 10s, while £19 has been paid for October shipment to Hull. New Plate appears to have recovered some of the ground lost by the report of a bumper crop in the coming season, and for January-February shipment is quoted £16, after business done at £15 15s. Indian linseed for shipment has tended lower, Calcutta to London having been done at £19 15s October-November, and £18 12s 6d November-December. In competition with Continental buyers, English crushers have had to pay more for cottonseed, but prices now are 5s below the highest, with black Egyptian at £10 5s paid for early November to Hull. Rapeseed steady, and other oilseeds quiet, and little business done to test values.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Tanners and butchers seem to realise that hides have reached their maximum price, as all classes are steady. Few alterations worth note cropped up at Thursday's Bermondsey auctions, although most heavy selections of best ox again advanced ½d, and making as high as 10½d per lb. Cows sold from 7d to 7½d, and being noted in a few cases. Wools sold from 5s to 9s each, and hogs 3s 2d to 11s each. Foreign hides are still very firm, tanners only buying for pressing wants; fregorifics are still firm, and selling at \$61 on spot, the bulk of supplies having been bought by American tanners. Dry hides are moving off better, and Capes and Australians are now in request at firm rates. The American market is still strong, with best Chicago packers selling at 23 cents.

The trade in sole leather is steady, although business is checked by the General Election prospect. Bends from 17d to 23d are still the best sellers to shoe manufacturers, the repairing trade taking 10/16 lbs at a higher range of prices. Little American sole is arriving, so that domestic tanners have the market largely to themselves. The demand, however, is so uncertain that it is only here and there tanners can get any advance on leather.

The upper leather section is gradually improving, and curriers are getting inquiries for wax butts and splits on a larger scale. Semi-chrome is also wanted, but in very low grades. Glacé kid is selling much better, but tanners find the demand is for stock at 6d to 9d per foot, and as dressing costs round about 6d per foot, there is very little margin left for the skin merchant and tanner.

The boot trade is gradually improving, although the demand is for a lower-priced boot. Retailers find money very short, so that the public are often perforce obliged to buy a common grade of boot in spite of their better judgment.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, November 3.

SUGAR.—The market moved on steady lines this week, prices on balance showing but little alteration, and a moderate inquiry was experienced both on grocery and manufacturing account. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 56s 6d to 57s 6d; crushed, 53s 6d; mineral water, 51s 9d; granulated, 51s 4½d to 51s 10½d, as to quality; caster, finest, 55s 1½d; A, 53s 4½d; B, 52s 9d; pieces, 36s to 40s for yellows, and 46s 1½d fine white; yellow crystals, 45s 4½d; granulated, December, 50s 9d; January-March, 50s 6d. West India crystallised ranges from 42s to 45s 6d, as to quality. American granulated, spot, changed hands at 50s to 49s 10½d. White Java steady, and business resulted in spot goods at 48s 1½d to 48s 9d; ditto, afloat, London, 20s 7½d, c.f. and i. terms. W.S.R., cubes, prompt, 27s; granulated, 22s 9d; H.U.M., granulated, 22s 9d; J, 22s 3d, all f.o.b. terms. Belgian crystals, November-December, 19s 10½d; granulated, 20s 3d, f.o.b., Antwerp. French crystals, November-December, quoted 20s to 20s 3d, as to quality, f.o.b., Boulogne. Cze ho-Slovakian, granulated, December, 22s; cubes, 24s 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. White Mauritius, spot, 47s 3d to 47s 9d; white Brazilian, sound, 47s 3d. Terminal market generally quiet. White, December, sold, 21s 6d to 21s 0d; May 21s 9d to 21s 3d. Cuban stocks stand at 223,400 tons, against 1,152,200 at same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s 6d.

COFFEE.—A steady tone governed this market, but general course

of trade ruled quiet. Uganda, fair bold greenish, sold, 83s; Vera Paz, 96s to 103s. Future delivery steady, quiet. December, sold, 62s 6d; May, 60s.

COCOA.—Actual transactions were on a limited scale, but sellers required steady prices. Accra, F/F quality, November-December, sold, 37s to 36s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—About 41,400 packages Indian were catalogued in auction this week, and with no abatement in demand, a strong market resulted, prices being fully 1d to 1½d per lb higher. 16,800 packages Ceylon were eagerly competed for respecting qualities up to 1s 8d per lb, and these were frequently dearer. The finer descriptions disclosed some irregularity. Java and Sumatra met with active support at full to again dearer rates.

RICE. Held steadily, but there was not much response from buyers. Two stars, spot, 15s 6d; ditto, November, steamer, 14s 1½d. No. 1 garden Siam, double bags, November, 15s 1½d, c.f. and i. terms. Rangoon beans firmer, and hand-picked, spot, sold, 8s. Japanese peas steady, quiet. Afloat, sold, 28s 6d; November-December, 26s 3d; December-January, 25s 6d.

SPICE.—Pepper ruled rather quiet, but prices maintained a steady level as sellers were not pressing. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 3½d; December-February, steamer, 3½d. Aleppo, spot, sellers, 4d; Lampong, 4½d; Tellicherry, 4½d; white Singapore, spot, 5½d; Muntok, spot, 6d; ditto, December-February, 5½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 4½d; ditto October-December, steamer, sold, 6d to 6½d. Pimento, spot value, 2d; flake tapioca, fair quality, spot, sold, 2½d per lb; fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 21s 6d. Sago flour quiet, but steady. October-December, steamer, sold, 12s 4½d; and November-January, sellers, 12s 3d. Desiccated coconut firm. Spot lots changed hands at 37s to 36s 9d for both fine and medium. 200 cases offered in auction, off colour, sold, 36s 6d. Ginger quiet, but steady.

FRUIT.—The market for currants again presented quiet features, though sellers required steady prices. Pyrgos quoted 73s; Amalia, 75s to 76d; Vostizza, 90s to 96s. In auction, some 348 tons Valencia raisins offered received but slow support, and prices were slightly easier for the lower qualities. Quarters sold, 85s to 121s; eights bought in. Muscatels steady for the lower kinds, but easier for finer. Trays and boxes sold, 81s to 95s; choice and extra ditto, 120s to 140s. Sultanias firm with a moderate demand. Smyrna, 135s to 145s; fine and choice, 150s to 160s. Dates steady. Hallowee from second-hands, 28s.

JUTE.—Market slightly unsettled this week, and business with spinners proved slow. First grade, November-December, Continent, sold, £31 5s to £32; ditto, December-January, £31 10s to £32 10s; lightning grade, December-January, £29 12s 6d to £30 15s. Hessians ruled rather steadier. 10 oz, spot, sold, 31s; December-January, 27s 6d; April-June, 27s 4½d. 8 oz, spot, 24s; December-January, 23s. A twills, spot, 81s; B, ditto, 64s; hessian bags, 56 by 28, spot, sold, 55s; ditto, December-January, 52s.

HEMP.—Manila eased slightly on larger receipts, and which amounted to 39,000 bales during last week, but later a steady tone prevailed. G grade, October-December, quoted, £34; H, £32 10s; J, November-January, sold, £30 15s; December-February, £31; K, November-January, £29 15s; L, £29; M, £28. New Zealand dull. H.P.F., spot, £33; forward, £32; fair, spot, £32; forward, £30 10s. African sisal—No. 1, G.E.A., October-December, £35; and B.E.A., £34 10s. Italian P.C., spot, £54.

SHELLAC.—Market advanced sharply in all positions, on strong buying orders. T.N., fair quality, spot, moved to 350s; December delivery, 330s; March, 310s. A.C. garnet, spot, 320s; G.A.L., 310s.

COPRA.—Market fully steady, and there was a moderate business doing. F.M.S. Straits, October-December, Rotterdam, sold, £24 7s 6d; ditto, November-January and also December-February, at £24 8s 9d; Ceylon, November-January, £25 5s to £25 7s 6d; South Sea quoted £23 5s; Cebu sold, £24; Java, £24 10s; Dutch East Indies, £24 7s 6d; miced, £23 5s. Palm kernels, December-February, Liverpool, sold, £17 7s 6d.

RUBBER.—Irregular movements took place this week, but there was a fair amount of business doing. Standard plantation, spot and November, sold, 1s to 1½d, 1½d; December, 1s 0½d to 1½d, 1s 0½d, 1s; January-March, 1s 0½d to 1s 0½d, 1s 0½d; April-June, 1s 1d to 1s 0½d and 1s 1d. To New York, standard sheet, December-January, sold, 1s 0½d to 1s and 1s 0½d, c.f. and i. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 1½d; soft fine, 1s; ball, 10½d.

MENTHOL.—Spot, 32s; forward, 30s. Japanese peppermint oil, spot, 7s 9d; November, 7s; December-January, 6s 9d. Aniseed, spot, 2s 3d; forward, 2s 0½d. Slab camphor, spot, 3s 7d; crude, 3s 4d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 77s 6d; forward, 72s per cwt.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market quiet, but near positions steady. Bold Bombay, afloat, £21 5s paid. Small Bombay, ditto, £20 15s. Calcutta, afloat, £20 15s; October-November, £19 15s; November-December, £18 15s. Plate, afloat, sold, £19 2s 6d; October,

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCV.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1922.

No. 4,133.

Britain's most popular cars.

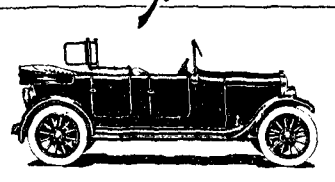
See them

Olympia Nov. 3-11

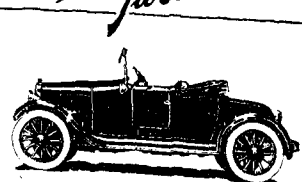
at the Show

STAND

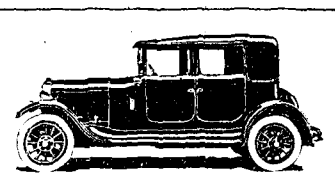
252

The Austin
Twenty

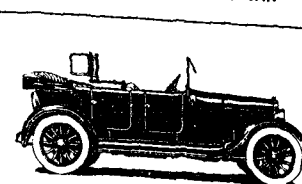
5 SEATER TOURING CAR.

The Austin
Twelve

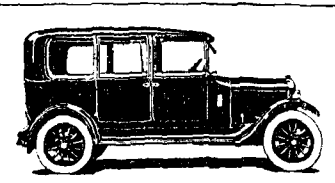
2-4 SEATER TOURING CAR.



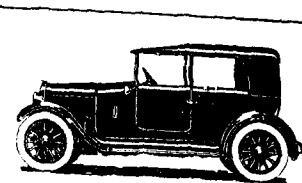
4 DOOR "RANELAGH" COUPE



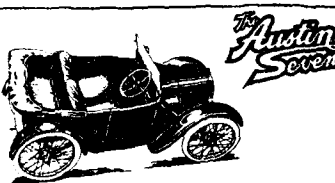
4 SEATER TOURING CAR.



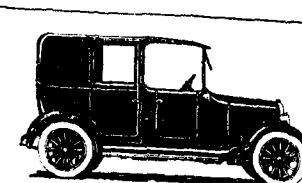
7 SEATER "MAYFAIR" LIMOUSINE



4 SEATER "HARLEY" COUPE



THE MOTOR FOR THE MILLION



4 SEATER "BERKELEY" LANDULET

Austin

Prices substantially reduced

and at 479-483 Oxford Street (Nr. Marble Arch)

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2
ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD, President

The Alliance grants insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTYand
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

issued by the Company may
be obtained on application
from the Head Office or any
of the Offices or Agencies
of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

Christiania, Norway.

transacts all kinds of banking business.

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Alesund Haugesund
Bergen Sandefjord
Christiania and S. Skien
Drammen Stavanger
Fredrikstad Trondhjem

and all Norwegian places of any importance.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS

1 Jan., 1920... .. Kr. 69,000,000

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Fully Paid Lire 300,000,000
Reserve Lire 90,000,000
Deposits and Current Accounts at 31st Dec-
ember, 1921 Lire 4,419,768.340

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having
correspondents in all Countries, and is specially pre-
pared to grant facilities for the development of trade
between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italooredi, Cannon, London."
Telephone: 7802-7803 City

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	881	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	902
Policies and Interpretations	883	New Issues	903
Chaotic Exchanges	885	Active Securities	903
Turkish Developments	886	Company Meetings—	905
A Labour View of the		Government Returns—	
Labour Programme	887	Currency Notes Account ..	907
South African Mining and		Treasury Bills and Bonds ..	907
Taxation	888	by Public Tender	907
Bankers and Free Trade ..	889	Public Income and Expen- diture	907
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
Great Britain, Germany, and the League	890	Bank of England	908
The American Elections ..	890	Clearing Returns	908
Indian Cotton Duties	890	Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks ..	909
Chilean Loan in the United States	890	Overseas Bank Returns ..	909
The Crops	891	Loan and Discount Rates ..	911
The Rise in Cotton Prices ..	891	Overseas Bank Rates	911
Czechoslovak Trade and Finance	891	Rates of Exchange	912
Chartered Shares and the Rhodesian Referendum ..	892	Indian Treasury Bills	912
United of Havana	892	Bullion	912
Dalgety and Co.	892	Imports and Exports of Gold and Silver Prices	913
Gold Fields Rhodesian De- velopment	893	Company News—	
British-American Mining ..	893	Oil Outputs	904
Overseas Correspondence—		Dividend Announcements ..	904
United States	893	Analysis of Balance-sheets ..	904
France	894	Reports and Notices	913
Germany	896	Summary of Company Profit and Loss Accounts	914
Austria	897	Transvaal Gold Output	914
Canada	898	Railway & Tramway Traffic ..	915
Poland	899	Commercial Reports—	
Letters to the Editor—		Corn Trade	916
The Electors' Apathy	900	Iron and Coal Trade	916
Books and Publications—		Cotton Trade	917
Recent Economic Literature ..	900	Wool Trade	918
Lithuania	901	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds ..	918
Books Received	901	Hide and Leather Trades ..	919
		Overseas Produce Markets ..	919
		Price Current	920

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s. 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 6d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."
Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at
Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons,
5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar
Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street;
Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 53 Finsbury
pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,
37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: *Economist* Office, 20 Broad
street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has once more been inconveniently scarce, except
when special measures were being taken to make it
plentiful. Since the official return of public income and
expenditure showed no addition to Ways and Means
advances from the Bank of England, it may perhaps be
presumed that the addition shown to the Bank's Govern-
ment securities in the previous week had been caused by
its purchase of short Treasury bills, of which a con-
siderable proportion appears to have since matured. How-

ever this may be, money became quite scarce, and on Wednesday the market had to borrow from the Bank, while on Thursday early stringency was relieved by fresh activity on the part of what bill brokers call the "hidden hand." Discount rates were, in consequence, decidedly firmer. After the announcement of the high rate at which the Treasury bills were allotted, the market rate for commercial paper became nominally still firmer.

	Nov. 10, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½-8	2½	2½	2½	...

The Bank return showed an increase of £642,000 in the Reserve, owing to the return of notes from circulation, the stock of gold being lower by a trifle. Government and Other securities dwindled by 1½ million and £307,000 respectively, and since the Public deposits expanded by a million, Other declined by nearly 2½ millions. Currency notes outstanding were increased this week by £853,700 to £288,846,600, which includes £1,540,200 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £239,156,400, or £70,832,000 below the maximum.

At the meeting of the Court of Directors of the Bank of England, on Thursday, it was agreed to recommend to the proprietors in April next that Mr. Montagu Collet Norman, the Governor, should be re-elected Governor for the ensuing year. His re-election for the fourth year in succession, the longest term served by any governor with the exception of Lord Cunliffe, is a well-merited tribute to the skill and discretion with which Mr. Norman has carried out his onerous and difficult duties. Mr. H. A. Trotter, who has been deputy-governor for three years, is retiring from this position, and the directors recommend that Mr. Cecil Lubbock be elected deputy-governor in April next. Mr. Lubbock, besides being a director of the Bank of England, is a director of the London board of the Northern Assurance Company, of the Provident Accident and Guarantee Company, and of Whitbread & Co., and is also a member of the Council of Foreign Bondholders.

The changes in the monthly statement of average weekly balances of the London Clearing Banks, printed in full on another page, are of more interest than in recent months, for not only do deposits show the first increase for some time, but the total of acceptances, which has been steadily dwindling since the beginning of the year, is £7 millions higher. Below we compare the aggregate figures of the nine English banks for October with those of preceding months:—

	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	June, 1922.	Aug., 1922.	Sept., 1922.	Oct., 1922.
Capital and reserves.....	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9
Acceptances	65.3	57.1	55.2	50.3	49.9	56.9
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.)	1,818.6	1,746.9	1,755.2	1,688.4	1,660.6	1,686.2
Total liabilities	1,993.8	1,919.9	1,926.3	1,854.6	1,826.4	1,859.0
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	273.5	245.8	251.3	239.1	233.2	244.3
Money at call	105.7	102.5	113.0	105.0	104.4	104.7
Investments	343.3	352.7	412.0	414.4	405.8	394.4
Discounts	424.3	350.5	346.2	305.8	295.9	309.1
Loans and advances	762.3	746.2	723.3	714.3	711.3	723.7
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	90.7	82.2	80.5	76.0	75.8	82.8
Total assets	1,993.8	1,919.9	1,926.3	1,854.6	1,826.4	1,859.0

While it is difficult to derive definite evidence of an increase in trade activity from these figures, they are, nevertheless, encouraging, for, apart from the increase in acceptances, there is an advance of over £12 millions in loans and advances, not to mention the increase of £26 millions in deposits—the latter, however, may be due to a variety of causes, and cannot in itself be taken as a real indication of increasing trade.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The chaotic movement of the Continental exchanges, the recurrence of anxieties in the Near East, and the approach of election day combined to check business on the Stock Exchange. But later in the week gilt-edged stocks recovered somewhat from their early weakness, owing to the favourable effect of Lord Curzon's speech

in the City. French bonds were naturally very flat on the depreciation of the franc. Home railway stocks fell somewhat heavily in the early part of the week, but recovered later on bear repurchases. Among foreign rails, the strength of the leading Argentine stocks has remained the chief feature. Excitement in the rubber share market has died down considerably, and oil shares weakened on Paris sales. On staple industrials there is little to report, but tea shares were buoyant until the last day or two, when some check developed. The Kaffir market has suffered from French selling, but this was to some extent offset by supporting orders from the Cape. Chartered fell back on the Rhodesian referendum, of which special mention is made on a later page. Irregular movements in the price of tin had little effect upon business or prices in the tin share section.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

As a result of the further advance in raw cotton rates transactions in yarn and cloth have been difficult to effect; opinion is expressed in most quarters that current values of manufactured goods are too high for consumers in Eastern markets. Although it is thought that the steady depreciation in Continental currencies may have an adverse effect on the values of some descriptions of wool, the raw material position remains firm. The demand for pig-iron shows no marked improvement, while, owing to the lower value of French and Belgian currencies, prices of foreign steel are under those of our home works. Complaint is made by our trade correspondent of severe price-cutting in the Sheffield district. Our Workington correspondent states that "the steel trade has never been duller," but reports the coal trade as brisk. The South Wales coal market continues busy, prices for best Admiralties being from 28s to 28s 6d per ton, and the improvement in the tinplate trade is maintained. Hide prices show signs of weakness, but conditions in the shoe trade are fairly good. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The recent movements of the mark and the franc culminated this week in fluctuations indicating a state very little short of complete demoralisation, and although the last two days have shown a marked recovery, the danger of a further "run" is by no means past. From 26,000 on the 3rd the mark had risen to 38,500 by the close of Tuesday. On Wednesday it rose to 42,000, but ended the day with a recovery to 35,500, and on Thursday was down again to 28,500. On Friday morning, however, there was a reaction again to 33,500. The rapid rise during the early part of the week was the result of growing panic in Germany, and the recovery was due almost entirely to the relatively favourable report published by the committee of experts in Berlin. But from the report to the practical execution of its proposals is a very long step indeed. In Paris the franc from 64.72½ on the 3rd rose rapidly at the beginning of the week, until 72.20 was reached on Wednesday evening. On Thursday it closed at 68.70, and on Friday morning, although it opened again better at 68.15, it showed some tendencies towards a renewed rise. The Belgian franc has moved in sympathy, being up to 80 at one time on Wednesday, and standing on Friday morning at 74.60. Vigorous attempts are being made in France to counteract this crumbling of confidence, but it remains to be seen at what point the movement can now be stopped. It is especially unfortunate that the panic should have coincided with the necessity of heavy purchases of foreign currencies for wheat imports. There has been talk of the introduction of exchange restrictions, but it is doubtful whether this unwise step will be taken. The Italian rate has moved much less violently, having risen from 106 on the 3rd to 108 on Tuesday, since when it has recovered again to 103, as the result apparently of confidence in the new régime. Throughout these fluctuations the dollar rate has remained remarkably steady. On Monday there was a sudden drop to 4.44½ from 4.46½ on the 3rd, but since then it recovered steadily to 4.46½ on Thursday. On Friday morning, however, it was again rather lower at 4.46½. Movements among neutral exchanges have also been relatively quiet, Amsterdam having gone in our favour from 11.38½ to 11.41, Switzerland, after some

fluctuations, being about the same at 24.45, while Madrid has depreciated again from 29.29 to about 29.40. In Scandinavia, Copenhagen and Christiania have moved somewhat against us to 22.14 and 24.05 respectively, Stockholm rather in our favour to 16.64. Helsingfors has reacted a little from its recent rapid appreciation, and now stands at 173½, as compared with 168 a week ago. In Central Europe the Vienna rate at 330,000 is relatively steady, and the discussions in Parliament over the financial reform measures are progressing more favourably than was at first expected. Warsaw continues to depreciate, having risen from 64,000 to 70,000, although trade continues active. Prague at 139 is very slightly lower than a week ago, while Athens has moved upward again from 235 to 295. In the East, the rupee is practically unchanged at 1s 32d-32d, the yen very slightly dearer at 2s 13d. In the silver market, apart from a slight recovery on Monday, prices have moved downwards on sales from China and America, and the outlook is not particularly good. Hong Kong and Shanghai have both moved a little lower. In South America, Monte Video shows a marked recovery from 42d to 43½d, Buenos Aires is also ½d dearer at 44½d, and Rio ½d dearer at 6 11-32d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 4th:—

	Receipts.	Min. £	Expenditure.	Min. £
From Revenue	14,047	8,546	Interest on Debt	7,529
Amount borrowed	2,387	1,984	Supply Services	764
			Added to Exchequer Balances	692
			Sundries	16,434
				16,434

Property and Income-tax yielded £5,892,000, against £4,115,000 in the corresponding period of last year. Customs produced £2,165,000, against £2,776,000, and Excise receipts £1,481,000, against £1,742,000, and Estate duties £1,610,000, against £650,000. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £2,386,942, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £	National War Bonds paid off	Min. £
National Savings Certificates	+ 300	Other Debt	- 1,110
Treasury Bills	+ 771		
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 1,984		
Unemployment Insurance	+ 100		
Public Depts. Advances	+ 600		
Sundries	+ 241		
	+ 3,996		- 1,610

The floating debt was increased by £1,425,000 to £920,503,500 during the week ended November 4th.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to November 4, 1922).

Total spent	£ 439,227,943	Raised by revenue ..	£ 481,315,919
Dec. in balances	7,694,763	Net repayments.....	49,782,739
Total	431,533,180	Total	431,533,180

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure.....	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,955	1,953	1,979	1,979
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,046	1,046
4% Funding Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-15 year Treas. Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do by tender 4½%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	791
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
War Expend. Certs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Debt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	180
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,669
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,736

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Nov. 5, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Nov. 4, '22.	Movement Week ended Nov. 4, '22.
Temporary Advances Out- standing—				
Advances by Bank of England	24,500,000..	147,301,500..	179,738,500..	+ 606,000
Advances by Public Deposits	192,758,000..	882,219,000..	740,765,000..	+ 825,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,116,812,000..	1,029,520,500..	920,503,500..	+ 1,425,000
Total Floating Debt.....	1,334,070,000..	1,029,520,500..	920,503,500..	+ 1,425,000

POLICIES AND INTERPRETATIONS.

THE announcement has been made this week that on November 15th—the day on which the British electors go to the polls—a second \$50,000,000 will be handed over on behalf of the British Government to the United States as a further instalment of the first interest payment on the British war debt to America. It is also understood that the postponed financial mission to Washington will be despatched without unnecessary delay. In this instance action, or definite promise of action, has cleared up any doubts that might have existed about policy, and we are glad that it has thus been made clear to the United States that the change of Government in this country in no way affects the recognition of our financial obligations. But in respect of other important matters the policy of the new Prime Minister still remains, within four days of the election, a matter of obscurity. We endeavoured to show last week that the Reparations problem is the one paramount difficulty which any Government must first solve before it can proceed to bring better trade and happier conditions to this country. We pleaded with Mr. Bonar Law for a statement which would indicate whether he was prepared to approach this vital conundrum on the only lines which appear to give any reasonable hope of success. Since then Mr. Bonar Law has made several speeches, but has studiously avoided the subject. Moreover, we note with regret a passage in his speech at Leeds which, whether rightly or wrongly we do not know, lends itself to the unfortunate interpretation that he is not, even to-day, with the new riot of the exchanges before his eyes, fully alive to the supreme importance of a Reparations solution. Mr. Bonar Law talked to his Leeds audience last Saturday about Empire co-operation, and expressed the hope that from his proposed Empire Conference greater trade and some amelioration of unemployment might result. We share his hope. With our European markets in their present chaotic state it is essential that our trade within the Empire and with extra-European countries should be expanded as energetically as possible. But we are afraid that in this matter Mr. Bonar Law is living in an atmosphere of unreality. Although he guards himself at the outset by saying, "I am not at all one of those who think the chaos of demoralisation in Central Europe does not matter," yet he proceeds upon a statistical argument calculated to convey the impression that the relative importance of our trade with Europe to our trade within the Empire is very much less than in fact it is. Indeed, he seems to have compiled his figures with the express purpose of belittling the importance of our commercial relationship with Europe. "In the last year before the war," said Mr. Bonar Law, "we sent to the Empire alone two and a-half times the quantity of goods we sent to all those demoralised countries of Europe, including Germany, and in 1920 our export trade within the Empire

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY.

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	10,860,852
Reserve Fund ..	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,450 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

was four and three-quarter times as great as with those countries." Now, whether one agrees approximately with Mr Bonar Law's figures depends largely upon what one means by the phrase "those demoralised countries of Europe." Having examined the official figures of trade for the periods referred to, we find it extraordinarily difficult to arrive at any conclusion similar to his. Suppose we take France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Greece, Roumania, European Turkey and Russia—and surely all these countries can fairly be included among those whose exchanges and finances have been demoralised by the War and its after-events—we arrive at the following conclusion:—In 1913, our exports to these nine countries were £130.6 millions. In the same year our exports to countries within the Empire were £205 millions. The latter is scarcely "two and a half times" the former, as Mr. Bonar Law suggests. In 1920 our exports to the nine countries were £312.7 millions, and to countries within the Empire, £501.5 millions. The latter is scarcely "four and three-quarter times" the former, as Mr Bonar Law's calculations would suggest. Let us turn next to imports. Our imports from these nine countries in 1913 were £214.8 millions, while our imports from countries within the Empire were just under £213 millions, the latter being actually a trifle smaller than the former. In 1921 (this time Mr Bonar Law changes his year of comparison), our imports from the nine countries were £150.1 millions, and from the countries within the Empire £331 millions. The latter figure is by no means "five and a quarter times" greater than the former. We can only assume that the Prime Minister in his calculations has left out in his catalogue of financially demoralised countries such nations as France, Italy, Belgium, and some others. Such an omission entirely invalidates his statistical argument.

But the matter at issue here is not one of statistical accuracy or inaccuracy. It is the implication of the argument that matters. In spite of his opening reservations on the subject, Mr Bonar Law's argument, in our reading, is very distinctly tinged with the fallacy, so popular a year or two ago, that by pressing trade elsewhere we can make up for the loss of our European markets. Such argument can only lead to a loss of the true perspective. Because of the great gap in the circle of world trade represented by "those demoralised countries of Europe," it is necessary that all legitimate means should be used to expand our trade elsewhere. But the first great and overwhelming necessity is to mend that gap in the circle, and the work of mending will not be begun until a sane economic settlement of the Reparations problem has been reached. "If you get the idea," says Mr Bonar Law, "that there can be no improvement until Germany and all the rest of them have settled down, that is fatal, because it will be too long to wait." We agree that we have waited too long, and at the best shall still have a long wait. In the meantime, all efforts elsewhere are entirely welcome, and among them Mr Bonar Law's proposed Empire Conference—provided always that tariff-mongering and preference-patchwork do not mar its agenda. But at best such efforts are supplementary to the healing of Europe. To concentrate on them, while Europe is left to slide deeper into the slough, would be a counsel of utter despair. Our complaint last week was that the public does not know, and ought to know, whether Mr Bonar Law will go to Brussels with the only concrete policy that can hope to initiate that healing. To-day our anxiety is increased because we cannot read in the Premier's words that even yet the supreme urgency of a Reparations settlement has come home to him, as it came home long ago to the business world. The sands of election time are quickly running out. But even in the few days that remain we still hope to hear from Mr Bonar Law a pronouncement that will set fears at rest and convince us that our interpretation of his Leeds speech does not truly represent his real attitude of mind and his intended policy.

We have said above that we welcome the proposed Empire Trade Conference, provided that tariff-mongering and preference-patchwork does not mar its agenda. But about that proviso we confess to anxiety. Speaking at Dulwich on Tuesday night, the Premier made a reference to fiscal policy that is profoundly disquieting to Free-traders. After his opening speech at Glasgow, it was

widely, if hastily, assumed that the Conservative Party, in dropping the plank of Tariff Reform, had abjured all fresh tariff legislation. But all Mr Bonar Law can promise is that "this Parliament will not make any fundamental change in the fiscal system of this country." The word "fundamental" may cover a multitude of sins; and uneasiness on this score increases with the study of his supporters' comments upon this pledge. Thus the *Morning Post* says:—

"In respect of the question of Tariff Reform, the Prime Minister believes that, while protective measures are, in fact, requisite to the prosperity of industry, it would be a mistake to make great changes at this time. Indeed, with the Paris Resolutions and the passing of the Safeguarding of Industries Bill, the case for Free-trade has gone. It is no longer a choice between Tariff Reform and Free-trade, but a question of the best methods of protecting those industries which need protection."

Having made this frank comment, our contemporary proceeds to the two old and exploded tariff theories that better labour conditions can only be achieved by Protection, and that Free-trade is responsible for unemployment. These two hoary illusions lead up to the conclusion that "Mr Bonar Law, in postponing any further measures of Protection, may safely rely on the logic of events to enable him to meet requirements as they arise." These words, if they mean anything at all, can only mean that the *Morning Post*, and those who think with the *Morning Post*, are confident that Mr Bonar Law, though right in disclaiming tariff intentions now, will be driven to them later on "by the logic of events." Meanwhile, other supporters of the Premier are even more outspoken. Thus we find Mr Hewins, the ex-chief of the late Tariff Reform League, saying at Swansea recently:—"The programme of trade within the Empire, which was formed at the Imperial Conference of 1917-18, is ready to be put in operation within a week; and I ask you to give me the authority to go into the House of Commons to support it. Our real trade interests are not with foreign countries at all, but with the British Empire itself. If we carry out the great policy of trade within the Empire, prosperity will be restored, and social questions can be dealt with." We never hugged the illusion that Mr Bonar Law would so far recant his tariff faith as to sweep away the Safeguarding of Industries Act and other irritating obstacles to business expansion, or even to redeem his own pledge that the emergency tariff duties of 1915 should be removed in time of peace. But we had hoped that the country would not have been called upon to face, as it now is, a new threat of Protection, which is the more dangerously insidious because it is most studiously veiled. We trust Mr McKenna and many other leaders of the business world, who are supporting Mr Bonar Law because of the hope that steady Government will restore confidence, will remind the Premier of the powerful Free-trade manifestoes which, in May and July of last year, were signed by those who direct the fortunes of British banking and industry, and whose daily experience gives the unique knowledge of the needs of British trade and industry. Since the public's memory is short, we reproduce the bankers' appeal on a later page of this issue.

Nevertheless, although lively apprehensions on these and other points cannot be dismissed, there is good reason for looking forward to next Wednesday with comparative confidence. A comparison of the outlook on the eve of this election with the outlook on the eve of the 1918 election produces a sigh of relief. The Government which the country places in power will be elected to maintain a more or less definite attitude, not, as in 1918, to achieve by give and take a precarious and insincere balance between the wholly incompatible tenets of conflicting political beliefs. Moreover, whatever Government is placed in power will be faced with a strong and effective opposition. It is to the lack of such opposition that many of the worst faults and mistakes of the late Coalition may be ascribed. Whatever the results of the polling, we are practically assured of three great improvements:—political thought, the reassertion of the power of the House of Commons over the Cabinet, and the restoration of Cabinet responsibility. Those will be three great steps forward. In any case, the new chapter in political his-

tory that opens next week will be free from many of the worst features that made the last chapter so profoundly unsatisfactory.

CHAOTIC EXCHANGES.

If anyone could have seen eight years ago, or even four years ago, in a prophetic vision, the list of rates of exchanges published in the *Economist* of last week, and could have been induced to believe that it was really going to happen, he would surely have anticipated from it, as its inevitable result, much greater economic demoralisation than has actually taken place. Not only are the figures showing the values in sterling of the currencies of some of the principal European countries quite appalling when compared with the pre-war parities—a comparison which, as Professor Cassel is rightly fond of telling us, only darkens counsel—but the performance of these values even during the last 12 months would have startled any Victorian gambler out of his wits if he had believed them to be possible. Paris heads the list with a comparatively mild depreciation, since a year ago, of about 20 per cent. Before the war its normal range of fluctuation was less than 25 centimes; during the past 12 months it rose by over 117 to the pound. This performance pales before that of the German mark, which, on November 4, 1921, was quoted at 885—890, and on November 3, 1922, was called 26,500—27,500, having thus been divided by rather more than 30 in the matter of its external value. About the same relative depreciation, though on a more monstrous scale, is shown by the Austrian krone, the number of which is needed to buy a pound sterling has risen from 11,000 a year ago to 335,000 or so—for such figures are necessarily nominal—last week. In comparison with such skyrocket efforts, the performance of the Polish mark, which from 11,000 rose to 67,500, looks almost like stability, and as if to complete the chaos with a clash of harmonious discord, we find that the Czechoslovakian krone has considerably more than doubled in value, when measured in pounds, having come down from 405 to 141—a movement which might have been expected in theory to wreck the economic life of any country that suffered from it.

As everyone knows, most of the horrors expressed by the above figures have been intensified during the past week, and exchange demoralisation has once more been a leading headline, forcing itself even on the attention of the Stock Exchange when selling from Paris became insistent enough to affect the foreign market. And yet the most marvellous thing about this currency chaos, which has resulted from the ease with which modern Governments have been enabled to delude the citizens of all the nations with bad money, is the fact that the economic chaos produced by it has not been such as to produce complete paralysis of industry and commerce. Every schoolboy knows the picturesque passage in which Macaulay's history expands on the text expressing doubt "whether all the misery that had been inflicted on the English nation in a quarter of a century by bad kings, bad ministers, bad Parliaments, and bad judges, was equal to the misery caused in a single year by bad crowns and bad shillings." Macaulay thought it necessary to utter half an apology for mentioning such a thing as currency, as not generally thought worthy to occupy a prominent place in history; and the labourer whose lot moves his pity "found that the bit of metal which, when he received it, was called a shilling, would hardly, when he wanted to purchase a pot of beer or a loaf of rye bread, go as far as sixpence," while Dryden received from his publisher "40 brass shillings, to say nothing of chipped money." But what a page of history Macaulay would have written if he had heard the story lately told by Mr Lloyd George of the two men in Vienna, each of whom had ten thousand krone. One put his money in a savings bank, the other drank his, and in a few months' time, thanks to rapid currency depreciation, was able to sell his empty bottles for more than the money which the thrifty saver still had in the bank. How is it possible for things such as these to happen, and for international trade, nevertheless, somehow to get itself carried on, in a greatly shrunken volume, but by no means blotted out as *a priori* reasoning would almost certainly have anticipated? Nearly all evils cure themselves—often by

destroying those who practise them—if only they are carried far enough; and in international trade there is necessarily at least one other currency that can be made available in every transaction if that of any importing or exporting country is demoralised to a point at which it becomes useless. For purposes of international trade, the German mark has almost ceased to count. When Germany buys and sells abroad the bargains are closed in the currencies of her foreign customer, and quotations for the mark on the foreign centres reflect chiefly, not the ebb and flow of sales and purchases based on the transactions of trade and finance, but the views of speculators, German and foreign, and of those who have originally become possessed of marks through trading operations, and have held on to them because they thought that they must be worth more some day. Though the cry is no longer fashionable that Germany, by inflation and depreciation of her currency, is capturing the trade of the world, the fact that the mark declines more rapidly abroad than at home still gives an advantage to her exporters, who take payments in sounder currencies, and make them in marks; and it need hardly be said that in so far as external depreciation of the mark assists the German exporter, it also makes it possible for Germany to buy abroad; it is astonishing to hear from those who should be well informed as to the course of our foreign trade how comparatively good a customer of ours Germany still is in circumstances which might have been expected to dry up the springs of her demand altogether.

Internally the effect of rapid currency depreciation is dangerous and unsettling, and there is evidently much apprehension in Germany and Austria lest the race between wages and prices may lead to serious social upheaval. A traveller just returned from Germany, where he had principally consorted with members of the professional and pedagogic class, reported that only one of those with whom he had talked had not referred to "valuta" in the first sentence uttered. As everyone knows, the German Government has lately felt itself obliged to take measures to stop the use of the dollar and the pound, even for purposes of internal transactions, and if the public's mistrust of the mark becomes strong enough, no official measures will prevent its being simply ignored to the point of demonetisation. Rumour has lately been busy with schemes said to be under consideration by the German Government for the creation of a new currency involving whole or partial repudiation of the old, and it seems likely that the circulation of these reports has assisted the violent fall of the mark, owing to their effect on the sorely-trying nerves of its speculative holders. Additional reasons for the decline were the news of very slow progress in the Reparation Commission's efforts in Berlin; a statement that the Brussels Conference is not likely to be summoned until the Belgian Government feels certain that some practical result may be expected from it. Terrible as the decline has been, we have to remember that after a certain point the greater the movements are in exchange quotations the less significance they have. The fall in the mark from 20 per pound to 30 per pound had very grave significance, because it marked a breach in a system under which the world's money-changing arrangements had been carried on with extraordinary ease and economy. But when once the mark had been branded as a pariah among currencies by falling from a shilling to a penny, further sub-divisions of its value became comparatively meaningless, and more so as they grew more rapid and violent. Nevertheless, even when all allowance is made for the utter unreality of the market abroad in such a commodity as a seriously depreciated currency—depreciated to a point at which it simply is not used in foreign transactions—the fact remains that the exchange list is an appalling spectacle as a symptom of the impoverishment of the countries whose currency values it records. Mr. H. G. Wells has been telling an audience in Manchester that he has seen modern civilisation broken down in Russia, that the "process of collapse had already spread into Austria-Hungary" (with all deference to Mr. Wells there is no such country) "and Poland. It was coming further and further west. To-day they could see the process of collapse laying its hands upon Germany, and the outward visible sign of the creeping death of modern civilisation was the collapse of the currency system."

Let us hope that for once Mr Wells is wrong in his forecast, and there is this reason for the hope. For the first time French and Belgian francs have been really seriously affected by the fall in the mark, or by the causes which led to it. If once French opinion is alarmed by the sight of the franc following, even a very long way behind, the mark along the path to demoralisation, it surely is not too much to expect that the time will be ripening for a reversal of the policies that have led to chaos in European currencies during the past four years. If only policy would give economic forces a free hand to deal with Reparation and exchange problems, many reasons for hopefulness are to be found in the report of the foreign experts summoned to advise the German Government, which was published yesterday. We hope to be able to examine it in next week's *Economist*.

TURKISH DEVELOPMENTS.

THE new crisis with the Turks has arisen over two separate sets of questions: those provided for under the Mudania Armistice, and those not referred to in that agreement, and, therefore, implicitly left over for the Treaty of Peace. The second set of questions, though possibly the less dangerous at the moment, is of greater fundamental importance than the others, and this largely accounts for the perceptible—and most welcome—change of attitude on the part of our Allies, especially France. Because the French feel increasing disquiet regarding such matters as the capitulations and the Ottoman Public Debt, they are more disposed to join us in active measures for maintaining the interim Allied control of Constantinople, and command of the Straits, and for preventing the clandestine formation of a Turkish army in Thrace. These local and temporary advantages are so many guarantees that we shall get more rather than less of our way when we negotiate over the larger issues, and it is doubtless because the Turks realise this, too, that they are attempting, at some risk to themselves, to manoeuvre us out of our positions.

These tactical positions are also, of course, important in themselves. A sudden involuntary evacuation of Constantinople, for instance, by the Powers would certainly produce a stampede of hundreds of thousands of people—both foreign nationals and non-Turkish-Nationalist Ottomans—who would make the already almost desperate refugee problem completely insoluble, even if they got safely away (though their flight and panic would invite pillage and massacre as surely as the sight of a hare infuriates a hound). This is the central point immediately at issue, the situations in Thrace and at the Dardanelles being merely subsidiary to it.

Far more serious, however, are the questions in the background. Protection of minorities, for instance, cannot simply be allowed to go by default, or be written off as needless because the minorities have almost disappeared. One can understand the Turkish objection, in this as in other matters, to differential treatment, and admit that their suspicion of such measures, as being a method of undermining Turkish sovereignty, is confirmed by the history of the last century. Yet minorities remain and will remain—both non-Turkish in Turkey and Turkish in the countries of South-Eastern Europe. The old system under which they contrived to live has broken down, and they must obtain a new charter. It is the duty of their more fortunate kinsmen who are masters in their own respective houses to protect them by reciprocal concessions, and so long as the concessions are the same for every State concerned, no derogation of dignity is involved. On the contrary, mutual sacrifices of sovereignty, made on behalf of minorities, would raise the moral status of the Near Eastern countries, and counsels in this sense from Western quarters cannot be dismissed as prejudiced or fanatical. A few days ago the English Press published an admirable memorandum drafted for the conference of missionary societies by Mr Basil Mathews. This memorandum ought to be translated into Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Rumanian, Jugoslav, and other languages too numerous to be catalogued, and it would repay the plenipotentiaries of these nations at the Lausanne Peace Conference to study it.

The question of the capitulations touches the prosperity and security of far fewer people than that of minorities-protection, but these individuals are the link between Turkey and the rest of the world, and especially the intermediaries of her foreign trade. Therefore, the system under which they have lived and worked in Turkey cannot suddenly be altered, still less abolished, without producing a far-reaching disturbance of international relations.

The capitulations are a miscellaneous body of foreign rights enjoyed in Turkish territory. They can be analysed into rights of foreign Governments on the one hand (e.g., consular jurisdiction over their nationals in Turkey; official representation in Turkish courts when cases between their nationals and Turkish subjects are being tried; the maintenance of post-offices; and the veto upon any alteration of the Turkish Customs tariff), and the personal rights of individual foreigners on the other hand (such as exemption from the ordinary courts of justice and from most forms of direct taxation, and, above all, the faculty of residing in Turkey from one generation to another without losing their own and acquiring Ottoman citizenship).

The capitulations were taken over by the Ottoman Empire from the Byzantine Empire, the Crusader Principalities, and mediæval Muslim Egypt, and in their present form, as enjoyed by the principal capitulatory Powers, they go back to the 16th century. Turkey denounced them in 1914, between the outbreak of the European war and her intervention in it. Before the end of the war Germany had succeeded in replacing them, as far as she was concerned, by reciprocal treaties, granting what were virtually the old capitulatory rights to Germany and her nationals in Turkey, and to Turkey and her nationals in Germany—an arrangement which gave Germany all she wanted, while being of little practical benefit to Turkey beyond the satisfaction of her *amour propre*. After the armistice of Mudros, the Allies, who had never recognised the abrogation of the capitulations, simply reimposed them again, and this was confirmed in the Treaty of Sévres, though in the same document provision was made for the appointment of a mixed commission, in order to reform the Turkish judiciary and so make the capitulations unnecessary. In this connection, however, no dates were specified, and the Turks, in the last article of their National Pact, reaffirmed their repudiation of the system. Indeed, they attach at least as much importance to the abolition of the Capitulations as to the realisation of their territorial aims.

Down to the eve of the Greek defeat there were possibilities of compromise. If the immediate abolition of the capitulations on the fiscal side (in such matters as exemption from taxes and liens over the tariff) had been conceded, the juridical privileges might have been maintained for a term of years, until an agreed substitute had been established. As it is, however, the demand is more significant, it is being coupled with hostile action against the Ottoman Public Debt. The *Dette Publique* has hitherto not been a special object of Turkish dislike, partly because it was a body of private creditors and not a financial control imposed by foreign Governments, and was therefore less galling to Turkish pride, but also for practical reasons. The revenues ceded to the Debt in the increment went to the Turkish Treasury. The sequestration of income belonging to the Debt, which has apparently been ordered by Angora, is thus exceedingly ominous. Indeed, if the rights of the Public Debt are abolished outright, Turkey must expect to suffer as Spain suffered when she made life impossible within her borders for Muslims, Jews, and Protestants, or as Russia is suffering now for having successfully got rid of native and foreign bourgeois and intellectuals.

It is true that this disastrous trend in Turkish policy is only what is to be expected. To be beaten, treated with injustice, resist, and find yourself beyond all your dreams successful, is not an experience that makes it easy for a nation to be reasonable. Still, unreasonableness is not a necessity, even for Turks fancying themselves triumphant over principal Allied Powers, and still less is it a virtue. The Turks have shaken off the old relationship of

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$26,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

inferiority, discrimination, and coercion. On that we may congratulate them and also ourselves, for it was an essentially wrong relationship, which demoralised both parties. But if the Turks are really to achieve the freedom and equality towards which they do genuinely aspire, they must acquire the comity of manners practised between sovereign independent nations. Otherwise they have nothing better before them than isolation and impoverishment in the immediate future, with fresh coercion ahead, so soon as the rest of the world recovers sufficient surplus energy to put them in their place. If Mustafa Kemal sees this and acts upon it, he will have deserved as well by his fellow-countrymen as he has done by making their National Pact a reality.

A LABOUR VIEW OF THE LABOUR PROGRAMME.

(FROM A LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

EXPERIENCE has taught us that economic questions are rarely discussed on their merits at election time. For every 10 per cent. of valid economic reasoning there is generally quite 90 per cent. of bad reasoning or sheer misrepresentation and abuse. The Tariff Reform controversy was a good illustration of this. The Labour party can hardly be surprised, therefore, that the highly technical questions connected with nationalisation and the capital levy have not been treated either in the Press or on the platform in a very dispassionate manner. Underlying all these controversies is the age-old battle of social justice—the fight between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” The combatants are ranged into two opposing camps on this fundamental issue, and the concrete issues, which emerge in the course of the struggle, are largely secondary. Nationalisation and the capital levy are opposed not merely on their merits, but because they proceed from the Labour party, and because they are looked upon as the “thin end of the wedge” in the movement for redistribution of wealth. They have therefore been denounced as subversive and revolutionary, whereas the Labour party claim that their programme is “the best bulwark against violent upheavals and class war.” Whether this claim is justified or not, it is a gross exaggeration to identify their proposals with Bolshevism and Communism.

The awkward fact is that members of the late Coalition Government have themselves on different occasions either expressly endorsed, or at least seriously considered, both the capital levy and the nationalisation of mines and railways. They did so reluctantly no doubt, but their justification or excuse was precisely that which the Labour party now advance, namely, that these measures are a safeguard against violent upheavals. In a manifesto issued to the Press on December 5, 1918, Mr Lloyd George said, “I say to Labour, you shall have justice; you shall have fair treatment, a fair share of the amenities of life, and your children shall have equal opportunities with the children of the rich.” These and other generous promises, such as “homes for heroes” and “prosperity for agriculture,” are as embarrassing to the

late Government as their programme for hanging the Kaiser and making Germany pay.

On the nationalisation of railways and canals, Mr Lloyd George said to a deputation of the Trades Union Congress, on March 20, 1918, that “he was in complete sympathy with the general character of the proposals put forward. The credit of the State would enable them to pay lower interest for borrowed capital, to pay better wages to railway workers, and to provide better facilities for the travelling and trading public.” In a speech at Dundee, on December 4, 1918, Mr Winston Churchill stated that the Government policy was the nationalisation of railways. It is difficult now for Mr Lloyd George and Mr Churchill and their supporters to condemn nationalisation of railways as subversive and revolutionary. It is true that the railways have been unified into four big groups, thus securing some of the advantages of nationalisation; that the number of directors is being reduced from over a thousand to about a hundred, and that large economies have been rendered possible in this and other ways. But one of the most important economies, the pooling of privately owned wagons, has not been secured, although Sir Eric Geddes stated on March 7, 1919, that if the Railways Bill was passed, “one of the first steps which the Government would take would be to acquire on fair terms the private wagons of the country.” Nor can anybody contend that the question of railway rates has been satisfactorily solved under the Railways Act. It is still possible for the companies to keep rates too high at the expense of trade and industry and the travelling public. Complete unification under a statutory monopoly and an independent board of directors, similar to that of the Canadian National Railways, with the elimination of private shareholders and privately owned wagons, is the logical solution of the present compromise. If the Labour party fails to carry it, one of the other parties is quite likely to take it up sooner or later.

The position with regard to the nationalisation of mines is not dissimilar. The Coalition Government's attitude was expressed by the Home Secretary in February, 1919, as follows:—“The Government desire to go into the matter to see if it is a good business proposition. If it is that I accept it.” The Sankey Commission was then appointed, and in its interim report the chairman and three employers, not connected with the coal industry, reported in favour of nationalisation or unification. On March 20, 1919, Mr Bonar Law said in the House of Commons that the Government was prepared “to adopt the Report in the spirit as well as in the letter, and to take all the necessary steps to carry out its recommendations without delay.” In the final Report, drawn up by the chairman, Mr Justice Sankey, a detailed scheme of nationalisation was put forward, but in view of the opposition among coalowners and other interests, the Government refused to adopt it. The miners accuse the Government of breach of faith, but whether this be justified or not, Mr Bonar Law's statement quoted above is difficult to explain away. It seems pretty evident that even the leader of the Conservative party had at one time ac-

cepted the principle of nationalisation or unification by State purchase.

Taxation of land values, which is another of the unpopular proposals of the Labour party, was, of course, one of the chief planks in Mr Lloyd George's radical programme before the war. As long ago as March 4, 1903, Mr Lloyd George said, in a speech at Newcastle: "Take the question of overcrowding. This land question in the towns bears upon that. It is all very well to produce Houses of the Working Classes Bills. They will never be effective until you tackle the taxation of land values."

Even the capital levy, unpopular as it must necessarily be, has been advocated by experts who have no connection with the Labour party. The idea of a levy on war fortunes has received a large measure of support from all parties, and the late Government set up a Special Committee to examine the question. It was pronounced by the Board of Inland Revenue to be quite practicable, although it would involve a double valuation, first of pre-war and then of post-war wealth. A general levy on capital would, of course, necessitate only one valuation. As for its economic effects, some of our foremost economists, such as Professor Pigou and Mr Keynes, have maintained that so far from being injurious, it ought, in fact, to afford considerable relief and stimulus to trade and industry, by rendering possible a diminution of direct and indirect taxation. If the assessment was steeply graduated, it would no doubt hit the very rich, but the majority of middle-class taxpayers would benefit if the reduction of their income-tax exceeded the annual value of their contribution to the levy. Mr Bonar Law admits that he was in favour of the proposal in 1917. He is, of course, entitled to change his mind, but it is going a little too far for him now to denounce it as "absolute lunacy."

Neither the case for it nor the case against it is generally argued with much regard for economic science. Among serious objections it is sometimes condemned as involving inflation, and sometimes for the opposite reason that it would mean deflation. On the whole, its tendency would, of course, be in the latter direction; it is for this reason that it has been imposed in Czecho-Slovakia and other European countries, and that the Reparations Commission are now proposing to enforce it a second time in Germany. Those who wish to see prices fall still further, and the pound restored to its pre-war parity as soon as possible, should logically be in favour of a fairly drastic levy. But others may quite properly regard this as a strong argument against it. A trade depression, they would argue, is not the time to have a capital levy; if prices were to start rising again, and a period of inflation should succeed the present slump, then it might be necessary to have a capital levy. As against this view its supporters would argue that it is precisely in order to prevent the development of this so-called "secondary" inflation in the near future that a capital levy is desirable. Provided it is not too drastic, its tendency would then be not so much to reduce present prices, but to stabilise the existing level by eliminating one of the chief causes of potential inflation. Government debt, it is pointed out, has largely replaced gold as the backing of credit and currency; and if we desire to restore the gold standard and prevent any undue expansion of credit in the near future, it would be a wise measure to reduce the volume of Government obligations in the hands of banks and private traders. This, of course, would not be a popular measure. Neither banks nor traders are inclined to look with favour on any measures designed to check the manufacture of credit. In this respect the capital levy bears some resemblance to the raising of the Bank rate. "Dear money" was extremely unpopular in the City in 1919, and partly for this reason it was unduly delayed. But we now see that it was necessary, and that the Bank rate ought, if anything, to have been raised earlier.

These and other considerations of a highly technical kind are not likely to appeal to the average elector. A capital levy is, indeed, one of the worst possible subjects for political controversy at a General Election. The Labour party have shown more courage than discretion in raising the issue, and thereby giving their opponents abundant scope for misrepresentation and abuse. As Mr

Bonar Law said on November 14, 1917, it is a matter which concerns mainly the people who have money. But if, as our diagnosis tends to show, the effect of a capital levy would be to check an otherwise inevitable drift towards further inflation, it would be in the interests of the wage-earning masses if a levy were imposed; since wages always tend to lag behind prices during a period of inflation. It would also probably be the best for the majority of middle-class tax-payers, and certainly, as its supporters are fond of pointing out, for the men who fought in the war and are now starting in business. But to most middle-class tax-payers, and even to young men going into business, the fact that the Labour party supports it is sufficient to condemn it.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINING AND TAXATION.

(BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT.)

THE annual report of the Union's Department of Mines and Industries, which has just been published, contains some interesting statistics regarding the various mining industries of South Africa. The value of output of minerals from the earliest existing records to the end of last year has just exceeded a thousand millions, the total being £1,022,108,800. Of this, the Transvaal output represented £716,891,000, and the diamond production of the Cape £170,137,700. The diamond production of the Transvaal, being almost exclusively that of the Premier Mine, figures at £30,234,000. The combined coal production of the provinces which now constitute the Union is returned at £53,944,000, of which the Transvaal represents £28,006,000 and Natal £20,886,500. The only other large item is £29,924,000 for copper, of which all but £3,206,000 (Transvaal) is credited to the Cape, representing the production of Namaqualand. Of tin, the production has been rather over four and a-half millions, almost entirely in the Transvaal province. There has lately been an increase in the production of asbestos, but the total value for the entire period is only just over three-quarters of a million.

The value of minerals produced in the Union for the eight months of this year, a period embracing the disastrous strike, which lasted from January 10th to March 16th, during which the production both of gold and coal was considerably curtailed, is given at £22,150,000, including currency premium on gold. Adding this figure to that preceding, makes the total value of mineral production £1,044,258,000. Up to the end of last year the currency premium is reckoned at £23,393,000, and, adding that secured during this year, brings the total premium to about 25½ millions sterling.

A diagram in the Blue Book shows the value of mineral production for the past eight years, and the allocation of the principal items of expenditure by the producing concerns. In the first four years of the period the value of gold produced kept pretty steady, between £35,664,000 (in 1914) and £39,500,000 (in 1916). In 1919 the currency premium on gold first came into existence, though only for the last five months of the year. In 1920 the premium was operative for the whole period, increasing the standard of value by £10,951,000 to £45,605,750, while in 1921 the currency price of gold diminished, though the premium was still worth £8,554,000, the total value being £43,082,150. Very considerable fluctuation is evinced in the value of diamonds. In 1914 it was only £5½ millions, but in 1919 the value was twice as great at £11½ millions, and nearly three times as great in 1920, namely, £14½ millions. Just after the outbreak of the Great War, the diamond mines were closed, and the yield in 1915 was valued at less than £400,000. There was also a rapid reversal in 1921, when the mines stopped work consequent upon the meagre demand, the value being returned at a mere £3,103,500.

Before the war, the entire expenditure on salaries and wages for all the mining industries was under £16 millions; in the years 1917, 1918, and 1919 such outgo increased regularly, and very rapidly in 1920, owing to the increased wages paid on the Rand gold mines, and also to expansion in the operations of other industries, to over £22½ millions. Following upon the subsequent

reduction of the cost of living allowance in the gold mines there was a distinct shrinkage to about £20½ millions in the following year. Stores have shown an ever-increasing tendency, the bill having increased from £11½ millions to about £17½ millions in both 1920 and 1921. This is, of course, in the main explained by higher prices for commodities, though expansion of operations in directions other than on gold mines is also a factor. On the gold mines, taken by themselves, the expenditure upon stores has increased from £10½ millions to nearly £14½ millions. But this expenditure, except in so much as economies in consumption may be effected, a strenuous campaign in this direction being conducted in the mines at the present time, is beyond the control of the mines, prices being largely influenced, and in some cases dominated, by world conditions.

For the years 1914 and 1915 the direct taxation imposed on the mining industry was well under two millions, £1,853,552 in the latter year. In 1916 the total levy increased to two and a-half millions. The payments in each of the next two years increased to three millions, the Government Areas mine was making substantial profits of £700,000 and £820,000, in which the Treasury participated, and diamond production had increased in value to over seven millions. The Government participated in the profits of the Premier mine, while the export duty was increased. Against a total mineral production of £55 millions direct taxation in 1919 reached the maximum of £5,200,000. Chiefly owing to the handsome gold premium, helped by the high price of diamonds the mineral production of the Union in 1920 soared to £66,332,000, but the direct taxation was rather less than in the previous year. The Government's share of profits of gold mines increased by nearly £300,000 to £1,108,500, but receipts from diamond export duty dropped by half-a-million, to £810,500.

Last year the estimated value at the mine of diamonds was a mere £3,103,500, as against £14,763,000 in 1920. This and the diminished gold premium caused the total production to wane to £51,839,700. Details are not available at present, but the direct taxation is estimated at only £2,855,000, largely owing to diminished export duty on diamonds.

In 1914, 1916, and 1917, aggregate dividends were steady in the neighbourhood of £10 millions, but owing to the greatly increased costs on the Rand gold mines, they dropped to £8,572,215 in 1918, more than recovering to £11,169,360 in 1919, and amounting to over £13,000,000 in 1920, but relapsing to £8,469,368 in 1921. The value of coal produced, which was only £2,259,000 in 1914, improved gradually, until it reached £5,148,683 in 1921. Production of miscellaneous minerals is small (£1,328,644 in 1920, and only £505,431 last year). Sundry expenditure has fluctuated greatly, being about £2½ millions in 1921.

The Union Government participates in the profits made by the Premier Diamond Mining Company, and six gold mines. The Government has received up to date from the Premier Company practically £5½ millions, and from the Government Areas just over £3 millions. It receives from the Meyer and Charlton Company 10.87 per cent. of the annual profits, its share to date amounting to £317,000. From Brakpan Mines the Government has received £102,000, and from Springs Mines £57,000. In the case of Brakpan the sliding scale arrangement is only operative from the beginning of this year, while in that of Springs Mines it only starts from the beginning of next year. Before that the companies paid only 5 per cent. New State Areas and the West Springs Mines will also pay a proportion of their profits to the Government, but these concerns are at present only in the developing stage.

The Government has from time to time disposed of Bewaarplaatsen and Waterights, in most cases by lease on the basis of annuity or a share of the profits; and in other cases by out and out sale, the latter usually where the area is small. The revenue received from leases up to March of this year has amounted to £1,976,600, and from sales £12,438. The Union and Provincial Governments receive a very substantial revenue from the mining industry, the total last year (1920-1921) being £5,109,000, which is practically double the pre-war figure. The largest item is £1,190,000 paid in income-tax by the Transvaal Gold Mines, and the next largest is £1,108,500 ownership

revenue on gold mines, of which the Government G.M. Areas (Modderfontein) alone contributed £896,000, the Transvaal provincial gold profits tax amounted to £281,500, the export duty on diamonds figured at £810,000, a drop of £521,000 on the year.

The share of profits on the diamond mines amounted to £800,000, and income-tax to £538,750. Income-tax from the collieries brought in £93,750. The actual share of profits on the gold mines and the diamond mines accruing to the Government was £1,912,000, constituting 37½ per cent. of the total amount received by the Government from the mining industry. These figures may be considered in relation to the total output last year of £51,840,000, inclusive of the gold premium.

BANKERS AND FREE TRADE.

IN view of the importance of the Free-trade issue at the forthcoming election, which is discussed in a previous article, we reproduce below the appeal of the great bankers of the City of London, issued in May, 1921. It reads as follows:—

"A hundred years ago, in a time of depression following a great war, the merchants of London presented to Parliament a memorable petition against the 'anti-commercial principles' of the restrictive system then in force. To-day, moved by the same anxieties, weighed down by far heavier taxation, and face to face with proposals intended to renew the restrictive methods of the past, we submit that it is essential to the revival of confidence that no legislative or administrative measures should be taken which would diminish the total output of British industry or check the free exchange of British goods.

"The burden of taxation can only be lightened if the necessity for public economy is resolutely faced. The present rate of national expenditure threatens to cripple the country's resources and to impair its credit abroad. In our judgment, it is more than the commercial community can bear, more than the capacity of the nation can afford, more than, were proper economies effected, the nation need be asked to sustain.

"The system of Government regulating trade by licences, controls, and departmental orders has, admittedly, however well intended, had in many cases unfortunate results. Political interference with the natural course of commerce without regard to economic laws invariably does mischief. British trade needs nothing so much for its recovery as freedom to deal with its own difficulties, to study and provide for its own interests, and to work out its own salvation.

"It is as true as it was a hundred years ago that foreign commerce conduces to the wealth and prosperity of a country by enabling it to import the commodities which other countries are best able to supply, and to export in payment those articles which from its own situation it is best adapted to produce: that freedom from restraint is calculated to give the utmost extension to foreign trade and the best direction to capital and industry: and that the maxim of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, which regulates every merchant in his individual dealings, is the best rule for the trade of the whole nation.

"The policy of trying to exclude the productions of other countries, with the well-meant design of encouraging our own, cannot increase the volume of commerce or the total volume of employment here. But it may well compel the consumers, who form the bulk of our population, to submit to privations in the quality or quantity of the goods they buy. The importation of foreign goods does not diminish the activities of our people, because such goods can only be paid for by the produce of British capital and labour. The advocates of a restrictive system are too apt to lose sight of the elementary fact that nations, or rather individual members of nations, buy foreign goods because they need them, not to benefit others, but to benefit themselves, and pay for them by producing goods which the foreigner in his turn requires. We cannot limit imports into this country without limiting our export trade, and striking a grave blow at the world-wide commerce on which this island kingdom principally depends.

"Trade is exchange. No nation which lives by trading with others can prosper unless other nations prosper too. We hold to-day great stocks of goods. We are ready to manufacture more. There is a large and insistent demand for them abroad. But owing to the paralysis of Continental commerce—due in part to the restrictive barriers which the new States have set up between themselves—the would-be buyers of our goods have not the means to pay for what they want. We have to build up the market that we need by encouraging Continental nations to export to us. For it is only by exports that they can re-establish their credit and provide funds for the payment of their debts. In such a situation we believe that all expedients to control and hamper imports into this country, whether by licences, tariffs, or any other means, can only retard improvement in the Continental exchanges and prevent the natural recovery of trade. Legislation of this nature, while it may increase the profits of a few selected industries, cannot fail to check our output as a whole, and to increase the costs of production to a level which may make it increasingly difficult for British traders to compete successfully with others in the markets of the world.

"With party or political considerations we, as bankers, are not concerned. But in the interests of British industry and commerce, now menaced by anxieties which it would be a profound mistake to underrate, we desire to enter a respectful protest against every restrictive regulation of trade which tends to diminish the resources of the State.

C. S. ADDIS.	R. M. KINDERSLEY.
AVERBURY.	H. S. KING.
HENRY BELL.	WALTER LEAF.
R. H. BRAND.	JAMES LEIGH-WOOD.
E. C. BROWN.	F. C. LE MARCHANT.
CHALMERS.	R. MCKENNA.
L. E. CHALMERS.	ALGERNON H. MILLS.
L. CURRIE.	EDWARD PAUL.
F. C. GOODENOUGH.	J. BEAUMONT PEASE.
H. C. HAMBRO.	FELIX SCHUSTER.
R. M. HOLLAND-MARTIN.	J. HOPE SIMPSON.
INCHCAPE.	J. H. TRITTON.
F. HUTH JACKSON.	R. V. VASSAR-SMITH.

"London, May 12th, 1921."

The appeal is a masterly exposition of the clear logic of the Free-trade case, and the signatories make an imposing array of the most weighty names in the City. This appeal was three months later specifically endorsed in a manifesto signed by a lengthy and comprehensive list of business men and business firms, including names representative of the great staple industries—cotton, wool, and other textiles, coal, iron, and steel, machinery and engineering, shipbuilding, chemicals, building, railways, shipping, and import and export trades. These historic pronouncements should be before the electors' minds during the next few days.

Notes of the Week.

Great Britain, Germany, and the League.—We have frequently urged in these columns that, in the interests of international peace and progress, Germany should at the earliest possible moment be afforded the opportunity of undertaking full membership of the League of Nations. Mr Lloyd George has on several occasions pronounced himself in favour of this policy. We are glad to see that Lord Curzon adopts the same attitude. His speech in the City on Wednesday contained the following passage:—"We have always felt that the economic recovery of Germany was essential to Europe, and that she ought to be given the chance to regain her own equilibrium and self-respect. For this reason we have always been disposed to favour her admission to the League of Nations when she made an application to do so." It is satisfactory to find the Foreign Secretary fully aware of the advantages of German membership of the League. But obviously Germany will not apply until she is reasonably well assured that full membership will be accorded, and it remains for our Government to win acceptance of their views in this matter from other Powers who at present are believed to view the proposal with disfavour.

The American Elections.—The results of the State and Congressional elections held on Tuesday throughout the

United States have once more exhibited the obsolescence of the existing party divisions, and have severely shaken the Republican party and the Government. Thirty-five Senators, 32 State governors, with a host of State and municipal officials, and the whole Lower House of Congress were chosen, and the Republican party, having held office for the best part of two troublous and disappointing years, was certain to suffer heavily at the polls. Still, with a majority of nearly 170 in a House of 435, and of 24 in a Senate of 96, with only 24 Senators retiring, it was sure to maintain its control in the Senate, and might fairly expect a working majority in the House. But in the Senate its majority has fallen, even counting Senator La Follette, from 24 to 8, while seven or eight of the majority are "Radical"; in the House there are 221 against 212 Democrats, while the one Socialist and one Independent will probably vote with the minority; and as many of the majority here are more or less "Radical" and "Progressive," putting the interests of the Middle West agriculturists before those of their party, its orthodox section may find itself reduced to impotence. Many of the results are specially significant. In President Harding's own State, Ohio, a Republican Senator has only just got in; in Massachusetts, Senator Lodge, President Wilson's most active opponent, has had a hard struggle to keep his seat; in Rhode Island, a Democrat enters the Senate (through the Labour vote), and for the first time for 60 years in Michigan; New York, the "Pivotal State" *par excellence*, has elected a Democratic Senator and a Democratic Governor; so has ex-President Wilson's State, New Jersey, which, like New York, repudiates Prohibition; Illinois has demanded, by a popular vote, the permission of light wine and beer; and Mr Volstead, the sponsor of the Prohibition Act, has been defeated in Minnesota, where the Scandinavian element, with its alcoholic traditions, is strong. The women's vote appears to have been heavy, and women candidates have fared better in the State than in the Congressional elections. The determining issues, however, have been purely domestic; there has been no sign of a change in the attitude of the United States towards the complications in Europe. The electorate has resented Prohibition, the new Tariff, one of whose chief promoters, Senator McCumber, has been defeated, the heavy taxation, the Administration's treatment of the coal and railroad strikes and the pension bonus question, the high freight rates ascribed to the Esch-Cummins Transportation Act, and the Shipping Subsidy Bill. None of these, however, involve a fundamental difference of party principle; but the "Radical" gains have suggested afresh the possibility of a fresh cleavage, the Conservative elements in both parties standing together against the Progressives, who would be supported on occasion by organised Labour. Some such cleavage has often seemed probable, and was approached in Mr Roosevelt's Presidential campaign of 1912. But the existence of the party "machines" may continue to prevent its realisation.

Indian Cotton Duties.—The leaders of the Lancashire cotton industry, both employers and operatives, are placing great importance upon the attitude of Parliamentary candidates on the subject of the Indian cotton duties. At the end of last week the general committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations at its meeting in Manchester decided to ascertain the views of candidates for textile constituencies. A circular has been sent out by the federation asking the candidates to reply to the following question:—"Are you in favour of taking action to secure the removal or lessening of the difference now existing between the Indian Excise duties and the Indian import duties, which difference benefits the Indian spinner and manufacturer at the expense of the Indian consumer?" It is the intention of the federation to publish the replies when received. The answer given is expected to have a vital effect upon the chances of the election of members.

Chilean Loan in the United States.—The London office of the National City Company announces that its head office in New York offered on Monday \$18,000,000 Republic of Chile 7 per cent. United States dollar gold

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

on the grass so well as usual. Sheep have benefited from the drier conditions, and are thriving. Lambing is now commencing among the earliest Dorset Horn flocks.

bonds, due 1942, at the price of 96½ and interest, New York terms. An annual cumulative sinking fund of 2 per cent. will commence on April 1, 1925, and will redeem bonds by purchase in the open market up to 100, or by drawings at 100. The issue is not repayable before maturity, except for the sinking fund. The bonds, which are payable, principal, interest, and sinking fund, in United States gold at the National City Bank of New York, without deduction for any Chilean taxes, present or future, are free of United States income-tax for those neither residents in, nor citizens of, the United States. The total public debt of Chile, including this issue, is only slightly in excess of the total as at December 31, 1913. During this period population and national wealth have materially increased, and the country has had an unbroken record of over 100 years of financial stability, no default on any external loan having occurred during that period. We are advised that the issue has been over-subscribed.

The Crops.—The following is a summary of the monthly report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:—The dry, sunny weather of October was of great benefit to the farmer, coming, as it did, after a cold, wet summer. The very protracted harvest was completed during the month, except in isolated cases, and conditions were favourable for potato and mangold lifting. Cultivations also made good progress in practically all parts of the country, and field work generally is now much less backward than a month ago. In a number of districts the corn harvest was not finished until the last week of October, but over the greater part of the country all the corn had been carted before the middle of the month. In Northumberland and Durham, however, where the weather of October was not so favourable as elsewhere, there was still a fair amount of barley and oats in the fields on November 1st, and some crops in upland districts in other counties had still to be secured at the date of the reports. At the end of October probably about three-fourths of the potatoes had been lifted in the country as a whole, this work being most backward in Northumberland and Durham. Weather conditions have been very favourable for the lifting of the crop, which has been stored in dry, clean condition. There is little disease, and the tubers are of good size and quality as a rule, being the better where grown on the lighter lands. Slugs and wireworms have caused a certain amount of damage in some districts. Now that a large proportion of the crop has been got up, it is found that in most districts the yields are heavier than was anticipated a month ago. The yield is now estimated at seven tons per acre, or one ton above the average of the past ten years, which indicates a total production of about 3,920,000 tons, or nearly 1,000,000 tons more than last year. The pulling and storing of mangolds is in progress throughout the country, and in some districts the bulk of the crop had been harvested by the end of October, under favourable conditions. The yield per acre for the whole country is estimated at slightly over 20 tons per acre, or 1½ tons above average, and the production at 8,500,000 tons, as compared with 6,250,000 tons last year. Few swedes have yet been taken up, and both these and turnips have made fairly good growth during October. These crops are healthy and sound, but in many districts the roots are small. Over the whole country a yield of rather more than 13 tons per acre is expected, or nearly a ton more than the ten-year average, which would give a total production of about 10,860,000 tons, against 6,600,000 tons last year. The dry weather of October enabled very good progress to be made with autumn cultivation, but work is still backward, especially in the north. Except on some heavy lands the soil has worked well, and good seed beds have been obtained. The clay lands had become rather hard, and needed more rain before sowing could be done satisfactorily. In the eastern and southern counties very fair progress has already been made with the drilling of rye, oats, wheat and beans, and a few crops are now showing through the ground. On the whole, the land is not so free from weeds as usual. There has been a good supply of grass during October in most parts of the country, but the frosts and cold winds experienced towards the end of the month checked growth. Cattle have done fairly well, but feeding cattle have not finished

The Rise in Cotton Prices.—During the last two or three weeks there has been a striking rise in the price of cotton. According to our Manchester correspondent, the movement has been due to reduced estimates of the American crop for this season, increasing exports from the United States, and greater activity in American textile centres. Last Wednesday operators displayed considerable interest in the fourth ginning report relating to the American crop, the figures being compiled up to November 1st. The statement gave 8,140,000 bales, against 6,646,000 bales at the same time last year, 7,509,000 bales in 1920, and 6,305,000 bales in 1919. The amount was less than anticipated, and resulted in a rise in prices in New York and Liverpool. The condition report on the crop published by the United States Government early in October indicated an output for this season of 10,135,000 bales, but the market opinion is that the ginning figures indicate a yield of less than 10,000,000 bales. The question of supplies is causing much uneasiness. Last season the amount of American cotton grown was 8,500,000 bales, and the consumption totalled to 12,800,000 bales. This year a crop of, say, 10,000,000 bales and a consumption equal to last season means that stocks before the end of next July will be reduced to a considerable extent, and the carry over may be little more than 2,500,000 bales. In the circumstances, there is ground for anxiety. With regard to prices, it may be said that since a month ago there has been an advance of 2½d a lb, the quotation for fully middling on October 9th being 12.82d, as compared with 15.36d last Thursday. The higher prices are adding to the difficulties of Lancashire spinners and manufacturers, as it seems quite impossible to get buyers of cloth in Eastern markets to pay the advances required, and everything points at the moment to a reduced consumption of manufactured goods.

Czechoslovak Trade and Finance.—In the financial committee of the Czechoslovak Parliament, Dr Rasin, the Minister of Finance, announced the intention of the Government to introduce a new gold coin, which would be used for commercial purposes and sold on the financial market in accordance with the price of gold. It is, however, impossible to introduce the gold currency for general use, because under present conditions such a currency would inevitably be conveyed over the frontiers to the detriment of the Czechoslovak finances. The Minister added that no date could at present be given upon which a gold currency could be adopted for all purposes. The Sugar Syndicate has recently published statistics of the production and consumption of raw sugar for the season 1921-1922, to which we append those for the previous season for purposes of comparison:—

	RAW SUGAR (in Metric Tons).	
	Season.	Season.
	1920-21.	1921-22.
Taken over from the previous season..	44,566	29,090
Output	717,239	662,520
Total	761,805	691,610
Home consumption	318,339	309,376
Surplus for export	443,466	382,234
Exports	414,376	376,328
Stocks outstanding	29,090	5,906

The decline in output of over 10 per cent. is due to the increase in the cost of production and to the fall in the world price of the commodity in the winter of 1920-21. A further step in the trade policy initiated by Dr Benes was made on November 7th last, when the Commercial Treaty with Germany was signed in Dresden.

Chartered Shares and the Rhodesian Referendum.—Disappointment, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, is the keynote of the feeling with which holders in the British South Africa (Chartered) Company have received the official news of the substantial majority-vote in Southern Rhodesia against inclusion in the Union of South Africa. This means, of course, that the colonists prefer a Responsible Government of their own. Had Southern Rhodesia agreed to go into the Union of South Africa, it had been taken for granted by the Stock Exchange market, whose views had become communicated by various ways to many of the Chartered shareholders, that this would involve a prompt payment to the Chartered company proprietors, such payment to be made either in cash or in the shape of Union of South Africa stock. Estimates had been busy in advance making out the value of Chartered shares as anything between 25s and 35s, whereas the price is now about 12s, a shilling a share having been lost since the announcement was first made known. From the market point of view, the objection to the present state of affairs is, of course, that a further period of waiting sets in. The Chartered Company has already announced its intention of pressing forward its Petition of Right for payment to itself of about four million pounds sterling by the Imperial Government in respect of the claims made by the company. This was not dependent, except very indirectly, upon the result of the Referendum, but if the colonists had voted to join the Union of South Africa, it had been pretty generally thought that the four million pounds would have been paid over without further demur, whereas now the prospect is a legal tussle, with all the uncertainty that this implies. The Stock Exchange market, so far as can be gathered, is inclined to think that inclusion into the Union of South Africa is only a matter of time for Southern Rhodesia, the assumption being that the colony can scarcely expect to be able to raise loans on the security that it has now to offer, whereas the Union of South Africa, also probably hard up, is a recognised borrower of credit in the London market. The Chartered Company retains substantial assets. The prospects of any dividend, however, seem to be as remote as ever, and with the disappointment felt over the result of the Referendum, it is not surprising that shareholders, some of whom have paid ten times as much as the present price for their shares, should feel inclined to cut the business altogether, with a view to putting the money that remains into something which offers better scope for increased value. From the purely speculative point of view, Chartered have attractions whenever the price goes to the neighbourhood of half-a-sovereign, but the present times are not propitious for speculative enterprise except of the lock-up order.

United of Havana.—As a result of conditions ruling in Cuba and of substantial reductions in tariffs charged the report of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, for the year ended June 30th last shows a reduction in receipts from £6,329,700 to £3,893,900. Substantial savings, however, were made in expenses, principally on fuel and wages, and net income at £1,164,000 compares with £1,481,500, the ratio of expenses to receipts being 70.11 per cent. as against 76.59 per cent. To this has to be added the profit on the working of the Regla Warehouses and other properties, the gain in exchange (£218,500, against £150,300 a year ago), transfer fees, &c., and to be deducted the payment for the Marianao Railway, leased to the company. After these adjustments there remains a balance of £1,442,400, as against £1,810,200 a year ago. After payment of fixed charges and taxes and transferring £105,000 to a special account for deferred maintenance, a dividend at the same rate as last year, namely 4 per cent., is paid, leaving £207,100 to be carried forward, as against £239,400 brought in. British

and Cuban taxes absorbed £319,000, as compared with £663,000 for 1920-21. In December, 1921, the Cuban Government passed legislation re-establishing the tariffs ruling before December, 1920, which represented a reduction in the company's rates of 20 per cent., which adversely affected the earnings during the crop period. In some instances further reductions in rates have been voluntarily made in order to stimulate business or to meet competition from road or sea transport. The general manager, in his report, mentions that a satisfactory disposal of carried over sugar stocks relieved the financial position of the planters and mill owners very noticeably, and had a marked effect on the company's collections of the large sums outstanding for freights of the previous crop. Altogether the sugar industry is on a much sounder footing than it has experienced for some time past. "This fortunate relief from the embarrassments of the last two years is due in a large measure to the far-sighted policy adopted by the foreign banks operating in the island." Summer rains have been exceptionally favourable to this year's crop, which is in excellent condition, and a harvest of over 3½ million tons is anticipated. The general manager "can see" no immediate reason why the current year's operations should not terminate with results no less favourable than those of the year now under review."

Dalgety and Co.—The profits of Dalgety and Co., the well-known Australasian company, for the year ended June 30th last show some recovery, and the position is still further improved by the refund of £158,210 of excess profits duty. Profits for the year, after allowing for depreciation, &c., were £775,660, as against £689,168 for the previous year, while expenses rose from £310,317 to £362,475. Taxation also increased from £134,858 to £204,015, but thanks to the recovery of excess profits duty mentioned above the available balance, after payment of debenture interest, was £252,790, as compared with £140,606 a year ago. A comparison of results since 1906 is set out below:—

Year Ended June 30.	Profits.	Expenses and Taxes.	Debt Interest.	Prof. Div.	Ord. Div.	Rate.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1906	371,591	148,171	114,439	..	70,000	7	40,000	55,381
1907	427,490	164,441	115,306	..	70,000	7	70,000	63,124
1908	430,746	170,328	113,230	..	70,000	7	70,000	70,311
1909	477,125	180,186	117,611	23,868	70,000	7	85,000	70,772
1910	542,534	198,362	122,364	25,000	80,000	8	110,000	77,579
1911	551,371	215,000	117,232	25,000	80,000	8	110,000	81,717
1912	546,877	216,446	112,992	25,000	80,000	8	110,000	84,155
1913	562,229	230,525	108,326	25,000	80,000	8	110,000	92,532
1914	570,510	245,434	105,593	25,000	80,000	8	10,000	197,015
1915	582,097	258,048	107,377	25,000	80,000	8	100,000	208,687
1916	643,931	322,210	107,864	25,000	100,000	10	100,000	197,544
1917	861,793	484,448	107,119	25,000	130,000	13	210,000	102,771
1918	875,369	510,304	104,065	25,000	140,000	14	85,000	113,770
1919	857,773	494,475	101,141	25,000	140,000	14	90,000	120,928
1920	957,298	566,470	98,251	25,000	150,000	15	110,000	128,506
1921	689,168	445,176	103,386	25,000	100,000	10	60,000	84,112
1922	775,660	408,280	114,591	25,000	150,000	15	60,000	101,901

The directors state that the year 1921-22 was unusually varied in character, and though on balance there has been an appreciable recovery from the depression of 1920-21, this has been mainly confined to the Australian business. "New Zealand is still suffering from the effects of unremunerative prices for its pastoral products coupled with the serious fall in land values, but we look for some recovery during the current year." As will be seen from the table, the distribution on the ordinary shares has been restored to the 15 per cent. paid for 1919-20, the dividend of 10 per cent. and the bonus of 5 per cent. being paid free of income-tax. The reserve fund has been increased by profits on the sale of certain investments, and with an allocation of £30,000 out of the past year's profits now stands at £1,000,000. Premises are written down by £20,000, and £10,000 again goes to the staff provident fund. The balance-sheet, which is a full and detailed statement, is analysed in the usual column. The principal changes are increases of £812,200 in cash and of £453,500 in investments, and a decrease of £603,000 in advances on land, &c.

Gold Fields Rhodesian Development.—Our mining correspondent writes:—This undertaking pursues what may justifiably be termed the even tenour of its way, having paid dividends totalling 10 per cent. for five years in succession. Actually the 1921-22 net profit of £108,750—which compares with £114,100 previously—falls somewhat short of the amount required to cover the distributions; and as £46,300 has to be written off investments, the carry-forward is heavily drawn upon. The company's principal interests continued to be in the B.S.A. (Chartered), certain asbestos undertakings, and the Shamva, the holding in the former having been substantially increased and in the latter slightly reduced during the year. A new participation takes the shape of 100,000 \$5 shares in the South American Gold and Platinum. This investment was made "owing to the continued absence of favourable opportunities for investment in Rhodesia." The net liquid assets shown by the balance sheet to June 30th—£230,000—are equivalent to 3s 8d per share. Unless business improves during the current session it may be found difficult to maintain the dividend rate.

British-American Mining.—Interest attaches at the moment to the respective positions of a number of British-owned undertakings operating in one part or another of the American continent. Two of these, the Colombian Corporation and the Tomboy, have just issued their annual reports. The former—whose field is indicated by its title—is developing a property formerly owned by a local company, which paid dividends over a number of years. The programme of the present concern is to put up a mill having a capacity of at least 300 tons per day. Working on this scale, the consulting engineer calculates that a profit of £70,000 to £100,000 per annum could be made, but he recommends the installation of a 600-ton mill, which would permit the doubling of the profit, working a lower grade of ore at a lower cost ratio. The ore reserves are stated to be sufficient to supply a 300-ton mill for several years. The question of finance, however, arises. Already a loan to the extent of over £100,000 has been raised, and an up-to-date statement shows that the remaining capital resources only amount to £32,500. In the year ended June 30th last the Tomboy Gold Mines Company, whose properties are situated in Colorado, U.S.A., crushed 211,000 tons for a profit of \$71,100. Practically the whole of this was absorbed by depreciation, and the balance-sheet shows a cash deficit. In the Montana area, where encouraging results have been secured, the ore reserves are placed at 500,500 tons; including the reserves in the two other properties the total ore available is 812,750 tons, or four years' supply for the mill. Recent monthly profits have shown improvement. Many years ago the value of the San Francisco mine, Mexico, was recognised, but until lately the ore body has defied profitable treatment by reason of its complex character. During the current year, however, substantial profits have been secured from the operation of a new plant, the working profit for the five weeks ended September 30th being about \$50,000. This is at the rate of over £100,000 per annum, while the capital of the company is only £175,000. There is a debenture issue of £200,000, convertible into shares, and the balance of a loan of £100,000 provided by a well-known Kaffir house, the Union Corporation. When the remainder of this advance has been cleared off the company will be in a position to devote its earnings to dividends. The Mexican Corporation is unwatering a mine whose former owners had to suspend operations by reason of being unable to cope with the flooding of the lower levels. Values at the first of the levels cleared have been encouraging, and the next one—now reached—is expected to show larger quantities of ore carrying higher values. Meantime the company is treating a huge dump of material at the rate of 70,000 tons a month, getting a revenue of over \$3 per ton at a cost of about \$2.10. Early next year the returns should be increased by the treatment of ore from the mine. A third annual report just issued is that of the El Oro Mining and Railway Company. It shows the increased net profit of £83,600, which considerably more than covers the dividend of 1s per share, tax free—the same

as paid for a number of years past. A feature is a reduction in the cost ratio, largely compensating for an appreciable further decline in the average yield. Development enabled the ore reserves to be estimated at the somewhat enhanced total of 339,700 tons—which, however, represents less than one year's supply. An interesting item is the announcement that the company's Inversione subsidiary has acquired on lease, and is developing, a silver property. The directors have taken the conservative course of writing off \$500,000 out of \$835,600 expended.

The committee of the City of London Y.M.C.A. announces that Sir Herbert Hambling will speak on "Current Rates of Exchange and Their Relation to Pre-war Gold Parities: the Desirability for De-valuation," in the large hall of the City of London Y.M.C.A., 186 Aldersgate street, at 6.0 p.m., on November 15th.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, W.C. 2, on Tuesday, November 14, 1922, at 8.30 p.m., a paper on "The Growth of Empire" will be read by the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Lugard, G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O. The Right Hon. Viscount Milner, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., will preside.

UNDER the auspices of the trustees of the London Savings Banks in Lambeth a conference has been called to discuss ways and means of eliminating default in connection with slate clubs, loan clubs, and kindred sharing-out societies which frequently occurs about Christmas time. It is pointed out that not only do such frauds impose acute distress upon those immediately affected, but this abuse on the part of a tiny minority tends to shake public confidence, and the whole movement of thrift-promotion is likely to be seriously retarded. The "Anti-fraud Conference" will be held on November 17th, at 8 p.m., at the Old County Hall, Spring gardens, under the presidency of Field Marshal the Lord Methuen.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.—IRVING NATIONAL BANK SURRENDERS FEDERAL CHARTER—MR GARY AND INTERNATIONAL DEBTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 27.

THIS week's reports as to trade and industry generally throughout the United States are the best that have come to hand since the spring of 1920, and the outlook continues favourable in most directions. A survey of the situation, however, reveals some noteworthy contrasts in the volume of buying and in price movements in the more important trades and industries. In the extent of buying and strength of prices textiles easily lead. Iron, steel, scrap material, soft coal, and coke are lower. The recent easiness in steel is regarded as indicating not so much real weakness as it does the disappearance of scarcity caused by the railway and coal strikes. The shoe, leather, automobile, lumber, and furniture trades show varying degrees of activity. Builders' hardware, cement, and lumber continue more active than usual at this season. Lumber production apparently reached its peak a week or so ago, and there are widespread complaints of a scarcity of cement. In the steel industry railroads are still the best buyers, especially of rolling stock, and it is reliably reported that the largest steel producer has been obliged to enter the open market for supplies of steel to fill some orders. Complaints of car scarcity are becoming more general, conditions on the Pacific coast, in the coal and lumber regions of the south, in the spring wheat section of the north-west, and in the lower lake districts are said to be acute. Latest reports show that car loadings are somewhat below those of the last week in September, but only about 3½ per cent. below the peak total touched in

the second week of October, 1920. Wholesale and jobbing trade in all sections is exceptionally active, and bank clearings, although smaller than last week, greatly exceed those of a year ago.

As indicated, textile markets, particularly those for finished and unfinished cotton goods, have recently led all others in point of strength and activity. With spot cotton this week soaring well above 24 cents, a new high level for the year, the advancing tendency, which had already been pronounced in cotton goods prices, gained greater momentum, and has now embraced practically all descriptions of cotton textiles. While increased strength of the staple is considered largely responsible for the vigorous upturn in goods values, buyers themselves have rapidly bid up prices. The extent of the demand for cottons that has developed within the past fortnight is a revelation to mills and selling agents, who only a short time ago were apprehensive lest any substantial advances might check buying. From the apparent urgency and breadth of the demand, especially for finished cottons, it is inferred, and no doubt correctly, that distributors' stocks generally have become greatly depleted. Surplus stocks in first hands have become practically exhausted in many lines, and mills are so heavily sold ahead in numerous instances that they will be unable to take on additional business for a number of months. One of the factors largely responsible for the acute situation in the primary market for cottons is the fact that the loss in production, resulting from the New England strike, amounted to something like 400,000,000 yards. Reflecting the higher cost of the staple, cotton yarns, both weaving and knitting, have been advancing by leaps and bounds almost daily for the past week or two, and many numbers are now commanding prices from 3 to 8 or 10 cents a pound higher than a month or so ago. Some cotton yarn houses, despite the upward trend, have done a larger volume of business this month than in any corresponding period in their history.

The activity and rising tendency in textiles has not been confined to cotton goods. Woollens and worsteds have advanced sharply, and are moving quite freely at the higher levels. Increased cost of raw wool, together with scarcity of supplies, is given as the main reason for the advances in woollen and worsted fabrics, which probably mean higher prices for clothing later on. Broad silks of all descriptions are selling in exceptionally large volume in wholesale establishments, notwithstanding steadily advancing prices necessitated by the abnormally high levels ruling for raw silk, and demand exceeds supplies available for prompt and nearby delivery in many lines.

This week's announcement that the Irving National Bank will cease to be a "national" bank, and, after combining with the Columbia Trust Company, will operate under a State charter, is attracting a great deal of attention in banking circles. The announcement of the merger contains no reference to the reasons which prompt the Irving National to surrender its Federal charter—a step without precedent so far as important national banks are concerned—but it is understood that this course was taken for the purpose of allowing the bank to expand through branch banks in order to meet competition created by similar expansion on the part of other banks. National banks which are already operating branch banks are doing so under charters providing for such operations which were granted before amendments to the national banking laws, prohibiting such expansion, were enacted. The Irving National's action is considered likely to have an important bearing on the question of amending the national banking laws so as to permit national banks to operate branches. At the recent bankers' convention here there was an animated discussion of that subject, which ended in the adoption of a resolution opposing such an amendment. Comptroller of the Currency Crissinger and other officials of the present Administration, on the other hand, are said to favour an amendment which will confine branch banking by national institutions to the cities in which they have their main offices. That proposal is regarded as a compromise, apparently intended to allay fears of country banks that national banks may be allowed to open branches in small towns and thereby encroach upon their field. The laws

of New York and other States allow branch banking. Under the plan approved by the directors of both institutions, the consolidated company will be known as the Irving-Columbia Bank and Trust Company; it will have a capital of \$17,500,000, and surplus and undivided profits of \$10,500,000.

In addressing the annual meeting here of the American Iron and Steel Institute, its president, Elbert H. Gary, who is chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation, advocated another international conference at Washington for the purpose of adjusting the international debt question, and "for a full and frank discussion of all unsettled financial, commercial, and industrial matters in which our people are interested directly or indirectly, to be participated in by representatives from the different nations, such as those who appeared at the recent Limitation of Armament Conference. If there shall be such a meeting," he added, "and the delegates are all of the type referred to, there will result incalculable good to all who are parties. They would not decide or discuss how to abolish or overcome the old-established law of supply and demand, how to avoid or repudiate existing legal obligations, but rather how and when to fulfil them without irreparable injury to anyone, or the sacrifice of principle. It would be found that the United States is always disposed to be just, reasonable, lenient, impartial, and friendly." Commenting on the international debt question, Mr Gary said: "The doctrine of supply and demand, which is one of mutuality, is germane to the present public and private discussion relating to the enormous debts owing by certain foreign nations to the United States. They were voluntarily, openly and fairly contracted. They cannot properly be cancelled or disposed of on any other basis without doing violence to well-recognised principles of justice and rules of propriety. To cancel these debts or any part of them without full payment would be forced charity, and that is never agreeable to the donor, and, as a rule, is equally disagreeable to a self-respecting person or nation. It is the individual citizens of the different countries who are to be consulted, and whose decisions must control." Regarding general business conditions in the United States, the head of the Steel Corporation said that great prosperity was "right before us," and that it could be headed off only by artificial interference with the law of supply and demand. He favoured laws requiring "full publicity of economic transactions so far as they affect the public welfare." Regarding immigration, he advocated laws that would admit immigrants "on the basis of quality rather than number."

FRANCE.—BUDGET PROSPECTS—M. BERENGER'S ESTIMATES—INCOME-TAX—BOURSE. (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 8.
PARLIAMENT is deeply engaged in the discussion of the Budget for 1923, but it must be confessed that so far no great light has been thrown on how the most difficult financial situation with which the country has ever been faced is to be satisfactorily met. One might almost go further, indeed, and insist that, so far, no two authorities are agreed as to what the exact financial situation really is. M. de Lasteyrie, in his Budget Estimates, forecasts a deficit of some four milliards; M. Henri Bérenger, the Rapporteur Général of the Senate Finance Commission, asserts that it will be at least 7,000,000,000, while M. Bokanowski, in the report on the new Budget which he has presented to the Chamber, puts it at quite another figure. All parties appear to be agreed, however, that it will be impossible to get through the coming financial year without further borrowing on an enormous scale, and that it is of vital necessity to France that the whole questions of German Reparations and the inter-Allied problem, at the earliest possible moment. The hope is still growing that British election results will clear up the political situation on the other side of the Channel sufficiently to enable Mr Bonar Law to see eye to eye with M. Poincaré on this all-important matter, and consent to participation—being called together in the very near future.

M. Henri Bérenger, in an explanatory statement on the national finances which he has just drawn up, has set forth some interesting figures which it will be as well to place on record. At the outset of his statement M. Bérenger expresses his astonishment that the Minister of Finance, four years after the end of the war, is still apparently unable to furnish Parliament with exact figures as to the nation's income and expenditure. In this connection the Rapporteur for the Senate Finance Commission makes the extraordinary statement that, strange as it may appear to be, no "general accountancy" exists, in regard to the national affairs, either at the Ministry of Finance or elsewhere. In the circumstances, M. Bérenger, like many others whose duty it is to criticise the national finances, has drawn up his own statement of the nation's financial assets and liabilities, which is as follows:—

LIABILITIES.		Frs.
Public debt.....		337,000,000,000
Unpaid interest on foreign debt.....		5,000,000,000
Reparation debt.....		132,000,000,000
Liquidation of special accounts.....		1,000,000,000
Total (in paper francs).....		475,000,000,000
ASSETS.		
Claim against Germany.....	124,000,000,000	
Claims on other foreign governments.....	15,000,000,000	
		139,000,000,000
So that, even if Germany carries out her obligations and the governments who owe money to France clear off their debts, this country would still have to face a final deficit of.....		
	Frs (paper)	336,000,000,000

M. Bérenger, in dealing specifically with the budgetary situation for the coming year, condemns flatly the purely artificial method of dividing the estimates for the year into two distinct parts, the one (or "Ordinary" Budget) comprising the normal expenditure of the country, and the other "Expenditure Recoverable from Germany." "Unless we wish to take the risk of a catastrophic error," Senator Bérenger remarks, "the French General Budget should include all the expenditure necessitated for the reparation of losses suffered from the war, the payment of interest on our debt, the sums necessary for our public services, and should show, on the other hand, nothing but the resources of which we actually dispose." If this were done, he asserts, the deficit on the Ordinary Budget for 1923 would be shown as 7,000,000,000 (and not four milliards), and the deficit on the Budget of Recoverable Expenditure would be at least 10,000 millions, making a total of over 17,000,000,000. If the Chambers agree to the Government's proposal, therefore, to meet the deficit for 1923 by loans, the nation's public debt will be increased during the next 12 months by 17,000,000,000, and from 1923 onwards will consist of considerably over 350,000,000,000.

After dealing with the various special accounts (over 1,000,000,000), supplementary credits (nearly 3,000,000,000), the advances by the Bank of France (over 23,000,000,000), the National Defence Bonds (over 63,000,000,000), and the Treasury Bond issues, &c., M. Bérenger sets forth the following figures as showing what he considers the real situation of the Budgets for 1922 and 1923 respectively:—

	1922.	Frs.
Known expenditure.....		55,517,000,000
Known revenue.....		24,691,000,000
Deficit (to be raised by loans).....		30,826,000,000
	1923.	Frs.
Estimated expenditure.....		54,519,000,000
Estimated revenue.....		19,285,000,000
Deficit (to be raised by loans).....		35,234,000,000

The fact that the only proposal put forward by the Government is that these enormous deficits, amounting together to over 66,000,000,000, should be met by the issue of further loans, M. Bérenger characterises as startling, and he expresses the opinion that such a policy cannot continue. He insists that the first steps towards the restoration of the French finances must be for the Chambers resolutely to forbid all arbitrary governmental action in financial matters, and for the strictest control over all expenditure to be applied, together with the civil and penal sanctions laid down for application in cases in which such control is infringed. The Ministry of Finance, further, should be thoroughly reorganised. "Created for a budget of five milliards, and for the control of taxes that no longer exist,

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

it functions badly for a Budget of 50 milliards and a new fiscal system." As a fiscal programme for the 1924 elections, M. Bérenger proposes "the progressive replacement of the new indirect taxes on articles of consumption, by bringing taxation on large incomes and inheritances into stronger and more precise operation," and a much stricter application of the income-tax law. "At the same time, we must revise our customs system and our railway rates, and put an end to the excesses of an agrarian policy which has resulted at home in raising the cost of living, while abroad it has caused reprisals to be taken that have closed foreign markets against us." M. Bérenger is convinced that henceforward the only method by which France will secure payment of reparations from Germany will be in kind, rather than cash, and that her payments will have to be financed by German Treasury bonds, countersigned by countries having a sound currency, and under the accepted control of the League of Nations.

M. Loucheur, who on Tuesday made one of his rare speeches in the Chamber, is also convinced that payments in kind are all that may now be expected from Germany. The former Minister for Reparations, who is always heard with great attention (and always in his capacity as one of the great French industrial leaders, rather than merely as a politician), insisted that the great blunder committed by the Allies was to allow currencies to depreciate after the signature of the peace treaty. "The real cause of the fall of the exchange in 1919 and 1920 was the decision of Great Britain and America to suppress all credits as between State and State. That decision marked the blackest day since the war ended. On that date millions of British workmen were sentenced to unemployment. To-day, as in 1919, we are faced with the dilemma of having to allow Germany to produce as much as possible, and to encourage her exports, or to get nothing out of her. It was because I realised this necessity that I urged the bringing into existence of the Wiesbaden agreements." Referring to the question of inter-allied debts, M. Loucheur once more surprised the Chamber by insisting that it was useless to include the debt owing to America in the total to be paid by France, "because it is impossible for us to pay it." To the exclamations with which this statement was greeted M. Loucheur retorted: "I shall be glad if anybody can tell me by what possible means we can transfer seven milliards of dollars from France to America. The British can no doubt pay their debt to the United States, but we, whose trade balance barely balances, find it physically and materially impossible to do so. If it is possible to demonstrate the contrary, we will pay."

Like M. Bérenger, M. Loucheur insists that much greater results could be obtained from the income-tax if those who should pay it were made to pay. He mentioned a district within his own knowledge where only 105 persons made returns for income-tax out of a population of 15,000, whereas his own inquiries showed that at least 900 were assessable. M. Loucheur urged that the local income-tax commissioners should have power to assess on external appearances of wealth. He went on to plead for cheaper money, and asked the Government to reduce the interest paid on its loans. The discount rate, he insisted,

covered by the balance of the gold reserve in the Austrian department of the Anglo-Austrian Bank and by the remainder of the provisional French and Italian credits.

The condition of the State finances is still very bad, and, according to even the optimistic reports of the Government, the international credits can hardly be expected to be realised before the end of next February. In order to carry on the administration of the State until then without a further recourse to the money printing press, a Bill was passed entitling the Government to issue Treasury gold bonds up to the amount of 130 million gold kronen, as mentioned in our last fortnightly letter. It is intended to place about half of this amount in Austria: 30 millions are to be taken over by the banks, and about 35 millions will be offered for subscription on the Austrian market and guaranteed by the banks. A mortgage on custom duties and the tobacco monopoly will serve as a guarantee for the bonds to be placed in Austria. The second half of the amount of the Treasury gold bonds, with a value of about 65 million gold kronen, is to be placed abroad with the assistance of the delegates of the League of Nations. This second half will be covered partly by the above-mentioned mortgage, partly by the balance of the gold reserve in the Austrian department of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, and by the remainder of the provisional French and Italian credits. It is doubtful, however, whether these efforts will really be able to stop the money printing press. Up to now no decisions have been made with regard to the foundation of the new issue bank, as the delegates of the League of Nations is still studying the project drawn up by the Government, and will probably make a great many alterations.

The greater part of the securities and shares dealt in at the Stock Exchange have fallen 40-50 per cent. in value since August. This is due, on the one hand, to the over-speculation made in these values recently, and, on the other, to the present stringency of money. Finally, it is due to the continuous new issues, which have diminished the intrinsic value of the shares of most Austrian firms.

The compulsory internal loan, which has lately been issued with interest at 6 per cent., has been fully paid up. As the bonds are not yet printed, they are only dealt in at a private market, on which the price is estimated at only 60 per cent. of their face value, so that the subscribers have already lost 40 per cent. of their subscription. During the month of September the bank-note circulation was increased almost a billion kronen, and for the month of October the same amount is estimated. The ill-effects of the State control of the money market (Devisenzentrale) grow more obvious every day, and hamper all business abroad. Austrian dealers who have bought materials or goods abroad in order to manufacture them here or to export them are quite often unable to meet their obligations, as the "Devisenzentrale" does not place the necessary amount of foreign currencies at their disposal.

Therefore, the opposition to the State control is growing in Austria, and it is hoped that it will at last have to give way before the general protest against it. For the first time in many months the index figure shows a considerable decrease. While it showed an increase of 91 per cent. in the previous month, it shows now a decrease of 8.9 per cent. for the period September 15th to October 15th. This fact must be highly appreciated, as it forms at least a moral hindrance to a further increase in prices. According to the Index Law, a reduction of salaries and wages can only take place if the index figure shows a downward tendency next month also. The postal tariffs were doubled on November 1st. A slight reduction in the prices of textiles, shoes and various foodstuffs, which took place during the last fortnight, is due to Germany and Czech competition, especially in those cases where dealers and manufacturers were compelled through lack of orders and money to make forced sales. The gold parity for payment of Customs dues, which amounted to 15,100 at the end of September, was fixed at 14,975 for the first two weeks in October. The amount of foreign currencies in the country has decreased considerably during the past few weeks, since export has practically stopped, and importers have to pay their obligations in foreign currencies at once. Beside this, numerous concerns are only able to carry on by selling their holdings in foreign currencies.

CANADA.—TRADE CONDITIONS—BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION—IMMIGRATION SCHEMES—PROBABLE REPEAL OF WAR FINANCIAL LEGISLATION—NEW INDUSTRIES—EXPANSION OF PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY—TRADE RETURNS—BANK ROBBERIES IN THE WEST.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, October 23.

THE hope that the last quarter of the year would bring solid evidence of widespread business improvement has been supported by developments in October. The field crops have now, with a few exceptions, been safely garnered under very favourable conditions, and their volume has been found to exceed the roseate estimates which were hazarded at the beginning of September. The only drawback is the lowness of agricultural prices, which are back at pre-war levels, and in some cases below them. There has recently been a slight rise in the price of wheat, but farmers complain that it still does not repay the cost of production, and coarser grains, like oats and barley, which are selling for about 25 and 30 cents per bushel even in the vicinity of Winnipeg, are a positive drag upon the market. The result is that after the farmers, particularly in the West, have satisfied creditors, such as the banks and implement companies, their purchasing power is low, and when they find that a large number of manufactured goods are still only available at 75 or 100 per cent. above the pre-war prices, they are disposed to criticise an economic system which permits this disparity. But so abundant a crop could not fail to set in circulation a very large sum of money among the farmers. It is being marketed more expeditiously than last year, and already three times as many cars of wheat have been inspected as at the corresponding date in 1921. The result is that while irregularities are visible, both wholesalers and manufacturers report a rising trend of demand for many lines of goods. The approach of winter has generated the usual activity in the drygoods trade through demands for warm clothing. A check in the upward price movement of certain basic commodities, like iron and steel, coupled with the satisfactory settlement of the coal-mining and railway labour disputes, has eased the tension in the industrial world, and where either complete stoppage or curtailment had been enforced. There are some transportation difficulties which might check the outward flow of grain is threatened at the ports at the head of the Great Lakes. As the result of the crop movement, the traffic returns of all the railways show a most gratifying improvement, but there is complaint that the recent reductions in freight rates have lowered the margin of profit in handling Western grain to a negligible level. But consumption is plainly increasing in many channels, and stocks of goods are everywhere in need of replenishment. Moreover, merchants are now abandoning the policy of hand-to-mouth purchasing which they have pursued for the last three years, and are providing for future requirements on a liberal scale, with the result that factories, being assured of orders, can purchase their raw material in larger quantities and at better prices, and guarantee steady employment to their workers. Seasonal conditions may account partially for the present expansion of business, but many of the gains are in fundamental basic industries, and likely to be of a permanent nature. The stock markets have recovered from the disturbance of the Near Eastern crisis, and while there have been few spectacular gains, prices have remained firm. The milling companies have all shown good returns, and their stocks have improved several points.

As the result of a visit of Major E. A. Belcher, assistant-general manager of the British Empire Exhibition, the other Dominions have agreed to follow the example of assistance which they will give will be determined after consultation with the provincial Governments, and should in the end be substantial. Immigration schemes are very much to the fore, and the Canada Colonisation Associa-

tion, which was backed up by representatives of the transportation companies, recently laid before the Government a number of suggestions for a vigorous immigration policy. Efforts are to be concentrated upon a rapid increase of the rural population, which, it is calculated, will swell the demand for industrial products and the traffic returns for the railways, but it is noticeable that the agrarian papers contain frequent letters protesting that an increase in the number of agricultural producers will simply mean lower prices for grain and livestock.

The position of Canadian funds in New York has been maintained, and American dollars have now to pay the customary small discount in Canada. In view of this situation, the approaching session is likely to see the repeal or modification of the relics of the war financial legislation, and possibly the return of Canada to a gold basis. To-day the proviso for the redemption of Dominion notes in gold is still suspended, and there is an embargo on the export of gold. The number of Dominion notes outstanding has been materially reduced, and the fear that the gold reserve might be heavily drawn upon by the presentation of Canadian notes held by Americans has been removed. Many bankers favour an immediate return to the old conditions, but Mr Fielding has not given any intimation of his views. He is at present in London, and will probably consult with the British Treasury upon the problem. The Board of Commerce which the Federal Government set up to regulate prices and check combines in restraint of trade was declared *ultra vires* by the Privy Council, but the Ontario Government has now in contemplation the establishment of a provincial board for Ontario, which will perform the same duties for that province; it would be empowered to regulate prices, suppress combines, and generally protect the consumer, and its constitutionality could not be attacked. Evidence about the possible effects of such a measure is being taken by a Parliamentary Committee at Toronto, and it met with unexpected support from representatives of the wholesale and retail trade.

New enterprises are being continually started in Canada, and one of the most interesting is a plan, which has made considerable headway, to manufacture the binder twine required for the Western harvest out of hemp grown on the prairies, where it can be produced in just as good quantity and quality as in Russia. At present the West imports all its supplies of binder twine from Eastern Canada, New England, or Belfast, and the transportation cost is a heavy item. It is largely manufactured from sisal, which is grown in Central America, and obviously there are great possibilities of economy if a local-grown product could be utilised. The preliminary experiments have been very encouraging, and capital is being raised for the erection of a factory.

The pulp and paper business is still very prosperous, and an agreement was recently reached for a slight increase in newsprint prices. The building of fresh plants goes steadily on, and at present, in addition to a new mill of the Belgo-Canadian Company in Quebec, three others will soon be in full operation at Bathurst, N.B., Fort William, Ont., and Wigwam, B.C. Far-seeing lumbermen, however, declare that the depletion of Canada's forest resources is going ahead at a dangerously rapid rate, and must sooner or later have disastrous results. The clearing of certain forest areas in which rivers rise has made the country through which they flow much more susceptible to droughts, and the problem is receiving the attention of the Ontario Government, which is encouraging municipalities to promote reforestation.

The trade returns for September are regarded as very satisfactory; the comparative figures are appended:—

	1921.	1922.
September—	\$	\$
Imports	59,805,487	60,318,410
Exports	58,263,182	71,592,628
Total trade	119,395,686	133,252,691
Favourable balance	1,542,305	11,274,218
Forward merchandise expend't re	1,327,017	1,341,653
Six months ended Sept. 30th—		
Imports	378,815,250	363,915,736
Exports	335,677,131	388,233,296
Total trade	721,710,724	759,374,880
Favourable balance	43,138,129	24,317,560
Forward merchandise expend't re	7,218,343	7,225,848

* Adverse.

The best feature is the increase of 13 million dollars, or more than 20 per cent., in the exports for the month. The decline in imports may be traced in part to the coal and railway strikes in the United States.

There has been a strange epidemic of bank robberies in the prairie provinces, which have always prided themselves on their freedom from lawlessness. In town after town local branches of banks have been held up and robbed by gangs of robbers who arrived in fast motor-cars, and had cut off all telegraphic and telephone communication before beginning their operations. In nearly every case they escaped with their booty over the American border, but vigilance committees are now being formed, and the police forces on both sides of the line are being strengthened.

POLAND.—INFLATION—EXCHANGES—COST OF LIVING—INTERIOR LOAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, October 26.

DURING the six months from October to March the financial situation of Poland was steadily improving. The quantity of new paper marks put into circulation fell from 30 milliards in October to 3.5 milliards in March. Since April the printing press has been working again under high pressure, as may be seen from the figures given below:—

		Circulation.	Increase
		Milliard Marks.	in Comparison with Previous Month.
January, 1922	239.6	.....	+ 10.1
February, "	247.2	.....	+ 7.6
March, "	250.7	.....	+ 3.5
April, "	260.6	.....	+ 9.9
May, "	276.0	.....	+ 15.4
June, "	300.1	.....	+ 24.1
July, "	335.4	.....	+ 35.3
August, "	385.8	.....	+ 50.4
September, "	463.7	.....	+ 77.9

In September 77.9 milliards of new paper marks were poured into the market.

This debauch of the currency has a very detrimental influence on the economic life of the country. Foreign exchanges and prices are rising by leaps and bounds. The English pound, which was quoted at the end of June 20,000, has reached 55,000. The quotations of the other currencies were as follows:—

	June 27.	October 24.
Paris	382	900
Zurich	878	2,225
New York	4,550	12,175
Berlin	1340	30

With the exception of the German mark, which in the process of depreciation has outdistanced the Polish mark, all other currencies have increased during the last four months by nearly 200 per cent.

The cost of living in September was 129.7 per cent. higher than in January. The increase is becoming more pronounced every month, as shown below:—

		Cost of LIVING.	Increase in Comparison with Previous Month.
		Index.	%
January, 1922	100.0	.....	0.30
February, "	102.6	.....	2.56
March, "	111.7	.....	8.89
April, "	125.1	.....	11.97
May, "	136.4	.....	9.02
June, "	146.0	.....	7.03
July, "	168.2	.....	15.19
August, "	193.8	.....	15.26
September, "	229.7	.....	18.54

The Ministry of Finance has opened a subscription for a new internal loan, hoping to obtain by this means the necessary funds for covering the expenditure of the Government. The loan bears 8 per cent. interest, and is redeemable after five years (October 1, 1927). To make it more attractive half of every bond has been issued in "zloty," equal to one gold franc each. The value of the other half is fixed in Polish marks. The price of the loan has been fixed as follows:—Polish marks are paid at par, while the rate of exchange for one "zloty" is 1,400 marks. A bond of 10,000 marks and 10 zloty costs 24,000 Polish marks. The principal, as

well as the coupons of the gold part, are payable in Swiss francs, American dollars, or in Polish marks, according to the rate of exchange of dollars in Warsaw during the month preceding the payment. The other half is redeemable in Polish marks according to their nominal value. The Ministry of Finance has tried to insure itself by this measure against losses which a rise of Swiss francs or American dollars would entail, if the whole loan were to be payable in these currencies. Under the present system the Government is compensated for these losses by the payment of the other coupons in a depreciated currency.

The Ministry of Finance expects that the rate of subscription fixed for gold francs (1,400 Polish marks, the Swiss franc is quoted at the exchange 2,200) will induce holders of Polish marks abroad to participate in the purchase of the loan.

Letters to the Editor.

THE ELECTORS' APATHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Whatever may be happening in the sturdy North, electioneers in the industrial districts of the South are not finding it easy to whip up enthusiasm among the voters. I speak from 10 days' experience of canvassing in London, and after conversations with the party organisers. Complaints are heard from organisers of meetings that, except where a speaker with a big name is advertised, audiences are apt to be small and apathetic, while canvassers—the people who really feel the political pulse—are commonly met with avowed indifference, or with that still more crushing form of apathy—a cheerful and obviously insincere agreement. It may be that in the last few days before the election fresh interest will be aroused, but, so far, the election in most southern constituencies has not been marked either by enthusiasm or excitement.

The apathy of the voters is partly accounted for by the miserable conditions in which many of them are now living. The respectable workman who has been out of employment for six or nine months, the widow with precarious income and a steady burden of expenses, the young people existing as best they can without decent or adequate housing, are all inclined to look askance at politics, and say to the rival candidates, "A ban on both your houses." Never before have canvassers been taunted so often or so bitterly with the bad faith of politicians whose reckless promises and highly-coloured pictures of 1918 are contrasted with the poverty and misery of 1922. For the most part this odium falls on to the Coalition candidates, but it is not confined to them, for many electors embrace in a single condemnation all the political parties, Unionist, Liberal, and Labour, and declare that there is not a fig to choose between them. It is a deplorable, if natural, reaction, and it must stand as a bad item in Mr Lloyd George's account that his wild rhetoric and profuse promises of the last General Election have enormously lowered the esteem in which politics are held by the electorate. In our more cynical moments we are all of us inclined to sneer at the politician, but it is a disastrous thing for any country to depend for its government on men who are generally mistrusted and held in bad repute.

Another cause of apathy among the electors is the washing out of old landmarks and the confusion between parties. In reality, political differences are as deep and as wide as ever, but in an election where every address and every speech declares the candidates' life-long devotion to the principles of "peace, and the most rigid economy consistent with efficient government," when the canvasser for the Unionist candidate tells the voter that he stands for lower taxes and economy, and the canvasser for the Liberal candidate says that he stands for economy and lower taxes, the elector is liable to think that there is not a ha'porth of difference in the whole

crowd, and that the battle is a sham fight, with nothing at stake but personal ambition and a desirable income of £400 a year. If the voter probes the matter more deeply and discovers that on the one side is a Free Trader who voted for the Safeguarding of Industries Bill, and on the other a Tariff Reformer who pledges himself not to introduce a tariff, he is likely to be confirmed in his opinion that the election is a squabble between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, in which the ordinary person can gain nothing by taking sides and lose nothing by remaining neutral.

It is a strange irony that this deplorable indifference to political issues and principles should follow a period in which the world has suffered disaster after disaster through nothing but bad politics and bad government. Rightly read, the history of Europe and Great Britain since 1914 is a proof of the tremendous importance of politics, and the appalling injuries that the private citizen suffers through his political ignorance and his indifference to the method by which he is governed. If the common people of Europe had been in a political sense highly educated before 1914 it is incredible that a handful of statesmen could have plunged Europe into war, and sent millions of common men to suffer and die in the trenches. If we had had a higher standard of political intelligence in England since 1918 we should not have been duped as we were by promises of ease and prosperity to be achieved through the care of a paternal Government extracting thousands of millions from our enemies, and we should not have tolerated a foreign policy which has led to poverty and unemployment at home. Most of the troubles with which individual citizens are struggling in their private lives to-day are the direct result of bad politics and bad government, and at no time was there so little excuse as now for the ordinary man to be careless and indifferent about the *personnel* and principles of government. Almost the greatest need of the world at the present time is a revival of political interest, and the education of the common people in the philosophy of politics.

Two generations ago Bagehot pointed out as one of the great merits of the British Parliamentary system that it created and sustained a wide interest in politics. So long as Parliament is an interesting place, where parties debate by what they say and do in the House of Commons, ordinary people will always incline to take an interest in politics and government, and will unconsciously be taking a course of political education. In the last few years personal government has largely destroyed the importance of the House of Commons, which in the temporary extinction of one great party, was content far too long to endorse the actions and decisions of a single dominating politician. If this election destroys this autocratic system, and restores Parliament and the party system to their old places, it will have done something to kill the deplorable apathy of the voters, and allow the political education of the country to start afresh, and let us hope be developed until every Government realises that it is working under the eye of a reasonably well educated electorate.—Yours, &c.,

London, November 9th, 1922. AN OLD CANVASSER.

Books and Publications.

RECENT ECONOMIC LITERATURE.—A MONTH'S SURVEY.

AFTER the Election a great many people will probably have to do some thinking on economic lines, which, however salutary then, would have been more useful if done earlier. The month just passed has produced a considerable output of books, of a character more or less helpful in such an effort. If there is among them no outstanding work on the theoretic aspects of economic science, other departments are well represented, and notably that comprising books intended for the reader with little technical equipment, who is, however, prepared to use his head.

(a) Elementary.

Among them may be mentioned two volumes in Messrs Bell's useful series of Handbooks of Commerce and Finance, both from the pen of Mr A. Risdon Palmer. The first is devoted to *Banking, Stockbroking, Currency, and*

Exchange (5s net); the second to *Finance* (4s). They are clear but in parts brief surveys. The same may be said of Mr W. J. Weston's *Banking and Currency* (Clive University Tutorial Press, 5s 6d). The author understands his subject, and makes it intelligible. He would make no such claim for himself as is made by the publisher of "The Common Sense of Economic Science," by Edmund Dane (Mills and Boon, 5s), who describes it as an "exposition of economics for the million," which "resolves the problems of exchange currency and taxation, and the operations of finance." So much, or that it gives "economic study a fresh orientation," can hardly be claimed for it; conventional in point of view, it has the merit of a lively method of statement; but there is nothing particularly fresh about it. "The New Economics," by Marten Cumberland and Raymond Harrison (Cecil Palmer, 2s), is, of course, one more attempt at expounding the "Douglas Scheme," in such a manner as to make it at once intelligible and attractive. The attraction, however, is obviously connected with a certain degree of unintelligibility.

(2) Advanced and Technical.

There are really no books which can claim the right to appear here. In Mr Q. C. Dickinson's inquiry into *Economic Motives* (Harvard University Press, obtainable in England from Humphrey Milford, price 12s 6d), the real interest is, of course, psychological; the subject of investigation is the "psychological foundations of economic theory." A great deal of work is being done in the States at present on these lines. This particular volume does not carry the reader very far. On the other hand, under

(3) Descriptive and Works of Reference.

there are a number of very interesting and important volumes. *British Merchant Shipping*, by Clement Jones (Arnold, 10s 6d), was fully reviewed in the *Economist* of November 4th, and praised as it deserves; *Recent Economic Developments in Russia* (by K. Leites, edited by Harold Westergaard), Milford, 12s 6d, is one of the contributions to the economic history of the Great War, for which the directors of the Carnegie Endowment are responsible. It comprises three "preliminary monographs," one on the effects of war on Russian economic life up to the Bolshevik coup d'état; the one on the results of Bolshevik economic policy; and the one on the results of Bolshevik economic policy and the say, previous to the abandonment of Communism and the introduction of the new economy policy. Mr Leites is a Russian, at one time (in 1912) an official; his study is throughout based on public documents and the statistical reports of the Soviet Government. His view is thoroughly objective. His first section gives an impressive picture of the thoroughgoing economic disorganisation of Russia, which made it impossible for that naturally rich country to sustain the effects of war. This is a book which must be studied by anyone who wishes to pass a serious judgment on economic developments in Russia. The unprepossessing title given by Mr and Mrs Webb to the new volume in their *Monumental History of Local Government in Great Britain, Statutory Authorities for Special Purposes* (Longmans, 25s), is calculated to put the reader off unduly from a work that, in the main, is extremely readable and interesting, once one has overcome the repulsion created by the subject. A quantity of valuable material is collected in *La Politique Financière et Monétaire de la France*, published by Felix Acan, Paris, 30 francs, comprising speeches, reports, and financial statements, most of them not very exhilarating reading. *L'Inflation Dans l'Histoire*, by Albert Desprau (Paris Librairie de l'Information), is a useful survey of a not very consoling character. *Wholesale Prices, 1890-1920*, published by the Bureau of Labour Statistics at Washington, explains itself, as does the 1922 volume of *Rubber Producing Companies*, published at 7s 6d by the Financial Times.

(4) Political and Propagandist.

The most important work in this category, and in itself the most interesting and ablest volume so far mentioned, is Mr J. A. Hobson's *Economics of Unemployment* (Allen and Unwin, 4s 6d). In this Mr Hobson develops,

in a most suggestive and vigorous way, the idea of the "limited market," bringing a new and suggestive line of argument to bear on the theory expounded by him before of under-consumption as the main explanation of economic maladjustment.

LITHUANIA.*

To students of history Lithuania signifies an extinct and once powerful Grand Duchy, which shared the fate of Poland; to zoologists, the last home in Europe of the elk and bison; to scholars, a district the speech of whose inhabitants is closely akin to Sanskrit and Greek; but for a century and a-quarter it has been so Russianised and Prussianised that few people could indicate offhand where it lies. Mr Harrison, who has served on Colonel Tallents's mission to the Baltic States, and subsequently as Vice-Consul at Vilnius and Kaunas (formerly known as Vilna and Kovno), has, therefore, performed a considerable service by producing this comprehensive account of the country, its history, its revival during the war, and subsequently its economic resources, social life, literature, and art. The Lithuanian Republic, the nucleus of the former Grand Duchy, or Lithuania Major, should comprise the former Russian Governments of Kovno, Suwalki, and Vilna; nearly all the rest of ethnographic Lithuania, called Lithuania Minor, was absorbed in 1795 by Prussia. The Russian portion was persistently but ineffectually Russianised till the revolution of 1905; but, as in other oppressed countries, a literary nationalism revived the aspirations of the people and preserved their tongue. Early in the war the 135,000 Lithuanians in the United States and the exiles in Europe organised Congresses in Switzerland, and later at the Hague and Stockholm, which asserted the national claims; and Germany, hoping eventually to control the country, permitted a Diet at Vilna in 1917. This body elected a Taryba, or Council, which on February 16, 1918, proclaimed Lithuanian independence. After the Peace the inhabitants repulsed the Bolshevik invaders, and set up a Constitutional Assembly in May, 1920. But five months later Vilna, recognised by the Polish Government as Lithuanian, was seized by General Zeligowski, with the secret encouragement of Poland and of France; and the efforts for its restitution made by the League of Nations have so far been unsuccessful. Hence the Republic of Lithuania is shorn at present of about one-fifth of its territory and nearly two-fifths of its inhabitants. During the war it was "bled white" alike by Russians and Germans, but is rapidly recovering. Essentially agricultural, it has great resources in timber, several large cities, much undeveloped water-power, considerable actual and potential industries, important native handicrafts, and some coal and shale; and independently of Memel, reserved by the Allies, it has an access at Palanga to the Baltic. Agrarian reform is in progress on the same lines as in Latvia and Estonia, but with fair compensation to the landlords; the currency, until its fall in sympathy with the German mark, had escaped depreciation, and is now to be reformed on sound principles; ordinary revenue covers ordinary expenditure, and the foreign debt is small. The literature and art may astonish Europe. Mr Harrison has been converted by his official experience to enthusiastic support of the Lithuanian claims both to Vilna and to Memel, which under French supervision is becoming more German than ever. Our only regret is that he says nothing about the elks and the bison, so that probably they were all killed during the war.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Substance of Economics. For the Student and the General Reader. By H. A. Silverman. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited. 6s.
Bibliographical Survey of Contemporary Sources for the Economic and Social History of the War. By M. E. Bulkley. (Oxford) Clarendon Press. 10s 6d net.

* "Lithuania, Past and Present." By E. J. Harrison. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. Pp. 176. Illustrations and Two Maps. 16s net.

The Housing Question. By a former Housing Commissioner, with a preface by the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Limited. 3s 6d net.

Iron Ore. (Summary of Information as to the Present and Prospective Iron Ore Supplies of the World.) Part 6. Europe and Africa (Foreign). (London) H.M. Stationery Office. 6s net.

Bohemia. By C. Edmund Maurice. Second Edition. Revised. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. 7s 6d net.

Rapport sur la Commerce et l'Industrie de la Suisse en 1921. (Zurich) Union Suisse du Commerce et de l'Industrie.

Following the same plan as previous volumes, this report on Swiss commerce commences with statistical tables which furnish numerous particulars relating to Swiss economic conditions—population, resources, cost of living, foreign trade, Customs, banks, insurance, public companies, and finance. The second portion, very much more detailed, reviews in 40 chapters the various branches of commerce and industry. At the head of each chapter will be found an extract from the official Swiss *Journal of Commerce*, giving the export and import figures of the particular trade or industry in question. These tables afford detailed information on the relations of Switzerland with other countries, and being repeated year by year, enable the movements of Switzerland's external trade to be compared over a period of years. Numerous comparative figures on production, wages, prices, &c., are also given, and special attention is devoted to banking and insurance undertakings.

The Press. Prepared by the Labour Research Department. (London) The Labour Publishing Company, Limited. 1s.

Shall the State Throw Away the Keys? An Exposition of what Fine Chemicals Mean to the Nation. (London) The Association of British Chemical Manufacturers.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL - £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND - £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1922) - £321,167,218

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:

168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.
November 15.

ACCOUNT.
November 16.

This week's course of the Stock Exchange markets has been very much like that of true love, never running smoothly for more than half a day in any part of the House. Business all round has been restricted, owing to the imminence of the General Election and, still more, through the slump in the franc due to the truculent attitude adopted by Turkey. The end of the week found prices better in a good many cases than they had been earlier, the recovery being assisted by bear repurchasing upon the more favourable view taken in regard to the outlook for maintenance of peace in the Near East.

While the War Loan kept steady about 98½, Conversion 3½ per cents. fell at one time to 74½, rallied to 75½, and finished at about 75. The new India scrip attracted a certain amount of investment at ½ discount. The new Marconi 6½ per cent. debentures, offered at 99, achieved prompt success, and several other new issues were well received. Next week, three or four other capital requirements are expected to be made public, though the fact of its being General Election week is not overlooked by promoters.

French bonds of all kinds went acutely flat as the franc dropped to 72. Although prices shot up and down with violent fluctuations, the actual amount of business passing was not commensurate with these movements. People fear a further fall in exchange, yet they are loth to sell bonds acquired at substantially higher figures in the past. Germans are more or less a nominal market. Brazilians showed a little strength, which they failed entirely to retain. Some of the Chinese bonds are easier, the Marconi Eights, for instance, being quoted at a nominal figure of 60-70, Chile seems to have got all the money which she requires, at present, from a loan issued in the United States.

The Turkish fears drove down Home Rail stocks heavily, but, as the week drew to its conclusion, bears started to buy back in view of the settlement next week, and this led to a moderate recovery. Grand Trunk Pacific debenture has given way, and Mexican Rails are dormant. Argentine Rails, however, developed a fresh boom, and the buying in the absence of any large floating supply caused brisk rises in the leading stocks. Debentures and preferences shared in the improvement, though less spectacularly. The strength of Argentines became communicated to some of the other foreign railway stocks, which previously had been somewhat heavy in tone. United of Havana, Antofagasta deferred, Leopoldinas, and Cordoba Centrals all came in for favourable attention.

Rubber excitement has quieted down not a little, business being on very much lighter lines than prevailed at the end of last month. The oil market weakened under pressure of sales from Paris, but prices recovered from the worst. Nitrates are disturbed owing to a reduction of the dividend on Catalinas. Amongst catering shares, Aerated Breads experienced a fall, as sellers came along in advance of the dividend announcement. Coats gave way, in spite of the company's dividend declaration showing remarkably good figures. Some of the gas stocks are a trifle lower, but the shipping market has scarcely changed. Cable stocks and wireless shares have been dull in tendency. Power Securities ordinary, dealt in for the first time this week, opened at 9d discount, and recovered to their par price, the preference being quoted at about 3d discount. Tobacco shares have been affected by the general conditions prevailing from hour to hour. The success of the Motor Show at Olympia caused a little interest to revive in motor shares, without this, however, affecting prices materially. The banking market is fairly steady, and trust companies' stocks hold all their recently acquired gains. American breweries went ahead with a rush, on the announcement of the result of the American elections, which are deemed to forecast a return to the lighter kinds of alcoholic drinks for the United States. Associated Newspapers deferred shares were introduced at 6½, and gained a small fraction, while *Daily Mirrors* hardened to 3½. Iron and steel shares showed a good deal of strength, which led to profit-taking, and the net changes are unimportant. Tea shares continued their boom; it was not until the last day or two that a few shares came to the market, giving a slight check to the previous buoyant tendency.

The Kaffir market has been under the harrow of French selling, diamond shares especially being hammered down from Paris. The Cape came in with supporting orders, which had the effect of rallying the market in gold shares to some extent. Chartered sagged on the disappointment felt with the result of the Referendum in Rhodesia. Tin, the metal, moving up and down in dramatic fashion, exerted singularly little influence over prices or business in the various markets connected with tin shares. Russo-Asiatics moved in accordance with the political news, while changes in Mexican and Broken Hill mining shares have been confined within narrow bounds. An election takes place in the Stock Exchange next Friday for a member of the committee in place of Mr H. W. Smith, who has resigned, but who has signified his readiness to stand again.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded ..	543,593,574	..	..	..
4½ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender November 4, 1922), £1,650,000, at £99 4s 8½d % ..	1,650,000	..	..	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 4, 1922.				
April 1 to Nov. 4, 1922, £25,768,000 ..	300,000	..	300,000	..
To the Public—				
Mortgage Company of Jamaica, 400,000 7½ % First Mort. Reg. Debs. (red. at par 1924-33), issued at 95½ (Nov. 7) ..	400,000	..	380,000	.. 40,000
Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, £1,500,000 6½ % Conv. 10-Year First Deb. Stk. (red. 1924-32 from 109½ to 101½), issued at 99½ (Nov. 6) ..	1,500,000	..	1,485,000	.. 150,000
Goode, Durrant, and Co., £200,000 5½ % 20-Year Notes (red. at par 1923-42), issued at 95½ (Nov. 6) ..	200,000	..	190,000	.. 10,000
Sir J. Hulett and Sons, 225,000 7½ % Cum. Pref. Shares, £1, at 21s (Nov. 6) ..	225,000	..	236,250	.. 28,125
Lastenia Nitrate, £1,000,000 6½ % 1st Mt. Deb. Stk., issued at 95½ % red. at par Dec. 1, 1940 (Nov. 9) ..	1,000,000	..	955,000	.. 50,000
Amdic Hardware Supplies, Limited, 50,000 10 % Ptg. Pref. Shares, £1, at par (Nov. 9) ..	50,000	..	50,000	.. 6,250
Total offered to public ..	3,296,250	..	284,375	.. 3,011,875
Total offered for subscription to date in—				
1922 ..	£548,826,208			£388,978,203
1921 ..	284,722,336			367,549,686
1920 ..	333,952,670			1,036,059,551
1919 ..	969,538,103			1,383,381,441
1918 ..	1,232,389,718			1,318,596,010
1917 ..	1,219,993,903			585,436,850
1916 ..	515,144,053			685,236,326
1915 ..	660,983,076			512,522,633

The Lastenia Nitrate Company.—Incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Chile. Share capital issued and fully paid, £3,000,000. This is an offer for sale of £1,000,000 6½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 95½ per cent. This stock will be secured by specific first mortgage in accordance with the Chilean law over the eleven oficinas owned by the company; it is "redeemable" by purchase in the market or drawings through a sinking fund beginning in 1925, and any stock not previously redeemed will be repayable at par on December 1, 1940, "or on the trust deed becoming enforceable." Debenture stock holders appear to be protected against many contingencies, and capital and interest are fairly well secured. Though an "offer for sale," it is an informative document, but the risks attached to a foreign industrial investment must be taken into consideration.

Goode, Durrant, and Co., Limited.—Authorised capital £800,000, divided into 300,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 500,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. The issued capital consists of 165,000 preference and 251,250 ordinary shares. This is an issue of £200,000 6½ per cent. 20-year notes at 95. The company reserves the right to redeem these notes by applying, as from December 20, 1922, an annual sum of from £5,000 to £20,000 in drawings at par or purchase, on giving three months' notice. It is provided that as long as any notes are outstanding the company will not, without consent of noteholders, issue similar notes, debentures, debenture stocks, or other securities constituting a charge upon assets, except for borrowings "in the ordinary course of business." The vagueness of this very common phrase has been commented upon before in these pages. The company was formed in 1898 to acquire a business of Australian wholesale merchants and warehousemen. Profits are given from 1913, while surplus assets are valued at £609,791, exclusive of goodwill. A long-term note issue is of unusual interest, marking a departure from the many issues of secured debentures which have taken place of late. Investors should clearly realise that the position of noteholders is simply that of deferred creditors. Of course, providing the increased risk involved is compensated by higher interest, this becomes merely a matter of academic interest. This is a clear prospectus, and we understand that the notes were accorded a good reception by the investing public.

The Mortgage Company of Jamaica, Limited.—Authorised and issued share capital £50,000, divided into 5,000 shares of £10 each, of which £2 per share has been paid up. This is an issue of £400,000 7 per cent. first mortgage registered debentures of £100 each at £95 per debenture. These debentures "will be redeemable" on or before September 30, 1933, by annual drawings at par or purchase. The company reserves the right to redeem the issue at any time on giving six months' notice at premiums varying according to the date of redemption. The company was formed on

November 3, 1922, to lend money "on debentures charged upon estates in Jamaica." With this end in view, a loan has been arranged by "this company of £400,000 to Messrs Lindo Brothers and Co." These debentures will be secured on the uncalled capital of the company, and by a trust deed constituting a first specific charge upon £400,000 "owing to the company by Messrs Lindo Brothers and Co., of Jamaica." This firm will deposit with the company certain debentures and shares of companies owning lands, &c. These lands, &c., have been independently valued at £1,014,087. The prospectus itself is a somewhat involved document. A few facts, however, emerge clearly. Firstly, the paid-up capital of the company is but £10,000, which appears a somewhat small sum in comparison with the present first mortgage debenture issue of £400,000. Secondly, the policy of placing all one's eggs in the same basket and loaning the lot to one firm is open to criticism. Thirdly, if it is worth while giving rough figures showing the position of Messrs Lindo Brothers and Co., it would have been more business-like to show a duly certified balance-sheet. Fourthly, it is not stated if the securities deposited by Messrs Lindo Brothers and Co. are of a marketable nature, nor is the market value given. Lastly, though the difference between value of the land and the debenture issue shows a comfortable margin for security, we cannot ascertain from the prospectus to what extent the companies mentioned are to be restrained from charging lands in priority to the securities held in trust.

Sir J. L. Hulett and Sons, Limited (incorporated under the laws of the Colony of Natal).—Authorised share capital £900,000, of which £825,000 has been issued. This is divided up into issued ordinary shares £600,000 and preference £225,000, all of £1 each. There are also outstanding £298,900 of debentures and mortgage bonds. There are now offered for sale 225,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 21s per share. The company was formed in 1892, and engages in sugar milling and refining, tea growing and manufacturing. Profits and issued capital, together with distributions on ordinary shares, are shown in a table since 1912. After deducting loan capital and adding the proceeds of the present issue, it is stated that net assets, "as security" for preference shareholders, total £1,088,550. Voting powers are not mentioned in this "offer for sale," but the issue has been underwritten on reasonable terms, and the shares appear to be a fairly good investment in their class.

Amdic Hardware Supplies, Limited.—Authorised capital £70,000, divided into 60,000 10 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each, and 200,000 deferred shares of 1s each. This is an issue at par of 50,000 10 per cent. participating preference shares. According to the advertised prospectus, preference shareholders have the right to apply for an equal number of both descriptions of shares. After a 10 per cent. cumulative dividend has been distributed upon the preference shares, two-thirds of surplus profits go to deferred shareholders, the remaining third going to preference shareholders. The company has been formed to run two brush factories, and also to exploit certain patents. The purchase price for these miscellaneous assets has been fixed at £35,000, of which £17,500 is payable in cash; profits are not very modestly estimated at £14,000 per annum, yet we are assured that "no part of the purchase price is attributable to goodwill." Apparently, for the £35,000, shareholders will obtain two factories worth under £5,000 and four patent rights. From the factories valued at under £5,000 it is estimated that £3,000 per annum can be made. Many business men to-day would like to see their factories making money at this rate. The paths of many promoters are strewn with prospectuses giving generously estimated profits from patents, but it is no exaggeration to say that few estimates materialise.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 3½ % 1925-28 ..	95½	95½	..	Aust. 6½ % 1931-41 ..	104	105	.. + 1
Loans 4½ % 1925-45 ..	95	94½	.. - ½	Canada 4½ % 1920-25 ..	99½	100	.. + ½
4½ % 1929-42 ..	101	101½	.. + ½	India 3½ % Stock ..	65	64½	.. - ½
Funding Loan 4½ % ..	86½	87	.. + ½	Do 7½ % 1926-31 ..	110½	110½	..
Victory Bonds 4½ % ..	88½	88½	..	Do 5½ % 1932 ..	99	98½	.. - ½
Conversion Loan 3½ % ..	74½	75½	.. + 1	N.S.W. 5½ % 1922-32 ..	101	101	..
Irish Land Stock 2½ % ..	57	57	..	Nigeria 6½ % 1949-79 ..	113	113	..
Local Loans 3½ % ..	63½	63½	..	U. of S.A. 6½ % 1930-40 ..	104	104	..
				Victoria 5½ % 1924-34 ..	102	102	..
				W. Aust. 6½ % 1930-40 ..	104	105	.. + 1

Banks.

	Price Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Barclays B (£1 f.p.d.) ..	24½	24½	..	Nat. Bank of Egypt ..	20½	20½	..
Chartered Bk of India ..	17½	18	.. + ½	Nat. Bank of S. Africa ..	9½	9½	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.) ..	28	28	..	Nat. Joint City ..	103	103	..
London Joint City ..	84	84	..	Nat. Prov. & Union of England (£20, with £4 paid) ..	103	103	..
Midland (£12 with £2½ paid) ..	84	84	..	Standard of S. Africa (£20, with £5 paid) ..	113	113	..
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid) ..	17½	17½	..				

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons.	72½	72	Leopoldina	32½	33½
B.A. and Pacific	68½	68	Mexican Railway	13	13
B.A. Gt. Southern	82½	82½	Do 1st Pref.	39	38
Buenos Ayres West.	76½	76½	Do 2nd Pref.	26	25
Canadian Pacific	163	163	San Paulo	112	111
Central Argentine	71½	71½	United Havana	71½	71½

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7-100 ..	100	100	Greek 4%, 1888	31½	28
Belgian 3%	66	66	Japanese 4%	105	105
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914 61 ..	61	61	Do 4%, 1910	71	71
Chilian 4%, 1895	83	83	Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	56	57
Do 7%	103	102	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	28½	29
Chinese 5%, 1912	73	72	Russian 5%, 1906	104	94
Egyptian 4%	70½	69	Spanish 4%	75	76
French 5%	304½	27	Seine (Dept.) 7%	100	99
Do 4%	24½	22	Siam 7%	106½	107

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 43½ ..	23½	23½	Marconi Canada	18	18
Marconi Wireless	23½	23½	Marconi Marine	18	18

British Railways.

Great Central Pref.	21½	22½	Metropolitan District 41½	41½	41½
Great Eastern	37	36½	Midland Deferred	67½	66½
Great Northern Def.	42½	42	North British Def.	18½	19
Great Western	105½	104½	North-Eastern	118	117½
London, Brighton, "A" 63½	63½	62½	South-Eastern "A" 32	32	31½
London, Chatham	74	75	Underground Electric (L10)	3	3
L. and N.W. (New) 103½	101	101	Do "A" (L10)	44	44
L. & S. Western, Def. 32½	32½	32½	Do Inc. Bds. (£100) 86½	87	87
Metropolitan	56	55½			

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio	84	83	Southern	27	28
Erie	16	14	Do Non-cum Pref. 73½	72½	72½
Do 4% 1st Pref.	23	21			

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (L1)	1½	1½	Imperial Tobacco (L1) 34½	34½	34½
Anglo Persian Oil (L1) 58	58	58	Linggi Plantations (L1) 1½	1½	1½
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) ..	184½	179	Lipton (L1)	184	184
Ass. Phos. Cement (L1) 166	166	166	Liver Brs. Com. P. (L1) 1	1	1
Barker, John (L1)	24	24	Do 8% Cm A P. (L1) 4½	4½	4½
Bhamo Small Arms (L1) 44	44	44	Lister (L1)	1½	1½
Brazil Traction (L100) 46½	46½	46½	Lobitos Oilfields (L1) 5½	5½	5½
British-American Tobacco (L1)	44	44	Lyons (J. & Co.) (L1) 48	48	48
Burmah Oil (L1)	5½	5½	Magadi Soda (L1 Ord.) 2½	2½	2½
Coats (J. and P.) (L1) 24	24	24	Mexican Eagle (L10) 2½	2½	2½
Courtauld's (L1)	24½	24½	Pekin (L1)	48	48
Canard (L1)	1	1	Rubber Plantations Investment (L1) 1½	1½	1½
Dorman, Long (L1)	18	18	Shell Transport (L1) 4½	4½	4½
Dunlop Rubber (L1)	18	18	Smith & Argentine Meat (L1)	7½	7½
Fine Cotton Spinning (L1) 2	2	2	United Serdang (L1) 2½	2½	2½
Forestral Land (L1) ..	18	18	United Tobacco (L1) 2½	2½	2½
Furness, Withy (L1) 1½	1½	1½	Vallambrosa (L1) ..	18	18
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (L1) 18	18	18	Watney Del. Stk.	240½	246
Hudson's Bay (L1)	78	72			

Mines.

Brakpan (L1)	5½	5	Knights	8½	8½
Broken Hill Prop. (L1) 18	18	18	Modderfontein (L10) 4½	4½	4½
Chartered (L1)	18	18	Modderfont. "B" (5) 18	18	18
Cons. Gold Fields (L1) 1½	1½	1½	Modderfont. Deep (5) 24½	24½	24½
Crown Mines (L10)	3½	3½	Premier Def. (2/6) 6½	6½	6½
De Beers Def. (L24) 13½	13½	13½	Rand Mines (L1)	3½	3½
East Rand Prop. (L1) 18	18	18	Rio Tinto (L5)	27½	26½
Geduld (L1)	3½	3½	Spring Mines (L1) ..	24½	24
Gov. Gold Areas (L1) 5½	5½	5½			

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of October was 68,709 barrels, equal to approximately 9,700 tons, and the oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, amounted to about 9,900 tons.

KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LIMITED.—Total production during October amounted to 108,071 barrels, or approximately 15,439 tons, including St. Helens Petroleum Company, Limited, 45,870 barrels, and Kern Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, 12,416 barrels.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The production for October is cabled as 9,481 tons.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH) LIMITED, are advised that the gross crude production of the Steaua Romana, Bucharest, during the month of October was 19,900 tons.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.—Oil produced during October, 11,250 tons; oil purchased during October from other companies, 10,100 tons.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending November 1, 1922, amounted to 953 tons.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Date or Final.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Year.	Last Pre-Year.
Railways.					
Barranquilla	3½	Nov. 15	Tax free	10	10
La Guaira and Caracas	3½	Nov. 15	Tax free	10	10
Lander Light	3½	Nov. 15	Tax free	10	10
United of Havana	3½	Nov. 15	Tax free	10	10
Vera Cruz, Pref.	4	(arrears to Aug. 31, 1915)	Tax free	10	10
Banks.					
English, Scottish, & Australian	5½	Nov. 15	Tax free	10	10
Mining.					
El Oro	1½ p.s.	Nov. 27	Tax free	10	10
Golden Horseshoe	2½ p.s.	Oct. 5	Tax free	10	10
Gold Fields Rhodesian	16 p.s.	Jan. 31	Less tax 2/7½ in £	10	10
Lonely Reef	15½	Jan. 31	Less tax	10	10
Mount Lyell	15½	Dec. 18	Less tax	10	10
St John del Rey	15 p.s.	Dec. 20	Less tax	10	10
Zinc Corporation, Pref.	2½ p.s.	Jan. 2	Less tax 5/6 in £	10	10
Tea and Rubber.					
Amalgamated Tea, Pref.	2½	Dec. 22	Less tax	10	10
British Indian Tea, Pref.	6½	Dec. 5	Less tax	10	10
Consolidated Estates	7½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Consolidated Tea and Lands	5	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Dekhari Tea	5	Nov. 13	Less tax	10	10
East Indian and Ceylon, Pref.	6	Dec. 15	Less tax 5/ in £	10	10
Kanan Devan, Pref.	6	Dec. 15	Less tax 5/ in £	10	10
Nedem Tea, Pref.	24½	Nov. 30	Less tax 5/ in £	10	10
Semenyih Rubber	5	Nov. 30	Less tax 5/ in £	10	10
Ukula Estates	5	Nov. 30	Less tax 20% p.s. Tax free	10	10
Other Companies.					
Aerated Bread Co.	1½ p.s.	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	10
Albert Baker and Co.	1½ p.s.	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	10
Anchor Cable	1½ p.s.	Nov. 8	Less tax	10	10
Auckland Electric Trams	5½	Nov. 24	Tax free	10	10
Australian, Mercantile, Land, &c.	5½	Nov. 24	Less tax	10	10
Bath Brewery, Pref.	6½	Nov. 24	Less tax (arrears to July 31, 1919)	10	10
Bowden Brake	4½	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	10
Brampton Brewery	4½	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	10
British Automatic Company	1½ p.s.	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	10
British Empire Trust, Cum. Pref.	5	Nov. 15	Less tax	10	10
Callender's Share and Invest.	5	Nov. 15	Less tax	10	10
Charterland and General Exploration	10	Nov. 11	Less tax	10	10
City of London Real Property	10	Dec. 11	Tax free	10	10
Cleveland Salt, Prefd. and Defd.	10½	Dec. 11	Tax free	10	10
Dalgety and Co.	10½	Dec. 11	Tax free	10	10
Dartford Brewery	7½	Dec. 11	Tax free	10	10
Dennis Bros.	7½	Dec. 11	Tax free	10	10
Eastman Kodak Company of New Jersey, Common Stock	\$1.25 p.s.	Jan. 2	Less tax	10	10
Do Extra	\$0.50 p.s.	Dec. 30	Less tax	10	10
East of Scotland Trust	10½	Dec. 30	Less tax	10	10
Edwin Davis and Co.	10½	Dec. 30	Less tax	10	10
Electric Construction Co.	6	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	10
Fitch and Son	8	Oct. 1	Less tax	10	10
Gartside (Brookside Brewery)	16 p.s.	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
General Reversionary	5½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Hornden Collieries	5½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Illingworth, Morris, and Co.	3½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
J. and P. Coats, Limited	15	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Joseph Spink and Sons	15	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Kenward and Court	15	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Lascelles, Tickner, and Co.	6	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Lincolnshire Property, &c.	5	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Liverpool and North Wales S.S.	10½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Lloyd's Packing Warehouses	13½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Louth (Lincol.) Gas, Original	5	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Do Imp. Stock, "A," "B"	10½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Do New Ord.	10½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Melbourne Spinning	1½ p.s.	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings	5	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Nelson Bros.	6½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Paine and Co.	7½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Reversionary Association	24½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
S. African Real Estate	5½	Nov. 23	Less tax	10	10
Santa Catalina Nitrate	5½	Nov. 23	Less tax	10	10
Sheaf Steam Shipping	3½	Nov. 23	Less tax	10	10
South African and Gen. Trust	5	Nov. 23	Less tax	10	10
Southdown and East Grinstead Breweries	5½	Dec. 15	Less tax 5/ in £	10	10
Spiers and Pond	5	Dec. 15	Less tax 5/ in £	10	10
Strand Hotel, Part. Prefd. Ord.	15	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Sutton Heath Collieries, &c.	2½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Tannworth Gas Light, Old	2½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Do New	2½	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	10
Thomas Brown and Sons	7½	Nov. 8	Less tax	10	10
Thomas Owen	5	Nov. 8	Less tax	10	10
Victoria Motor and Cycle	5	Nov. 8	Less tax	10	10
Wilkie and Soames	3½ p.s.	Nov. 24	Less tax	10	10
Wilson's and Clyde Coal	5½	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	10
Wm. Cory and Son	5½	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	10

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

DALGETY AND CO.

June 30, 1922.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1921.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1921.
Ord. shares	1,000,000	..	Cash	1,632,648	+ 812,211
Pref. shares	500,000	..	Bills receivable ..	124,309	- 2,365
Reserve	970,000	+ 70,000	Advances on land, &c.	3,826,569	- 603,023
Staff fund	141,000	+ 10,000	Merchandise	336,794	- 214,322
Unred. deb. stock ..	2,223,454	+ 16,807	Wundry debtors ..	579,886	- 174,869
Debentures	375,428	+ 841	Balances in transit ..	43,306	+ 45,306
Int. accrued	27,723	..	Premises, plant, &c.	244,957	+ 1,718
Pref. dividend	12,500	..	Reserve invest-ments	970,000	+ 70,000
Bills payable	320,858	+ 232,115	Investments in Gov. stock, &c.	661,008	+ 453,450
Sundry creditors ..	2,380,895	+ 101,570			
Produce realised ..	193,648	- 21,548			
Balances in transit ..	91,268	- 91,268			
Profit and loss	261,901	+ 67,789			
Total	8,409,477	+ 386,106	Total	8,409,477	+ 386,106

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager at the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA AND REGLA WAREHOUSES, LIMITED.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

The twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, was held, on the 10th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Mr C. J. Cater Scott, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The London manager and secretary (Mr W. J. Maslem) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that at the meeting a year ago he had drawn the attention of the shareholders to the very heavy decrease in the receipts of the company, and had then ventured to prophesy that during the year whose accounts were now under review, that decrease would continue. He had also, however, told the shareholders that the board hoped to be able to make a corresponding decrease in expenditure. That prophecy had been realised, and they were meeting together that way with a not less favourable report than a year ago. It was true that during the past year they had had to face enormous decreases, but by rigorous economy they had been able to reduce expenditure very considerably without sacrificing efficiency. The result was that after providing for fixed charges and placing £105,000 to a special account to meet deferred maintenance, the board were able to recommend the same dividend as last year. He ventured to think that, in the circumstances, that was not unsatisfactory. The directors, very naturally, would have been glad to recommend a bigger dividend, but, in the circumstances, that was impossible.

During the past two years, Cuba had been reaping the aftermath of the great prosperity which she had enjoyed during the years of war, a prosperity which had led to mad speculation, which had been followed by great depression and the inevitable financial collapse. He hoped that the island, however, had now turned the corner. It was true that the outward and visible signs of that were not very striking, but still the board believed that the position was improving. There was certainly more confidence in the island as to the future, and he thought that everything pointed to better times for the company in the years to come. All the same, the year 1922-1923 was certain to be a difficult period for everyone in Cuba, and would need all their care. During the year under review they had been face to face with a decrease in receipts of no less than £2,436,000, or 38 per cent. On the other hand, they had been able to effect economies amounting to £2,118,000, or 42 per cent., as compared with the previous year. There was a decrease in receipts under every heading, with the exception of that of live-stock, due in great part to their having hauled a much less tonnage, and in a lesser measure to the reduction in rates which had come into force in the second or busy half of their financial year. In connection with that reduction in rates he would point out that they could not very well complain of the action of the Government. During the boom period the Government had granted increased rates, and they had always acted very fairly towards the railway. Those increased rates were given to meet the higher cost of materials and the very high rates of labour. When the time of prosperity had passed the Government, to meet the altered circumstances, had found it necessary to reduce rates; they wanted to assist in reducing the cost of living in Cuba, which during the years of prosperity had soared to such an extent that the island was certainly one of the dearest, if not the dearest, places in the world for living. The reduction in rates was accompanied by a clause in the Bill stating that there should be no change for a period of five years either up or down. Accordingly, the railway was in a fairly happy position in that respect.

GENERAL POSITION IN CUBA.

Dealing with the general position in Cuba, the Chairman said that the slump had led to the general trade in the island almost ceasing to exist. They would understand that when he told them that in 1920 the imports into Cuba had amounted to £115,000,000, whereas in 1921 they were only £37,000,000. No country could show such figures as that without the figures

limit of the Motor lode had been reached, but developments on the eleventh and tenth had led the directors to believe that the lode continued much further to the south, and should that prove correct and the rise continue in rich ore, a very large tonnage of high value would be developed at a very low development cost.

Many shareholders were probably aware that it was Sir Abe Bailey who guaranteed the reconstruction of the company by an assessment of 7s 6d per share, amounting to £225,000 at a time when one could hardly raise money for any purpose in London. With that they had paid off all liabilities, which left some £60,000 for development of the mine. When that was exhausted, the company required a further £100,000 to complete their engineers' programme. At the time of the issue he had told them that further moneys would be required, but that the guarantor had promised to see them through. Their total indebtedness to-day to Sir Abe Bailey was very nearly £50,000, but whatever the amount might be at December 31, Sir Abe Bailey would take up shares at par in liquidation thereof, thus at once releasing profits as from January 1 for distribution purposes.

THE FUTURE.

Their engineers told them that during 1923 the tonnage might be so far ahead of the mill that an increase of capacity might have to be considered, as well as an installation of gas-engines, which would mean economies in power costs. But shareholders need have no fear that this would interfere with dividend prospects. He was confident that the balance of the option would be exercised, thus providing the necessary funds. The results would more than justify the increase of capital which would be necessary. Their mine had responded beyond their most sanguine hopes, and the present position at the mine was largely due to Mr. Bailey Southwell (one of their directors) and Mr. D. V. Burnett (the consulting engineer of the London and Rhodesian Mining and Land Company, Limited), and their thanks were due to those gentlemen for their untiring efforts towards success. In those efforts they had been most ably supported by the manager, Mr. A. S. Rome, and his staff, to whom their thanks were also due. As regarded the future, he ventured to predict for the present financial year, barring any accidents, an increase in tonnage of ore reserves, an increase in value of that ore, an increase in tonnage milled, an increase in extraction, and a decrease in working costs, with increased profits and a first dividend.

Lord Lurgan, K.C.V.O., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

JAYA PARA RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Java Para Rubber Estates, Limited, was held on the 9th instant in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 2, 3, and 4 Idol Lane, Eastcheap, London.

Mr. R. J. Arnold (the chairman of the company) presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, as a result of negotiations with the authorities, they had paid nothing for excess profits duty, so that the large sum figuring in the last accounts as a debt to the Government was wiped out. That, added to the £40,700 carried forward, gave them the substantial sum of £64,754 to the credit of profit and loss. They had written off £50,000 from development expenditure, and had to provide for income-tax and corporation profits tax £4,678, leaving £10,075 to carry forward.

With regard to their rubber and coffee, they had passed through a very trying time, and but for some fortunate forward sales, their

accounts for last year would have shown a considerable loss. The price of rubber during 1921 had only averaged about 9d, whereas the company's crop had averaged 1s 2½d. They had thus, by judicious sales, obtained 3½d per lb over what their rubber would have fetched in the ordinary course of events. That represented close on £15,000, and, but for those sales, they would have shown a loss of £7,000, instead of a profit of £8,000. Their rubber costs worked out at 11.20d "all in," including all depreciation and London expenses.

A forecast of the future was next to impossible. That they were bound to see higher prices for rubber was a certainty, but for the moment it seemed to stick at 1s per lb, and there could be no question that if there was no rise during the next three or six months, the world would be faced with a shortage, for the Government scheme released additional crops only after the price had been 1s 3d for six months. Regarding coffee, they had had a rather disappointing year, both as to yield and as to price. As the result of a beetle pest, he was afraid that the 1922 crop would not be much more than 4,000 piculs. The price, however, was rather better than it had been last year.

On the whole, the board looked forward to a brighter future. With their large acreage and better prices, especially for rubber, they might certainly hope for good dividends in the future, more especially when, after restriction was a thing of the past, they would be in a position to tap over a much larger area. Happily, the bulk of their capital expenditure was behind them, and, with no excess profits duty to take their profits when they did come, anything they could earn in the future would find its way into the pockets of the shareholders.

Mr. Noel Bingley seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

UNION COLD STORAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

GOOD YEAR—SATISFACTORY PROSPECTS.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of shareholders of the Union Cold Storage Company, Limited, was held, on the 10th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Roger P. Sing presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the volume of business had been fully maintained, and the net results achieved were, in the opinion of the directors, satisfactory.

Continuing, he said: During the war, to meet the requirements of the exceptional conditions, large extensions of cold storage became necessary, and were general throughout the country, with the result that to-day, particularly in London and Liverpool, there is far more space than those engaged in the business know what to do with. In a business so widespread as ours it is not possible in every department to achieve the good results which we so earnestly desire and so keenly strive after, but our activities are so varied and our field of operations so large that disappointing returns in any one department are more than likely to be offset by good results elsewhere; and as a result of the close attention given to all essential details and by having taken due care to see that our management is efficient, we are able to put before you to-day an account of our year's work of which we are not ashamed. Whatever business you turn to or to whatever quarter of the globe you look, you will periodically and inevitably come upon bad seasons, depressed trade and lean times. Our interests are so knowing that we can face this state of things with confidence, tends to stabilise results and to make for security.

There are really no other special comments for me to make, but I should like to explain that the increase in the amount of the sundry creditors, and the increase in the debts and stocks on hand on the assets side has arisen almost entirely in consequence of the developments to which I have already referred. We recommend the payment of the usual dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and there will then remain a balance to carry forward to 1922 of £104,028 which compares with £87,496 brought in from the previous year. You will notice that during the year considerable additions have been made to our depreciation reserve, which now stands at the substantial sum of £1,442,145. The special allocation to this fund during the year represents the balance of profit made on sales of certain properties belonging to the company. The directors found it advantageous to dispose of these properties, and after extinguishing the item of goodwill, £26,050, from the balance-sheet, the balance of profit has gone direct to the depreciation reserve, bringing that fund up to the figure I have named.

I assume that you agree with me that the results for 1921 are satisfactory, and I should like now to take the opportunity of referring to the current year's business. One of the advantages of holding our meeting so late in the year is that we are able to give a fairly accurate estimate of this year's business. I have pleasure in informing you that, although we have had many difficulties to contend with, there seems to me, owing to our varied ramifications, to be every prospect of the year 1922 proving to be a satisfactory one, and if I should have the pleasure of meeting you again next year, I think that both you and I will again be content with the progress which it seems likely our 1922 accounts will show.

The report was unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.						
			Bankers.	Savings Bank.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Securit.	Reserve.	Balance at Bank of England.	
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	3,810	£ 11,425							
Aug. 26.	21,535	6,302	3,810	11,425							
Dec. 30.	38,478	169	600	18,500			48.1	9,924	9,286		
1915.											
Dec. 31.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500		27.6	54,621	20,536		
1916.											
Dec. 27.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500		19.0	118,102	6,968		
1917.											
Dec. 29.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500		13.4	186,637	5,486		
1918.											
Dec. 26.	323,241	15,529			28,500		8.9	306,133	4,566		
1919.											
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802		
1920.											
Dec. 29.	367,626	16,962			28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134		
1921.											
Mar. 29.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141			
June 29.	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150			
Sept. 28.	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143			
Dec. 28.	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161			
1922.											
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177			
June 28.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,450	16.3	254,312	250			
Sept. 27.	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.6	246,456	189			
Oct. 25.	287,170	12,381	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.8	244,253	148			
Nov. 1.	287,993	12,225	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.7	244,938	138			
8.	288,847	12,191	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.7	245,730	164			

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,000,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,388,400.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, November 13–November 18, were opened on November 10, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £55,585,000. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 6s 11d received about 69 per cent and above in full; Saturday bills £99 7s 1d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 11s 3½d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £250,000; in bills at 3 months, £37,750,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills. Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1923. Average Price.
1922.				
Aug. 25.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,590,000	2 7 9 28	None allotted
Sept. 1.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 58,605,000	2 11 8 33	None allotted
Sept. 8.	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 57,675,000	2 11 3 29	None allotted
Sept. 15.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 7 1 56	None allotted
Sept. 22.	(a) 60,000,000	(a) 74,365,000	2 0 11 97	None allotted
Sept. 29.	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 66,350,000	2 10 0 90	None allotted
Oct. 6.	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 78,775,000	2 8 3 57	99 1 4 15
Oct. 13.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 61,305,000	2 5 5 03	99 3 1 75
Oct. 20.	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 72,560,000	2 5 11 06	99 4 6 3
Oct. 27.	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 56,905,000	2 5 2 94	99 4 8 7
Nov. 3.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 57,330,000	2 9 1 02	99 2 4 8
Nov. 10.	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,585,000	2 11 3 41	

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, November 17, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £40,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		to Nov. 4, 1922.	to Nov. 5, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 4, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 5, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:					
Bank of England....	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..	..
	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	113,250,000	75,339,000	77,086,000	2,165,000	2,778,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	93,034,000	114,155,000	1,481,300	1,742,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	3,493,000	3,143,000	321,000	205,000
Stamp, &c., Duties.....	48,000,000	37,001,000	29,451,000	1,610,000	850,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	18,250,000	10,262,000	8,648,000	150,000	80,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax) ..	3,000,000	600,000	440,000	20,000	10,000
Excise Profits Duties, &c.	329,000,000	163,889,000	159,729,000	5,832,000	4,115,000
Corporation Profits Tax, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	29,714,000	..	..
Post Office.....	19,750,000	10,287,000	7,160,000	430,000	270,000
Crown Lands.....	54,625,000	31,100,000	28,500,000	1,250,000	1,000,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	750,000	480,000	390,000	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	14,000,000	6,526,523	7,272,228	75,675	..
Ordinary Receipts ..	22,000,000	17,828,631	14,810,976	..	74,812
Special Receipts ..	90,000,000	30,551,765	60,168,839	652,115	2,035,765
Revenue.....	910,775,000	481,315,919	540,676,043	14,046,790	12,958,577
Total, Inc. Balance ..		492,489,449	543,752,549	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—		800,000	5,030,000	..	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		169,818	169,818	169,818	169,818
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 ..		2,910,000	520,000	100,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922 ..		3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..		..	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 ..		950,000	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		1,553,300	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 ..		2,510,000	4,655,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,780,302,000	2,505,225,000	50,516,000	68,594,000	68,594,000
By National Savings Certificates ..	41,868,000	25,830,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	..	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35 ..	..	1,024,990	..	26,035,000	..
5½% ..	..	121,708	97,579,459	..	..
5%, 1927 ..	..	61,422,074	..	..	..
4½%, 1934 ..	..	58,157,035	..	1,594,525	..
By War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	..	25,259	10,858,639	13,390	3,008,817
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	534,914,000	839,507,000	1,500,000	50,400,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments in respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919 ..	..	7,250,000	..	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	256,746	38,681	73,311	2,793	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	6,827,960	1,677,000	..	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	162,425	178,666	..	..	..
Total		2,989,069,806	4,044,920,781	69,203,834	162,269,006

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Nov. 4, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Nov. 5, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 4, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 5, 1921.
	£			£	£
EXPENDITURE					
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	9,275,471	9,875,161	..	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	183,289,101	206,429,604	8,544,863	9,525,10
Road Fund ..	10,000,000	2,444,999	2,519,000	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,788,000	4,202,930	5,405,312	49,193	309,51
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	1,066,042	2,065,773	13,041	59,40
Land Settlement ..	3,500,000	642,436	..	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services ..	2,650,000	1,476,130	953,892	30,485	9,25
Supply Services ..	599,999,000	236,800,715	375,840,759	7,528,500	10,321,77
Expenditure	893,457,000	439,227,433	603,079,501	16,170,086	20,225,11

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Nov. 4, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Nov. 5, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 4, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 5, 1921.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	4,850,000	..	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924	169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	3,310,000	4,805,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924	950,000	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600: less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300	1,553,300	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	2,110,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	1,921,659,000	2,507,891,000	49,745,000	75,760,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919	6,598,811	22,239,644	1,627	407,638
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	5,776,411	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	16,100,000	11,300,000	500,000	500,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	9,300,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5½% 1922, £20,612,208: less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	18,704,490	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	43,784,182	..	500,000	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	12,378,823	49,238,131	1,123,475	17,500,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	502,477,000	776,738,000	9,000,000	46,900,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	1,198,075	17,960,134	..	900,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	11,515,000	..	650,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	111,200	..	50,000
	2,985,591,039	4,041,425,892	68,940,188	163,192,738
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	Nov. 4, '22.	Nov. 5, '21.	In or Dec. for week.	
Bank of Ireland	2,484,083	2,112,346	+ 197,048	+ 34,051
Total	994,684	1,382,543	+ 66,638	+ 957,784
	3,478,767	5,494,889	+ 263,646	+ 923,733

Treasury, November 6, 1922.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824. **ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000**
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
 Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
 London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, November 8, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	144,055,350
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion	125,605,350
	144,055,350

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Capital	14,553,000
Reserve	3,152,482
Public deposits	16,192,217
Other deposits	106,425,347
Seven-day & other bills	19,605
	140,342,651

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

The Clerical, Medical & General LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Publishes A DETAILED LIST OF INVESTMENTS.

Apply, Chief Office: 15, St. James's Square, S.W. 1,
 or
 City Office: 8, King William Street, E.C. 4.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Nov. 8, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,152,482	+ £ 24,338	+ £ 25,170
Public deposits	16,192,217	+ 1,157,948	+ 1,700,397
Other deposits	106,425,347	+ 2,419,585	+ 1,412,136
Government securities	49,091,290	+ 1,573,263	+ 11,789,540
Reserve	67,882,955	+ 306,936	+ 12,950,600
Note circulation	23,368,406	+ 641,924	+ 900,743
Coin and bullion	122,519,305	+ 639,535	+ 1,883,885
% of reserve to liabilities	127,437,711	+ 2,389	+ 9,851,142

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.							
Aug. 16	£ 127,407,660	£ 124,261,430	£ 125,756,806	£ 122,247,262	£ 21,596,230	17.3	3
23	127,417,304	124,455,660	125,954,385	119,616,305	22,413,644	18.1	3
30	127,411,172	124,918,885	126,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	17.7	3
Sept. 6	127,412,713	122,879,715	125,035,544	120,237,248	22,982,998	18.3	3
13	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,214,983	23,809,071	19.1	3
20	127,431,595	121,490,640	124,320,645	118,141,617	24,586,171	19.8	3
27	127,422,531	122,467,180	120,660,586	115,448,940	23,414,415	16.8	3
Oct. 4	127,426,688	123,139,775	138,862,852	133,856,507	22,672,456	16.5	3
11	127,435,454	121,689,530	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,306,798	18.3	3
18	127,426,688	121,385,106	121,385,106	114,894,104	24,195,924	19.4	3
25	127,435,524	121,886,450	125,381,614	119,083,011	23,996,084	19.4	3
Nov. 1	127,435,522	123,584,940	123,879,002	118,854,444	22,726,482	18.4	3
8	127,437,711	122,519,305	122,617,564	116,974,245	23,368,406	19.1	3

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Nov. 6, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Nov. 10, 1920.	Nov. 9, 1921.	Nov. 8, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	£ 28,637,050	£ 28,933,380	£ 127,847,980	£ 124,403,190	£ 122,519,305
Public deposits	10,204,260	19,014,809	19,815,897	17,892,614	16,192,217
Other deposits	45,300,254	41,248,964	112,469,628	105,013,211	106,425,347
Government securities	13,037,909	11,046,570	62,701,075	37,301,759	49,091,290
Other securities	33,908,003	41,461,280	73,222,341	68,833,555	67,882,955
Reserve of notes and coin	25,362,830	25,463,980	14,078,908	22,467,663	23,368,406
Coin and bullion	36,549,880	35,947,360	123,476,888	128,420,853	127,437,711
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	47.4%	42.3%	10.8%	18.3%	19.1%
Bank rate of discount	5%	4%	7%	5%	3%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	4½-1½	2½	7½	5½	2½
Price of Consols	74½	74½	65	48½	56½
Price of silver per oz.	74½	74½	65	48½	56½
Average price of wheat	33s. 4d.	26s. 4d.	54s. 4d.	38s. 4d.	33s. 4d.
Exchanges	25-22½-25	33s. 0d.	90s. 5d.	44s. 0d.	42s. 0d.
on New York	\$4.81	\$5.17½-20	\$8.15-60	\$4.15-35	\$4.45-47
on Amsterdam	12½-24	\$4.79	\$3.37½-38½	\$3.93½-95	11½-40½
on Berlin	20-53	20-49½	23½-52	91½-100	35000-42000
Clearing house return	702,240,000	199,913,000	705,253,000	642,379,000	702,240,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—November 1	£ 29,153,373,000	£ 2,359,361,000	£ 31,512,734,000
November 8	640,743,000	61,497,000	702,240,000
Total to date 1922	29,794,116,000	2,420,858,000	32,214,974,000
Do 1921	27,108,324,000	2,607,565,000	29,715,889,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,685,792,000	+ 186,707,000	+ 2,872,499,000
%	9.9%	7.1%	8.4%
Total for 1921	£ 31,928,380,000	£ 3,004,179,000	£ 34,932,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	+ 3,018,303,000	+ 1,070,041,000	+ 4,088,344,000
%	8.6%	26.2%	10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Aggregate Totals to November 4.	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
BIRMINGHAM	£ 106,502,100	£ 95,720,300	- 10,781,800
BRISTOL	65,767,000	59,191,000	- 6,576,000
DUBLIN	308,120,600	271,388,900	- 36,731,700
LIVERPOOL	49,012,000	47,464,800	- 1,547,200
LEICESTER	33,022,400	34,530,500	+ 1,508,100
LONDON	391,574,100	364,931,100	- 26,643,000
MANCHESTER	627,493,700	659,572,700	+ 32,079,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	78,517,300	80,502,500	+ 1,985,200
NOTTINGHAM	30,372,300	28,676,900	- 1,695,400
SHEFFIELD	49,175,200	40,904,000	- 8,271,200

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.	London County and Parr's Bank, Limited.	National Provincial and Union Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Willis's Bank, Limited.	Total.
Average Weekly Balances, October, 1922.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASSETS.											
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	7,315	34,142	1,418	2,294	35,903	51,766	29,139	29,626	3,920	4,696	200,219
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	2,055	7,745	446	1,052	9,186	10,281	8,935	7,115	191	1,193	48,199
Items in transit	4,264	20,071	3,253	5,430	17,098	15,363	20,021	15,512	4,970	3,715	109,697
Money at call and short notice	6,333	54,190	971	516	71,101	51,298	75,871	45,824	2,709	3,024	311,837
Bills discounted	12,126	73,614	4,646	8,838	92,288	56,426	57,426	57,400	19,219	8,129	389,112
Investments	36,555	130,420	7,464	4,945	119,610	179,186	103,138	123,302	17,411	19,034	741,065
Advances to customers and other accounts	4,201	5,007	159	1,718	9,439	21,977	11,103	2,777	233	502	57,116
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	1,470	4,740	346	370	5,047	4,958	4,095	4,203	571	697	26,497
Bank premises account	..	8,021	..	..	7,671	3,559	2,991	2,240	..	..	24,482
Investments in affiliated banks	73,319	337,950	18,703	25,163	367,343	394,814	312,719	287,999	49,224	40,990	1,908,224
LIABILITIES.											
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts	11.18	11.04	8.36	10.52	10.76	14.74	10.27	11.09	9.02	12.51	11.58
Capital paid up	2,349	15,592	800	1,000	14,373	10,861	9,004	9,309	1,500	1,875	66,663
Reserve fund	1,400	8,250	800	500	10,000	10,861	9,004	8,878	1,000	1,100	51,793
Current, deposit, and other accounts	65,369	309,101	16,944	21,788	333,531	351,116	283,595	267,035	43,421	37,513	1,729,413
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	4,201	5,007	159	1,718	9,439	21,976	11,103	2,777	233	502	57,115
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	157	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,083
Reduction of bank premises account	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157
	73,319	337,950	18,703	25,163	367,343	394,814	312,719	287,999	49,224	40,990	1,908,224

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

	Nov. 5, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1921.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	\$ 3,078,250	\$ 3,085,080	\$ 3,086,810	\$ 2,800,260
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	133,700	126,640	127,380	145,410
Bills discounted for member banks	587,750	469,400	511,100	1,260,430
Bills bought in open market	260,660	257,690	266,820	87,500
Government obligations owned	360,510	408,640	448,900	201,530
All other resources	64,290	63,930	63,640	58,070
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	36,050	23,660	12,550	59,920
Other deposits	1,878,200	1,818,110	1,943,560	1,682,420
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	3,509,270	2,938,540	2,315,440	2,408,120
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	35,570	38,000	40,610	64,990
All other liabilities	25,250	25,350	24,800	23,390
Capital and surplus	321,690	321,680	321,730	316,640
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	76.0%	77.6%	75.2%	71%

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	1,004,853	1,004,854	1,004,854	993,631	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	14,237	321,920
Silver	63,143	39,338,089	31,420,080	4,589,992	943,460
Treasury notes	41,026,323	482,027,079	453,370,230	99,536,242	60,780
Bills discounted	578,356,761	409,973,301	374,506,332	91,527,679	2,013,860
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	469,456,818	112,161,295	116,112,702	18,302,663	842,340
Deposits	140,779,259				

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 20, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash	1,318,214	1,317,911	1,301,786	1,333,072	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,479,792	4,431,312	4,447,283	4,481,713	4,184,000
Foreign bills	9,548	9,591	9,630	9,606	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,101,477	6,111,578	6,088,798	6,542,707	79,175
Other advances	2,303,821	2,395,640	2,483,449	2,602,331	260,662
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	13,987,270	13,641,168	13,771,086	13,805,275	14,322,705
Deposits & drafts	1,755,016	1,856,257	1,795,011	1,860,385	1,606,347

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 6, 1922.	Oct. 30, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	605,969	163,092
Silver	8,854	8,815	8,804	8,885	8,628	8,436
Notes & advances	427,548	410,165	397,700	397,014	479,424	165,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	1,009,441	995,276	975,418	987,126	1,054,282	316,632
Deposits	30,060	24,989	24,828	25,508	43,722	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 23, 1922.	Sept. 16, 1922.	Oct. 8, 1921.
Gold	511,050	511,046	511,043	511,039	495,459
Silver	561	558	556	551	494
Government loan	12,565,174	12,580,739	12,567,738	12,560,782	11,039,502
Other advances	3,880,925	3,756,661	3,638,493	3,587,201	3,056,899
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	15,274,472	15,156,786	15,076,527	14,861,587	12,401,360
Deposits	6,329,835	6,302,598	6,234,317	6,305,743	6,058,440

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	520,099	520,099	520,099	520,099	544,870	171,775
Silver	113,947	113,947	113,947	113,947	114,424	18,360
Banknotes & advances	337,326	337,326	337,326	337,326	337,326	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	903,874	813,395	789,145	797,770	970,013	275,925
Deposits	143,297	200,937	205,249	189,387	131,030	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to October 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.19,437,177, of which Fr.11,644,475 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Nov. 5, 1921.	May 24, 1914.
Gold	273,939	273,545	273,514	273,533	275,418	104,918
Balance abt. and foreign bills	81,111	78,736	77,096	77,623	103,322	112,179
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	73,926	73,946	72,946	73,946	20,749	34,465
Discounts and loans	378,055	358,405	368,288	375,808	435,115	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	566,443	532,956	527,080	548,126	640,387	226,555
Deposits at notice	175,582	185,363	199,273	196,106	127,689	69,670

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 2, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Oct. 12, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1921.	May 28, 1914.
Gold coin and bullion	336,384	336,493	336,286	336,448	326,881	322,650
Silver coin	623,719	557,484	574,945	554,082	415,322	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,660,648	6,543,145	6,524,478	6,542,912	6,135,925	934,150
Current accounts	694,896	708,835	783,588	822,327	892,489	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	14,012	14,816	14,598	14,422
Silver coin	596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	51,630,578	48,683,872	48,294,852	48,312,274
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	2,683,863,060	2,590,414,336	2,453,968,531	2,277,677,738
Deposits	226,161,558	217,040,569	226,179,555	249,971,028

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	14,012	14,816	14,598	14,422
Silver coin	596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	51,630,578	48,683,872	48,294,852	48,312,274
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	70,004,983	65,329,411	61,940,752	60,263,732
Deposits	5,188,721	4,235,016	5,636,263	6,311,954

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold and bullion	228,301	228,299	228,304	228,304	228,336	76,644
Loans & discounts	500,693	516,854	421,515	415,941	363,111	88,470
Debtors abroad	9,113	13,745	18,018	25,939	18,909	24,022
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	16,066	15,910	16,499	16,298	46,336	11,988
Deposits	478,134	466,555	423,751	432,305	493,380	157,266
Deposits at notice	181,481	211,064	147,015	142,399	103,324	6,696

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold and bullion—Gold	147,290	147,290	147,291	147,293	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	37,592	38,149	43,997	32,239	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	9,415	9,415	9,415	8,545	8,816
Discounts and loans	489,473	489,954	474,853	452,399	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	383,393	374,763	381,929	411,371	113,484
Deposits at notice	173,442	175,548	167,240	112,908	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Sept. 22, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1921.
Govt. securities	8,482.21	8,18.24	8,75.62	8,36.19	13,10.16
Other securities	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,28.31	1,35.51
Loans	16,87.32	17,26.48	17,95.61	17,68.78	23,99.25
Cash credits	27,20.41	26,72.62	26,71.92	25,31.46	23,00.76
Inland bills	4,02.94	3,87.86	4,12.45	4,68.94	6,90.64
Foreign bills	4.95	9.40	9.65	9.34	6.63
Dead stock	2,46.48	2,46.44	2,46.08	2,46.25	2,12.88
Bundries	40.26	40.27	36.91	29.58	32.57
Balances with other banks	6.15	7.95	9.36	6.36	21.27
Cash	34,49.84	36,67.48	36,72.78	37,65.49	26,30.43
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24.56	11,24.56	11,24.56	11,24.56	11,08.76
Capital paid up	5,62.39	5,62.39	5,62.39	5,62.39	5,62.39
Reserve	41,11.85	41,11.85	41,11.85	41,11.85	41,11.85
Public deposits	11,88.72	9,84.92	13,56.10	13,78.48	7,44.91
Other deposits	71,85.13	75,65.19	73,18.33	72,88.18	78,98.73
Loans against securities	97.84	94.19	1,06.9	1,38.24	68.82
Sundries	88.94	86.51	81.73	71.36	85.76
The above includes—					
Deposits in London	187	199	195	198	541
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	806	779	1,111	1,077	541
	34	45	55	36	144

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	3,359	3,360	3,359	4,582	1,571
Government securities	34,975	36,801	38,046	32,925	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	25,560	26,631	28,334	29,248	4,400
Government deposits	4,106	4,636	4,216	2,145	2,415
Other deposits	12,346	12,528	12,632	13,639	3,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	43,214	43,214	43,214	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	944,256	903,756	718,406	411,016	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	686,293	686,297	686,304	897,296	21,826
Discounts and loans	421,568	471,749	574,161	435,186	105,161
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,375,619	1,353,291	1,388,878	1,382,668	123,941
Deposits at notice	457,794	474,051	375,508	119,396	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 16, 1922.	Aug. 9, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1921.
Gold and bullion	26,657	26,657	26,655	26,650	27,826
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	3,978	3,143	3,355	3,661	4,022
LIABILITIES.					
Government loans	153,140	152,747	151,349	150,417	608,109
Notes in circulation	720,097	720,097	720,097	720,099	648,004
Deposits	851,326	849,511	847,286	843,659	57,046
	41,622	41,418	42,602	44,869	

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 20, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1922.
Gold	32,837	32,550	32,400	32,072	31,719
Silver	44,164	44,160	44,153	44,148	44,137
Foreign coin	126,726	126,726	126,726	126,726	126,726
Advances to the Govt.	419,500,000	385,500,000	342,500,000	314,000,000	304,500,000
Private loans and discounts	99,025,404	91,486,269	86,332,400	81,567,721	79,131,072
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	525,954,764	499,039,094	463,706,04	417,850,944	403,266,102
Deposits	80,264,038	71,863,045	64,310,26	79,217,577	66,030,146

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £1	10-00	Sight London	Nov. 4 21
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	25-25	"	Nov. 8 24-20
Colombia (Bogota) ..	Dollars to £20	100	"	Oct. 31 92-50
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £1	4-8665	"	Nov. 4 4-60
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	9-73	"	Nov. 6 9
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	90-23	"	Nov. 4 25-5
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	10-45	"	Oct. 14 18-75
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	19-20	"	Sept. 30 15%

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Oct. 26, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 30, 1922.	Nov. 1, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1922.
London (cheque) £1	Selling. 1,520	Selling. 1,530	Selling. 1,530	Selling. 1,530	Selling. 1,530
New York " \$1	344	343	343	343	343
Berlin " 100 Mks	810	810	810	810	810
Helsingfors " 100 Mk	823	825	828	855	905
Stockholm " 100 Kr	9,215	9,165	9,175	9,200	9,225
Copenhagen " 100 Kr	6,960	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,925
Paris " 100 Fr	2,440	2,450	2,400	2,415	2,380
Amsterdam " 100 Hfl.	13,475	13,390	13,375	13,400	13,425
Riga " 100 Lvs	148	145	145	145	145
Prague " 100 Lrbl	1,120	1,100	1,090	1,080	1,080

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	Oct. 2, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.
London	£1	Selling. 1,142	Selling. 1,148	Selling. 1,152	Selling. 1,161
New York	\$1	261	260	259	259
Paris	100 frs.	1,975	1,975	1,975	1,985
Brussels	100 frs.	1,850	1,850	1,825	1,800
Switzerland	100 frs.	4,975	4,850	4,800	4,750
Stockholm	100 kr.	1,100	1,125	1,100	1,100
Copenhagen	100 kr.	6,875	6,900	6,925	6,950
Amsterdam	100 gld.	5,275	5,300	5,200	5,150
Christiania	100 kr.	4,450	4,600	4,725	4,600
Prague	100 kr.	810	881	874	851
Amsterdam	100 rmk.	10,125	10,100	10,125	10,175
Berlin	100 rmk.	164	113	92	6
Helsingfors	100 rmk.	574	583	594	617
Reval	100 rmk.	76	78	76	76
Warsaw	100 rmk.	4	3	3	3

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From Oct. 16, 1922.		From Oct. 16, 1922.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	2 1/2 prem.	2 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.
Demand	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 prem.	1 1/2 prem.
30 days	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.
60 days	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.
90 days	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.
120 days	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.	1 1/2 dis.

* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem stamp duty.
(s) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sight	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cable	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
On demand	98	98	100	100	98	98	100	100
30 days	97 1/2	97 1/2	..	..	98	97 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
60 days	97	97	..	..	97 1/2	97 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
90 days	96 1/2	96 1/2	..	..	97 1/2	97 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2
120 days	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.
Outstanding with public	54,01,65,000	26,35,05,000
In paper currency reserve	57,89,00,000	50,65,00,000
Total	111,90,65,000	77,00,05,000

India Office, November 8, 1922.

Tenders for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills were opened on November 2nd. The total amount tendered for three months' bills was Rs.2,61,00,000. Tenders at Rs.99 1a received about 67 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was

Rs.99 1a 1p, equivalent to a discount rate of 3.7642 per cent. per annum. The total amount tendered for six months' bills was Rs.94,25,000. Tenders at Rs.97 12a accepted and received about 86 per cent., which is equivalent to a discount of 4.6036 per cent. per annum. Intermediate bills for six months only will be offered for sale in India during this week at Rs.97 13a per cent. Tenders were received on Friday, November 10th, for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills for issue during the week beginning November 13th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended November 8, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £2,389 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended Nov. 8, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended Nov. 8, 1922.
Sweden	£ 15,981	Norway	£ 98
U.S.A.	4,163	Italy	1,298
British West Africa ..	1,730	Kenya Colony	1,150
British South Africa ..	725,516	U.S.A.	1,295,940
Other Countries	748	British India	109,373
Total value of imports of gold	745,128	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	1,407,859

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on November 9th, as follows:—

GOLD.

The fair amount of gold on offer was absorbed mainly on account of the United States of America, India being only a small buyer. Gold valued at \$643,000 has arrived in New York—\$543,000 from Alexandria and \$100,000 from London—and \$500,000 in gold has been despatched to Canada from New York.

CURRENCY.

Finland is actively engaged in providing for a nickel currency. The forthcoming Budget is to provide funds for suitable machinery, and some 50,000,000 nickel coins are said to have been acquired in England and Denmark. Others beside the Shade of Shakespeare may take interest in the announcement that Czechoslovakia intends as a preparatory measure to promulgate a Bill authorising the mintage of gold coins bearing the time-honoured appellation of ducats.

SILVER.

Under the influence of continued sales on China account, prices have been subject to considerable depression. The weakness was aggravated by the fact that the Indian bazaars received substantial offers of silver from China direct, and therefore resold some purchases made here, and also practically ceased to support this market. The Continent furnished part of the supplies, and America has been a good seller. As most of the silver required for the December settlement in Bombay seems now to have been secured, the outlook is not very bright, for absorption of offerings can only be met at the moment by bears covering, and, conditions being in their favour, great eagerness to cover can hardly be expected. The weak tendency may continue until it is checked by China; in that event, trade relations of that country with world markets in food and other raw products will have to alter materially, otherwise a still lower level of prices may be touched. It is reported from Washington, under date of October 25th last, that the total silver purchases under the Pittman Act amounted to 138,645,576 ounces, including 1,500,000 ounces purchased on that day.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.
(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.
Notes in circulation	18,116	18,028	17,963
Silver coin and bullion in India	9,072	9,079	9,110
Silver coin and bullion out of India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India	6,028	5,932	5,837
Securities (Indian Government)	584	585	584
Securities (British Government)	..	..	..

The silver coinage during the week ending the 31st ultimo amounted to 1 lac of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 4th inst. consisted of about 41,100,000 ounces in sycee, 30,500,000 dollars, and 1,460 silver bars, as compared with 40,900,000 ounces in sycee, 38,000,000 dollars, and 2,080 silver bars on the 28th ult.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows:—

1922.	Gold.		Silver.		Date.	Silver.	
	Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.		Cash, Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Nov. 4..	92 3	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	Nov. 17, 1916	34	34
6..	92 5	34 1/2	34 1/2	34 1/2	16, 1917	43 1/2	43 1/2
7..	92 6	34 1/2	34 1/2	34 1/2	16, 1918	48 1/2	48 1/2
8..	92 6	34 1/2	34 1/2	34 1/2	14, 1919	65 1/2	65 1/2
9..	92 2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	12, 1920	53 1/2	53 1/2
10..	92 3	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	11, 1921	38 1/2	38 1/2

NOTICES.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new branch at 5 and 6 Chicago buildings, Morecambe, under the management of Mr M. S. B. King. A new branch has been opened at 99 Fore street, Devonport, under the management of Mr Gerald Digges. The following additional offices have also been opened: Sea Bank, Cooden, Sussex; Market square, Hatherleigh, Devon; 4 West Strand View, Preston; and Tydwell, Ederly, North Wales. The directors announce that they have elected the Right Honourable Lord Ashfield to a seat at their board.

Reports and Notices.

The Tanganyika Concessions regret to announce that Mr Tyndale White has resigned his chairmanship of the company and its allied companies on account of health. The chairmanship of the Tanganyika Concessions, Limited, has been offered to and accepted by General Sir Reginald Wingate, Bart., K.C.M.G.

Mr J. W. Beeby, who has been with Messrs Straker-Squire, Limited, for the past 22 years, has been appointed managing director of the company.

We are informed that Mr Eric G. Underwood and Mr H. W. Rapkin have been appointed joint managing-directors of Thomas De La Rue and Co., Limited.

The Meadow Dairy Company, Limited, has opened branches at 351 and 776 Stratford road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, and 62 Idlesleigh road, Bedford.

Mr Chas. G. Seife, formerly the general manager of the Junior Navy and Army Stores, Limited, has been appointed managing director of the Civil Service Co-operative Society, Limited (Haymarket Stores).

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

3 PER CENT. DIPLOMATIC DEBT OF VENEZUELA, 1905.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the receipt of a sight draft for £4,390 18s 4d, being the moiety of the seventh fortnightly instalment of the debt service payable to the Council in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1922.

CONSOLIDATED EXTERNAL DEBT OF COLOMBIA.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the payment of the November instalment of the debt service in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1922.

GREEK DEBT.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31 (new style, January 14 to September 13), 1922:—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamp Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts, August, 1922	Drachmas. 432,076.85	Drachmas. 9,612,303.00
Do do 1921	6,062,883.38	1,172,990.25
Estimated receipts for eight months (Law of Control)	19,266,666.67	7,133,333.33
Actual receipts for 1922, eight months	49,334,581.75	79,707,422.40
Actual receipts for 1921, eight months	45,551,232.42	38,941,967.40

NOTE.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and naxos emery, 49 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

RAILWAYS.

CORDOBA CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.—The results of working for the year ended June 30, 1922, as compared with those of the previous year, were as under:—Gross traffic receipts, 1920-21, £2,836,218; 1921-22, £2,635,390; working expenses, 1920-21,

£2,541,683; 1921-22, £2,245,303; net receipts, 1920-21, £294,535; 1921-22, £390,087; percentage of working expenses, 1920-21, 89.6 per cent.; 1921-22, 85.20 per cent. To the above amount of £390,087 add interest and transfer fees, £14,973—£405,060. Debit:—Loss on exchange, £42,268; one year's interest on 4 per cent. first debenture stock, £320,000; one year's interest on 6 per cent. second debenture stock (1923), £6,680; one year's interest on 5 per cent. second debenture stock, £311,146; the result being a debit balance of £275,033, which has been added to the amount already standing in the balance-sheet at the debit of net revenue account, increasing the total debit to £928,588.

BANKS.

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.—Weekly average for October, 1922:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
£	Ratio to Current Deposit & Other Accounts.	£	Ratio to Current Deposit & Other Accounts.
Current deposit & other accounts (including balance of profit & loss)	309,100,691	Cash in hand, and with the Bank of England ..	34,141,466
Acceptances and endorsements, &c., for account of customers	5,007,196	Balances with other British banks & cheques in course of collection ..	7,744,917
Capital, viz.:—		Money at call and short notice	20,070,924
857,589 "A" shares of £4 each, fully paid	3,430,356	Bills discounted	54,190,146
11,760,811 "B" shares of £1 each, fully paid	11,760,811	Investments	73,615,590
401,205 "C" shares of £1 each, fully paid	401,205	British Linen Bank	3,632,590
		Union Bank of Manchester, Limited	2,700,000
		Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd. ..	1,688,880
		Advances to customers and other accounts ..	130,420,658
		Liability for acceptances and endorsements	5,007,196
		Bank premises & adjoining properties	4,739,892
Reserve fund	15,592,372		
	8,250,000		
	337,950,259		337,950,259

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.—The twenty-ninth annual report, together with a balance-sheet and profit and loss account made up to June 30, 1922, shows that the profits for the year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and other contingencies, amount to £1,094,685; less expenses of management, £566,325; income and other taxes, £182,885; leaving a net profit of £345,475. From this the following deduction has been made, £80,994—£264,480, and it is proposed to make further appropriations as follows:—

To reserve fund £150,000 for the year, when the fund will stand at £1,450,000; to the E. S. and A. Bank officers' guarantee and provident fund, £15,000; to the payment of dividend of 10 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, £131,989; to the purchase and cancellation of deferred inscribed deposit stock in accordance with the articles of association, £43,996; leaving unappropriated from the profits of the year, £4,490; brought forward from June 30, 1921, £102,604; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £107,094. The sum of £42,935 set aside last year in accordance with the articles of association has been appropriated to the purchase of £50,000 deferred inscribed deposit stock, which has been cancelled and the amount passed, as before, to the credit of bank premises. The board consider that in the interests of the shareholders the time has come when it is desirable to alter the denomination of the bank's shares by sub-division into shares of a smaller nominal amount, as being more in accord with the general practice to-day, and they recommend that each of the present issued shares of £25 each, £12 10s paid and £12 10s uncalled, be sub-divided into 5 shares of £5 each, £2 10s paid and £2 10s uncalled, and the unissued shares of £25 each be sub-divided into shares of £5 each. The board also recommend that they be empowered to increase the authorised capital of the bank from time to time from £3,000,000 to an amount not exceeding £5,000,000, so as to provide as occasion may arise for the issue of such further shares as in their opinion the expanding business of the bank may render desirable.

RUBBER.

TANJONG MALIM RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.—The profit for the year ended June 30, 1922, after providing £6,000 for taxes, amounts to £18,790, to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last year, £33,583, making a total at credit of profit and loss account of £52,373. The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend, and they propose that the balance of £52,373 be carried forward to next year. The yield of rubber during the year was 1,337,436 lbs, being 2,952 lbs less than in the previous year, and 112,436 lbs in excess of the estimate. The whole of the crop was sold in Singapore, 339,339 lbs under forward contracts made in 1919, and the balance at current market prices. The average gross price realised was 1s 0.98d per lb. The comparative "all in" costs for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 have been as follows:—F.o.b. cost, 1920-21, 1s 3.72d; 1921-22, 9.07d. Freight, insurance, and selling charges, 1920-21, 1.21d; 1921-22, .39d. Office expenses in London, directors' fees, and exchange, 1920-21, .67d; 1921-22, .49d—total, 1920-21, 1s 5.60d; 1921-22, 9.95d. The labour force at June 30, 1922, numbered 1,265, as against 1,976 at the close of the previous year. Health conditions have improved and are reported as quite satisfactory both as regards the European, staff and the coolie force.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE LAND AND FINANCE.—Net profit for the year ended June 30, 1922, was £169,855, less transferred to equalisation reserve, £50,000. Directors recommend final dividend of 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent., free of tax), leaving £29,855, plus £4,556 brought in, making to be carried forward, subject to provisions for income-tax and corporation tax, £34,411. Season

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.			Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.			
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		%
Banks.									
English, Scottish, and Australian	June 30	102,605	345,475	448,080	..	131,989	10 1/2	208,997	107,094
Breweries.									
Bristol Brewery (Georges)	Sept. 30	63,537	113,425	176,962	18,600	64,800	16	29,888	63,674
Dartford	Sept. 30	24,253	28,647	52,905	7,975	20,500	10	1,500	22,930
Kenward and Court	Sept. 30	1,224	10,628	11,852	..	10,000	10	1,852	8,173
Southdown and East Grinstead ..	Sept. 30	9,507	12,707	22,214	4,750	7,560	9 1/2	9,904	12,941
Financial, Land, &c.									
Aust. Mercantile Land & Finance	June 30	4,556	169,855	174,411	..	90,000	10 1/2	50,000	34,411
Cordova Land	Sept. 30	35,432	Dr 14,828	20,604	..	..	..	..	Dr 32,723
Dalgety and Co.	June 30	84,112	252,790	336,902	25,000	150,000	15 1/2	60,000	101,902
Tecka (Argentina) Land	June 30	20,024	1,234	21,258	..	10,000	5	11,258	20,732
Iron, Coal, and Steel.									
United Strip and Bar Mills	June 30	16,541	Dr 22,359	Dr 6,418	..	..	..	Dr 6,418	..
W. H. Dorman and Co.	July 31	..	10	10	..	..	..	..	..
Nitrates.									
Santa Catalina	June 30	4,691	Dr 1,069	3,622	..	7,900	10	Dr 5,000	722
Rubber, &c.									
Anglo-Sumatra	May 31	26,733	Dr 10,229	16,513	..	2,830	5	..	13,683
Batu Matang	June 30	1,300	Dr 1,219	81	..	..	..	..	Dr 11,958
Kenny (Selangor)	June 30	2,671	1,182	3,853	..	..	..	..	81
Majedie (Johore) Estates	June 30	Dr 9,178	Dr 1,520	Dr 10,698	..	..	..	..	3,853
Semenyih	April 30	5,838	923	6,761	..	..	..	Dr 10,698	Dr 8,591
Sungei Buaya	June 30	16,930	5,772	22,702	..	1,125	5	..	5,636
Tanjong Malim	June 30	33,583	18,790	52,373	..	..	..	4,000	18,702
Other Companies.									
Associated Belting Cos.	June 30	2,153	10,947	13,100	9,255	..	..	1,713	2,132
British Automatic	Sept. 30	12,977	59,158	72,135	..	40,000	10	9,471	17,182
Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings	Sept. 29	24,136	15,227	39,363	3,000	3,300	5	9,081	13,535

† Free of tax. (t) For nine months.

business and the manufacturing trade revealed a decline in earnings, and the net profit for year is £59,158, as compared with £71,181 in previous year. The amount is arrived at after making provision for corporation profits tax, and adequate depreciation of all buildings, plant, machinery, and fittings. The receipts from the automatic machines show a large decrease, due to the industrial depression which existed during the whole year. The realisation of certain securities during the year resulted in a profit of £13,688, which the directors have added to reserve fund, increasing it to £128,688. To the year's profit of £59,158 is added £12,977 brought in, making an available balance of £72,135. The directors have written off the cost of new machines and fittings purchased during the year amounting to £22,664. Dividend on ordinary shares of 10 per cent. absorbed £40,000, leaving £9,471 to go forward to next account.

CORDOVA LAND COMPANY.—The report and accounts for year ended September 30, 1922, show a profit of £5,511. Adding £35,432 brought in, there is a credit of £40,943. Dividend interest absorbed £20,339, and the remaining £20,604 is carried forward. The following table shows the number of cattle sold and average price realised:—

	Number of Cattle	Average Price Realised.
1922	10,063	£ 4 18 1
1921	11,363	£ 10 4 5
1920	9,351	£ 15 18 6
1914	10,998	£ 12 2 3

The report points out that the market for cattle in Argentina during the year has been passing through a period of extreme depression.

DARTFORD BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.—The report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1922, show that the amount brought forward from September 30, 1921, was £24,253; the net profits for the year as shown by the accounts, after providing for depreciation, management expenses, income-tax, corporation profits tax, and interest on debenture stock, &c., amount to £28,647, making the total sum to credit of profit and loss account £52,905. After deducting the dividend at the rate of 5 1/2 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares (£7,975) and the interim dividend of 3 per cent. paid on the ordinary shares (£6,150), £14,125, the balance of profit is £38,780. The directors recommend that out of this sum £1,500 be placed to the reserve, which will then amount to £32,500. They also recommend that a final dividend be declared of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended September 30, 1922 (making with the interim dividend paid, 8 per cent. for the year); and they further recommend that a bonus of 2 per cent. be paid on the ordinary shares of the company. This will absorb £14,350, and leave a balance of £22,930 to be carried forward.

W. H. DORMAN AND CO., LIMITED.—The report for year ended July 31, 1922, and profit and loss account has just been issued. By the reduction of capital scheme, which was sanctioned by the Court on April 4th, the ordinary shares of the company were reduced from £1 to 5s each, and the sum of £221,250 thereby provided was utilised in writing off. After providing for interest on the 8 per cent. participating seven-year notes, and bringing to credit a sum of £28,677 on taxation recovery account, the profit and loss account shows a profit for the year of £10, which is carried forward. The company's trading during the past year has been seriously affected by the general trade depression.

SANTA CATALINA NITRATE.—Gross profit for year ended June 30, 1922, was £6,616, less London expenses, £2,226, leaving £4,390, plus £4,691 brought in and £5,000 retransferred from reserve, making

£14,081. After charging stoppage of works expenses, £5,459, and deducting interim dividend of 5 per cent., there remains £4,672. Directors propose final dividend of 5 per cent., £3,950, carrying forward £722.

TECKA (ARGENTINA) LAND COMPANY, LIMITED.—The report for year ended June 30, 1922, shows a net profit of £1,234, to which is added £20,023 brought in, making £21,257 available. The dividend for the year on the ordinary shares is 5 per cent., less income-tax. To pay the dividend £10,000 will be absorbed, leaving £11,257 to be carried forward. The report states that the depression in the live-stock market in Argentina has necessitated sales of sheep at very low prices throughout the year. The number of sheep disposed of amounted to 17,574 head, as compared with 16,325 during the previous year, and the average price obtained shows a decrease of 43 per cent. as compared with 1921, or 51 per cent. below the average price of the past six years during which the company have sold their sheep in the Province of Buenos Aires.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	September, 1922.			October, 1922.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
Aurora W. United (10s shares) ..	11,900	14,487	2,011	12,300	15,290	2,214
Brakpan	62,000	117,468	49,035	61,858	118,582	49,307
City Deep	83,500	162,596	55,858	83,500	165,207	56,380
Consolidated Langlaagte	47,200	97,127	12,122	48,000	97,768	13,521
Consolidated Main Reef	53,300	87,170	18,634	55,100	86,892	18,656
Crown Mines (10s shares)	216,000	310,485	95,884	221,000	331,170	99,436
East Rand Proprietary Deep	129,000	48,374	6,789	134,000	52,373	11,227
Ferreira Deep	34,700	137,859	3,326	34,700	146,186	13,596
Geduld Proprietary	45,000	76,696	33,227	46,500	79,838	34,387
Goldenhul Deep	54,181	61,656	3,705	54,200	62,473	3,537
Glyn's Lydenburg	4,285	8,368	2,390	4,283	8,305	2,664
Government Areas	17,300	17,197	1,356	17,300	17,013	1,574
Kleinfontein, New	45,300	291,485	167,158	45,300	299,021	167,517
Knight Central	32,000	52,850	3,152	32,000	53,921	3,143
Langlaagte Estate	49,700	74,590	23,009	51,500	77,915	25,098
Langlaagte Vlei	19,692	19,520	1,191	21,250	21,600	1,156
Meyer and Charlton	15,000	39,156	23,531	15,600	38,675	23,052
Modderfontein B.	61,000	149,519	84,713	63,500	156,918	91,114
Modderfontein Deep Levels	43,000	107,542	68,145	43,500	107,033	69,393
Modderfontein East	26,600	68,014	34,067	27,000	73,201	41,234
Modderfontein West	110,000	238,273	144,617	112,000	245,760	149,671
New United	11,500	11,278	1,325	11,400	11,572	1,652
Nourse Mines	45,900	68,002	10,598	49,200	68,453	12,674
Primrose, New	21,700	22,219	3,619	22,400	22,370	3,828
Randfontein Central	165,000	217,034	55,367	167,500	228,513	57,902
Robinson (25 shares)	18,000	26,780	10,835	17,000	23,444	8,326
Robinson Deep	70,100	103,791	12,310	75,500	105,371	36,405
Rose Deep	53,700	59,581	12,310	55,000	59,568	12,917
Simmer and Jack	61,300	59,319	8,271	65,600	60,810	6,548
Spring Mines	46,000	97,519	45,627	45,300	95,978	45,530
Sub-Nigel	10,000	26,228	6,365	9,800	27,929	8,468
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	15,500	24,792	2,608	16,400	24,383	2,759
Van Ryn	56,600	132,557	74,988	58,400	133,203	75,050
Village Deep	58,800	84,057	17,644	60,000	85,936	19,165
West Rand Consolidated	34,000	44,119	4,717	34,600	44,121	5,003
Witwatersrand Deep	43,500	59,981	15,398	46,510	59,070	14,511
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	46,300	55,208	16,116	47,400	54,160	15,753
Witwater	39,900	34,356	3,087	33,700	35,703	4,963

£ 4 12s net per fine oz. £ 4 10s net per fine oz. £ 4 11s 3d net per fine oz.
 £ 4 13s net per fine oz. £ 4 11s per fine oz. net. £ 4 9s 6d net per fine oz.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Nov. 5, 1922.			Aggregate 44 Weeks 1922.		
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	6763	37,700	136,500	174,200	2,214,800	5,758,200
Do Joint Lines	1611	..	..	37,500	..	7,973,000
Great Eastern (c)	1,2074	100,900	97,500	198,400	5,229,800	4,051,000
Great Northern (c)	1,050	77,300	144,200	221,500	4,223,900	6,013,500
Great Western (d)	3,657	237,000	347,000	584,000	1,945,000	29,039,000
London & N. Western (d)	2,636	301,000	441,900	742,000	1,649,500	18,500,000
Lon. & South-Western	968	110,400	55,200	162,000	5,833,300	2,514,200
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c)	487	79,175	23,604	102,779	4,238,740	1,207,913
Marquett & Carlisle (c)	423	1,102	1,900	3,002	62,969	82,923
Metropolitan (c)	794	34,117	3,790	37,907	1,489,658	1,59,350
Midland (c)	1,585	160,000	335,000	495,000	1,922,000	13,880,000
Midland & S.W. Jnc.	623	1,468	1,391	2,859	67,171	61,910
North Eastern (c)	1,850	115,800	270,700	386,500	5,933,800	10,704,300
North London	16	4,583	9,736	14,519	211,172	427,002
South-E. & Chatham (c)	654	115,200	45,400	160,600	6,073,600	1,924,300
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	224,320	..	7,993,500
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	9,676	..	438,866
Caledonian	1,097	65,900	101,900	167,800	3,227,300	4,347,300
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	476	26,100	39,000	65,100	1,401,300	1,613,600
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	3343	6,990	8,510	15,500	419,590	392,990
Highland (c)	492 (a)	9,273	9,439	18,712	538,284	460,080
North British (c)	1,3774	59,600	119,000	178,600	2,934,500	5,125,200
Belfast and County Down (b)	80	4,919	1,319	6,238	238,346	57,863
Dublin and S. East. (b)	160	8,449	4,651	13,100	270,429	152,846
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	9,512	21,946	31,458	432,557	680,560

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended November 3, 1922.
 (c) Week ended November 4, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	27 weeks	Oct. 1	1,043	2,453,883	+ 4,900	63,433,731	+ 24,060,010
Barelly Lk. Ry.	27 weeks	Oct. 1	118	18,300	+ 2,800	9,243,300	+ 2,850,610
Bengal & N. Western ..	27 weeks	Oct. 1	67	4,722,570	+ 27,206	47,270	+ 27,206
Bengal Nagpur	27 weeks	Oct. 1	2,703	12,680,000	+ 1,000,000	3,737,873	+ 52,708,078
Bombay, Bar. & C.L.	31 weeks	Nov. 4	2,871	19,380,000	+ 1,290,000	95,093,000	+ 7,500,000
Burma	27 weeks	Oct. 1	1,342	607,700	+ 80,882	1,763,871	+ 21,468,000
Dahli, Umballa Kalka ..	1 weeks	26	239	119,000	+ 15,674	1,571,000	+ 6,700,000
East Indian	5 weeks	Nov. 4	2,772	31,670,000	+ 3,760,000	1,817,000	+ 6,700,000
G. Indine N.E.	27 weeks	Oct. 1	5,722	23,560,000	+ 2,020,000	1,481,965	+ 49,828,197
Madras & S. Konkan ..	31 weeks	Nov. 4	3,028	13,200,000	+ 1,660,670	58,660,523	+ 40,521,560
Rohtak'd & Rumeau ..	1 weeks	7	959	52,833	+ 3,280	52,833	+ 3,280
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	1 weeks	7	302	51,129	+ 183	51,129	+ 183
South Indian	28 weeks	Oct. 1	1,852	9,284,455	+ 1,593,357	26,798,944	+ 30,749,944
Sahn. Punjab(month) ..	4 mths	July 31	717	91,700	+ 94,919	33,826	+ 57,935
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	18 weeks	Nov. 4	759	10,900	+ 500	17,000	+ 36,700
Argentine Trans.	18 weeks	Nov. 4	111	3,720	+ 1,720	39,020	+ 8,490
B. A. & Pacific	18 weeks	Nov. 4	4,348	141,000	+ 39,000	2,344,000	+ 159,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	18 weeks	Nov. 4	4,947	173,000	+ 43,000	2,602,000	+ 58,000
B. A. Western	18 weeks	Nov. 4	1,882	91,000	+ 30,000	1,990,000	+ 2,000
Buenos Ayres Cent	2 mths	Aug. 31	Net	35,000	+ 12,798	78,379	+ 25,404
Central Argentine	18 weeks	Nov. 4	3,305	199,000	+ 54,000	3,385,000	+ 232,000
Cordoba Central	18 weeks	Nov. 4	1,205	56,000	+ 14,500	1,082,800	+ 78,800
Entre Rios	18 weeks	Nov. 4	811	17,700	+ 1,000	301,800	+ 48,000
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	9 mths	Sept. 30	Net	51,500	+ 3,250	387,500	+ 44,900
Geopolda	4 weeks	Nov. 4	1,082	1,831	+ 2,500	548,800	+ 41,900
Leopoldina	4 weeks	Nov. 4	1,831	32,141	+ 3,155	1,298,565	+ 179,076
Sao Paulo	4 weeks	Nov. 4	1,553	22,331	+ 1,198	1,246,545	+ 87,488
State of Bahia, S.W ..	6 mths	Oct. 31	62	155,600	+ 86,000	624,000	+ 252,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antagasta	44 weeks	Nov. 5	838	35,475	+ 24,525	1,010,240	+ 81,245
Nitrate (3-monthly) ..	43 weeks	Oct. 31	366	36,343	+ 22,663	514,600	+ 45,367
Peruvian Corp.	4 mths	Oct. 31	1,059	1,364,200	+ 6,794	56,274	+ 343,780
Taita	4 mths	Oct. 31	172	(b) 17,678	+ 6,794	56,274	+ 17,438
Cuban.							
Havana Central	17 weeks	28	10,103	10,103	398	161,269	+ 19,731
United of Havana	18 weeks	Nov. 4	1,210	40,290	+ 10,025	844,391	+ 128,458
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	18 weeks	Nov. 4	873	31,831	+ 4,972	396,632	+ 15,361
C. Urug. (East Ext.) ..	18 weeks	Nov. 4	311	5,914	+ 1,397	76,680	+ 1,064
C. Urug. (North Ext.) ..	18 weeks	Nov. 4	185	3,122	+ 359	40,995	+ 4,579
C. Urug. (West Ext.) ..	18 weeks	Nov. 4	211	2,913	+ 922	38,679	+ 4,076
Midland Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	14,681	+ 1,621	60,114	+ 2,451
North-North Uruguay ..	4 mths	Oct. 31	313	7,127	+ 223	23,610	+ 2,061
Uruguay North	4 mths	Oct. 31	73	7,447	+ 593	8,746	+ 1,275
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	44 weeks	Nov. 4	83	19,000	..	830,450	+ 147,850
Bahio	10 mths	Oct. 31	15	1,880	+ 189	11,329	+ 5,282
Bombay	10 mths	Oct. 31	136	7,100	+ 948	89,623	+ 11,730
Costa Rica	2 mths	Aug. 31	189	20,911	+ 6,131	39,298	+ 7,500
Dorado Extension	7 mths	July 31	70	14,500	+ 9,500	77,250	+ 6,000
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	28 weeks	Oct. 20	5594	(b) 7,000	+ 1,568	174,129	+ 32,393
Egyptian Delta	43 weeks	28	104	141,143	+ 22,507	3,463,692	+ 1,126,993
Gt.Southern. of Spain ..	9 mths	Sept. 30	Gross	51,230	+ 1,468	655,943	+ 4,618
International of	9 mths	Sept. 30	Net	5,278	..	439,260	+ 170,000
Central America	16 weeks	Oct. 31	324	9,010	+ 930	55,330	+ 10,000
La Guaira & Caracas ..	3 mths	Sept. 30	403	(b) 373,500	+ 135,400	3,374,900	+ 768,800
Mexican Railway	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	(b) 92,700	+ 142,700	6,620	+ 167,800
Do	3 mths	Sept. 30	403	(b) 373,500	+ 135,400	3,374,900	+ 768,800
Nasajo Oceanbahn	8 mths	Aug. 31	193	12,103	+ 2,124	87,391	+ 18,242
Oboma Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	35	3,750	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Puerto Cabello, &c.	18 weeks	Nov. 4	100	1,890	+ 36	47,749	+ 8,113
Salvador	1 mth	Sept. 30	Net	133,144	+ 5,738	83,500	+ 16,138
Santo Fe Province	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	(b) 14,267	+ 327	107,476	+ 19,110
Saman & Santiago	9 mths	Sept. 30	112	(b) 14,267	+ 327	107,476	+ 19,110
Zafra and Huila	9 mths	Sept. 30	112	(b) 14,267	+ 327	107,476	+ 19,110

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Ploughing and sowing operations are being actively carried on under seasonable conditions. A fair area has been laid under wheat, though prospects of any increase in acreage are discouraged by the low prices ruling, and which farmers consider as unremunerative. Revised official estimates for this year's crops in England and Wales show a decrease of 1,073,000 qrs wheat, 752,000 qrs oats, and barley 247,000 qrs compared with last year. English wheat was in fa- demand, and prices firmer at 45s to 48s for suitable milling grades per 504 lbs free on rail. Imported still sparingly offered, but tendency easier in sympathy with forward weakness. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 53s 6d to 54s 6d., No. 2 mixed Durum 51s, Rosafe 63½ lbs 54s, all ex ship to arrive per 496 lbs. Only a moderate business resulted in cargoes at generally easier rates, and included steamers of choice white Karachi expected to load 13th inst. at 52s 6d, No. 1 Northern Manitoba November-December 49s 10½, Rosafe 62½ lbs. January 48s, and ditto January-February 47s per 480 lbs. Crop reports from the principal exporting countries are quite favourable, and Argentine official estimates show an increase of 4,500,000 qrs above last year. Flour was in steady demand, and prices again firmer for home milling. London standard straight run quoted 43s 6d, patents 45s 6d to 46s 6d, town households 41s 6d, all English country straights 34s to 36s per sack delivered. Imported firm but quiet. Canadian export patents 39s to 42s as to quality, and top patents 42s to 44s, with Australian at 40s 6d to 41s per 280 lbs ex store. Maize dull and easier. Plate ex ship 35s 6d, ditto landed 37s 6d. No. 6 yellow African 38s 3d landed, American mixed ex ship 36s 6d, and ditto landed 38s 3d. Only small sales resulted in cargoes at lower rates, and steamers of La Plata January-February sold at 34s 6d to 34s, ditto December 10th-31st at 33s 9d. English barley moves off quietly at about late rates —35s to 62s as to sample per 448 lbs free on rail. Imported dull and the turn weaker. Californian 39s to 44s, Australian Chevalier 49s to 53s per 448 lbs ex store, American malting (48 lbs) 31s ex ship, ditto landed 33s, Persian 28s ex ship, Danubian landed as to sample 32s to 33s, all per 400 lbs. Oats: English fully steady, with a fair demand for milling qualities which remain sparingly offered. Black and grey rule from 26s to 30s, and whites up to 33s per 336 lbs free on rail. Imported dull. La Plata f.a.q. quoted 29s 6d, ditto clipped 30s, No. 2 Canadian Western 35s 6d, No. 1 Canadian feed 32s 6d, No. 2 white clipped American (36 lbs) 27s 6d, black Irish (40 lbs) 27s, all per 320 lbs landed terms. Oatmeal firm to occasionally rather dearer, while in good demand. London made, all cuts £10 15s, rolled oats £10 15s, flaked £22 15s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £10 10s to £20 10s, and American, all cuts, £18 to £18 10s per ton. Millers' offals rule firm, with sustained inquiries.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to November 4	571,688	315,157	371,433	331,242
9 weeks to November 4	3,771,437	3,491,595	4,246,856	2,258,024
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
quarter	42 0	44 0	90 5	72 8
per cwt	9 7½	10 3	21 1	16 11

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1917 to 1921:—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.						AVERAGE PRICES.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
		qrs	bsh	qrs	bsh	qrs	bsh	s	d	s	d	s	d
1922.		139,291	4	135,289	6	32,643	2	41	6	41	2	26	7
Oct. 28	.....	133,394	3	161,856	3	34,449	0	42	0	42	4	26	8
Nov. 4	.....												
1917	.....	56,835	4	119,246	2	16,011	4	70	3	60	2	42	11
1918	.....	73,654	6	98,726	2	13,831	4	72	8	60	3	49	11
1919	.....	77,289	7	146,131	1	16,171	4	72	8	97	10	55	3
1920	.....	86,662	7	198,162	5	21,993	1	90	5	92	10	53	5
1921	.....	73,539	0	147,042	0	15,793	6	44	0	49	2	25	2

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated November 9, 1922, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There is sufficient demand for pig-iron to keep pace with the present limited output. The moderate demand from America is very acceptable. There is not sufficient demand, however, to cope with a substantially increased output of pig-iron. Prices are maintained at 92s 6d per ton for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B., and 93s to 93s 6d for mixed numbers East Coast hematite. Manufactured iron and steel: Owing to the lower values of French and Belgian currency, foreign steel is again being sold here at prices

which our steel works cannot touch. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £10 10s; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: Business is slow, and competition for orders has made prices rather easier. Best rubio is 22s to 22 6d.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The improvement in the steel trade is being robbed of its value in a monetary sense by a wave of severe price-cutting. Makers having large plants to employ are offering ridiculously low quotations to tempt business, with the result that hardly any work is being placed on a profitable basis. It is unfortunate that this tendency should begin at a time when costs of production are actually going up. If the situation becomes normal again, prices would have to be higher than a month ago. The demand is still mainly for the cheaper grades of steel in the form of bars, sheets, strip wire rods, and spring steel. A fairly good tonnage of this is going abroad. The continued deflation of the European currencies makes business with France, Belgium and Italy in some of Sheffield's more expensive steels and tools utterly prohibitive. Orders have been cancelled through this cause, and buyers in the countries named are unable to settle their accounts. Trade in crucible steels is as stagnant as ever. The rolling mills, which prepare materials for the local steel trade, are working better than at any time during the present year, but the forges are extremely quiet. The home and overseas demand for certain hand tools is picking up nicely, whereas makers of engineers' small tools are very badly placed for work. Pig-iron generally has been advanced 7s 6d per ton to cover dearer coke and scrap, but consumption, except for acid quality, continues quiet. Collieries are short of rolling stock and many kinds of stores, and at some pits there are accumulation of coal because of insufficient wagons to transport it to the buyers. A brisk export trade in steam coal and coke is proceeding; householders are now buying freely, and the home consumption of steam and small fuel steadily increases. Gas and railway companies are specifying considerable tonnages. Prices remain as previously quoted.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Reports agree that a fair to encouraging volume of trade in iron and steel material has been transacted. The feature in iron connections has been the sustained exports of Scotch pig sorts to the United States and Canada. The total Atlantic shipments for the past week reached to 6,716 tons, which contrast with 645 tons a year ago. There is still a large quantity of No. 1 and No. 3 qualities to despatch, and will be, it is said, on to the end of the year; but there are no fresh inquiries in the market, and this fact has had a certain softening effect on quotations. On Wednesday No. 1 foundry iron for export was called 10s a ton, and No. 3 foundry 98s, both on trucks at makers' works; Glasgow delivery 5s more in each case. On home sumers are exceedingly short of supplies, yet they continue to operate in small lots, such as can only cover immediate and pressing wants. For good specifications in steel material steel producers are said to be "cutting" moderately, still officially they are skiplates £12 10s for boiler plates, £9 for ship plates, bridge and tank bars £10 5s, angles £8 15s, joists £9 10s, tees £10, and common bars £9 10s. Steel and iron bars are experiencing a slightly increased inquiry at £10 10s. The Indian and Australian markets are taking up more sheets ($\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch), and are booking ahead at fully £10 10s. Corrugated (24 b.g., Glasgow) are firm round £16 12s 6d. An expanding inquiry is felt for Scotch hematite, which is held at £5 7s 6d, f.o.t. makers' works. The coal trade is brisk and strong, more so than it has been at any time this year. Demand runs on all descriptions, except the very small sizes. A prominent coalmaster estimates that the Continent is taking 50 per

**The
First National Bank
of Boston**

**The leading financial institution of
New England**

**Foreign and domestic commercial
banking of every nature**

Correspondence solicited.

cent. of the Scotch production, and is not satisfied, and that altogether the foreign, or export, market is absorbing 70 per cent. of the Scotch output at present.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—Coal shipments at the South Wales ports have been heavy this week again. The arrival of tonnage in the early part of the week was phenomenal in quantity. Dock accommodation was not large enough to cope with it without congestion, and the Great Western Railway Company was once more compelled to enforce regulations detaining vessels in the roads until berths were available for them. Colliery stems, therefore, were taxed to the utmost, and outputs were absorbed as quickly as they reached port for shipment. Under these conditions prices were very firm, but new business was comparatively slack, and the lull in demand was accentuated towards the end of the week by the withdrawal of French orders on account of the fall in the French rate of exchange. At the rate on Wednesday, the c.i.f. price of ordinary large steam coals delivered at Rouen was between 120 and 130 francs compared with only about 20 francs in pre-war years. Some French merchants had protected themselves against this week's depreciation by the purchase of sterling when the rate of exchange was under 60, but this precaution affected only a small volume of business, and the coals that are now being shipped have to bear the burden of the rate of exchange on the bill of lading date. The shipments from the South Wales ports were only 120,000 tons less in October than they were in the record month of September. Exports to the United States and Canada dropped from nearly 750,000 tons to 188,000 tons, but exports to France increased by 191,000 tons, to Italy by 110,000 tons, to South America by 34,000 tons, and to unclassified countries by 135,000 tons. Admiralties.

The following are the current market prices:—Best Admirals, 28s to 28s 6d; second Admirals, 26s 6d to 27s 6d; best drys, 28s to 28s 6d; best black veins, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 28s 6d to 29s 3d; best black veins, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; best bunker smalls, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s; anthracite big, 16s 6d to 17s; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s to 15s; anthracite big, vein, 57s 6d to 60s; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 65s to 67s 6d; anthracite French nuts, 72s 6d to 73s; stove nuts, 70s to 71s; rubble, culm, 14s to 14s 6d; coke for export, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 28s 6d to 30s; pitwood ex ship, 31s 6d to 32s 6d.

The improvement in the tinplate trade is fully maintained, and the schedules of minimum prices have now been extended to other brands.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

(BY OUR WORKINGTON CORRESPONDENT.)

The hematite pig-iron trade of Cumberland and North Lancashire may be said to be definitely out of the trough, and to be climbing upward again. The ascent to the crest will no doubt be a slow business, and set-backs may take place, but there is every prospect on the whole that steady progress will now be witnessed. The most hopeful and significant indication of recovery is the return after a far longer period than can be pleasantly contemplated to forward buying. Whatever stocks are lying still in works yards are sold, the production of the 13 furnaces in blast between Workington and Carnforth is being fully absorbed, and that at time when the steelworks are idle, and consumers are beginning to betray anxiety concerning the covering of their requirements during the next two or three months. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that makers are now fairly well sold ahead, the immediate result, of course, being a stiffening of prices. Bessemer mixed numbers have risen more than 2s 6d per ton to between £5 2s 6d and £5 5s per ton delivered at Glasgow and Sheffield, and for export stand at the same figure. Quite a substantial proportion of the make is being shipped overseas. American needs have diminished, but those of Germany, France, and Belgium are not a whit less than they were three or four months ago. And on top of these are the wants of Scotland and South Wales, with the expectation of an increase as soon as shipbuilding activity is greater. An expansion of output cannot be much longer delayed, and indeed it is expected that two or three additional furnaces will be re-lighted before the end of the month. There is a better demand for low phosphorus iron, and prices vary according to analysis. There is a wonderfully steady market for ferro-manganese, most of which is going to America, and the price is maintained at £15 per ton. Spiegel, quoted at £7 per ton, is a weaker trade. The steel trade has never been duller, and at the present time no one looks for more than spasmodic activity. The mills at Workington rolled railway material for a week for India, and are now idle again. Business is very scarce, and the competition to secure whatever orders are being placed is very keen. Quietude prevails in the iron ore industry, the consumption being largely local, and little metal is passing outside the district. Selected ores command 25s to 27s 6d per ton; superior kinds up to 22s 6d per ton, and ordinary sorts up to 15s per ton. The coal trade is brisk, and the living-up of the landsale demand has relieved the competition in the Irish market, which is not now such a favourite dumping ground for Lancashire and Scotch coal. The north of Ireland is taking the bulk of the coal that is being shipped across Channel, but the Treaty ports allow steamers not Ulster-owned to enter, and the shipments aggregate nearly 11,000 tons per week. Continental business cannot be entertained, as soon there will be barely sufficient coal to go round. Smelters, as may be gathered from what is said of the iron trade, are calling for a bigger make of local coke, and it is hoped that all the ovens will be working at full capacity before the end of the year. There is no change in coal prices, but there will in all likelihood be advances to record, except in the case of local landale, in the course of a few weeks. Local furnace coke commands 22s 2d per ton. East Coast coke supplies to this

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—November 3, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Good Med.					Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.			
		Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Extra Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.
Sea Island	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Florida do	..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do	..	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American	Ord	1316	1351	1421	1416	1476	1556	G O L M	G M	G M	G O L M	G M	G M
Brazilian:	Mid	1316	1351	1421	1416	1476	1556	M F F r	G F	G d	M F F r	G d	M F F r
Pernam	..	1306	1421	1551	..	..	..	976	1226	..	1130	1680	..
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	..	1306	1421	1551	..	..	..	976	1226	..	1130	1680	..
Maceio, &c.	..	1306	1421	1551	..	..	..	976	1226	..	1130	1680	..
Mossoro, &c.	..	1306	1421	1551	..	..	..	976	1226	..	1130	1680	..
Ceara	..	1306	1421	1551	..	..	..	976	1226	..	1130	1680	..
Maranhm, &c.	..	1306	1421	1551	..	..	..	976	1226	..	1130	1680	..
83½ Paulo	..	1356	1416	1456	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian:	..	1356	1450	1500	1550	1600	..	..	1600	1900	..	nm	2400
Upper	..	1475	1700	1775	1950	2100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sakellaridis	..	1350	1500	1600	1675	1825	..	..	1625	2025	..	nm	3200
Brown	..	M F	F r	G F	G d	G F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peruvian:	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Moderately Rough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smooth	..	1456	1571	1656	1706	1781	1151	1426	1601	..	1630	2080	2130
Tanguis	..	1456	1571	1656	1706	1806	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mitafá	..	..	1225	1375	1475	1525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Indian, &c.	..	..	..	1275	1375	1450	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do Sea Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
African, East, &c.	1000	1100	..	..	..	..	..	1110	1300	1500	1200	1500	2700
Do Do West	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Surtee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Broach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Bhowmugar	910	960	1010	1050	1090	1130	840	915	1015	1025	1125	1285	1485
Machine Ginned Comra No. 1	920	970	1020	1060	1100	1140	850	925	1025	1025	1125	1285	1485
Machine Ginned Comra No. 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Khandesh	..	920	970	1010	1050	1090	775	850	950	750	850	1010	1160
Machine Ginned Comptah	1100	..	1140	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Bengal	710	750	790	830	870	910	765	815	850	750	800	850	900
Machine Ginned Seinde	700	740	780	820	860	900	750	805	850	732	782	832	882
Tinnivelly	1285	1325	1365	..	..	..	1180	1230	..	1385	1435	..	..
Madras Western	1040	1075	1115	1155	..	..	845	895	..	1050	1100	..	..
Madras Northern	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M. G. Coconada, &c.	Fr.	1100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China, Smyrna, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

PUBLICATIONS.

BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE, 1913 and 1920-22. **35. net.**

A memorandum containing in the form of statistical tables information with regard to expenditure on account of National Defence before and since the war of 21 countries.

MEMORANDUM ON CURRENCY, 1913-1921.

7s. 6d. net.
This important volume is again obtainable. It gives details of exchange rate, note circulation, gold reserves, etc., for the whole period 1918 to 1921.

RAW MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS.

Report on the Problems of Raw Materials and Foodstuffs.
By Professor Gini. **10s. net.**

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION.

Paris, Oct., 1920. Report with Annexes. **3s. 6d.** net

THE FINANCIAL RECONSTITUTION OF AUSTRIA.

Report of the Financial Committee of the Council. **5s.** net.

The definite text of the agreement arrived at by the Austrian Committee on the question of the restoration of the Austrian State Finances, and the principal documents relating to it will be published in a special edition of the MONTHLY SUMMARY. The Annual Subscription to this periodical is **6s.** net. Special Supplements free to subscribers.

THE RESTORATION OF AUSTRIA

This document is a continuation of The Reconstitution of Austria and describes the League's latest scheme for stabilising Austrian finance.

- Published by

CONSTABLE 10-12 Orange St. W.C.2.

MANCHESTER, November 9.

The market this week has been distinctly dearer, as a result of the further advance in raw cotton rates. Buyers of yarn and cloth, however, have been very slow in following the higher quotations, and business to a considerable extent has been blocked. The opinion is expressed in most quarters that current prices cannot be paid by consumers in Eastern markets, and it seems likely that more machinery in Lancashire will run out of work. Scattered cloth sales have occurred for India, chiefly out of stocks. Standard makes for China have been dull, but moderate buying has occurred in fancies. A fair demand has been met with for Egypt. Home trade goods have been rather quieter. Business in American yarns has been checked by the higher prices, and spinners are losing ground. Some fair lines have been booked in Egyptian counts.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Nov. 9, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Nov. 2.	Oct. 26.	Oct. 19.	Oct. 12.	Oct. 5.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	15.36	14.54	14.34	13.85	13.15	12.44
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	18.65	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.40	17.15
— Egyptian .. per lb	21.2	21	20.2	20.2	20	19.4
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	21.2	21	20.2	20.2	20	19.4
— 40's twist .. per lb	21.2	21	20.2	20.2	20	19.4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	29	28.5	28.5	28.5	28	28
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	32	31	30	30	30	30
32-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	33	32	31	31	30	30
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	18	18	18	17	17	17
38-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	17	16	16	16	15	15

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Nov. 9, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	15.36	11.23	16.43	24.72	22.13	22.58
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	18.65	21.00	41.00	39.00	27.56	31.65
— Egyptian .. per lb	21.2	19.3	38	49	52	32
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	21.2	19.3	38	49	52	32
— 40's twist .. per lb	21.2	19.3	38	49	52	32
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	29	35	56	75	68	44
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	32	32	63	70	69	44
32-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	33	32	66	70	69	44
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	18	19	34	40	38	24
38-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs ..	17	18	28	34	33	21

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The raw material position remains sound, and although somewhat easier prices are ruling in Australia for topmaking wools, there does not appear to be any signs of a real weakening. Of course, there are some big weights of wool in sight, but so long as consumption is maintained on the scale of recent months, there does not appear to be much prospect of any material decline in the raw material. On the other hand, the steady depreciation in Continental currencies may have an effect on the market, though this would mainly concern short and carbonising merinos of typical Continental style. As a matter of fact, these wools were cheaper at the Hull sale to-day, but really good combing wool maintained recent prices. America is still taking some fair weights of wool, tops, and by-products, but her purchases are not nearly so large as they were two or three weeks ago. The American demand, however, is helping to steady this market and relieve the general quietness which has prevailed in the home trade. The recent advances in merinos seem to have checked demand, and users have been giving more and more attention to fine crossbreds. To-day quotations for merinos were distinctly easier all round, and warp 64's tops were obtainable at 5s 2d, which shows a reduction of about 1d on the week. Super 60's are now quoted at 4s 6d to 4s 7d, but crossbreds remain firm at about last week's rates. Spinners have plenty of work in hand, and most firms report a fair amount of inquiry. The hosiery trade requirements are again accounting for some large weights of yarn. There is not a great deal of business passing in botanics at current quotations, most users being unable to sell their cloth at prices to cover the cost of production. The lack of life in the piece trade, indeed, is the one disappointing factor in what would otherwise be described as a fairly healthy situation.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The chief event this week is the offering of 30,000 bales of Colonial wool at Hull, and although at the time of writing we have no knowledge of the actual course of prices, any further advance on recent London rates appears to be out of the question, indeed, slightly lower values would cause no surprise. The general move-

ment of Continental exchanges gives rise to serious concern, and while one naturally expects the mark to depreciate in value, the decline of the franc is, if anything, more significant, though it is no doubt largely due to what is happening to the mark itself. There was much complaining among French buyers when the value of the franc was around 50 to the £, and now that the value is over 70 to the £ one feels that the purchasing power of French firms cannot but be seriously affected. However, it is not likely that any really serious setback in wool values will take place. All along the trade have been eagerly longing for a better and safer buying basis in Colonial markets, and it may be mentioned that slightly cheaper wool has been procurable in Australia during the past week. Good warp 70's could be bought in Melbourne to bring in tops at 5s 2d per lb, and it is interesting to note that 64's have somewhat lessened demand in Australia for really shafty 60's and warp 70's, most of the call being for good 64's. At Perth combed, Bradford, and there will have to be a keen Japanese and American inquiry for merinos if to-day's prices are to be fully maintained. We have said all along that nothing would benefit the trade so much as to be able to buy good 64's combing wool on a basis that the tops could be sold in Bradford or Roubaix at 4s 9d, and are satisfied that the wool textile trade of the world to-day cannot lift the merino clip on a basis of 5s 3d for 64's, and a battle royal is proceeding between manufacturers and wholesale fabric buyers, and even Leicester hosiery manufacturers using the finest qualities of yarn are objecting seriously against the prices facts are mentioned without the least desire to bring about a depreciation of values, but the impoverished state of the Continent indicates the necessity for caution. If fashion could be directed to crossbreds of all qualities, it would be the best thing that could happen in the interests of the whole trade. For the time being, important accession of new business in piece goods, otherwise prices will ease. A developing inquiry for crossbreds would help to take some of the emphasis from fine wools, and though America share towards bringing about the desired end, and is even yet a by no means unimportant influence.

Information from South Africa indicates a distinctly easier tendency in the wool market out there, and it is certainly high time values came down to a level corresponding with Australian wools. The latest cables indicate that Bradford representatives of Cape houses can now offer 10-12 months' combing wools on a basis of 49d, and full 12 months' combing wools on a port. Now that the mad rush of buying seems to be over, the home trade should have a chance to operate. Prices have recently been steadied somewhat by American competition, buyers for that destination being interested in practically every description of Cape produce.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Great interest is centred in the coming crops of linseed in the chief producing countries, and it would appear that next year's supplies are amply assured. The official statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture in Argentina indicate the areas under linseed at 4,048,000 acres, and an estimated yield of 1,774,000 tons, against 3,802,000 acres and 820,000 tons in the season now drawing to its close. The weather has been favourable to the growing crop, but had been generally accepted. Much, of course, still depends upon bumper yield will actually be realised. Good progress is reported in the sowing of linseed in India, and expectations of as large a crop as in the current season are encouraged. Supposing it gives a total of 350,000 to 400,000 tons, there would be about two million tons available for export from the Plate and India together. The World's shipments this year, January 1st to November 4th, are

The Most Progressive
Office for all Classes of
Insurance and Assurance
EAGLE, STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS
INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.,
Head Office: BRITISH DOMINIONS HOUSE, ROYAL EXCHANGE AVE., E.C.3.
BRANCHES AND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.K.
ASSETS EXCEED £20,000,000

returned at 1,087,200 tons, and this may be increased by another 100,000 tons or more by the end of the year. Stocks of seed and oil at the crushing centres are very low, and there would appear to be some hopes of a steady revival in trade and an enlarged consumptive demand.

The increased Argentine estimate had a depressing effect upon values, and there was a drop of 10s to 20s per ton in both old and new crop. Old Plate, on spot, declined to £18 10s, but has recovered to £19, and seed, loading, is steady round £18 10s, owing to scarcity of seed near at hand. New crop has, however, been dealt in at as low as £15 for fair, February shipment to Hull, with £15 5s quoted April-May. Crushers, however, are proceeding very cautiously, and are not making large commitments any distance ahead. A fair business has been done in Egyptian cottonseed, current value of black being round £10 10s to London or Hull. Bombay castorseed has been done at £17, October-November, to Hull, and Toria rapeseed at £16 10s, January-February, to Liverpool.

In the oil section raw linseed oil continues scarce for prompt delivery, and quotes £38 15s, ex Hull mill. For delivery to the end of the year the figure is round £36 15s, and for January-April £32. Cotton oils are in quiet demand, but values are about unchanged.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

As hinted in this report a week or two ago, hides are showing signs of weakness at last, and prices at Thursday's Bermondsey auctions prove my forecast. Hereford and runts dropped 1d, whilst best ox were nearly all withdrawn. Seconds sold at 1d less money, whilst cows and bulls were just steady. Kips and calf showed no alteration on last prices, so that it is evident tanners are tired of paying advancing prices in view of the immense difficulty in getting compensating advances on their leather. Wools sold from 5s to 9s each, with the hogg class selling from 4s 9d to 11s 6d each. The tone of the imported hide market is still firm, but there is less activity reported from the River Plate, although America is still buying at high figures. The American market is cabled this week as steady, with best Chicago packers selling still at 23 cents. The imported goatskin position is very firm, and stocks are limited. Indian sorts are scarce and dear, owing to the brisk demand on the part of American kid tanners. The demand for bends is less active, and the trade is running on 8/10 lbs average from shoe manufacturers. Tanners are still eager sellers, but find it extremely difficult to secure any advance, users at once substituting a lower grade sole leather. The French drop in the exchange has also affected the export of shoulders and split hides to France, and factors are holding larger stocks in consequence. Upper leathers are still hanging fire, and the only leather which seems in fair demand is glazed kid at a low price, round about 6d to 12d per foot. Curriers are a shade better off for orders, but the demand for wax butts and splits is patchy, and several firms have stopped making this leather for the time being. The shoe section is fairly well employed, but orders are small, as buyers have no faith in the stability of prices. Sampling for the spring seems to be the most important item just now in the shoe trade centres.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, November 10.

SUGAR.—After opening the week with a quite tone the market became steadier, refined descriptions being raised 3d per cwt. in most cases, and a moderate amount of business was carried through. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes sold, 56s 9d to 57s 9d; crushed, 53s 9d; nibs, 56s 3d; granulated stove, 52s 7 1/2d; fine and coarse, in cwt bags, 52s 1 1/2d. No. 1, 51s 10 1/2d; No. 2, also London, 51s 7 1/2d; caster, finest, 55s 4 1/2d; A, 53s 7 1/2d; B, 53s; yellow crystals, 45s 7 1/2d; No. 3 crystals, 51s 6d; granulated, second half December, 51s; January-March, 50s 6d. Crystallised West India, spot, changed hands at 42s 6d to 45s, as to sample. American granulated, spot, found buyers at 49s 9d to 50s; white Java, spot, sold, 48s to 48s 9d as to quality; ditto afloat, steamer, 20s 3d to 20s 4 1/2d, c.f. and i. terms. London. White Mauritius, spot, quoted 47s 6d to 47s 9d; white Brazilian, spot, 47s 3d to 47s 6d. Belgian granulated, ready, sold, 20s 3d; crystals quoted, 19s 10 1/2d, f.o.b., Antwerp; W.S.R. granulated, prompt, 22s 9d; cubes, 27s 3d; H.U.M. granulated, 22s 9d, f.o.b., Amsterdam; Dinteloord granulated, November, sold, 21s 9d; and Sasvagent, November, also at 21s 9d, f.o.b., Rotterdam. Czechoslovakian granulated, December, 22s; cubes, 24s 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Brazilian, basis 95 per cent., December-January, sold, 17s 3d; and basis 80 per cent., November-December, 10s 6d, c.f. and i., U.K. Terminal market ruled firmer. White, December, sold, 21s to 21s 3d and 21s 1 1/2d; May, 21s 4 1/2d to 21s 9d and 21s 7 1/2d. Cuban stocks stand at 173,200 tons, against 1,103,120 at the same time last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s 6d.

COFFEE.—Spot market very steady, and a fair inquiry prevailed

for mild parcels. Vera Paz bold sizes, sold, 91s to 103s 6d; washed San Paulo bold, 85s 6d to 91s. Future delivery market remained slow. December, sold, 60s 6d.

COCOA.—Only small transactions were effected this week regarding spot lots, but sellers required recent prices respecting most descriptions. Trinidad in auction sold at a shade less money, however, good plantation, at 63s to 64s; Accra, F/F quality, November-January, sold, 36s; and January-March, 36s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—In auction during the week 43,330 packages Indian were catalogued, and while good to fine invoices engaged active support at firm rates, common and medium were quieter of sale, with trend of values against sellers. 9,360 packages Ceylon were also brought under the hammer, and with fair biddings a steady tone governed proceedings. Java and Sumatra sold steadily for all useful kinds, others irregular.

RICE.—Market steady, and business was of moderate dimensions. Two Stars, spot, 15s 6d; ditto, November, 14s 1 1/2d; No. 1 garden Siam, double bags, November, 15s. Spanish, prompt, quoted 19s 6d, c.f. and i. terms. Rangoon beans, spot, 8s. Japanese peas, spot, 36s; September-October, 27s 6d; December-January, 24s.

SPICE.—Pepper market generally quiet, but steady. Fair black Singapore, spot, 3 1/2d; ditto, December-February, 3 1/2d; Aleppo, spot, 4d; Tellicherry, 4 1/2d; white Singapore, spot, 5 1/2d; Muntok, 6d; ditto, December-February, 5 1/2d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 4 1/2d; October-December, 6 1/2d; November-January, done 6d. Flake tapioca, spot, sold, 2 1/2d per lb for fair quality. Fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 21s 6d; sago flour, November, sold, 13s; October-December, 12s 9d to 12s 10 1/2d; desiccated coconut, spot, fine and medium, sold, 36s 6d; coarse, 37s; January-February, halves, 35s 9d. Ginger quiet, unaltered.

FRUIT.—General trade in currants moved quietly. Pyrgos quoted 70s; Amalia, 71s; Patras, 75s; Vostizza, 85s to 97s. Sultanias ruled steady. Smyrna quoted 135s to 145s; choice, 155s to 160s. Figs steady. New layers, 125s to 145s; pulled, 180s to 195s. Valencia raisins steady regarding the lower qualities, but fine were slow of sale, and prices receded. In auction, 110 tons were disposed of, being about a third of the quantity submitted. Quarters, sold, 60s to 106s; seedless, 60s to 86s.

JUTE.—The market opened the week quietly, and after showing a firmer tendency, weakness again ensued, political and financial considerations outweighing firmness cabled from Calcutta. First grade, November-December, usual Continental ports, sold, £31 10s to £32 10s; December-January, £32 to £32 10s, £32, £32 15s; lightning grade, December-January, £30 10s to £30 15s, £30 10s, and £31. New crop, Ganish M assortment, dock Hamburg, sold, £34. Hessians steady. 10 oz, spot, 33s; January-March, sold, 31s; 8 oz, spot, quoted, 24s 6d; November-December, 25s; A twills, spot, 81s; B, 64s 9d; salts, 61s 6d; sugars, 80s.

HEMP.—The market for Manila after ruling very steady assumed a quieter tone. G grade, November-January, £34; H, quoted £33; J, £30 15s; K, £29 15s; L, £28 15s; M, £27 15s. New Zealand in very poor request. H.P.F., spot, quoted £33; fair, £32; and forward, £32 and £30 10s respectively. African sidal, No. 1 G.E.A., November-January, £35; and B.E.A., £34.

SHELLAC.—Market quiet, and forward positions easier. T.N., spot, steady at 350s for fair quality; A.C. garnet, 325s; G.A.L., 300s; T.N., December, sold, 320s to 315s and 325s; March, 295s to 280s and 292s 6d; November-December, steamer, sold, 290s, c.f. & i. terms.

COPRA.—Market opened the week with a firm tone, but became quiet and easier. F.M.S. Straits, November-January and December-February, Rotterdam, sold, £24 10s to £23 17s 6d and £24 2s 6d; Ceylon, November-December, done £25 10s to £25 5s; Java, £24 7s 6d to £24 2s 6d and £24 5s; Dutch East Indies, £23 18s 9d to £24 1s 3d; mixed, £23 7s 6d to £23; South Sea Islands, £23. Palm kernels, December-February, Liverpool, sold, £17 6s 3d to £17.

RUBBER.—Market somewhat unsettled, but there was a fair trade doing. Standard crepe and sheet, spot, also November delivery, sold, 1s to 1 1/2d and 1s; December, 1s 1/2d to 1 1/2d and 1s 1/2d; January-March, 1s 1/2d to 1s 1/2d, 1s 1/2d, and 1s 1/2d; April-June, 1s 1/2d to 1s 1/2d, 1s 1/2d, and 1s 1/2d; July-September, 1s 1/2d to 1s 1/2d. To New York standard sheet, December-January, sold, 1s 1/2d; first crepe, November-December, 1s 1/2d. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 1/2d; soft, fine, 1 1/2d; and Caucho ball, 1 1/2d.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Markets ruled quite steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot, sold, 107s 6d; ditto, October-December, 105s per cwt. Albumen, spot, 3s per lb.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market ruled easier on larger Argentine crop estimates, but steady at the decline. Bold Bombay, afloat, £21 5s.

GIRARD TRUST COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



Equipped to perform all
kinds of fiduciary ser-
vice—under appointment
by courts, corporations
and individuals.

Correspondence invited.

Chartered 1836.

Capital and Surplus - \$10,000,000.

Member of Federal Reserve System.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCV

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1922

No. 4,134.

Small Bombay, ditto, £20 15s. Calcutta, afloat, £19 5s; October-November, £18 15s; November-December, £17 15s. Plate, afloat, sold, £18 2s 6d; November-December, £16 12s 6d; December-January, sold, £15 15s; January-February, new crop, sold, £15 to £15 5s. Rapeseed quiet. Toria, November-December, £18; real bold Ferozepore, November-December, £17. Cottonseed firm. Egyptian black, November, £10 6s 3d, and white, sold, £10 1s 3d to £9 18s 9d. Bombay, December-January, £8 7s 6d. Gingly firm. Chinese, new, November-December, Continent, £21 10s; large Bombay, December-January, £22. Castor, Bombay, November-December, £16 12s 6d, sellers, to Hull. Ground nuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, November-December, £20 10s; ordinary, £19 10s; East African, November-December, £20; Nigerian, £19 15s; bold Bombay, December-January, £19 12s 6d. Chinese, November-December, £19 15s. Soya beans, Manchurian, November-December, £11; new crop, December-January, £10 17s 6d per ton.

OILS.—Linseed market irregular and easier. Spot, net, naked, 37s; November, 34s 9d; November-December, 34s 6d; January-April, 31s. Rape firm. Crude, spot, 41s 6d; refined, 45s. Cotton steady. Crude Egyptian, spot, new, 35s; common edible, 44s; deodorised (in barrels), 48s. China-wood firm. Hankow, spot (barrels), 72s; shipment, 67s 6d. Coconut steadier. Ceylon, spot, 39s; November-December, 38s; Ceylon, ditto, quoted 43s. Soya steadier. Oriental barrels, October-November, 35s 6d. Japan fish steady. November-December, cases, 21s 6d. Cod inactive. English, spot, 29s to 30s. Ground nuts firm. English crushed, naked, spot, 45s; deodorised, barrels, 52s. Turpentine dull and easier, irregular. American, spot, 116s; November-December, 116s; January-April, 118s. Rosin steady. American, grade B, 16s 6d; F, 16s 9d; G, 16s 9d; H to L, 16s 9d; WG, 19s 6d; WW, 21s. French, F/G, 15s 6d; WW, 17s 9d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water-white, 2d per gallon.

METALS.—Tin opened the week with a strong and active tone, due to good covering orders. Later top rates were not maintained on slight selling pressure. Cash sold at £187 15s; November, £187 10s to £187 5s to £187 12s 6d; December, £187 5s to £188 to £187 12s 6d; and January at £187 10s to £189 to £187 15s. Business was reported in the East at £186 10s, c.i.f. The market subsequently ruled easier, due to heavy selling pressure, though fairly liberal transactions occurred. Standard cash by the middle of the week sold down to £180; November, £180 5s; and three months, £180 15s to £181 10s. At Thursday's market the tendency was dearer. Cash sold at £183 10s, and three months at £183 to £184 to £183 15s, while finally registered at £185. Prices showed weakness for forward maturities, cash being fairly steady on Friday, with a fair demand. Standard, cash, sold at £184 10s, and three months sold at £185 10s to £185 to £185 7s 6d to £184 15s. English ingots, £184 to £184 10s.

Copper opened with a dearer tendency, though somewhat irregular, with large sales in cash at £63 10s to £63 2s 6d to £63 5s; November, £63 5s to £63 3s 9d; and three months at £63 15s to £64 2s 6d. Under the influence of good buying orders, also higher American cables, the market continued to show firmness. Standard, cash, on Tuesday sold at £63 15s to £63 10s; November, £63 17s 6d to £63 11s 3d; and three months at £64 7s 6d to £64 10s to £64 5s. Later movements were attended by slight irregularity and further weakness. Standard, January, sold at £64 2s 6d to £63 18s 9d to £64; and three months at £64. On Thursday values were rather firmer, with good demand. Standard, cash, sold at £63 2s 6d to £63 5s; and three months at £64 to £64 2s 6d. The upward movement continued on Friday, when Standard, cash, sold at £63 15s and three months at £64 10s to £64 12s 6d; electro, £70 10s to £71; strong sheets, £96; best selected, £65 10s to £67 10s; and wire bars, £71 per ton. Lead firmer at £26 10s to £25 5s, as to position. Spelter dearer at £39 2s 6d to £40 10s to £25 5s, as to position. moly. Ordinary, £27 to £29 10s. Aluminium, home, £92 10s.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on November 8th as follows:—The tallow market was steady during the week, and prices are fully maintained to-day. The recent advance in prices appears to have been sufficient to reduce the demand to a moderate extent. At auction to-day 1,839 casks tallow were offered, and 706 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 43s 9d; good to fair, 41s 9d to 40s; dull to dark, 37s 9d to 36s; hard, 42s. Australian beef: Fine, 44s; good to fair, 42s to 40s; dull to dark, 37s 6d to 36s; sweet, 45s. Present shipment from Australasia: Mutton, fair coloured, 48 degs., 40s; and mixed, 43s 3s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 14d; melted stuff, 25s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 35s 6d net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frait casks, 35s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 36s 6d to 35s 6d. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 35s 6d; melted stuff, 31s 6d, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—NOVEMBER 9.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.			
Beasts—Herefords	s	d	s
Shortfords	6	2	6
Devons	6	0	6
Norths	6	0	6
Scottish	6	0	6
Irish	nominal		
Fat Cows	nominal		
Sheep—Downs	s	d	s
Ewes	10	8	12
Crossbred	10	0	11
Lamb—Downs	11	8	12

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—NOVEMBER 9.

Per Cwt.				Per Cwt.				
English British Queens	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
" Eclipse	3	0	to	3	3			
	2	6		3	0			
					</			

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.			
00000—Duty, British grown	s	d	s
2s.4d. foreign 2s.4d. cwt.	65	0	0
Trinidad, per cwt.	65	0	0
Granada	65	0	0
Ceylon, plantation	65	0	0
Guyana, plantation	65	0	0
Bahia, finest	65	0	0
00000—British grown	s	d	s
2s.4d. foreign 2s.4d. cwt.	65	0	0
E. India 2s.4d. cwt.	65	0	0
Do good to fine	65	0	0
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	65	0	0
Good to fine	65	0	0
Central American, 6d.	65	0	0
Ord. to mid	65	0	0
Mid. to fine	65	0	0
Columbian, ordinary	65	0	0
Do ord. to low mid	65	0	0
Do mid. to fine	65	0	0
CHEMICALS—	s	d	s
Acid, citric, per lb	11	0	11
Nitric	24	0	0
Oxalic, net	8	0	0
Tartaric, English	1	2	3
Foreign	1	2	3
Alum lump, per ton	11/10/0	15/0/0	
Do ground	11/10/0	15/0/0	
Ammonia, carb. p. lb	39	0	0
Muriate, white, ton	61	0	0
Sulphate	61	0	0
Arsenic, lump, per ton	65	0	0
Powder	65	0	0
Ashe, pot., per cwt	47	0	0
Feast do do	47	0	0
Bleaching pwr. p. ton	3/10/0	14/0/0	
Borax, crystals	30	0	0
Do powder	30	0	0
Creosote Tarlar	98	0	100
98% powder	98	0	100
Calomel	1	1	1
Iodine, dry	1	1	1
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton	13/10/0	14/0/0	
Potash—	s	d	s
Chlorate, net	9	4	0
Prussiate	1	5	1
Do foreign	1	5	1
Sulphate	1	5	1
Sal. Acetos	1	5	1
Sal. Ammoniac, p. cwt	60	0	0
Soda bicarb., per ton	48/10/0	10/10/0	
Crystals, per ton	48/10/0	10/10/0	
Alkali	48/10/0	10/10/0	
Castile	48/10/0	10/10/0	
Sugar of lead white, ton	0/0/0	0/0/0	
Foreign white	42	10	45
Sulphate Quinine	2	2	2
English Brands	2	2	2
Foreign	2	2	2
Sulphate Copper, p. ton	27/0/0	28/0/0	
Zinc, cut	12/0/0	13/0/0	
Sulphur flour	12/0/0	13/0/0	
Do Roll	11/10/0	12/0/0	
Vermillion, Chinese, p. lb	4	4	4
English	4	4	4
Oil Peppermint, H.G.H. 23	6	2	0
Oil Peppermint, per ton, c.i.f.	24	0	0
Malabar, Oct. Dec.	25	0	0
Ceylon	25	0	0
FMS Singapore	25	0	0
FM Straits	25	0	0
00000—Per lb	2/9	3/0	

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)

BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

MESSRS. COX & CO.

LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

Capital (paid up):

Esc. 24,000,000

Reserve Funds:

Esc. 27,200,000



Branches as under.

82 offices in Portugal.
28 " " East and West Africa.
7 " " Brazil.
6 " " India and China.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.

New York Office—98, Liberty street.

Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.

London Office—9, Bishopsgate E.C.2.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up " 348,786,000
Reserve " 180,000,000
Deposits " 5,233,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

London Office - 30a, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

Manager: E. CONSOLO.

Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY

Every description of Banking business transacted

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	921
Leading Articles—	
The New Parliament.....	923
The Experts' Stabilisation Scheme	924
Overseas Trade in October	925
The Stock Exchange and Its Commission	926
Search for Oil in Great Britain	927
New Railway Companies ..	928
Latin-American Notes ..	929
Stock Exchange News—	
The Stock Markets	941
New Issues	942
Active Securities	942
Company Meetings.....	943
Government Returns—	
Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	949
Currency Notes Account ..	949
Public Income and Expenditure	949
Bankers' Gazette—	
Bank of England	950
Clearing Returns	950
Overseas Bank Returns ..	951
Loan and Discount Rates ..	952
Overseas Bank Rates	953
Rates of Exchange	953
Indian Treasury Bills ..	953
Bullion	954
Imports and Exports of Gold	954
Gold and Silver Prices ..	954
Company News—	
Mining Output Statistics ..	954
Dividend Announcements ..	955
Railway and Tramway Traffic	956
Reports and Notices	957
Oil Outputs	957
Summary of Company Profit and Loss Accounts	958
Commercial Reports—	
Corn Trade	958
Overseas Trade Returns ..	959
Iron and Coal Trade	959
Cotton Trade	960
Wool Trade	960
The Timber Trade	961
Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds ..	961
Hide and Leather Trades ..	961
Overseas Produce Markets ..	962
Price Current	963
Letters to the Editor—	
The Labour Programme ..	939
A Levy on Capital	939
Books and Publications—	
Labour Policy—False and True	940
Finance and History	940
Bohemia	941
Books Received	941

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s. od.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."
Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 53 Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: *Economist* Office, 20 Broad street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has been distinctly more plentiful, thanks to the big transfer from Public to Other deposits shown in the Bank return, and the demand for bills, which had been very hesitating in the early days of the week, became rather keener. Commercial paper, however, remained exceedingly scarce, though the higher rates current in New York were said to be leading to a certain amount of international kite-flying. Yesterday the announcement of the Treasury Bill allotment increased the tendency to ease, but the market was nominal and idle.

	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses/Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½-18	2½-18	2½-18	2½-18	..

The Bank return showed a decrease of £617,000 in the note circulation, and an increase of £3,000 in the stock of gold, so that the Reserve was £620,000 higher. Other securities indicated repayments by the market by a decrease of 1½ millions, but Government securities were three-quarters of a million higher. As to the deposits, Public had declined by nearly 3½ millions, of which 3 millions had gone to Other. Currency notes outstanding were reduced this week by £1,003,100 to £287,843,500, which includes £1,537,900 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £238,155,600, or £71,832,800 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The tone of the stock markets has remained remarkably firm, and although the volume of business has been on the small side, prices have been well maintained. The gilt-edged market improved a little on expectations of a Conservative majority at the General Election, while fairly heavy purchases were reported of War Loan and other British Government stocks on the part of Continental capitalists, who have become alarmed at the prospect of a Swiss capital levy. The settlement was lighter than the previous one, and was arranged without difficulty. The feature of the foreign market has been the activity in French bonds, which have fluctuated considerably with the movement of the franc. Home Rails are better on balance, and the demand for Argentine Rails continues. Rubber shares have been steady, but there has been a slight reaction in tea shares. Oils show a little improvement, and the industrial market generally is a little better, though business is quiet. Kaffirs and Rhodesians have been firm, but Chartered are still heavy.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There has been little activity in the cotton trade during the week, business to some extent being disorganised by the General Election. It is thought that cotton prices are too high, and that if manufactured goods are sold at current rates difficulty may be experienced in distributing centres abroad. The position in the wool industry is exceedingly difficult from the merchants' point of view. Our correspondent is of opinion that the present state of the world's markets does not justify to-day's standard of fine wool values. Business in pig-iron is improving, both hematite and Cleveland Foundry iron having been sold into the first quarter of next year. A considerable amount of inquiry is about for manufactured iron and steel, and our Sheffield correspondent reports that the trend of business has taken a decided turn for the better so far as steel is concerned. The position on the Cardiff coal market is slightly easier, the more immediate cause of the change being the disorganisation of traffic arrangements; more coal orders from France have been cancelled on account of exchange difficulties. Values in the timber trade display a decided firmness, and Swedish and Finnish exporters have cleared stocks at rising prices. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market there has been a decided recovery from the feverish collapse of the previous week, and, on the whole, business has been much quieter. Perhaps the most outstanding feature has been the remarkable improvement in the value of the lira, the quotation of 102.20 on the 10th having fallen to 94.25 on Tuesday, a quotation lower than at any time since the early part of July. On Wednesday there was a reaction to over 97.50, but by yesterday morning rates were down again to 94.75. No satisfactory explanation has yet been given of this movement beyond the general increase in confidence in Italy on the coming into power of the new Government. It would seem that the chief Italian banks have been spoken to by the new Finance Minister with

regard to exchange operations, but the exact nature of his instructions has not been divulged. The Paris rate has shown a somewhat irregular recovery, from 69.60 a week ago to 64 yesterday morning. There has been a good deal of bear covering, and a general feeling that the collapse of the previous week was too rapid, but there is at present no feeling of confidence in the market as to the future movement of the franc. The spread between Brussels and Paris has been very slightly reduced, but the discrepancy between the two rates remains as mysterious as before. Berlin, after some recovery in the early part of the week, reacted again, but yesterday morning the rate showed a tendency to fall sharply on the news of Herr Cuno's appointment, and at one time stood at 27.500, as compared with 35.000 on the 10th. In view of the probable opposition of the Socialists, however, the future of the new Government is most obscure, and a solution of the financial difficulties of Germany seems as far off as before. The dollar rate has been somewhat irregular, but, on the whole, the movement has been decidedly in favour of this country from 4.46½ on the 10th to 4.48 yesterday morning. The quotation for forward dollars is about ¼ of a cent per month above spot. On the whole, the recent election results in the U.S.A., with the possible consequence of more liberal assistance to the agricultural population, would seem to point to an improvement in sterling, but the situation is by no means certain. Among the neutral exchanges Amsterdam has moved against us, while Switzerland, too, shows signs of recovery from its fright over a possible capital levy. Madrid, too, is slightly lower, but the Scandinavian countries have all moved somewhat in our favour. Helsingfors, after rising from the low quotations of the previous week, would seem to be steadying down at about 180. In Central Europe, Vienna remains stationary at about 330,000, and reports as to the new financial measures in connection with the League of Nations' proposals are somewhat more optimistic. Warsaw, too, for the first time for some weeks, shows signs of more stability at 70,000, or slightly under, while Prague also remains steady at 140. At 370 the Athens rate is again somewhat higher, but the panic movements of recent weeks appears to have been stayed. In the East the rupee has moved up to 1s 4d from 1s 3 3/4d, while the yen at 2s 1 1/4d is slightly cheaper. Silver prices, as was forecasted last week, have continued to move downwards, and there is still little confidence in the future. As compared with a week ago, Hong Kong at 2s 4 1/4d is 1d cheaper, while Shanghai is 2d cheaper at 3s 1 1/4d. In South America, Buenos Ayres is about the same at 44 1/2d, Montevideo a little dearer at 43 1/4d, Rio slightly up at 6 1/2d, and Valparaiso, after being higher, is also a little dearer at 35.80.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 11th:—

Receipts.	Min. £	Expenditure.	Min. £
From Revenue	12,964	Interest on Debt	7-81
Taken from Exchequer balances	316	Supply Services	4-92
		Reduction of debt	21
		Sundries	13-28
	13,280		

Property and Income-tax yielded £4,331,000, against £1,400,000 in the corresponding period of last year. Customs produced £2,564,000, against £2,682,000. Excise receipts £1,719,000, against £1,760,000, and Estate duties £780,000, against £650,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £4,924,660 and caused the following changes:—

National Savings Certificates	Min. £	National War Bonds paid off	Min. £
Treasury Bills	450	Unemployment Insurance ..	20
4½% Treasury Bonds	1,138	Public Works Advances	7-46
	1,637	Funding Loan, &c.	25
	3,225		8-15

The floating debt was reduced by £6,330,000 to £914,173,500 during the week.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to November 11, 1922).

Total spent	£	Raised by revenue ..	£
Dec. in balances	447,583,040	Net repayments	494,279,91
	8,010,460		54,707,33
Total	439,572,580	Total	439,572,580

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1922-23.			
£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT. (Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
3½% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	..	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds ..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,979	1,979
4% Funding Loan	..	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,046
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	409	409	405	405	401	401
3½% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	360	357	348	266	266	478
5-15 year Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	381	311
D. by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40
D. by tender 4%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	68
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	742
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Nat'l. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	367
War Expend. Certs.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,075
American Loan	..	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	172
Other Capital Liabilities	57	57	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,664
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,731

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Temporary Advances Out- standing—	Nov. 12, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Nov. 11, '22.	Nov. 11, '22.
Advances by Bank of England	6,000,000..	147,301,500..	174,288,500..	7,450,000
Advances by Public Deptts	189,408,000..	147,301,500..	174,288,500..	7,450,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,122,167,000..	882,219,000..	741,885,000..	1,120,000
Total Floating Debt	1,317,575,000..	1,029,520,500..	914,173,500..	6,330,000

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The confusion here and there between party labels accounts for some discrepancies in the various estimates of the exact balance of parties in the new Parliament. But these discrepancies are trivial, and in the main the upshot of the General Election is perfectly clear. Mr Bonar Law will have a clear majority of at least four score over other parties combined. It is a majority of the size most to be desired by a wise Prime Minister. It is not large enough to be unwieldy, or to produce slackness and over-confidence; nor is it small enough to cause continual anxiety, or which is far more important, to lead to the temptation of insincere combination or unscrupulous bargains with any other political group. Coalition has been enthusiastically buried by the electorate, and the position in the new House of Commons provides no fears of its resurrection in the shape of "co-operation" or under any other guise. Mr Bonar Law is in the saddle without any pillion rider, and the electorate has given him full opportunity to prove his powers of horsemanship. These powers will be tested to the full by the rocky nature of the road which he has to traverse, and his performance will be watched with the greater anxiety because the electorate has given him his mount without knowing much about his plans for surmounting some of his most formidable obstacles. On several vital questions, upon which Mr Bonar Law has been rather surprisingly reticent, the electorate has shown him the way. The Conservative campaign throughout the country has shown at least a half-conscious realisation that the mass of the people are first and foremost in favour of a policy of peace through the League of Nations. The manifestation of popular feeling on this question throughout the length and breadth of the land should act as a stimulus to the Prime Minister. On another point the electorate has given an unmistakeable indication of its views. It has shown itself overwhelmingly in favour of Free Trade. The fact that Mr Bonar Law has succeeded in keeping tariffs well in the background has been an immense asset

to the Conservative party, and the large Conservative successes in Lancashire and some other districts would have been impossible on any other condition. There is at present on the Statute Book an administrative Act that opens the door very wide to the extension of tariffs; but we trust that this undoubted manifestation of Free Trade opinion will be fully realised by the Government, and will act as a strong restraining force whenever and wherever tariff temptations may arise.

From the party point of view the election results have brought surprises all round, and much rejoicing and disappointment in various quarters. The Conservatives have held their ground to a far greater extent than their most optimistic organisers expected; Labour's gains have been more extensive than the party chiefs dared to hope; the Independent Liberals have only doubled, where they hoped to quadruple, their representation; while the severest blow has been sustained by the Lloyd George Liberals. Sensations have occurred with regard to both personnel and localities. The Conservatives have surprised themselves with the extent of their hold upon the counties, and the Labour party by their sweep of Glasgow and the reversal of the bad municipal results in the great industrial centres. The Independent Liberals, on the other hand, record among their gains such unlikely constituencies as Great Yarmouth, Oxford, Birkenhead, and the Isle of Wight. As regards personnel, the defeat of Mr Churchill is the most sensational, while the loss of Sir Donald Maclean will be the most widely regretted by all shades of Parliamentary opinion. Ministerial casualties, numbering five, are lighter than might have been expected; but the victims among the Ministers of the late Government include, besides Mr Churchill, such notable figures as Sir Hamar Greenwood, Mr Kellaway, and Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen. Labour's severest loss is Mr Henderson. On the other hand, old Parliamentary hands returned, after a spell in the wilderness, include Sir John Simon, Mr Philip Snowden, and Mr Ramsay Macdonald, while a Labour protagonist in Mr Sidney Webb enters the House for the first time. The failure of women candidates has again been almost wholesale, Mrs Wintringham and Lady Astor being again left to represent their sex at Westminster. On the whole, a rapid review of the results suggests that in the matter of personnel the new House of Commons will be much more satisfactory than the last, one of the most interesting changes being the strong representation on the Labour benches of the intellectual side of the movement. But it is not only in the matter of personnel that the new House will be an improvement on the old. The Government party, as we have said, will be unified and cohesive, and it is of equal importance that the new House will have, what the late House so disastrously lacked, namely, a strong, effective, if not cohesive, opposition. In debating strength Mr Bonar Law may find his front bench over-matched by heavy artillery, and he will, we think, live to regret that so many of the high offices of State have been handed to members of the House of Lords. Another advantage of the composition of the new Parliament is that it appears to remove every obstacle, except the personal obstacle, to a re-union of the Liberal party, which is strongly desirable in the interests of the country. It is quite impossible for any party to retain its existence on a foundation which consists of nothing whatever but the personality of one man, even though that man's personality be so powerful as that of Mr Lloyd George. The path would, therefore, seem to be open to Liberal re-union, while on the other side of the House it would appear equally certain that Mr Austen Chamberlain and his personal followers will be quietly and unobtrusively merged again into the Conservative fold. These advantages arise from the fact that the need for coalition has gone, and that Mr Bonar Law has a complete working majority. A further advantage we hope will arise from the same fact. The country has elected a Government which we may hope will succeed in shaking off the mistrust and discredit which the late Coalition succeeded in earning throughout Europe.

These are the advantages, definite and prospective, of a clear majority. But there are some aspects of the election figures which are not so reassuring. A comparison of the elected members of the various parties, with the votes cast in the country, give food for serious thought

on the future of democratic representation. We extract the following figures (not quite complete) from yesterday's *Times* :—

	Members Elected.	Total Votes Received.
Conservative	341 ..	5,377,465
Liberal	60 ..	2,595,285
National Liberal.....	52 ..	1,510,734
Labour	141 ..	4,102,425
Other Parties	11 ..	453,652

The main feature that emerges from a study of these figures is that the Conservative party, with a clear majority of 77 members in Parliament, are in a minority of well over 3,000,000 votes in the country. This anomaly is, of course, due to the split votes and three and four-cornered elections. If Liberal and Conservative re-union reduces the political parties to three, the anomaly will become less serious. But in any case, it is difficult to see how, under the present electoral system, minority rule is to be avoided. Not the least important problem for the new Parliament to consider is how, by a change in the electoral system, majority rule may be assured. The problem of removing these present defects in the system of democratic representation is one that should not be allowed to drift.

THE EXPERTS' STABILISATION SCHEME.

THE Wirth Cabinet has fallen, but this does not detract from the importance attaching to the scheme for stabilising the German mark put forward by the distinguished experts summoned to Berlin to discuss the question by the German Government. It looked at first sight rather like a helpless confession of weakness for any Government, even though surrounded by all the financial difficulties that now beset Germany, to have to ask for outside advice about the solution of its economic problems; but, in fact, it was a very clever thought, as is evident as soon as it is admitted that the mark cannot be stabilised unless Germany is granted a moratorium on Reparation payments. For this obstacle to stabilisation, if put forward by Germany as an insuperable bar to the restoration of order to her chaotic financial position, would naturally be regarded by all her *jusqu'au boutiste* enemies as an attempt to evade her liabilities and escape the punishment that has been justly imposed upon her. But when it is laid down, as a first condition of stabilisation, that all payments under the Treaty of Versailles must be waived for at least two years—and this assertion is made in a document signed by Gustav Cassel, of Stockholm; Jeremiah Jenks, of New York; and Robert Brand, of London, and J. M. Keynes, of Cambridge—it is clear at once that very eminent and authoritative support has been given to the arguments in favour of a moratorium that have been used, untiringly and perhaps with more effect than has appeared, by Sir John Bradbury.

In the opinion of these highly qualified experts, the mark can be stabilised if the moratorium is granted, and if the mark is stabilised the Budget can be balanced. Unless the Budget is balanced, it is clear that the stabilisation of the mark could not be very long maintained, and the Berlin report thus in effect calls for effort both by Germany's creditors and by her rulers and people. The creditors must make an effort of renunciation, first by postponing all payments under the treaty, and, secondly, by shortly consenting to a final settlement of the Reparation question "on lines capable of being carried out"; but this renunciation is evidently more apparent than real, because if the creditors try to insist on immediate payments, or on demanding later sums that cannot be produced, they will only defeat their own object by being too greedy. This rather hollow concession once granted, Germany has to do the rest for herself. So the report says stabilisation "must primarily depend upon Germany's own efforts and own resources, and on the resolute action of her Government. It is hopeless at this stage to expect it to be accomplished by foreign assistance as its main foundation. Germany must have a constructive policy of her own, even though it involves a risk. No other course is open."

In the long run, as the report admits, the success of stabilisation depends on the balancing of the Budget,

while stabilisation is itself a necessary condition of Budget equilibrium. Thus at first sight we seem to be faced by a problem which means, until the crack of doom, to chase its own tail round and round a vicious circle. But according to the reasoning of the experts, we are rescued by the saving phrase, "in the long run." Stabilisation cannot be kept up indefinitely without Budget equilibrium, but it can be started—especially under the favourable conditions now, as will be shown, present in Germany—and if their Budget equilibrium is promptly secured, it will assist and maintain stabilisation, and so the circle becomes beneficent instead of vicious. Let us hope that things might work thus pleasantly. Probably the problem is largely psychological, and it is certainly true that if only a large enough number of the right people—including Germans who have foreign balances, and of the foreigners who have lost money by buying the mark too dear and would be stimulated to "average" if they thought it had touched bottom—believed with sufficiently robust conviction that the mark could be stabilised, then stabilised it would be.

Given stabilisation, the Budget, on the admission of the German Treasury, can be balanced "at an early date," if relieved of the present extraordinary charges. These charges include not only Reparation payments, but also capital expenditure for public purposes, which the German Government has hitherto been providing out of "revenue"—in other words, by means of the printing press, thereby, perhaps deliberately, making more confounded the confusion of its finances. The Berlin report says emphatically that expenditure of this kind should not be charged to loans, and also lays stress on the need for "the utmost rigour in the collection of taxes." In view of the well-known opinions of the reporting experts, those who are too ready to be critical of the French attitude on Reparations will do well to mark that out of their mouths coming in the matter of the most elementary fiscal virtues. A Government that wastes money and does not even enforce the full payment of taxes cannot be surprised and hurt if its creditors are sceptical about its protests against the intolerable weight of the burdens laid upon it.

Though granting that external assistance in the shape of credits would be a most helpful support to stabilisation and suggesting the early summoning of a bankers' conference to form a Consortium—not a very well-omened word—to secure it, the authors of the report maintain that, granted the necessary conditions of a moratorium in the matter of Treaty payments of at least two years, a Budget, and the restoration to Germany of normal prerogatives in international trade, immediate stabilisation is possible, and more than possible, through Germany's own efforts. Certain technical conditions are enumerated to control. Among them are the large gold reserve, the internal scarcity of currency (which has been finally made in its buying power), and the margin between external and internal depreciation. "At the rate of 3,500 marks about twice the value of the note issue.....No other support still unused." As to the rate at which stabilisation should be attempted, that, in the view of the reporting experts, must be fixed with regard to the internal and external buying power of the mark at the time when the collapse is made. They think that "the recent great that if the proposed remedies are applied to the position are certainly the materials for a very headlong 'bear stampede' in the mark, if all the Germans who hold if they did not bring their money home at once their mark; and if all the American and European speculators who have been nursing marks bought before the recovery ran away from them, the results might startle even the nerves of the market in exchange, duller as they are by the recent succession of sensational possi-

bilities. It should be noted that the report makes short work of the alleged adverse trade balance as an obstacle to stabilisation, bluntly saying that its authors doubt whether the many different figures supplied to them "deserve much credence."

They accordingly recommend a plan of stabilisation which is an ingenious mixture of gold standard and gold exchange standard. A Board of Exchange should be set up as a special department of the Reichsbank, and should be given the disposal of "adequate gold" from its reserves, and should buy paper marks on demand at a fixed rate to the dollar, presumably paying for them in gold or in dollars or other foreign currencies at the option of the seller, though this point is not made clear. At the same time a foreign currency reserve "on such scale as may be required," should be created on the security of the gold at the disposal of the Board of Exchange, and in conjunction with any credits that may be secured from the International Bankers' Consortium; and the Board of Exchange should buy and sell foreign currencies against paper marks at fixed rates, should also buy foreign exchange on the spot and sell it forward, and should issue gold bonds guaranteed by the Reichsbank with one or two years' currency in exchange for foreign currencies and balances.

The scheme is thus worthy of the eminent economists who sign the report that sets it forth. It is as simple as such plans can be made, and it seems to be as watertight as such a scheme can be made to look before it has been tried. But is it really workable, and have not its distinguished authors been working in a theoretical vacuum to which human nature with its prejudices is not allowed to penetrate? Everyone must hope that they have not built on sand, but there is nothing in the report to reassure those creditors of Germany who hesitate to give her breathing space because they do not believe that at the end of it Germany will be any more ready to pay. It is true that they are getting nothing now, but how are they to be convinced that they will get anything ever? Sir Robert Horne lately said that the French expected the goose to provide not only golden eggs, but also *pâté de foie gras*. There may have been a spark of truth in this questionable gibe, and at least it is true that unless the French can be assured of golden eggs at the end of the moratorium many of them will prefer the *pâté de foie gras* policy. And the moratorium was an essential condition of stabilisation. Moreover, will Germany make the effort which was also essential, even if the revision of the Reparation terms recommended by the experts is carried out? The Germans do not seem to favour a policy of effort on the part of themselves, backed by merely negative concessions from outside. Their late Government has handed a note to the Reparations Commission indicating an external loan of 500 million gold marks as a preliminary condition to stabilisation. When this has been granted they will add a like sum to it, and the total will be put under the control of a department of the Reichsbank, which will, according to the Berlin correspondent of the *Morning Post*, "seek to push the price of the mark upwards" by buying marks in the principal foreign centres. But is pushing the mark upwards the way to stabilise it? So far the Germans do not seem even to have understood clearly what stabilisation means.

OVERSEAS TRADE IN OCTOBER.

THE October trade returns are not quite so good as the favourable September figures, when the visible adverse balance stood at only £8 millions, but they have their satisfactory features. The excess of imports, it is true, has risen to over £16 millions, but this increase, as compared with September, is due not to any decline in exports, but to an increase in imports of food and raw materials, imports of manufactured goods in October figuring at the same amount as in September. Total imports in October were £85 millions, as against just under £77 millions in September; British exports were £60½ millions, against £62½ millions in September, and re-exports, £8½ millions, against £6½ millions. A comparison of the October

figures and the totals for the ten months, with those of the corresponding periods of 1921, is set out below :—

MONTH OF OCTOBER.				
	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
Imports	£ 84,734,191	£ 85,014,529	+ £ 280,338	+ % 0.3
British exports	62,265,379	60,398,843	- 1,866,536	- 3.0
Re-exports	10,385,614	8,277,151	- 2,108,463	- 20.3
Total exports	72,650,993	68,675,994	- 3,974,999	- 5.5
Excess of imports over total exports	12,083,198	16,338,535	+ 4,255,337	+ 35.1

TEN MONTHS Ended OCTOBER 31.

	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
Imports	£ 912,273,387	£ 813,556,825	- 98,716,562	- % 10.8
British exports	580,926,690	595,122,610	+ 14,195,920	+ 2.4
Re-exports	88,025,282	86,150,677	- 1,874,605	- 2.1
Total exports	668,951,972	681,273,287	+ 12,321,315	+ 1.8
Excess of imports over total exports	243,321,415	132,283,538	- 111,037,877	- 45.6

As already mentioned, the increase of £8 million in imports, as compared with September, is in the right direction, occurring as to £3 millions under food and as to £5 millions under raw materials, raw cotton accounting for £4 millions of the latter. As compared with October of last year, imports of food are nearly £6 millions lower, principally as a result of lower prices; imports of raw materials have increased by £5 millions, mainly under textiles, while imports of manufactured goods rose by over a million. British exports of food and manufactured goods declined by £400,000 and £3½ millions respectively, while exports of raw materials rose by £1½ millions, the value of coal exports alone rising by over £2 millions. In making these comparisons with October of last year, the fact that at that time the effects of the coal stoppage had by no means been overcome has to be borne in mind. But this influence confuses the issue very much more in the comparisons of the figures for the ten months. British exports for the ten months, for example, show an increase of over £14 millions, but in coal exports there is an increase of over £25½ millions, while exports of cotton yarn and piece goods are nearly £10 millions higher. British exports of machinery, on the other hand, are nearly £21 millions lower, and there is a considerable decrease in exports, iron and steel, and manufactures thereof, and in electrical goods and apparatus. But here, again, the question of price is a complicating factor. For instance, the tonnage of iron and steel and manufactures thereof exported in the ten months expanded from 1,301,600 tons in 1921 to 2,688,000 tons, an increase of over 100 per cent., whereas the value declined from nearly £53 millions to less than £50 millions.

In the large decline in the value of the ten months' imports the fall in prices plays a conspicuous part. The quantity of grain and flour imported, for example, fell by not much over 2 per cent., but the value dropped from £121½ to £84 millions. The total decline in food imports, as compared with 1921, was over £102 millions, while imports of raw materials dropped by over £18½ millions, towards which iron and steel and manufactures thereof contributed £11½ millions, and refined oils, including motor spirit, lamp oil, and fuel oil over £16 millions. Imports of raw materials, on the other hand, in spite of a reduction of over £12 millions in coal imports, expanded by over £22 millions, including increases of £6½ millions in timber, £13½ millions in raw cotton, £18 millions in wool, and £4 millions in hides and skins.

The average monthly adverse trade balance for the ten months of £13½ millions compares very favourably with that for the same period of 1921, namely, £24½ millions, but it will be seen that the excess of imports for October is well above the 1922 average. An increase in imports of raw materials is a necessary prelude to an expansion in industrial activity, and in so far as this has occurred in recent months, it may be taken as a sign of trade improvement. Beyond this it is difficult to derive any solid evidence from the October returns of a recovery in this country's industrial prosperity.

Exports of gold in October were £6½ millions, as compared with £2½ millions in September and £4½ millions in October, 1921. Of last month's total nearly £3 millions went to the United States and £2¼ millions to France. A detailed comparison of the principal import and export values in October and the ten months will be found on a later page.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND ITS COMMISSION.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Stock Exchange had a local election of its own yesterday, when two members, a broker and jobber, were in competition for the place on the Stock Exchange Committee, which had just been vacated by the former. The result of the poll had not been declared up to the time that this was written, but whatever the result, it will make little difference to the position of House affairs, or to the question upon which this by-election was fought. The broker in the case succeeded in obtaining election to the Stock Exchange Committee last March, his two planks being "abolition of present system of commission sharing" and "earliest possible return to pre-war conditions" in the Stock Exchange. The latter came about in the ordinary course of events last June, but when the point of commission was raised the Stock Exchange Committee decided, once more, by a majority to let matters remain as they were. Agents, that is, bankers and others, are allowed to receive 50 per cent. of the gross amount of commission charged on all business which they introduce to members of the Stock Exchange. For country brokers a special scale of commission has been established that is, generally speaking, on a similar percentage of division. Some of the provincial stock exchanges strictly forbid their members to divide commission with anybody, and the result is what may be expected. For instance, it is nothing unusual for a London stockbroker to receive an order from a Northern agent in stocks and shares in which the main market exists in the town whence the order emanates, but the members of whose Stock Exchange are forbidden to share commission with agents. In order to obtain his half-brokerage, the agent will send the order to a London house. The Londoners will return it to the same town, where it will be executed on behalf of the London broker, who sends the contract to his Northern agent and credits the latter with half-commission. Had the client gone direct to a stockbroker in the town itself, he would obviously have saved the London broker's remuneration, whereas, by doing it through an agent, although the agent receives half-commission, the expense to the client is practically doubled. This is bound to be the case so long as the various stock exchanges of the country are not in line in regard to their commission rules.

Nor is this the only way in which clients are placed at a disadvantage through the present method. In some of the smaller towns bank officials are known to canvass with all their energies for orders, which are collected, sent up to London, and the brokerage upon which is shared with the banks, the staffs receiving recognition in one shape or another. From the point of view of the London broker, the practice has the disadvantage of being expensive, and by no means satisfactory in several other respects. Agents make mistakes like everyone else, but if the agent is an important one he (or his stock department) will claim almost as a matter of right that the broker shall rectify the consequences of such errors as those which arise over misinterpretation of orders, losses in regard to dividends and the like. The tacit understanding is, of course, that for shouldering such losses the broker shall be compensated by the receipt of other orders in the future. Leaving out the country brokers, the banks are, of course, the principal agents in bringing business to the London market, although of individual clients the Public Trustee is certainly the most important. The office of the Public Trustee has come in for sharp criticism on several occasions in regard to the department's payability, and no doubt it would be loth to surrender even a part of the half-commission, which must prove a very substantial source of revenue in the course of a year. It is arguable whether the Public Trustee

is entitled to the same amount of consideration as the banks, because, had he not been there, the business would in any case come to the Stock Exchange when it is a matter of realising deceased accounts and of making reinvestments for trusts.

The footing upon which the banks stand, however, is different, and deserves to be acknowledged by the Stock Exchange. The banks are large advertisers. Of late years some of them have adopted the admirable practice of sending out carefully-written reviews and reports, all of which have the unquestionable effect of increasing interest in Stock Exchange securities and of quickening public attention in the markets. This costs money, and with the Stock Exchange prohibited from advertising, most members of the House acknowledge readily enough that the banks perform a useful service in bringing business to the House. This being so, they are entitled to a share of the profits arising out of these orders. There are some members who would abolish return of commission altogether, in the same way as is done by the Northern stock exchanges, already mentioned, but on the other hand, many brokers appreciate the work done by the banks, and are quite willing to credit the latter with a share of the brokerage, provided that it be an equitable proportion. To assume that a broker's expenses are fully 50 per cent. of his receipts is not unreasonable. It follows that, if the agent is given back 50 per cent. of the commission drawn from his business, and the broker's expenses also swallow up 50 per cent., then there is not much advantage left to the broker other than that of being able to maintain a large staff, and to gather what kudos there may be from the knowledge that he is on the rota of a bank's list of brokers.

Various proportions have been suggested as reasonable in the circumstances, but the obvious and the easiest plan would be for the broker to retain two-thirds of the gross commission, crediting the agent with the other third. Even so, this would not give the broker any too much. The total abolitionists, as they may be called, urge that the banks make their profit out of banking, and for them to expect any commission at all is to take bread-and-butter from Stock Exchange members for no reason other than the advertisements which the banks publish, and which, as already observed, bring business into the Stock Exchange markets. It may seem to the outsider a little reasonableness of making the shares two-thirds and one-third. Yet, time after time, the proposal to rearrange the proportions has been blocked by a very small number of brokers, most of whom deal for the banks, and whose business is regarded with a certain amount of jealousy by fellow-members who claim that the whole trend of business nowadays is for orders to go to the big men at the expense of the smaller brethren. The question having already been raised during the current Stock Exchange financial year, and the proposal to alter the prescribed percentage having been defeated, it is possible that when a new Stock Exchange Committee will be elected. In the meantime, however, the subject deserves serious consideration, because, although it would appear to be a domestic matter purely between the Stock Exchange and its agents, in point of practical fact, the public's interest through his banker if he considers that this course insures him against any possible fear of Stock Exchange failures. The facility of having purchases of stock debited to one's passbook, instead of being obliged to draw a cheque, may seem small, though it is a consideration that appeals powerfully to many men and women alike. On the other hand, any outsider can realise that, in dealing for a per-buoy cheaply, and selling dearly, than in such cases as probably at some late hour in the session, to execute possible, and is unable, though he is willing, to take the interest in the client giving the instructions. It would appear that, although the present system of returning half-commission is open to question, there is a

good deal to be said for the agent, especially a bank, receiving a third of the broker's charge while the broker himself retains the remainder.

Mr R. M. Holland Martin, honorary secretary to the Bankers' Clearing House, has addressed the following letter to Sir Wilfrid Atlay, chairman of the Stock Exchange Committee, under Wednesday's date, and the letter has been posted in the House:—

DEAR SIR WILFRID.—The banks have noted with surprise statements in the Press and elsewhere that their attitude has changed with regard to the position they have always taken up in respect to sharing of commission between the banks and the Stock Exchange. I am, therefore, instructed to inform you that such statements are without any foundation in regard to the clearing banks.—Yours truly, (Signed) R. M. HOLLAND MARTIN.

Bankers' Clearing House, Lombard street. Before the war, the bankers' attitude on the subject was that they expected to receive half of the gross commission from business introduced to the Stock Exchange by themselves. This was reiterated at a meeting held about five and a-half years ago, and its reaffirmation at the present time exhibits a somewhat uncompromising attitude on the part of the bankers.

SEARCH FOR OIL IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

IT is now possible to place on record a final report of the results obtained from the search for petroleum in both England and Scotland. The proceedings have extended over no less than eight years, commencing as far back as 1914, at the instigation of Lord Cowdray. In a letter published in *The Times* of October 25, 1918, Lord Cowdray stated:—"Prior to 1914 it was almost universally believed that the chances of finding oil in Great Britain were non-existent. Dr Veatch, the head of my geologic staff, thought differently, and seized the opportunity of a break in his other work to turn his attention to England. Geology and chemistry were prompt to confirm his anticipations and to justify us in an attempt to find oil." Lord Cowdray was so impressed with the importance of a home supply of petroleum, and so hopeful of the possibility of getting it from Derbyshire, that he approached the Government with alternative offers—he was prepared to bore at his own expense, to the extent of £500,000, provided that some protection was given against competitive boring, which might diminish or extinguish the value of his work, or he was prepared to place the expert knowledge of his firm freely at the disposal of the Government, should the Government decide to undertake the work itself. Lord Cowdray was informed on March 5, 1918, that no oil would be found in paying quantities by an English geologist. It was ultimately decided that the Government would provide the necessary funds. These preliminary investigations extended over 3½ years; Lord Cowdray and those associated with him had the greatest confidence in the reliability of the conclusions which his experts propounded; they confidently asserted that oil in paying quantities existed in Great Britain, and that it was merely a question of finding and tapping it.

The question which Lord Cowdray's expert staff had to answer was, Where were the boreholes to be located? There is no difficulty in surmising the line of reasoning by which the answer was reached. Large areas of the country would be ruled out at once—those covered by the old red sandstone and the underlying older rocks, which have been so faulted, denuded, and folded that any oil they may have contained must long since have been lost, and those areas of Great Britain covered by rocks above the new red sandstone that would in effect limit the sites for the boreholes to the carboniferous series, including the coal-bearing rocks; they cover wide areas. Dr Veatch and his associates might have had a tough task to suggest suitable sites; but, fortunately for them, the accidental discovery of a pocket of oil in 1847 in the Riddings Colliery, known as the New Deep Pit at Pye Bridge, Codnor Park, South Derbyshire, which produced a dribble for nearly two years, gave them the clue. The vicinity of that old find was made the starting-point for a line of boreholes extending over a length of about 18 miles, in approximately a northern and

southern direction. By a remarkable coincidence the old oil find of some 75 years ago is not very far from a great anticlinal of the coal-measure rocks (the rocks originally level being compressed into a reversed U, with the limbs spread outwards) extending from the vicinity of Mansfield to the east of Chesterfield and then towards Sheffield. Ample evidence of it occurs in railway cuttings and rock exposures, which can be readily found. Oil experts associate oil deposits with anticlinals. The selection of suitable and possible sites was, therefore, rendered a very easy one.

With the old find of oil as a starting-point, two sites were selected, one south and the other north of it; the former in the Golden Valley, 12 miles south of Chesterfield, and the latter a mile east of Alfreton Railway Station. Depths of 3,655 feet and 4,006 feet were reached, but no oil in quantity was found. Both sites have now been abandoned, the derricks and plant removed. Only concrete foundations, cinder heaps, excavated tanks about 50 feet by 30 feet, and wood barracks left standing indicate where the boreholes were situated. It follows from this abortive attempt that the oil find of 70 years ago was only a pocket, and did not indicate the existence of extensive oil deposits extending over large areas of ground. Omitting all geological details, it may be pointed out that the carboniferous rocks consist of four sections—the uppermost contains the coal seams and the lowest consists of the limestone, which yields the noted scenery of Buxton, Matlock, Dove Dale, and other parts of the country. These boreholes were sunk through the coal measures far into limestone. Just at the level where the bores entered the limestone a good showing of thick oil was obtained, enough to raise the hopes of the explorers. At several points within the limestone other oil shows were obtained, notably at 2,500 feet and 3,630 feet. At this level it was decided to shatter the rock to give any confined oil an opportunity of escaping; 180 lbs of dynamite containing 75 per cent. of nitro-glycerine were exploded, January 8, 1921, but nothing followed, greatly to the disappointment of the searchers.

The next step was to find two suitable sites intermediate between the one near Alfreton and Chesterfield, one on the slope of the anticlinal, the other directly on the top of it. Following the main road extending south-east from Chesterfield, a waterworks reservoir is prominently situated on high ground, with a field between it and the road, the very place for a borehole—99 persons out of a 100 would have selected it—that is, the site of the well-known Hardstoft bore, which has tapped a pocket of oil approximately similar in quantity to that found 75 years ago. The boring has been carried as far down as has been thought desirable, the whole of the plant is standing overgrown with weeds, just as the workers left it. Work boring began at Hardstoft on October 15, 1918, and May 27, 1919, at a depth of 3,077 feet, the pocket of oil was tapped which has been flowing for three years and six months and appears now to be dying off. For a long period the flow was at the rate of one ton per day, or 7½ barrels, equal to 315 gallons. The flow is now only 101 gallons per day. The pocket found 75 years ago gave out at the end of two years. It was predicted when the work at Hardstoft commenced that other pockets similar to the old one may exist, and may be found, and that has actually occurred. The Hardstoft pocket is somewhat larger than the old one at Riddings, near Codnor Park. The total outflow to date, September, 1922, may be taken at 1,000 tons, or 7,500 barrels, that is, equal to 50,400 cubic feet of oil. Assuming the area of the oilfield tapped to be a mile square (twice the length of Whitehall), then the thickness of the layer of oil found is about a 50th of an inch. As that is the greatest flow of oil found in Great Britain as the result of eight years' work, and the expenditure of unlimited funds, the prospects of our becoming one of the oil-producing countries of the world are extremely remote; that is precisely what practically all British geologists foresaw when Lord Cowdray first announced the suggested search. The opinion was sent to him, if possible to save the expenditure. In the hope that further penetration of the limestone might increase the flow, the borehole was carried down from 3,077 feet to 3,133 feet, without that having any effect on the flow.

The precise volume of oil which has been flowing may be gauged by comparison with the flow of water from a

half-inch kitchen tap. With an ordinary 10 lbs pressure the flow in 24 hours would be 4,512 gallons; with 20 lbs pressure 7,056 gallons. The flow of oil at Hardstoft at its best was about 315 gallons every 24 hours; it is now about half that quantity.

The fourth bore is in the pretty village of Heath, four miles south-east of Chesterfield, on the north side of the road running through the village, immediately behind the smithy. The field has been entirely restored to its original condition, the only remaining evidence of the bore is one of the wooden barracks. No oil was found, only a show immediately above the limestone, which was reached at a depth of 3,940 feet. A large quantity of natural gas was encountered during the boring, which was carried down to 4,014 feet. The fifth borehole was also placed as near as possible on the top of the anticlinal. It is near the village of Brimington, 1½ miles north-east of Chesterfield. An extremely rough waste pasture was selected adjoining the road running south from the village, the foundations, excavated tank, and one of the wooden barracks mark the site, the derrick was taken down about a year ago. The depth reached was 4,040 feet. No oil was found, not a trace was encountered when the limestone was reached, as at Heath and Hardstoft, but a slight show some distance above it, slight indications of gas occurred at various levels. These five boreholes, as well as the sixth, are in a district riddled with coal mines. If any oil existed within the coal-bearing rocks it would have been found long since. Seventy-five years' coal mining from countless shafts has only led to the discovery of the two pockets mentioned above; that is the reason the boreholes have been carried down to and into the limestone. It is quite possible that there may have been other pockets, which have been lost. It would appear that an accumulation of oil tends to form gas and evaporate. Should a vent occur through which the gas can escape (such as some fracture) in the rocks, the oil is gradually dissipated, but a thick residuum is left. Such remains occasionally occur in coal workings. Lord Cowdray's experts appear to have traced some, and to have based their belief on the possible occurrence of oil in this country on that foundation, as he stated in the House of Lords (November 6, 1918): "his chemist, who had made a study of oil, was able to prove chemically that they were the product of crude oil. Having made this discovery—for discovery it was—he expected to get a commercial advantage from it." The results obtained from the boreholes have shattered the expectations. The sixth borehole is south of the village of Eckington, on some waste land, adjoining a colliery line in Foxsten Wood. There are both working collieries and abandoned shafts near the site, which is some three miles from the anticlinal; all the plant has been removed, only the concrete foundations and excavations remain, all overgrown with weeds.

The recorded depth is 4,235 feet, no oil has been found, a considerable quantity of gas was encountered, and heavy brine was met with at a depth of 3,198 feet. The last of the boreholes, the one at Ridgeway, is in the open country, completely away from the colliery district, not quite three miles from the sixth borehole, and about six miles north of Chesterfield. A depth of 2,996 feet was reached; the bore was shut down in January, 1920, as great quantities of hot water were encountered after the bore had penetrated the limestone a short distance. This hot water is probably due to the smouldering of shale in some abandoned coal mine. It is remarkable that these two boreholes should differ from all the others by the occurrence of brine and hot water, at a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. No less than 100,000 gallons every day escaped. Here, again, only concrete foundations, excavated tanks, partly filled with black mud, and one of the wooden barracks mark the site.

That completes the record in Derbyshire. There are two boreholes in Staffordshire, both on anticlinals, one at Werrington, about one mile from Cellarhead, on the main road between Bucknall and Kingsley, and the other near Apedale, about three miles north-west of Newcastle-under-Lyme. The Werrington bore is down 2,670 feet; it differs from those in Derbyshire completely, as it is placed in a locality from which the coal-bearing rocks have been completely weathered away. It is evident that

Lord Cowdray's American advisers did not expect to find oil in them, but in those below, in spite of the fact that in some of the Staffordshire collieries "shows" of oil have occurred. The site is on very high ground, nearly the highest for miles round, in a level field, with no collieries near it. The derrick has been taken down, but the wooden barracks and concrete foundation mark the site, some distance from the main road. At Apedale two boreholes have been sunk. One was abandoned at a depth of 1,350 feet, owing to some of the boring tools becoming wedged in the bore. A second bore was then started close to. The site is in a remote rural district, difficult to find, prominently placed on very high ground. Nothing remains except the usual foundations, not even the barracks.

No oil in quantity has been found at the Werrington and Apedale bores. The other two boreholes are in Nottinghamshire, worked by the "Oilfields of England, Limited," a private company. Shows of oil have been met with, but no quantity suggesting the existence of an oilfield. There are two boreholes in Scotland within easy reach of Edinburgh. No oil has been found, and both have been abandoned.

An approximate estimate of the cost of the 11 boreholes ordered by the authorities and carried out by Lord Cowdray's firm, Messrs Pierson and Son, Limited, may be made as follows:—The estimated expenditure for the year 1921 to wind up the work was £25,000; the actual expenditure for the year 1920 was £126,000, during which 7,670 feet in the aggregate were bored—that would give an average of £16 8s 6d per foot. The total depth bored to January 1, 1921, was 30,870 feet. At the same rate per foot the total would be £506,999—that would give a total of £531,999. The estimated value of the Hardstoft oil may be taken at £20,000, showing a loss in round figures of £500,000.

THE NEW RAILWAY COMPANIES.

WITH the recent publication of the proposed scheme of amalgamation between the Southern railways, the details of the principal amalgamation proposals of the railways of Great Britain into four groups in accordance with the provisions of the Railways Act, 1921, are completed. These schemes have not yet all been agreed to by stockholders, but it may at this juncture be of interest to give a brief résumé of the present position. The Act provides that the Constituent companies of the four groups shall be amalgamated and Subsidiary companies absorbed, and amalgamation scheme embracing the absorption of the Subsidiary companies before January 1, 1923. The Constituent and Subsidiary company, is to be submitted by the Minister of Transport to an Amalgamation Tribunal, and to come into operation on or before July 1, 1923. No scheme is to be approved by the Tribunal within 21 days of publication, and should the Tribunal postpone the scheme the undertakings may be worked as a joint undertaking.

The four groups are to be formed into four new companies, and if all the proposals are approved the amalgamations will take effect as from January 1, 1923. The first group in the field with its schemes was the Western group, and the newly-formed company in this case is to retain the title of Great Western Railway. The Constituent companies are the Great Western, Alexandra Cambrian, Cardiff, Rhymney, and Taff Vale Railway Companies, and there are 28 Subsidiary companies. According to the latest edition of the "Railway Amalgamation Up to Date," published by Mathieson and Sons, in connection with 19 railways in this group, stockholders in which receive in varying amounts the equivalent of Great Western Railway stocks, the different sorts of charge, and debenture, preference, guaranteed, rent will not share in dividends until earned after January 1, 1929. The old quotations and other particulars of these companies have been removed from the Stock Exchange Official List.

The next group to bring forward its main proposals was the North-Western, Midland, and West Scottish group. The title of the new company is to be the London, Midland and Northern. Besides the North-Western and the Midland Companies, this group embraces six other Constituent companies, namely, the Lancashire and Yorkshire, the North Staffordshire, Furness, Caledonian, Glasgow and South-Western and Highland Railway Companies, and 27 Subsidiary companies. The Lancashire and Yorkshire was absorbed by the North-Western in 1921, the scheme being published as early as April of that year, that is to say, about four months before the passing of the Railways Act. Shareholders in these companies receive the equivalent of London and North-Western stocks, which consist of consolidated ordinary, 4 per cent. preference, 1902, 4½ per cent. redeemable preference, 1925, 5 per cent. redeemable preference, 1926, 4 per cent. consolidated preference, 4 per cent. consolidated guaranteed, and 3 per cent. perpetual debenture.

The North-Eastern, Eastern, and East Scottish group published its terms of amalgamation in August, and it has subsequently been announced that the title of the new company is to be the London and North-Eastern Railway Company, that Mr Wm. Whitelaw, chairman of the North British Railway, is to be chairman of the new company, and that Mr R. L. Wedgwood is to be the chief general manager. The Constituent companies are the North-Eastern, Great Central, Great Eastern, Great Northern, Hull and Barnsley, North British, and Great North of Scotland Companies, and there are 26 Subsidiary companies. The terms of amalgamation have to be submitted to and approved by extraordinary general meetings of the Constituent companies to be held on November 17th, with the exception of those relating to the Hull and Barnsley, which has already been amalgamated into the North-Eastern system, receiving stock which will be exchangeable into that of the new London and North-Eastern Company. The equivalent stocks of the new London and North-Eastern Company to be given in exchange for those of the Constituent and Subsidiary companies will consist of deferred ordinary, 5 per cent. preferred ordinary, 4 per cent. second preference, 4 per cent. first preference, 4 per cent. second guaranteed, 4 per cent. first guaranteed, 3 per cent. debenture, and 4 per cent. debenture.

The fourth group, to be known as the Southern Railway, produced its scheme at the end of last month, the divergence of the capitalisation of the companies concerned having occasioned some delay which gave rise to considerable speculation in the stocks of the various companies until the scheme was published. The Constituent companies are the London and South-Western, London Brighton and South Coast, South-Eastern, London Chatham and Dover, and South-Eastern and Chatham Managing Committee, and there are 28 Subsidiary companies. At the end of June last the South-Eastern and the Chatham and Dover Companies came to a provisional agreement for amalgamation between the two companies. This scheme, which, no doubt, facilitated the arrangement of terms for the whole group, will be abandoned if the proprietors and debenture holders approve the scheme with the Southern group. The equivalent stocks of the amalgamated company of the Southern group to be given in exchange will consist of 5 per cent. preferred ordinary, deferred, "A" ordinary ranking with deferred but limited to 3½ per cent., "B" ordinary participating with deferred in any dividend over 3½ per cent. paid on the deferred; irredeemable and redeemable 1924 and 1926 5 per cent. preferences, 5 per cent. guaranteed, 4 per cent. debenture stock, and terminable loans.

Space will not permit us here to reproduce the full financial details of each amalgamation and absorption scheme. It may be mentioned, however, that criticism has been heard of the terms offered in some cases, principally from the senior stockholders. But the obvious answer to these criticisms is that grouping involves the simplification of capital accounts, and while this simplification may perhaps prejudicially affect to a slight extent the position of some stockholders, this disadvantage is outweighed by the advantage of increased marketability

and of better security, for many of the prior charge stocks, hitherto secured on the property of one company, will now be secured on the property of several railway systems. Further, if the objects of the Railways Act are achieved, the financial position of these systems will be improved. It has been estimated independently by two separate committees that there will be a saving of £20 millions, or about 8½ per cent. of the total expenditure of the railways. The provisions in regard to "standard revenue," namely, that the Rates Tribunal shall fix charges on such a basis as will, with the other sources of revenue, so far as practicable yield an annual net revenue equivalent to the aggregate net revenues in the year 1913 of the Constituent companies and the Subsidiary companies absorbed by the amalgamated company, together with certain additions specified by the Act, must have an important bearing on the future market value of the ordinary and deferred stocks in the direction of stability and improve the security of preferred stocks. The directors of the London and South-Western, in their circular giving the proposed amalgamation terms, went so far as to state specifically that it was estimated that the balance of net revenue would be sufficient to pay a dividend of £2 18s per cent. on the new deferred ordinary stock. Whether this anticipation will be realised remains to be seen.

The capital of the new companies will be approximately: Southern, £145 millions; Great Western, £136 millions; London, Midland and Northern, £380 millions; and London and North-Eastern, £348 millions. There will be a very substantial reduction in the number of railway directors, and a resultant decrease in expenditure on directors' fees, but all the alterations in this respect have not yet been made. Several meetings of shareholders were called for Thursday and yesterday to approve the various amalgamation schemes, and the question of compensation for those directors who are relinquishing their duties was discussed and arranged for. This will involve a considerable sum, as will also the compensation of the salaried staff, which, we understand, has been fixed on a generous scale.

LATIN AMERICAN NOTES.

(BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARAGUAY: Economic conditions in Paraguay, which show little evidence of amendment, may be attributed in some measure to the legacy of the disastrous war of 1864-1870, but mainly to the revolution which has now been in progress since May last, following upon the determination of the former President, Dr Ayala, to resign. The war of sixty years ago cost the Allies (Argentina and Brazil) \$500,000,000 and 190,000 men, and a correspondingly heavy loss to Paraguay, whereas the present less sanguinary internal upheaval is playing havoc with property, exports, and currency. The Paraguayan dollar has fallen gradually from its one time parity, 96.475 cents U.S., to about 3 cents. This troubled Republic is peculiarly afflicted in the matter of currency and foreign exchange. The Paraguayan paper peso is non-convertible, the value resting fundamentally upon credits in Argentine gold. The practice of employing this method of commercial transaction has worked but badly, Paraguayan commerce being adversely affected by any fall in exchange at Buenos Aires. Paraguay having no exchange value except in terms of Argentine gold or paper peso, all international transactions must be negotiated at exchange rates that vary from day to day. From time to time, notably in 1899 and 1902, spasmodic attempts have been made to introduce conversion measures, but no Government has been enabled to obtain sufficient support in Congress to carry through such a measure.

Unlike some Latin-American States, which profited commercially during the European war, Paraguay suffered little but disappointment. The once-primary meat trade, in support of which three large freezing-works were established with the aid of American capital, has almost collapsed, while the cattle trade itself, which had reached an important development stage in 1918, has suffered serious eclipse. British interests are largely concerned in this and other industries, while among

Paraguayan imports the United Kingdom, in favourable times, supplied between 28 and 29 per cent., as, for instance, in 1913. Latterly, however, our exports to this South American State have fallen to under 18 per cent. At one time Paraguay imported more from the United Kingdom than from any foreign country with the exception of Argentina, and even there a large proportion of the goods shipped were of British origin.

It is understood that in order to mitigate the financial stringency from which the whole Republic is suffering, the Government had contemplated the creation of a new State bank by amalgamating the operations of the National Treasury Exchange Bureau, the Banco Agrícola, and the Inland Revenue Office, the design of the new institution being to rediscount business, grant loans to agriculture and industry, and acquire the approaching tobacco and cotton crops. The capital of the new State bank was tentatively placed at 100,000,000 paper pesos; but inasmuch as the latest quotation of the Paraguayan peso is but a little over two cents, it is clear that slight advantage would be derived by the nation from such an issue. In view of this situation, financiers and industrialists have solicited the Government for an extension of the moratorium, one even more stringent than that granted in 1921 to the banks, which were only permitted to defer payments for the larger amounts of their liabilities, but compelled to provide for prompt payments to small creditors. All monetary institutions alike were, and are, deeply involved in the various loans, some of considerable importance, made on cattle during the period of inflation.

GUATEMALA: Late advices from this State also indicate an absence of improvement in the financial situation. It suffered a serious setback as a consequence of the last revolution, which resulted in the fall of General Carlos Herrera (who assumed office under promising auspices as late as March, 1920). Although, no doubt, willing to carry out the elaborate programme of reform presented to the National Legislative Assembly in March last, his successor, General José María Orellana, has met with so much opposition in so many different and unexpected quarters that little progress has been possible. The usual drastic resorts for repression of political rivals appear to have been adopted, including imprisonment and executions; such procedure has, unfortunately, characterised Guatemalan politics for many decades past, especially under the prolonged and oppressive régime of Dr Manuel Estrada-Cabrera, now himself a carefully guarded prisoner. Notwithstanding the tyranny practised during the eleven years of his presidential régime, foreign bondholders received some consideration at his hands, particularly since 1913, when, thanks to the good offices of the late Sir Lionel E. G. Carden, then his B.M.'s representative in Central America, an agreement for the resumption of the operation of the arrangement of 1895 was effected, and, until the fall of Dr Estrada-Cabrera, was carried out in full. Something like consternation among bondholders was occasioned, following upon the election of General Orellana, when it was signalled that "Guatemala considered that it had no claim pending against it on the part of any foreign subject." In view of the fact that there was, and is, outstanding a claim on the part of the foreign holders of the External Debt amounting to £844,603, on account of arrears of interest, this statement appeared at the least to have been somewhat daring.

According to recent information, the Government is at present unable to meet the whole of its obligations either at home or abroad, while the position of some of the banks is considered to be anything but safe. Quite recently the Government was compelled to take over the Banco de Occidente upon the petition of shareholders, who have charged the institution's officials with maladministration. This bank is one of the most important in Guatemala, the Government itself having been accused to keep on deposit with it a large amount of funds. In the meantime, the Budget for the present fiscal year, from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923, has been presented, and this shows a total of 594,154 gold pesos and 243,515,675 paper pesos, 1,700,000 pesos among expenditures being allocated to "salaries to Deputies during the recess of the National Assembly."

Notes of the Week.

The Allies and the Near East.—After a week of diplomatic tension, the relations between the principal Allied Powers have outwardly improved. The British Delegation is to go to Lausanne; Lord Curzon is to have conversations with M. Poincaré on the way and after arrival; and Signor Mussolini's Government are taking a vigorous line in favour of united action. This eleventh-hour accord was to be expected, if West European diplomacy retained a vestige of common sense. Indeed, we may rather marvel at the open display of divergence up to the eve of the negotiations. At the same time, both the conflict and the reconciliation have a certain air of unreality. The real point at issue is whether one or all of the Powers are in certain contingencies prepared to fight, and, if they are, in what contingencies? The British official view that genuine Allied solidarity would in itself remove the danger of having to resort to force is somewhat hazardous. In their present mood the Turks are quite capable of calling even our combined bluff over some point like the Capitulations to which they attach fundamental importance; and if it came to this, it may be doubted whether the British Government could persuade this country to make war any more easily than M. Poincaré could perform the same feat in France. The most dangerous issues are now not those dealt with in the Armistice of Mudania. In regard to these, the Turks will doubtless continue to sail as near the wind as possible, but it is unlikely that they will go to the furthest extreme. The danger-points are rather those which the Armistice conditions eluded, especially the question of the Capitulations. In regard to this, an acute difference has arisen between the French commercial community in Turkey and the French Government. Rightly or wrongly, these French residents think—just like the British, Italian, and all other foreign residents—that they cannot carry on their business in Turkey without the Capitulations, under the shelter of which they have lived there, from one generation to another, for nearly 400 years. Indeed, the Capitulations mean more to the French than to any other foreign community—firstly, because the original establishment of them was substantially a French achievement, and secondly, because of her Turkish trade, possesses more institutions, capital enterprises, and other forms of immovable property, which cannot, like trade, be diverted to other markets if conditions in Turkey become impossible. But, alas for the French and British merchants in Turkey—their business, though it possesses the charm and romance of age, is at the present day only a small fraction of the foreign commerce of their respective countries. If it were France and England might not be sensibly affected, and certainly, from the purely business point of view, it would not pay to salvage it at the price of a new war. That is why the cry of the French and British business interests in the Near East has not been listened to during the past four years—though they have spoken with no soft or unattention at the Peace Conference. The most interesting rapprochement between ex-enemies in South-Eastern manlike—decision not to throw in her lot with Nationalist Turkey for a war of revenge against her European moderate claims in return for her support of the cause of South-Eastern European independence. M. Stam-evidently been a success, and, what is more significant, he has drawn in his wake M. Politis, the Greek Foreign Minister. If the present crisis brings both Bulgaria and Greece into the Little Entente, it will at least have had one beneficial result.

Fiscal Consequences of the Irish Treaty.—There appeared in the *Economist* a fortnight ago an article upon the "Fiscal Consequences of the Irish Treaty," in which it was pointed out that, under the Irish Treaty, Ireland had acquired fiscal and financial independence, and that N.E. Ulster, in exercising its option of "contracting out" or of staying within the Irish Free State, would be deciding whether she would in future be inside the Customs frontier of Great Britain or inside the Customs frontier of the Irish Free State. The article attracted some attention in Dublin and Belfast, and upon Saturday last it was made the subject of a special communication to the Press by Mr H. M. Pollock, Finance Minister in the Ulster Government, which appeared in several English newspapers. Mr Pollock affects to treat the article which was written by our Dublin correspondent as having been inspired by "those who are responsible for the finances of Southern Ireland" (i.e., of the Irish Free State), and as indicating that they are alarmed at the prospect. It is true that the Irish Free State authorities may, not improbably, dislike the prospect of a land frontier and Customs boundary round N.E. Ulster as much as every sane business man in Great Britain, and as much as, apparently, Mr Pollock himself, who describes the results as "at the best.....hindrance to progress, and at the worst commercial ruin." But it is not a fact that the article owed anything to any prompting, direct or indirect, from the Irish Free State authorities, of whose views, upon this subject, the author was, and still remains, entirely uninformed. Mr Pollock's conclusion is that "Ulster being more self-contained and enjoying the unrestricted market of 40,000,000 of people, can afford, although regretfully, to be deprived of close commercial association with 3,000,000 of the south." In other words, he adopts the time-honoured procedure of a certain type of negotiator, who opens proceedings by affirming his own position with great emphasis, and summoning his antagonist to surrender. Let the Irish Free State, says Mr Pollock, "frankly adopt the fiscal system of Great Britain, and all the lurid pictures of frontier terrors which appear to trouble the Dublin correspondent will be merely the phantasmagoria of a diseased brain." And, in veriest truth, if the land frontier and Customs barrier does come into being the responsibility will be traceable to diseased brains somewhere. Now the fiscal independence of the Irish Free State is part of the accepted policy of both Great Britain and Ireland: it was conceded after long claim and abundant discussion; it was embodied in the Treaty; and nobody, no public man of the front rank in Great Britain, is prepared to go back on it now. There are phrases in Mr Pollock's statement which are susceptible of the interpretation that Ireland would not require separate Customs houses unless she embarked upon a fiscal policy with tariff rates different from those of Great Britain. Such an interpretation would be erroneous. Great Britain having willingly renounced her right to collect taxation in the Irish Free State, will, in future, collect her own revenue within new boundaries. Hitherto she has enjoyed convenient and relatively inexpensive maritime boundaries. If Ireland passes, as a whole, from under the jurisdiction of her taxgatherer, then Great Britain can still enjoy maritime Customs and Excise boundaries. But if N.E. Ulster exercises her undoubted right to "contract out" of the Irish Free State, then Great Britain must have a land boundary or frontier of some 225 miles long for the purposes of her own fiscal administration. And so must the Irish Free State. A Free-trade agreement between the two would make no difference. Each fiscal unit must collect its own revenue, and each must have its own Customs and Excise boundaries within which to collect it. Now the people of Great Britain desire peace and economy. Their policy towards Ireland and N.E. Ulster is embodied in the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and in the Treaty which was given the force of law by the Irish Free State Agreement Act, 1922. That policy, which will not be lightly changed, recognised the national independence of Ireland, and created elaborate rights and safeguards for N.E. Ulster. But it went further—for in both instruments it provided a specially devised machinery of negotiation between the two, and clearly indicated that the

ultimate unity of Ireland as the result of such negotiation was desirable. The people of Great Britain will expect negotiations to take place, sooner or later, and they will expect some *bonâ-fide* tentatives at mutual accommodation on both sides. They look to-day in no unfriendly or impatient spirit upon the slow development of Irish difficulties. But they do not want to be involved further in Irish quarrels nor to pay taxes for their furtherance. And they will tend to become definitely resentful if, either through a spirit of stiff-necked dominance in Dublin or of particularist aggressiveness in Belfast, they are to be saddled, directly or indirectly, with the cost of a highly expensive land Customs frontier, which would be outrageously injurious to the interests of everybody concerned.

Bulgarian Reparations.—Intimately connected with a final and really satisfactory solution of the Near Eastern crisis is the problem of the future of Bulgaria. The promise of an adequate commercial outlet to the Aegean has not yet been redeemed, but equally important from the point of view of most Bulgarians is the need for a final and definite solution of the Reparations tangle. The following statistics, obtained from a well-informed source, are not without interest:—

PAYMENTS MADE BY THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.
(In Millions of Leva.)

Period.	Allied Army in Bulgaria.	Various Allied Commissions.
Armistice to August 9, 1920	285.6	22.0
August 9, 1920, to April 1, 1921	6.7	53.8
April 1, 1921, to August 31, 1922	14.0	111.8
Private reclamations from Armistice to August 31, 1922	108.1	..
Total	414.4	187.6

The total expenses incurred by the Bulgarian Government on behalf of Allied troops resident in the country (including the High Command), and the various commissions of control, but excluding that for the delimitation of the frontiers, would thus appear to be in the neighbourhood of 602 million levas. This total probably represents something like two millions sterling in foreign currency, though the sacrifice involved to the Bulgarians themselves is, of course, much greater than this equivalent in foreign currency would suggest. But what attracts public attention in the country most is the nature of some of these expenses. Thus a total of over 57 million levas has been spent between March 1, 1921, and July 31, 1922, on behalf of the Interallied Commission ("Reparations") alone, made up of the following items:—

(In Millions of Leva.)	
House rent and repairs	1.9
Furniture, &c.	7.2
Salaries, &c. (paid through the president of the Commission)	48.0
	57.1

Many Bulgarians have wondered why they should be obliged to buy furniture abroad, and pay salaries to the Commission's employees vastly in excess of those paid to Bulgarian officials. Of course, to the foreigner the whole affair seems rather petty, and the total sums involved almost insignificant. To view the matter in its proper perspective, one must remember that Bulgaria is an agricultural country of some 4½ million inhabitants; that the standard of living is very low when compared with Western Europe; and finally that there is a wide divergence between the internal and external purchasing power of the national currency. According to Art. 21 of the Treaty of Neuilly, Bulgaria contracted to pay 2,250 million gold francs; and, in addition, to make certain reparations in kind. By May 31st, the following had been handed over:—

VALUE (in Millions of Leva.)	
Railway material	250
Coal delivered to Serbia	195
Cattle to Serbia, Greece, and Roumania	162.5
	607.5

Now if we add to the 602 millions of levas spent on the Allied Army and the Commissions the further sum of approximately 120 million levas claimed on behalf of the

Military Mission of Control, we shall find that the expenses of the "bailiffs" have up to the present considerably exceeded the reparations payments proper. Of course, disarmament has been carried through, but how to make a country with an annual revenue of something like 4,200,000,000 levas pay reparations annually to the extent of 136,000,000 gold francs (approximately 3,720,000,000 levas at the present rate of exchange), is a problem which one expects the Inter-Allied Commission will find rather hard to solve. Of course, but for political complications, a moratorium would have been arranged, though the Commission—probably thinking rather of the possible reaction on the German reparations question than of Bulgaria itself—has endeavoured so far to insist on some payment being made each year, even though relatively small. A final settlement on an economic basis has now become indispensable.

The Earthquake in Chile.—The effects of the great earthquake at midnight on Friday of last week, November 10th, prove to have been less serious than was feared from the earlier reports. The shocks were felt along a thousand miles of coast from Antofagasta to Valdivia, and even in Buenos Ayres, and an earthquake wave was set up at Hawaii. But the destruction seems to have been practically limited to the region extending from a point somewhat below Antofagasta to the southern boundary of the province of Coquimbo, including the ports of Chañaral, Caldera (the seaward outlet of the town of Copiapo), and Coquimbo, which were swept by the wave following the earthquake, and the harbourless town of La Serena, on the Bay of Coquimbo, together with a strip extending some 60 or 80 miles inland, including the towns of Vallenar, about 30 miles from Huasco, Freirina, on the railway connecting these two places, Illapel, in Coquimbo province, and Copiapo. The destruction appears to have been greatest at Copiapo, Vallenar, and Illapel, which are reported to be in ruins, and at Coquimbo, which has lost its railway station and the whole of its business quarter. Happily, the loss of life, though very heavy, proves to have been much less than was reported—the dead are now estimated at 1,800, the injured at 2,000; and the material damage is very much less than was feared at first. The nitrate regions were untouched. Antofagasta, with its 45,000 inhabitants, appears to have escaped almost entirely, and the towns destroyed are comparatively small. Huasco has less than 1,000 inhabitants, Chañaral about 3,500, Caldera about 3,000, Illapel 3,500, Vallenar 5,000, Copiapo and Coquimbo about 12,000 each. The buildings destroyed are mostly of sun-dried brick, an inexpensive material; the piers and harbour works are small; freight is landed at them and shipped by lighters, so that no ocean-going vessels can have been alongside, and there are no reports of any damage to shipping. The ports serve a mining district rich in copper, manganese, gold, and silver, and there are, or were, large smelting works and metal refineries at Caldera, Copiapo, and Antofagasta. But the railways and mines, we are informed from authoritative sources, are intact; the mines appear to be chiefly owned in Chile and the United States, and the railways belong mainly either to the mining interests or to the Chilean Government. British interests, therefore, seem not to be seriously affected by the disaster. But at the ruined towns the suffering is terrible, and the Chilean Government and the neighbouring Republics are doing their best for its relief.

Iron and Steel and Coal Output.—The monthly statistics published by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show that the October production of both pig-iron and steel was easily the highest monthly total this year. Pig-iron output was 481,500 tons, the highest figure since the coal stoppage, which compares with 430,300 tons in September, 235,500 tons in October, 1921. It is, however, only 56 per cent. of the average monthly production of 1913. Steel production was 565,200 tons, as against 555,900 tons in September, 405,400 tons in October, 1921, and a monthly average in 1913 of 638,600 tons. The output of coal from the mines of Great Britain in October steadily increased week by week, the total for the week ended November 4th having reached 5,423,400 tons, a

figure well up to the pre-war average, which compares with 4,182,400 tons in the corresponding week of last year.

Employment Abroad.—Few of the other great countries of the world are suffering from unemployment to anything like the extent that we are. The International Labour office of the League of Nations, in one of the very useful circulars which it publishes from time to time, reports that the general employment situation is, for many countries, better than a year ago. This is the case in both France and Germany, where unemployment is almost negligible; and both in Switzerland and in Italy there is distinct improvement; while in Belgium the figure (end of July) is the lowest recorded for nearly two years. In the United States, where the statistics are often a useful forecast of European conditions, improvement is taking place. For example, the figures published by the United States Department of Labour show that the number of persons employed by about 1,500 representative firms increased considerably in September; and this in spite of a depression in the labour market due to the strikes on railways and in mines. In Canada also the percentage of unemployment fell to 3.6 per cent. in August, a figure equal to the Massachusetts the latest figure of unemployment has fallen by half compared with six months ago.

Japanese Budget Estimates.—The estimate for the Budget of 1923-24 arrived at by the Japanese Cabinet on November 9th is simply an outline, and is subject to alteration in the further course of compilation. The total revenue is 1,350 million yen, composed of 1,236 million yen for the ordinary revenue, and of 114 million yen for the extraordinary revenue, of which 54 million yen is the year. Compared with the current year the ordinary revenue is to be decreased by 9 million yen, and the extraordinary revenue by 122 million yen. The ordinary revenue is to be decreased as a result of the revision of the Business Tax Act and the Stamp Duty Act, while it is to be increased owing to the revision of the Income-tax Law. The total expenditure amounts to 1,350 million yen, which is composed of 987 million yen for the ordinary expenditure, and of 363 million yen for the extraordinary expenditure. Comparing the above figures with those of the previous year, the ordinary expenditure is to be increased by 45 million yen and the extraordinary expenditure is to be decreased by 177 million yen, so that the net decrease in the total expenditure is to be 132 million yen. Reduction of armaments readjustments a saving and carrying over of 65 million yen. On the other hand, the expenditure is to be increased by 42 million yen to admit of the resumption of transfers to the National Debt Consolidation Fund, by 11 million yen for the Embankment Works, by 30 million Elementary Education, and by two million yen for the annual instalment which is to be defrayed for 12 years on account of the completion, establishment, and expansion of colleges.

Burma Corporation.—Our mining correspondent writes—At one time, both in 1919 and 1920, the £1 shares of the then existing company of this name were dealt in at around £14. The location of the undertaking was transferred to Rangoon, and for every £1 share 14 shares of 10 rupees each were given. These shares have since been below 5s, and even now stand no higher than 6s 6d. The decline was started by selling on behalf of people who found they could very well spare some of their miscalculations had been made in regard to the programme of expansion mapped out. The question of whether sufficient labour would be available seems to have been overlooked by the expert whose services had been engaged; and before the end of 1920 the directors found it necessary to raise funds by an issue of £1,000,000 debentures, bearing 8 per cent. interest, and repayable also on somewhat onerous

terms. The additional resources thus provided being, it was realised, insufficient, even when supplemented by the profits of several years, to carry out the plans in full, a drastic cut was decided upon. The report for 1921, now in the hands of the shareholders on this side, is the first to reflect the change of policy decided upon some 12 months ago. It shows that increased output, combined with the compensating effect of the conversion of metal values into rupees, so effectively countered the result of the decline in metal prices as to bring out the working profit at the slightly enhanced total of £497,800. On the present occasion, however, a larger allowance is made for depreciation, interest naturally calls for much more than before, and the directors set aside £67,000 towards a reserve. Thus the net surplus figures at £167,400, in place of £246,800. Cash resources to the amount of half a million are indicated in the balance-sheet. With this sum, and the profits of another year or so, the directors consider that the output can be brought up—not merely to the minimum of 700 tons per day counted upon, but to 1,000 tons—provided adequate transport facilities and labour are available. To this end, strong representations have been made in favour of the extension of the Burma Railways line to Namtu, where is situated the company's smelter; while a fair degree of success has attended the measures taken both to induce native workmen to settle at the mine and to secure recruits from fresh fields. Much has been accomplished in the extension and improvement of the treatment plant; much yet remains to be done. In the prevailing circumstances, the directors have quite justifiably allowed development to slacken off. Hence the ore reserves, at about 4½ million tons—"proved and probable"—show a small decline. The total, however, represents many years' work for a largely expanded installation. During the remainder of the transition period the shares can only be regarded as a speculative lock-up, but the debentures are not without interest. At the current price of about 107, the yield is 7½ per cent., while the principal is repayable at 110 between the beginning of 1926 and the end of 1930. Before the first-named date the bonds can be converted into shares on certain terms.

The Ottoman Railway.—Amid the many demonstrations of the hostility felt by the Turkish Nationalists for foreign merchants and investors, there is one single exception. On November 6th, according to Wednesday's *Times*, the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, with its extensions and branches, was restored to its British manager by the Nationalist Government. It had been requisitioned by the Turks after the occupation of Smyrna in violation of the terms of the armistice of 1918, and the manager had been sent to Constantinople. The restitution, of course, costs the Turks nothing, for they have now no use for the line. It is not needed for the conveyance of troops, and can for the present have little or no traffic. Still, the company's staff may be able to estimate the damage done, and one of the differences between the Allies and the Turkish Government is removed.

Bleaching Prices Reduced.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—With reference to my note of a fortnight ago relating to the cost of finishing cotton goods, it is of interest to state that the Bleaching Trade Advisory Board has this week sent a circular to customers announcing a reduction in prices. The prevailing surcharge upon the list of prices for all classes of bleached and scoured goods, finished prints, &c., has been reduced from 15 per cent. to 7½ per cent. The reduction will apply to all goods delivered white from the beginning of this week. Although the concession made will not make a big difference in the cost of putting goods down in distributing centres abroad the reduction is very welcome. The fall in charges will mean that shippers will be able to offer 40-yard shirtings to customers at a reduction of 2½d a piece.

George Clare and Co., Limited.—In the *London Gazette* for November 14th the following notice appears:—"George Clare and Co., Limited. Special Resolution, passed October 24, 1922. Confirmed November 8, 1922. At an extraordinary general meeting of George Clare and

Co., Limited, duly convened, and held on October 24, 1922, the following resolution was passed in manner required for passing an extraordinary resolution; and at a further extraordinary general meeting of the company, duly convened, and held on November 8, 1922, the said resolution was confirmed as a special resolution:—Resolution: "That the company be wound up voluntarily, and that Mr Henry Charles Merrett, of 41 Finsbury Square, E.C.2, be appointed liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up." According to the *Bankers' Almanac*, George Clare and Co., Limited, has a subscribed capital of "£50,000 in preferred ordinary, and £10,000 in ordinary shares of 1s, and paid up." For the year to January 31, 1920, 15 per cent. was paid on the preferred ordinary, and 3s per share on the ordinary shares, less income-tax. In the *Directory of Directors* for 1922, Mr George Clare is given as chairman of George Clare and Co., Limited, while Sir Joseph John Jarvis, Bart., appears as managing director. The latter gentleman is also mentioned as being on the board of the *Financial News*, Limited. Messrs Jordan and Sons inform us that a private company was registered on the 9th inst., under the title of G. Clare and Co. (Limited), to carry on the business of a bank of deposit and a bank of issue, and every description of banking and mercantile business and financial operations. The nominal capital is £1,000 in shares of £1 each, and the first directors are to be appointed by subscribers, qualification for directors being one share. Remuneration is to be voted by the company. The registered office is given as 9 Old Broad street, E.C., which is also one of the addresses of George Clare and Co., Limited.

Transvaal Output in October.—The latest figures of gold production issued by the Chamber of Mines show that the output figures are satisfactory. The October output amounted to 778,159 ounces of fine gold, which compares with 747,089 ounces in September and 707,825 ounces in the month of October last year. The following table shows the production for a number of years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January	787,467	782,634	714,182	676,069	670,503	651,593	
February	753,594	781,321	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	639,728
March	796,689	787,094	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	
April	754,672	742,718	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	511,338
May	777,681	779,385	701,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	629,786
June	761,704	759,724	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	675,697
July	761,087	757,639	736,199	725,497	736,099	69,555	730,635
August	781,150	756,658	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	752,490
September	771,587	738,231	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089
October	792,339	751,290	679,764	725,722	682,472	707,825	778,159
November	783,066	722,339	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	..
December	774,462	722,419	641,245	650,191	632,215	681,847	..
Totals	9,296,618	9,018,084	8,418,292	8,330,001	8,161,606	8,114,616	8,464,923

NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED at the End of Last Eight Months by Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors.

	March, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.	Aug., 1922.	Sept., 1922.	Oct., 1922.
Gold mines	124,169	1,8,277	155,425	170,464	172,896	175,54	174,565	175,129
Coal mines	11,55	11,385	11,525	12,117	12,371	12,271	12,070	11,495
Diamond	1,204	1,232	1,219	1,211	1,211	1,219	1,234	1,218
Total	136,928	150,894	168,169	183,792	186,466	188,533	187,799	187,842

It will be noted that the number of natives employed at the gold mines shows an increase on the preceding month.

Simmer and Jack.—The report for the past financial year of this Rand old-stager indicates that the recent rise in the shares was, to say the least, premature. The working profit figures at only £38,800, in place of £119,300 for 1920-21, and but for the gold premium there would have been a loss of £61,100. Of course, allowance has to be made for the effects of the labour trouble of the second half of the period. After deducting the expenditure incurred under this heading, there is a net loss of £3,300. Capital expenditure to the amount of £19,300 also falling to be met, the carry forward becomes reduced to £52,400. At 1,224,000 tons, value 5.4 dwts, the ore reserves display a moderate increase in quantity—the total represents about two years' supply for the mill—with a shrinkage of about ½ dwt per ton in value. Working costs for last month were only 16s 9d, as against 23s 4d in respect of the year ended June 30th, but even this does

not give any substantial margin of profit on ore yielding well under 20s per ton. A low expense ratio would enable the life of the concern to be extended by the extraction of ore from the bottom levels of neighbouring mines which have suspended operations. There are possibilities in this direction.

THE Committee of the Corporation of Insurance Brokers announce that Mr Walter Banks' lecture on "Legal Aspects of the Insurance Business: III.—Life Assurance," will be given on Monday next at 59A London Wall, London, E.C. 2.

THE first ordinary general meeting of the Session 1922-1923 of the Institute of Actuaries will be held on Monday next, at 5 p.m., at the Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, John street, Adelphi, W.C. 2. The President, Mr W. P. Phelps, M.A., will deliver an Inaugural Address.

THE London Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated), 97 Cannon street, E.C. 4, announces an address by Mr Edgar Crammond, F.S.S., in the Council Room of the Chamber, on "The International Financial Situation," on Monday next, at 2.30 p.m. Chairman, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G. (president).

A COURSE of three lectures on "Economic and Administrative Problems of the British Tropics" will be given at the London School of Economics by Sir Frederick Lugard, P.C., G.C.M.G., on Thursdays, November 23rd and 30th, and December 7th, at 6 p.m. The chair at the first lecture will be taken by the Right Hon. L. S. Amery (Parliamentary and Financial Secretary to the Admiralty). Admission will be free, without ticket.

BRITISH INDUSTRY AND CANADIAN TRADE.—The Federation of British Industries has decided to inaugurate a British section at the next Canadian National Exhibition to be held at Toronto next year. Founded in 1879, the Exhibition has been held annually ever since. It now attracts during its fortnight's run an average of about 100,000 visitors per day, while its grounds cover 264 acres. It is held for a fortnight at the latter end of August. A block of space in one of the principal buildings is being held at the Federation's option by the Exhibition authorities, and on this block it is proposed to erect a group of stalls to be placed at the disposal of British firms. An expert staff from the Federation's head office will go to Canada some time before the commencement of the Fair to undertake this work, and will erect the stalls, receive, unpack, and arrange exhibitors' samples, and arrange also, where desired, for expert representation of any firm during the run of the Exhibition. Further details may be obtained by applying to Federation of British Industries, 39, St. James's street, London, S.W. 1.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—STEEL CORPORATION'S QUARTERLY REPORT—SEPTEMBER RAILROAD EARNINGS—MIXED CLAIMS COMMISSION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 6.

THE report of the United States Steel Corporation for the quarter ended September 30th made a less favourable showing than had generally been expected in view of the revival in the industry during that period. The corporation's net earnings, amounting to \$27,468,339, were only \$181,394 larger than the total for the preceding quarter, although some \$8,500,000 greater than for the third quarter of last year. As has been the case in every quarter since the first three months of 1921, the corporation again failed to earn the full quarterly dividend on the common stock. After payment of the preferred dividend and after all deductions, the balance available for the dividend on the

\$508,302,000 common stock outstanding amounted to \$5,014,179, equivalent to 98 cents a share, as against the quarterly dividend of \$1.25 a share, which required an outlay of \$6,353,781. The report, therefore, showed a deficit of \$1,339,602, after allowing for the usual disbursement to common stockholders. In the preceding quarter, after all charges and dividends, the deficit was \$1,462,345, and in the third quarter of last year \$6,965,504. One of the most interesting features of the report was the exhibit of net earnings by months. In July they totalled \$9,833,664; in August they increased to \$10,615,085, the largest for any month since January, 1921, with the exception of last June. For September, however, net earnings dropped to \$7,019,590, the smallest total for any month since last February. The marked decrease in earnings during September as compared with August was due to a number of factors. Perhaps the most important was the 20 per cent. increase in the pay of common labour, with wages in other branches adjusted to the higher basis, which became effective on September 1st. That, of course, added considerably to production costs at a time when there were no offsetting advances in steel prices; the increase of \$3 a ton on standard rails did not take effect until October 1st. Another factor was the congestion on the railroads, due to the shopmen's strike. In that connection, the Interstate Commerce Commission's ruling giving priority in shipments to coal, foodstuffs, and certain other necessities, probably hindered the movement of finished steel products from the mills. That is believed to account for some of the decrease in September earnings, since the Steel Corporation, it is understood, does not credit output on its books until products have actually been shipped from its mills. Furthermore, the low rate of production during August, owing to inadequate fuel supplies on account of the coal strike, also helps to explain the small September earnings, because the greater part of the August output did not leave the mills until September. For the first nine months of this year net earnings aggregated \$74,095,269, as against \$73,096,796 in the corresponding period of 1921. Allowances for depreciation, sinking fund, and other purposes amounted to \$30,602,666, as compared with \$28,439,686. The balance available for dividends was \$28,424,685, equal to \$1.87 a share on the common stock, after paying the preferred dividends. That compares with a balance of \$29,255,833, or \$2.03 a share on the common in the like period of last year. After all deductions and dividends, the corporation showed a deficit—according to results as compiled from the quarterly statements—of \$9,551,415 for the nine months' operations, as compared with a deficit of \$8,720,267 for the same period of 1921. With the coal situation much improved, and with the steel industry now operating at about 75 per cent. of capacity, which may increase before the end of the year, it is confidently expected that the corporation's report for the current quarter will make a better showing.

Reports filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission indicate that the first-class railroads of the United States had a net operating income in September of \$58,428,000, representing an annual return on their tentative property valuation at the rate of only 2.88 per cent. In September, 1921, the same income was \$87,534,000, or an annual return of 4.32 per cent. In September of this year the carriers failed by \$58,000,000 of realising a return of 5½ per cent., which the Commerce Commission has decided is a reasonable rate. Gross earnings in September, totalling \$499,879,000, were two-fifths of 1 per cent. larger than in the like month of last year; operating expenses of \$408,315,500, however, showed an increase of 8.2 per cent. The net earnings were apparently reduced somewhat by expenditures made in repairing freight cars and locomotives. An analysis of the reports shows that the railroads during September paid out \$120,000,000 for maintenance of equipment, or an increase of nearly 16 per cent. over the same month a year ago. The number of freight cars in need of repairs was reduced by 30,000, and of locomotives by 114. For the first nine months of this year the railroads' net operating income amounted to \$529,413,000, or at an annual rate of return of 3.96 per cent., as against \$393,793,000, or 2.95 per cent., in the corresponding period of 1921. Not only have the carriers been failing to earn the full quarterly dividend on the common stock, but they have also been making every effort to increase their

November 18, 1922.]

facilities in order to handle the big volume of traffic now being offered. This is indicated by their extensive purchases of new cars and locomotives since the beginning of the year. Up to October 15th about 123,000 new freight cars were ordered, according to statistics compiled by the *Railway Age*. In only three of the past ten years, namely, in 1912, 1913, and 1916, have orders exceeded the number thus far placed in 1922. New locomotives bought from January 1st to October 15th totalled 1,800 approximately, which compares with an average of 1,483 for the last five years. The new rolling stock bought will not result, however, in an equivalent increase in the amount of equipment in service, for the reason that, owing to the inability of the railroads in recent years to purchase a normal amount of new equipment, the number of cars and locomotives which should now be retired is said to be unusually large. Additional orders are still being placed, and will doubtless continue to be until the end of the year. It is quite possible that the total will provide a normal year's net increase in equipment, but, as the authority mentioned remarks, it will hardly make up for any of the large deficiency in equipment which has accrued in recent years.

In a decision rendered a few days ago, the Railroad Labour Board granted to maintenance of way men an increase in wages amounting to 2 cents an hour, and established a minimum wage for such employees ranging from 25 to 27 cents an hour. It is estimated that the increase will add some \$20,000,000 to the railroads' annual payroll.

A preliminary meeting of the American-German Mixed Claims Commission was held in Washington on November 1st. Justice William R. Day, who is about to retire from the United States Supreme Court, presided as umpire of the Commission. The American and German members attended, as well as the agents of the respective Governments and the joint secretaries. The Commission was created under the treaty negotiated at Berlin last August. The claims to be dealt with fall within three categories. First, those of American citizens arising since July 31, 1914, out of damage to or seizure of their property rights and interests, including any companies or associations in which they were interested within German territory as it existed on August 1, 1914. Second, other claims for loss or damage to which the United States or its nationals have been subjected with respect to injuries to persons or to property rights and interests as a consequence of the war; and, third, debts owing to American citizens by the German Government or any of its nationals. It is understood that more than 1,200 claims, aggregating upward of \$300,000,000, have already been filed for consideration by the Commission. Many of the claims, however, have only been presented by correspondence. The Commission has ruled, therefore, that all claims must be presented in petitionary or memorial form, and circulars are now being sent to persons who have written regarding their claims informing them that the latter must be submitted in the desired form by January 1st next. The "Lusitania" and other cases resulting from damage caused by Germany's submarine war attacks will be considered by the Commission.

FRANCE.—TAXATION AND BUDGET PROSPECTS—THE FRANC AND FOREIGN GOODS—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 15.

THE general discussion of the Budget Bill has again been occupying a good deal of the time of the Chamber this week, but has, of course, been largely overshadowed by the public mind by the Anglo-French difficulty over the preliminaries for the approaching Lausanne peace conference. In the Senate, the Finance Minister, M. de Lasteyrie, has taken the advantage of his opportunity, in the course of a statement before the Finance Commission of the Upper House, to reply to some of the criticisms of his proposals that have been put forward by M. Henry Bérenger and others. He insisted that he intends to make an increasingly strict and very real application of the progressive principle as applied to the

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over \$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



income-tax and succession duties, and that he has every hope, in spite of a good deal of dissimulation that is known to be occurring, to increase progressively the yield from the tax on turnover. The Minister was able to announce with satisfaction that, for the first time for very many months, the actual yield from taxation during October was greater than the amount included in the Budget estimates. The total yield for last month was 1,502,662,000f, or 59,658,801f more than had been expected, and 197,551,000f more than the yield for October, 1921. This was principally due to a heavy increase in stamp duties and registrations, &c., of various kinds, which produced 556,943,000f during the month, or nearly 18 per cent. above the Budget estimate (and 14 per cent. more than in October, 1921). The yield from taxation for the first ten months of the year, although 833,679,000f below what had been estimated for, has been 1,614,449,500f more than for the corresponding period of last year. The Finance Minister said that by the end of the year he anticipated that the total yield would be at least 2,000,000,000f in excess of that for 1921, which he characterised as a magnificent result, and all to the honour of the country, when the unsettled period through which it is passing is taken into consideration.

Referring to M. Henry Bérenger's statement that the country will this year have to borrow at least 31,000,000,000f, and next year 35,000,000,000f, M. de Lasteyrie insisted that not more than 22 milliards would be required in either year. The figure that had been given for the total cost of pensions and the restoration of the devastated regions the Minister also regarded as much too high. M. Bérenger placed this at 132,000,000,000f, but the real figure, the Minister said, should be 91,000,000,000f, which was that accepted by M. Bokanowski, the Budget *rapporteur* in the Chamber. The much discussed tax on turnover, which has been the weak spot in the country's fiscal machinery since its introduction, was still nearly 45,500,000f below the estimate during October, but is now showing a steady and progressive increase. It yielded last month 12,000,000f more

than the best figure recorded in any one month since the beginning of 1921. The average monthly yield from this tax during the present year has been 186,000,000f, as compared with an average of 155,000,000f for the corresponding period of last year. A Bill that has already passed the Chamber with a view to strengthening the provisions applicable to this tax is now before the Senate. The principle emphasised by the new Bill is that, as the tax on turnover is one affecting articles of consumption, it must be applied to all sales and all purchases in such a manner that no consumer and no intermediary shall be favoured to the detriment of another. The new Bill extends this tax to all co-operative societies ("every time they perform an act of commerce of any kind, and particularly in connection with the constitution of stocks"), to transactions in furnished or unfurnished property, and to transactions effected in France by foreigners resident elsewhere. It exempts from the tax all sales of raw materials made by the importer himself to his customers, all transactions in regard to goods intended for export, and all transactions in colonial agricultural produce, when the goods are sold direct to the consumers. It also institutes a system of fixed annual payments in discharge of this tax, especially for small traders, artisans, and manufacturers in rural communes of less than 5,000 inhabitants.

The continued unfavourable position of the franc, which has varied this week between 68 and 72 to the pound, has led to a renewed outcry throughout France for the restriction of imports, and focussed attention keenly on the possibility of rendering the country self-supporting and independent of foreign supplies. M. Chéron, the Minister of Agriculture, emphasised this strongly on Sunday in a speech made at the opening of a new station on the Paris-Cherbourg line, in his own constituency. Many of the newspapers are voicing the same idea day after day, and urging that every effort shall be made to "throw off the yoke of the foreigner." One newspaper appeals bluntly to the public: "Don't buy foreign products. Don't ask for English mustard and jam or American boots; excellent brands of all these goods are made in France. Don't buy English cloth or clothing; there are admirable tailors in Paris, and excellent cloth is made at Roubaix and Lyons. Don't waste bread; we shall have to buy wheat from abroad this year, and for that we must pay in sterling and dollars. Pin your faith to the franc, and let the exchange speculators go bankrupt if they will." The same newspaper adds the following shrewd remark, which may perhaps be taken as a hint by those who have read certain paragraphs that have appeared in these columns recently: "Don't attach too much importance to speeches and reports by *rapporteurs de budget*; don't forget that the *rapporteur* of a budget is a candidate for Ministerial rank, and that a candidate for a portfolio is always pessimistic, and becomes optimistic only when he secures one."

It must be confessed that at present there is a strange undercurrent of optimism pervading this country. In place of a tendency that prevailed some two years ago to rail at England and America as responsible for the fall of the franc, there is now a plain recognition of the facts and a determination to remedy the evil (as proved by what I have set forth above). Instead of wasting their energies in vain complaints, the whole people are now making a courageous effort to meet their difficulties. The energy and enterprise that has been applied to the restoration of the devastated regions, in spite of an exasperating lack of ready money and of the high price of materials, has been extended to the rest of the country, under many forms. The great scheme for the electrification of the French railways has already reached the commencement of the stage of realisation. The same may be said of the nation-wide scheme for the utilisation of hydraulic power for the development of electricity to replace steam. Ceaseless efforts are being made to produce a substitute for petrol, derived from benzol, &c., as a motive power for motor cars, aircraft, and shipping. Increasing attention is being paid to the possibility (with British success in Egypt as an incentive) of obtaining cotton from Cilicia or from the French colonies, wool from Algeria and elsewhere, nitrates from Germany, under the system of payments in kind.

The French, further, are realising that the drop in the

value of the franc is by no means an unmixed evil, and that, providing it is not allowed to go too far, it is acting much more effectively as a protective machine than any high Customs tariff could do, while at the same time it gives no reason to justify the retaliatory measures that would probably attend the adoption of a high tariff. The injury that British (as well as American and French) speculators in exchange may at present be doing to the trade of their own country may be seen from the following rough list of the commodities, with their value, which France is at present compelled to import:—

	Francs.
Petroleum and motor spirit	700,000,000
Cotton	1,300,000,000
Wool	2,000,000,000
Coal	3,000,000,000
Wheat and other foodstuffs.....	5,000,000,000
Metals	800,000,000
Machinery	4,500,000,000
Chemicals and manures	800,000,000
Timber and paper	800,000,000
Oleaginous seeds	1,100,000,000
Skins, hides, and furs	500,000,000
Stone and similar materials	500,000,000

The following table, which I extract from "La Situation Economique et Financière," shows in a fresh form the French foreign trade returns for the first nine months of 1913, 1921, and 1922 respectively:—

	(In Millions of Francs.)				(1,000's of Tons.)
	Food-stuffs.	Raw Mater'ls.	Manu-factured Goods.	Total Value.	Total Weight.
IMPORTS.					
9 months of 1913.....	1,272	3,629	1,221	6,122	32,772
9 do 1921.....	3,940	7,897	3,788	15,615	27,201
9 do 1922.....	4,048	9,476	2,960	16,520	37,317
EXPORTS.					
9 months of 1913.....	587	1,352	3,079	5,018	15,655
9 do 1921.....	1,572	3,104	10,151	14,827	11,752
9 do 1922.....	1,280	3,227	9,712	14,219	16,118

The increase in the value of the raw materials imported and of the manufactured goods exported, and the decrease in the value of manufactured goods imported, is remarkable. The increase in the French adverse trade balance, as "La Situation" points out, "is due solely to the country's increased purchases of raw materials, which constitutes, at the same time, an excellent indication of our economic recovery." Further, when it is noted that the adverse trade balance, which was 1,104 million francs, on a total volume of trade of 11,141 millions in 1913 (or as nearly as possible 10 per cent.), is now only 2,301 millions on a total volume of 30,739 millions (or only 7½ per cent.), it is obvious that, so far as the balance of trade is concerned, there is no justification for the franc, which stood at 25 in 1913, to have fallen to anything like 70.

GERMANY.—BRITISH AND ALLY CITIZENS—SPECIAL FOREIGNER TAXES—RIGHT OF MOVEMENT—PROPERTY RIGHTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, November 13.

ACCORDING to Press statements, the Ambassadors' Conference is about to make protests to the German Government directed against Ally citizens visiting or residing in Germany. It is to be hoped that these protests will not precipitate a new international crisis; but it is not to be denied that the attitude of the German police, municipal and State authorities towards foreigners leaves much to be desired, and is rapidly getting worse. The main in-German foreign trade policy, and in particular, the prohibition of export to Ally countries, in so far as these are high-prices are charged than are charged to low-exchange countries. Another question is passports in their frontier questions; but they are increasingly concerned in these questions, mainly in the right of free movement and settle-

ment, freedom from the new "foreigner taxes," and better protection of their property. In all these matters Ally citizens, including British subjects, have very serious grievances; and the increasing complaints in the English and American Press are no accident. The measures complained of are the outcome of a very strong anti-foreign agitation, from which the friendly Federal Government keeps aloof, but which is encouraged by State and municipal officials, and is translated into unfriendly and anti-Treaty measures by both, and also by the police.

The compulsion on Ally citizens to carry passports for internal use is one grievance. *Passzwang*—the obligation of foreigners to carry passports—was abolished in Germany in 1867. After that mere registration and identification by any reasonable means sufficed. It is now again in full force. No Ally citizen can stay in any German centre without being required to produce a passport; and in many States and cities right of entry and residence depends upon registration of the passport and payment of considerable, in some places of very heavy, fees. The fees sometimes take the shape of "visitors' taxes," based on the visitor's currency's exchange; and sometimes of open "foreigner taxes," always based on the exchange. Germans are not obliged to carry passports; and therefore do not pay such taxes (except in pleasure and health centres, where they pay the normal "visitor's tax," while foreigners pay a much higher tax). As a result of this system, an Ally citizen engaging in internal German trade or visiting Germany for purposes of export or import trade is very severely bled. The practice is a violation of Art. 276 of the Peace Treaty. It also violates international morals, for it revives, in more respectable outward form, the feudal jurisdiction of the mediæval barons, who made travellers pay for permission to enter, pass through, and sojourn. Every German State and city now claims, or actually exercises, the right of levying special dues on Ally travellers (and other foreigners); and if the traveller refuses, he is either refused entry or expelled. No one can regard without concern the possibility of all Europe returning to these mediæval conditions; and at a time when most States recognise the need for restoring the pre-war free intercourse, it is intolerable that petty States and single towns should, without any control, impose what entry and sojourn taxes they choose, and create in one Republic alone more frontiers and Customs barriers than existed in the whole world before the war. Such, however, is the system.

It is characteristic of most of the levies and restrictions upon foreigners that they are championed by extreme Socialists, who profess Internationalism. That is the case with Thuringia, with the new foreigner tax of Berlin municipality, and with the unpleasantly famous Housing Office of Schöneberg, Berlin, whose attacks upon the property of foreigners have just caused a most violent crisis and sharp diplomatic protest.

All these taxes and restrictions upon freedom of movement are, in so far as Ally citizens are concerned, a breach of the Peace Treaty. This every foreigner knows; but probably few foreigners know that the taxes are nearly always also violations of the German Constitution and law. The foreigner and visitors' taxes are nearly always based on the taxed person's country's exchange—that is, upon his assumed ability to pay extra owing to his increased mark currency wealth. Such taxes are forbidden to States and to cities. Article 9 of the Local Taxation Law and (Landessteuergesetz) of 1920, under which the income and property taxes were appropriated to the Republic, forbids the local governments to impose any tax which "takes into account the personal paying ability (*Leistungsfähigkeit*)" of the taxed person. Although the same law requires every local government to report its new taxes to the Federal Government, in order that their legality may be tested, the Federal Government has not rescinded one of these taxes.

The same is true of the refusal of, or restriction of, right of free movement. Free movement for Germans and foreigners (*Freizügigkeit*) was established in Prussia in 1867 (when passports were abolished), and was adopted almost immediately by the South German States. As stated, it no longer exists for foreigners, but it does exist for Germans. That is a breach of Art. 276 of the Peace Treaty, which declares that no new restrictions, not im-

posed on Germans, shall be imposed on Ally citizens. In business an Ally citizen cannot possibly compete with a German; if a race began between a German and an Ally citizen in order to complete a deal in some distant district, the German, needing no permit to travel, would usually win.

In the matter of protection of Ally property there are also serious abuses. Here one finds the universal feature: violation of the Peace Treaty combined with violation of German law. From the latter fact it follows that a resolute foreigner could, even if his Government gave him no support on a Treaty basis, fight the offending authorities successfully in a German court. One form of discrimination against foreigners is through the creation of State and even of city Customs frontiers. Last summer Saxony, or Dresden city, or both, seized large quantities of goods which foreigners had lawfully bought and desired to remove. (This was reported at the time in the German Press and in the *Times* of September 20th.) Germans who had bought under the same conditions were allowed to remove their goods. Officials confiscated the boots and other personal property of foreigners. This, apart from being anti-Treaty, is anti-legal. It was done under pretext of a local Customs frontier. The first local Customs frontier was set up by Bavaria three years ago, and it led to a violent conflict with the Federal Government. Article 82 of the Federal Constitution provides that "Germany constitutes a Customs and trade area, enclosed by a common Customs frontier," and Art. 6 declares that "The Republic has exclusive legislative competence in Customs, as well as in the unity of the Customs and trade area, and in the freedom to move wares." The Republic has never surrendered this exclusive right, or delegated any part of it, to the States. The States simply seized it, at first in order to prevent export across their frontiers by Germans and foreigners alike, of late in order to confiscate foreign-owned goods without paying compensation. Hesse lately prohibited export of potatoes. The measure was illegal; but even if the pretext (the famous Art. 48 of the Constitution) had been good in law, the Federal President is entitled, by the same article, to protest and to annul the State measure. The President did protest; but Hesse continues to defy him. This practice is a gross abuse; and that foreign goods about to be moved from one State to another are confiscated, while German goods are not confiscated, only makes things worse.

There are a great many other abuses: seizure of foreigners' dwellings under the Housing Laws, when German dwellings are not seized, and special so-called "kniff" (trick) laws against foreigners, by which the Peace Treaty is circumvented without being openly violated. As the well-meaning Federal Government has not so far done anything to check these abuses, it is to be feared that the abuses will continue and increase until violent conflicts with foreigners and a serious international crisis are the result.

JUGOSLAVIA.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES—THE AMERICAN LOAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, October 30.

THE dinar has been appreciating steadily for the last two months. While the sterling rate at the beginning of September was 420 dinars, it had fallen to 290 by the beginning of October, and now stands at 273. Other currencies have moved in a similar manner. The chief reason for this appreciation is to be found in the realisation of the Yugoslav loan in the United States. The contract with Messrs Blair and Co., of New York, was for a sum of 25 million dollars, issued at 86.75 per cent., and bearing interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The payment of the first 15 million dollars was effected at the end of August, and the remainder should be paid during the course of the month of November. These dollars are being exchanged gradually into dinars by the Government on the Belgrade Zagreb Bourses, for by the terms of the agreement \$11,100,000 have been earmarked for expenses in connection with railway construction and repairs, building and road-making, which have

to be paid almost entirely in dinars, \$2,600,000 will be used for the purchase abroad of railway material, including bridges, and the balance of \$1,300,000 on this first instalment of the loan is to be devoted to settling the debts contracted with the Standard Oil Co. and the Allied Foreign Trade Corporation. The final instalment of 10 million dollars is to be used for the construction of a railway between Belgrade and the Adriatic.

The Ministry of Finance is thus obliged to proceed with the conversion of dollars. This, together with the proceeds of foreign currencies received in payment for Jugoslav exports, might have been used to improve the dinar still more, but for the belief on the part of the Government that a further rapid appreciation in the exchange value of the national currency would be as dangerous and prejudicial as a downward movement would be.

It is realised that stability is now the main objective, and, from the declarations of one official representative of the Government, one gathers that attempts will be made to keep the dinar for some time to come at between 8 and 9 Swiss centimes.

SOVIET RUSSIA.—FOREIGN CAPITAL—INCREASED PRODUCTION—FOREIGN TRADE—INDEX NUMBERS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE official organ of the Russian Supreme Economic Soviet publishes an article containing very interesting data relating to the investment of foreign capital. From 1856 to 1913 1,343.5 million gold roubles were invested in Russian joint stock companies. This total was distributed according to different nationalities as follows:—

(Million gold roubles.)			
	Foreign Companies Having Undertakings in Russia.	Russian Companies with Foreign Capital.	Total.
United Kingdom	154.4	72.1	226.5
Belgium	135.6	8.8	144.4
France	141.2	112.1	253.3
Combined Franco-Belgian Co.'s	..	224.3	224.3
Germany	91.0	287.1	378.1
United States	13.5	..	13.5
Switzerland	12.2	..	12.2
Sweden	7.4	..	7.4
Holland	1.4	..	1.4
Austria	1.3	..	1.3
Italy	0.8	..	0.8
Other countries	0.3	80.0	80.3
Total	559.1	784.4	1,343.5

Franco-Belgian capital, with 622.0 millions (46.3 per cent. of total), ranks first; Germany, with 378.1 millions, second (27.4 per cent.); and English capital, with 226.5 millions (16.8 per cent.), third. This capital has been invested in undertakings which were situated in the former Russian Empire. The figures given above include also companies which are now under the jurisdiction of Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. The number of companies which have been severed from the Russian Empire is comparatively small, as shown by the figures below:—

Companies Created with the Aid of Foreign Capital in Russia Before the War.		
	Number.	Million Roubles.
Soviet Russia	263	1,167.9
Poland	51	126.9
Latvia	9	45.4
Lithuania	1	0.5
Estonia	2	2.5
Unknown	1	0.3
Total	327	1,343.5

Out of the 1,343.5 million roubles invested in Russia 1,167.9 millions remain under the control of the Soviets. Only 175.6 millions have been saved from nationalisation by the formation of the new border states.

In this respect Germany has been, of all countries, most fortunate, because out of the total of 378 millions 28 per cent. (106 millions) have escaped confiscation, being beyond the frontier of Soviet Russia. For France the respective

percentage is 23 (58 out of 253 millions). England's total investment remains unfortunately in the hands of the Soviets.

According to the different groups of industry the foreign capital was distributed as follows:—

	Million Roubles.
Mining and metal industries	989.8
Electric industries	152.3
Chemical industries	57.0
Other industries	144.4
Total	1,343.5

England, Belgium, and France have given their capital, in the first instance, for the development of mining and metal industries. The bulk of the capital invested in the electric trade belonged to German shareholders (129.7 out of 152.3 millions). France had a strong interest in the textile industry.

The statistics of the Economic Soviet contain equally interesting data, which illustrate the historical process of the investment of foreign capital. The first foreign undertaking which obtained a licence for the formation of a Russian branch was the German Continental Gaz Company in Dessau, which started its operations in 1855. One of the oldest undertakings in Russia is the Asoff Coal Company, which was financed by English capital. The subscribed capital of foreign companies which were registered in Russia is distributed according to the different periods as follows (million gold roubles):—

	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Germany.	France.	Other.	Total.
1856-1887	11.8	10.7	13.8	35.4	..	71.7
1888-1894	0.5	6.4	39.8	14.7	1.8	62.9
1895-1902	59.3	100.1	26.3	52.8	14.5	253.0
1903-1905	3.4	0.4	1.2	4.2	0.3	9.5
1906-1913	83.0	19.8	11.1	33.1	21.6	168.6
Total	158.0	137.4	92.2	139.9	38.2	565.7

The figures of industrial production published for the first half-year reveal an increase of output in all branches of industry. The coal production amounted to (million poods):—

	1921.	1922.
First quarter	141	187
Second quarter	115	134

During the first quarter the output increased in comparison with last year by 46, in the second quarter by 19 million poods.

We observe the same tendency in the iron industry, as shown below:—

	(Million Poods.)			
	Pig-Iron.	Hartens Steel.	1921.	1922.
First quarter	2.2	2.8	3.6	5.7
Second quarter	1.4	2.6	2.4	5.3

During the second quarter the production of pig-iron and of steel has declined under the influence of the industrial crisis from which the country is suffering. Nevertheless, the production was during the whole half-year greater than in 1921.

The statistics of cotton goods production reveal a similar tendency:—

	COTTON GOODS.			
	Yarn.	Cloth.	1921.	1922.
	Thousand Poods.	Milln. Arshins.	1921.	1922.
First quarter	414	924	85	114
Second quarter	175	751	34	118

The foreign trade returns can be equally adduced as a proof of the slow economic recovery of the country. Imports, as well as exports, are increasing since 1920, as may be seen from the following figures:—

SOVIET RUSSIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.			
	1920.	1921.	1922 (First Half-year).
Imports (000's poods)	5,371	55,304	98,194
Exports	676	12,963	14,763
Imports (000's roubles, according to 1913 prices)	37,202	248,675	279,219
Exports	1,085	21,420	24,848

While the total imports amounted in 1921 to 248.6 million roubles, during the first six months of this year goods having according to pre-war prices a value of 279.2 million roubles were imported. For the exports the respective figures were 21.2 and 24.8 millions.

The official price index, which is published by the Commissariat of Finances, amounted in May to 365,573,261. Recent movements are traced below:—

RUSSIAN INDEX OF PRICES
(Average for the whole country, including Moscow and Petrograd.)

	1913 = 100.		
September 1, 1921	6,285,305	February 1, 1922	44,804,306
October 1, "	6,412,091	March 1, "	89,414,312
November 1, "	8,142,092	April 1, "	194,951,113
December 1, "	10,277,122	May 1, "	365,573,261

The latest figure represents an increase of prices in comparison with the pre-war level of more than 3½ million times.

Letters to the Editor.

THE LABOUR PROGRAMME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your Labour correspondent in last week's issue is a far cleverer man than I can pretend to be, and I do not doubt his sincerity any more than his skill in putting his case, but will you allow me, as a plain business man, to make a few comments on his article. He says, "A capital levy is one of the worst possible subjects for political controversy at a General Election. The Labour Party has shown more courage than discretion in raising the issue, and thereby giving their opponents abundant scope for misrepresentation and abuse."

Then he goes on to say that a capital levy would be in the interests of the wage-earning masses, and probably best for the majority of middle-class taxpayers. It seems to me that this is the very reason why the Labour Party has raised the question of a capital levy, couched in attractive terms, to the enormous number of electors who are not called upon to pay it, in the hopes of securing their votes before its fallacy could be effectively disproved. Unfortunately the workers have not "caught on" to any great extent, and that is the reason for the present change of front on the part of the Labour leaders.

I am writing this before the result of the General Election is known, but your Labour correspondent already seems to discount the result of the voting by saying that "the Labour Party have shown more courage than discretion in raising the issue." The fact is the average voter "does not generally argue with much regard for economic science," and in that the average voter is right. The average voter simply does not believe that a capital levy would bring about a fall in the price of commodities and an increase in wages and employment, and so far as I can see, your correspondent is unable to advance a single argument that it would do so. Indeed, he quotes Mr Lloyd George as having said, nearly 20 years ago, that houses for the working-classes would never be obtainable until "land values" were taxed, whereas, as everybody knows, the taxation of land values, now abolished, and acknowledged by Mr Lloyd George himself to be a financial failure, actually put an effective stop to all private building of working-class houses from the day the Act was passed. Now—when it is too late—Mr Clynes, a clever and sincere exponent of Labour policy, describes the capital levy as "only a suggestion."

The latest statistics in my possession show that in 1919 there were only 59,000 people in the United Kingdom having an income of over £2,500 a year, and so far as voting power at this election is concerned, they are a negligible quantity. Their position as capitalists is entirely at the mercy of the workers—men and women—who have votes. It is not a question of a capital levy at all. If capital is a bad thing, why not confiscate it altogether? There is no reason to suppose that Lenin and Trotsky were not as sincere in their belief that the confiscation of capital in Russia five years ago would prove a blessing to the mass of the people, as the Labour Party here believe that a less drastic policy would be a benefit to everybody, except to a small number of very wealthy people, oblivious of the fact that the disastrous

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.

1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3

With Branches in Canada, Ceylon, India, Dutch East Indies, Japan and elsewhere.

The Company offers facilities to Plantation Companies in the development of estates and sale of produce.

failure of this policy in Russia is now only too well known to every sensible person in the United Kingdom.

Mr Clynes says unless we have a capital levy we must put up with a 5s in the £ income-tax for the next 25 years. I agree. The obvious answer to this is that every wise man would cheerfully surrender half his fortune if by doing so the other half would be made secure. It is only the knowledge that the capital levy is an unworkable and impossible proposition which prevents it from being adopted by every political party now striving for power. It is not the case that it is condemned because the Labour Party supports it.

Four years ago, on my return to civil life after the war, I advocated in your columns a reduction in interest on every security created since the war began. I do not and never did believe in five per cent. patriots, but you, Sir, although printing my letter, turned my suggestion down as impracticable. Perhaps it was, and is, but I venture respectfully to suggest to Mr Clynes and Mr Henderson that the heavy income-tax we have to endure for years to come is in effect a tax on capital, although it presses far too heavily upon capital created before the war. This heavy income-tax does bring in the revenue required to carry on the business of the country and Empire, and it seems to me that any attempt to "kill the goose which lays the golden eggs" would only recoil with disastrous effect upon the very people Mr Clynes and his friends are sincerely desirous of serving.—Yours, G. S. PAWLE.

London, November 14, 1922.

A LEVY ON CAPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your issue of the 11th a Labour correspondent discusses not unsympathetically the levy on capital recommended by the Labour Party. There might be a good deal to be said in favour of such a levy if, as some of its advocates maintain, it was to be imposed in lieu of the income-tax and other direct taxes, if it were an arrangement whereby people could pay in a lump sum an amount which at present is spread over a number of years. However, that is by no means the idea of the Labour Party. The assertion contained in its election manifesto that a levy was proposed for "lifting from the trade and industry of the country the dead weight burden of the national debt" is sheer humbug, for from the same document we learn that in addition to the levy, which should yield £4,000,000,000, Labour proposes an increase of the death duties and of the super-tax and the taxation of land values. Far from easing the pressure of taxation, the Labour Party proposals would approximately double the tax burden, which already is unbearably heavy.

It is true that the Labour Party proposes that the tax pressure bearing on the masses should be lightened by "freeing trade and industry from all burdens and imposts, whether customs, excise, or stamp duties." However, the party demands enormous additional expenditure for carrying through "a large programme of necessary and useful public works," for pensions for widowed mothers, &c., and demands vast and costly measures for "increasing the happiness and prosperity of the poor by better housing, better schooling, better living, better health," &c., &c. The true purpose of the proposed levy and the rearrangement of taxation is contained in the noteworthy phrase: "Labour means to bring about a more equitable distribution of the wealth produced by the common effort of the workers by hand and brain."

If the various promises and proposals contained in the election manifesto were honestly made, they would prove the abysmal ignorance of the leaders of organised labour. They have apparently not the faintest knowledge of economic realities. They live in a world of theory and

of dreams. In their opinion money is wealth, and the wealth of the nation can easily be distributed, and the poor can be made prosperous by distributing money, by taking it away from one section of the community and sharing it out among the needy. It is as foolish to endeavour to make the poor prosperous by redistributing the money, as it would be to heat a cold room by breathing on the thermometer. Money, although an indispensable medium of interchange, is not wealth. Wealth consists solely in necessary and useful goods, and nothing else. The wealth of the wealthy consists in tangible values, for practically all the paper values existing are merely simulacra of tangible property.

It is obviously quite immaterial whether a working man receives £3 per week or £300 per week. The only thing which he really cares for is that he has an abundance, or at least a sufficiency, of food, clothes, house room, furniture, fuel, &c. Now all these cannot be secured by the redistribution of money, but only by increased production, for a redistribution of food, clothes, house room, furniture, fuel, &c., will have as little effect upon the conditions of labour as pouring a small can of hot water into a cold bath. The rich and well-to-do, from whom general prosperity is to be obtained, enjoy only a tiny fraction of the food, clothes, house room, furniture, fuel, &c., available. Even if the rich and well-to-do were starved and driven out of their houses, labour conditions would not noticeably be improved.

The condition of the masses can be raised only by increasing the quantity of consumable goods, by their increased production, and by nothing else. Now, the Labour Party not only promises to improve the conditions of the workers by juggling with money, whereby the available stock of goods will in no wise be increased, but it demands, at the same time, "more leisure, more freedom, more opportunities for enjoying the good things of this life." In other words, it demands and promises that the workers shall have a greater supply of food, clothes, house room, furniture, fuel, &c., while producing greatly diminished quantities of all these. Possibly the Labour leaders wish to take advantage of the short-sightedness of individuals who imagine that they will be able to get plenty of consumable articles if their income should be increased, or their taxes lowered. However, a levy on capital and other taxation tricks, far from causing the goods available for general use to increase, will cause them to diminish in the most disastrous fashion.

The illusion of greater wealth caused by taxation jugglery and by increased wages would cause the workers to increase their consumption, while reducing their production. That is the inevitable result of inflation. We discovered this during the post-war boom. The proposals of the Labour Party would, therefore, create an abundance of money, but a disastrous scarcity of goods, and they might lead not merely to want and unemployment, but to starvation and famine.

I do not wish in this letter to deal in detail with the foolish and mischievous levy on capital, which undoubtedly would prove ruinous to trade and industry. The fact that it is practically unanimously condemned by business men suffices to show the folly of the proposal. After all, business men are good judges of their own interest. But I would like to point out that no nation can become wealthy by endeavouring to distribute what is not there. There is no distributable surplus. There is not even a surplus of honest money that can be distributed. Taxation is already diminishing, or at least preventing the adequate expansion of, the national capital. In other words, it is preventing the necessary renewal and extension of the machinery of production and of civilisation. If the Labour people wish to increase the prosperity of the masses, let them urge their followers to produce more. Ca'canny is a far heavier burden upon British trade and industry than the entire Budget. One American produces as much as three Englishmen. By abandoning ca'canny production and consumption could be trebled, and the burden of the war debt would automatically shrink to one-third.—I am, &c.,

J. ELLIS BARKER.

Albion Lodge, East Finchley, N. 2,
November 14, 1922.

Books and Publications.

LABOUR POLICY—FALSE AND TRUE.*

SIR LYNDEN MACASSEY has performed a singular public service in the production of this work. He possesses experience and natural qualifications for the task which must be unrivalled, and a judicial temper throughout which is often absent from the exposition of experts in political and social questions. A man who has taken part in the rough and tumble of over 3,000 industrial conferences can well claim to have an insight into the real mind of Labour, which enables him to sympathise with its outlook and distinguish, as he so often does, between the outlook of the rank and file and the polemics of its leaders. The first part of the work is literally a handbook, a compendium, of the programmes of Labour leaders, and the progressive development of the thought of the party. Its documentation is most valuable for purposes of reference, and probably the most ardent Labour supporter could not allege that it is unfair, either by omissions or undue balance given to particular aspects. While in this collection of data the author has aimed at scrupulous fairness, there is also something almost relentless about the resultant effect, and a good part of the work of criticism is done automatically, without pointed comment. Nevertheless, Sir Lynden's summary criticism adds point and effectiveness, particularly upon the impracticability of the "right to work" principle. Probably with all his fairness and first-hand knowledge, he will be deemed a partisan of capitalism, despite many shrewd knocks at our existing system, and if he is truly such, Socialism has had no more trenchant adversary. He is the more effective because of the absence of diatribe and railing against "agitators," and because he leaves the so-called philosophy of Socialism alone, and deals everywhere with practical points—literally down to "hard tacks." We prefer not to regard him as a partisan, and find no difficulty in the process, as the air of the expert expositor with no axe to grind is convincing. The second part of the work is a brief history of governmental action towards Labour in recent times. It is in the final portion that Sir Lynden gives what he conceives to be the "true Labour policy," the fruit of his own ideas and experience, ranging over a wide field. "Democracy will fail, if it fails at all, from a lack of understanding of economics and finance." There is a profound faith in the innate "decentness" of the working man, provided always that ignorance and wrongheadedness can be combated. The problem of insurance against unemployment, self-contained industry by industry, lies, in Sir Lynden's judgment, at the root of the social problem. It is too large a project for a reviewer's criticism, but if this book is not absolutely convincing upon it, the treatment is at least persuasive and instructive.

* By Sir Lynden Macasey, K.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc. Thornton, Butterworth, Limited. 7s 6d net.

FINANCE AND HISTORY.*

THIS is a very learned and ingenious work, packed with figures, facts, and economic heresies, and leading up to the conclusion, also emphasised in the preface, that France should solve her financial problems by currency inflation rather than by loans. From internal evidence, the author appears to be a Christian Socialist, bitterly hostile to the doctrines of "liberal" or "orthodox" economics and with a strong predilection for the financial practices of the mediæval Kings of France. "Inflation," of which he claims to have written the first complete history, covers not only paper currency, but the increase (and debasement) of metallic money, and the issue of bank credits, bills, and State loans: and his aim is to show that currency inflation is legitimate and beneficial, while State loans are pernicious. By the fluctuations of metallic changes of ancient Greece and Rome: he defends the currency manipulations practised by the French Kings as tending to a fair division of wealth among their people,

* "L'Inflation dans l'Histoire." Par Albert Despaux. Préface de Léon Chavenon. Paris: Librairie de l'Information, 1922. (Pp. 511, small 8vo, 7f 50c.)

and insists that their economic policy was directed to supplying the urban workers with necessities at a just price: he praises the assignats of the French Revolution and Law's Mississippi scheme, which latter he interprets as an effort towards rallying "Celtism" and Latinism against Germanism; he traces its defeat to the influence of England, and that of Napoleon to the "defeatism" of his subjects in resenting the cost of his wars: he denounces the greed of plutocrats and the pettiness of small investors in requiring Budgets to balance and investments to be safe: and he deplores the modern French "hypertrophy of saving," which facilitates State loans, and thereby tends to withdraw capital from production and to increase the number of the idle rich. He regards the adoption of the gold standard as a servile imitation of England: he deplores the growth of peasant proprietorship as tending to decrease the production of food: and in proof of his contention he points to Bolshevik Russia. He maintains that France ought to have paid for the War by labour conscription and taxes on War profits: he strongly opposes "deflation," and takes the gloomiest view of the prospects of French labour, and of its intellectual section most of all. A full review of the book would fill a large volume; but students of history and economics will obtain a certain stimulus from its perusal, and will find in it a vast mass of curious information on many periods of economic history.

BOHEMIA.*

To understand the complicated tangle of Central European affairs to-day it is necessary to go back to the dim and distant past. The age-long struggle between Czech and German in Bohemia, for example, is lived anew in its entirety by each successive generation in this unfortunate country. The martyrdom of John Hus is fêted each year as though it were an affair of yesterday, and fortunate indeed is the traveller who succeeds in finding a Bohemian, be he Czech or German, who will discuss current affairs without reference to the Battle of the White Mountain (referred to as the White "Hill" by our author), and the religious and political events of an age long since passed. In this book we are guided through the dull complications of mediæval affairs, and the chronicle-like nature of much of the volume is due less to the guide than to the arid tracts through which he leads us. Of a total of 565 pages, 482 are devoted to the period prior to 1620, and one cannot help fancying that the rest has been tacked on for the sake of completeness. The author has managed, however, to treat of the struggles of the nineteenth century with an impartiality which is too often lacking in books written about this part of the world. The chief fault of his treatment of this period is that the economic aspect of the case is completely ignored, and this despite the immense change in the character of the national struggles which was brought about by the industrial revolution in Bohemia. We are amazed to read that the deputation of Prague citizens in 1848 was covered with flowers and ribbons at the railway station as the train moved off. This is the first reference to the new methods of transport, the political importance of which seems to have escaped our author. Again we meet workmen on strike, without being prepared by even the most summary reference to the main trend of industrial development. Yet these questions went far to determine the course of political and nationalist activities in this latest phase of Bohemian history.

The chief need of the modern student of these questions, and also of the general reader anxious to understand contemporary events, is for a book on the main historical factors that have finally led to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak Republic, and have determined its present social and political basis. Mr Maurice's book, we fear, despite many excellent pages, is not planned to meet this need.

* "Bohemia from the Earliest Times to the Foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918." By C. Edmund Maurice. T. Fisher Unwin. 7s 6d.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Development Commission. Twelfth Report of the Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1922. (London) His Majesty's Stationery Office. 3s 6d net.

The Riddle of Unemployment and its Solution. By Charles Edward Pell. (London) Cecil Palmer. 7s 6d net.

Inland Trade (Rail and River-borne) of India, 1920-21. (Calcutta) Department of Statistics. Rs. 2.8.

Annuaire de la Pologne. Table Statistiques. (Varsovie) Ignace Weinfield.

How to Form a Company. By Herbert W. Jordan. Fifteenth Edition. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited. 1s 6d net.

Les Fondements du Socialisme. By Albert Aftalion. (Paris) Marcel Rivière. 12f.

Business Conditions in Argentina. (Buenos Aires) Ernesto Tornquist & Cia.

Head Hunters of the Amazon. By F. W. up De Graff. (London) Herbert Jenkins, Limited. 16s net.

Truth Christmas Number, 1922. (London) Truth Publishing Company, Limited, Bolt court, Fleet street, E.C. 4. 1s 6d.

Daily Mail Year Book, 1923. Twenty-third year of issue. (London) Associated Newspapers, Limited. 1s net.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business.

Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

Foreign Branch: 168, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET. November 29. ACCOUNT. November 30.

Fog, physical as well as political and foreign, has been the prevailing element in the Stock Exchange markets this week. The settlement proved to be a much lighter one than its predecessor, and was arranged without any difficulty. Apparently the bull account in certain parts of the House, e.g., Home Railway stocks, Kassirs, and a few other popular markets, has been reduced, which reduction left the way open to a feeling of greater cheerfulness upon the smart rally in the value of the franc towards the middle of the week.

Sanguine anticipations of a substantial Conservative majority being secured at the Election served to brace up the prices of gilt-edged issues, the War Loan advancing to 99½, though as a feature, the Conversion Loan was the more prominent with substantial gain. Various other British Government stocks improved, there being evidence of purchases on behalf of Continental capitalists said to have been alarmed by the prospect of Capital Levy in Switzerland. The Swiss buying of War Loan is reported to have been on fairly heavy lines. Gilt-edged stocks all round are firmer, and the three British Government-guaranteed Underground issues recovered to their "par" prices, while the discount on the India 4½ per cent stock also diminished.

French Government bonds moved wildly, in accordance with the gyrations of the franc. The Fours at one time dropped to 20, to recover several points as the exchange rallied from 72 to 67. There is a fair amount of gambling going on in the bonds. French Railway issues, however, have not changed to any great extent. Rio Tintos, another Paris favourite, recovered after a severe drop. Brazilians have gone back; so have Chileans. Russians are a little harder. Germans have been scarcely mentioned. Interest in the foreign market has been centred almost exclusively upon French bonds.

Home Railway stocks went up materially, on a little demand coming into a market bare of stock. The contango rate on North Easterns, to take one example, opened at 5s, but soon ran off altogether; similar conditions prevailed with some of the others. Practically all the groups have participated in the advance, and the bulls quoted in their aid the forthcoming dividend distributions as a reason for optimism in regard to the outlook. Argentine Railways have been booming, for the same reasons as those set out here during the past two or three weeks, good traffics and dividend prospects being the principal pegs upon which the advance is climbing. Foreign railways, generally, are hard in sympathy with Argentines. In Mexicans there is nothing doing. Grand Trunk Pacific Debenture regained several of the points which it lost last week.

Rubber shares are steady, without, however, showing much alteration, except in the cases of the shares in companies which combine tea with rubber growing. These have been noticeably strong. In tea shares proper, however, the remarkable rise of the past three weeks induced a certain amount of selling, which had its effect upon prices. The Oil market is a little better, on professional repurchases of the active shares. Trinidad mostly improved, in consequence of a 10 per cent. dividend on Trinidad Apex shares. Debentures and preference shares of all kinds of industrial issues show a firmer front. The Banking market is better, in consequence of the rise in gilt-edged stocks. Shipping descriptions of the pre-ordinary type are mostly higher. In the Insurance market there is nothing doing. Amongst textiles, British Cellulose spurted appreciably, and Courtaulds enjoyed another sharp rise, on vague expectations that, if the United States passes a law for taxing reserves, this may induce the Courtauld Company to distribute some of its Viscose holding. Tobacco shares are better. In the wireless group, dealing started in Marconi 6½ per cent. debentures, issued at 99, on the basis of 2½ premium. Eastern Cable stocks remain heavy, the dullness being ascribed to the cutting of one of the cables by the Turks. Siemens gave way, on the expectation that the 10 per cent. free-of-tax dividend would be reduced. Iron, coal and steel shares are generally a little harder. Armaments keeping them company, and a few rises occurred amongst brewery stocks and shares. Nitrates are somewhat heavy, in consequence of the Liverpool Company having passed its dividend. Sudan Plantations gave way a little from the best, on sales by people anxious to put themselves in funds in order to take up the new shares when these come out. Several new issues have made their appearance for the first time in market dealings, the majority at prices either about par, or at a small premium.

Firmness in the Kaffir market is associated with the inherent strength of the market, because it is generally acknowledged that business both at home and abroad is extremely quiet. De Beers have alternated between brightness and dullness, according to the state of the Paris exchange. Rhodesians maintain their prices, though Chartered are still inclined to be heavy, because of the disappointment felt with the Referendum result. Broken Hill shares are better, thanks to Colonial support. Russians have moved but little. A few of the tin shares hardened as the price of the metal advanced, and the Indian group is slightly firmer. The House, as a whole, is very pleased with the result of the General Election, and members maintain that there is still time for business to improve before the advent of Christmas and the New Year make their restraining influence felt.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded ..	548,826,208			
¾ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender November 11, 1922, £250,000, at £99 2s 4½d % ..	247,800			
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 11, 1922.				
April 1 to Nov. 11, 1922, £26,218,000 ..	450,000			
To Shareholders only—				
Agwi Oil Marketing, 250,000 "A" Shares, £1, at £1 1s (Nov. 13) ..	250,000	262,500	31,250	231,250
Sudan Plantations Syndicate, 150,000 Shares, £1, at £2 10s (Nov. 13) ..	150,000	375,000	375,000	
Total offered to shareholders ..		637,500	406,250	231,250
Total offered for subscription to date in—				
1922 ..	£550,161,508			
1921 ..	304,445,486			
1920 ..	341,254,043			
1919 ..	975,486,531			
1918 ..	1,232,589,718			
1917 ..	1,219,993,903			
1916 ..	515,144,053			
1915 ..	660,983,076			
1921 ..	£388,978,203			
1920 ..	367,549,696			
1919 ..	1,036,059,951			
1918 ..	1,393,381,441			
1917 ..	1,318,596,010			
1916 ..	585,436,850			
1915 ..	685,236,396			
1914 ..	512,522,633			

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price.	Week.	Latest.	Price.	Week.	Latest.
War 3½% 1925-28 ..	95½	95½	95½			
Loans 4½% 1925-45 ..	94½	95	95			
4½% 1925-47 ..	93½	93½	93½			
4½% 1925-42 ..	101½	102	102			
Funding Loan 4½% ..	87	87	87			
Victory Bonds 4½% ..	88½	88½	88½			
Conversion Loan 3½% ..	75½	76	76			
Consols 2½% ..	57	57½	57½			
Irish Land Stock 2½% ..	58½	59	59			
Local Loans 3½% ..	63½	65½	65½			
Aust. 6% 1931-41 ..	106	106	106			
Canada 4½% 1920-25 ..	100	100	100			
India 3½% Stock ..	64½	64½	64½			
Do 7% 1926-31 ..	110½	111	111			
Do 5½% 1932 ..	98½	99	99			
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32 ..	101	101	101			
Nigeria 6% 1949-79 ..	113	111½	111½			
U. of S.A. 6% 1930-40 ..	104	105	105			
Victoria 5½% 1924-34 ..	102	102	102			
W. Aust. 6% 1930-40 ..	105	105	105			

Banks.

Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) 24½ ..	24½	24½	24½
Chartered Bk of India 18 ..	18½	18½	18½
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.) 24 ..	24½	24½	24½
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2½ paid) 8½ ..	8½	8½	8½
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid) 17½ ..	17½	17½	17½
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) ..	20½	20½	20½
Nat. Bank of S. Africa (£10) ..	9½	10	10
Nat. Prov. & Union of England (£20, with £4 paid) 10½ ..	10½	10½	10½
Standard of S. Africa (£20, with £5 paid) 11½ ..	11½	11½	11½

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons ..	72	72½	72½
B.A. & Pacific ..	73½	74	74
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	82½	85	85
Buenos Ayres West ..	76½	81½	81½
Canadian Pacific ..	163	159	159
Central Argentine ..	71½	70	70
Leopoldina ..	33½	36½	36½
Mexican Railway ..	13	12½	12½
Do 1st Pref. ..	38	38	38
Do 2nd Pref. ..	25	25	25
San Paulo ..	111	112	112
United Havana ..	71½	68½	68½

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5% 1886-7 ..	100	99	99
Belgian 3% ..	66	66	66
Brazil 5% Fund 1914 ..	61	64	64
Chilian 4½% 1895 ..	83	83	83
Do 7% ..	102	102½	102½
Chinese 5% 1912 ..	72	72	72
Egyptian 4% ..	69	69	69
French 5% ..	27	29½	29½
Do 4% ..	22	23½	23½
Greek 4% 1888 ..	28	25½	25½
Japanese 4% ..	66	66	66
Do 4% 1910 ..	71	71	71
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	57	55½	55½
Peruvian Corp. Pref. ..	29	29½	29½
Russian 5% 1906 ..	99	99	99
Spanish 4% ..	96	96	96
Seine (Dept.) 7% ..	89	89	89
Siamese 7% ..	107	107	107

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 23½ ..	23½	23½	23½
Marconi Wireless ..	2½	2½	2½
Marconi Canada ..	17	17	17
Marconi Marine ..	18	18	18

British Railways.

Great Central Pref. ..	22½	23½	23½
Great Eastern ..	36½	38½	38½
Great Northern Def. ..	42	43	43
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.) ..	104½	106	106
London Brighton, "A" ..	62½	63½	63½
London, Chatham & Dover ..	78	8	8
L. & N.W. (New) ..	101	102	102
L. & S. Western, Def. ..	32½	33	33
Metropolitan ..	55½	59½	59½
Metropolitan District ..	41½	43	43
Midland Deferred ..	66½	67½	67½
North British Def. ..	19	19	19
North-Eastern ..	117½	118½	118½
South-Eastern "A" ..	31½	32	32
Underground Electric (£10) ..	3	3½	3½
Do "A" (1) ..	11	11	11
Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	87	88½	88½

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio ..	83	79	79
Erie ..	14	13	13
Do 4% 1st Pref. ..	21	20	20
Southern ..	28	25	25
Do Non-cum Pref. 72x ..	69	69	69

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) ..	16	14½	14½
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) ..	5½	58	58
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) and Co. (£1) ..	1	1	1
Ass. Pind. Cement (£1) ..	1	1	1
Barker, John (£1) ..	28	28	28
B'ham Small Arms (£1) ..	28	28	28
Brazil Traction (£100) ..	46½	49	49
Br. P. & A. American Tobacco (£1) ..	4½	4½	4½
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	5½	5½	5½
Coats (J. and P.) (£1) ..	3½	3½	3½
Courtaulds (£1) ..	28½	28	28
Cumard (£1) ..	1	1	1
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	8½	8½	8½
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	16	16	16
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	2½	2½	2½
Forestal Land (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Highlands and Low- lands Rubber (£1) ..	18	18	18
Hudson's Bay (£1) ..	7½	8	8
Imperial Tobacco (£1) ..	3½	3½	3½
Lurgi Plants (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Lipton (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Lever Bros. Cn Pfd (£1) ..	1	1	1
Do 8% Cn A Pfd (£1) ..	1	1	1
Do 20% Cn Pfd (£1) ..	1	1	1
Lister (£1) ..	18	18	18
Lobitos Oilfields (£1) ..	5½	5½	5½
Lyons (J.) & Co. (£1) ..	48	48	48
Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.) ..	2½	2½	2½
Mexican Eagle (£10) ..	2½	2½	2½
Pekin (2) ..	16	16	16
Rubber Plantations Investment (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Shell Transport (£1) ..	48½	48½	48½
Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
United Serdang (2) ..	2½	2½	2½
United Tobacco (£1) ..	2½	2½	2½
Vallambrosa (2) ..	18	18	18
Vickers (£1) ..	18	18	18
Watney Def. Stk. ..	246	246	246

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) ..	3	3	3
Broken Hill Prop. (8) ..	1½	1½	1½
Chartered (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½
Crown Mines (10) ..	3½	3½	3½
De Beers Def. (£24) ..	12½	13	13
East Rand Prop. (£1) ..	3½	3½	3½
Geduld (£1) ..	3½	3½	3½
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) ..	6½	6½	6½
Knights Modderfontein (10) ..	48	48	48
Modderfont. "B" (5) ..	12½	12½	12½
Modderfont. Deep (5) ..	28	28	28
Premier Def. (2/6) ..	6½	6½	6½
Rand Mines (5) ..	3½	3½	3½
Rio Tinto (£5) ..	26½	26	26
Spring Mines (£1) ..	28	28	28

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

RESULTS HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

MR ANDREW WILLIAMSON'S REVIEW OF CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

INCREASED WOOL PRICES—SUGGESTED NOTE ISSUE.

AUSTRALIA'S IMPROVED POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The thirtieth ordinary general meeting of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, Limited, was held, on the 16th instant, at the head office of the bank, 5 Gracechurch street, London, Mr Andrew Williamson (the chairman) presiding.

The London manager and secretary (Mr E. M. Janion) having read the notice and the auditor's report,

The Chairman said: The annual report and statement of accounts having been in the hands of shareholders for some days, I have no doubt they have already been carefully perused, and I assume that you will wish them to be taken as read. (Agreed.)

When addressing you last year, I drew your attention to the abnormal position of imports into Australia during the course of the year ended June 30, 1921. Whereas the exports for the year to June 30, 1920, had exceeded the imports by £51,000,000, in the year to June 30, 1921, the imports had exceeded the exports by £31,000,000. This remarkable change in the balance of trade not only very seriously affected the exchange between this country and Australia, but also resulted in a greatly overstocked market in goods of all kinds on the other side, causing importers to lean much more heavily than usual on the banks. The high prices and prosperous times of the preceding years had, fortunately, put traders generally in a strong financial position, which enabled them to face the situation, and to write down their congested stocks to meet the heavy fall in prices.

HEALTHY RECOVERY IN AUSTRALIA.

The good yield last year of Australian primary products, wool, wheat, and butter, and the prices they commanded, increased the buying power of Australia, and enabled importers to proceed with realisations of their stocks, and the outcome of the year's trading generally has been much better than at the beginning of the period seemed probable. There has been a gradual return to more normal conditions, and stocks are now not much beyond the limits of ordinary trading requirements, and prices indicate a hardening tendency. In a word, there has been a healthy recovery from the commercial position as it was at this time last year. The prosperity of the banks is bound up with the prosperity of the whole community, and the more favourable trading conditions of the past year are reflected in our accounts.

LARGE INCREASE IN EXPORTS.

The official statistics of the Commonwealth show for the year to June 30, 1922, imports to the value of £101,063,661, and exports to the value of £127,949,455, or an excess of exports over imports of approximately £27,000,000. In addition to the increment from this source, Australian funds in London were increased during the year by the payment through the banks here of £10,000,000 distributed by the British Australasian Wool Realisation Association in redemption of their Priority Certificates. From these two sources the depletion of the London funds of the Australian Trading Banks, which was caused by the previous adverse balance of trade for the year to June 30, 1921, and which caused so much inconvenience in the latter part of 1920 and during 1921, has been more than made good, to the great advantage of shippers from here to Australia.

HIGH WOOL PRICES AND THEIR EFFECT.

The pendulum, however, has now swung round to the other extreme, and to-day, instead of having, as was the case before, too little money in London and too much in Australia, there is too much in London and too little in Australia. As against the large exports of wool and other products that are coming forward, it had been anticipated up till quite recently that the exports from this side would have been in sufficient volume to effect the transfer of funds from London to Australia adequate to deal with all the requirements of exporters from there. While exports from this side are increasing, they are not doing so sufficiently to balance those from Australia. The situation in this respect has been very much accentuated through the rise in the price of wool, Australia's principal export. Since I addressed you at this time last year, the price of Australian wool has risen by quite 50 per cent., and when you bear in mind that the total export last year amounted to over £48,000,000, or £15,000,000 over the previous year, such a rise

increases the demand on the other side for the financial assistance of the banks to a very unusual degree. The shipment of gold is not permitted, so that some other alternative is required to relieve the situation.

A SUGGESTION.

In such circumstances the alternative which presents the most natural and sound method to relieve a situation which is most prejudicial to the best interests of Australia seems to be for the Commonwealth Notes Board (the issuing authority) to issue notes to the banks in Australia against deposit by them in London of cash or its equivalent. There would be no inflation in this, as such issue of notes would be secured by cash, £ for £, on this side. This would greatly assist the free flow of the export trade of Australia, and could be made profitable to the Commonwealth. A somewhat similar method of providing the necessary currency for financing the export of the cotton crop and other produce from Egypt has, I understand, been in operation between the banks and the Government of Egypt for some time, with most satisfactory results to all concerned.

Negotiations have been in progress between the Commonwealth Notes Board and the Australian trading banks with a view to providing some satisfactory means of rectifying the present anomalous situation, and the negotiations have resulted in an arrangement by which facilities will be granted to the banks, but on somewhat different lines from those I have indicated, and which I personally consider the most satisfactory as a recognised channel of relief at any time in similar circumstances.

THE ACCOUNTS.

I will now ask you to turn to the accounts as I briefly review the figures. When I addressed you last year the accounts then before us for the year to June 30, 1921, covered a broken and transition period. The London Bank of Australia had only been with us for six months, and the Commercial Bank of Tasmania for four months. The accounts now submitted for your approval cover the first complete year of the working as one of all three banks. This has to be borne in mind when making the usual comparison of the figures of this and of the previous year.

SUBDIVISION OF SHARES—A NEW ISSUE.

The authorised capital is unchanged at £3,000,000 in 120,000 shares of £25 each. The paid-up capital of £1,319,887 10s in 105,591 shares paid up to £12 10s is also unchanged. As you have seen from the report, the board consider that the time has come when the denomination of the shares might with advantage to the shareholders be altered. There has been a general movement among banks within recent years to reduce the denomination to a much smaller figure than £25. After the fullest consideration the board have decided to recommend that the shares be altered to the denomination of £5 by dividing each £25 share into five shares of £5 each. A resolution to this effect, notice of which you have received, will be submitted to you to-day at the extraordinary general meeting that will follow this meeting. Should that resolution be carried, and be subsequently confirmed, then after the alteration has been effected, the unissued balance of the authorised share capital will be issued early in the New Year to the then existing shareholders in shares of £5 each, of which £2 10s will be called up and be payable by two instalments. In this issue shareholders will be entitled to an allotment of one new share for every eight shares held, no fraction of eight being recognised. As this unissued balance is small, the issue in this instance will be made at par. The issue of the shares will not be made before January

AUTHORITY TO INCREASE CAPITAL.

In view of the steadily expanding business of our bank, it will probably be desirable ere long to make a further issue of capital, and the board have decided to recommend you to authorise them to increase the authorised capital from time to time from the present amount of £3,000,000 to an amount not exceeding £5,000,000 as occasion may render this expedient. If this authority is given now while we are dealing with the other matter already explained, it will obviate the necessity of specially calling you together on some future occasion for that purpose, and at the extraordinary meeting to-day a resolution will be proposed to give effect to this, notice of which has been sent to you.

RESERVE FUND.

To return to the balance-sheet, the next item is the reserve fund, which stood in last year's balance-sheet at £1,232,162, but was increased to £1,300,000 by the allocation made at our last annual meeting, and by the further sum of £15,000 out of the profits of last year, as required by our articles of association, and appears in the present balance-sheet at £1,315,000. Out of the profits of last year we recommend that the further sum of £135,000 be added, bringing up the total to £1,450,000. I am sure that to a body of shareholders such as I am addressing I need not stress the vital importance of steadily building up a strong reserve fund. As I said last year, the stability that it ensures, and the public confidence which it induces, are of incalculable value, and beyond question in the best interests of the shareholders.

DEPOSITS, CURRENT ACCOUNTS, &c.

The only change in our perpetual stocks is a decrease of £50,000 in our deferred inscribed deposit stock, as explained in our report. Our deposits at interest show a gratifying increase of £1,578,584, and stand at £12,621,395. On the other hand, our current accounts, at £11,152,025, show a decrease of £378,889, which is accounted for by ordinary business fluctuations, and calls for no special comment.

Bills payable, rebate on bills, and other liabilities amounted to £1,736,144, or a decrease of £1,218,200. This figure last year, you will remember, was abnormally high owing to the special conditions caused by the state of the Australian exchanges on account of which commercial remittances had during that year mostly been made by usance drafts instead of by telegraphic transfer or demand drafts. Under the more normal conditions of the year embraced in the present accounts, the usual form of remittance has prevailed, hence the diminution in this item.

ASSETS—CASH POSITION.

Turning now to the assets side of the balance-sheet, you will observe that our

Cash and bullion stand at	£4,710,801
Cash at bankers and at short notice at	1,400,500

Or together £6,111,301 showing a slight diminution of £96,000, but again exhibiting a strong cash position, being well over 50 per cent. of our current accounts.

Our investments, consisting of British and Colonial Government securities, at or below market value on June 30, 1922, stand at £1,230,824, or an increase of some £352,000.

Bills receivable, and remittances in transit, amount to £3,799,507, which, while showing a small decrease of some £52,000, yet represent a gratifying increase in mercantile bills, due to the natural expansion of our business.

Advances and other assets, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, show a decrease of £118,614 at £18,950,420. This item represents a twofold movement in the past year; first, a healthy reduction in the accounts of those constituents who in the previous year of excessive imports had to lean more heavily than usual on their bankers; and, second, a very gratifying increase through the acquisition of a large number of new and desirable accounts.

The last item, bank premises and furniture, shows an increase over last year of £32,000, and stands at £807,652. This figure is arrived at after, on the one side, crediting the amount of deferred inscribed deposit stock purchased with the appropriation from the profits of the previous year and the proceeds of premises sold during the past year, and, on the other side, debiting the cost of premises purchased, including the price of the Stock Exchange building in Melbourne, referred to at the last annual meeting.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Taking now the profit and loss account, I will ask you kindly to turn to the first page of the report, so that you may follow my remarks more readily.

The profits of the year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, amount to £1,094,685. Deduct-

ing expenses of management in London and Australia, including directors' and auditors' fees, &c., £566,326, and income and other taxes, £182,885, together £749,211, the net profits amount to £345,474. Regarding the expenses of management, salaries and wages account for £411,500 of this.

In addition to our head office in London, we have 332 branches in Australia, extending over all the States of the Commonwealth. While every care is exercised to prevent any needless expenditure, the board very fully recognise the vital importance to the best interests of the bank of a highly efficient, loyal, and devoted staff, and that can only be maintained by fair and even generous treatment. Like all other businesses at the present time, both here and in Australia, we are very severely handicapped by a tremendous burden of taxation.

APPROPRIATION OF NET PROFITS.

Coming now to the appropriation of the net profits of £345,474, an interim dividend was paid in May last of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, absorbing £65,994. There has been added to reserve, as required by our articles, £15,000, leaving for further appropriation £264,480. Of this we now propose to carry to reserve fund £135,000, making for the year £150,000, and bringing this fund up to £1,450,000; to the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank Officers' Guarantee and Provident Fund, £15,000; to the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, £65,994, making for the year 10 per cent., free of income-tax, or £131,988; and, finally, to the purchase and cancellation of deferred inscribed deposit stock, as required by our articles, £43,996, leaving an unappropriated balance for the year of £4,489, which, with the accumulated balance brought forward from last year, leaves at credit of profit and loss account at June 30, 1922, an accumulated balance of £107,094 to be carried forward.

I think you will all agree that the result of the operations of the combined banks for the past year has been highly satisfactory, the more so in view of the special difficulties of the period, to which I have already referred.

WISDOM OF AMALGAMATION.

A full year's operations of the amalgamated institution has only confirmed the wisdom of the amalgamation. Our business and connection is steadily expanding along sound lines. The staffs of the three banks are now combined into one thoroughly harmonious whole, all working loyally together for the good of the bank. The spirit of co-operation and admirable team work throughout constitute an outstanding characteristic. I think we are singularly fortunate not only in our staff as a whole in this respect, but also in our principal officers, between whom there is the most complete and cordial co-operation in Australia under our greatly esteemed general manager there, Mr Wren, and in London under our greatly valued manager, Mr Janion; and similarly between Mr Wren and his principal officers and the head office here—a condition the importance of which to the welfare of the bank it is hardly possible to exaggerate.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA.

I will now say a few words on the general position of the trade and industries of Australia, touching only on those aspects in which we as a bank are more particularly concerned.

At the last annual general meeting I gave you the estimated total of the 1921-22 clip of wool at 1,850,000 bales. The actual figures were somewhat over 1,900,000. When we last met, though a great improvement had taken place in wool prices since the previous April, yet a set-back was experienced in the London sales then proceeding; but I said that, while there was some difference of opinion as to the improvement lasting, my own view was that a genuine trade revival was behind it, and that with possibly occasional temporary reactions, it was likely to be maintained, if not for the year to June 30, 1922, would exceed the figure of £33,700,000 to June 30, 1921. The course of events since then has fully justified that forecast.

IMPROVEMENT IN WOOL PRICES.

The value of the wool shipped (including £1,200,000 of tops) amounted to nearly £48,000,000, and with certain occasional temporary halts and one reaction, prices have not only been maintained, but actually show an advance on this time last year of quite 50 per cent. on the great bulk of Australian wools. When we look back some 18 months and remember the huge surplus of wool weighing on the market and then view the position as it is to-day, the improvement is remarkable. To-day there is practically no surplus of merino wool (with which Australia is mainly concerned), and if the demand is maintained there will probably soon be an actual scarcity. The fashion, I might almost term it the passion, for fine smooth cloths has created an altogether disproportionate demand for merino as contrasted with crossbred wool, and in consequence the surplus of available crossbred wool is still large. The present relatively high prices for merino, however, are causing

increased inquiry and rising prices for the finer counts of crossbred wool, and, indeed, this demand has already begun to widen out to the medium and, to some extent, to the lower qualities.

WOOL STOCKS AND CONSUMPTION.

At the present time the only surplus of crossbred wool is (1) that in the hands, or under the control, of B.A.W.R.A.—being the unsold balance of the carried-over wool under the Imperial Purchase Scheme—and (2) the balance of the free crossbred wool of Australia and New Zealand, the old clips of the Argentine having been disposed of as well as those of South Africa. The total of these unsold stocks of crossbred wool at October 31st last amounted to some 1,100,000 bales. The quantity of Australian and New Zealand wool that has passed the hammer during the last 12 months, about 3,700,000 bales, is astonishing, and of this enormous quantity probably 75 per cent. has actually gone into consumption, so that the warehouses of Bradford users have but moderate stocks, as also have those of the French and German buyers.

The clip for the current 1922-23 season is estimated at about 1,900,000 bales, and in view of the steady rise in prices and the growing demand the value of the wool exports in 1922-23 will probably exceed the £48,000,000—the value of last year's shipments—which will be very advantageous to Australia.

STEADY MARKET DESIRED.

Gratifying as it cannot but be to growers to get such satisfactory prices for their product as those now ruling for the finer wools, it is not in the best permanent interest of the industry for prices to go so high as to get out of reasonable proportion to the price obtainable for the manufactured article, as that tends to reaction and instability in prices, which is the worst thing possible for the trade. A steady market at reasonable prices is better than violent movements up and down. To banks issuing credits and making advances on shipments, very high prices have obviously their disadvantages. While that is an incontrovertibly sound business statement, it does not necessarily mean that present prices are too high. On the contrary, having regard to the statistical position I consider that present prices for merino are reasonable, and for crossbred low. Having regard to world stocks of wool it will be found that a shortage of merino is in sight, and that it will not be so very long, in all probability, before those who want merino may have to pay a good deal higher price for it than rules to-day.

While the 1,100,000 bales of surplus Australian and New Zealand crossbred wool, equalling, say, 370,000,000 lbs, look formidable when contrasted only with the whole annual output of Australia and New Zealand wool of, say, 2,400,000 bales, equalling some 800,000,000 lbs, it is less than a seventh—just over 13 per cent.—of the total annual wool production of the world, estimated at 2,800,000,000 lbs. The surplus of Australian, New Zealand, and River Plate wool a year ago was certainly not less than three times as great as the existing surplus above stated.

GROWING CONFIDENCE IN WOOL TEXTILE TRADE.

The recovery of the wool textile trade has been most striking, and there has of late been a growing feeling of confidence in the soundness of the revival, and, with the vanishing surplus of merino, users will have to take crossbred or go without wool altogether, for obviously there is not enough merino left to go round.

In the face of this world position I do not see what can hinder this crossbred surplus of 13 per cent. of one year's clip of all the world wool going into consumption and disappearing in a reasonable time, and in a much shorter time than is likely to elapse before the exchanges of Central Europe are stabilised and their markets opened. When this crossbred surplus has gone the way of the merino surplus the statistical position of wool will become still stronger. While the world demand for wool is increasing, the annual production shows no signs of corresponding expansion; indeed, the indications are in the opposite direction. The conclusion to which the facts of the world position of wool constrain one is, as I said before, that the present prices for merino are reasonable and for crossbred low.

I have dealt somewhat fully with the wool position, as it very much concerns all Australian banks, constituting, as it does, one of the chief, if not the chief, primary industry of Australia, and its most important export.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The export of wheat and flour from Australia during the last three years has, in quantity and value, been, in round figures:—

	Bushels.	Value.
To June 30, 1920	99,700,000	31,400,000
" 1921	84,500,000	39,400,000
" 1922	112,000,000	34,100,000

For these years the average price of wheat alone was respectively 5s 3½d, 8s 11½d, and 5s 8½d per bushel. The preliminary estimate for the Australian wheat crop for the current year is less than last year, being only about 100,000,000 bushels; this, however, should provide a substantial exportable surplus, and even if the price should be somewhat lower than last year, this would still mean substantial receipts for the growers in Australia, and tend to the stimulation of internal trade.

BUTTER EXPORTS.

The amount of butter exported last year was nearly 40 per cent. greater than in the year to June 30, 1921, but the price realised was so much less that the value was nearly 30 per cent. less, as the following figures show:—

	Lbs.	Value.
To June 30, 1921	92,421,000	11,067,104
" 1922	127,579,797	7,987,558

The average price obtained in the previous year was about 2s 4½d, as against only about 1s 3d last year; the previous year, however, it must be remembered, benefited by a very profitable war contract.

RAINFALL.

The season over all the States since the beginning of 1922 has caused some anxiety, as during the first six months the rainfall has been below the average, and patchy; during the last three to four months, however, rains have fallen in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, and in large areas in both New South Wales and Queensland, though in both the last-named States important districts are still badly in need of rain.

Taking Australia as a whole, the outlook for the current year for wool, wheat, and dairy produce is favourable, and the prospects of the internal trade are promising.

FROZEN MEAT INDUSTRY.

The important frozen meat industry, especially that of frozen beef, is still in a deplorable condition, and the present position of cattle growers in Australia is very serious. As you are no doubt aware, Australia produces cattle far in excess of the local requirements, and the industry depends on the markets of the world, but chiefly on this country. At December 31, 1921, the number of cattle in Australia was 13,323,044. The exportable surplus is thus very large, and has to compete with shipments from U.S.A. and the Argentine. Between the shippers from these other sources of supply a titanic struggle has been in progress during the past year, and prices were cut down to an extremely low level. In the face of this competition, and of the large carried-over surplus stock that the British Government bought during the war, you can readily understand that prices fell below the cost of production.

The old carried-over war balance has been disposed of. Even American beef trusts get tired of losses running into millions. While the present extreme depression may last for some time, I am confident that the Australian frozen meat trade has yet a great future before it. For its full restoration it seems to me that several things are needed, such as decrease in the cost of production; payment to the cattle growers on the basis of quality as well as of weight; greater care in the handling of the carcasses in the transport for shipment, and in the ultimate marketing; lower freights, both rail and sea, and the rehabilitation of the countries of Central Europe, and the reopening of these markets.

METAL INDUSTRY.

The only other important established Australian industry on which I would say a word is the metal industry. Australia, as you know, has immense metal resources, including nearly every kind of mineral, and, as I heard a very competent authority state recently, in the science of metallurgy Australia is ahead of any other part of the world. In pre-war days and during the war her mining industry constituted one of the chief sources of the wealth of Australia, but since the war the maintenance of high costs of production in the face of the fall in market values of the metals has severely crippled the industry. While the position is somewhat better than when we met here last year, it still presents a very disheartening appearance. Of the seven mines at Broken Hill, only at four, I understand, are mining operations being carried on, and at most of these in a restricted capacity. All the mines in Australia that are working are doing so under grave disabilities owing to the excessive cost of production, cost of labour, onerous conditions, and greatly shortened hours of working. While the whole industry of Australia is handicapped by the pressure of this vital factor of costs, the mining and the metal manufacturing industries are probably the greatest sufferers.

COPPER AND LEAD.

The output of copper has fallen from 40,000 tons to about 12,000 per annum, with only two mines actually working.

Lead, of which there is a world scarcity at the present time, offers a special opportunity, of which Australia is unable to take anything like full advantage, owing to high production costs. Possessing mines and smelting and refining equipment adequate to an annual production of 200,000 tons, the actual output at present does not exceed half that amount. Those Broken Hill companies that are paying any dividend at present are enabled to do so from the revenue derived from the sale of their zinc concentrates under a favourable contract with the British Government made during the war, and not from profit on their lead. Australia to-day produces zinc more cheaply than any other country in the world, and this is because the production is not dependent on labour. Thanks to the practical wisdom of the Tasmanian Government, abundant natural water power has been utilised so as to provide cheap hydro-electric power, and this makes available the electrolytic process for zinc recovery in place of the distillation method employed in most other countries. The Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australia, whose works are situated at Risdon in Tasmania, and who are valued clients of our bank, are thus in the fortunate position of being able to work with a fraction of the number of men ordinarily required to operate a zinc plant. The Government of Tasmania deserve all credit for their enterprise in this matter, and when further hydro-electric power is available, as it will be next year, it is reasonable to anticipate the establishment of further industries in Tasmania. The Government of Victoria are moving in a similar direction, and hope to supply cheap power by the installation of a large electrical plant at the Morwell brown coal deposits in that State.

TIN AND OTHER MINERALS.

With regard to tin, the output is limited to a few rich mines on the Kangaroo Hills fields in Queensland, as the onerous working conditions do not permit of the metal being profitably produced at the present market price.

Other minerals which Australia possesses, such as tungsten, molybdenum, antimony, bismuth, &c., are not flourishing at present. One exception is cobalt, of which there is a deposit in Queensland which promises to displace Canada as the main source of supply to the world producers of metallic cobalt and its compounds.

Gold production in Australia is declining, not only on account of the high production costs, but also owing to the exhaustion of some of the mines. No new discoveries have been made during the past year, but Australia possesses such vast tracts of unexplored land that there is the quite reasonable possibility that the future may witness the discovery of new goldfields equal in importance to Ballarat, Bendigo, and Kalgoorlie.

METAL INDUSTRY AND WAGE POSITION.

One of the main factors in production costs in the whole metal industry is the price of coal, and here again the chief difficulty is the high cost of labour and shortened hours.

While labour conditions are gradually improving, reduction in wages is being strongly resisted, notwithstanding that the products of the mines have to be sold in the markets of the world, and can only realise world market prices, no matter what Australian costs may be. The following figures, for which I am indebted to Mr A. J. M. Sharpe, are illuminating, showing the present rate of wages for unskilled labour per hour of labour in the following countries of the world employing white labour, reduced to English sterling currency, on the 14th inst.:—Austria, 4½d; Poland, 5d; Germany, 5½d; Czechoslovakia, 5½d; Italy, 6½d; but these countries, being in a wholly abnormal position, I leave them out of account for purposes of comparison; and even Belgium, 9d, and France, 9½d, I also leave out in view of the disorganised state of their exchange. The U.S.A., 1s. 11½d, is in a category by itself, being self-contained with an immense home market and a formidable tariff. We are left, however, with a fair basis for comparison if we take Holland, 11½d; Spain, 1s; Switzerland, 1s 0½d; Britain (the United Kingdom), 1s. 1½d; and Australia, 1s 9½d; the basic wage in Australia is thus seen to be about 90 per cent. above Holland, about 80 per cent. above Spain and Switzerland, and about 60 per cent. higher than in Britain, and when to this you add the disability of the 44-hour week imposed on most of the industries in Australia, you will realise how serious is the handicap.

The mining industry in Australia cannot get into its full stride and back to prosperity till wages are placed on an economic basis. In the United Kingdom substantial progress has been made in re-establishing British industries through agreements come to between the workmen and the employers, based on the cost of living—the rate of wages fluctuating every quarter up and down with the index cost of living. This simple and elastic method might be adopted in Australia with great advantage to all concerned.

POTENTIALITIES OF COTTON IN AUSTRALIA.

Another industry which, however, cannot yet be described as established, but which gives promise of great things in the future, is that of cotton growing. You are all no doubt aware that the world production of cotton has been declining, notably the Ameri-

can crop, through the ravages of the boll weevil, but in Egypt also there is the danger of decline, both in quantity and quality, and the maintenance of the cotton supply is a serious world problem. It has already, I think, been fully demonstrated that there are large areas in Australia where cotton of a superior quality can be grown, and a considerable acreage has already been put under cultivation. A delegation from the cotton-using districts of this country has been sent out to Australia to investigate the matter, and to render what assistance they can. The Commonwealth Government, and also certain of the States Governments, have appreciated the immense potential importance of this development, and are going into the matter with enthusiasm.

The Prime Minister, Mr Hughes, is reported to have said at a meeting of the Cotton Growers' Association in Melbourne that it was not a case of an experimental industry, and that it was no exaggeration to say that within a few years Australia would be producing £50,000,000 worth of cotton annually. This view may be too optimistic, but there are obviously great possibilities before this new departure. The great difficulty will be the vital question of cost of production, but if the comparatively high cost of Australian labour can be proved to be neutralised by a proportionately higher efficiency and greater output, that difficulty may be overcome. The addition of another great primary industry, producing a staple of world-wide demand, if successful, will add largely to the wealth of Australia as a whole, and the present development will be watched by us all with the greatest interest.

IMMIGRATION.

The Commonwealth and most of the States, in co-operation with the British Government, are addressing themselves to the important question of immigration into Australia in a more hopeful, scientific, and determined fashion than has yet been the case. If the work is conscientiously carried out by those entrusted with the detail (and some of the Australian representatives here are doing yeoman service in that direction), and the right settlers are sent to suitable districts, great good should result, and the efforts of the Commonwealth Government, and the States' Governments, and of their representatives in London, have the best wishes of all friends of Australia.

I will now move the following resolution, which I will ask Mr Paterson, the deputy-chairman, to second:—

"That the report and statement of accounts now submitted be and are hereby adopted; and that the amount available for distribution be applied as therein recommended."

Mr John Paterson (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion.

A Shareholder asked whether, when the new shares are issued, one new share of £5 would be allotted for every holding of eight shares of £5.

The Chairman said that was so.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The usual formal business having been transacted, and a vote of thanks to the staff unanimously accorded,

Mr P. C. Hanna then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his conduct of the meeting. In doing so, he said he would like to refer to the figures in the balance-sheet. In the first place, it would be noted that between the deposits and the advances there was a substantial margin in favour of deposits, and that cash or its equivalent represented over 50 per cent. of the ordinary public liabilities. It seemed to him that the bank was in a position to meet any and every emergency.

The motion was seconded by Mr Andrew Cunningham, who said: I have very great pleasure in seconding this motion. I think I may say I am Mr Williamson's oldest friend in this room, for I have known him since he was quite a small boy, and I have watched his very successful career with great interest and satisfaction.

The Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the meeting terminated.

SUBDIVISION OF SHARES.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held to consider resolutions providing for the subdivision of the shares and an increase in the capital of the bank.

Mr Andrew Williamson, who again presided, moved: "That each of the shares in the present authorised capital of the bank of £25 each be subdivided into five shares of £5 each, and that the sum of £2 10s per share shall be credited as paid up on each share of £5 resulting from the subdivision of existing issued shares of £25 each on which £12 10s has been paid up."

Mr John Paterson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That in Article 96 of the Articles of Association the words 'fifty shares' be deleted, and that the words 'two hundred and fifty shares' be substituted therefor."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Paterson, and was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved: "That the directors be and they are hereby authorised to increase the capital of the bank from time to

time to an amount not exceeding £5,000,000 by the creation of new shares in such denominations and to issue the same on such terms and conditions as the directors may prescribe."

Mr Paterson seconded the resolution.

Mr Stirling suggested that the board, when they were considering the denomination of the shares, should endeavour, if possible, not to increase the liabilities of the shareholders. In other words, he would suggest that they should make some of the shares fully paid up, or to follow the scheme which had been carried out by the National Discount, which had divided their old shares into two classes—one preference fully paid and another ordinary shares with a liability.

The Chairman said that the suggestion made by Mr. Stirling would certainly receive the careful consideration of the board. He might add that the whole ground had already been surveyed by the board, but further consideration would be given to the matter.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.
AMALGAMATION SCHEME APPROVED.

A special general meeting of the proprietors and debenture stockholders of the South-Eastern Railway Company was held, on the 16th instant, at Cannon street Hotel, London, for the purpose of considering a resolution approving the scheme of amalgamation in the Southern Group under the Railways Act, 1921. Mr H. Cosmo O. Bonsor presided.

The Chairman, in proposing the resolutions, said that the Railways Act of 1921 compelled the five constituent companies—the South-Western Railway, London Brighton and South Coast, South-Eastern, London Chatham and Dover and their managing committee—to amalgamate. They had to obey the Act of Parliament, and their respective boards had agreed to the scheme which was now submitted. It was necessary for the purposes of negotiation to amalgamate the South-Eastern and Chatham Companies and get rid of the managing committee, and that being completed there were only three companies to be dealt with. It was obvious that the only way to secure an equitable result was to arrive at what was the net revenue of those three companies—to find the proportion of income due to each and capitalise that income so as not to disturb the priority of stocks. A valuation of assets was impossible, knowing they had to rely on the published accounts as audited by their auditors and adopted by the stockholders. Each

company had reserves, and each company had overdrawn capital accounts which had to be taken into consideration. The accountants and auditors, in arriving at an adjusted net income of the three companies, were unanimous in fixing it at a sum approaching some £6,000,000, and of that the proportions worked out as follows:—37.45 to the South-Western Railway, 25.19 to the London Brighton, and 37.36 to the South-Eastern and Chatham. The South-Eastern and Chatham had an income practically the same as the South-Western. The accountants and auditors were also unanimous that the fusion of stock as set out in the scheme showed no advantage or disadvantage to stockholders in either of the four companies. The stockholders of the South-Eastern Railway had been most reasonable, and he took the opportunity of thanking them.

READING ANNUITANTS AND DEFERRED SHARES.

The great majority had expressed themselves satisfied, but criticism had reached the board from two quarters. Under an Act of Parliament in 1852 the South-Eastern Company bought the Reading branch, and paid for it by an issue of annuities, such annuities taking precedence of debentures, but the holders had no voting power. Some of the holders of those annuities now asked that their prior rights should not be interfered with. He (the chairman) made no complaint in regard to their attitude, but rather sympathised with them, and he had put in a special plea that they should not be interfered with. He had been assured that the annuitants, by accepting debenture stock, would have their compensation in being placed in a stock which was amply secured, and would, owing to its size, have a free market and command a higher value than the existing small stock, in which there were few dealings. The other quarter from which criticism had come was from some of their deferred shareholders, who had written to say that they had not been fairly treated, and that, in their opinion, South-Western deferred stockholders had got the best of the bargain. He could only say that they were mistaken, and, as a matter of mathematical computation, they had nothing to complain of. Their grievance was that the Railways Act—not the accountants of the company—had destroyed their prospects and placed the future earning power on the same lines as those of their future partners. They could grumble, but they had no power to improve the position. The deferred stockholders might call the position monstrous, and he agreed with them as to that; but they could not get away from it. The scheme the board recommended the proprietors to adopt had taken several months of real hard

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliated Institutions:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED:
+ BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
* BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

work to prepare, and those who had been negotiating from the beginning were satisfied that it was the only fair settlement of a very difficult problem. They might say what they had to say about the matter in the strongest and most abusive language, but he appealed to them not to vote against it.

Sir A. Smithers seconded the resolution.

PROTEST ON BEHALF OF ANNUITANTS.

Mr Arthur Morley, on behalf of the Reading annuitants, lodged a protest against the way in which their prior rights were being swept away under the scheme, without any adequate compensation being made for them.

The Chairman, in reply, said that, as far as that meeting was concerned, all that the Reading annuitants could do was to lodge their protest, as they had no voting powers. The Act of Parliament had laid down certain provisions in regard to the amalgamation scheme, and any objections the Reading annuitants might have must go before the Tribunal, but he would advise them that should their objection to the scheme be put before the Tribunal they would receive opposition from other quarters. Replying to further questions, the Chairman said that in regard to the deferred stockholders, their stock had been valued on a purely mathematical income basis, and, in his opinion, they had been treated fairly.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANY. SCHEME UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

A special meeting of the proprietors and debenture stockholders of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act, 1921, held to approve of the amalgamation scheme.

Sir W. Hart Dyke, Bart., who presided, said that as a working basis, a conservative estimate had been framed of the aggregate revenue of the constituent companies which were to form the Southern Group. When that estimated aggregate revenue was applied to the payment of interest and dividends upon the loan and share capital of the amalgamated company, the yield would be equal to that produced in the year 1921 by the existing stocks. At the same time, the dividend on the stocks which would in future represent the arbitration and second debenture stocks would, it was anticipated, be not less than that paid by this company in the same year. If the proposed scheme was accepted it would at once supersede the scheme of August last. The 5 per cent. guaranteed preference stock would be a cumulative stock, but the 5 per cent. preference stock would be non-cumulative. After payment of the interest on the stocks of the new amalgamated company there would be an estimated balance of £2,290,000, as against £877,000, the total annual revenue of the Chatham Company in 1921—an increase of security which must be highly satisfactory to holders and attractive to investors. As regarded the securities to be substituted for the arbitration preference stock and the second preference stock, the 5 per cent. preference and the 5 per cent. preferred ordinary would be limited, of course, to 5 per cent. The directors had given long and anxious consideration to the position and prospects of the ordinary stockholders. They had now reason to think that the revenue of the amalgamated company should permit a dividend on the new deferred stock in excess of 3½ per cent. If that were so, and was continued, then it would mean that for the first time the ordinary stockholders would stand to receive some dividend. The preference stocks will be assured of at least their full dividend, whilst the new ordinary "B" stock, to be given mainly to our arbitration ordinary stockholders, is, we believe, given normal conditions, actually in sight of a dividend.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the scheme, which, after a short discussion, was unanimously agreed to.

DORADO EXTENSION RAILWAY, LIMITED. RECORD YEAR'S INCOME.

Presiding at the seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the above company, held at the offices, Moorgate Hall, London, on the 13th instant, Mr Nathaniel G. Burch, the chairman, said that the income for 1921 was about £35,000 above that of the previous year, of which some £24,000 had been derived from increased traffics, and it was of interest to note that the income of 1921 exceeded that of any previous year. The financial result was that they were left with a balance of £86,957, as against £59,160 in the previous year. They proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., to carry £24,000 to reserve—making that account £86,000—and to set aside £18,000 to cover the expenses of the issue of the new second mortgage debenture stock incurred in 1922. With regard to that issue of debentures, when the pro-

spectus was issued the directors had stated that the available revenue, after deducting first mortgage debenture interest, income-tax, and corporation profits tax, would be not less than £80,000. He had no doubt shareholders would be pleased to note that the accounts showed an excess over their estimate of nearly £7,000—a very gratifying condition of affairs.

The receipts for the current year showed a decrease, arising mainly from difficulties experienced by the coffee growers, but they had every reason to expect that the result of the year's working would be satisfactory. The expenses were being steadily reduced, and the upkeep of the undertaking improved. It was satisfactory that the ropeway branch was now completed, and was bringing in a considerable amount of traffic. They had appointed Mr J. A. Goudge, C.B.E., to the board. He was well known in the South American railway world, and was calculated to prove of great service to their counsels in the future direction of their undertaking.

Mr J. A. Goudge, C.B.E., in seconding the resolution, said that he did not think he need add much to the lucid statement of the chairman, but he would like to draw attention to the fact that the revenue for last year was subject to very unusual charges, and the board had set aside no less than £60,000 out of the revenue of that year for reserves and for special expenditure. The only other item which might be of interest, and which the chairman did not mention, was that the directors had sent out within the last few weeks a new manager, who had had a great deal of experience in South American railways. The board had every hope that in his hands the undertaking would be well administered, and that every effort would be made to ensure that the traffic would be more so, and at an economical rate.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

COLOMBIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED. GENERAL MANAGER'S CONFIDENCE IN THE PROPERTY.

The second ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Colombian Corporation, Limited, was held, on the 15th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, Mr Frederick W. Baker, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman said: I have no special comment to make on the items in the balance-sheet, other than to point out that a comparison of the same items in last year's accounts with the balance-sheet under review discloses an increased expenditure of £89,350 16s 3d. These further increases represent expenditures on buildings, plant, equipment, roads, stores and overhead charges and administration expenses. As this balance-sheet does not represent the true position of the company at this date, the directors have again followed the course which was pursued in last year's report of setting out the present financial position of the company, giving you a summary of the assets, liabilities and capital position as at the dates referred to in the report. From these figures you will see that our cash position stood as at October 23 of this year at £47,109 7s 3d, as against £37,535 11s 3d at December 31, 1921.

Our liabilities stood at October 23 of this year at £110,210 8s 11d, as against £154,346 18s 3d at December 31, 1921. The amounts due in respect of uncalled capital stood at October 23rd of this year at £95,625, as against £191,250 at the end of last year. After deducting the balance of liabilities there remained capital resources

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

at October 23rd of this year £32,532 18s 4d, as against £74,438 13s 0d at the end of last year.

As reported to you at the last annual meeting held in January, 1922, the funds necessary for the development at the Constancia Mine, and for the purchase of equipment, was provided by loans secured from the Nchi Company as against the security of the uncalled capital. As indicated at that meeting, the directors have since that time, and during this year, made calls amounting to 7s 6d per share, and have received in respect of those calls a sum of £90,309 1s 0d, £40,276 18s 5d of which has been applied in reducing the loan account from the Nchi Company, which now stands at £106,270 6s 3d, as against £146,547 4s 10d at December 31, 1921. There will be due in respect of calls unpaid and calls still to be made a further sum of £100,640 10s 5d.

Referring to an interview with the general manager, he continued:—He said: "Mr Baker, I have such confidence in the Constancia property that I am to-day a very large shareholder in Oroville Company, most of my savings having been invested in the purchase of these shares."

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY. DEVELOPMENT WORK IN NORTH BORNEO.

The adjourned 79th half-yearly meeting of the British North Borneo (Chartered) Company was held, on the 16th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London. The Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I. (the president), in the chair.

The secretary (Mr Harington G. Forbes) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said that, in spite of the difficulties with which the management had been faced, they had made progress with the development of the country.

With regard to the financial position, he desired to remind shareholders of the warning he had expressed a year ago. The report and accounts fully bore out the fears he had then expressed, for whereas in 1920 there was a net profit of £226,800, for 1921 it had fallen to £147,466. That decrease was accounted for by a reduction of about £57,000 in the revenue and an increase of about £21,000 in the expenditure chargeable against revenue. Excise and Customs were mainly responsible for the reduction in the revenue. There had been a world-wide slump in trade, and British North Borneo had not escaped. The revenue from other sources had been fairly well maintained, and in some instances increased. The total revenue of the territory amounted to over £372,000, as compared with £425,000 in 1920.

Advances to companies for guaranteed dividends had been reduced from £89,117 to £66,160. In view of the great depression in the rubber market, they could not expect any further reduction in the item for some time to come. The capital raised by the subsidiary companies for their various enterprises was no less than 5½ millions sterling. If they had not raised that capital the Chartered Company itself would either have been obliged to do so or else abandon development altogether. Those companies were essential to the development of the country, and in the interests of the company it was essential to assist them. In his opinion, the only way was to curtail drastically their development programme, or to raise money for development purposes. To enable them to carry out a limited programme, in the early part of the present year they borrowed £300,000 by the sale of three-year notes carrying interest at 7½ per cent. In the last ten years they had expended on development no less than £1,033,000, and in those years the revenue had increased from £150,000 to £372,000. If there had been no development, the shareholders would not have enjoyed any dividends, and the company could not have fulfilled the duties of administration.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, November 20-November 25, were opened on November 17, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £62,245,000. Tenders for Monday to Friday bills at £99 7s 8d received about 27 per cent and above in full; Saturday bills £99 7s 10d and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 8s 6½d. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bonds, £4,650,000; in bills at 3 months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills: Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932: Average Price.
1922.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
Sept. 1.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 58,605,000	2 11 8-33	None allotted
Sept. 8.....	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 67,675,000	2 11 3-29	None allotted
Sept. 15.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	2 7 1-56	None allotted
Sept. 22.....	(a) 60,000,000	(a) 74,355,000	2 0 11-97	None allotted
Sept. 29.....	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 66,350,000	2 10 0-90	None allotted
Oct. 6.....	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 78,775,000	2 8 3-57	None allotted
Oct. 13.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 72,560,000	2 5 5-03	99 1 4-15
Oct. 20.....	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 61,905,000	2 5 11-06	99 3 1-75
Oct. 27.....	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 56,905,000	2 5 2-94	99 4 6-3
Nov. 3.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 57,330,000	2 9 1-02	99 4 8-7
Nov. 10.....	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 55,585,000	2 11 3-41	99 2 4-8
Nov. 17.....	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 62,245,000	2 8 6-05	99 4 4-6

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, November 24, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the minimum amount of £50,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT. (000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govern- ment Secur- ties.	Balance at End of Month.	
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	
Aug. 26.....	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	48.1	9,994	11,423	
Dec. 30.....	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	..	..	9,286	
1915.										
Dec. 29.....	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536	
1916.										
Dec. 27.....	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,986	
1917.										
Dec. 26.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486	
1918.										
Dec. 31.....	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566	
1919.										
Dec. 31.....	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9.1	337,537	2,802	
1920.										
Dec. 29.....	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134	
1921.										
Mar. 30.....	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.		28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	141	
June 29.....	323,884	14,965	3,000		28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150	
Sept. 28.....	314,382	14,830	3,000		28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143	
Dec. 28.....	325,584	14,658	3,000		28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161	
1922.										
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000		28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	6,000		28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312	250	
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000		27,000	21,150	16.6	248,458	169	
Nov. 8.....	287,993	12,225	7,000		27,000	21,150	16.7	244,930	138	
15.....	288,847	12,199	7,000		27,000	21,150	16.7	245,732	164	
15.....	287,843	12,210	7,000		27,000	21,150	16.7	244,755	148	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		RECEIPTS.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Nov. 11, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Nov. 12, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 11, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 12, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England.....	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.		11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs.....	112,250,000	79,768,000	2,564,000	2,682,000	
Excise.....	160,750,000	94,723,000	1,719,000	1,760,000	
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	10,600,000	3,493,000	..	..	
Stamp Duties.....	48,000,000	37,781,000	30,101,000	780,000	650,000
Stamps.....	18,250,000	10,932,000	9,104,000	670,000	456,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	610,000	440,000	10,000	..
Property & Income Tax (Including Super-Tax).	329,000,000	168,220,000	161,129,000	4,331,000	1,400,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	29,714,000	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	10,877,000	7,470,000	590,000	310,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	32,350,000	30,000,000	1,250,000	1,500,000
Crown Lands.....	750,000	480,000	390,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	6,526,523	7,345,873	..	73,645
Miscellaneous.....	22,000,000	17,878,631	15,129,565	50,000	318,586
Special Receipts.....	90,000,000	31,551,765	61,168,839	1,000,000	1,000,000
Revenue.....	910,775,000	494,279,919	550,828,277	12,964,000	10,150,234
Total, inc. Balance ..	..	505,453,449	553,902,783	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	800,000	5,230,000	..	200,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	..	169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	2,910,000	520,000	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922.....	..	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	..	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922.....	..	950,000	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	..	1,553,300	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	2,510,000	4,655,000	..	..

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	RECEIPTS.	RECEIPTS.
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Nov. 11, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Nov. 11, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 11, 1922.
(e) For other Issues:			
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,831,915,000	2,577,085,000	51,613,000
By National Savings Certificates ..	42,768,000	24,830,000	900,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds ..	20	5	1,000,000
By Treasury Bonds—			
5-15 year, 1922-35 ..	61,543,782	112,834,449	14,230,000
5%, 1927 ..	59,794,435	..	1,637,400
4%, 1932 ..	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919 ..	25,259	10,858,639	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	536,514,000	849,057,000	1,600,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—			
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	243,012	..	..
Repayments—			
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919 ..	..	7,250,000	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	256,746	38,681	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	6,827,960	4,431,887	2,754,887
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	162,425	321,533	142,867
Total ..	3,057,784,206	4,154,808,769	68,714,400

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	Issues—	Issues—
	£	£	Nov. 11, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 11, 1922.
EXPENDITURE				
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	16,000,000	9,275,471	9,875,161	..
Interest, &c., on War Debts ..	319,000,000	185,615,224	207,098,920	326,123
Road Fund ..	10,000,000	2,444,999	2,842,000	669,316
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c. ..	9,788,000	4,352,990	5,405,312	323,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	1,096,042	1,100,366	..
Land Settlement ..	3,500,000	710,036	2,106,396	67,541
Other Consolidated Fund Services ..	2,650,000	1,476,130	953,892	50,623
Supply Services ..	529,999,000	244,612,148	394,215,759	8,375,000
Expenditure ..	893,437,000	447,583,040	612,497,440	8,355,097
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances ..	..	5,150,000	..	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 ..	3,510,000	5,085,000	200,000	280,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922 ..	3,360,000	4,061,474	..	500,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922 ..	950,000	..	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300 ..	1,553,300	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..	2,110,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply ..	1,972,134,000	2,574,411,000	50,475,000	66,520,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919 ..	6,598,811	22,890,111	..	650,467
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds ..	6,026,211	..	250,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920 ..	16,550,000	11,800,000	450,000	500,000
(b) Repaid otherwise ..	..	9,200,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5%, 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000 ..	19,612,208	18,704,490	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off ..	44,034,182	..	250,000	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919 ..	12,378,823	49,238,131	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	511,527,000	808,133,000	9,050,000	31,400,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917 ..	1,198,075	18,620,156	..	660,022
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4) ..	5,000,000	11,515,000	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911 ..	55,656	111,200	..	..
Balance in Exchequer—				
Bank of England ..	3,054,621,136	4,151,654,320	69,030,097	110,228,428
Bank of Ireland ..	1,997,386	1,822,906	486,697	289,440
Total ..	3,163,070	3,154,449	315,697	340,440

Treasury, November 13, 1922.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, November 15, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£ 144,058,155	Government debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion ..	125,608,155
	144,058,155		144,058,155
BANKING DEPARTMENT.			
Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government securities ..	£ 49,967,519
Reserve	3,168,822	Other securities	66,143,276
Public deposits	12,854,839	Notes	22,156,195
Other deposits	109,505,988	Gold and silver coin ..	1,832,861
Seven-day & other bills ..	17,402		
	140,099,851		140,099,851

* Including Exchequer Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Nov. 15, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,168,822	+ £ 16,140	+ £ 7,212,311
Public deposits	12,854,839	+ 3,080,641	+ 3,468,285
Other deposits	109,505,988	+ 3,080,641	+ 3,468,285
Government securities ..	49,967,519	+ 876,229	+ 14,241,636
Other securities	66,143,276	+ 1,739,679	+ 18,679,647
Reserve	3,168,822	+ 620,650	+ 692,890
Note circulation	121,901,960	+ 647,545	+ 1,685,070
Coin and bullion	127,441,016	+ 3,305	+ 992,180
% of reserve to liabilities ..	194%	+ 8%	+ 14%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.							
Aug. 23	£ 127,417,304	£ 123,453,660	£ 123,954,385	£ 119,616,305	£ 22,413,644	18%	5%
30	127,411,172	123,918,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	17%	5%
Sept. 6	127,412,713	122,879,715	126,035,544	120,237,248	22,982,998	18%	5%
13	127,421,141	122,062,070	118,218,983	123,809,071	23,809,071	19%	5%
20	127,426,811	121,490,640	124,320,645	118,141,617	24,386,171	19%	5%
27	127,431,595	122,660,586	125,448,940	124,386,171	25,441,415	19%	5%
Oct. 4	127,429,231	122,199,775	128,862,852	135,862,852	22,672,456	16%	5%
11	127,426,688	122,569,890	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,306,798	18%	5%
18	127,435,454	121,680,519	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,306,798	18%	5%
25	127,435,454	121,680,519	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,306,798	18%	5%
Nov. 1	127,435,322	123,158,840	123,879,002	119,089,011	23,996,084	19%	5%
8	127,437,711	123,158,840	123,879,002	119,089,011	23,996,084	19%	5%
15	127,441,016	122,501,305	122,617,564	116,974,245	22,726,482	18%	5%
		121,901,960	122,360,827	116,110,795	23,989,056	19%	5%

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Nov. 13, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Nov. 17, 1920.	Nov. 16, 1921.	Nov. 15, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills) ..	£ 28,300,405	£ 28,933,380	£ 127,569,380	£ 123,587,030	£ 121,901,960
Public deposits ..	12,764,391	19,014,809	19,506,652	20,067,150	12,854,839
Other deposits ..	40,813,188	41,248,964	116,278,543	106,037,703	109,505,988
Government securities ..	31,554,576	11,046,570	63,786,073	35,725,883	49,967,519
Other securities ..	31,554,576	11,046,570	63,786,073	35,725,883	66,143,276
Reserve of notes and coin ..	26,776,754	25,463,980	14,599,944	23,296,166	3,168,822
Coin and bullion ..	36,627,159	35,947,360	123,719,324	128,433,196	127,441,016
Proportion of reserve to liabilities ..	50%	42%	10%	7%	18%
Bank rate of discount ..	5%	4%	10%	7%	5%
Market rate, 3 months' bills ..	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	6 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Price of Consols ..	75	74	44 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Price of silver per oz. ..	29 1/2	29 1/2	51 1/2	38 1/2	32 1/2
Average price of wheat ..	33s 11d	33s 11d	90s 3d	44s 2d	42s 6d
Exchanges ..	25 1/2-25 1/2	25 1/2-25 1/2	57 00-55 10	54 70-55 10	66 60-67 80
on New York ..	84 3/8	84 3/8	85 1/4-88	83 96-84 00	84 46-84 74
on Amsterdam ..	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	11 40-50	11 35-38	11 37-40
on London ..	20 1/2	20 1/2	215-25	100-105	300-300
Clearing house return ..	278,682,000	199,913,000	683,045,000	679,282,000	672,385,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—November 8	£ 29,794,116,000	£ 2,420,858,000	£ 32,214,974,000
November 15	619,178,000	53,207,000	672,385,000
Total to date 1922	30,413,294,000	2,474,065,000	32,887,359,000
Do 1921	27,731,218,000	2,663,953,000	30,395,171,000
Increase or decrease in 1922 ..	+ 2,682,076,000	+ 811,112,000	+ 3,493,188,000
	9 1/2%	7 1/2%	8 1/2%
Total for 1921	£ 31,928,380,000	£ 3,002,179,000	£ 34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,685,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,905,000
Increase or decrease in 1921 ..	- 3,018,305,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,346,000
	8 1/2%	26 1/2%	10 1/4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to November 11.			
BIRMINGHAM	£ 108,222,800	£ 97,653,000	- 10,569,800
BRISTOL	67,045,000	60,278,000	- 6,767,000
DUBLIN	314,968,500	276,435,600	- 38,532,900
HULL	48,419,600	48,419,600	..
LEEDS	50,002,800	47,280,000	- 2,722,800
LEICESTER	33,867,500	35,255,100	+ 1,387,600
LIVERPOOL	398,949,000	373,687,100	- 25,261,900
MANCHESTER	642,283,100	674,514,200	+ 32,231,100
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE ..	82,023,900	82,023,900	..
NOTTINGHAM	31,123,200	29,278,700	- 1,844,500
SHEFFIELD	49,900,100	41,699,500	- 8,200,600

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	Nov. 10, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1921.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,080,760	3,078,250	3,085,080	2,800,300
Legal tender notes and silver reserve ..	130,530	133,700	136,840	144,480
Bills discounted for member banks	640,410	587,750	469,400	1,246,020
Bills bought in open market	258,660	260,660	257,690	89,630
Government obligations owned	346,590	360,310	408,640	225,720
All other resources	64,670	64,290	63,930	57,870
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	26,400	36,050	21,660	30,790
Other deposits	1,836,280	1,878,200	1,818,110	1,696,070
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation ..	2,340,070	2,309,270	2,298,540	2,420,830
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation ..	32,440	35,570	38,000	80,520
All other liabilities	25,940	25,250	25,350	24,200
Capital and surplus	321,750	321,690	321,680	316,940
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined ..	76 1/4%	76 0%	77 6%	71 1/4%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	(000's omitted).				
	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Cash and bank balances...	441,824	419,981	447,719	459,560	480,457
Bank balances abroad ..	114,894	111,015	126,750	136,840	74,325
Call and short loans.....	273,021	276,778	271,989	274,418	290,020
Securities	322,009	330,646	323,471	318,753	366,823
Loans in Canada	1,211,825	1,192,614	1,196,524	1,215,936	1,343,444
Loans abroad	145,610	145,120	144,072	148,225	151,493
Other assets	104,262	99,412	97,315	100,255	101,917
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	176,919	158,087	161,887	166,085	186,793
Deposits—					
Government	109,988	92,595	87,546	89,024	136,181
Public in Canada ..	1,648,648	1,639,485	1,668,224	1,687,162	1,798,077
Foreign	336,747	339,985	347,595	365,770	295,571
Bank balances—					
Foreign	9,008	8,348	6,379	9,973	12,571
Canada	33,706	35,075	34,284	35,493	47,447
Bills payable, &c.	23,321	22,236	21,872	24,521	33,004
Other liabilities	7,644	7,756	2,328	2,963	2,865
Capital and res.	255,231	255,197	255,068	254,414	264,333

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 2, 1922.	Nov. 2, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.	Oct. 19, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	337,548	336,384	336,493	336,286	411,544	322,650
Securities	622,374	623,719	557,484	574,945	411,544	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,627,455	6,660,648	6,543,145	6,524,478	6,158,746	934,150
Current accounts	696,934	694,896	708,835	783,588	826,873	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, silver coin	434	434	604	677
Bills, discounted warrants and drafts	876,406,350	845,862,594	825,717,248	806,302,544
Loans	1,215,393	1,275,027	1,350,235	1,499,493
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	2,970,917	2,683,863,060	2,590,414,336	2,453,968,531
Deposits	108,208,383	126,161,558	217,040,559	226,179,555

HUNGARIAN BANK.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, silver coin, &c.	14,145	14,012	14,816
Bills, discounted warrants and drafts, &c.	51,445,575	51,630,578	48,683,872
Loans	1,849,680	1,728,166	1,730,055
LIABILITIES.			
Notes in circulation	67,934,531	70,004,923	65,329,411
Deposits	8,066,355	5,188,721	4,233,016

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Position May 30, 1921.
Coin and bullion	228,301	228,299	228,304	228,304	228,304	228,304
Loans and discounts	500,693	516,654	516,654	516,654	516,654	516,654
Securities	9,113	13,745	18,018	25,939	18,909	24,102
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	478,134	466,555	423,751	432,305	493,380	157,266
Deposits	181,481	211,064	147,015	142,399	103,324	6,696

BANK OF NORWAY.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1921.	May 31, 1921.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,290	147,290	147,293	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	35,960	37,592	38,149	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,415	9,415	9,415	8,816
Discounts and loans	460,392	489,473	482,954	76,911
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	376,341	383,393	374,763	407,582
Deposits at notice	149,940	173,442	175,548	71,888

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Sept. 29, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1921.
Govt. securities	8,41,07	8,48,21	8,18,24	8,75,62	13,12,46
Other securities	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,35,51
Loans	16,92,14	16,87,32	17,26,48	17,93,61	24,29,82
Cash credits	26,91,09	27,20,41	26,72,62	26,71,92	22,54,43
Inland bills	4,35,42	4,02,94	3,87,86	4,12,45	6,56,00
Foreign bills	4,55,50	4,45,50	4,45,50	4,45,50	6,15,50
Dead stock	2,46,61	2,46,48	2,46,48	2,46,48	2,13,34
Sundries	40,55	40,26	40,27	36,91	32,88
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,08,76
Capital paid up	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,58,44
Reserve	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	3,83,66
Public deposits	11,66,07	11,88,72	9,84,92	13,36,10	7,29,45
Other deposits	69,30,67	71,85,13	75,65,19	73,18,93	81,18,71
Loans against securities	97,84	97,84	94,19	1,45,69	72,59
Sundries	93,63	88,94	86,51	81,73	89,13
The above includes—					
Deposits in London	181	187	199	1,111	542
Advances in London	806	806	779	1,111	542
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	37	34	45	55	111

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold	3,359	3,360	3,359	4,592	1,571
Government securities	34,975	36,801	38,046	32,925	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	25,460	26,631	28,334	29,248	2,400
Government deposits	4,106	4,636	4,216	2,145	2,315
Other deposits	12,146	12,528	12,612	13,639	2,660

BANK OF FINLAND.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Position May 30, 1921.
Gold	43,214	43,214	43,212	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	944,256	903,756	718,406	411,016	90,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities	686,293	686,297	686,304	897,296	21,825
Discounts and loans	421,568	471,749	574,161	435,186	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,375,619	1,353,291	1,388,878	1,382,668	123,941
Deposits at notice	457,794	474,051	375,508	119,396	21,225

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF PORTUGAL.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 24, 1922.	Aug. 16, 1922.	Aug. 9, 1922.	Aug. 2, 1922.	Aug. 24, 1921.
Coin and bullion	26,657	26,657	26,657	26,657	27,826
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Securities	5,978	5,978	5,978	5,978	5,978
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	153,140	152,747	151,349	150,417	115,865
Deposits	851,326	849,511	847,286	843,659	648,004

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Gold	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,163	38,163	38,044
Silver	19,563	19,563	19,563	19,563	19,563	19,563
Treasury notes	96,852	99,169	101,734	105,084	107,613	111,535
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,602,489	3,587,627
Deposits	1,432,754	1,395,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,325,322	1,442,811

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
Gold	33,519	32,837	32,550	32,400	32,072
Silver	44,175	44,164	44,164	44,164	44,164
Foreign coin	266,034	266,034	266,034	266,034	266,034
Foreign banks	1,070,174	1,070,174	1,070,174	1,070,174	1,070,174
Advances to the Govt.	453,500,000	419,500,000	388,500,000	342,500,000	314,000,000
Private loans and discounts ..	108,358,332	99,025,404	91,486,259	86,332,402	81,567,721
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	579,972,769	525,954,764	499,019,694	463,706,047	417,850,944
Deposits	83,156,808	80,264,038	71,883,045	64,510,865	79,217,577

THE STATE SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK OF LATVIA.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 1, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Sept. 1, 1922.
Total cash	32,336	109,051	53,705	241,245
Foreign bank	83,830	814,373	813,193	785,091
Discounts and loans	399,385	415,124	361,087	355,634
Other assets	191,528	1,466,001	633,762	1,212,110
LIABILITIES.				
Capital	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Reserve	4,929	4,929	4,929	4,929
Deposits	66,378	741,994	668,485	819,287
Other liabilities	487,772	1,657,626	888,333	1,469,324

BANK OF ESTHONIA.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.
Gold, for coin and notes	102,056	102,056	102,120	102,120
Total cash	454,496	454,496	454,496	454,496
Discounts and loans	2,356,474	2,634,037	2,552,533	1,399,774
Foreign banks	1,412,441	1,435,846	1,229,764	207,556
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,771	37,771	37,771
Notes in circulation	1,000,000	850,000	700,000	350,000
Deposits	2,940,355	3,328,311	2,544,837	1,103,823

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1921.
* Liabilities of the Bank to the Banking Office	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715
Disconts & advances	1,889,867	1,930,143	1,933,445	1,936,249	1,936,249	1,936,249
Gold & silver held	815,146	812,218	808,775	808,161	808,161	808,161
Foreign bills and balances abroad	1,674,121	1,692,635	1,688,061	1,687,821	1,687,821	1,687,821
LIABILITIES.						
State's tes in circ'n	9,951,534	10,139,366	9,835,981	10,024,989	12,181,707	12,181,707
Deposits	3,165,137	3,482,559	3,140,383	2,901,008	1,962,777	1,962,777
Other liabilities	2,088,100	2,036,172	2,173,999	2,175,821	2,830,889	2,830,889

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Bank of the Republic.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENE.
(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 8, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.
Gold	63,787	63,843	77,540	78,286	73,82
Other coin and notes	16,826	16,826	16,826	16,826	16,826
Foreign credits	340,670	342,023	32,290	31,064	30,37
Govt. advances	1,477,999	1,479,452	1,479,528	1,460,335	590,21
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,118,070	5,102,772	5,153,297	5,236,672	4,495,4
State credits	332,903	332,903	332,903	332,903	369,8
Deposits	1,069,507	1,055,992	991,636	899,021	372,3

LONDON RATES.

Bank rate (reduced from 3 1/2% July 13, 1922)	Nov. 10, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 12, 1922.	Nov. 13, 1922.	Nov. 14, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
3 months' do.	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
6 months' do.	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
LIABILITIES (Treasury Bills):—								
3 months'	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Short	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Deposits	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Discount houses at call	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%
At notice	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%

† Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks:—

Tenders for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills were opened on November 10th. The total amount tendered for three months' bills was Rs.3,72,10,000. Tenders at Rs.99 1a received about 39 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs.99 1a 3p, equivalent to a discount rate of 3.7218 per cent. per annum. The total amount tendered for six months' bills was Rs.1,34,05,000. Tenders at Rs.97 12a, equivalent to a discount of 4.6036 per cent. per annum, were accepted, and received about 60 per cent. Intermediate bills for six months only will be offered for sale in India during this week at Rs.97 13a per cent. Tenders were received on Friday, November 17th, for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills, and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills for issue during the week beginning November 20th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended November 15, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £3,305 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended Nov. 15, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended Nov. 15, 1922.
Belgian Congo.....	22,766	Denmark.....	140
British West Africa.....	27,482	France.....	2,450
British South Africa.....	817,778	Traite Settlements.....	1,150
Other Countries.....	181	U.S.A.....	367,000
		British India.....	67,350
		Other Countries.....	765
Total value of imports of gold.....	858,207	Total declared value of exports registered in the week.....	439,455

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on October 31, 1922 :—

In India.....	£ Nil
In England—	
Cash at the Bank of England.....	4,019
British Government securities—	
Value as on September 30, 1922.....	21,519,196
British Government Securities since purchased (cost price).....	18,532,183
	40,055,398
	40,055,398

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General,
India Office, November 13, 1922.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on November 16th as follows :—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold came on offer, but only a small portion was taken on Indian account. Gold valued at \$5,408,000 has arrived in New York—\$5,070,000 from London, \$200,000 from Alexandria, and \$138,000 from France; and \$1,000,000 in gold has been despatched to Canada from New York. The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of October, 1922 :—Imports, £3,396,368; exports, £6,643,031.

SILVER.

The market has again shown a weak tendency. A slight rally, provoked by belated demand for prompt shipment by the steamer leaving this week for India, proved but short lived. China, America, and India at once began to vie with each other in offering silver for forward delivery, and naturally, while this is the case, bears are disposed to hang back from covering. Notwithstanding the considerable fall that has taken place during the last week or so, there is a lack of confidence in the future. Trade is considered to be the only effective brake that will control the sliding prices. The reduction of the silver contents of subsidiary coin has now commenced in the South American continent. A recent law passed by the Peruvian Congress authorises the emission of 23,000,000 soles of a low standard. Hitherto the quality has been 900 parts in the 1,000 fine. The object is to replace the 15,954,068 soles in circulation, and also to redeem 7,045,932 soles of currency outstanding in cheques and certificates. The reduction of the quality from

.900 to .600 would have more than sufficient profit for the purpose.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 22, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.
Notes in circulation.....	18,028	17,963	17,920
Silver coin and bullion in India.....	9,079	9,110	9,067
Silver coin and bullion out of India.....			
Gold coin and bullion in India.....	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion out of India.....			
Securities (Indian Government).....	5,932	5,837	5,837
Securities (British Government).....	585	584	584

The silver coinage during the week ending 7th inst. amounted to 2 lacs of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 11th inst. consisted of about 41,900,000 ounces in sycee, 35,000,000 dollars and 1,540 silver bars, as compared with 41,100,000 ounces in sycee, 36,500,000 dollars, and 1,460 silver bars on the 4th inst. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s. 2d. the tael.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows :—

1922.		Gold.		Silver.		Date.		Silver.	
		Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.				Cash, Per Ounce.	
Nov. 11..	92 3	32 3/4	32 3/4	32 3/4	Nov. 24, 1916	34 1/2			
13..	92 3	33	32 3/4	32 3/4	23, 1917	42 1/2			
14..	92 0	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	23, 1918	48 1/2			
15..	92 2	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	21, 1919	73 1/2			
16..	92 4	32 1/2	31 1/2	31 1/2	19, 1920	49 1/2			
17..	91 11	32 1/2	31 1/2	31 1/2	18, 1921	39			

NOTICES.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that the sub-branch of the bank at Mumbles is now converted into a full branch in new premises at No. 6 The Duns, Mumbles, under the management of Mr T. M. Bellingham.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce, 2 Lombard street, E.C., have received advice by cable from their head office that Mr Gordon C. Edwards, of Ottawa, has been elected a director of the bank.

The American Express Company, Incorporated, 62A Lombard street, London, E.C. 3, announces that Messrs A. J. Chapman and A. Clermont have been appointed assistant managers.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that new branches have been opened at Masonic Hall Buildings, Sutton Coldfield, under the management of Mr E. L. Greenfield; at 127 High street, Tonbridge, under the management of Mr P. Aldrich; and at Castle street, Llangollen, under the management of Mr J. Thomas.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, 1922.

BRITISH BROKEN HILL.—Returns for fortnight ended Nov. 4th :—7,201 tons crude ore produced 1,200 tons lead concentrates, containing 749 tons lead and 3,960 oz. silver; also 1,000 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 8.6 per cent. lead, 10 ozs silver per ton, and 45 per cent. zinc; 200 tons carbonates raised. One day's stoppage. Steel works, Newcastle: With the exception of the steel foundry which produced 74 tons of castings, the whole of the company's plant at Newcastle is shut down four weeks. Ore dressing mills: The ore dressing mills were carried on during the tailings, producing 513 tons of lead concentrate, and 4,732 tons of siliceous material was delivered to the zinc flotation plant for treatment. Zinc separation plant (Bradford) produced 1,740 tons of lead concentrate, 1,740 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 50.23 per cent. zinc, 3.18 per cent. lead, and 12.31 ozs silver. Sulphuric acid plant: This plant produced 464 tons of strong sulphuric acid.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—For the four weeks ended Nov. 4th, 16,780 tons of crude ores, assaying 66 per cent. lead and 28 ozs silver per ton.

BURMA CORPORATION.—Oct., 17,130 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 9,981 tons of lead concentrate; 10,303 tons of lead-bearing material in the refinery. Refinery products, producing 3,235 tons head lead for silver. Owing to seasonal shortage of underground labour, 5,500 tons of ore from stock pile are included in the tonnage milled.

BURMA CORPORATION.—Cable:—No. 7 level: West cross-cut 927 ft south—From 70 ft to 95 ft, 15 ozs silver 28 per cent. lead, 0.5 per cent. zinc; from 95 ft to 99 ft, 44 ozs silver, 60 per cent. lead, 10.8 per cent. zinc. Sediment encountered at 99 ft.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC.—Production during four-weekly period ended Oct. 18th, 2,014 tons zinc; silver lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation containing 194 tons lead, 42,962 ozs silver.

CANADIAN COLLIERIES (DUNSMUIR), LIMITED.—Production and sales of coal for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 1922 :—Tipples tons, 197,524; increase over corresponding period last year, 15,556 tons; commercial tons, 167,912; increase, 17,588 tons; sales tons, 164,346; increase, 18,294 tons.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—Production Oct., 2,950 tons lead concentrates, averaging 63 per cent. lead, 30 ozs silver per ton, and 8 per cent. zinc; also 2,580 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47 per cent. zinc, 6 per cent. lead, and 7 ozs of silver per ton.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£
Abbotiakoona.....	7,600				2,802 (d)	12,889
Abosso.....	7,000				317	
Akoko Main Reef.....	8,017				6,398 (b)	27,182
Ashanti.....						
Associated Northern—						
Iron Duke.....	172				1,599	58
Associated of W. Australia.....	6,212				7,832	
Balaghat.....	3,800	8,300	1,925	819	2,744	
Blackwater.....	3,630				(a) 5,963	1,134
Cash and Motor.....	15,400				(c) 26,506	6,096
Champion Reef.....	11,626	26,776	3,233	1,080	4,315	
Colombian Mining.....	4,750				6,635	
El Oro.....	32,500				\$168,387	\$23,196
Globe and Phoenix.....	6,401				(f) 10,274	
Golden Horseshoe.....	9,240				5,569	2,271
Great Boulder Prop.....	10,854				(b) 28,246	7,031
Ivanhoe.....	16,084				6,154	
Jumbo-Tip Top.....	1,475				517	675
Lonely Reef.....	5,400				4,054	(d) 18,737
Menzies Cons.....	1,680				\$ 297,630	\$149,620
Mexico of El Oro.....	13,410					
North Annapur.....	18,500	50,893	5,857	4,563	10,520	
Mysore.....	1,300				120	30
North Annapur.....	9,861	18,544	4,547	721	5,268	
Nundydroog.....	13,000	13,600	7,605	853	8,458	
Oreogum.....	17,300					\$75,637
Oroville Dredging.....					\$55,309	
Fato (14 days to Oct. 31st).....	3,047				(b) 17,015	
Oroya Links.....	5,900				2,226	
Planet Arcutus.....	7,200				7,854	
Plymouth Cons.....	7,405	4,711			(b) 14,194	
Prentiss.....	32,542	658			(c) 14,066	5,926
Rezende.....	11,550					\$25,539
Santa El Bordo.....	58,750				(g) 36,582	11,086
Do Gertrudis.....	7,105				(h) 13,198	1,564
Shamva.....					38,000	
South Kaiguri.....	2,321				1,410	(d) 6,486
St John del Rey.....	17,600				\$65,000	
Taguach.....	1,660				4,300	
Tomboy.....	15,177				4,229 (gold)	36,272 (silver)
Transvaal and Rhodesian						
Walhi.....						

(a) 90s per oz. (b) At par. (c) Including premium.
(d) 92s per oz. (e) 92s 6d per oz. (f) 91s per fine oz.
(g) 91s per fine oz.

	Output.	Other Notes in Return.	
		Tons.	Value.
Tin.			
Aramayo.....	264		Silver, 116,000 ozs.
Bischi.....	50		
Ex Lands Nigeria.....	34		
Filani.....	2		
Gopeng.....	714		Est. value, \$6,880; est. costs, \$1,685.
Gurum River.....	8		Despatched, 48 tons.
Idria.....	20		Est. value, \$1,517; est. costs, \$1,342.
Iyoh.....	223		
Jantar.....	142		
Kaduna Pros.....	6		
Kaduna Syn.....	3		
Kinta.....	30		Valued at £2,916; gross profit, £1,662.
Kranat Pulai.....	332		Profit, £1,536.
Lahat.....	132		Value, £3,333; profit, £294.
Lower Bischi.....	922		Value, £9,389; cost, £8,078.
Malayan.....	40		
Mongu.....	20		Despatched, 32 tons.
Naraguta Ext.....	20		
Nigeria (Bauchi).....	12		Black tin, 25 tons alluvial.
Pahang Cons.....	52		Est. value, \$1,505; est. costs, £1,235.
Pengkajene.....	15		Gross profit, £204.
Pusing.....	18		Est. value, £1,810; est. costs, £820.
Rambutan.....	40		Shipped, 40 tons.
Rayfield.....	652		
Renong.....	109		
Ropp.....	3		Despatched, 3 1/2 tons.
Rukuba.....	100		
Siamese.....	10		Shipped, 10 tons.
South Bukuru.....	55		Est. value, \$5,777; est. cost, £2,734.
Sungei Besi.....	42		Est. value, £3,707; est. costs, £935.
Tekka.....	39		Est. value, £3,820; est. costs, £2,190.
Tekka-Taipang.....	10		Despatched, 7 tons.
Tin Fields of N. Nigeria.....	410		
Tongkah Harbour.....	66		Value, £6,747; cost, £3,922.
Tronoh.....	4		
Yarde Karri.....			
Copper.			
Falcon.....	291		Blister copper; 3,020 ozs gold, 5,776 silver.
Poderosa.....	450		Metric tons, assaying 29% copper; profit, £1,600.
Coal.			
Tanganyika.....	3,788		
Chinese Engineering.....	48,585		Week ended Nov. 4th.
Chislet.....	5,107		Week ended Nov. 11th.
Clydesdale.....	16,313		Coalbrook, 15,561 Blackhill.
East Kent.....	4,087		Week ended Nov. 11th.
Natal Navigation.....	38,144		
Northern Natal.....	18,337		
Vereniging.....	45,479		Brick works, £6,296.
Vryheid.....	26,654		
Witbank.....	48,878		
Miscellaneous.			
Akim.....			201 ozs gold; 368 carats diamonds.
Burma Ruby.....			Rubies valued at Rs.1,41,000; royalties, Rs.14,000.
Keeley Ruby.....	1,400		
Rhodesia Broken Hill.....	1,820		Lead concentrates; est. operating profit \$34,780.
San Francisco of Mexico.....			41,710 ozs fine silver.
Transvaal Silver.....	7,710		Zinc concentrates and 755 tons lead concentrates.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.		
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Interim div. or Final div.		Last Year.	Previous Year.	
Railways.						%	%
Alabama Great Southern.....	3 1/2	Dec. 28	Quarterly				
Canadian Pacific.....	10	Dec. 30	Quarterly				
Norfolk and Western.....	\$2 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 19			7	7	
Tallal.....	4 1/2 p.s.						
Banks.							
Bank of British W. Africa.....	4*	Dec. 1	Less tax				
Bank of Chosen.....	4%		Less tax		7		
Banque Belge pour l'Etranger.....	15 (& bonus 1%)		Less tax				
Commercial of Scotland, "A".....	10		Less tax				
Do "B".....	12						
Yokohama Specie.....							
Insurance.							
Alliance.....	6 1/2 p.s.	Jan. 5	Less tax				
Guardian, Ord. and "Staff".....	3 1/2 p.s.	Oct. 30	Subject to tax				
Sun.....	9 1/2 p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax		10	10	
United.....							
Mining.							
Frontino and Bolivia.....	2 1/2		Less tax		5	2 1/2	
Mount Lyell.....					1/2 p.s.	nil	
Sungei Besi.....	1 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 11	Less tax 5/3 in £		20	25	
Transvaal & Delagoa Bay Invest.....	2 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 12	Less tax 6/3 in £				
Tronoh.....	1 1/2 p.s.						
Village Main Reef (in liquidation).....	1/4 p.s.	Nov. 30					
Tea and Rubber.							
Balgan Tea.....	5*	Dec. 1	Less tax				
British Assam Tea.....	10%*	Dec. 1	Less tax 5/3 in £				
Haiem Tea.....	5%*	Dec. 18	Less tax				
Jalpur Tea.....	10%*	Dec. 5	Less tax				
Jhansi Tea.....	7 1/2%*	Dec. 1	Less tax				
Leibong Tea.....	5%*	Nov. 18	Less tax				
South Wananajah Tea.....							
Other Companies.							
A. B. Fleming and Co.....	5%*		Less tax		15	10	
Agar Cross and Co.....	7 1/2%*		Tax free		10	10	
Angell's Brewery.....	6 1/2%*	Dec. 7	Less tax 5/6 in £		10	nil	
Apea Trinidad Field.....		Dec. 18			7 1/2		
Archibald Campbell, Hope, & King.....			Less tax		10	10	
Ashby's Staines Brewery.....					10 (a)	10	
Bieckert's Brewery.....					3	10	
Birmingham Aluminium Castings.....			Tax free		13	13	
Blackpool Pier.....	3%*	Nov. 11					
Blantyre and East Africa.....	15*	Dec. 9	Less tax		5	10	
Brady's (Chepstow Place).....			Less tax		8	8	
Bretts' Stamping.....			Less tax 5/3 in £		15	10	
Brickwood.....							
British and Chinese Corpn.....					10	10	
Burberry's, Limited.....	7 1/2				nil	5	
Callard, Stewart, and Wainwright.....							
Care and Mansard Shipping.....	5%*	Jan. 2	Less tax		8	7	
Chester's Steamship.....	4%*				7 1/2		
Continental Union Gas, Pref.....							
East India Tramways, Ord.....							
Do Deft.....	5%*	Nov. 22	Less tax				
Egyptian Markets.....	7%*	Dec. 1					
Ever Ready Co., Pref. and Ord.....	4%*	Dec. 1			4	2 1/2	
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	8 1/2						
Freeshold and Leasehold Invest.....	10%*	Nov. 16	Less tax				
Fuller's Earth Union.....			Less tax 5/3 in £	(b)	15	10	
Grand Hotel.....			Tax free		10	15	
Greenwich Hotel, Manchester.....	5%*	(3 mths)	Less tax		10	10	
Greenwich Inland Linoleum.....			Tax free				
Hall's Oxford Brewery.....	4 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 1	Tax free		6	5	
Hazel, Watson, and Viney.....							
Ikley Wells Hydro.....	8*	Dec. 12					
Indian and General Invest. Def.....	3%*	Nov. 27			10	10	
Indian Electric Supply, &c.....			Tax free				
James Nimmo and Co.....	7 1/2 (& bonus 1 p.s.)		Less tax				
J. B. Brooks and Co.....							
J. Lyons and Co., Ord. and "A".....							
Ord.....	2 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 1	Tax free		25	35	
Joshua Perkin's.....	15%*	(bonus 10%)	Tax free		15 1/2	20	
Kenton Park Race Course.....	7 1/2				8	8 1/2	
La Concordia Estancia.....		Dec. 12	Less tax		15	15	
Land and House Property.....	1/3 p.s.		Tax free				
Lichfield Brewery.....	7 1/2						
Liverpool Warehousing.....							
London and Colonial Invest.....	5%*	Nov. 29	Less tax		7 1/2	7 1/2	
London Nitrate.....					1/6 p.s.	1/6 p.s.	
Lydon Shipping.....					nil	nil	
Mansell, Hunt, Catty, and Co.....	4%*	Nov. 16	Less tax				
Meadow Dairy.....	14 p.s.	Dec. 15	Less tax				
Middle West Utilities, Pref.....	10%*		Tax free				
Moore's and Robson's Breweries.....			(and bonus 10 p.s.)		5	4	
N.Z. and Australian Land.....			Tax free		10	10	
Palace and Derby Castle.....		Dec. 1	Less tax		15	15	
Parke de Azucar Nitrate.....	5*	Nov. 30	Less tax		5	5	
Queen's Club Gardens.....							
Royal Sovereign Steamship.....	5%*	Jan. 5	Tax free		10		
South African Breweries.....	17 p.s.		Less tax				
South Blackpool Jetty.....	10%*		Tax free				
Do Bonds.....	2 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 5	Tax free				
Stanton Hutton Coal.....	5 1/2 p.s.						
Steats Roumanian.....	12/200	per coupon.	Less Roumanian tax				
Thomas Brown and Sons.....	7 1/2		Tax free		10	12 1/2	
Triumph Cycle.....	7 1/2	Dec. 1	Less tax				
Trustees Corporation.....	4%*		Less tax				
Tyrrrell and Green.....		Nov. 30					
Wall Paper Manufacturers.....	4%*		Subject to tax		6	nil	
Wardale Lead.....							
Whiteaway, Laidlaw, and Co.....	5%*	Dec. 1	Tax free				
Wm. Hancock, Deft.....	8						

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Nov. 12, 1922.			Aggregate 45 Weeks 1922.		
	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for 45 Weeks.
Great Central (c)	6762	39,100	139,900	179,000	2,253,900	8,152,000
Do Joint Lines	1611	99,500	99,800	37,600	5,329,500	1,609,900
Great Eastern (c)	12,072	84,200	150,800	235,000	4,308,100	10,472,400
Great Northern (c)	1,050	227,000	340,000	567,000	1,172,000	2,966,000
Great Western (d)	3,657	293,000	444,700	1,737,000	3,939,700	8,503,000
London & N. Western (d)	2,636	106,400	49,100	155,500	4,312,684	1,231,699
London & South-Western	487	75,944	23,786	97,730	54,100	84,878
London, Brighton & S.C. (c)	423	1,151	1,955	3,086	54,100	138,978
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	794	34,259	3,864	38,123	1,523,917	1,637,141
Metropolitan (c)	1,585	149,000	296,000	445,000	8,101,000	14,840,000
Midland (c)	63	1,074	884	1,958	68,245	131,065
Midland & S.W. Junc.	1,850	107,700	261,600	369,300	6,040,500	10,965,900
North-Eastern (c)	16	4,419	10,027	14,476	215,621	437,029
North London	654	110,900	43,500	154,400	6,184,500	1,963,800
South-E. & Chatham (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caledonian	1,097	59,100	98,500	157,600	3,264,400	4,445,800
Glasgow & S.W. (c) ..	534	23,200	35,700	58,900	1,427,500	1,649,300
G. N. of Scotland (c) ..	492	6,760	7,700	14,460	426,350	400,690
Highland (c)	1,377	55,400	117,200	172,600	2,989,900	5,242,400
North British (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belfast and County	80	4,698	1,287	5,985	243,044	59,150
Down (b)	160	6,668	3,925	10,593	277,097	156,771
Dublin and E. Coast. (b)	538	10,648	20,655	31,303	443,205	701,215
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended November 10, 1922.
(c) Week ended November 11, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	28 weeks	Oct. 15	1,043	2,97,824	+ 32,044	66,41,555	+ 24,88,054
Barak L. Ry.	29 weeks	21	118	20,300	+ 4,400	9,44,600	+ 2,90,000
Bengal & N. Western	2 weeks	14	67	47,700	30,873	9,49,370	3,667
Bengal Nagpur	14 weeks	27	2,703	13,67,000	+ 1,32,000	3,87,54,336	+ 5,40,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	31 weeks	Nov. 4	2,871	19,38,000	+ 1,29,000	95,09,000	+ 7,50,000
Burma	28 weeks	Oct. 14	1,342	6,94,500	+ 1,67,652	1,83,78,371	+ 22,88,118
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	6 weeks	Nov. 11	239	1,26,000	+ 5,387	6,98,000	+ 31,588
East Indian	6 weeks	11	2,772	29,87,000	+ 1,11,000	1,81,44,000	+ 5,59,000
G. Indian Peninsula	31 weeks	4	3,721	23,66,700	+ 2,02,400	7,87,41,965	+ 42,89,197
Madras & S. Mahr.	28 weeks	Oct. 14	528	12,40,000	+ 1,55,760	4,01,05,233	+ 42,07,922
Robt. & Koman	2 weeks	14	459	59,958	+ 2,509	1,05,791	+ 5,789
Do Lucknow-Breilly	2 weeks	14	302	53,863	+ 1,974	1,04,992	+ 2,157
North Indian	29 weeks	21	1,852	8,01,008	+ 5,481	2,75,99,912	+ 30,72,013
South Indian	29 weeks	21	1,852	8,01,008	+ 5,481	2,75,99,912	+ 30,72,013
State of Bahia, S.W.	4 mths	July 31	717	9,17,805	+ 94,919	33,88,925	+ 57,939
Punjab (a).							
Argentine N.E.	19 weeks	Nov. 11	752	8,300	+ 3,700	187,900	+ 40,400
Argentine Trans.	19 weeks	11	111	5,200	+ 3,210	44,350	+ 11,705
B. A. and Pacific	19 weeks	11	3,428	145,000	+ 37,000	2,493,000	+ 136,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	19 weeks	11	3,947	159,000	+ 19,000	2,851,000	+ 77,000
B. A. Western	19 weeks	11	1,882	89,000	+ 25,000	1,481,000	+ 23,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	1,305	41,145	+ 12,798	78,739	+ 25,404
Central Argentine	19 weeks	Nov. 11	1,900	197,000	+ 42,000	3,582,000	+ 274,000
Cordoba Central	19 weeks	11	1,191	59,200	+ 16,700	1,142,000	+ 95,000
Rio de Janeiro	19 weeks	11	811	18,400	+ 1,300	320,200	+ 46,500
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	9 mths	Sept. 30	1,005	15,500	+ 3,250	387,500	+ 44,900
Gt. West. of Brazil	45 weeks	Nov. 11	1,005	14,400	+ 2,690	563,200	+ 44,500
Leopoldina	45 weeks	11	1,631	35,404	+ 3,782	1,331,969	+ 175,294
Paulista	45 weeks	12	1,534	30,361	+ 4,993	1,276,136	+ 159,559
State of Bahia, S.W.	6 mths	Oct. 31	59	155,000	+ 86,000	624,000	+ 255,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	45 weeks	Nov. 12	838	37,830	+ 25,545	1,048,070	+ 106,790
Nitrato (a-monthly)	43 weeks	Oct. 31	366	36,343	+ 22,268	45,367	+ 45,367
Peruvian Corp.	4 mths	31	1,059	1,364,200	+ 44,900	5,140,600	+ 343,780
Taita	4 mths	31	172	17,768	+ 6,743	56,274	+ 17,438
Cuba.							
Havana Central	19 weeks	Nov. 11	1,210	10,236	+ 472	181,352	+ 20,613
United of Havana	19 weeks	11	1,210	46,511	+ 7,660	890,902	+ 136,118
Uruguay.							
Central Uruguay	19 weeks	11	273	31,995	+ 3,594	428,627	+ 11,827
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	19 weeks	11	311	5,987	+ 145	82,667	+ 1,209
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	19 weeks	11	185	3,037	+ 404	44,032	+ 4,470
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	19 weeks	11	211	3,353	+ 705	42,032	+ 3,161
Midland Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	14,681	+ 1,521	60,114	+ 4,071
North-West Uruguay	4 mths	31	113	7,127	+ 223	23,617	+ 2,064
Uruguay North	4 mths	31	73	2,447	+ 592	8,746	+ 2,279
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	45 weeks	Nov. 11	33	25,000	+ 5,000	855,450	+ 152,850
Bilbao	10 mths	Oct. 31	15	1,880	+ 189	11,329	+ 5,282
Bolivar	10 mths	Oct. 31	136	7,100	+ 918	89,523	+ 11,734
Bolivar	2 mths	Aug. 31	183	20,911	+ 6,131	39,928	+ 7,501
Costa Rica	8 mths	Oct. 31	70	15,000	+ 7,000	118,700	+ 73,000
Dorado Extension	8 mths	Oct. 31	45	4,750	+ 1,250	52,000	+ 9,000
Dorado Ropery, Ext.	28 weeks	Nov. 20	559	13,448	+ 1,558	174,129	+ 32,356
Guantanamo	44 weeks	Nov. 4	104	11,754	+ 30,332	3,581,236	+ 1,257,285
Gt. South. of Spain	9 mths	Sept. 30	234	51,298	+ 1,468	655,943	+ 4,816
Central America	9 mths	Sept. 30	234	51,298	+ 1,468	655,943	+ 4,816
La Guaira & Caracas	10 mths	Oct. 31	403	245,300	+ 98,200	4,776,200	+ 1,243,170
Mexican Railway	17 weeks	Nov. 7	403	115,740	+ 330,900	3,744,900	+ 788,800
Do	3 mths	Sept. 30	403	245,300	+ 98,200	4,776,200	+ 1,243,170
Nasajo Ocaraham	8 mths	Aug. 31	193	12,103	+ 2,124	87,391	+ 18,242
Ottoman Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	193	12,103	+ 2,124	87,391	+ 18,242
Puerto Cabello, &c.	8 mths	Aug. 31	35	3,750	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2,500
Salvador	19 weeks	Nov. 11	100	133,144	+ 5,738	49,953	+ 7,837
Santa Fe Province	1 mth	Sept. 30	..	5,250	+ 927	83,500	+ 16,135
Santa Fe & Santiago	9 mths	Sept. 30	112	14,267	+ 371	107,476	+ 19,110

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.	Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
		1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	75,303,279	57,421,605
Feb.	234,202	234,986	400,430,580	76,706,840	54,882,820
Mar.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	76,706,840	54,882,820
Apr.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	76,706,840	54,882,820
May	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	76,706,840	54,882,820
June	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	76,706,840	54,882,820
July	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	76,706,840	54,882,820
Aug.	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	76,706,840	54,882,820

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	Aug. 31	810	109,278	+ 5,154	3,810,152	+ 208,261
Canadian Ntn. & Pacific	9 mths	Sept. 30	277	14,017	+ 4,577	33,498	+ 7,991
Canadian Pac.	9 mths	Sept. 30	205	2,412	+ 180	106,684	+ 893
Grand Trunk	4 weeks	Nov. 7	1,397	147,708	+ 6,102	..	..
Pennsylv.	1 mth	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..	..

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Masnaga	1 mth	Aug. 31	810	109,278	+ 5,154	3,810,152	+ 208,261
Mid. of W. Aust.	3 mths	Sept. 30	277	14,017	+ 4,577	33,498	+ 7,991
New Cape Central	51 weeks	Oct. 21	205	2,412	+ 180	106,684	+ 893
Rhodesia Railway	1 mth	Aug. 7	1,397	147,708	+ 6,102	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	45 weeks	Nov. 11	329	490,577	+ 6,241	3,810,152	+ 208,261
Burnley Corporation	1 week	11	12	£3,113	+ 135	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	44 weeks	11	32	£120,380	+ 1,10,109	..	..
Chatham & District	45 weeks	9	15	£1,421	+ 7	74,585	+ 1,315
Chatham & District	45 weeks	11	11	£2,384	+ 190	78,129	+ 13,834
Glasgow Corporation	23 weeks	11	101	£42,854	+ 1,821	997,726	+ 74,817
Isle of Thanet	6 weeks	8	7	£602	+ 16	3,862	+ 74,817
Lancashire United	45 weeks	7	39	£2,862	+ 362	136,727	+ 19,165
Liverpool Corpora.	45 weeks	11	124	£28,167	+ 1,005	1,320,220	+ 11,809
London Tramways	33 weeks	16	160	£31,525	+ 4,385	5,056,466	+ 264,647
L.C.C. Tramways	45 weeks	Oct. 31	..	£44,051	+ 1,756	974,096	+ 148,082
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	30 weeks	Nov. 12	..	£4,090	+ 317	165,379	+ 10,456
Pernambuco Trams	45 weeks	Nov. 12	..	£7,095	+ 6,142	355,271	+ 8,508
Singapore Electric	30 weeks	July 29	..	..	..	..	..

TRAMWAY &

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.						Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	
					Prefere.	Ordinary.						
						Amount.	Amount.					Rate.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Breweries.												
Ansell's	Sept. 30	70,280	90,785	161,065	12,500	50,000	10+	30,000	68,565	101,184	10+	
Archibald Campbell, Hope, and King	Sept. 30	5,686	14,681	20,367	3,850	4,500	7½	5,000	7,017	23,847	5	
Ashby's, Staines	Sept. 30	22,599	21,437	44,036	5,437	14,500	10	1,000	23,099	18,624	10	
Brickwood and Co.	Sept. 30	19,057	69,351	88,408	7,517	34,230	15	20,000	26,661	57,129	14	
Denver United	June 30	Dr 34,762	Dr 5,951	Dr 40,711	10,000	10,000	10+	8,000	39,580	25,067	10+	
Hall's, Oxford	Sept. 30	34,651	32,929	67,580	18,000	22,500	7½	12,500	39,986	78,095	10+	
W. Butler and Co.	Sept. 30	39,040	53,946	92,986								
Financial Land, &c.												
London and Colonial Investment	Sept. 30	2,309	12,453	14,762	4,408	6,613	7½	2,000	1,741	13,470	7½	
New Zealand and Australian Land	Mar. 31	2,740	59,962	62,702	40,000	100,000	5+	Dr 81,473	4,175	Dr 88,936	4+	
Queen's Club Garden Estates	Sept. 30	16,601	6,903	23,504	..	5,250	5	..	18,264	4,041	5	
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.												
Palace and Derby Castle	Oct. 31	3,351	25,160	28,511	3,000	11,000	10	10,000	4,511	24,753	10	
Iron, Steel, and Coal.												
Bretts' Stamping	Aug. 4	5,229	Dr 3,523	1,706	860	1,433	5	Dr 5,000	4,413	3,985	10	
Horder Collieries	Sept. 30	44,662	171,782	216,444	..	120,000	8+	50,000	46,444	132,292	8+	
Motor and Cycle.												
Triumph Cycle	Aug. 31	9,834	36,482	46,316	2,410	23,932	10+	2,000	17,974	48,050	12½	
Nitrate.												
Lagunas Syndicate	June 30	..	21,689	21,689	..	..	..	21,689	..	10,963	..	
Liverpool	June 30	96,771	Dr 79,550	17,221	..	..	..	..	17,221	113,843	100	
Rubber, &c.												
Aboyn-Clyde	June 30	Dr 14,912	Dr 8,929	Dr 23,841	..	..	..	..	Dr 23,841	Dr 16,965	..	
Galang Besar	June 30	162	262	424	..	..	..	..	424	Dr 2,401	..	
Glen Bervie	June 30	Dr 675	Dr 842	Dr 1,517	..	..	..	..	Dr 1,517	Dr 6,859	..	
Kuala Kubu	June 30	3,622	Dr 909	2,713	..	..	..	..	2,713	Dr 4,730	..	
Sumatra Para	June 30	..	3,884	3,884	..	..	..	3,000	884	Dr 14,737	..	
Sungei Siput	June 30	Dr 58	Dr 2,464	Dr 2,522	..	..	..	..	Dr 2,522	Dr 9,356	..	
Shops and Stores.												
Maynards	June 30	152,163	41,046	193,209	3,398	38,924	40	25,000	125,895	54,250	30	
Textiles.												
Joshua Perkins and Sons	June 30	16,187	10,874	27,061	1,800	4,000	10+	4,328	16,933	13,005	10+	
Other Companies.												
A. M. Peebles and Son	June 30	14,074	Dr 22,945	Dr 8,871	..	..	..	Dr 8,871	Dr 85,852	..	..	
Blackpool Pier	Oct. 31	9,712	7,013	16,725	638	6,500	13+	..	9,587	8,144	13+	
Burberry's	Mar. 31	..	67,194	67,194	26,250	..	..	..	40,944	Dr 485,635	..	
Irish Times	Sept. 30	10,404	18,241	28,645	15,914	..	..	3,664	9,067	15,219	..	
Liverpool Warehousing	Sept. 30	5,554	147,582	153,136	13,406	70,230	15	53,000	16,500	309,563	15	
Lloyd's Packing Warehouses	Sept. 30	37,327	197,388	234,715	3,805	81,750	15	91,687	57,473	68,338	15	

+ Free of Income-tax.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Outside farm work is being actively conducted under seasonable weather conditions, and there is every probability of a large area being seeded, though the low prices ruling affords no encouragement to farmers to increase the wheat acreage. Market conditions were somewhat irregular, prices commencing with an easier tone, but subsequently improved in response to higher forward offers, while a fair trade was in force. English wheat is rather easier on the week, and best milling samples range from 45s to 47s, inferior 42s to 44s per 504 lbs free on rail. Imported steady, and supplies continue in moderate compass. No. 1 Northern Manitoba arrived 54s, ditto ex ship 53s 6d, Rosafé 63½ lbs 54s, and No. 2 Durum 50s ex ship to arrive per 496 lbs. On c.i.f. terms a fair business transpired in cargoes at generally steady rates. Steamers of No. 1 Northern Manitoba December sold 50s 3d, early January 50s 3d, No. 2 ditto December 50s, white Pacific arrived 51s, Victorian December 52s 4½d, choice white Karachi December 15s 5s, Rosafé 63½ lbs expected loading 51s 3d, and Baril 62½ lbs afloat 51s 6d per 480 lbs. Crop prospects in the chief exporting countries are maintained; United Kingdom stocks show a decrease, but visible supplies in North America are on a larger scale. Flour easier for home milled, with a fair trade passing at the decline. London standard straight run quoted 42s 6d, patents 44s 6d to 45s 6d, town households 40s 6d per sack delivered in London area. All English country straight 34s to 35s 6d sack delivered. Imported firmly held. Manitoba export patents 40s to 43s as to quality, top patents 42s 6d to 44s 6d, and Australian 41s per 280 lbs ex store. Maize improved after commencing easier. Plate ex ship 36s 6d, ditto landed 38s, American mixed ex ship 36s 6d, and ditto landed 38s per 480 lbs. Cargo market rule quiet, but firm. Steamers of La Plata loading sold 35s 6d, afloat 35s 4½d, December-January 35s 3d

to 35s 4½d, and January-February 35s 1½d per 480 lbs. Barley in quiet request, and rates tended easier for imported descriptions. English steady at 35s. to 62s per 448 lbs free on rail according to sample. Of imported, Californian 39s to 44s, Australian Chevalier 40s to 53s per 448 lbs ex store. American malting 48 lbs ex ship 39s 6d, ditto landed 31s 6d, Danubian 31s 6d, and Persian 29s all per 400 lbs ex ship to arrive. Oats barely steady on spot regarding imported descriptions, and trade remains without improvement. English ranges from 26s to 32s 6d per 336 lbs free on rail. Of imported, Plate f.a.q. quoted 27s 3d ex ship, and 28s 6d landed. No. 2 Canadian Western 34s, No. 1 Canadian feed 32s, No. 1 white clipped American 36 lbs 27s 9d all landed per 320 lbs. Oat meal in good demand at generally steady rates. Home milled, at cuts quoted £19 15s, rolled oats £19 15s, flaked ditto £22 15s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £19 10s to £20 10s, and American oats £18 10s to £18 15s per ton.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1919-20.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to November 11	Cwts. 579,063	Cwts. 243,505	Cwts. 333,090	Cwts. 325,3
10 weeks to November 11	4,350,500	3,735,000	4,579,946	2,583,3
Average price of English wheat per quarter	s d 42 6	s d 44 2	s d 40 3	s d 42 7
per cwt	9 11	10 3	21 0	16 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the p week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years fr 1918 to 1921:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1922.						
Nov. 4	qrs bsh 133,394 3	qrs bsh 161,856 3	qrs bsh 34,449 0	s d 42 0	s d 42 4	s d 26
Nov. 11	135,114 6	144,705 5	32,961 6	42 6	42 4	27
1918.	72,084 0	82,231 3	10,280 4	72 5	60 3	48
1919.	75,919 4	139,221 4	19,596 6	72 7	100 7	55
1920.	77,721 1	139,224 1	20,692 2	90 3	91 8	52
1921.	56,817 6	142,952 6	20,715 6	44 2	49 0	26

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The trend of business has taken a decided turn for the better so far as steel is concerned, and not only has the outlook undergone improvement, but substantial orders have been booked. Private builders of railway rolling stock have a good deal of new construction on hand, which will bring much-needed relief to the makers of tyres and axles and springs in Sheffield, and when the British railways come into the market, as must occur very soon, the plants concerned will be actively employed again. Increased business is being done in the better qualities of steel, and although the improvement is slight at present, the upward movement is believed to be on a permanent basis. Makers of several classes of tools are putting on additional hands, or extending their working week. The Board of Trade returns for October record a substantial increase upon the previous month in the export of pig-iron and steel of many descriptions. Prices are, however, still being cut, and production is not yet on a remunerative basis, but this trouble will disappear with an increased demand. Pig-iron in this district is a poor market, and makers are said to be working at a heavy loss. The Active business is reported in cutlery and electro-plate, and the sales of spoons and forks are the highest on record. In the home market the coal position is rather more encouraging, as both steam and house coal are moving away on an increased scale, although sales of the latter are not equal to the average at this time of year. Slacks continue to be the weak spot in the situation. Foundry and furnace coke are in good demand at current quotations. Quotations at pits are:—Best hand-picked branch, 32s. 6d. to 33s.; Silkestone, 28s.; best steams, 20s. to 21s.; slacks, 8s. 9d. to 10s. 6d.; nutty slacks, 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated November 16th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Business in pig-iron is improving, both

hematite and Cleveland foundry iron having been sold into the first quarter of next year. Prices are, therefore, maintained at 92s 6d per ton for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. and 93s 6d per ton for mixed numbers E.C. hematite. Manufactured iron and steel: There is a considerable amount of inquiry, with some business. Orders for steel are, however, not yet at all plentiful. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £10 10s; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: Freight from Bilbao have stiffened, but the price of best Rubio still remains low at about 22s 6d. Business has been done in Mediterranean ores into the first quarter of next year.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The position on the Cardiff coal market has eased appreciably this week. The more immediate cause of the change has been the disorganisation of traffic arrangement consequent upon the congestion of the docks. The measures taken by the Great Western Railway Company have apparently defeated the purpose they were intended to serve, for instead of accelerating and co-ordinating shipment, they have had the effect of impeding it. One of the results of the railway group system in South Wales is to place one authority in absolute control of the transport arrangements from pit to port, and that an authority which has still to learn the work which was so efficiently performed in pre-war days by four or five competitive railways owned and managed largely by colliery owners and shipowners. The Great Western Railway Company has been refusing to release coal from the collieries until the ships stemmed for such coals are in berth, but while this method of regulation has secured in some cases promptitude in loading and avoided congestion on the sidings, it has in other cases involved unforeseen delays in the despatch of coal from the collieries and the detention of tonnage at increasing demurrage cost. In these conditions, collieries have not been able to dispose of their output promptly enough to secure a plentiful supply of wagons, with the result that prices for spot shipment have shown weakness, and several colliery stoppages reported. Representations have been made to Mr Felix Pole, the general manager, on the subject, and

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended Oct. 31.		Ten Months Ended Oct. 31.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	14,503,927	7,468,398	121,542,229	84,120,362
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	614,165	506,249	5,392,373	4,295,406
C. Meat	8,881,007	7,750,944	118,517,874	86,579,989
D. Animals, living, for food	378,861	108,548	2,504,818	1,529,401
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	10,858,823	10,690,769	139,972,011	113,280,384
F. " " " dutiable	1,258,738	1,865,573	19,557,149	14,390,624
G. Tobacco	..	..	..	..
Total, Class I.	44,467,331	38,617,057	487,094,547	384,986,555
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	13,603	15	12,129,410	53
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	398,093	411,126	5,568,906	4,287,756
C. Iron ore and scrap	326,385	429,271	4,407,943	3,855,592
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	835,029	864,805	7,135,439	6,254,419
E. Wood and timber	3,158,944	4,859,428	23,680,922	30,017,738
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	5,372,963	7,715,857	48,701,939	61,918,322
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woolen rags	2,641,241	3,600,378	35,892,901	53,917,570
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	102,122	272,076	660,577	1,853,232
I. Other textile materials	525,032	1,300,570	7,705,195	8,519,262
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins & gums	4,166,229	2,971,614	32,308,314	31,370,113
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,302,248	1,296,492	8,136,656	12,209,491
L. Paper-making materials	928,527	984,114	11,493,863	7,670,149
M. Rubber	636,589	623,739	9,048,453	5,687,976
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	849,298	1,099,357	6,567,022	7,927,627
Total, Class II.	21,256,303	26,408,842	213,437,474	235,519,300
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	1,740	187	241,228	23,207
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	570,621	638,495	5,830,641	5,746,290
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,579,872	954,296	20,223,788	8,426,260
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,730,456	1,662,243	15,994,348	14,948,453
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	485,935	546,719	5,803,412	5,118,998
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	106,024	172,554	1,674,231	1,171,017
G. Machinery	540,423	681,317	9,615,296	9,225,002
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	291,283	281,275	4,313,263	3,120,575
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	520,359	568,412	4,735,809	5,624,282
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	388,839	838,710	6,620,554	7,605,296
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,529,989	1,815,538	16,030,404	17,835,610
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	723,377	964,599	6,683,387	8,933,247
M. Apparel	932,017	1,312,369	7,633,184	11,984,369
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	864,863	956,212	10,849,593	9,309,856
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	3,914,180	2,876,117	54,296,773	34,511,578
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	800,842	894,404	6,228,486	9,027,101
Q. Paper and cardboard	977,418	1,116,780	9,680,612	10,079,343
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	452,822	491,310	6,765,109	5,541,631
S. Rubber manufactures	467,843	368,685	3,974,669	4,744,707
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly wholly manufactured	1,812,599	2,583,953	16,424,037	20,013,359
Total, Class III.	18,690,502	19,726,175	208,841,654	190,494,334
Total, Class IV.	79,594	30,485	341,614	302,146
V.—Animals, not for food	240,461	231,970	2,558,098	2,254,490
VI.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles	84,734,191	85,014,529	912,273,387	813,556,825

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended Oct. 31.		Ten Months Ended Oct. 31.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	£ 570,035	171,166	£ 3,242,849	2,397,251
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	194,082	111,469	1,840,576	1,530,986
C. Meat	112,513	122,265	683,031	836,829
D. Animals living, for food	3,619	2,115	38,909	26,369
E. and F. Other food and drink	2,179,163	2,127,497	21,372,056	20,312,846
G. Tobacco	406,608	542,174	4,157,930	5,011,401
	3,465,946	3,065,713	30,685,350	30,115,682
Total, Class I.				
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	4,851,452	6,992,631	32,707,611	58,403,566
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	120,644	170,389	896,973	1,423,774
C. Iron ore and scrap	31,353	32,138	161,511	486,809
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	193,874	268,452	701,042	4,677,176
E. Wood and timber	19,226	15,005	313,353	276,509
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	151,061	122,261	517,854	896,507
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	466,173	711,359	3,722,922	6,328,969
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	3,354	1,023	41,284	48,994
I. Other textile materials	62,256	45,708	512,356	724,124
J. Oils, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	1,053,726	1,34,356	5,115,153	4,281,775
K. Hides and skins, undressed	106,514	156,300	1,084,920	1,452,986
L. Paper-making materials	98,570	118,600	583,221	1,026,937
M. Rubber	10,029	8,246	100,673	77,379
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	190,381	254,518	2,628,253	2,316,421
	7,358,623	9,210,962	49,067,122	82,421,786
Total, Class II.				
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	376,697	483,613	2,733,561	4,113,558
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	1,124,887	850,636	10,089,699	9,122,488
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	4,972,762	5,162,139	52,856,010	49,860,929
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	770,858	957,848	9,619,821	9,494,368
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	626,144	583,036	7,865,358	5,388,168
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	894,196	720,225	11,523,769	6,084,565
G. Machinery	5,747,650	4,501,481	63,349,379	42,370,658
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	188,243	176,785	1,534,702	1,143,798
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	16,523,873	14,659,562	15,394,445	155,573,409
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	4,123,225	4,489,913	47,074,157	48,453,540
K. Silk and silk manufactures	208,239	194,372	1,959,071	1,990,984
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,534,853	1,809,902	15,134,133	18,366,299
M. Apparel	1,498,367	2,251,571	15,608,974	18,611,622
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,502,967	1,690,287	16,502,051	16,846,980
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured	535,254	617,355	4,273,445	5,011,528
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	488,706	460,216	3,358,628	4,149,596
Q. Paper and cardboard	542,807	617,445	6,667,251	5,340,298
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	5,978,012	3,830,795	47,049,488	43,349,096
S. Rubber manufactures	404,649	394,285	3,918,501	4,215,249
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	2,284,296	2,629,536	22,956,416	23,037,395
	50,327,685	47,010,202	490,206,866	472,524,103
Total, Class III.				
IV.—Animals, not for food				
	362,737	145,926	3,070,558	1,259,103
V.—Parcel Post.				
	750,388	966,040	7,897,294	8,801,590
Total	62,265,379	60,398,843	580,926,690	595,122,610

they are now receiving his attention. Last week there was a heavy decrease in the quantity of coal exported from the South Wales ports, and it is feared that the returns for this week will show a further decrease. Exchange difficulties are still reacting unfavourably on business, and several more orders from France are stated to have been cancelled during the current week.

The following are the current market prices:—Best Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s 3d; second Admiralties, 26s to 27s; best dries, 28s to 28s 6d; best black veins, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s 6d; best bunker smalls, 16s to 17s; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s to 15s; anthracite big vein, 50s to 52s 6d; anthracite machine-made cabbles, 65s to 67s 6d; anthracite French nuts, 70s to 72s 6d; stove nuts, 70s to 71s; rubbly culm, 14s to 14s 6d; coke for export, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 28s 6d to 30s; pitwood ex ship, 33s 3d to 34s.

The improvement in the tin plate trade is maintained. The minimum price has been increased to 10s 6d per basis box, and the minimum schedule extended to other grades of plates.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—November 10, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
							Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Florida do.....	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml
Georgia do.....	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml	nml
American.....	Ord	G O	M F	G O	M F	G O	L M	G M	G O	L M	G M	G O
Brazilian.....	1415	1450	1520	1555	1575	1635	7-88	9-58	11-68	8-06	11-01	17-06
Peruvian.....	Mid	M F	Fr.	G F	Gd.	Fne.	M F	Fr.	Gd.	M F	Fr.	Gd.
Paraguay, Rio Grande, &c.	1410	1525	1655	...	...	...	8-58	11-08	...	10-56	16-06	...
Macao, &c.	1410	1525	1655	...	...	...	8-58	11-08	...	10-56	16-06	...
Monrovia, &c.	1410	1525	1655	...	...	...	8-58	11-08	...	10-56	16-06	...
Cocao, &c.	1410	1525	1655	...	...	...	8-58	11-08	...	10-56	16-06	...
Maranhão, &c.	1410	1525	1655	...	...	...	8-58	11-08	...	10-56	16-06	...
São Paulo.....	1460	1520	1560	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Egyptian.....	Fr.	G F	For	Gd.	Fne.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Upper.....	1490	1590	1640	1690	1740	...	1400	1700	...	nml	2400	...
Sakellaridis.....	1615	1840	1915	2030	2240	...	1425	1825	...	nml	3200	...
Brown.....	1420	1640	1740	1815	1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peruvian.....	M F	Fr.	G F	Gd.	Fne.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rough.....	1500	1575	1625	...	...	...	1450	...	...	...	...	...
Moderately Rough.....	1560	1685	1770	1820	1885	...	9-33	12-58	14-33	1406	1906	2656
Smooth.....	1560	1685	1770	1820	1885	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tangulu.....	1560	1685	1770	1820	1885	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mitsui.....	1560	1685	1770	1820	1885	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Indian, &c.	1500	1650	1750	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do.....	2200	2500	2800	2900	...	...	2800	3400	...	5000	6000	...
African, East, &c.	1100	1200	1375	1475	1575	1675	9-50	11-50	13-50	1200	1500	2600
Do.....	Mid	G M	For	M F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do West.....	1410	1460	1485	nml	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	G F	For	Gd.	F G	Fne	S'fin	For	Gd.	Fne	For	Gd.	Fne
Machine Ginned Broach.....	1245	1285	1325	1365	1405	...	9-05	9-55	10-55	11-60	12-10	13-10
Machine Ginned Bhowmuggar.....	9-80	10-30	10-80	11-20	11-60	12-00	7-90	8-65	9-65	9-44	10-44	12-04
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 1.....	9-90	10-40	10-90	11-30	11-70	12-10	8-00	8-75	9-75	9-50	10-50	12-10
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2.....	10-65	11-05	11-45	11-85	...	...	7-25	8-00	9-00	6-75	7-75	9-35
Machine Ginned Khandeish.....	9-90	10-40	10-80	11-20	11-60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	11-90	12-30	...	...	...	...	7-95	...	...	11-85	...	...
Machine Ginned Bengali.....	7-65	8-05	8-45	8-85	9-25	9-65	7-15	7-65	8-40	7-00	7-50	8-50
Machine Ginned Bolide.....	7-65	8-05	8-45	8-85	9-25	9-65	7-05	7-55	8-30	6-82	7-32	8-32
Tinnivelly.....	1375	1415	1455	...	...	...	11-05	11-55	...	13-10	13-60	...
Madras, Western.....	11-30	11-65	12-05	12-45	...	...	7-70	8-20	...	11-60	12-10	...
Madras, Northern.....	12-30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M.G. Ooonada, Red.....	Fr.	11-90	...	...	...	...	7-95	...	...	9-75	...	...
China, Smyrna, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

MANCHESTER, November 16.

There has been very little activity in the market during the week. To some extent business has been disorganised by the general election and political work. Most cloth buyers are of opinion that prices at the moment are on too high a level, and merchants state that if goods are bought at current rates, much difficulty would be experienced in effecting satisfactory clearances in distributing centres abroad. Stock lots of piece goods have been sold for India, chiefly for Calcutta. In Bombay, English goods are meeting with severe competition from Japanese manufactures. Operations for China have been restricted, but something has been done for Singapore. A fairly encouraging demand has been experienced for Egypt, and moderate contracts have been arranged. Irregular buying has occurred in home trade fabrics. American yarns have been slow of sale, and prices remain very unsatisfactory. The undercurrent of demand in Egyptian spinnings continues healthier, and quotations remain firmer.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Nov. 16, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.					
		Price, Nov. 9.	Price, Nov. 2.	Price, Oct. 26.	Price, Oct. 19.	Price, Oct. 12.	
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	15-39	15-36	14-54	14-34	13-85	13-15	
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .. per lb	19-25	18-65	17-75	17-75	17-75	17-40	
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	21 1/2	21 1/2	21	20 1/2	20 1/2	20	
— 40's twist .. per lb	21 1/2	21 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	29 1/2	29	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28	
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	32 3/4	32 3/4	31 3/4	30 3/4	30 3/4	30 3/4	
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	33 3/4	33 3/4	32 3/4	31 3/4	31 3/4	30 3/4	
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	19 0	18 9	18 3	18 0	17 9	17 6	
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs ..	17 6	17 0	16 6	16 3	16 0	15 0	

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Nov. 16, 1922.	Corresponding dates in					
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	15-39	10-88	14-70	24-56	22-07	22-68	
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .. per lb	19-25	20-75	34-00	40-50	27-56	31-95	
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	21 1/2	19 1/2	35	49 1/2	49 1/2	34	
— 40's twist .. per lb	21 1/2	18 1/2	33	47	50	33 1/2	
— 60's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	29 1/2	34	49	78	68	44 1/2	
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's ..	32 3/4	32 3/4	32 3/4	59 0	71 0	69 0	
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's ..	33 3/4	33 3/4	32 3/4	62 0	57 6	66 0	
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs ..	19 0	19 0	19 0	31 0	31 0	38 0	
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs ..	17 6	18 6	26 0	34 6	33 6	21 9	

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—First cabled reports from Christchurch, New Zealand, where the new wool selling season opened to-day, indicate that the offering met with animated competition. This is in keeping with the sales in the primary markets in Australia, for although a little easing has been noted recently in some centres, the raw material generally remains strong and in good demand. In this centre, however, users are operating with a good deal of caution, evidently in the hope that if they hold off as long as possible merino values will show some reduction from the current level. As a matter of fact, it is generally understood that the present high price of merino is checking business. Manufacturers and merchants assert that they cannot sell cloth at anything like the price that is necessary on to-day's basis of tops and yarns, and in recent weeks there has been almost organised opposition to values. This has resulted in a fair amount of demand being turned on to fine crossbreds, and this, combined with buying on American account, has considerably improved the position of all crossbred wool and tops, while yarns have also benefited. To-day topmakers' quotations are nominally unchanged, though a keen buyer could doubtless obtain some slight concessions here and there. Average 64's tops are still quoted about 5s per lb, and in most qualities there is just a moderate turnover. Spinners complain of rather quieter time to come, and practically all firms are well booked for some time. Yarn quotations show very little change, but there is a hardening tendency in mohair yarns on account of heavy bookings and with no marked feature. The piece trade remains steady, especially in the woollen section.

The Quest



The true artist, with infinite pains and untiring devotion to his ideal, strives to find hidden harmonies of sound, or form, or colour, and to express them so that all the world may joy in them.

The artist-craftsmen of industry are often not less devoted and earnest.

It is not profit-seeking alone that has gone to the making of The Chatwood Safe and Strong Room. Seventy years ago Samuel Chatwood began to make safes with pride of craftsmanship, not of pocket, as his moving impulse.

His ideals still inspire the present-day operations of the firm, from the directors to their fellow-craftsmen in the workshops.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE

Since 1853.

The New Chatwood Safe Book will convey to you something of the aims as well as achievements of the firm. A post-card brings a copy gratis.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., LTD.
Bankers' Engineers, BOLTON, Eng.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The news received this week from Australia is very interesting, and is not without its significance. The Sydney advices report an easier market for fleeces, which was not altogether unexpected, and although an advance in Adelaide was reported last Friday compared with the previous sale, the private cables received in London and Bradford stated that good combing wools could be bought on a clean scoured basis of 46d, ex warehouse, which practically means 5s for the top. We think it is correct to say that wool could be bought on that basis, although, perhaps, not so freely as some would have desired. At the same time, the tendency is in buyers' favour at all the selling centres in Australia, and between now and the end of December is going to be a real testing time, both in London and the Colonies. We very much doubt whether importers and sellers have any adequate conception of the strong opposition shown by fabric buyers against the last rise in merinos. One of the biggest buying brokers remarked this week that in all their history his firm had never seen such strong opposition raised against wool values as is being shown to-day. Some have deliberately refused to buy, notwithstanding they have need to do so, and some spinners are using a lower quality of top, manufacturers who have hitherto made all solid botany cloths now using fine crossbred yarns to produce a cheaper material. The present state of the world's markets does not justify to-day's standard of fine wool values. The last rise in merinos has certainly helped to strengthen the impression that medium and fine crossbreds are worthy of support. There is still ample scope for further development in this direction, for 46's carded crossbred tops at 16 1/2d are ridiculously cheap compared with 64's at, say, 5s. However, a good deal will depend on the outcome of the forthcoming London sales as to what prices are established for merinos, and while we are not expecting any marked depreciation, nobody need be surprised if there is a slight ease before the finish.

Continental exchanges will play an important part in determining the course of values at the sales. There has been an improvement in the German currency, and at this writing the franc in Paris and Brussels is certainly better. So far as one can judge, more will depend upon Continental exchanges than anything else, for French firms can still find a good outlet for their tops and yarns to other Continental countries if the rates of exchange improve.

Trade generally must be regarded as fairly good, though there seems to be quite a unanimous opinion among manufacturers that orders for piece goods have dropped off considerably during the past month. Taking everything into consideration, the exports of woollen and worsted piece goods are quite as good as can be reasonably expected. Our exports of tops during the first ten months of this year amounted to 33,530,800 lb, this being an increase of 4,532,800 lb compared with the corresponding period of last year. There is, however, a deficiency of 3,455,100 lb compared with the same period of 1913. The present increase may be regarded as fairly encouraging, whilst the decline compared with before the war is entirely due to Germany's curtailed buying. There is evidence of an increasing home consumption, and the combining industry of this country is in a unique position.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The spot market has shown a decided firmness in all descriptions of soft woods, prices gradually rising in sympathy with the increasing demands of Swedish and Finnish exporters, who have done a much larger business this year than was generally expected here, and who have been able to clear almost all their stocks at rising rates. These higher prices have assisted more in raising values on the spot than has the consumptive demand, and though the large Russian supplies have had a steadying influence, they have not been able to keep f.o.b. and c.i.f. values down. There is, however, much keen competition amongst merchants in securing the moderate orders that come on the market, and this is likely to become accentuated during the close season, unless the demand shows further improvement. As regards the market for next year, shippers are asking rates on a basis of £20 to £21 for Swedish 7-in. unsorted red, which is another move up, and is not meeting with any encouragement from importers. Some of the latter have made speculative purchases from Finland at what are now considered very favourable rates, carried through on a part cash down basis, but these operations are not of any magnitude, and have no great bearing on the market.

Spruce timber has been arriving from Canada much more freely this year than the disappointing year of 1921, and the market shows improvement. Deliveries into consumption in Liverpool and in district have been fairly satisfactory, and values are firmer. In United States pitch pine timber there is also an improvement here in the demand, and from the shippers for higher rates.

The imports of mahogany and other furniture woods have shown decided increases compared with a year ago. For good to moderate quality and size mahogany the market is firm. Prices for American furniture and decorative woods are also steady to firm, and shippers in the hardwood-producing States of the U.S.A. are increasing their quotations.

The situation, in brief, is that foreign shippers have been forcing up values, which are being reflected on spot stocks, which latter are fairly large generally for present rates of consumption. The next two or three months will show whether this market is strong enough to stand the strain of higher values which have arisen, in the case of building woods,

not so much on account of the demands from this market as of active operation on the Continent.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Trade in linseed has been on narrow lines. Seed on spot is very scarce, and needy crushers have had to pay high figures to cover immediate wants. Shipments (chiefly Indian) continue to improve, and this should ease the pressure, though only 29,800 tons is on passage to the United Kingdom, against 54,300 tons to the Continent. Old crop Plate is nearly done, and £18 10s has been paid for seed about to be shipped, while small dealings in new crop have been done at £15 10s December-January and £15 to £15 5s 2d January-February. Calcutta afloat to London has com. manded up to £19 5s. A good trade has been done in Egyptian cottonseed £9 18s 9d and £10 1s 3d for Sakellaridis for shipment. More interest has been evinced in soya beans, £10 10s having been paid for a cargo to Hull, November-December loading, and £10 10s to Scandinavia.

Raw linseed oil continues to be firmly held for prompt delivery round £38, supplies being short and sellers few. For November, December the value is about £37, according to date, while for January-April there has been some degree of interest, and the ex-mill price has advanced to £32. Cotton oils have been dull, and more or less inactive, but values have been advanced to £35 10s for new crude Egyptian and £37 for soap makers' grade of refined. Rape oil on spot is very scarce, and in good demand at £42 ex mill.

A cable correction reduces the official estimate of the new crop of Argentine linseed from 1,774,000 tons to 1,531,000 tons. The mistake appears to have arisen from reckoning the Pampa Central yield as 270,000 tons, when it should have been only 27,000 tons. Nevertheless, the reduced figure is very substantial, and compares with 820,000 tons, the present season's crop, and an average of 900,000 tons in the five-year period 1918-22. The quantity available for export will be about 1,350,000 tons, against a probable shipment of 900,000 tons in the current season. The estimated yield of the American linseed crop is 302,000 tons, against 203,000 tons in the past season, but whether this will be ample to supply the States' domestic needs in oil without the necessity for importing linseed from Argentina or Canada seems doubtful.

The U.K. imports of oilseeds, nuts and kernels in October at 105,002 tons are below recent average, and compare with 146,168 tons in October last year, the falling off being due in the main to lesser arrivals of linseed, soya beans, and palm kernels. The gross imports for January-October are 1,136,809 tons, comparing with 1,163,162 tons a year ago, a former favourable balance now being transformed into a decrease of 26,353 tons. Cottonseed, at 372,875 tons, is up over 54,000 tons, but linseed, at 321,317 tons, compares with 423,205 tons, and is thus over 100,000 tons, or round 25 per cent., down. Oilnuts and kernels, at 299,700 tons, are down over 40,000 tons. Exports of unrefined oils in October were only 4,165 tons, against 18,123 tons in October last year, linseed oil standing at 2,065 tons, against 8,387 tons a year ago, when the big American demand was making itself felt. At the same time we imported from Holland 814 tons of linseed oil, bringing the total for the ten months up to 1,580 tons, against 66 tons a year ago.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market is a shade weaker, and most classes of best and second ox were withdrawn at Thursday's Bermondsey auctions, the one class of lights which did sell dropping 3/4d. Cows also fell 1/4d, and kips 1/4d to 3/4d. Calf were also weaker, best making from 8d to 13d, and showing declines of 1/4d to 1 1/2d per lb. Wools were a shade firmer, selling from 5s 2d to 9s 6d, the hogg class making from 5s to 11s 6d per skin. The demand for wool skins is keen, and as they are none too plentiful, fellmongers compete freely for them. The imported hide position is quieter, but frigorifics have been sold at origin at \$58 1/2 for Anglo and Armour hides, a figure well in advance of British tanners' ideas. Dry hides are still well in demand as the demand is good from tanners making a cheap firm, and as the demand is good from tanners making a cheap firm, and as the demand is good from tanners making a cheap firm, the bend, any decline in this direction will probably be slow. The Chicago packer hide market is a shade weaker, with best heavies making 22 1/2 cents. Packer sheepskins are cabled as selling at 270 to 275 cents.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT Co., Ltd.,

24, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1882 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £1,250,000 CAPITAL PAID UP £800,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,100,000 RESERVE FUND - £320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

FOUR PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK, 1935'

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prepare the dividend due on 1st January next, the BALANCES of the several accounts in the above mentioned Stock with the B.R.C. on the night of 1st December, 1934, and that on and after 2nd December the Stock will be transferable ex-dividend. Forms of request, for the purpose of forwarding dividend warrants by post to Banks or other Agents, may be obtained on application to the Bank.—For the National Bank of South Africa, Limited,
J. H. LUNN, JUNIOR, Manager,
Circus place, London, W.1, E.C.
15th November 1934.

cumulating funds against next week's big interest payments. Discount rates declined appreciably, in spite of some slight improvement in the volume of bills, especially from the East and from North and South America. Yesterday the market was steadied by the high rate at which the Treasury bills were allotted and the rate for three months' commercial bills was called 2½ per cent.

	Nov. 24, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount/Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½

The Bank return showed a decrease of £495,000 in the note circulation, an increase of £4,000 in the stock of gold, and an increase of £499,000 in the Reserve. Government securities declined by £103,000, while Other advanced by £698,000. In the deposits, a decline of two million in Other helped to produce an increase of three millions in Public. Currency notes outstanding were reduced this week by £634,300 to £287,209,200, which includes £1,535,700 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £237,523,500, or £72,464,900 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The cheerful tone in the Stock Exchange which immediately followed the General Election has been replaced by dulness and inactivity in all but a few markets. Gilt-edged stocks have maintained their prices, but that is all, and rumours of a new Local Loans issue did not improve matters. The foreign bond market has been quiet, and there has been a lack of public interest in Home Rails, Districts being the only feature. Argentine and Brazilian rails have been exceptionally strong on speculative investment made in the hope of higher dividends next year. Rubber shares continue to attract a certain amount of attention, but the oil market is heavy. Banking issues are inclined to rise, and shipping stocks are mostly higher, but Kaffirs tended to sag, and dulness has been the keynote of the mining market as a whole.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

In the Manchester cotton trade a lack of confidence in current prices is reported, it being difficult to attract buyers. Business with India is confined to occasional transactions, but there is some prospect of improved demand for China. The position in the wool trade is remarkably interesting. At the Colonial Wool Sales in London this week fine and medium crossbreds advanced in price all round. Our Bradford correspondent refers to American competition at these sales as a hardening factor. The merino position was not tested, but users are doing their utmost to avoid buying in the hope that the value will ease. Meanwhile, some expert Australian opinion is inclined to the view that prices will go yet higher. Values in the pig-iron market are slightly easier, American demand having fallen off, and local consumers not being disposed to carry stocks over the year. There is a good demand for finished steel, mainly owing to the placing of more shipbuilding orders. Our Cardiff correspondent reports prices in the South Wales coal trade as irregular, and slightly lower than those prevailing a week ago. Rather more interest is being shown in linseed by crushers, although prices are inclined to be lower, and a further decline in hide values is reported at the Bermondsey auctions. Further particulars of markets will be found in later pages from our trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market the week has been a relatively quiet one, apart from some rather wide movements, especially in the Paris rate on Tuesday and Thursday. The two main features have been the strength of sterling in New York and a somewhat uncertain recovery in the franc. After a relapse to \$4.47½ on

Saturday last sterling improved to \$4.49½ on Monday, and has been moving since between \$4.49 and \$4.50, on Friday morning opening at \$4.49, with a rising tendency. No features other than those previously dealt with here have arisen to account for this satisfactory strength. Forward rates are about one cent per month above spot. The Paris rate, after a recovery on the 17th to 63.50, rose again on Saturday, but on Monday had recovered sharply to 61.35. On Tuesday there were some wild movements, but the rate, after being below 60, ended the day at 62.65. During the next two days the rate was also unsteady, and yesterday morning, after opening at 62.90, went in a short time above 63. Apart from possible intervention to stem the recent collapse, no new factors have appeared to justify the recovery, and the assertions in the French Press that the recent movement was due to foreign speculative operations is unconvincing, and would suggest a reaction from the recent healthier attitude in France of facing the difficulties of its position, which does not augur well for the future. Quotations for forward francs in Paris are 10 centimes per month above spot. In Brussels the rate has, as usual, moved in sympathy with Paris, but shows a slight tendency to narrow the spread between the two rates, the quotation yesterday morning being 67.80. Forward rates are 2 centimes per month below spot. The movement in the lira has been irregular, and yesterday morning the rate, at 96½, was ¼ lira higher than the week before. With the exception of Switzerland, where a recovery from the fears of the threatened capital levy has reacted in favour of the Swiss franc, most neutral currencies have moved in our favour in sympathy with the appreciation in sterling in New York, few special factors of local importance having intervened. Berlin, after being down to 27,500, has moved up again to about 29,000, very much the same as a week ago, but the international market would appear to be taking a rapidly decreasing interest in the mark. Vienna remains pretty steady at about 320,000, with a slight tendency towards improvement, while Warsaw, also at 70,000, would appear to be reacting a little from recent high rates. Prague, at 143, is one or two points higher, but industrial depression consequent on the high value of Czechoslovak currency remains. Athens, at 290, is slightly better, and there has also been an improvement in Constantinople to about 830. Business, however, in this city still remains practically dead. In the East the rupee at 1s 3½d has reacted a little from the previous week's quotation of 1s 4 1/32d, while the Yokohama rate is also slightly lower at 2s 1½d. The silver market has remained depressed, with little movement, and there are no signs yet from India or China that the bottom has been really touched. Hong Kong at 2s 4½d, and Shanghai at 3s 1½d are just slightly dearer than the previous week. In South America, Rio at 6½d is ¾d dearer, Buenos Ayres at 44½d is ¾d dearer, Montevideo at 43½d is ½d dearer than a week ago, while Valparaiso has depreciated from 35.80 to 36.90 pesos.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 18th:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	18,055	Interest on Debt	146
Amount borrowed	2,804	Supply Services	53
Taken from Exchequer balances	010	Sundries	9
	20,869		208

Expenditure amounted to £20,869,400, as compared with £10,439,400 in the corresponding period of last year. This is mainly accounted for by the big rise in interest on war debt, which item alone absorbed £14,343,300. This large increase is a result, no doubt, of the interest payment on American debt. Revenue, as usual at this time of the year, is heavier, amounting to £18,055,400, as against £12,964,000 a week ago, but maintained its periodical increase when compared with the figure of £18,140,000 for last year. The increase due to Excise, which amounted to £9,934,000, as against £1,719,000 last week. Receipts from Property and Income-tax fell from £4,331,000 to £3,025,000, and from Customs from £2,564,000 to £1,410,000. Miscellaneous receipts remain steady at round about a million. T.

week's operations increased the National Debt by £2,804,172, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £	National War Bonds paid off	Min. £
National Savings Certificates	+ 350	Telegraph Money	- 103
4½% Treasury Bonds	- 248	Treasury Bills	- 315
Public Debt Advances	+ 7,200	Funding Loan, &c.	- 50
5% Treasury Bonds	+ 111	Other Debt	- 650
	+ 7,909		- 5105

The floating debt was increased by £4,040,000 to £918,213,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to November 18, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	468,452,397	Raised by revenue ..	512,335,347
Dec. in balances	8,020,217	Net repayments	51,905,167
Total	460,432,180	Total	460,432,180

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT. (Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
3½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,979	1,979
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,301	1,201	1,046	1,046
4% Funding Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	...	360	357	348	346	335	335
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	266	266	278
5½-year Treas. Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	273	381	311
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,050	878	739
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	367
War Expend. Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	...	1,097	1,087	1,074
Other Debt	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,074
American Loan	...	51	51	51	51	51	...	...	...
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	179
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,667
Total Liabilities	57	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,734

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out- standing	Nov. 19, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Nov. 18, '22.	Nov. 18, '22.
Temporary Advances	4,250,000	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England	180,538,000	...	147,501,500	179,488,500	7,200,000
Advances by Public Debt Office	1,120,087,000	...	882,219,000	738,725,000	3,160,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	...	...	...	...	...
Total Floating Debt	1,304,745,000	1,029,520,500	918,213,500	918,213,500	4,040,000

TARIFFS IN THE NEW HOUSE.

The Prime Minister has been granted, by the vagaries of our electoral methods, a larger majority than he had any cause to expect. A considerable proportion of his following consists of hard-shell Protectionists, yet we have Mr Bonar Law's definite assurance—given before the day of polling—that he would not employ a Conservative majority to make any fundamental change in the fiscal system of this country. An assurance of this kind from modern politicians of the baser sort would be worth little, but from Mr Bonar Law we accept it without apprehension at its face value. Both the Prime Minister and his Chancellor of the Exchequer are, happily, men of the highest personal character, who may be trusted to keep their word in the spirit and in the letter. The country is, therefore, free for the duration of the present Government from the perils and disturbances of any further Protectionist legislation. We cannot hope that a Government of the Conservative colour will relieve us from the Safeguarding of Industries Act, or from those other vestiges of protection which have come down to us from their predecessors; these ills we have, and shall probably continue to bear, but against further attempts to impose tariffs upon us we have the security of the Prime Minister's indubitable word.

There are four Customs tariffs at present in force, other than those imposed (with a corresponding excise) for purely revenue purposes. There is the import duty

of one-third on pleasure motor-cars, musical instruments, cinema films, and one or two other miscellanies put on originally by Mr McKenna to check imports of luxuries during the war; they were kept on chiefly for protective reasons by Mr Chamberlain and Sir Robert Horne. We can scarcely expect Mr Baldwin to take them off; the duties produce a substantial revenue and Conservatives (late Tariff Reformers) cherish them with a passionate affection. Then we have the system of Imperial preference inaugurated by Mr Chamberlain, under which products of the Empire pay a lower rate of Customs duty than do foreign products. Thirdly there is Part I. of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, which imposes a duty of one-third on imports which compete with some 7,000 products of so-called "key industries." This Part I. tariff will, unless repealed, continue until August 19, 1926. Finally, we have upon our overburdened backs Part II. of the Act, with its provisions against "dumping" and the effects of collapsed exchanges. One might have added the Dyestuffs Act, with its definite licensing system of foreign dyes for ten years, but as this Act works by prohibition and not by tariffs, we are not discussing it at the moment. We are concerned with those existing measures of tariff protection which gave such deep satisfaction to the Tariff Reform League that it gratefully committed hari-kari to the slow music of Nunc Dimittis.

Opportunities to challenge in the House the retention of the McKenna motor-car, &c., duties and the policy of Imperial preference may not occur until Mr Baldwin introduces his first Budget, but we shall certainly get one debate, and probably two, on the Safeguarding of Industries Act before the House adjourns for Christmas. The Liberals are expected to move an amendment to the Address, which will raise the subject, and the Government will—whether or not a debate takes place on the Address—be obliged to bring up for ratification their Order No. 2, imposing a duty of one-third on Gas Mantles from Germany, which was issued in October. This Order, unless confirmed by resolution of the House of Commons, will expire before Christmas. We are certain then to have a Parliamentary fight over this Order, and probably also to have the Act as a whole challenged on the Address next week.

Memories are short, and we may perhaps remind our readers what the position is as regards the Safeguarding of Industries Act. Part I. (Key Industries) imposes a duty of one-third on a great quantity of imported commodities, and has nearly four years still to run. Part II. consists of provisions against the results of collapsed exchanges and of "dumping." The collapsed exchanges provisions expire on August 19, 1924, those against dumping are permanent. Up to the present Part II. has not been put into force except against imports from Germany (collapsed exchanges). There were committees of inquiry set up in two complaints of alleged "dumping"—glass bottles from Holland and vulcanised fibre from America—but in both instances the complainants are understood to have failed to establish their case. Order No. 1 (fabric gloves, &c.), putting Part II. of the Act into force against Germany, was ratified by the House after a struggle with Lancashire, which nearly split the late Government. Mr Baldwin, who was then President of the Board of Trade, insisted upon ratification, and carried a majority of the Cabinet with him.

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY.

Subscribed Capital	- £38,117,103
Paid-up Capital	- 10,860,852
Reserve Fund	- 10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922)	- 368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2
OVER 1,850 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

Order No. 2 (Gas Mantles) is at present awaiting confirmation. No committees of inquiry are now sitting, and except for this Gas Mantles Order, Part II. of the Act is in a state of suspended animation. It will be for the House to set it going for its period of two years more on the dreary round of complaints, inquiries, and reports, of which we have had experience during the past year, or definitely to discourage further attempts to breathe life into what is really an unloved corpse. The debate on the Gas Mantles Order will be the deciding event.

There is something mildly humorous about the story of the Act in relation to incandescent gas mantles. When the original Bill was before the House of Commons an attempt was made to add gas mantles to the list of "key industries" under Part I. This was defeated by the Government itself on the grounds, first, because gas mantle-making was not a key industry, and, secondly, because a duty on them would be a burden on the poorer classes whose houses were not wired for electric light. Even the Protectionists grasped that a duty from which the well-to-do classes were relieved by domestic circumstances would fail to achieve popularity. Then the gas mantle manufacturers, opposed by the Board of Trade and the gas companies, applied to the Referee set up under Part I. to include gas mantles because they contained the fine chemicals, salts of thorium and cerium, which were themselves specifically included. After long discussions and consultations with the High Court and the Customs, the Referee held that though gas mantles *per se* were not included, yet that the chemical salts with which they were impregnated were included. The effect was to impose a duty of some 5 or 6 per cent. on the imported value of the mantles, representing a duty of 33½ per cent. on the thorium and cerium contained in them. Unwearied in well-doing, the gas mantle makers, having secured general protection to the extent of 5 per cent. or so under Part I., applied for 33½ per cent. in particular against Germany under the collapsed exchanges clauses of Part II. A committee of inquiry was set up, and reported, not very enthusiastically, that the case against German mantles had been made out. Hence followed the Gas Mantle Order of October last, which now has to come before the House for confirmation. All this sounds rather complicated, but that is the Act's fault, not ours.

If then the Gas Mantle Order is confirmed in the course of the coming month, the British makers will get, as against their German competitors, a 33½ per cent. duty under Part II. and 5 to 6 per cent. under Part I.—say, 39 per cent. altogether *ad valorem*. The advance in price in this country, the direct result of the duty unless the Germans are still able to compete, will fall on those people who use gas for lighting in their houses. Gas lighting belongs to the past, it is being superseded by electricity, except in the houses of the poorer classes, and the whole gas mantle industry must gradually die out. In the meantime it is putting up a fight for plunder before death overtakes it. The Committee of Inquiry held that the industry was over-capitalised and burdened with unnecessary costs; nevertheless, they reported that it could not be ruled out on this account as inefficient. The debate on the Gas Mantle Order will be of great interest, for it will reveal how a dying industry—which Parliament refused in the first instance to protect—has by persistence and legal manipulation of the provisions of the Safeguarding of Industries Act contrived to wriggle into shelter under both Parts I. and II., and to get for itself a greater measure of protection than any other industry has so far achieved.

A LESSON OF THE ELECTIONS.

WE drew attention last week to the fact that the large Government majority in the House of Commons has been elected by a minority of the electorate. That is the most disquieting aspect of the General Election. But it may turn out to be a blessing in disguise, if it serves to impress upon the minds of all lovers of constitutional government the urgent necessity for an amendment of electoral law. Happily this lesson of the elections has already attracted

widespread attention, and "the new danger to constitutional Government" has been discussed this week by public men of mental orientation so various as that of Mr Lloyd George, Mr Clynes, Sir Donald Maclean, and Professor Pollard. So far no word of comment has come from the Conservative camp. This time the anomalies of the present system have favoured the Conservative party. Next time, as Mr Lloyd George points out in Wednesday's *Daily Chronicle*, "the luck of the electoral table" may favour the Labour party. Perhaps that consideration may help to remove the distaste with which Conservative organisers have hitherto regarded all proposals for electoral reform. But of a surer the question is one of such supreme national importance, that the attitude of no section of the community towards it should be determined or even influenced by considerations of party tactics or party advantage. It is a constitutional question of the first order. Anyone who admits that our system of Parliamentary government rests upon the principle of democratic representation must also admit that the present electoral method, as illustrated by the recent polling results, is unsatisfactory and dangerous; and, having admitted that, must join in the search for remedy.

The General Election statistics as given in Wednesday's *Morning Post* show that the Conservatives polled 5,554,648 votes, Labour 4,202,516, Liberals 2,663,390, National Liberals 1,467,263, and other parties 466,664. In the House the Conservatives have 346 seats, or 56 per cent. of the total; allowing them 450,000 votes for unopposed returns, they polled only 41 per cent. of the votes. Labour polled 28 per cent., and have 142 seats, or 23 per cent. of the total. Liberals polled 18 per cent. of the total votes, and have 65 seats, or 11 per cent. National Liberals polled 10 per cent., and have 50 seats, or 8 per cent. of the House of Commons membership. Admittedly, a considerably proportion of Liberal, National Liberal, and "other party" voters would, in constituencies where their own candidates were defeated, have given their second preference to Conservative rather than Labour candidates. It is even arguable that these numerous second preferences would have been sufficiently numerous to produce a Conservative majority, and that the country would have expressed its preference for a Conservative majority in the House of Commons to any of the available alternatives. To argue for or against such a contention is a waste of time. There are two points on which attention should be concentrated. One is that the present system does not lend itself to a clear and unequivocal expression of national opinion; the other that, on the face of it, the present majority in the House of Commons was elected by a minority vote. Whenever trouble and controversy arises the aggregate voting figures will be quoted to prove that the Government has no mandate from the electorate; and the figures will be constantly and effectively used by those who wish to discredit Parliamentary institutions. Those considerations can hardly fail to be disturbing to the minds of all good citizens.

When we come to consider possibilities of remedy we are faced at once by two main alternatives. One is the institution of the transferable vote; the other the introduction of what is known as Proportional Representation. Neither of these systems can quite claim the sweet simplicity of the present system, but neither is too complicated for the electorate to grasp with ease, and both are free from the impracticability attaching to the second the present at best admits of grave danger of minority rule; that the transferable vote assures majority rule, but does not assure adequate representation of minorities; while P.R. would, if properly applied, produce a House of Commons that is an approximately accurate photograph of the majority and minority wishes of the electorate. Let us take the figures of last week's voting, and see how the various systems would work in relation to them. Under the existing system 40 per cent. of the electorate elects a majority of over 70. If the system of the transferable vote had been in force there would have been either a small Conservative

majority, or else a Labour-Liberal majority, according to the way in which supporters of candidates at the bottom of the poll expressed their second preferences. Under this system it would at least have been clear whether or no the country definitely preferred a Conservative Government to that of any other individual party. Under P.R. the composition of the House of Commons would have been, roughly, as follows:—Conservatives 253, Labour 172, Liberals 111, National Liberals 61, other parties 18. The result would inevitably have meant a Labour-Liberal coalition; and, indeed, one of the strongest popular prejudices against P.R. arises from the recognition that it would usually produce a Coalition Government, except in the case of a great party sweep such as that performed by the Liberals in 1906. At the present moment this objection may loom very large in the eyes of a country that has just buried a coalition with universal rejoicing. But it is thoroughly illogical to suppose that, because the lately deceased coalition was bad, all coalitions must be bad. The Government that has ruled us for the last four years was bad because the coalition between Conservatives and Liberals was based on no clearly defined principle, on no agreed programme. It was formed vaguely to make a peace—a subject on which national and party views had in 1918 had no time to develop—and in some undefined manner to restore prosperity. A coalition formed by two parties who had just been to the polls on definite concrete programmes would be an entirely different matter. Such a coalition would be formed to carry out the points on which the two programmes agreed—and there are to-day many points on which, for instance, the Liberal and Labour programmes coincide—and on the definite understanding that conflicting points in the two programmes should be put on one side. The result might not be ideal. But the ideal is seldom attainable; and, while on the one hand we should in this way have the immeasurable benefit of a majority and a minority in the House of Commons both clearly representative, on the other hand there would be no reason to fear a repetition of the chief shortcomings exhibited by the unprincipled Coalition of 1918 to 1922.

Opponents of proportional representation rely for the main strength of their arguments upon the experience of Italy and some other countries where the system has been tried. In Italy, it is true, its introduction has led to a multiplicity of political groups, has conduced to ineffective government, and has not taken the country any nearer to the desired goal of democratic representation. That may be admitted. But Italy's unfortunate experiences of P.R. result from wholly unsuitable methods of application. Italian politics have always been confused by the existence of a large number of groups, and the evils of the group system have been intensified by the superimposition of P.R. upon a division of the country into a few immense constituencies, some of them returning as many as 30 or 40 members. The system of huge many-seated constituencies lends itself inevitably to the creation of a large number of personal or sectional minority groups. For in a 30-seat constituency, where the system of P.R. is in force, anyone who can obtain one-thirtieth of the total votes cast obtains election, and the prospect of possibly securing so small a quota will obviously attract the faddist, and the freak candidate, and the candidate who has a personal grievance, a personal ambition, or a monomania. There should be no danger of this country falling into this fatal mistake in the method of applying the system. Expert inquiry would probably lead to the conclusion that five-member constituencies would be the most suitable arrangement under which P.R. could be applied to this country. But, be that as it may, and whatever the comparative merits or demerits of P.R. and the alternative vote may be, it is of high national importance that the whole question of electoral reform should be made the subject of official inquiry without delay. Last week's election has revealed in the clearest fashion that the present system is both obsolete and dangerous. To busy itself with the problem of reform is one of the most urgent duties of what we hope is the last House of Commons to be elected under that system.

THE OPENING OF THE LAUSANNE CONFERENCE.

THE root of the difficulty with the Turk is that nobody will treat him as a human being. He is legislated upon and operated upon by foreigners as though he possessed neither a will nor the means of giving effect to it. Sometimes he is compelled by *force majeure* to put up with this for years together, and his taskmasters point to his involuntary acquiescence as a sign that this was the *régime* for which he was created. Being really human, however, he fiercely resents being kept in such a position, and shakes himself free as soon as he gets the chance. The moment this happens, he finds himself treated, to his stupefaction, in the diametrically opposite way, as a super-human power wielding occult forces, and more than a match for the united strength of Western Europe. The same foreign Governments, and often the same individual statesmen and publicists, swing, without warning, from one pole to the other—and then they expect the Turk not to turn giddy and lose his head! Turcophiles are perpetually surprised and pained, Turcophobes perpetually fortified and outraged, to find that the Turk is not behaving like a reasonable being, and do not suspect that their own erratic movements of attraction and repulsion may be the cause.

An admirable example of this old story is the treatment of Turkey since the Armistice by the Allied Powers. First we drafted a settlement that could only be imposed by force, and took no trouble to consider the Turkish point of view on small things or great, arguing (circularly) that anyway nothing but force would induce the Turk to submit to our conditions. Then, when the Turk had taken our cue that force was to be the order of the day, and, being a man and not a stock or a stone, had organised some force on his own side to withstand us, it occurred to us that there was nothing for us to do but to give ground as far as the Turk might be inclined to press us. The British Government played one tune, the French and Italian Governments the other. We hammered it all out in the hearing of the Turk himself, as if he were a child or a dog, who would not be aware that he was the subject of discussion, and the Turk marked and understood our behaviour as he has done for generations. Thus he arrived at his old conclusion, that we were either unbalanced or insincere, and that it was therefore no use treating us as if we were ordinary people—precisely the assumption on which we, on our side, were acting towards him. Can any more unpromising state of mind be conceived for embarking upon a peace conference?

There is little, then, to wonder at in the mood displayed by the leaders of the Turkish National Movement since the Armistice of Mudania, though there is the best reason for deploring it and viewing it with alarm. The problem is to conjure it into something better, and here the initiative lies with us, because in spite of ourselves, we possess, and the Turk knows that we possess, the ascendancy. He cannot set us an example, but if we set one to him he is almost certain to respond.

Treating your neighbour as human has two implications. On the one hand, it means that you must consider his point of view all the time, and accommodate yourself to it as far as you are able; and in the second place you must assume him capable of understanding your own standpoint, and of realising that you, too, have an irreducible minimum for which, at the back of your mind, you are prepared to put up a fight. When once you have recognised that he has a case, you can afford to insist on the existence of yours.

These considerations apply to the question of Western Thrace, which the Conference, with unwonted and encouraging boldness, has taken first on its agenda. The Turkish case in Western Thrace is partly geographical and partly based on the principle of self-determination. It is natural that Turkey should desire the enclave on the west bank of the Maritsa, opposite Adrianople, for a foreign Power confirmed in possession of this territory would command Adrianople with its guns, and would possess a section of the railway connecting that city with Constantinople (this last section of railway, and Adrianople station, lie on the west bank of the river). As for the remainder of Western Thrace, there is, or was, a Muslim (that is, a combined Turkish and Bulgarian Muslim)

majority, and the Allied Powers have taken plebiscites in several such cases, when they contemplated detaching provinces with mixed populations from European enemy Powers. If there was a plebiscite in Schleswig and Klagenfurt and Silesia, why not at Gumuljina or Dedeagach? The Turk at once suspects, with innumerable precedents to confirm him, that he is up against another case of unfavourable discrimination, and that a plebiscite would have been granted without cavil if Western Thrace had been inhabited not by Muslims and non-Muslims, but by Germans and Poles. In insisting, he feels that he is standing out for the principle of equality of treatment, by which, as a sound instinct tells him, he is destined to stand or fall. Moreover, the plebiscite for Western Thrace was one of the conditions of the National Pact, and a Covenant always becomes something of a fetish to covenanters who have fought for it long and in the end successfully.

The Allies ought thoroughly to weigh these Turkish considerations before they balance their own against them, all the more so because they have if anything a stronger case on the other side. To begin with, the restoration of Turkish sovereignty over any section of the railway along the western bank of the Maritsa would breed future trouble for the States of South-Eastern Europe, and therefore ultimately for their neighbour Turkey herself. Wherever we are to draw the theoretical boundary between Asia and Europe, it is a practical fact that the Maritsa Railway belongs to the latter continent, since it is an essential line of economic communications for a South-East European State, Bulgaria, and may become scarcely less important for Rumania if the freedom of the Straits proves precarious. In some form or other, Bulgaria's outlet to the Aegean, which was assured to her not only in the Treaty of Neuilly, but in a separate convention with the Principal Allied Powers, must now be made a reality. There are several alternatives: a Bulgarian corridor, an autonomous buffer state, or genuine facilities under Greek sovereignty (the latter solution is being advocated by M. Venizelos, and will not be impracticable if Bulgaria and Greece are both now admitted into the Little Entente). We have a strong obligation to Greece, who bowed accommodatingly to the inevitable on the point of Eastern Thrace, not to mulct her of further territory if that can be avoided. The one solution that is hardly compatible with a Bulgarian outlet is a further westward extension of Turkey, and the line of the Maritsa, which was Turkey's minimum gain at the Armistice, turns out in effect to be our maximum limit at the Peace Conference. Besides, Turkey lost the whole of Western Thrace in 1913, before the European War, except for the enclave opposite Adrianople; and she voluntarily ceded this enclave, too, to Bulgaria in 1915, when the latter country became a belligerent. West of the Maritsa, the title lies between Greece and Bulgaria, and on the point of sovereignty Turkey is out of court.

But all this, while a reason for denying Western Thrace to Turkey, is not a reason for ruling that province out of the discussion. If Turkey is not to own the strip of railway between Adrianople station and the Maritsa bridge, we must either secure her running rights over it and neutralise the enclave, or else we must assist her financially to construct a loop line east of the river. Nor does the case for a plebiscite fall to the ground simply because one possible outcome of it may be precluded by higher considerations of policy. The population of Western Thrace may still be allowed to decide whether it will have Greek or Bulgarian sovereignty, or an autonomy of its own, and Turkey's reasonable jealousy on behalf of Muslim claims to self-determination may thus receive a large measure of satisfaction.

If the Allies will argue with the Turkish delegates instead of dictating to them or letting themselves be dictated to by them, they have every prospect of getting them into a more tractable frame of mind. The best news yet from the Conference is that Lord Curzon has paid a personal call upon Ismet Pasha.

One other feature of the opening of the Lausanne Conference calls for urgent notice, and that is the question of secrecy in regard to the negotiations. We recognise to the full that good results can never be achieved if every phase of negotiation between the leaders and all the detailed

discussions of commissions and sub-commissions are carried on before the full and searching gaze of Press and public. But, on the other hand, the matters that are being discussed at Lausanne are of such vital interest to this country, and to Europe, that we cannot afford to be left in the dark as to the trend of the negotiations. We cannot afford to wait until, as the result of secret discussions, we are presented with an agreement as a *fait accompli*. The country rightly demands to know, in outline at all events, what is going on. The demand is irresistibly suggested by the experience of conference failures in the past few years. Moreover, secrecy may in itself militate in the long run against sane agreement, for it gives unbridled scope for the mischievous activities of rumour and intrigue. We do not ask for an excess of publicity. But we do hold the view, and hold it strongly, that by means of Press *communiqués*, as clear and as informative as circumstances permit, the public of this and of the other countries concerned should be kept closely in touch with the trend of discussions in which their interests are most intimately involved.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND REPARATIONS.

MR LLOYD GEORGE recently indicated that he expected to get some pardonable satisfaction in watching the men who wrecked his Cabinet wrestling with some of the gravest problems with which European statesmen have ever been faced. If Mr Lloyd George really expects to find such a spectacle amusing, he will have many diversions of this kind in the near future. Not only is the diplomacy of Great Britain, France, and Italy about to be tested to the utmost at Lausanne, but also within a few weeks, or even days, we shall be at grips once more with the still more fundamental problem of a Reparation settlement. We have frequently expressed the opinion in the *Economist* that any new Prime Minister would have a better prospect of reaching a settlement in Europe than Mr Lloyd George. It is true that the new Government is, in fact, very largely the old one under a new name; but Mr Lloyd George has so dominated foreign policy for the last four years that the Continent of Europe is quite evidently prepared to look upon Mr Bonar Law and his colleagues as an entirely new firm. This being the case, it is of the very utmost importance that the Government should not let slip an opportunity which may not recur for years by making a false step at the outset. The French are pressing for a Reparations discussion in Brussels on December 15th, and some decision must be come to soon, since the present moratorium expires at the end of the year. The issues for this country are, however, of such overwhelming importance that the Government may reasonably play for time rather than commit itself to decisions from which it may be very difficult to retreat.

Some delay, indeed, seems almost imperative in view of the nebulous ideas which Mr Bonar Law has expressed on the financial situation in his election speeches. His fear that opinion is perhaps tending to sway too violently towards underestimating Germany's ability to pay is a cause of her present currency situation, is not without foundation, and it is quite clear that it would be of little use for Mr Bonar Law to enter the discussion with a programme such as that set out by Mr Edgar Crammond who suggested this week, in an address to the London Chamber of Commerce, that we should fix the capital amount of outstanding reparations at £1,100 millions, of which we should take 22 per cent. in return for the cancellation of French and Italian debt, the settlement to be accompanied by the withdrawal of the Allied armies from France any agreement on so drastic a writing down till we are more clear as to America's position, and, in any case, as France can hardly be content with £572 millions, she would clearly have to be given a larger proportion of the total.

At the same time, we agree with Mr Crammond, and with the Bankers' Committee, which reported in June, that no headway can be made until an amount well within Germany's capacity to pay is determined—not necessarily in final figures, but at least on some clear and definitely determined index. The Government has first to decide whether it is going to stand for a new and definite figure, or whether it has some plan of reassessment, either by some expert financial authority, by reference to the League of Nations, or by a new reference on revised instructions to the Reparations Commission. The view that some palliatives are possible without a definite settlement seems to us unsound, and we dissent in particular from what appears to have been the view of the Wirth Government that some foreign credit might be raised at once. An advance could certainly be raised against the Reichsbank's gold, but as to any further credit, we remain entirely sceptical. In this connection, we may add that the German Government does not make co-operation easier by such incidents as occurred in the recent Berlin Conference, when the Finance Minister obtained, as a matter of private information, the opinion of three bankers on the state of various money markets, and then published them, and used them in discussion with the Reparations Commission. The fact that the official statement explains that the opinions were "of a purely private nature" is a very inadequate compensation.

The second and equally important question on which the Government must decide its attitude is that of the inter-Ally debts. We can imagine no more fatal step than for Mr Bonar Law to commit himself to the policy of the Balfour Note, which would be a certain method of finally blocking the way to any hope of agreement. We can at least hope that for the moment the Prime Minister will refrain from endorsing that unfortunate document.

These two problems, namely, the amount to be demanded from Germany and our policy upon debts, remain the two great factors in the question. At the same time, immediate discussion is for the moment rather concerned with the possibility of stabilising the German exchange, and with the length and character of the moratorium which must be granted to Germany. On the first of these two points the technical difficulties in stabilising the mark exchange are, as the experts in Berlin pointed out, by no means insoluble. The German Government itself recognises that, if it were freed from reparation payments, the balancing of its Budget could certainly be accomplished once it were able to assess taxes in a stable standard, while the very fact that the depreciation of the mark has outrun the increase in the paper circulation has made the gold reserve very large in relation to the total value of the money in the country. Certain questions in connection with stabilisation which are attracting attention here are dealt with in a subsequent column (page 977); but for the moment the more important consideration is that the stabilisation idea is up against a very difficult dilemma. On the one hand, it is impossible for a scheme of stabilising the mark to be successful if there may be demanded at any time reparation payments which will upset the equilibrium of the Budget, and no foreign stabilisation credits, except such as could be obtained against gold, would be forthcoming so long as there was any possibility of such demands. On the other hand, the grant of a moratorium for a definite period encounters very real and serious objections. Some of these were set out by Mr Goodenough in his paper on Monday to the Norwich Chamber of Commerce. He pointed out in particular that unless the Allies were placed in administrative control of German finance, the only security that any agreed reforms would be carried out would be the right to renew the demand for reparation payments, or in default to impose the sanctions contemplated in the Treaty of Versailles. There are many persons in France who think that the only way to grapple with the question is for the Allies definitely to take over the administration of Germany as a bankrupt estate. But Sir John Bradbury has pointed out recently to the Reparations Commission that it is not a practicable plan for foreign administrators to extract revenue effectively from an unwilling country. The League of Nations is about to undertake a very considerable administrative

control of Austria, and one of the reasons for not rushing too fast at this moment is that the experience of the League of Nations Controller in Vienna may perhaps throw considerable light on the difficulties that are likely to be encountered in an experiment which would be similar in character, but on a different scale.

The way is therefore full of difficulties. Complete control seems impracticable; yet without complete control there is obviously great risk to the main creditor countries in giving a long and definite moratorium, for there would be every inducement for Germany to go slowly in producing a Budget surplus. But without a moratorium stabilisation is practically impossible, while even with a moratorium for a definite period, no one will lend Germany any money or take any risks unless they know what Germany is going to be called upon to pay at the end of the period. We come back, therefore, to our starting-point—namely, that though discussion at the moment is turning upon ways and means of meeting immediate difficulties, there is no prospect whatever of clearing the air until we grapple again with the problem of definitely fixing the amount of reparations and of the Allied debts.

THE DIRECTION OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

SOME prominence was given to foreign trade statistics by the quotation on the part of the Prime Minister in an election speech of a series of figures in a manner which we ventured to characterise as misleading. Briefly, Mr Bonar Law endeavoured to prove that not only in the last pre-war year, but also in 1920, our export trade with the Empire was 2½ times as great as that with "all the demoralised countries of Europe," and that in 1920 it was four and a-half times as great. We do not know what European countries Mr Bonar Law regards as undemoralised, but in our issue of November 11th (p. 884) we produced figures for several countries whose trade has unquestionably been demoralised by the war and the peace, which gave a very different aspect to the question. From the tables given below, which we have prepared from the quarterly statistics given in the October trade returns, the relative importance of our trade with Europe, and with the Dominions in the first nine months of a number of years past can be clearly traced; but before proceeding to a detailed examination of these tables we give the net result of our analysis, which subdivides Great Britain's adverse visible trade balance in the first nine months of each of the past four years, and of 1914, into four groups, and shows to which groups of countries we are debtors, and of which creditors:—

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER.
(Million £'s.)

	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Excess of Imports	Excess of Imports/Exports	Excess of Imports/Exports	Excess of Imports	Excess of Imports/Exports
Europe	47.7	201.9	137.3	26.1	24.0
U.S.A.	44.0	375.9	327.5	166.3	103.5
Other Foreign Countries ..	1.6	79.0	66.8	17.4	22.9
British Dominions	1.4	276.0	56.5	21.6	13.5
	94.7	527.0	313.5	231.4	115.9

In a comparison of the 1922 figures with those of 1919 and 1920 the decline in prices has to be borne in mind, but in comparison with 1921 this factor is considerably less important. It no doubt plays some part in the reduction of 50 per cent. in the total adverse balance, but this decrease is almost entirely due to the facts that the Continent has returned to the position of our debtor on merchandise account, and that we have substantially reduced the total value of our net imports from the United States. As regards our trade with the latter, it will be seen from later tables that not only have imports from America been reduced, but exports thither have expanded, and this is especially the case in the third quarter of the year—a result, no doubt, of the American coal strike, and of heavy imports into the United States in the period preceding the

imposition of the new tariff. In the full year 1913 our adverse balance in trade with the United States was £83 millions, and if price changes are taken into consideration an explanation of the firmness of the New York exchange is not far to seek. In trade with other foreign countries the surplus of imports has been slightly increased; this, however, has been more than offset by a decline in the case of the British Dominions.

We may now turn to the detailed tables. The first shows imports from European countries:—

From	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
France	32,999	21,224	29,531	35,865	65,413	44,735	38,697
Italy	6,005	7,871	13,361	1,638	14,622	6,632	8,014
Switzerland	7,539	7,976	11,264	8,641	29,442	14,662	16,304
Spain	11,065	16,550	21,673	28,702	32,023	19,441	16,518
Portugal	2,805	4,010	3,043	11,217	8,528	4,464	4,538
Belgium	15,085	3,063	1,287	3,718	35,714	26,317	17,358
Germany	47,238	47	7	119	20,647	467	1,129
Austria	4,393	..	..	65	2,007	41	221
Hungary	1,200	653	1,577	6,779	3,678	1,899	1,979
Greece	3,134	..	..	19	554	2,576	1,004
Roumania	912	22	19	1,908	2,692	475	901
Turkey (European)	22,947	12,204	3,351	9,250	26,553	421	3,191
Russia	9,143	9,227	16,974	24,128	42,490	15,810	12,813
Finland	5,524	14,076	18,980	12,722	19,118	7,889	8,050
Sweden	18,557	15,447	2,796	5,316	22,589	31,718	29,214
Denmark	21,287	28,506	15,644	29,622	49,393	38,778	32,202
Netherlands	209,833	140,876	144,909	188,691	374,863	236,773	218,214

The decline in the total as compared with 1921 is largely accounted for by the lower value of imports taken from France, Belgium, Spain, and Holland. Noticeable increases are shown for Germany, Russia, and Finland. The total, it will be observed, is very little larger than that recorded for the first nine months of 1914, but the next table shows that imports from extra-European countries (including the United States) in the first nine months of this year were valued at 75 per cent. more than in the corresponding period of 1914:—

From	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
United States	95,789	206,751	379,437	410,323	438,966	214,449	158,849
Cuba	3,744	15,351	17,692	12,149	45,445	5,248	9,951
Mexico	1,422	3,820	5,141	9,874	7,923	7,185	7,185
Argentina	25,895	38,105	44,337	57,623	104,335	55,250	44,188
Brazil	6,230	7,866	7,142	8,702	10,767	4,355	6,028
Chile	4,370	8,643	15,452	5,376	10,238	4,961	3,641
Peru	2,141	2,455	5,299	5,498	11,705	3,642	4,516
Uruguay	2,170	3,807	5,014	7,695	5,761	5,525	3,654
Japan	3,172	11,813	18,156	18,120	19,703	6,508	6,363
China	3,581	6,890	7,432	14,497	20,127	4,314	6,867
Turkey (Asiatic)	2,171	357	609	3,527	4,956	251	801
Other countries	7,718	7,377	7,243	13,548	17,993	22,096	23,847
Total	158,403	364,697	511,603	562,099	679,871	438,522	275,290

The bulk of the decline of £63 millions, as compared with 1921, is accounted for by the drop in imports from the United States and Argentina. Of the three individual increases shown, the most conspicuous is that for Cuba; in the case of Brazil and Peru the increase is small. The next table gives imports from the Dominions:—

From	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Canada	20,844	54,641	82,372	84,565	66,457	44,079	36,606
Australia	28,945	54,240	37,962	85,506	91,459	55,187	51,970
New Zealand	20,252	23,395	21,118	38,828	36,445	42,321	40,750
India and Ceylon	36,715	56,204	73,104	83,551	91,763	39,850	39,914
South Africa	8,869	9,095	9,882	18,512	15,929	13,368	12,518
Egypt	13,472	26,390	43,431	37,185	57,904	17,022	20,455
West Africa	4,811	11,191	13,631	18,589	24,903	8,101	7,672
Mauritius	376	232	3,066	5,231	5,049	4,915	1,997
Straits Settlements	10,099	12,740	7,549	14,502	14,482	5,717	5,334
Malay States	1,493	6,420	1,799	4,678	5,773	2,317	1,971
West Indies	1,880	4,883	4,787	8,932	13,704	5,167	3,672
Other Possessions	6,106	11,650	13,988	15,613	22,599	14,339	11,841
Total	154,282	271,129	312,689	415,817	446,457	252,383	235,039

With the exception of Egypt, from whom our imports expanded a little after a very sharp set-back in 1921, and India and Ceylon, where the figure is practically stationary, the decline is general and most pronounced in the case of Canada. In a comparison with 1914 the figures for India and Ceylon, and for the Straits Settlements are worthy of notice.

On the export side there has been a substantial increase in comparison with 1921 in the value of goods sent from this country to the Continent:—

To	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
France	20,330	87,853	101,501	117,299	115,608	35,610	42,287
Italy	0,103	20,485	23,515	18,487	31,068	12,370	15,298
Switzerland	2,586	4,989	5,792	10,558	9,729	5,574	7,446
Spain	6,292	4,038	3,258	8,788	16,287	12,174	10,988
Portugal	3,888	3,752	3,764	6,579	14,111	5,302	5,706
Belgium	8,171	1,326	1,074	34,779	40,757	14,300	18,870
Germany	24,456	..	..	9,105	15,303	12,268	24,384
Austria	2,668	..	..	722	2,609	1,407	830
Hungary	2,404	66	760	3,812	10,285	4,247	2,392
Roumania	1,937	395	428	2,252	4,346	4,713	1,990
Turkey (European)	2,186	145	..	6,112	9,629	3,552	3,087
Russia	11,843	32,788	157	7,950	7,786	802	2,756
Finland	5,538	2,605	1,635	16,070	32,908	6,582	8,738
Sweden	4,962	7,374	3,440	20,075	25,624	10,287	9,047
Norway	4,189	6,132	2,060	24,854	25,746	6,683	8,848
Denmark	10,525	21,254	16,163	27,960	52,499	30,553	31,813
Netherlands	122,078	193,206	163,547	315,702	414,295	166,877	197,181

The most striking figures here as compared with last year are the substantial increases in our exports to Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Russia. Spain and Norway provide the only decreases of note. Exports to other foreign countries show a slight decline in the total in comparison with last year:—

To	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
United States	27,253	27,786	19,175	21,028	62,922	33,236	40,735
Cuba	1,281	1,490	1,429	1,339	4,571	1,761	969
Mexico	484	578	778	963	2,846	3,874	1,544
Argentina	12,322	9,886	12,567	15,154	30,871	21,506	16,425
Brazil	5,281	5,262	6,518	7,229	16,608	8,169	7,572
Peru	3,385	3,725	5,065	3,737	6,046	4,314	4,052
Chile	921	1,175	1,166	1,241	3,147	1,883	1,185
Uruguay	1,439	1,671	2,164	2,361	4,327	2,479	1,971
Japan	7,066	4,022	4,152	8,163	21,358	14,349	18,411
China	11,237	7,435	9,711	13,022	31,810	19,581	18,818
Turkey (Asiatic)	3,620	599	893	5,418	14,626	102	176
Other countries	11,261	7,767	10,455	11,466	24,065	19,384	15,678
Total	85,550	71,196	74,077	91,055	223,197	130,641	127,536

Apart from the increase in exports to the United States referred to above, the only expansion is in the figures for Japan. Exports to all South American countries declined in value, the most prominent figure in this respect being that for Argentina. Exports to the Dominions have also fallen:—

To	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Canada	13,981	12,964	10,212	9,854	33,792	14,440	18,276
Australia	26,252	16,249	19,162	19,318	43,423	33,694	46,051
New Zealand	7,332	5,376	5,668	7,000	18,078	11,102	11,116
India and Ceylon	52,933	47,349	40,063	45,941	138,458	83,903	69,199
South Africa	14,684	14,098	18,044	14,342	35,016	23,702	18,924
Egypt	5,458	10,680	17,495	11,503	35,983	12,479	11,492
West Africa	4,458	5,377	6,489	7,941	1,528	1,084	906
Straits Settlements	3,691	3,428	4,339	3,974	18,168	8,801	8,611
Malay States	1,765	1,570	1,246	1,239	12,334	6,564	5,050
Other British Possessions	10,477	12,536	13,804	13,475	32,475	23,580	19,830
British exports to Possessions	143,121	129,627	136,528	134,587	369,786	221,144	210,007

There is a substantial increase in exports to Canada, but the outstanding feature of the table is the increase in exports to Australia to the highest figure ever recorded for the first nine months of the year. Exports to New Zealand show practically no change, but there is a further heavy decline in the figure for India and Ceylon.

The final table shows re-exports to some of the principal countries:—

To	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
France	7,859	12,414	10,715	23,489	34,261	8,050	13,728
Italy	704	2,592	3,022	3,578	4,696	1,095	1,296
Belgium	4,888	82	10	9,927	15,713	6,832	8,352
Germany	13,347	..	..	4,135	20,174	17,352	13,643
Russia	5,419	2,929	9	2,488	3,782	821	625
Sweden	631	214	61	3,646	1,528	572	534
Norway	408	893	120	1,449	3,951	1,341	1,158
Denmark	474	791	90	4,916	3,389	1,084	906
Netherlands	3,831	3,620	353	17,408	10,411	6,676	4,744
United States	24,525	24,876	3,119	15,382	48,501	14,919	14,650
Japan	146	219	770	1,147	1,491	569	225
Other countries	4,864	3,429	552	5,435	12,370	8,731	6,477
Total for foreign countries	67,006	52,461	18,821	93,000	160,267	68,042	66,336
British Possessions	9,700	6,066	3,986	5,253	20,192	9,598	11,538
Total	76,796	58,527	22,807	98,253	180,459	77,640	77,874

There has been an expansion in our entrepôt trade with France, Italy, and Belgium, but a decline for the second time in succession with Germany. Re-exports to British Possessions include £676,000 to the Channel Islands, a million to India, £4 millions to Australia, and £2 millions to Canada.

THE BANKS AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

ATTENTION was drawn last week in the *Economist* (page 927) to the letter from the honorary secretary of the Bankers' Association, addressed to Sir Wilfrid Atlay, chairman of the London Stock Exchange, in which the writer said definitely that the clearing banks had not changed their attitude with regard to the position they have always taken up in respect to sharing of commission between the banks and the Stock Exchange. This attitude is that the banks expect to receive half the gross commission on business introduced to the Stock Exchange by themselves. There was a deputation sent from the Stock Exchange Committee to the Bankers' Association in 1917, and at the meeting the Stock Exchange case was laid frankly before the banks, with a view to getting the latter to reconsider their decision. The Stock Exchange argument is, of course, that, as a broker's business is run roughly at a proportion of at least 50 per cent. expenses of his gross revenue, to return the other 50 per cent. of gross commission to any agent is simply to execute the business for nothing, and as the broker does the greater part of the work involved, this division of profits is unreasonable. The banks took up the attitude now reiterated by the Bankers' Association, and the latest development is that in the bye-election occasioned through the retirement of a member of the Stock Exchange Committee, the same member has been returned, pledged to bring forward a fresh resolution before the Committee for re-arrangement of the proceeds of such brokerage as arises through business introduced by agents, bankers, or others. The unfortunate part of it, from the Stock Exchange point of view, is that the Committee are extremely reticent on this matter, as they are on most official questions that come before them. The Stock Exchange Committee sit in private; no other members are allowed to attend the meetings, and the result of the deliberations is not published to the House at large, except on such occasions as those when new rules, resolutions, or rulings are officially formulated. The consequence is that the average member of the Stock Exchange does not know the views of the majority of the Committee-men for whom he votes at the election every March, and that this ignorance frequently results in brokers and jobbers being under misapprehensions in regard to the precise position which prevails *vis-à-vis* the Stock Exchange and outside institutions. Freer ventilation of disputable points might be a good thing for the House and for its clients.

There are probably very few men in the Stock Exchange aware of the fact that the banks, while not actually saying so in as many words, have plainly hinted at the possibility of their establishment of a clearing house for Government stocks if the Stock Exchange cares to initiate such legislation as would involve a breach with the banks. That this would be feasible, Stock Exchange men will recognise at once. Whether it would be fair or not is another matter. The prices at which bargains would be done between the banks, for instance, would have to be on the basis of quotations which are "made," in the first case, by Stock Exchange jobbers who stand all day long in the market place, ready to buy and ready to sell at whatever risk of profit or loss there may be to themselves. They "run the racket," as the saying is. They make the prices, and for an outside body to deal on the result of the Stock Exchange jobbers' willingness to take all business risks, scarcely commends itself as equitable or just. That it could be done, however, no doubt exists, and this slight illumination reveals that the question is not one which confines itself simply to brokers and their clients. Jobbers are, in point of fact, equally interested. This being so, the House is not a little stirred by the result of the recent Committee election, and if some practical way out of the present fog is not

found before next March, when the ordinary Stock Exchange Committee election takes place, the House will be at sixes and sevens in the spring. The banks claim that the interests of both bodies, banks and the Stock Exchange, are so closely interwoven that for a breach to be made in the cordial relations, established more especially during the war, would be a deplorable mistake. There should be, however, some method whereby the admitted inequity of the present arrangement of commission-sharing could be more fairly dealt with, and another round-table conference between members of the Stock Exchange and the Bankers' Association should have no great difficulty in arriving at a fair and a perfectly amicable agreement. Nobody in the Stock Exchange would charge the banks with a deliberate desire to profit in unfair proportion from the business that they initiate, and a practice of a century's standing is not to be lightly abandoned by those who benefit from it. Where manifest inequity exists, however, neither tradition nor other cause need be quoted to justify its perpetuation.

THE BELGIAN EXCHANGE.

THE movements of the Belgian franc since the Armistice have caused much mystification first by reason of their general correspondence with the course of the French exchange and secondly owing to the change in the relative positions of the two currencies during 1922. The financial life of Belgium is, of course, very closely connected with that of France, and the two countries have many interests in common. The reparations question, for example, is of vital importance to both. In fact, in spite of many differences in their finances and general economic activities, there seems to be a fairly widespread opinion in business circles that the political and economic future of Belgium is closely bound up with that of its more powerful neighbour. On the other hand, the fact that the market for Belgian francs is much more limited than that for French currency must always be borne in mind when considering the disparity between the two. At the beginning of 1919 the Belgian franc was at a slight premium as compared with French francs, but the burden of the conversion of marks circulating in Belgium, a heritage from the period of German occupation which necessitated a loan of 9,500,000,000 from the National Bank, had turned this into a slight discount by the middle of January. This was maintained down to September, 1919, but at that date the wonderful recovery of Belgian industry coincided with a boom period which enabled Belgian production to show itself to considerable advantage. From the middle of September, 1919, to the middle of May, 1921, that is to say practically throughout the period of post-war "prosperity," Brussels enjoyed a premium over Paris. That this disparity was not greater, despite the unfavourable balance of French trade in 1920, was no doubt due principally to foreign speculative holdings of French currency. By the middle of 1921, however, the two currencies met once again, and from June of that year to the time of writing, the Belgian franc has been quoted at a discount in Paris. During the present year, Brussels has tended to move further away from Paris. Throughout the post-war period the note circulation of the National Bank has been increasing, though the total of notes

Belgian circulation shows a slight tendency to increase. Much more important, however, are the trade figures for the two countries, for while the French trade balance has improved considerably this year, the Belgian position is less satisfactory; and this factor is relatively much more important in a country which depends very largely on its industry and transit trade. It is, however, somewhat dangerous to place too much reliance on trade statistics in the case of Belgium as her invisible exports are difficult to determine with any degree of accuracy. On the other hand, the present financial position of the country compares very favourably with that of France. The ordinary Budget very nearly balances, and the Government seems to be making serious efforts to bring order into the national finances. With a general improvement in world trade, the future of Belgium seems comparatively bright. At the present moment, however, while both countries are affected by the collapse of the mark, the importance of Paris as a financial centre and foreign support for the French franc together tend to place the Belgian franc at a discount. On the whole, we are disposed to sum up tentatively a very obscure situation by saying that while the Belgian franc has been governed in the main by the fundamental factors of internal circulation and the resulting price level in relation to world prices tempered by a moderate psychological pull tending to prevent the Belgian franc from moving far from the French exchange, the latter has been much more influenced in its larger market by speculative investment and some conscious efforts to hold in check any tendency to wide variations.

THE STATE OF RUSSIAN INDUSTRY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WHATEVER may be said of the prospects of Russian agriculture, the existing state of Russian industry is worse. Estimates of this year's harvests vary from 50 to 75 per cent. of the pre-war production for the whole of Soviet Russia, whereas, on the average, industrial production is not expected at the most to be more than 25 per cent. of pre-war output. The best that can be said is that in most industries production has been slowly improving during the last three years.

According to a recent review published in *Izvestia*, the production of coal was in 1920 27 per cent. of the pre-war level, in 1921 it was 31 per cent., and in 1922 it rose to 37 per cent. In the oil industry production at the present time stands at 52 per cent. of the pre-war output, compared with 40 per cent. in 1920. The production of the cotton industry has risen from only 5 per cent. in 1920 to 17 per cent. in 1922; and in the chemical industry the output has increased from 10 per cent. of the pre-war level to about 20 per cent. at the present time. But in other branches of industry an actual decrease of production is recorded. The leather and paper industries, and the production of wine and spirits, have suffered a severe curtailment owing to the recent economic crisis. The position is specially serious in the iron and steel industry. It is reported that while the state of affairs in the Urals is fairly satisfactory owing to a sufficiency of fuel, in the Don basin works are closing down owing to the shortage of coal. The production of agricultural machinery has been severely handicapped by financial stringency. The peasants cannot afford to buy the ploughs and other implements of which they stand in need, and the efforts of the Soviet Government to check further inflation have prevented the industry from selling any large amount of goods on credit. In the heavy industries nearly the whole production is taken by the Commissariat of Ways and Communications, the Commissariat for War, and other public bodies, including State Trusts; but these institutions have themselves been handicapped by lack of finance, and have been unable to embark on any large schemes of reconstruction or development. Broadly speaking, the low level of production in industry appears to be due not so much to difficulties with labour or to inefficient management, as to the impossibility of finding a market. Among the masses of the population past savings have been eaten up or have vanished altogether through depreciation, and after the failure of last year's crops the peasants have

hardly any purchasing power to satisfy even their most urgent requirements.

As an index of what the peasants set most store by, it is interesting to note that production and sales have shown most progress in the case of cotton goods, rubber goloshes, and tobacco. In 1920 the total production of goloshes reached only 10,000; in 1921 it reached 500,000, and in 1922 the output is estimated to reach 4,000,000 pairs. But rubber goods and tobacco are not of any great importance in comparison with the textile industry.

The textile industry was for many years before the war Russia's most important branch of industrial activity. In 1909 it employed 31 per cent. of the total number of industrial workers in Russia. The imports of cotton (mainly raw cotton and yarn) in 1912 were valued at 42,000,000 gold roubles, and the exports of cotton products at 32,000,000 gold roubles; 75 per cent. of Russia's raw cotton requirements were supplied from Turkestan and the Caucasus, the remaining 25 per cent., mostly the finer grades, being imported from America and Egypt. After the revolution and the separation of the Border States, the number of factories remaining in Russia was 592, compared with 840 before the war. The following table gives particulars of the change:—

	Remaining in Soviet Russia.	Percentage of Pre-War Figure.
Factories	592	70.7
Workers employed	429,659	84.5
Total spindles	6,757,769	77.3
Total looms	190,610	83.4
Total horse-power	309,117	80.5

According to Russian figures, the production of raw cotton in Turkestan has fallen to about 10 per cent. of the pre-war level. The following table shows the area sown and the yield of raw cotton from 1916 to 1921:—

Year.	Area Sown. Acres.	Yield. Million Lbs. (English).
1916	1,936,000	1,743
1917	1,957,000	920
1918	216,000	191
1919	243,000	162
1920	294,000	115
1921	297,000	180

The 1922 harvest is estimated by the Soviet authorities to be more than double last year's, but there is reason to suppose that this forecast is far too sanguine.

Cotton manufacture began to decline in 1915. In 1918, when output reached its lowest ebb, the whole industry was nationalised, and in 1920 214 of the most important mills, together with 32 smaller works, were under the control of the Chief Textile Board (Glartestit). At that time only 7.6 per cent. of the spindles and 11.3 per cent. of the looms in these mills were working. In the course of 1921 the new economic policy, which consisted in the leasing of smaller enterprises and the concentration of the larger factories in State Trusts, was applied to the cotton industry. In November, 1921, Glartestit was abolished, and about 14 semi-independent State Trusts were created. Each of the Trusts includes spinning, weaving, and all the processes of manufacture independently of outside sources. Many of the Trusts did not start functioning till October of last year. In July, 1921, there were only six spinning mills at work with 60,000 spindles. By the end of the year 42 mills with 2,000,000 spindles were in operation. In March, 1922, there were 92 factories actually working, with 73,000 looms and 2,371,182 spindles. In this month production reached the highest point yet touched since the Revolution, the output of yarn being over 13,000,000 lbs. and of piece goods, finished and in the grey, about 75,000,000 yards.

This rate of production represents about 75 per cent. of the figure put forward by the Russian delegation at The Hague as the minimum production which would enable the cotton industry to satisfy the most urgent needs of the population. This relatively high figure, however, has not been maintained, owing to the financial crisis in the middle of the year. Like other industries, the cotton industry has found difficulty in disposing of its output, chiefly owing to the absence of an efficient marketing system, but with the re-establishment of the co-operative movement and the improvement in this year's harvest the

sale of cotton textiles is recovering quicker than that of most other industrial products.

Russia's textile industries are of special importance to the outside world, owing to the large amount of foreign capital invested in them before the war. It has been estimated that the total foreign capital invested in the different branches of the textile industry was about £20,000,000, of which nearly one-third was British, the rest being for the most part French and German. The largest single enterprise was Messrs Coats' cotton thread business. It is doubtful whether any large number of the more efficient factories will be handed back to their former owners. The existing State Trusts are not likely to surrender their powers without a struggle, and even if the Central Government should decide that for political or other reasons it was advisable to restore as many of the mills as possible to their former owners, either on a freehold or leasehold basis, there is certain to be strong opposition whenever the negotiations come down to particular cases. It is significant that, according to a report published in *Russian Information and Review* on October 28th, a conference of directors and managers of textile enterprises in the Ukraine declared that since the industry was making satisfactory progress and had recently increased its output on the average 25 per cent. compared with last year, there was no need to invite the participation of foreign capital, or to take the mills out of their present hands and hand them over to mixed companies.

It is sometimes held that the longer the recognition of the Russian Government is postponed, the more favourable will be the terms eventually offered to former foreign owners; in other words, that the price of recognition is bound to rise as Russia's need for foreign assistance becomes greater. But there is this to be borne in mind on the other side: that the semi-independent State Trusts, which have been created as a result of the new economic policy, are becoming more deeply entrenched as time goes on, and that so long as they can show a fairly satisfactory record of improvement over previous years (which should not be difficult), it will become increasingly hard for the Soviet Government to justify their abolition, or to compel them to surrender their most profitable factories for the sake of attracting foreign capital or carrying out a policy of restitution. According to this view, the time for foreign capitalists to get the most favourable terms was last year, when industry was at an even lower ebb than it is now, and before the State Trusts had got firmly established. One effect of the new economic policy appears to have been to create powerful new vested interests in Russia and to weaken the power of the Soviet Government to dispose of Russia's economic resources in accordance with a general programme of reconciliation with foreign interests.

Notes of the Week.

A Short Session.—The King opened the new Parliament on Thursday, and his Speech heralds a session that will be short, but of great historical importance. Its supreme task is, of course, to pass the Irish Bill. Herein lies a stern test for the sagacity of the new House of Commons. To pass that test with credit it must eschew the large temptation of attempting to tinker and patch the Irish Free State Constitution, and must realise that, whatever its imperfections, it must go straight through. As we have shown on previous occasions, the Constitution of the new Irish Free State is not ideal. It is too freely sprinkled with theoretical excrescences, which reveal, here and there, the influence of the De Valera school. It is, in parts, culpably academic, and may reasonably shock the more practical of our Parliamentarians. But, perfect or imperfect, it must go through as it stands, and go through before December 6, unless the whole terrible chapter of Anglo-Irish strife is to be reopened. Those who realise its imperfections the most clearly must be content to leave the task of improvement to experience and statesmanship. For the British Parliament to attempt the task is to play with fire, that

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

would inevitably burn, and burn disastrously. Unemployment occupies the place of second prominence in the Speech from the Throne. The references to it do not carry us very far. They could not have been left out, nor would the Labour Party have been exercising their proper function had they failed to raise the subject in the debate on the Address. But it is not a matter for legislation, at any rate in this session. Unemployment will doubtless be the dominant subject in the next session, as Ireland is in this; and in the meanwhile the Government have done all that could possibly be expected of them in promising reconsideration and expansion of the ameliorative plans devised by the late Administration. We notice that an evening contemporary takes the composer of the King's Speech to task for mentioning in one and the same sentence the unemployment problem and the League of Nations plan for Austria. This close juxtaposition is, on the contrary, to be commended; for it may be taken, we hope, as evidence of the Cabinet's realisation that the real cure for unemployment lies abroad in the rehabilitation of Central Europe. We welcome on other grounds the prominent mention of the Austrian scheme in the Speech from the Throne. In determining to obtain authorisation in this short session of the British share in the League's plan, the Government are resisting the temptation of a procrastination that might have had unfortunate results. For one stumbling-block in the way of the League plan's success is the delay that may be caused by the necessity of passing legislation in the Parliaments of all the guarantor countries. Apparently, Westminster, at all events, will not provide a delaying factor. Apart from this fear of delay, it is not all plain sailing with the League's Austrian scheme. After a great struggle, the obstacles to Austrian acceptance will probably be surmounted. But outside Austria there are difficulties. For instance, the composite nature of the guarantee is causing worry to those who may be concerned in floating the loan. In view of all the difficulties, it is all the more satisfactory that the British Government appear determined to play their own part expeditiously.

The Premier and the Unemployed.—In referring the unemployed "marchers," who wished to interview him, to the Minister whose department is primarily concerned with Labour questions, Mr Bonar Law has made a stand for departmental responsibility which was very badly needed. For one of the principal faults of the Coalition administration was the readiness of Mr Lloyd George to take upon his own shoulders problems which properly belonged to one or other of the principal departmental Ministers. It may, of course, be argued that in choosing this particular case for his initial vindication of the departmental principle Mr Bonar Law was unfortunate. This week's unemployed demonstration was, we believe, planned long ago, at a time when the Prime Minister of the day was known to be accessible to all and sundry. This being so, a direct audience at 10 Downing street was quite naturally made the chief objective of the demonstration; and its refusal by Mr Lloyd George's less ubiquitous successor caused natural disappointment and resentment. There are those who think that Mr Bonar Law would have avoided trouble and bitterness, without sacrificing sound principle, if he had, in company with his Minister of Labour, received the unemployed deputation, stating clearly that he did so merely because it was planned in the accessible Georgian days, and that in future all deputa-

tions would be received by the departmental Minister to whom the problem in hand was appropriate. On that aspect of the question opinions may differ, and it is admittedly unfortunate that so vital a matter as unemployment should turn up as a test case so soon after the elections. But on the main point, namely, his striking insistence at the outset of his Premiership on the doctrine of departmental responsibility, the Premier's decision will be welcome to all who appreciated the shortcomings of the late régime. Mr Bonar Law's obstinate maintenance of the position he took up from the first is the sure and only way to restore not only administrative efficiency in the departments, but also the even more important condition of joint Cabinet responsibility. Most unfortunately, however, in our opinion, the Premier, while refusing to receive the deputation of unemployed, has agreed to receive a deputation of miners. To make a special exception in the case of the miners is far more dangerous than to make it in the case of the unemployed. If he receives the miners he can scarcely refuse to see the railwaymen. If he receives the railwaymen other unions will lay specific claim to a special audience. In recent years the miners and railwaymen have come to claim, almost as a right, the opportunity of interviewing the Prime Minister. The claim to such a special privilege is dangerous and undesirable, and we trust Mr Bonar Law will make it abundantly clear that his reception of the miners' deputation is a very special departure from the general rule which he intends to observe.

A Critical Issue for Ireland.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—Ireland is passing through the most crucial testing time of her whole national existence. Her agony began when the definite cleavage took place in the ranks of successful Sinn Féin with honoured and trusted leaders on either side. It waxed more poignant as divided councils and the disputed application of agreed principles gave place to definite dissension, personal recrimination, and hostile action, and developed finally into an activist minority in armed revolt against the majority and against the Motherland whose welfare was voluntarily entrusted to the guidance of that majority. Englishmen will find it wellnigh impossible without the exercise of an imaginative sympathy to understand how hard it was for Irish Nationalists to apply legal pains and penalties to other Irish Nationalists who masked a parricidal and anti-national violence by frantic appeals to the ideals, the shibboleths and the precedents of Irish Nationalism in its long contest against British control. All the traditional sympathy of the populace was for the outlaw on the "hillsides," for the accused with his patriotic "speech from the dock," for the convict whose disinterested pursuit of an inherited idealism had led to his lonely occupation of the "felon's cell." Hence came the long-drawn-out negotiations, the Collins-de Valera pact, the forbearance and further negotiations after the election, the slow, reluctant drawing of the executive sword. And all the time the rebel irregulars and the de Valera and Childers faction put themselves further and further in the wrong with public opinion. Their dialectic has been positively repugnant to sincerity and common sense, their chosen aim the bullying of the majority of the nation into subservience to their own small minority, their methods of secret war upon the community, upon individuals, upon wealth, upon the means of production, and upon the facilities for transport, communications, and distribution; faithfully following the Bolshevik model, they created a situation in which all who had lawless or criminal proclivities could follow their bent and, willingly or not, became their coadjutors and auxiliaries. Slowly, but with decision, the Provisional Government decided that the time had come to grasp the nettle firmly—that de Valera and his friends had finally goaded and driven the public into a stern resentment beyond all possibility of a sentimental reaction against severity. With equal deliberation and an identical recognition of the appropriate moment, the Catholic Hierarchy threw the whole weight of its spiritual authority and powerful organisation into the scale. Again there was a pause, an offer of amnesty on surrender, a further pause, the military courts were set up and severe penalties proclaimed. Irregular activity paused, and thereafter re-

doubled, and then last week four prisoners taken with arms were executed after military trial in Dublin. In debate in the Dail the Government was sustained, and Mr Johnstone, the Labour leader, after many questions, professed himself satisfied on the ground that the prisoners had been taken when obviously about to take part in an ambush. Rumour spread that the death penalty was about to be visited on many others, including Erskine Childers, who had recently been captured. A midnight application for leave to institute *habeas corpus* proceedings was successfully made to the Master of the Rolls, and long arguments have ensued, in which Counsel has sought the protection of the King's Courts for Erskine Childers, as a British citizen unlawfully held captive and in danger of execution by the Free State Provisional Government and its armed agents, whose legal authority and competence were directly challenged. To-day, the writ of *habeas corpus* was refused. The Master of the Rolls pointed out that it was the action of Childers and his friends that had created the state of war which virtually ousted his jurisdiction to deal with the case: the Treaty was the law of the land, and, whatever the exact forms and phrases, the Provisional Government, as the Government charged with the responsibility of dealing with the transitional period, had inherent power and authority to do all things necessary for the establishment and maintenance of order. Readers of the *Economist* will probably know the sequel by the time this article is in print. Erskine Childers is the distinguished son of an English father and an Irish mother, a thinker, student, man of letters, the author of "The Riddle of the Sands" and of valuable works on constitutional law and history in the British Empire; he served in the British forces in the Boer War, and with distinction in the Naval Air Service in the recent war. In private life his friends and acquaintances have known him for a disinterested, high-minded, and cultivated gentleman. He rendered invaluable service to Sinn Féin of recent years, and has been the protagonist of the de Valera faction in the polemics raging round the Treaty and its effects and the constitutional position of the Irish Free State. More recently still, according to the newspapers, he has been bearing arms in active operations against the Free State Army in the South and West. Thus the agony of Ireland has reached its crucial climax, where the blood of the bearers of honoured names is like to flow—not in the heat of armed conflict, but by the deliberate act of executive severity. And through all the tragedy and personal grief, the faithful student of national biology and national pathology can descry the turning-point in a malady that has threatened Ireland's life. The crisis will be safely passed, the febrile symptoms will subside later, and Ireland will win through to convalescence and to tread the paths of ordered progress towards full national well-being and the possible realisation of all her hopes. There can be no doubt but that the huge bulk of the population supports the Provisional Government—and will in an ever-increasing degree continue to support it—in applying in this, the last, resort the most drastic measures of executive severity so long as they are even-handed, systematic, and persisted in long enough for success. But there may be, of course, before the present crisis is over, past, certain violent reactions, for which it is well to be prepared. But the end is sure. Ireland will now assert her national will, and the re-establishment of order and peace within a few short months is certain. All that is needed externally to this end—and the omens are propitious—is the maintenance of the Treaty and of the policy and spirit underlying it by Great Britain.

Employment in October.—Certain movements in the weekly average balance-sheet figures of the London Clearing Banks for October were taken to indicate improved trade activity. But these favourable deductions find little, if any, support in the official figures of unemployment in October, as presented by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. During last month, it is true, a slight reduction from 14.6 per cent. to 14.1 per cent. took place in the trade union unemployment returns; but of the whole mass of workers coming under the Unemployment Insurance Act 12.0 per cent. remained out of work at October 23rd—the same percentage as at September 25th.

Monthly movements in the trade union percentage and the record for the last pre-war year are tabulated below:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.									
End of—	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.		
January ..	2.2 ..	0.3 ..	1.0 ..	2.4 ..	2.9 ..	6.9 ..	16.8 ..		
February ..	2.0 ..	0.3 ..	0.9 ..	2.8 ..	1.6 ..	8.5 ..	16.3 ..		
March ..	1.9 ..	0.3 ..	1.2 ..	2.9 ..	1.1 ..	10.0 ..	16.3 ..		
April ..	1.7 ..	0.3 ..	0.9 ..	2.8 ..	0.9 ..	17.6 ..	17.0 ..		
May ..	1.9 ..	0.4 ..	0.9 ..	2.1 ..	1.1 ..	22.2 ..	16.4 ..		
June ..	1.9 ..	0.4 ..	0.7 ..	1.7 ..	1.2 ..	23.1 ..	15.7 ..		
July ..	1.9 ..	0.4 ..	0.6 ..	2.0 ..	1.4 ..	16.7 ..	14.6 ..		
August ..	2.0 ..	0.5 ..	0.5 ..	2.2 ..	1.6 ..	16.3 ..	14.4 ..		
September ..	2.3 ..	1.3 ..	0.5 ..	1.6 ..	2.2 ..	14.8 ..	14.6 ..		
October ..	2.2 ..	1.1 ..	0.4 ..	2.6 ..	5.3 ..	15.6 ..	14.1 ..		
November ..	2.0 ..	1.1 ..	0.5 ..	2.9 ..	3.7 ..	15.9 ..	..		
December ..	2.6 ..	1.4 ..	1.2 ..	3.2 ..	6.0 ..	16.5 ..	..		

* Excluding coal miners.

Employment in October continued bad, and a further decline in the demand for labour took place in the cotton trades. On the other hand, conditions improved in coal and iron mining, the pig-iron industry, the woollen and worsted industries, and the pottery trades. The total number of registered unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland rose from 1,368,000 at the end of September to approximately 1,385,000 at October 30th. Obviously the new Government inherits an unemployment problem that shows no present signs of losing its acuteness.

Cost of Living.—It will be remembered that the *Economist* index number of wholesale commodity prices took a turn upwards in October. Official figures now show that retail prices moved in a similar direction. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, the cost of living on November 1st was 80 per cent. above the pre-war level, or 2 per cent. higher than at October 1st. Monthly movements of this percentage are set out below:—

ALL ITEMS: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January 1st ..	85-90	120	125	165	92
February ..	90	120	130	151	88
March ..	90	115	130	141	86
April ..	90-95	110	132	133	82
May ..	95-100	105	141	128	81
June ..	100	105	150	119	80
July ..	100-105	105-110	152	119	84
August ..	110	115	155	122	81
September ..	110	115	161	120	79
October ..	115-120	120	164	110	78
November ..	120-125	125	176	103	80
December ..	120	125	169	99	..

At November 1st the average increase over July, 1914, in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary was about 76 per cent., as compared with 72 per cent. at September 30th. Our official contemporary attributes the advance in the percentage to seasonal increases in the prices of milk and eggs, and also to advances in cheese, frozen mutton, and tea. Some cheapening in bacon, fish, potatoes and British meat were insufficient to compensate for the increase in the prices of the foods named. For imported beef, flour, bread, sugar, butter and margarine October produced, on the average, no appreciable price change.

Stabilising the Mark.—In connection with the scheme recently submitted by economic experts to the German Government for stabilising the mark, a correspondent has submitted to us the following questions:—(1) Is there to be a free market for the export of gold? (2) Does the success of the scheme depend upon hitting the right ratio between marks and dollars? (3) What will happen if the foreign exchanges do not adjust themselves to the new official ratio? Will the gold disappear to foreign countries? (4) Would a Moratorium be a sufficient inducement to mark speculators to retain their holdings, or would the uncertainty as to what would happen at the end of the period induce them to convert their holdings into gold? The scheme does not enter into very great detail on these points, but, as we understand it, the answer to the first of these questions is that there is no intention of displacing paper circulation in Germany by a gold cur-

rency, and any tendency to convert for internal purposes could readily be checked by limiting the right to exchange for gold to very large sums or even only exchanging gold in the form of bars. Indeed, it is not necessary to the scheme that there should be any right of conversion at all. The problem is to hold the foreign exchange market, and for this purpose the experts suggest that a certain sum in gold, which is put in one of the reports at 25 millions sterling, should be set aside as security for a credit in various foreign currencies. There might be difficulty in raising this credit unless the gold were deposited either in Amsterdam or in some other country or, at all events, in the occupied areas; and in the sense that the banks which give the credit must in the last resort have the right to claim the gold, is a condition of the scheme. But the plan does not involve the free buying and selling of gold. It does involve the buying and selling of marks out of a foreign currency credit secured by a 100 per cent. gold reserve. The experts also contemplate supplementing the 25 millions gold credit by a further credit based upon assets such as the export tax, the figure of a further 25 millions being mentioned by the report of Messrs. Vissering, Dubois, and Kamenka. The success of the scheme depends upon whether the total credits made available are sufficiently large in relation to the amount of marks the Exchange Board might have to buy. In similar pre-war exchange schemes the controlling authority has usually had enormous credits available, and a comparatively small margin of currency which it has had to buy or sell, and it is impossible to say what will happen in such abnormal circumstances as those of Germany to-day. But the success of the scheme obviously depends to a large extent on selecting the right ratio. If the mark is overvalued, imports would be immensely stimulated and exports checked, with the result that the Exchange Board's credit would steadily disappear, the gold would be taken over to liquidate the debt, and the scheme would come to an end. Clearly, therefore, the ratio must be one which, taking into account the present level of German prices and wages, will, as far as possible, maintain and increase German exports. The suggestion that the foreign exchanges will not fall into line is groundless, for so long as dealings are being transacted on an immense scale at a fixed rate, the market must conform. Indeed, it is to be presumed that if the preliminary arrangements for the scheme were going satisfactorily, and it became known what rate had been decided upon, the market would tend to steady itself round about this ratio in anticipation. On our correspondent's last question we are inclined to think that under any circumstances many foreign holders of marks would endeavour to unload as soon as they realised that there was any prospect of stability, and no scheme would be inaugurated without sufficient foreign credits to cope with the early rush of tired speculators. The more difficult test of the scheme and one less possible to calculate is whether the reserve would stand up against the drain that might be caused by a long-continued adverse trade balance. The prospect of a settlement might restore private investment by foreigners in Germany, and no doubt the experts count upon assistance from this source; but, as we have said, one of the most vital factors is the selection of the right ratio.

The Improvement in Shipping.—The outward coal markets have been considerably disturbed by the wide fluctuations in the Continental exchanges, but a very good business has been done to some destinations, Alexandria, Gibraltar, Port Said, and the River Plate all figuring prominently in the fixtures made from the Welsh ports. In the homeward markets the tone has been very healthy, with a good steady advance in rates for all the active sections. The River Plate this week has been conspicuously brisk, with numerous steamers taken to load maize from the various ports, the freight money paid showing about 2s 6d to 5s per ton increase on last month's figures. Steamers of useful size to load November-December from not above San Lorenzo were freely taken at 27s 6d to 28s 9d, and December-January was closed at 29s 6d, while January secured as much as 30s per ton. In four working days something like 150,000 tons of carrying space was taken up by shippers, and this has been very encouraging to shipowners after the long period of depression. The

Nitrate ports are also showing more activity, with steamers closed for the United States at \$5½ per ton, while from the Northern Range ports the rate for heavy grain has risen to 14 to 15 cents per 100 lbs to the Antwerp-Rotterdam-Hamburg range, this comparing with 10 to 11 cents taken a few weeks back. Steamers to load next month for the Mediterranean have been able to secure cargoes at 4s 1½d per qr, which is the best recorded this year. The Greek Government wants about 45,000 tons of steamer space for next month and early January, and notwithstanding the fact that the Canadian season is over, the supply of early tonnage from the American Northern Range and Gulf ports is very small. Another market of considerable promise is the North Pacific, where suitable steamers have been taken up for December-January at 38s per ton. Shippers working in the Cuban sugar market are now showing a lot of interest in vessels able to load the new crop, and there has been a sharp advance in values, with orders quoting freely to the United Kingdom, France, and also Japan. This is a market likely to see a lot of animation before the close of the year. In India the tone is much better, and the outlook for grain, seeds, and produce is very favourable. Steamers have been taken up from Bombay at 27s 6d per ton on the dead weight, and large bookings have been made for rice per liners working from Burmah at 30s per ton, Germany again figuring prominently in the business done. Beans from Dalny/Vladivostok have been actively enquired for, and there are orders quoting to the United Kingdom, Denmark, and the German Baltic ports. Saigon is another taker of tonnage, with business done at 32s 6d per ton to the Continent. In the Australian market chartering so far has been limited, but shipowners are looking for a big increase in business very shortly. The exportable surplus of Australian wheat is expected to be very full, and charterers are interested in steamers for January-March loading at 47s 6d to 50s per ton. Ore receivers are also in the market again, and with tonnage on the short side, rates from the Mediterranean are moving upwards.

British Trade Prospects in India.—The Department of Overseas Trade has recently published a "Report on the Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in India," which has been revised down to September, 1922. The Report itself makes most interesting reading, and its value is considerably enhanced by the fact that the information has been brought so well up to date. It is gratifying to learn that the huge stocks of uncleared piece-goods are being gradually reduced, and, better still, that goods are moving into consumption. The monsoon results have been, on the whole, quite good, as far as may be judged from available reports, and there seems thus to be some reason for hoping that the old stocks will be cleared during the cold weather. The political atmosphere, too, has been cleared during the past few months, and the boycott movement is steadily losing ground. It is true that India's credit has been greatly damaged by the action of unprincipled traders in repudiating their obligations, and that congestion of business in the Indian Courts has made it exceedingly difficult for creditors to obtain redress. Something, however, seems to have been done to improve matters in this connection, though the difficult legal question of determining the rate of exchange on past due bills still awaits satisfactory solution. A general idea of the trade position is given by the following table of private imports and exports of merchandise:—

(IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.)

	Average of 5 Pre-War Years Ending 1913-14.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Exports	2,19.50	3,09.01	2,38.30	2,29.55
Re-exports	4.62	17.78	18.04	14.06
Imports	1,45.85	2,00.80	3,35.60	2,66.43
Balance of trade in merchandise	78.27	+ 1,25.99	— 79.26	— 22.82
Total visible balance of trade (including treasure and Government remittances)	— 42	+ 95.32	— 50.14	— 33.73

The reduction in the adverse balance of trade in merchandise (private) for the year 1921-22 is a welcome sign of a return to more normal conditions, though much leeway has still to be made up if the pre-war average is to be re-established. Great Britain's share in Indian trade has been, on the whole, maintained, for most of our com-

petitors seem to have suffered even more than we have from the effects of the recent depression. The following table of percentage shares in the various totals for the United Kingdom and its four principal foreign competitors for the Indian market will make this point clear. (Periods: (a) for 1913-14, (b) for 1919-20, (c) for 1920-21, and (d) for 1921-22):—

	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.			
	(Share per Cent.)				Including Re-exports.			
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
U. Kingdom..	64.1	50.5	61.0	56.7	23.7	29.6	21.9	20.1
British Possessions....	5.9	10.5	5.0	10.3	14.3	14.4	21.1	20.9
Germany	6.9	..	1.4	2.7	10.6	..	3.4	6.7
United States..	2.6	12.1	10.5	8.1	8.9	14.9	14.8	10.4
Japan	2.6	9.2	7.9	5.1	9.2	14.3	9.5	15.5
Belgium	2.3	3	1.6	2.0	4.9	3.1	5.0	3.3

The most noticeable features of the last year have been the re-entry of German goods into the Indian market, and continued competition from Belgium. Dyeing and tanning substances, iron and steel, hardware and machinery are the principal goods imported from Germany, while 64 per cent. of the imports from Belgium consist of iron and steel. Imports from Japan contracted by nearly one-half to 13½ crores of rupees, the main items being cotton piece-goods (28 per cent.), cotton yarns, and matches. Indian exports to Germany, while very brisk in the summer of 1921, have been very adversely affected by the collapse of the mark. The future of Indian imports naturally depends on the future of the export trade, and this, in turn, hinges on the prospects for increased shipments of produce to Central Europe, Russia, Japan, and the United States. Conditions in the two last-named countries are improving, and the United Kingdom may perhaps be expected to take greater quantities of Indian produce than last year. Although the fiscal policy of the Indian Government will claim the closest attention of shippers, there seem reasons for hoping that the Indian trade position will improve in the forthcoming year.

National Savings Certificates.—On November 1st, the number of Savings Certificates sold since their inception reached 600 millions, representing a cash investment of £465,614,148, of which approximately £119,727,000, or 25 per cent., has been withdrawn, leaving a balance invested of approximately £345,887,148. These and other facts relating to the national savings movement have been published this week by the National Savings Committee, which is to be sincerely congratulated upon the result of their labours during the past six years. The Committee states that the main reason for the continued steady sale of Savings Certificates, apart from their attractiveness as an investment, is the steady habits of thrift and saving that are being inculcated by the valuable work of the voluntary Savings Association throughout the country. These influence sales not only directly by making it possible for their members to buy certificates on the instalment plan, but also indirectly because every member is a propagandist for the Savings Certificate in the community in which he lives. In England and Wales there are at present some 20,000 Savings Associations at work—in schools, firms, offices, women's organisations, social and other clubs, &c. New associations have throughout the present year been formed at an average rate of 150 per month.

An Insurance Charge.—Mr Leonard Aldridge, against whom a serious charge has been brought at Bow Street in connection with re-insurance premiums, has had a rapid rise in the insurance world, and until last week was managing director of the United General Commercial and another company, the City Life, whose affairs are familiar to readers of the *Economist*. Originally an official of an insurance company, Mr Aldridge started some years ago as a broker, and in 1919 he had the chief part in floating the United General, which took over the business and assets of an old company called the United Sickness and Accident. The authorised capital of the United General is £1,000,000, but the paid-up capital

is just over £266,000, the uncalled liability being about £216,000. The largest shareholder appears to be the City Life, which has 50,000 shares, and this holding, which stands at an obviously too high price in the City Life balance-sheet, is one of the things that has given rise to anxiety about the Life company's strength. The United General's own balance-sheet is made up as at June 30th, and should be issued shortly. Mr Aldridge has had associated with him in the management of the United General two former directors of the Aircraft Manufacturing Company, with which Mr Aldridge was believed to have business connections in the days of its prosperity. The forthcoming report of the United General will be examined with some interest.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Cotton spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire during the last few weeks have lost ground, and there is a tendency for more machinery to stand idle for want of work, writes our Manchester correspondent. At the end of last week the state of trade was again considered by the general committee of the Master Spinners' Association, and after a long discussion it was decided to continue the present short-time arrangement until the end of December. This decision means that the mills using American cotton will continue to run only 35 hours a week instead of the usual 48. In the opinion of some members of the committee restriction of output should be on a larger scale, and it was decided to take a ballot of the members on the question of working only 24 hours a week. The voting is now taking place, and the result will be announced at the end of next week. To put this increased short-time movement in operation it will be necessary for the owners of 80 per cent. of the spindles using American cotton to vote in favour of the scheme. There is some doubt in trade circles as to whether the necessary majority will be obtained. In the manufacturing section no organised curtailment of production is taking place, but more weaving employers are stopping looms and numerous sheds are working only during daylight in order to save the expense of lighting. As things stand at present the outlook for the operatives this winter is rather gloomy, but it may be mentioned that employment is distinctly better than last January.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Lancashire traders at the present time are taking more than usual interest in the official statistics relating to American cotton supplies, as there is a fear in some quarters of a distinct shortage next summer. This week the United States Government has stated that up to the 14th inst. the number of bales ginned so far this season was 8,870,000 bales, against 8,140,000 bales a fortnight earlier, 7,274,000 bales on November 14, 1921, and 8,915,000 bales at the same time in 1920. The report when published on Tuesday last resulted in rather wide fluctuations in prices, but, on the whole, the figures were about equal to expectations. If the receipts during the remainder of the season are the same as a year ago the crop will be about 10,000,000 bales, against 8,500,000 bales in 1921-22. As there is a possibility of the consumption during the current twelve months being about 12,500,000 bales, it is pretty certain that stocks at the end of next July will show an important reduction.

The Paper Industry.—Gratifying evidences, statistical and otherwise, of a substantial revival in the paper-making industry of the United Kingdom are forthcoming. The acute depression of 12 months ago, probably the worst experienced in its modern history, has been succeeded by a period of increasing activity and a steady expansion of both the home and export trades. Imports of raw material (wood-pulp and vegetable fibres), upon which the industry has to rely so largely, have improved more than 60 per cent., and exports by over 50 per cent.—that is, taking the full period of the first nine months. Even more significant has been the steady improvement in the latter month by month. Every month since February, when the quantity of paper exported was only 119,201 cwts, has shown a marked advance upon its predecessor, till in September the month's total reached 266,643 cwts. The average for the

first six months was 149,160 cwts, and for the next three 229,212 cwts. The total bulk of exports for the nine months exceeded a million and a-half cwts (half-a-million cwts better than a year ago), and were approximately at the level of 1920, as will be seen from the following:—

	January-September, 1922.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Newsprint	679,841	565,323	947,137
Writing (in large sheets)	161,193	101,514	115,860
Packing and wrapping	279,498	98,309	189,248
Tissue paper	9,628	8,314	8,288
Coated papers	111,794	32,881	47,570
Other sorts	25,833	18,395	20,752
Stationery	156,510	119,297	119,986
Cardboard, &c.	155,976	125,407	133,754
Total (incl. other sorts) ..	1,590,281	1,069,440	1,582,595
Value, f.o.b.	£ 8,144,254	£ 6,124,444	£ 4,722,853

For approximately the same quantity the value in 1922 was only 58 per cent. of that in 1920, or little more than half. Should the recent rate of export continue to the end of the year the total will reach only about two-thirds of the 1913 figure, when it was 3,498,914 cwts. Nevertheless, it will be readily conceded that, thanks to the energy and enterprise of our paper-makers, a very big stride forward has been made towards the recovery of markets abroad. Prices appear to have got down to an economic level, and to have become steady. In January the average value per cwt exported was 80s, in August it was 50s, and in September it had dropped to 48s 6d. Of course, competitive prices have only been made possible by the reduced cost of materials, labour, &c., though rail rates, and to a larger extent sea freights, are still very heavy, and constitute a serious handicap. The fall in the costs of raw materials is remarkable. Chemical dry wood-pulp imported in January had an average value of £28 18s per ton; in September it had fallen to £13 4s. In September last year it was £33 10s. Mechanical wet wood-pulp in January averaged £6 3s per ton imported; in September it had dropped to £4 15s. In September a year ago the average was £11 18s. In the nine months January-September we imported 753,736 tons of paper-making materials (including wood-pulp 623,468 tons and esparto grass and other vegetable fibres 120,833 tons), against 466,423 tons and 981,334 tons in the same period of 1921 and 1920 respectively. We also imported large quantities of paper, the nine months' total being 7,894,458 cwts, of which 34 per cent. was newsprint and writing paper, 25.5 per cent. packing and wrapping paper, and 35 per cent. strawboard and millboard.

The Honduras Loans.—The invitation announced in Tuesday's *Times* from the Honduras Government to the Bondholders' Committee to propose terms of settlement reopens, we trust to conclude finally, a curious and discreditable chapter of financial history. In 1867 Honduras owed its foreign creditors £121,450, of which over £90,000 was due to bondholders, for the principal and 40 years' unpaid interest of its share in the earliest of Central American loans. Its annual revenue was about £50,000, but an American explorer had suggested "development" by a trans-continental railway line. The national credit was restored, as a preliminary, by the issue of a modest 5 per cent. loan of £90,000, arranged by one Don Carlos Gutierrez, its Minister in London, and secured on the Customs of Amapala. The creditors were paid off; Señor Gutierrez was helped by a French financier and racehorse owner, M. Charles Lefevre, who, as was afterwards learnt, had been convicted and sentenced "in default" for breach of trust in Paris; and the two, in conjunction with leading British and French financial houses, brought out, between 1867 and 1870, three loans in both capitals, nominally totalling nearly £6,000,000. The interest was respectively 10, 6½, and 10 per cent.; they were issued at large discounts, and "secured" on the Customs, the receipts of the proposed railway, and the produce of the State forests and domains. The promoters took large commissions, extra drawings were sanctioned, the interest and the bonds drawn were paid out of the capital; and M. Lefevre bought largely, and so manipulated the market that the bonds were kept at what the *Economist* afterwards called "a

mala fide price," which attracted guileless investors. After October, 1870, the railway contractors were unpaid; and in 1872 a daring attempt was made to place a loan of £15,000,000 for transforming the line into a ship railway to carry fully-loaded steamers from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific. But the Council of Foreign Bondholders pointed out that the prospectus mentioned no bankers or contractors, and the *Economist* that the statistics adduced multiplied the British tonnage going round Cape Horn more than ninefold. The plan was dropped; the loans went into default; M. Lefevre had meanwhile unloaded his stock on the public, and the price dropped rapidly from 72 to 44, and ultimately to 6. In 1875 the circumstances were investigated by a famous Parliamentary Committee, but the chief personages concerned escaped examination. Honduras, meanwhile, had a capital debt of nearly £5,400,000, and 53 miles of railway which had cost £689,000. From 1867 to 1892 various attempts were made at a settlement by reduction and conversion of the capital; they failed chiefly through the collapse of the American intermediary syndicates, and direct proposals made in 1903 through a special envoy were rejected by the bondholders as inadequate. In 1909 a settlement was prevented by the insistence of the Washington Government on certain American claims; the joint Anglo-American scheme substituted was frustrated by a revolution in Honduras and by Honduran resentment of American financial influence. But Honduras to-day is relatively prosperous, largely through American enterprise, and a settlement is desirable in view of the coming Washington Conference, with the possibility of Central American Federation and of aid from American financiers. The nominal debt, with 49 years' arrears of interest, now exceeds £28,500,000. But reasonable terms of settlement are possible, and would be the best preparation for the desired American loan.

Consolidated Gold Fields.—In view of the improved conditions which have prevailed in the Kaffir market during the past six months, writes our mining correspondent, the hope was entertained in some quarters that the report for the year ended June 30 last would contain the announcement of an interim dividend on account of the current financial period. The company having been under the necessity of postponing dividend payments on its two issues of preference shares, it was a foregone conclusion that there would be no dividend on the ordinary shares for the past year. In the event the above-mentioned hope was disappointed. Actually, however, the company proves to have fared much better than might have been expected. Despite the reduction in dividends and the disturbed market conditions due to the Rand labour trouble in the early part of the current calendar year, the receipts and profits of the operating company (the New Consolidated Gold Fields) fell only £62,000 short of those for 1920-21. The sum available was, however, so heavily cut into by the debit balance arising from the very heavy amortisations of the preceding year, that only a small surplus remained after providing for a dividend of 1½ per cent. Appended is a summary of the accounts of the "New" company from its inception to date:—

	Year Ended June 30.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Receipts and profits	£	523,920	429,980	379,380
Depreciation	£	165,410	492,390	147,010
Taxes, &c.	£	32,230	10,910	3,640
Net profit	£	290,530	*131,740	185,850
Dividends	£	270,000	..	67,500
Brought forward	£	..	20,530	*111,210
Carried forward	£	20,530	*111,210	7,140
Investments	£	4,030,100	3,680,230	3,841,380
Loans at short call	£	269,700	260,470	90,000
Sundry debtors and dividends	£	343,540	117,780	210,270
Cash advances and mortgages	£	210,350	295,300	272,730
Real estate and buildings	£	56,360	51,520	47,790
Cash	£	198,710	239,510	246,200
Creditors	£	572,560	259,910	137,650
		* Deficit.		

Payment by the holding company of the interest on its prior capital absorbed the £67,500 received from the operating company, plus a substantial incursion upon the carry forward. The operating company has now declared

an interim distribution of 2 per cent., which will practically cover the preference requirements of the holding company for the current year. Hence, there appears every prospect of a substantial dividend on the ordinary for 1922-23. A comparison of the schedule of investments with that of 1921 discloses some interesting changes. Thus the company has largely increased its interest in the New Modder, National Mining, and Sub Nigel undertakings; it has also acquired blocks of shares in the Shell Transport and the South American Copper. Some of the Rand old-stager holdings, especially Simmer and Jack, have been appreciably reduced.

Mount Lyell.—Throughout the labour troubles of the past few years this Australasian copper-gold-silver proposition has managed to keep the flag flying, although the high ratio of expense and the low price of the red metal have entailed the suspension of dividends from June, 1920, until now. The cabled summary of the report for the year ended September 30th last indicates a net profit of £127,500, or more than double that of 1920-21—when, however, the depreciation allowance was on a more liberal scale. This substantial improvement in earnings, notwithstanding a shrinkage of nearly £10 in the average price of copper, is attributable to the measures taken by the directors to meet the abnormal conditions prevailing. For example, a change in smelting procedure enabled the copper output to be slightly increased concurrently with a material reduction in the staff; and it is announced that certain additions to the plant, due to be completed by the end of February, will permit the production to be maintained on a considerably lower grade of ore than that mined last year—6.87 per cent. From this the conclusion may be drawn that the value of the material treated was above the average of the reserves—a process which, of course, if persisted in, looks ominous. This inference is confirmed by the remark that "unless the price improves, operations cannot be expected to yield satisfactory profits on average grade ore, even when plant alterations are completed, unless there are further reductions in the cost of labour and supplies." At 993,800 tons the reserves of ore in the North Lyell show a small reduction, albeit representing about 10 years' supply; the lower grade Mount Lyell mine has been shut down for some time past. The company's chemical business is making good progress, assisted by Federal duties on imported sulphur. At £652,700 the surplus cash assets are £182,200 up on the year. The dividend of 1s per share, payable in December, will only call for about half the past year's profits.

India Rubber, Gutta Percha's Results.—Yet another year of adverse trading has been experienced by India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Company, Limited. In its latest accounts for the year ended August 31, 1922, a loss of £94,406 was sustained. The directors state that the two main causes of this loss are foreign competition. To cover the loss on the year's trading £75,000 was drawn from reserves, and that fund is now reduced to £140,722, as against an accumulation of reserves amounting to £565,726 in 1920. The following table shows the progress of the company since 1913:—

	September 30.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.*	1922.*
Gross profit ..	£	176,855	101,964	207,117	388,127	357,768	359,349	Dr 149,640	166,490
General exs. ...	£	82,435	78,814	82,001	134,773	147,666	204,790	205,907	193,075
Ine.-tax, direc- tors' fees, &c.	£	3,008	2,115	4,503	44,956	72,257	32,370	40,632	10,150
Depreciation ..	£	23,861	23,957	24,199	44,807	44,931	28,489	30,949	37,671
Deb. interest ..	£	16,000	16,000	16,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	18,333	20,000
Net profit	£	50,551	Dr 28,922	80,406	143,589	71,913	73,300	Dr 44,541	Dr 9,140
Balance frwd.	£	5,904	7,455	1,032	59,865	90,955	100,368	142,418	35,496
From reserve ..	£	..	..	..	..	..	..	350,000	75,000
Available for dividends	£	57,455	Dr 14,607	81,438	203,455	162,868	173,668	46,957	119,496
Reserve	£	..	..	..	50,000	..	..	..	..
Staff fund	£	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	11,459	12,500
Pref. dividend ..	£	37,500	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	..	..
Ord. dividend ..	£	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Applied to loss ..	£	7,455	1,033	18,938	90,955	100,368	142,418	35,496	94,406
Carry forward ..	£	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,582

* To August 31.

We expressed the hope a year ago that this old-established concern would speedily return to its well-deserved pre-war prosperity. As far as the present balance-sheet goes it brings us a little nearer to more normal conditions. Creditors, including bankers, amount to £553,391, as against £573,485 for 1920-21, while debtors are £276,605 as against £244,614. Total assets are down from £2,224,806 to £2,097,784. Other details in the balance-sheet will be found analysed in our usual column. Although not a pleasant trading record, these accounts at least are frank and informative.

Joshua Hoyle.—In presenting the report and accounts of Joshua Hoyle and Sons, Limited, for the year ended September 30, 1922, the directors take occasion to refer to the "period of great difficulty in the cotton trade." They state that "the company has incurred heavy losses in writing down goods not taken up by customers to whom they had been sold. Lack of demand has also made it difficult to keep the mills running, and goods have been largely made for stock." It will be noticed, the directors add, "that the stock on hand, although taken at or below the market price, is in the aggregate considerably in excess of the stock 12 months ago," and that "as soon as there is a reasonable demand there will be no difficulty in disposing of the whole of this stock." The net result of the year's working is a profit of £58,166, as against £108,837 for the previous year, but when it is considered that the paid-up share capital is £1,800,000, and that total assets amount to £4,338,522, this can hardly be looked upon with any considerable degree of satisfaction. Of course, the heavy drop in profits is mainly accounted for by charges on the £1,500,000 of debentures issued last year. These alone absorbed £58,166. The subsidiary companies have now been liquidated; in consequence, a comparison of assets with those given in the previous accounts is of little value. The exceptions are stock-in-trade, which has increased from £1,053,600 to £1,463,712, and accounts owing and cash in hand, which have fallen from £831,525 to £802,696. We can see no useful purpose served by including debts due to the company, together with cash in hand, as one item. Here is surely a case where a little more information might be offered to shareholders. A dividend of 2½ per cent. has already been paid on the ordinary shares, and the report is silent as to any intention to pay a further dividend.

Japanese Trade and Finance.—Cabled advices from Tokyo relating to financial and trade conditions in Japan during the first half of November record an easier tendency in the money market towards the close of that period. This increased ease is attributed to two facts—firstly, that the bank's preparations for end of the year accommodation are well in hand, and, secondly, to anticipation that the favourable movement in the foreign trade balance, due to all round dearthness in imports, and increases in silk exports, will be maintained. Day-to-day money was quoted at 4½ per cent., while loans running over the end of the year were done at about 8½ per cent. The commodity markets and stock markets show little change, on the whole, but Government bonds have been in good demand, owing to the curtailment of expenditure, and the re-establishment of the sinking fund, which is provided for in the budget. The second estimate of the rice crop is 2 million koku lower than the first at 60 million koku, but the rice market for future delivery remained inactive, a further decline in quotations being generally expected. It is reported that a general meeting of the shareholders of the Imperial Silk Company will be held on December 1st to discuss liquidation of the company, and the disposal of its profits. On November 15th the note issue of the Bank of Japan was 1,063 million yen, as compared with 1,112 million yen at the corresponding date in 1921, while discounts and advances at 189 million yen compare with 78 million yen a year ago. Japanese imports in October were 105 million yen, and exports 161 million yen, compared with 130 million yen for imports and 111 million yen for exports in October, 1921. The Bank of Japan's index number of wholesale prices in Tokyo in October was 252, as against 289 a year ago.

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—SERIOUS CAR SHORTAGE—ELECTION RESULTS—TRADE OUTLOOK—SHARP RISE IN COMMODITY PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 13.

SEVERAL weeks ago fears were expressed that a very serious car shortage would develop later in the season. What was then considered a possibility is now a reality. At present this country is experiencing the worst car shortage ever known. The latest report issued by the car service division of the American Railway Association shows that on October 30 there was a total shortage of 179,239 cars, a new high record in American railroad history. That figure represents an increase of 12,890 over the preceding week, and compares with 146,070, the previous high record reached in September of 1920. The shortage is being felt particularly in the North-West; the situation there is said to be most acute, and railway officials declare that unless immediate action is taken to expedite the return from eastern carriers of box and refrigerator cars, there will be actual suffering in that region. Railroad offices in that section are being flooded with requests from farmers for cars to move their grain, potatoes, fruits, and other crops, and instances are cited where farmers have driven long distances to the nearest station or elevator, only to find it filled, and many loaded wagons and trucks ahead of them, awaiting shipment. An order recently given to eastern lines to observe the interchange rules, and to return freight cars to the North-West promptly, has not afforded much relief. A request has now been made to have a daily apportionment of cars sent to that region, regardless of their ownership. The carriers in the North-West are evidently powerless to supply their freight car needs, and cold weather is adding to the gravity of the situation. The car shortage in other sections of the country is also rapidly increasing. Much concern is felt over this development, because if the shortage continues it is bound to cause a material slowing down in trade and industry generally.

The result of last Tuesday's election has had no immediate effect upon financial markets, or upon business generally. Everyone was quite prepared to see some political reaction from the Republican landslide of two years ago. The only surprise felt over the actual outcome of the voting was the extent of that reaction. What the ultimate effect of the Democratic victory may be is another matter. Some observers believe that it foreshadows attempts to put through new legislation of a more or less radical nature, which may have an unsettling effect upon trade and finance. There is already talk that efforts will be renewed to secure the enactment of a soldiers' bonus Bill, which was passed at the last session of Congress, but vetoed by President Harding. Another Bill would doubtless meet the same fate, but with the Republican majorities in Congress greatly reduced, it is not at all certain that such a measure would not be passed over the President's veto. In some quarters the outcome of the election is taken as an indication that another and downward revision of the tariff may be attempted. That, however, is regarded by conservative interests as a remote possibility. There is widespread dissatisfaction over the extremely high tariff recently enacted, and it apparently found expression at the polls last Tuesday. But there seems little, if any, likelihood that the whole tariff question will be reopened during the life of the present administration. According to Washington advices, several important tax revision Bills will probably be introduced in Congress, and will stand a much better chance of passage than heretofore because of the heavy reduction in the Republican majorities in both the House and Senate. The measures now being talked about include an impost on the undistributed surpluses of corporations, re-enactment of the excess profits tax in modified form, increased inheritance taxes on a graduated scale, and a tax on gifts in order to reach wealthy interests who may seek to avoid payment of high surtaxes by making gifts of money to relatives or friends. In so far as the election may have

reflected popular protest against high prices, merchants generally would not be surprised to see stronger resistance than heretofore on the part of buyers to the upward trend of values, especially in textiles, which have been advancing sharply in recent weeks, owing to the steadily rising tendency of such raw materials as cotton, wool, and silk. Manufacturers of all kinds of textiles have been compelled to raise their prices greatly on all goods offered for later delivery. The advances have not yet reached ultimate consumers, and probably will not for some time; but in manufacturing and jobbing circles considerable anxiety is beginning to be felt as to what the public's response will be to the higher prices which retailers must ask. That applies particularly to dry goods, but much the same situation exists in other lines of trade where prices have been advanced considerably in the past few months.

During October commodity prices made another surge upward. *Bradstreet's* index number at November 1st is \$13,3482, and shows a gain of 6.7 per cent. over October 1st, of 17.5 per cent. over November 1st a year ago, and of 25.7 per cent. over June 1, 1921, when the lowest point in recent years was touched. As compared with February 1, 1920, the present index number is 36 per cent. lower, but it is 53.2 per cent. above that of August 1, 1914. The percentage of advance last month was the heaviest since prices began to rise in the early summer of last year. Only one group, coal and coke, did not share in the upward trend, and exceptional strength was shown in textiles, provisions, hides and leather, and chemicals.

FRANCE. — BUDGET DEBATE—INCOME-TAX DIFFICULTIES—LAUSANNE AND EUROPEAN PROBLEMS—PRICES—THE FRANC FALL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 22.

The general discussion of the Budget was brought to a conclusion during the first half of last week by a vote of 429 against 164, and the Chamber has since been busily engaged in disposing of the various departmental estimates. At the time of writing the Budgets for the departments of Justice, Commerce, Pensions, Agriculture, and Public Works are among those that have been dealt with, and there now seems a good prospect that the Bill will be voted by both Houses before the year is actually out. The only real rock in the Finance Minister's road to this happy consummation is the menacing one that faces his proposals for reducing the enormous deficit disclosed by his original estimates. M. de Lasteyrie appeared before the Finance Commission of the Chamber on Monday to reply to inquiries as to the manner in which he proposes to meet the present difficult situation, and it must be confessed that his latest proposals do not promise to prove any more acceptable to the country than did his previous ones. It has long been notorious that an appreciable portion of the national wealth which is invested in bonds and other transferable securities escapes its proper share of taxation owing to the impossibility of tracing the holders. This is rendered all the more easy owing to the fact that practically the whole of the investment securities in this country take the form of bearer bonds and similar instruments, which, unlike the registered stocks and shares that are general in Great Britain, do not require inscription in the name of their owners and are not subject to transfer fees and formalities.

The French Treasury authorities have long cast covetous eyes on this possible source of additional revenue, but have been unable, so far, to formulate acceptable proposals to enable them to lay hands on it. Some time ago M. de Lasteyrie brought forward proposals for the compulsory declaration of their securities by all holders of stocks, bonds, and other similar interest-bearing instruments, and for the disclosure by banks, notaries, and others in a trustee capacity of the names of the owners of all securities deposited with them for safe custody and other purposes. It is not surprising, in view of the intense hatred in this country of all inquisitorial methods on the part of the revenue authorities, that the proposals were received with such a clamour of protest

that they were hastily dropped. M. de Lasteyrie on Monday, however, returned to the charge with a statement to the effect that he is considering fresh proposals with a view to instituting "a régime of nominative securities" (designed, to put it briefly, to bring about the replacement of bearer bonds by securities that will require registration in the names of their holders), and that he also intends to formulate proposals for the institution of what is known as the "carnet de coupons" (which appears to be a device that would enable the revenue authorities to trace the owners of all interest-bearing securities from information obtained when dividends are paid). Other proposals to be put forward shortly by the Finance Minister concern the method by which he proposes to control income-tax declarations in future by taking into account the "external signs" of his income that are disclosed by the assessable person. It is notorious that, in this country, where wealth is better distributed than in any other, many persons under-declare their incomes, while many others make no declarations at all, and thereby escape the payment of this impost. Colourable evidence of these facts was given in this column some months ago, when it was shown that the number of owners of touring motor-cars in France is greater than the total number of persons assessed for income-tax. Apparently the Finance Minister's intention is to adopt a policy under which possession of a motor-car, for instance, will be regarded as an "external sign" that its owner is at least in a position to pay income-tax, as well as the annual duty imposed in respect of the car.

Unofficial estimates indicate that the Finance Minister's new proposals, as foreshadowed above, may be expected (if adopted) to produce additional revenue to the amount of some 1,200,000,000 of a year. Already, however, it is evident that considerable opposition will be offered to some of them. Thus the *Temps*, commenting on the proposed "carnet de coupons," asks whether the Minister suggests that "French and foreign securities shall no longer give a direct right to the payment of the coupons attached to them," and whether such instruments are in future to be burdened with "a kind of legal mortgage, if we may so call it, for the benefit of the revenue authorities." The *Temps* warns M. de Lasteyrie "not to make the mistake of thinking he will thus obtain new resources for the Budget, for he will be erecting, in fact, *une fiscalité de ruine*." New resources must be found, however, and there is no doubt the Minister's latest proposals will receive very careful consideration by the nation's elect.

The outstanding feature of the unexpectedly complete agreement that has been reached between the British, French, and Italian Foreign Ministers as a preliminary to the opening of the Lausanne Peace Conference is the favourable effect this renewed co-operation of the three Powers will in all likelihood have on the pending inter-allied financial and economic conference at Brussels. Signor Mussolini's frank and business-like declarations to his British and French colleagues and to the newspaper men at Lausanne as to the attitude which the new Italian Cabinet takes in regard to Germany have had the happiest effect here, and there is at present perhaps greater hope than ever before that practical results, with a view to the economic restoration of Europe, will emerge from the Brussels Conference. M. Loucheur's striking speech in the Chamber, to which I referred recently, has attracted a large amount of attention in this country, and particularly that part of it in which he insisted that "France must take the initiative in a general programme for the reconstitution of Europe." Expressing regret that the reconstruction of Europe first, the reconcheered in the Chamber, M. Loucheur said: "That is a mistake! I am convinced that France and Europe are bound up the one with the other, that the problem must be solved as a whole, and that, if we try to solve it only from the point of view of the relations between France and Germany, we shall fail." "What I ask the French Government," he said, "is to go to Brussels with a broad programme, not only so far as concerns France and Germany—and I insist on that—but a general programme for the reconstruction of Europe, with a plan of appeal to all the nations to supply the funds necessary. Do not let us hesitate to do this; and if France does it, I believe she will be heard!" The manner in which M.

Loucheur's remarks were received was eloquently indicative of the changed attitude which is being taken by French opinion in regard both to the Reparations problem and to the question of European reconstruction. M. Poincaré hastened to seize the opportunity given him by M. Loucheur to insist that it was for the very reason given by the latter that he had asked expressly, during his visit to London, that the Brussels Conference should not be called together unless Poland and all the other States who are debtors to France were included in the invitations.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the suggestion that credit should be extended to Germany by her former enemies and other nations is receiving growing approval here. "One of the highest financial authorities in France," in an article in the *Matin*, that has attracted a good deal of attention, emphasises the facts that "credit alone will restore the world," as "gold is now only a standard without value." He insists that, although France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and other "low change" countries have no available gold, they are nevertheless enormously wealthy, and he urges that Germany should be authorised to issue a gold loan of 75 milliard marks at 5 per cent., guaranteed by all the States of the world, America taking 20 per cent., France and England 15 per cent each, and the other nations the balance. If Germany devoted 65 milliards of this loan as a first payment on account of her reparation debt, and used the balance to buy raw materials, the writer insists she could restore her trade, and the whole world would be placed on its feet again.

The Statistique Générale de la France has now published the index figures for wholesale prices during October, as compared with those of the previous month, which are as follows:—

	September. (Cor- rected.)	October. (Pro- visional.)
General index figure for 45 categories of commodities (base: 100 in 1901-1910)	380.7	390.0
Foodstuffs—		
General index figure for 20 categories	367.9	362.5
Vegetable foodstuffs (8 categories)	334.8	339.3
Animal foods (8 categories)	408.2	402.1
Sugar, coffee, cocoa	353.4	329.9
Raw materials—		
General index figures for 25 categories	391.0	412.0
Minerals and metals (7 categories)	334.4	370.7
Textiles (6 categories)	489.6	521.4
Various (12 categories)	374.8	381.4

The index figure for the retail price of thirteen categories of foodstuffs in Paris is returned as 3120 for October (or 190 per cent. increase on 1914), as compared with 3131 (or 191 per cent. increase on 1914) for the previous month.

These figures are likely to show considerable modification in an upward direction for November, in view of the startling fall in the exchange value of the franc that has been registered during the past fortnight. Banking experts here were unanimous in the opinion that this sharp fall in the franc was in no way due to any aggravation in the general situation, but was the result of deliberately organised speculative operations directed, it is openly stated, from London by certain banking interests, not of the highest standing, which had been able to open large credits in some of the banks on this side of the Channel. This has brought about a loss to this country, it is estimated, of over 1,000,000,000, which has fallen primarily on importers of raw materials and foodstuffs, but which will have, of course, to be made good by the French consumer in the form of higher commodity prices. The markets in sugar and coffee, which are largely controlled from London, and in which quotations are made mostly in sterling, have been the most seriously affected. There are loud calls from the newspapers for prosecutions to be instituted against the parties responsible for these speculative operations, but it is difficult to see what can be done in this direction, as the operators in question are alleged to be foreigners carrying on business outside the jurisdiction of the French courts. Inquiries are being made, however, into the affairs of some twenty firms, under the law of 1918, which is still in force, prohibiting the purchase of foreign currency or the export of cash to the amount of over 1,000,000, except by special permit, which must be recorded in the

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDÔME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

books of the banker. The banker being personally liable in the event of any irregularity in his books in this connection, it is believed that the investigation now going on will throw much interesting light on the recent successful attack on the franc.

GERMANY. — CABINET—STABILISATION—FINANCES—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, November 21.

At time of writing the Cuno Cabinet has not been fully formed. Great difficulties have been met with both from the attitude of parties and in the search for suitable ministers. The choice of Herr Cuno as Chancellor has been very well taken, and since the choice was made the exchanges have moved according to the prospects of his success, and are to-day, with the chances of a Cabinet formation good, lower than for some weeks. The dollar at 6,190 marks is only a little more than half its highest quotation. As always, the heaviest mark fall has been followed by a considerable recovery. The plan of a purely "business," "expert," or "non-party" Cabinet has been abandoned, and with good reason, because the difficulties of earlier Cabinets lay not in the party allegiances of Ministers, but in the attitudes and policies of the parties themselves; and under a Parliamentary system these attitudes and policies must cause at least as much trouble for a non-party as for a party Cabinet.

The Cabinet—Herr Cuno's or anyone else's—will not have an easy time. Although the normal obstructiveness of Parliamentarianism is fully experienced in the new Germany, the compensating principle of submission to majority rule, which in old Parliamentary countries ensures a certain smoothness, has not yet taken root, and the greatest threats to Cabinets lie not in the Reichstag, where a Chancellor either has a majority or goes, but in the street, which considers itself entitled to enforce or prevent certain policies even against the will of a Reichstag majority. To this extent a semi-revolutionary condition still prevails. It is proclaimed, and is generally accepted, that Germany cannot be ruled against the Socialists, although the Socialists have always been in a minority; and this party boast more or less represents facts. It is equally hard to govern Germany against the Volkspartei, which is smaller than the Socialist parties; and the Wirth Cabinet fell (apart from its recent blunders) because of its failure in this. Reparations and currency reform were, as they still are, the chief problems, and both are unsolvable without the Volkspartei's co-operation. Apart from considerations of real power, the party has the good argument that the rival labour interest has so far come very well out of the economic struggle caused by the war and Reparations burdens. Labour—if merely because a minimum existence class cannot be pushed below the minimum—has suffered little or nothing from the currency depreciation; whereas industry has been transformed from a profit-earning and producing machine into a mere producing machine, an organisation for the maintenance of manual workers, which pays its way, but does little

more. As a result of this, the former capitalistic industrial leaders have no longer any great interest other than their natural creative instincts in the running of the industrial machine. Capitalism can, therefore, without losing badly, indulge in a tacit strike or in passive resistance, and it is therefore more or less in a position to dictate. Through losing profits it has gained power.

The late Cabinet's plan for stabilising the currency, and the recommendations of the experts, are well taken. The main point—that the Budget can be balanced if only Reparations are postponed—has long been clear, because, even when Reparations were being paid, and when currency depreciation with the resulting price-rises brought ever fresh difficulties, the proportion of expenditure covered by revenue rapidly rose, and had not the new and worst exchange drop taken place, it is more than likely that a Budget balance would have been achieved in the present financial year. Once the currency is stabilised, the price-rise would cease, and the oft-begun, but always interrupted recuperative process of a catching-up of revenue and expenditure would be resumed, and this time continued until equilibrium was reached. The Republic would not only be temporarily rid of Reparations; it would be rid of the greater part of its pre-war military and naval expenditure, and would further be rid of nearly the whole of the war and post-war debt, against the latter State relief being (owing to the expropriation of foreign bondholders, and to the enforced conversion of capitalists into producers) a considerably lighter burden of national impoverishment. By industry, however, stabilisation at around 3,000 marks to the dollar would be opposed. This rate would certainly involve a price fall, because although 3,000 or even lower probably represents the mark's home buying power, stabilisation on that basis would bring down heavily the prices of imported materials which, experience shows, dominate the whole price level, and would produce at least a temporary general price-fall, injuring the home selling market. In general, industry stands for stabilisation at about the level of the time of stabilisation, without regard to the mark's buying power at home. If the stabilisation rate was lower than the buying power, a gradual price rise would restore equilibrium.

Although the drop in the mark has for the moment ceased, the price level conditioned by the earlier drop has not yet been reached; prices are still rapidly upward, and as a result, the inflation involved by the whole process is far from being completed. The Reichsbank statement for the 15th showed the greatest recorded increase in circulation, 65,068 millions to 582,105 millions, against the mere 95,186 millions in circulation in the same week of last year. Commercial bills rose by 49,006 millions to 174,883 millions, and Treasury bills by 67,444 millions to 578,939 millions. In the first ten days of November the Floating Debt of discounted Treasury bills increased by 60,268 millions to 663,901 millions. Of the increase 22,644 millions were for fulfilment of the Peace Treaty, the cost of this item since the beginning of the financial year (April 1st) being 109,033 millions, as against 172,922 millions taxation received. With 391,966 millions realised by Floating Debt operations and 2,749 millions from the Forced Loan, revenue totalled 567,638 millions, balancing expenditure of the same amount, of which 457,525 millions were general administration, 3,954 millions service of Funded Debt, 19,817 millions for Floating Debt, and 86,342 millions for Posts and Telegraphs. That service of debt, as calculation shows, accounted for only 1-24th of all expenditure, and shows how the State finances have been relieved by the currency depreciation. Railway freight rates on the first of this month averaged 672-fold those of peace time. They are, therefore, in gold, very low, and are well below the commodities price level, which on the same date was 945-fold up. Since November, 1921, when the last preceding heavy mark fall terminated, the railway department has professed to stand for automatic raising of freight rates in accord with the price rise, but it has not carried this out, and the railway accounts for the second half of 1922 will, unlike those of the first half, show a heavy deficit. Passenger fares are still ludicrously low; a first-class

railway ticket from Berlin to Dresden, distance 180 kilometres, costs the same price as two sandwiches at a London railway station. The annual income limit for social insurance has been raised to 840,000 marks. The law against unauthorised export of capital is being amended. The new Bill enacts that permission to export may be withdrawn from firms which are caught leaving the proceeds abroad with intent to keep it out of Germany.

Stocks last week had a moderate rise, the *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for industrials showing 302,901 against 287,326, but the high point of November 3rd has not been again reached. The Bourse was closed to-day. Yesterday War Loan was 80.80, having lately risen above the fixed minimum quotation of 77.50, at which it was held for years, Federal Fours 350, 3½ 250, Threes 850, Colonial Fours 670, Savings and Premium Loan 155. The State loans are now mostly well above the levels of the last years, but have not risen as much as Federals, Prussian Threes being highest at 280, Bavarian Fours 175, Hamburg State Rente 170, Prussian Four Consols 150.50. Municipal bonds, in which foreigners, especially Americans, speculated heavily in 1920, have not shared in the rise at all, so that the holders have felt the full weight of the mark exchange depreciation, and since May, 1920, have lost all but 1-200th of their investments. The stock market heard with interest that the important Otto Wolff concern, which embraces also the Phoenix Company and the Vander Zypen Company, has formed an alliance with the Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Ges. (Rathenau Company), which in turn is allied with Krupps, with the Gutehoffnung Iron Company, and with the Deutsche Werft shipbuilding concern. Herr Wolff has been taken on to the control board of the A.E.G. The Wolff concern now rivals in magnitude the Stinnes Electro-Metal concern, and has the same scope of interests.

Ruhr coal production in October was 8,277,126 met. tons, the best figure since March, while the per diem output was the best since February, 1921, when the extra shift system was abandoned. Imports of English coal in September were 1,060,086 tons, in January-September 6,182,086 tons, of value 115,480,293 gold marks, or, as estimated, 18,811,000,000 paper marks. There are further slight signs of declining industrial activity, but of the heavy iron and steel industry Privy Councillor Kloeckner, head of the Kloeckner concern, gives a good account, stating that his company has orders until the spring.

CANADA.—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—MOVEMENT OF THE WESTERN CROP—TRAFFIC CONGESTION—SETTLEMENT OF THE CATTLE EMBARGO ANNOUNCED—FEDERAL REVENUES SATISFACTORY—THE PROJECTED IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, November 6.

CANADA has been favoured with a remarkably fine autumn, and the mild and open weather now prevailing contains no threat of the immediate advent of winter. Not only has the harvest been garnered with comparative ease, but farmers have been enabled to work steadily on the land at their pre-mildness of the weather. On the other hand, the because the public usually postpones its purchases of winter clothing and other seasonal requirements till the west and from Toronto and other Ontario points, agree not so good as was hoped for a month ago. In Montreal, retailers report improved business in all directions, and in the maritime provinces business is reasonably good. The ports of Halifax and St John are preparing for the transference of ocean-going traffic from Montreal to themselves, and the Cape Breton industrial area is beginning to recover from the recent industrial disturbances.

The western wheat crop is grading very well, for up till October 28th 63 per cent. of the total receipts of wheat had been graded at No. 1 Northern or better, and there is a further high percentage of No. 2 Northern. On that

date the C.P.R. had moved eastward from Winnipeg 64,655,500 bushels, and the Canadian National system 62,475,000 bushels. But just as the time when the crop movement is at its peak a most disconcerting traffic congestion has developed on the Great Lakes. Normally more than half of Western Canada's wheat export reaches the seaboard at American ports *via* Buffalo, while large quantities of American grain go out *via* Montreal, but this year, owing to the railway and coal strikes in the United States, there had been piled up at American depots a vast accumulation of traffic which had a claim for priority in movement. An acute shortage developed not only in freight cars, but in shipping space on the inland waterways. Canadian exporters of grain complain that Canadian shipowners have been shamelessly cancelling charters out of Fort William at low rates in order to take advantage of the enormously high rates available at American ports. They have demanded a suspension of the Canadian coasting laws, which reserve traffic between the inland ports of Canada for vessels of Canadian registry, but the Minister of Trade and Commerce, after threatening to do this, has left for Australia without taking any action, and it is charged that the influence of Montreal shipping interests has proved too powerful at Ottawa. But, strangely enough, while the Canadian exporters are complaining that their ships are being diverted to American ports, the American Farm Bureau Federation has applied to the Inter-State Commerce Commission for an embargo on Canadian wheat, which is claimed to be monopolising lake boats and eastern elevators and railways. Not only at Buffalo, the pivotal point, but at Baltimore and Philadelphia, the elevators are jammed with grain. Almost half the grain in the Buffalo elevators to-day is of Canadian origin, and Winnipeg exporters, who have arranged for further large export shipments *via* the same route, declare that an embargo by the American Government would paralyse the grain trade for the time being and cause a steep depression in prices. Even as things are, the *Financial Post* calculates that increased lake freight rates have on 55 million bushels of wheat moved to the seaboard from Western Canada up to date cost the farmers over 3 million dollars, and will soon wipe out all the 8 million dollars of savings which was to come to them from the decrease in railway freight rates. Under almost parallel conditions the Borden Government suspended the coasting laws in 1912 and 1913, and if the King Government continues to allow the shipping rings to appropriate calmly all that the western farmer hoped to save from the maw of the railways, it may expect little co-operation from the Progressive party at the forthcoming session. But the whole situation demonstrates the interdependence in transport and other matters of Canada and the United States, and sooner or later there will have to be reached between them a new and comprehensive agreement covering their economic and transport relations. The present traffic congestion has given an enormous impetus to the demand for the construction of the St Lawrence deep waterway, and propaganda in support of it is making steady headway in Western Canada.

Mr Motherwell, the Minister of Agriculture, has now announced the settlement arrived at with the British authorities in regard to the cattle embargo. Canadian store cattle are to be admitted admitted under the following conditions: Shipments be from Canadian ports only, and direct to Britain. For three days immediately before shipment and during the ocean voyage, these store cattle shall be kept separate from other animals, and periodically examined by Canadian veterinary officers, who will certify their freedom from certain diseases. The animals shall be landed at specified ports, and be examined by British veterinary officers, and other regulations about their movement from the ports are laid down. But apparently the British authorities have insisted upon a *quid pro quo*, which it may be very difficult for the Canadian Government to carry out, and there is a suspicion that the embargo controversy may not yet be at an end.

The Federal revenues continue to make a very satisfactory showing. The Customs revenues are increasing, and at the end of September the returns from income and kindred direct taxes were already in excess of the esti-

mates for the whole financial year, which has still five months to run. The sales tax is producing a lot of revenue, but its effect in maintaining prices in many lines of goods cannot be denied, and it is still objected to as a most unfair tax upon the consumer. Mr Fielding is busy in Paris with his negotiations for a new commercial treaty with France. The prevalence of prohibition in seven Canadian provinces, however, reduces the value of any special concessions to French wines, and, on the other hand, the agricultural Protectionists of France are not willing to allow liberal rights of ingress to Canada's agricultural products.

Mr Bonar Law's plans for an Imperial Economic Conference have not aroused any enthusiastic response in Canada, and it is hard to discern what could be achieved by it under the existing circumstances. The Dominion representatives would doubtless produce for the enlightenment of their British brethren impressive data about the natural resources and trade possibilities of their respective countries. But it is doubtful if they could add much to the vast volume of such data already available in the reports of the Dominions Royal Commission, which was set up in 1911 on the instigation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and held sittings right on into the war years in every quarter of the Commonwealth. The facts of the situation are reasonably well known, and what Mr Law obviously means is an investigation of the possibilities of closer trade co-operation, though he wisely refrains from any mention of the words "Imperial Preference." But just as he himself is not in a position to champion an extension of food taxes, which alone could offer a possibility for further preferences of any real value to the self-governing Dominions, likewise few of the Dominion Governments are in a position to make further concessions to British goods. Certainly, the King Government here would meet with fierce opposition from its strongly Protectionist wing in Quebec. In this province industrialism has taken a firm foothold, and its manufacturers being near tide-water are exposed to and dread British competition more than American. Proposals might be made for some central Imperial Board, which would supervise and assist the development of the natural resources of the overseas Commonwealth. But it will be remembered that plans laid before the League of Nations for a system of pooling the supplies of raw material held by its members met with resolute opposition from the delegates of our Dominions, and there is no likelihood that a parallel suggestion from London would be any more popular. Such problems as shipping facilities and rates, an Imperial wireless chain, and immigration might be profitably discussed by this economic Conference, but the impression prevails that Mr Law is beginning at the wrong end.

SWEDEN.—SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN—THE MATCH ISSUE—LABOUR CONDITIONS—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, November 21.

A THOROUGH consolidation in the banking world has taken place here in regard to the A. B. Svenska Handelsbanken. This bank ranks amongst the three or four largest in the country, and particularly in regard to foreign transactions, occupies a leading position. At the same time, it has, undoubtedly, during recent years, greatly developed its internal organisation. But it is not surprising to learn that a bank, with such extensive ramifications as the Svenska Handelsbanken, has sustained heavy losses during the present crisis, losses which it has proved impossible to overcome without drastic measures. About half of the losses are due to financing company promotions, and the other half has been lost on industrial undertakings. A trade and holding concern, the Emissionsbolaget, which was closely attached to the bank, was severely hit by the general depression, and has caused the bank heavy losses. The board announces that it is necessary in the first hand to write off 95 million crowns, and then to put aside 20 million crowns to a del credere fund. The capital, however, remains untouched, besides which 20 million

crowns are left for a reserve fund. In order to get a more even proportion between capital and deposits, fresh capital of 40 million crowns will be subscribed by the shareholders in the form of bonds, which will be paid back after 15 years at par, or, if earlier, at a premium. The annual dividend on these bonds will be 7 per cent. They can be mortgaged at par in some of the leading banks, and they have been in very great demand. For this year no further dividend besides the 5 per cent. already obtained will be given, but the board expects that with 1923 the bank will be able to pay dividends regularly. The net profit for this year is estimated to not less than 25 million crowns, but this money will be used for the consolidation business. Criticism has been heard to the effect that the board has carried out the consolidation business too severely, but the board has considered it better to make a thorough clearance of all losses made and of uncertain engagements, but it is, however, expected that some of the money now counted upon as lost, and included in the depreciations, might be returned. Naturally, the shares have been quoted at low prices on the Exchange, the lowest being 83 crowns, but it has since recovered to 106 crowns.

An interesting event is the Swedish Matchmaking concern's new issue of shares, amounting to 45 million crowns, the company thus doubling their stock capital, which will amount to 90 million crowns. The present reserve fund is 63 million crowns. The new shares will be issued at 120 per cent., i.e., 120 crowns, of which 20 per cent. will be transferred to the reserve fund, which will then amount to 72 million crowns. The most interesting feature for the English public is that 40 per cent. of the new issue, or 180,000 shares, this being the limit of shares, which, owing to the statutes of the company, can be acquired by foreigners, will be sold in England through the intermediary of Messrs Higginson and Co. Negotiations have been carried on in order to get the shares introduced on the Stock Exchange in London. The Swedish matchmaking industry is one of the foremost industries in Sweden, and Swedish matches are known all over the world. During the war it was difficult to keep the market in some parts of the world, especially in the East, where Japan proved a severe competitor. Now, however, the old markets have been regained, as indicated by the figures of exports during the past year; for the third quarter of this year exports of matches were 2 per cent. greater than in the corresponding period of 1913.

The lock-out warning from the ironworks, mentioned in my last letter, has been withdrawn, as the strikes going on at some of the works were settled. In general, the labour market is peaceful. There is some trouble among the timber cutters, which has blockaded the timber cutting in certain districts in the North, but what practical consequences this might prove to have is difficult to assess yet. The number of unemployed, which for September 30th were estimated at 35,100, is now increasing day by day, which, of course, is due to the season. In the building trade, however, there is great activity, and in this special trade skilled labour is difficult to obtain. Owing to the activity in the building line, some scarcity of bricks has been found, and the brick factories immediately seized the chance to raise prices to what is said to be a quite unreasonable extent. Now, however, they have been greatly offended by purchases which have been made from Germany for some official building purposes, owing to the more favourable prices thus obtained. The weather has been unusually mild for the season, except for a short period in the beginning of November, when there was some cold weather in the North, which seemed threatening for shipping.

The preliminary figures for our foreign trade during September show an export surplus of 13.7 million crowns, the total import for this month being 108.90 million crowns, and the export 122.63 million crowns. For the first nine months of this year the total value of the imports is 824.20 million crowns, and of exports 782.71, thus showing an import surplus of only 41.49 million crowns, compared with an imports surplus for the same period last year of 171.40 million crowns, the import then being 958.22 million crowns, and the export 786.82 million crowns.

DENMARK. — COMMODITY PRICES — BANKING — DEVIATION AND BALANCE OF TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, November 15.

THE question of the level of prices still commands much public attention. Lately the wholesale prices have apparently had an upward tendency. The price index number of the *Finanstidende* shows the figure of 180 at the end of October against 176 at the end of the previous month, and 178 at the end of 1921. There is, however, hardly any inclination to count upon a permanent rise of the level of prices. A certain settling down is more probable, although it should not be overlooked that the unfavourable rates of exchange, which have prevailed lately, may leave their mark in the shape of somewhat higher wholesale prices. It is, however, not believed that the rise in the Foreign Exchange quotations will be of any long duration. In the course of the autumn months, foreign countries have withdrawn some credit balances, but the principal reason for the rise in the rates of exchange is presumably the normal seasonal purchase of overseas produce, particularly of commodities for agricultural use.

It is difficult to express any definite opinion with regard to the retail prices. There are certain indications of an increase in the purchasing power in several parts of the country, but on the other hand, the demand is attended by the absolute insistence upon low prices. The consumers are very categorical in this respect, and their demand for the reduction of profits is supported by the Government. Lately the Home Secretary stated his intention of introducing a Bill to counteract existing price agreements. The commercial organisations, however, are apparently making rather considerable efforts to prevail upon their members to maintain the policy of reasonable prices, and accordingly a number of reductions have taken place.

With regard to the banking world, the public is now completely reassured. The confidence in the financial institutions of the country may be said to be re-established and the co-operation between the banks and the public is again normal. The period of unrest, which attended the reconstruction of the Landmandsbank, and which was then unavoidable, has had no lasting effects on economic life. On the contrary, there is perhaps more confidence in the banks now than there was before, as it is understood that a strengthening has taken place during the reconstruction.

Some of the banks are now inconvenienced by very considerable new deposits. This is, for instance, the case with Handelsbanken, who for this reason have reduced the rate of interest for deposits on one to three months' notice of withdrawal from 4 to 3½ per cent. per annum as from the 15th inst. On October 31st the bank had cash in hand amounting to Kr.87,000,000, and the reduction of the deposit interest is due to the difficulty of investing balances to good advantage under the present conditions.

The note circulation of the National Bank again increased at the beginning of November, but has subsequently declined, the circulation on November 11th amounting to Kr.439,700,000. At the same time, the bullion reserve amounted to 53 per cent. of the note circulation, while present the bullion reserve consists of Kr.228,300,000, other small change. One of the managers of the National Bank, Mr Marcus Rubin, has handed in his resignation as from April 1, 1923, owing to illness. Mr Rubin has been a manager of the National Bank since 1913. The appointment of a new manager will presumably take place in December.

The Statistical Department has now published a review of Denmark's foreign trade in 1921, as distributed between

various countries. I append the following figures for imports:—

	(In Million Kroners.)			
	1913.	1920.	1921.	
From England	135	888	302	
" Germany	328	532	461	
" U.S.A.	87	754	343	
Total imports from all countries	855	3,234	1,692	

As will appear from this summary, Germany was again in 1921 the country from which the greatest part of our imports originated, although the predominance is less pronounced than before the war. In 1919 and 1920 the value of the imports from England, as well as those from the United States, considerably exceeded the value of the imports from Germany. The relative increase in the imports from Germany is partly due to the exchange conditions, which in 1921 stimulated the import from Germany of a number of manufactured articles, and partly to the fact that the pre-war practice of purchasing overseas commodities in Hamburg and other places was partially resumed in 1921. The following are the figures for exports of Danish goods:—

	(In Million Kroners.)			
	1913.	1920.	1921.	
To England.....	398	654	819	
" Germany	159	261	185	
" Sweden	15	200	88	
Total exports to all countries	637	1,591	1,408	

After the war England had already in 1920 become once more the principal buyer of our agricultural produce, and during 1921 she increased her share in our exports to nearly three-fifths of the total value, or very nearly the same proportion as before the war. On the other hand, Germany's share was reduced to one-eighth only as against one-fourth before the war, this being due to the continually decreasing purchasing power in Germany. The commercial statistics for the present year have been completed up to the end of September. Although the balance of trade is still against Denmark, the difference between the imports and exports was rather insignificant in September, and there is some hope that the export improvement, which has taken place, may not be a mere phase. The favourable changes in the balance of trade are due to an increase of the exports from Kr.90,000,000 to Kr.121,000,000, the imports in the said month having been reduced only from Kr.135,000,000 to Kr.134,000,000. For the entire period January 1st to October 1st the total imports were Kr.1,086,000,000, while the exports amounted to Kr.889,000,000, of which Kr.40,000,000 represents re-exports of foreign goods.

NORWAY.—THE BANKING POSITION—TRADE—MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, November 4.

A NUMBER of the minor banks found themselves in difficulties more than a year ago, and they were either absorbed by bigger banks or able to secure fresh capital, or somehow managed to get over their difficulties, while a few were liquidated or had to be compulsorily wound up. It was thought, however, that the ample means of the bigger banks would secure them against difficulties. This has, however, not proved to be the case. It will be remembered that early this year the Centralbanken for Norge—doing, perhaps, the most extensive business of them all—found itself short of liquid capital. By seasonable aid from the Bank of Norway and other banks fresh capital was secured, and the Centralbanken has been able to go quietly on, some alterations having also been made in the staff of managers. A few weeks ago, the shares of another of our biggest banks—Andresens Bank and Bergens Kreditbank, of this city and Bergen—began to fall ominously, rumours having got abroad that the bank had sustained heavy losses. This went on so rapidly and to such an extent that the shares, the face value of which is 250 kr, which were on October 1st quoted at 222 kr, were

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

by the middle of the month sold at 90 kr. Under these circumstances, the bank applied to the Bank of Norway and to the Government. Prompt action followed; the Bank of Norway, the Finance Minister, and four of the biggest banks investigated the affairs of the bank, and thereupon supplied it with 50 million kroner, and the Minister published a reassuring communiqué. According to the present arrangement, the share capital will be written down from 70 millions to 28 millions. Altogether 84 millions will be written off. Some change will also be made in the board of management. Of the 50 millions 34 millions are advanced by the Government and 16 millions by the Bank of Norway and the four private banks. The amount is rendered as a loan at 6 per cent., uncalled for the first 10 years, after which 5 millions are to be paid off annually.

As is natural, these events have caused a good deal of nervousness, and there is a general and quite sensible fall in almost all banking shares. Mr Chr. Michelsen, formerly Prime Minister of Norway, and considered as a business man of the highest capacity, has accepted the supreme leadership of the Bergen branch of the above-mentioned bank; this, no doubt, will create a feeling of safety and help recovery.

The turnover at the Christiania Stock Exchange for October was just over 6 million kroner, which is one of the best monthly figures of the year. During September Norway exported goods for a total of about 56 million kroner. Paper, in various forms, ranks first with about 18 million kroner. Next come products of the fisheries, about 12½ millions; then wood, about 5½ millions, &c.

The municipal elections for the greater part of the country have just taken place. Generally, the so-called Communists have made progress, even in the remotest mountain communities. These "Communists" cannot, however, be considered as in any way resembling the ordinarily recognised type of Communist. They are really, for the most part, very peaceful people, who would not think of acting violently; but their main aim probably may be said to try to divert much of taxes and public burdens from their own shoulders to those of their wealthier neighbours. This was the first election since the suffrage was extended to young men and women down to 23 years, which certainly to some extent accounts for the movement to the left.

Unfortunately, the number of unemployed is increasing. On October 10th it was 21,400, and before the end of the month about 23,700. In these figures are not included about 13,000 persons that have "emergency work."

The wholesale price level, according to *Farmand*, during October has fallen from 212.7 to 211.6 (1913 = 100). While some articles, as fuel, have risen, victuals have fallen quite considerably. The cost of living—as far as victuals are concerned—according to the same authority, is now practically just twice what it was before the war.

There has been some improvement in the Norwegian krone, which is partly due to the contraction in America of a Norwegian Government loan for \$17 millions, of which \$5 millions will be used for conversion purposes, the remainder being available for railway building, &c. Further, the Arbitration Court at The Hague, in the dispute between the U.S.A. and Norway, awarded the Norwegian shipowners \$12 millions, which has, of course, helped to strengthen the exchange.

POLAND.—PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS—CROPS—COAL PRODUCTION—NEW CAPITAL—COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, November 17.

THE elections to the Diet were held on Sunday, 5th, and those to the Senate on the 12th of this month. The results which are now known show that neither the Right nor the Left will have a majority in both Houses. The elected members grouped according to parties are distributed as follows:—

	Diet.	Senate.
Christian National Union	163	49
Catholic Popular Party	6	..
Peasant Party of Vitos	70	17
" " Stapiński	2	..
" " Wyzwolenie	49	8
Polish Socialist Party	41	7
National Labour Party	18	2
Communists	2	..
National Minorities (Jews, Germans, Russians)	83	26
Other parties	10	2
Total	444	111

The Christian National Union is a coalition of the principal parties of the Right, among which the National Democrats play the principal rôle. This Union is represented in the Diet by 163 members, which is not a sufficient number for forming a Parliamentary Government. Even with the support of the Catholic Party and the National Labour Party which are leaning towards this Union, the Right cannot command a majority in the Diet. The combined votes of these parties amounted to 187, while for obtaining a majority 223 votes are necessary.

The Peasant and Labour parties are in a similar position. Without the National Labour Party they have 152, and with this party 170 members. In order to form a purely Polish Parliamentary Government it would be necessary to resort to a coalition of the Right and the Left. Judging from the experience in the last Diet, it will be hardly possible to arrive at such an understanding. Probably the Left will resort to the support of the National Minorities, whose influence in the Diet and in the Senate is very strong. The small number of Communists which has been elected is a proof that the Polish working-class, taken as a whole, is adverse to all revolutionary experiments.

The crop statistics which are now being published show very favourable results, as may be seen from the figures set out below:—

CROPS in 1922.	Tons.	Increase in, Comparison with 1921.
Wheat	1,150,000	12.6
Rye	5,133,000	17.6
Barley	1,297,000	4.1
Oats	2,656,000	19.3
Potatoes	33,955,000	96.5
Sugar-beet	2,671,000	136.6

All crops have increased in a marked degree. The quantity of potatoes this year is 96.5 per cent. larger, and of sugar-beet 136.6 per cent. larger than in 1921. This will enable Poland to export a considerable part of its agricultural production. The result of this year's sugar campaign is estimated at 330,000 tons. As the home consumption amounts to 180,000 tons, about 150,000 tons will be available for export.

The statistics of coal production for the first six months of this year show that Poland's industrial production is also rapidly progressing. The output of the Polish mines (without Upper Silesia) amounted during the first half-year to 4,542,000 tons. This is an increase of 912,000 tons, as compared with the same period in 1921. This favourable result was obtained by a settlement of all Labour disputes, by employment of new capital, and by the progress which has been made in the working of the railways. Actually, the Polish coal production has nearly reached the pre-war level. The output in the Dombrova district in the first six months of 1922 was 3,374,600 metric tons, compared with 3,423,800 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1913.

The statistics of new capital issues reveal an interruption in the creation of new undertakings. While during the third quarter of last year 91 new undertakings, with a capital of 4,276 millions, were created, the corresponding figures in 1922 were only 50 and 2,795 millions. The bulk of the new capital issues was used for strengthening existing undertakings. The total of the new capital created was by 1.7 milliards greater this year than in 1921. If we take into consideration the depreciation of the currency which occurred during this period, we arrive at the conclusion that in reality a decrease has taken place.

Poland has up to now concluded commercial treaties with the following countries:—France, Roumania, Switzerland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and Memel. Now negotiations for the signature of a commercial agreement with Hungary have been opened in Warsaw, and similar negotiations are in progress between Poland and Japan. It is expected that Upper Silesian industry will find in the Far East a market for its products. Negotiations with Russia are making no progress. The Polish delegation which intended to discuss in Moscow the principal points of a commercial treaty has postponed its journey, because of the recall of the Russian *chargé d'affaires* from Warsaw. This step has been taken by the Soviets for reasons of diplomatic etiquette. The Russian representative has been hitherto accredited not to Marshall Pilsudski, but to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Bolsheviks sent an ultimatum to the Polish Government asking that their representative should be treated on equal footing with other Ambassadors. As they did not obtain an answer during the stipulated three days Mr Obelenski left Warsaw. The incident will certainly be settled in a short time. The attitude of the Soviet Government is interesting, because it shows what importance the present rulers of Russia attach to bourgeois forms of court etiquette.

ESTHONIA.—EXCHANGE REGULATIONS—COMMERCIAL TREATIES—OIL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

REVAL, November 17.

SINCE October 1st the Stock Exchange here has opened every day, and the Reval Exchange Committee have decided to hold daily meetings with a view to controlling the foreign exchanges. It is hoped here that in this manner the considerable differences and fluctuations which have seriously affected trade will be avoided. This result has certainly been obtained in many cases, but unfortunately not in all.

The Esthonian-Latvian Trade Agreement has been presented to the Latvian Government for examination. The lists of goods to be imported from and exported into Latvia have been drawn up to the satisfaction of both countries, and Mr Wesman, late Latvian Minister at Moscow, will come to Reval with the Director of the Latvian Credit Department in order to complete the formalities concerning this agreement. A Commercial Treaty has also been concluded with Hungary on the basis of the most-favoured nation clause.

Much interest has been shown lately by the Belgians with regard to the oilshale deposits in Esthonia. In addition to their former three concessions, they have been granted a new concession to make experiments over an area of 2,000 acres by the Minister of Trade and Industry. A group of Belgians, with the local Consul at their head, has obtained this concession, and another large consortium of capitalists headed by Mr Fates has also been granted a concession to exploit the Esthonian oilshale fields. This last company has carried on experiments for the last few years, and has now presented its plans to the Government, but the area of the concessions granted is not yet published. The oil distillery erected at the Kohtel oilshale deposits has now been completed, as far as the buildings are concerned, but great anxiety is caused by the delay in the delivery of the machinery, which has been ordered in Germany, and which has not yet reached Reval.

The lack of warehouse space in Reval Harbour becomes more and more noticeable as the shipping season runs on,

and it is evident that unless new warehouses are put up very soon, a considerable portion of the goods arriving will have to be discharged at Baltic Port. All warehouses near the harbour are filled up, and immense quantities of goods are lying on the wharves. There has been a remarkable increase in the export of precious metals during the month of October, as the following table shows:—

	October.	First Nine Months, 1922.
	Marks.	Marks.
Platinum	27,900,900	215,946,523
Gold	15,579,061	65,458,090
Silver	7,498,211	68,379,710
Precious stones	1,493,700	1,178,600
Valuables	483,100	6,081,079
Esthonian currency	..	2,058,192
	52,954,972	359,102,194

A trade agreement with Sweden has been proposed, and the Government here are endeavouring to gather all obtainable information respecting Sweden's treaties with other countries. A sum of 3,000,000 marks has been granted by the Government here to "Aeronaut, Limited," and likewise a subvention of 50 marks per kilom. flown. In return, the company undertakes to carry mails, and to make all extra flights required by the Government. This company possesses six aeroplanes, which will carry 50 passengers each, three of which have been built here and three in Germany. Reval contains at present 125,962 inhabitants, according to the latest estimate, of which 60,826 are men and 65,136 women. Of these, 106,285 are Esthonians, 9,962 Germans, 4,671 Russians, 2,279 Jews, 1,749 Letts, 384 Poles, 87 Tartars, 136 Finns, 68 English, 41 French, 17 Danes, 22 Italians, 15 Americans, and the rest is made up of various nationalities.

Letters to the Editor.

THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF EUROPE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—To deliver Germany over to chaos means condemning sixty million souls to despair. Is there any man capable of forecasting the consequences? The most vital question at the present moment is whether Germany can still be helped, can the threatening chaos be avoided? This question can, in my opinion, be answered in the affirmative, if the situation is tackled with energy. The depreciation of the currency in Germany is, however, assuming such proportions that a total collapse is to be feared at any moment. In this connection it is remarkable that the stock of gold at the Reichsbank is even now at almost the same level as it was on July 31, 1914, in spite of the facts that Germany has lost considerable tracts of territory, its international trade has greatly decreased, and the population has had to learn by bitter experience to live in many respects at a lower standard. If we further take into account that, before 1914, Germany required enormous sums for its army and navy, which are now reduced to a minimum—the standing army has been reduced from 750,000 to 100,000 and the reserves abolished, while the navy has been cut down to a mere nothing—the question necessarily arises as to whether it is not possible to restore the country to the economic condition it occupied before 1913? The currency to-day is practically worthless, and if the present situation continues, it will be absolutely without value even in Germany. Is it not, therefore, better to intervene immediately with radical measures, rather than allow the disease to continue its ravages? Is it not much better to put the paper mark in Germany on a gold basis, and to frame a budget absolutely based on the 1913 figures under severe international control, if needs be, by dismissing some tens of thousands of superfluous civil servants, rather than drive sixty millions to despair? Naturally, since it is more than probable that the value of the paper mark will depreciate still further, the change to a gold basis will have to be effected substantially below the present level. In my opinion, not more than one-fifth of the gold held by the Reichsbank—i.e., 200,000,000 gold marks—should be allocated to the

present obligations of the Reichsbank—viz., all the outstanding paper and deposits. There will thus be 800,000,000 gold marks available for fresh economic life. However drastic this measure may be, it would have the great advantage that the Germans would, at any rate, know how they stand, and feel that they were being given a chance of again taking their place in the economic life of the nations. If the entire German circulation were transvalued in the manner indicated, which would mean under present circumstances that 5,000 paper marks would have to be made equivalent to one gold mark, naturally, from the very nature of the case grave difficulties would arise in various quarters and injustice ensue. There is, however, in my opinion, a way of alleviating this, viz., by forcing those persons who are not affected by this measure, or affected only to a smaller degree, to pay a considerable contribution into the Exchequer.

And now we come to the obligations of Germany due under the Treaty of Versailles. Any reorganisation of Germany's finances on a sound basis, without at the same time liberating the country from the obligations laid on it by the Treaty, is an utter impossibility, as these obligations are so crushing that it would be impossible for Germany, with the best will in the world, to effect the payments involved by the Treaty. As has recently been so correctly expounded by Mr McKenna, a country can only pay the foreigner the balance of its balance of payment. Even a Budget which balances would, consequently, not place the country in a position to pay the enormous obligations to the foreigner under the Treaty. The German State would, in that case, have to continue to purchase foreign bills and currency, so that the exchange rates in Germany itself would continue with an upward tendency. However solvent the purchaser of any article may be, a continuous demand without any offers will always cause a rise. This applies not only to goods, but also to foreign bills and money. Only a credit balance of the German balance of payment would enable her to pay any considerable annual sums to her creditors, but, in view of the fact that Germany has lost a large part of her finest provinces, while even before the war her balance of payment was only just in equilibrium, it is to be feared that, whatever reorganisation may be adopted by Germany, the balance of payment will not, within any reasonable period of time, produce any considerable credit balance.

If I am asked what is to happen in regard to the obligations to France, and whether the latter, which is absolutely dependent on the German indemnity, must be ruined, while a helping hand is extended to Germany, I should reply, "No; measures must be taken to prevent France from suffering this fate." It goes without saying that France, which had enormous tracts wilfully devastated during the war, has a right to as much, if not more, assistance than Germany. There is here a common goal for the whole civilised world. A distinction must be made between the amounts that Germany can pay and those that France needs in order to avoid following the fate of Germany. This is not only of importance to France and her Allies, but it is of supreme importance to the entire world that conditions befitting civilised humanity should again obtain in Europe. Every nation and every individual is suffering from the present position, some to a greater and some to a lesser extent, and it is the duty of all to find a solution. We have not to ask how the position arose, we have only to consider the fact that it exists. We must accept it as a decree of fate, and consult together to see how improvement can be achieved, irrespective of the fact that we are ex-belligerents or ex-neutrals. This, in my opinion, is a task for the League of Nations. It is not for me to go into the question as to whether the existing League is based on right principles. It is, however, the duty of all nations to amend the League in such a way that every obstacle to joining it shall be removed. We must educate the next generation to perceive that just as each individual is a citizen of his own country, all are citizens of the League of Nations. Just as we all have to bear taxation on behalf of our own country, we shall have to learn to bear the burdens of the whole world. And the League of Nations, of which all States should be members, will have to examine the question as to what Germany can pay, and apart from that, what France needs. Once the amount is fixed and the instalments by which it is to be repaid, it will be the

duty of the League to issue a loan in all countries that are members of the League. The loan would, therefore, as a matter of course, be covered by all the nations of the world, and would form an investment security of the first rank. It would be the most international security imaginable, and offer the best guarantee that can possibly be asked for any investment. I quite see that in practically all, if not all, countries radical alterations would have to be made even in the most essential laws before this measure can be adopted. The payments of the debtor States would, naturally, have to be made to the League, so that no difficulties would arise between States regarding settlement of their reciprocal financial obligations. It would be the task of the League to come to an arrangement, whether uniform or not, in order to earmark certain sources for the purpose of covering interest and redemption of its loans. Restrictive regulations would, of course, also have to be framed in regard to the circumstances and conditions on which the League would conclude the loans, and also as regards the means which it would have at its disposal in the case of one or more of the contracting States proving recalcitrant in fulfilling obligations. As concerns the settlement of inter-Allied debts, the present difficulties attached thereto are, in my opinion, also a consequence of endeavours to force theoretical solutions. A practical settlement is a necessity. It appears to me that there should be no doubt to any man of common-sense in England or the United States that neither France, Italy, nor Belgium is in a position to pay their inter-Allied debts. Yet every thinking man knows at the same time that England is in a position to do so *vis-à-vis* the United States. It is incomprehensible that in a country like England, where people are accustomed to look at things from a level-headed point of view, and where they see that public opinion finally triumphs, they cannot, or will not, see that they must renounce their claims on the Allies, whereas they cannot shake off their debt to the United States. In this case, the *beau geste* must come from America, which country does not require collection of its claim on England for its own economic existence, while the payment of interest and redemption will in the long run form an uncertain basis for the rates of exchange between the two countries, and it should consist of the United States relinquishing their claim in favour of the League of Nations in order to help the distressed countries of Europe. Let them, on the other side of the Atlantic, show themselves ready to act. Let everybody who understands the position in Europe now act!

Yours faithfully,
D. BIRNBAUM.

Amsterdam, November 6th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

A PLEA FOR GREATER OUTPUT.*

THIS book is a collection of articles, mostly on financial subjects, which have already been published at various dates from 1912 to 1922. The first four deal with depreciation of investments subsequent to 1896, and are reprinted from the *Economic Journal*. They contain some useful statistics, but might with advantage have been condensed and brought up to date. The remaining articles have appeared in the *Birmingham Post*, and seem to us scarcely to warrant reproduction. Their common note is to emphasise the danger to Great Britain arising from long-continued restriction of output per man. The author repeatedly refers to a statement, made, he says, by the Director of the Census of Production, to the effect that output per head of those employed in the United States was before the war roughly double that of this country, and leaves us to suppose that the difference is due to pure laziness on the part of the British workman. Surely the main reason is the relative plentifulness of natural resources in America, and the relative scarcity of labour which causes the employment of a smaller proportion of labour to natural resources and capital in production there than in this country. Other factors are the less up-to-

* "Britain's Decline. Her Economic Disorder and its only Remedy." By John W. Lea. (Birmingham) Cornish Brothers, Limited. 1s net.

date methods of production in this country (for which the workman is not principally responsible), and the superior workmanship of many classes of British goods, as compared with the corresponding American products. The reasons for increasing national productivity are so strong that it is a pity to have the case unconvincingly argued.

THE RESOURCES OF FINLAND.*

IN 1919 a Finnish Trade Commission visited the United States, England, and other Western countries, and came back convinced that the foreign trade of the new republic would be best promoted by spreading information concerning its resources, products, and needs. The result is this sumptuous quarto volume, issued for distribution through the Consulates, attractively illustrated, and dealing with the geography, history, banking, finance, and exports and imports of the country, its water-power, its currency, its attractions for holiday visitors, its chief industries, and their more prominent captains. Three times the size of Denmark, Holland, and Belgium put together, and slightly larger than the United Kingdom, Finland has a territory of which one-third is marshland—largely, however, reclaimable—and nearly one-eighth is taken up by lakes, which, with their connecting waterways, facilitate internal traffic and the exploitation of the timber which is its chief product, and is the material of its cellulose, paper-pulp, and paper, while numerous rapids provide water power of which little more than one sixty-sixth part is now turned to account. It contains much valuable stone, and probably large deposits of iron-ore; it is increasing its stock of cattle and its trade in dairy products. The State debt of 1,739 million marks is covered by State lands, the railways, and shares in industrial undertakings; its industries are recovering from the blockade and the civil war, and the check to its trade with Russia has led it to seek new markets in Western Europe. It has long been visited by tourists—chiefly Russian—in summer; and it provides winter sports. We cannot guarantee the editor's statistical accuracy; an unfortunate misprint represents the forest lands as exceeding the whole area of the Republic. But the book and its illustrations should attract Western tourists to a new playground, and enable British traders to apprehend the capacities and needs of the country, and to judge of the position of its leading industrial undertakings.

* "Trade and Industry of Finland." (Helsingfors) J. Simelius's Heirs Printing Company, Limited. Large 4to, pp. 746. Illustrated.

THE INTEREST OF THE CONSUMER.*

THE main objects of this book are to emphasise the necessity for studying economics from the point of view of consumption, and to urge consumers to co-operate in protection of their own interests. The author (who is a young Roumanian studying at the University of Paris) criticises the Physiocrats and the English classical economists for laying undue stress upon production, while even some modern economists, he says, refuse to recognise a theory of consumption as a special branch of economics. In an historical section he shows how during the Middle Ages the interest of the consumer received special attention, being safeguarded, for example, by prohibition of forestalling and regrating, and by regulations as to just prices and the quality of goods sold. It was the Industrial Revolution, with the new technical discoveries that accompanied it, which caused attention to time, while rightly emphasising the necessity for sweeping away antiquated restrictions on production, failed to realise the necessity for safeguarding the consumer. The revulsion against this over-stressing of production was led by J. B. Say, Sismondi, and more particularly Fourier; and the author considers that the study of consumption is a special contribution of the French school to the science of economics. Among living French economists M. Charles Gide is the most prominent exponent of the consumer's interest, and it is under his banner that the author of this book has enrolled himself.

* "Le Rôle du Consommateur dans l'Economie Moderne." Georges Z. Strat. (Paris) Editions de la Vie Universitaire. 1922.

At the back of this interest in the consumer is a passionate desire to increase the power of the consumer as against the producer, and more especially against the middleman. The author's particular bugbear seems to be the retail shopkeeper, whom he hopes to see swept away by the growth of distributive co-operative societies. He advocates also other forms of association, such as consumers' leagues for enforcing reasonable conditions of labour, and he urges the need for increased economic education of the consumer by the collection and publication of statistics of prices, stocks, &c. By acting in association consumers are to play an active part rather than a passive part, but the author expressly disclaims any desire to exchange the tyranny of the producer or middleman for that of the consumer. He wishes to secure harmony of interests by collaboration of producer and consumer.

While we feel much sympathy with efforts to increase the bargaining power of the consumer, we doubt whether co-operative distribution can oust the individual shopkeeper, and we think that the author under-estimates the value of the service rendered by the middleman. His book is one of considerable interest.

THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL LOANS.*

MOODY'S Rating Books are probably the most reliable of all American publications on public loan issues. The sections dealing with industrial, railway, and other public utility undertakings were published earlier in the year. The present volume relates to Government and municipal investments, and certainly a big step in the direction of acquainting American investors with the details of foreign Government finances and securities has been taken by the publication of the 1922 edition of this work. The almost complete revision of this work is shown in the exhaustive amount of information on the foreign and American field, derived in all cases, it is stated, from official sources. In all, no less than 622 nations are completely covered, while over 10,200 British, colonial and foreign bond issues are described and classified. The book includes some 64 maps, a five-year price range of leading issues quoted in London, Paris, New York, and on the Swiss Stock Exchanges, and a ten-year range of foreign exchange quotations. The latest issue is unquestionably far better than any of its predecessors, not only with respect to size, but quality as well. This volume should certainly receive a cordial reception from the general banking and investing public. We know of no publication in this country which covers such a wide field.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Mechanism of Commercial Credit.* By W. H. Steiner. (New York) D. Appleton and Company. Obtainable from Messrs. D. Appleton and Co., London. 12s 6d. net.
- Annual Report of the Controller of the Currency.* (Washington) Government Printing Office.
- Poverty. A Study of Town Life.* By B. Seebohm Rowntree. New Edition with new Preface. (London) Longmans Green and Co. 5s net.
- The Business Man's Geography.* By E. G. R. Taylor. (London) George Philip and Son, Limited. 25s net.
- State Control in War and Peace.* Lecture delivered by Sir Arthur Goldfinch, K.B.E., before the Bradford Textile Society. (London) W. H. Smith and Son. 6d.
- Causes and Prevention of Accidents in the Iron and Steel Industry, 1910-1919.* By Lucean W. Chaney. (Washington) Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- L'Aspect Actuel du Problème des Réparations Allemandes.* (Milano) Associazione Bancaria Italiana.
- British Columbia.* Public accounts for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1922. (Victoria, B.C.) William H. Cullin.

* "Moody's Analyses of Investments and Security Rating Books." Thirtieth year, 1922. (New York) Moody's Investors Service. \$20.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch - 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch - 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch - 42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch - 94, Portland Street, Manchester.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.
November 29.

ACCOUNT.
November 30.

The reaction of cheerfulness which was expected to set in after the General Election has failed to materialise in the Stock Exchange markets. It can hardly be said that the political developments abroad have militated against a revival of activity, seeing that the franc has hardened substantially and that there is no new war on hand. The only section of the House to show anything like animation is the market for Argentine and Brazilian Railway stocks, where speculative investment continues to absorb the issues in the hope of increased dividends next year.

Notwithstanding the fact that the War Loan interest will be distributed next Friday, the market for the stock is so quiet as to warrant the description of dull applied to it by most of the dealers. The Funding Loan and Victory Bonds maintain their rises, and there has been a little investment in the new India 4½ per cent. stock on the basis of 84½. Rumours of another Local Loans issue did not help matters in this department. Colonial and Home Railway prior-charge securities hold their prices. The decision of the North British directors in regard to the payment of the postponed dividends has had no effect upon the stocks concerned. Auckland is in the market with a new loan.

French Government bonds are better, but the French railway stocks, after an improvement, tended to ease off again. Germans braced up a trifle; Brazilians were good at the beginning of the week, in consequence of a rally in the milreis, but the improvement did not last. Peruvian Corporations came on offer from people who had given for the call of the stock some time ago, and the Asiatic bonds are so quiet as to be almost dormant. Greeks and Spanish have hardened.

Districts are the outstanding feature of strength amongst Home Railways, a sharp rise in Metropolitan causing sales of that stock in order that the money might be diverted into the former. The Heavy Home Railway group advanced to some extent, but lack of public interest caused prices to sag from the best, although this is the period when dividend anticipations are counted upon to provide the market with a seasonable degree of strength. In Grand Trunks and Mexican Railways there is nothing doing. Argentine Rails, however, continue to give an exceedingly good account of themselves. The big improvements brought in a certain amount of stock, which encountered a good deal of support ready to take whatever supply came along, and reaction has amounted to little. San Paulo Railway ordinary has risen some dozen points this week; and Leopoldinas advanced in quieter fashion, in consequence, of course, of the better Brazilian exchange. United of Havana came to the front with a sharp rise; most of the debenture and preference stocks in this department have risen almost daily.

Rubber shares continue to attract a good deal of interest, and the public continue eager for information, but orders are far less plentiful than inquiries. Tea shares have further improved upon their previous advances. The oil market is heavy, each day bringing along further supplies of shares from people who have got tired of the long-continued decline in the market. Iron and steel shares move within narrow and irregular limits. The passing of the final dividend on Dorman, Longs was not unexpected. Smithfield and Argentine Meat shares, after a sudden spurt on ill-founded hopes roused by the British and Argentine deal, collapsed upon the publication of the report of the shareholders' committee appointed to look into affairs. The report shows that the Smithfield and Argentine Company lost £860,000 in the years 1920 and 1921.

Manchester continues to buy its textile favourites, and there has been a little inquiry for nitrate shares from Liverpool, where the better prospects for the nitrate industry appear to be recognised. The firmness of tobacco shares testifies to the hope of increased dividends. Dunlops went better, on purchases by those who expect that the forthcoming report will throw a favourable light upon the company's position. Banking shares

continue to creep up, and there has been a further recovery in the Far-Eastern issues. Amongst insurance shares the changes are few, though rumour busies itself with talk of two or three of the smaller companies being absorbed by bigger brethren. Shipping stocks are mostly higher. Knowledge of the extraordinarily good year which the electric lighting companies are having is responsible for the strength of the shares of companies engaged in the industry. Siemens gave way on the passing of the dividend. Cable stocks remain dull, the Western Telegraph report showing a heavy diminution in the profits for last year; the dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, is maintained. Marconi debentures are steady about 3 premium, but the various wireless shares are uninteresting. Sudan Plantations are maintained by reason of the knowledge that the allotments of the new shares will be out early in December. British Columbia Electric Railway stock have again gone ahead, and several of the Mexican utility issues are better.

Kafir shares are languid, and in the circumstances the sagging of prices is natural enough. The declines are small, but had their effect upon Rhodesians and other South Africans. De Beers have hung upon Paris for the inspiration in their movements, and Rio Tinto, after a bout of buying from the French capital, gave way when this support was withdrawn. A good many options in the Mining markets fell due for declaration this account, and operations in connection with the closing of these accounts contributed to the dullness which overcast the Mining market as a whole. In default of anything better to do, rumour arranged an Entente amongst the smaller European States, but even this failed to arouse any serious attention.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded ..	550,161,508			
% Treasury Bonds (by Tender November 18, 1922), \$4,650,000, at \$99 4s 4d % ..	4,613,691			

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 18, 1922.

	£	350,000	£	350,000
April 1 to Nov. 18, 1922, £26,568,000 ..	350,000		350,000	
To the Public—				
George Lunt, Sons, and Co., Limited, £100,000 6% 1st Mt. Deb., at 97½, red. finally 1949 ..	100,000	97,500	10,000	87,500
Reeves and Sons, 37,500 Cum. 6% 2nd Pref. Shares, £1, at par ..	37,500	37,500		
Do 37,500 Ord. Shares, £1, at par (Nov. 25) ..	37,500	37,500		
Svenska Tandsticks Aktiebolaget (The Swedish Match Co.), 179,500 shares of 100 Swedish crowns (at exchange 16/65 to £1=£6 0s 13d), at £6 15s (Nov. 24) ..	1,099,437	1,211,625	89,750	1,121,875
Total offered to public ..	1,384,125	1,035,500		1,280,625
To Shareholders only—				
British and European Insurance, 160,000 Shares, 5s paid, at 6s ..	48,000	48,000		
Total to Shareholders only ..	48,000	48,000		
Total offered for subscription to date ..	1,432,125	1,083,500		1,280,625
1922 ..	£556,557,324		£388,978,203	
1921 ..	318,931,861		367,549,556	
1920 ..	352,436,977		1,036,059,951	
1919 ..	986,595,777		1,393,361,441	
1918 ..	1,258,113,594		1,318,596,010	
1917 ..	1,233,669,326		585,436,850	
1916 ..	526,570,053		685,236,326	
1915 ..	661,039,306		512,522,653	

Svenska Tandsticks Aktiebolaget (The Swedish Match Company).—Incorporated under the laws of Sweden. Authorised capital 90,000,000 crowns in ordinary shares of 100 Swedish crowns each. There are two bond issues outstanding for 33,940,000 crowns. This is an offer for sale in this country of 179,500 shares at £6 15s per share. The shares included in this offer form part of 450,000 shares of 100 crowns each, which are now being offered to existing shareholders in Sweden for subscription at 120 Swedish crowns per share, and they will, as from December 31, 1922, rank *pari passu* in all respects with the 450,000 shares already issued, except that they will not entitle the holders to any dividend that may be declared in respect of the year 1922. Interest will be paid at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from three days after the date upon which leave to deal in them is granted by the London Stock Exchange, to December 31, 1922. According to a letter from the managing director, given in the prospectus, the company controls the whole of the match industry of Sweden, and owns auxiliary industries such as paper-making, chemical plants, &c. A balance-sheet is published in this offer for sale, and there is also given an informative statement of past profits and dividends. It is confidently estimated that the new shares will receive a dividend of 12 per cent., and on this estimate and the further contingency that the value of Swedish crowns is maintained at 16/65 to the £, the public are informed that the yield should be £10 13s 6d per cent. With a share capital of

45,000,000 crowns, profits on ordinary capital were 19.29 per cent., and the dividend was 12 per cent. To expect to double capital and yet to pay the same dividend, especially with net profits falling from 1919, sounds a trifle optimistic. The shares, however, were quickly absorbed by the investing public.

George Lunt, Sons, and Co., Limited.—Authorised share capital £200,000 of which £130,000 has been issued and fully paid. This is an issue of £100,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 97½, £20,000 of which has already been applied for. The company was formed in 1893 to acquire an old-established business in Liverpool of bakers and confectioners, and the whole of the ordinary share capital is held by directors and friends. The document itself is an admirable example of what can be accomplished in the way of issuing a lucid prospectus. These debentures are well secured by a first specific charge upon properties and plant, independently valued at £146,538. Other assets are also included under a floating charge, and a well-known bank is appointed as trustee for debenture-holders. Redemption will take place by means of a sinking fund within 27 years, either by purchase or drawings at par. The company, however, reserves the right to redeem at par on or after December 1, 1938, on giving six months' notice. Surplus assets, including the net proceeds of the present issue, will amount to £217,305. Against this there will be an issued capital of £230,000. In arriving at these figures, however, no credit has been taken for goodwill, which stands at £15,000. Profits are given from 1912, and these show that the necessary amount for debenture services can be easily met, even if profits fell back to the figures for 1912. Although the issue is comparatively small, and dealings will be confined mainly within Liverpool circles, it will no doubt make a strong appeal to local investors.

Reeves and Sons, Limited.—Authorised capital £300,000, divided into 75,000 cumulative 5 per cent. first preference, 112,500 cumulative 6 per cent. second preference, and 112,500 ordinary shares of £1 each. The whole of the first preference, 75,000 of the second preference, and 72,875 of the ordinary are already issued. There are no debentures or debenture stock. This is an issue at par of 37,500 cumulative 6 per cent. second preference shares of £1 each, and an equal number of ordinary shares of £1 each. Applications may be made for the former shares by themselves, but an application for ordinary shares will be entertained only if accompanied by an application for second preference shares on the basis of one preference for one ordinary share. The business was originally founded in 1766, carries on the manufacture of artists' colours, &c., and the company now owns a freehold factory at Dalston, North London, and a second freehold factory at Enfield. Dividends are shown from 1902, and these are evidence that the company has enjoyed a career of unusual prosperity. It is a pity perhaps that actual profits were not stated. A balance-sheet and profit and loss account covering the year ended April 30, 1922, is appended. All classes of shareholders have equal voting powers. If assets are valued in the balance-sheet at reasonable figures, and providing reserves are sufficient for depreciation in property and investments, present and future, the shares would be a fairly good security.

The Romford Gas and Coke Company, Limited.—Authorised share capital £220,000, of which £78,651 has been issued. The authorised loan capital amounts to £110,000, and the minimum price of issue being par, of 9,000 £5 6 per cent. preference shares, to be redeemed at par on January 1, 1933. At that the prospectus had shed a little further light on the position prior preference share issues. The document does not state voting rights attached to the present issue. The net revenue £9,100, and interest on loan capital amounts to £1,058. This but £2,700, there is a substantial margin of income for security. This appears to be an efficient public utility undertaking, and hope to enjoy a steady but narrow market, the offer is not without merit, providing the shares are obtained at par.

Canadian Gold Mines Corporation.—Incorporated under the laws of Delaware. Authorised capital, \$6,000,000, divided into shares of \$1 each. The entire capital stock was issued to a gentleman in New York in return for the whole of the capital stock of three Canadian Corporations. These corporations turn over mining claims in the Porcupine mining district, Ontario, Canada. According to advertised particulars, the New York gentleman "handed back to the corporation to be placed providing funds. Other interesting internal transactions are detailed. A report on the mining properties by the company's consulting engineer is given. The investing public in this country is mainly interested in this undertaking because it is stated that 1,000,000 of the shares of the corporation

have been sold to the British Porcupine Development Company, Limited. In connection with this venture, certain particulars have been published in the Press to comply with regulations of the London Stock Exchange. An application has been made for leave to deal in the shares, and it is owing to this application that we are enabled to glean these few particulars. We should require, however, much more information before we could classify the proposition as a promising venture.

The Mortgage Company of Jamaica, Limited.—We are officially informed that the debentures of the three Jamaican companies mentioned in this recent prospectus are secured by registered specific mortgages, and, according to the trust deeds, any further mortgages which either of the companies may grant can only be subject to the debentures already issued. Messrs Arbuthnot, Latham and Co. point out that the formation of a separate small company instead of making the issue direct was evidence of their desire to stand between debenture-holders and any possible loss up to £50,000.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 3½, 1925-28 ..	95½	95½	—
Loans 4½, 1925-45 ..	95	95	—
Loans 5½, 1929-47 ..	99½	99½	—
Funding Loan 4½ ..	87½	87½	—
Victory Bonds 4½ ..	89½	89½	—
Conversion Loan 3½ ..	76½	76½	—
Consols 2½ ..	57½	57½	—
Irish Land Stock 2½ ..	59½	59½	—
Local Loans 3½ ..	65½	65½	—
Aust. 6½, 1931-41 ..	105	105	—
Canada 4½, 1920-25 ..	100	100	—
India 3½, Stock ..	64½	64½	—
Do 5½, 1926-31 ..	111	111	—
Do 5½, 1932 ..	99	99	—
N.S.W. 5½, 1922-32 ..	101	101	—
Nigeria 6½, 1949-79 ..	111½	111½	—
U.S.A. 6½, 1930-40 ..	105	105	—
Victoria 5½, 1924-34 ..	102	102	—
W. Aust. 6½, 1930-40 ..	105	105	—

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1 l.p.d.) ..	218	218	—
Chartered Bk of India ..	18½	18½	—
Lloyds (£5 with 1 p.d.) ..	23½	23½	—
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with 2½ p.d.) ..	8½	8½	—
London County West- minster and Parry (£20 with 4½ p.d.) ..	17½	17½	—
Antofagasta Cons ..	72½	72½	—
B.A. and Pacific ..	78½	78½	—
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	85½	85½	—
Buenos Ayres West ..	81½	81½	—
Canadian Pacific ..	159	157	—
Central Argentine ..	76½	76½	—
Japanese 4½ ..	105	105	—
Do 4½, 1910 ..	71	71	—
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	55½	55½	—
Peruvian Corp. Pref. ..	29½	29	—
P.L.M. 6½ ..	84	84	—
Portuguese (New) ..	26	26	—
Russian 5½, 1906 ..	94	94	—
Spanish 4½ ..	76	77	—
Seine (Dept.) 7½ ..	99½	99½	—
Siamese 7½ ..	107	107½	—

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Leopoldina ..	36½	37½	—
Mexican Railway ..	12½	13½	—
Do 1st Pref. ..	38	38	—
Do 2nd Pref. ..	25	25	—
San Paulo ..	112	112½	—
United Havana ..	68½	69½	—

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5½, 1886-7 ..	99	99	—
Belgian 3½ ..	66	66	—
Brazil 5½, Fund., 1914 ..	64	65	—
Chilian 4½, 1895 ..	83	84	—
Do 7½ ..	102½	103½	—
Chinese 5½, 1912 ..	69	69	—
Egyptian 4½ ..	29½	29½	—
French 5½ ..	23½	24	—
Do 4½ ..	25	26½	—
Greek 4½, 1884 ..	25½	26½	—
Anglo-American "A" ..	23½	23½	—
Marconi Wireless ..	21½	21	—

Telegraphs.

Marconi Canada ..	1½	1½	—
Marconi Marine ..	1½	1½	—

British Railways.

Great Central Pref. ..	23½	23½	—
Great Eastern ..	38½	38	—
Great Northern Def. ..	43½	44	—
Great Western ..	106½	105½	—
Great Brighton, "A" ..	63½	63½	—
London, Chatham & Dover ..	8½	8½	—
L. and N.W. (New) ..	34½	33½	—
L. & S. Western Def. ..	59½	58½	—
Metropolitan ..	59½	58½	—
Metropolitan District ..	43	45	—
Midland Deferred ..	67½	67	—
North British Def. ..	19½	19½	—
North Eastern ..	118½	119½	—
South Eastern ..	32	32	—
Underground Electric ..	3½	3	—
Do "A" (1) ..	4½	4½	—
Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	88½	88½	—

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio ..	79	73	—
Erie ..	13	13	—
Do 4½ 1st Pref. ..	20	19	—
Southern ..	25	25	—
Do Non-cum Pref. ..	69	68	—

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) ..	13½	14½	—
Amal. Cottons (£1) ..	48	48	—
Anglo Persian Oil (£1) ..	58	58	—
Armstrong (Sir W. & Co. (£1) ..	103½	103½	—
Ass. Portland Cement (£1) ..	23½	23½	—
Barker, John (£1) ..	23½	23½	—
B'ham Small Arms (£1) ..	49	49	—
Brazil Traction (£100) ..	49	49	—
British-American Tobacco (£1) ..	4½	4½	—
Burma Oil (£1) ..	58½	58½	—
Costs (J. and P.) (£1) ..	31½	31½	—
Courtaulds (£1) ..	24	24	—
Cunard (£1) ..	1	1	—
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	18½	18½	—
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	38½	38½	—
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	24½	24½	—
Forestal Land (£1) ..	1½	1½	—
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	18½	18½	—
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1) ..	18	18	—
Hudon's Bay (£1) ..	8	7½	—
Imperial Tobacco (£1) ..	3½	3½	—
Langkat Plantations (£1) ..	16	16	—
Lipton (£1) ..	13	13	—
Lever Bros. 7½ Cmp (£1) ..	1	1	—
Do 8½ Cmp A Pr (£1) ..	1	1	—
Do 20½ Cmp P Ord (£1) ..	1	1	—
Lister (£1) ..	16	16	—
Loebite Oilfields (£1) ..	53½	53	—
Lyons (J. & Co. (£1) ..	44½	44½	—
Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.) ..	18	18	—
Mexican Eagle (£10) ..	2½	2½	—
Pekin (£1) ..	16	16	—
Rubber Plantations ..	16	16	—
Investment (£1) ..	16	16	—
Shell Transport (£1) ..	4½	4½	—
Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1) ..	18	18	—
United Serdang (£1) ..	23	23	—
Valambrosa (£1) ..	23	23	—
Vickers (£1) ..	18	18	—
Watney Def. Stk. ..	136½	136½	—

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) ..	3½	3½	—
Broken Hill Prop. (8) ..	1½	1½	—
Chartereds (£1) ..	18	18	—
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) ..	31	31	—
Crown Mines (10) ..	13	12	—
De Beers Def. (£2½) ..	18	18	—
East Rand Prop. (£1) ..	3½	3½	—
Geduld (£1) ..	5½	5½	—
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) ..	5½	5½	—
Modderfontein (10) ..	44	44	—
Modderfontein "B" (5) ..	13	13	—
Modderfont. Deep (5) ..	24	24	—
Premier Def. (2/6) ..	64	64	—
Rand Mines (5) ..	38	38	—
Rio Tinto (£5) ..	278	278	—
Spring Mines (£1) ..	24	24	—

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

INDIA RUBBER, GUTTA PERCHA, AND TELEGRAPH WORKS.

August 31, 1922.		Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.	
LIABILITIES.	Amount.	ASSETS.	Amount.
Ord. shares ..	750,000	Properties and machinery ..	742,146
Pref. shares ..	250,000	Debts owing to company ..	276,605
Reserve ..	400,000	Bills receivable ..	15,300
140,722 ..	9,278	Cash ..	68,976
Premium on shrs. ..	65,722	Stock-in-trade ..	320,884
Debts and loan from bank ..	553,390	Shares in other companies, &c. ..	100,603
Unclaimed divs. ..	80	Cash, stock, debts, &c.	573,270
Profit and loss ..	3,592		136,643
Total ..	2,097,784	Total ..	2,097,784

JOSHUA HOYLE AND SONS.

September 30, 1922.		Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.	
LIABILITIES.	Amount.	ASSETS.	Amount.
7% pref. shares 1,000,000 ..	3,522	Land, buildings, &c.	2,041,821
Ordinary shares 800,000 ..	1,500,000	Stock-in-trade & sundry stores ..	1,463,712
7% deb. stock ..	1,500,000	Accounts owing to company & cash in hand ..	802,695
Int. accrued ..	19,688	Investments ..	30,293
Renewals and reserve funds ..	172,610		28,829
Ordinary loan ..	205,652		1,381,524
Accounts owing by company ..	598,669		526,071
Profit and loss ..	41,902		70,998
Total ..	4,338,521	Total ..	4,338,521

WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

June 30, 1922.		Compared with June 30, 1921.	
LIABILITIES.	Amount.	ASSETS.	Amount.
Ord. shares ..	3,118,950	Cap. expenditure ..	2,450,960

TRIBUTE TO MR TATLOW.

The negotiations leading up to the agreements we have arrived at have been effected by Mr Tatlow and myself—in some cases entirely by Mr Tatlow with the invaluable assistance of Mr Quirey's expert knowledge of accounts; and I think that I ought to say that, in my opinion, by no means the least of the services which Mr Tatlow has rendered to the Midland Railway Company have been in connection with these negotiations, where he has shown a knowledge, patience and address which have made it possible to come to an agreement which, I hope you will agree with me, is satisfactory.

CAPITAL OF NEW COMPANY.

The capital of the new company formed by the preliminary amalgamation will be £332,402,986, made up as follows:—Deben-
ture, 4 per cent., £81,933,736; guaranteed 4 per cent., £31,406,555; preference, 4 per cent., £100,277,489; redeemable preference, 4½ per cent. (to be redeemed at par June 30, 1925), £1,500,000; redeemable preference, 5 per cent. (to be redeemed at par June 30, 1926), £700,000; preference (1923), 4 per cent., £29,715,314; and ordinary, £86,869,892; total, £332,402,986.

CAPITAL POSITION SIMPLIFIED.

One of the results of the proposed amalgamation will be a greater simplicity in the capital position than exists to-day. Taking all the constituent companies embraced in the scheme now before you, I find that the number of denominations of stock amount to 44. Under our scheme these denominations would be reduced to seven, which in turn will be further reduced to five in June, 1926, when the small amount of redeemable preference stocks will have been redeemed.

The name of the company will be the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company, and the new board will consist of twenty-three members, of which eight will be nominated by the Midland Company.

CALEDONIAN AND NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE POSITION.

This, as I stated in my opening remarks, is a preliminary scheme, and it does not include our friends of the Caledonian and North Staffordshire Railway Companies. That is due to the fact that we have not yet been able to come to a satisfactory agreement with those companies, but I certainly hope that we may shortly be able to do so; but, whether we do or not, it is the law that these companies have to be included in our amalgamation, and if we cannot come to terms between ourselves, it becomes under the Act the duty of the Tribunal to settle the terms between us. Speaking for myself, I can only say that it will seem to me that it will be a reflection upon us if we have to go to the Tribunal and admit that we have not been able to settle our own affairs without outside assistance.

In concluding this portion of my remarks, I cannot forbear expressing to you my sorrow—in which I know you all share—at the disappearance of the name of "Midland Railway," and that sorrow is increased, so far as I am concerned, by the fact that on the first occasion on which I have had the honour to speak to you as chairman of the Midland, I should have to ask you to acquiesce in a scheme which is to do away with the separate existence of the company.

But, ladies and gentlemen, though the change is not one for which we are responsible, there are certain considerations which I suggest should reconcile us to what is to take place. The history of the Midland Railway Company is the history of railway progress, but it is a history founded on amalgamations, and I venture to ask you to look on the decisions we are asking you to take to-day, not as signing the death warrant of the company, but as the authorising of another step forward in its accustomed path.

GROWTH OF THE COMPANY.

The company was born in 1844. Its incorporation was effected by the amalgamation of three companies, namely, the North Midland, the Midland Counties, and the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railways.

The distance we have travelled since that date can be gauged by a few comparative figures.

In 1844 the capital of the line was £5,000,000, and the miles of railway operated were 18½.

To-day the capital of the Midland Railway is £204,000,000, and the total running line mileage, including Irish and joint lines, is 2,171 miles, with a total track mileage of 6,031 miles.

As I have said, we have travelled far, and we have succeeded in building up an organisation which, in my opinion, stands second to none for efficiency in the whole world. In addition, I believe that the Midland has won a singular place in the affection of the travelling public and the trading community.

It has built up its position owing to wise direction and management, and, above all, to a working staff which has never spared itself in its efforts for the efficient working of the line. But throughout the history of the company the policy of amalgamation has

always been in view. And now that we are losing our "individual" identity by the largest amalgamation in our history, I believe that the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway will be guided with the same wisdom and worked with the same loyalty and efficiency which has built up the Midland Railway.

YORKSHIRE DALES RAILWAY.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, before I put the resolutions I will say a word about the scheme for the absorption of the Yorkshire Dales Railway.

This is a short line, 8½ miles long, commencing by a junction with our line at Embsay, near Skipton, and terminating at Grassington.

Its capital is £73,300 made up as follows:—Loans, £18,000 (all held by the Midland Railway); preference 4½ per cent. shares, £10,300; ordinary shares, £45,000.

The line is worked in perpetuity by the Midland Company under an agreement dated July 5, 1897, for 60 per cent. of the gross receipts, with a provision that if the amount receivable by the Yorkshire Dales is not sufficient to pay 4 per cent. on the share capital the Midland are to make a sufficient allowance out of their own receipts in respect of through traffic arising on or terminating on the line to make up the dividend to 4 per cent.

The settlement come to is:—(1) Loans (£18,000) held by the Midland Company to be cancelled, (2) preference (£10,300 4½ per cent.) to be exchanged for £18,540 of Midland Railway 2½ per cent. preferred converted ordinary, being at the rate of £180 Midland stock for each £100 of Yorkshire Dales shares, (3) ordinary shares (£45,000). £5,000 held by Midland Company to be cancelled. Balance (£40,000) to be exchanged for £64,000 Midland Railway 2½ per cent. preferred ordinary stock at the rate of £160 of Midland stock for £100 of Yorkshire Dales shares.

The date of vesting is January 1, 1922.

THE RESOLUTION.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I beg to move:—

(1) That the preliminary amalgamation scheme now submitted, intitled "The North-Western, Midland and West Scottish Group Amalgamation Scheme, 1922," be and the same is hereby approved subject to such modifications as may be determined by the directors and approved by the Railways Amalgamation Tribunal.

(2) That the preliminary absorption scheme now submitted, intitled "The Midland Railway Company Preliminary Absorption Scheme, 1922," be and the same is hereby approved subject to such modifications as may be determined by the directors and approved by the Railways Amalgamation Tribunal.

The schemes were unanimously approved, and the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY.

PAYMENT OF POSTPONED DIVIDENDS.

The adjourned annual meeting of the shareholders was held, on the 17th instant, at Edinburgh. Mr Wm. Whitelaw, the Chairman of the company, who presided, said the settlement of the long-standing dispute with the Ministry of Transport was a matter of great satisfaction. The dispute, commencing in January, 1921, covered refusal of the Ministry to pay £1,120,000 claimed by the company in respect of the years 1920 and 1921, and a claim somewhat indefinite by the Ministry to repayment of one million alleged to have been overpaid to the company in previous years.

So far as the dispute was placed before the Railway and Canal Commission by evidence and argument, it had been settled wholly in favour of the company, and they were, therefore, now in a position to pay the postponed dividends of 1920, and to recommend to the Ministry's claim for one million, the Chairman said during the last few months a somewhat obscure rule, affecting the calculation of compensation regarded for seven years by both parties as not affecting the question, was unearthed from the confused mass of agreements entered into by the old executive committee and the Board of Trade.

The Ministry now founded their claim for repayment on the North British being what they called a provision company; this was an entirely new point, and not free from difficulty. The Railway Companies' Accountants' Committee formed the opinion that they were a provision company. The General Managers' Committee confirmed that opinion, and the Government Auditor, on new information submitted, took the same view. After full consideration, they decided to accept the position of being a provision company.

The Ministry reduced the claim to half a million, and ultimately £405,000 was agreed upon, all questions of interest being waived. This sum, therefore, had been paid out of the money received from the Ministry in error during the years of control previous to 1920. This matter was not lost sight of in discussing the amalgamation terms with their partners in the Eastern Group. They would take

into the amalgamated company assets reduced by £405,000 from those appearing in the balance-sheet of the last annual report.

DIVIDEND PROPOSALS.

Declared and postponed dividends, the Chairman explained, would be paid in full. The Chairman moved that they declare dividends for the year 1921 on the preference stocks after the convertible preference stock, 1884, and on the preferred ordinary stock at the full rates, and on the deferred ordinary stock at the rate of 1 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £56,716. The date proposed for payment was December 18, 1922, but that date could be made applicable to all.

Owing to the long delay in payment of the dividend, there had been a very large number of transactions in the stocks since the register was sealed, and the directors had been much pressed, particularly by the stock exchanges, to decide that in those cases where the stocks have changed hands since the opening of the books after the meeting on February 24th, they should not pay the dividends to the shareholders in the sealed register unless such shareholders establish their right to the dividend in question, with the shareholders on the register at this date. The Chairman said they proposed to pay the dividends on and after December 18, 1922, to those registered holders on February 23, 1922, that is, who are also the registered holders thereof on this date. There are, of course, a very large majority of the total shareholders interested. With regard to cases where the registered holders to-day were not the registered holders on February 23rd, they would communicate with holders as registered in February, and ask their consent to the payment of the dividends to the holders of the stocks as registered to-day.

The Duke of Buccleuch seconded the resolution, and the recommendations were unanimously adopted.

SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION.

A special meeting was then held in connection with the amalgamation scheme.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the scheme of amalgamation of the six companies forming the group under the Railway Act of 1921. The Chairman said they had got rid of the claims by the English companies that they were exceptionally hit by the standard of wages and the eight-hours day, and they had got their superannuation fund accepted by the new company without any special consideration. The whole financial scheme had been received with overwhelming approval, and every stock had risen. Such a solution of an intricate financial puzzle reflected the greatest credit on all concerned.

The Duke of Buccleuch seconded, and Sir William Russel, representing the Scottish Railway Shareholders' Association, congratulated the directors on having obtained so highly satisfactory terms.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

At an extraordinary meeting the Chairman proposed the election of the following four directors to serve on the board of the amalgamated company:—The Chairman, Mr A. R. Gray, Mr A. K. McCosk, and Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Murray; and that £13,000 be voted as compensation to the other directors not elected.

Sir William Russel seconded the resolution, which was carried.

DALGETY AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

COMPANY'S SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PROSPECTS.

The thirty-eighth annual general meeting of Dalgety and Co., Limited, was held, on the 21st instant, at the company's new premises, 65-68 Leadenhall street, London, the Hon. Edmund W. Parker presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: When I addressed you a year ago the world had passed through one of the most severe commercial crises of recent times, but definite symptoms of recovery had begun to manifest themselves. This tendency, I am glad to say, continued—but with occasional halts—and though only slightly perceptible in some places, the improvement in other directions has been satisfactory. Our company, with its widespread interests, while participating in the good fortune of the year, has also had to bear its share of adverse conditions. Recognising, therefore, that circumstances have been far from ideal, the results achieved will, I venture to have been far from ideal, the results achieved will, I venture to hope, prove satisfactory to you. I must, however, draw attention here to the fact that, while it is true that ordinary profits show a satisfactory improvement, our year's income has been substantially added to by the amount recovered on account of our past payments for excess profits duty. Its total has been largely reduced by income-tax, but the balance is sufficient to provide a welcome addition to our revenue.



HEAD OFFICE:
1 Dale Street,
LIVERPOOL.

LONDON:
Chief Office,
1 Cornhill, E.C.3

TOTAL ASSETS exceed - - £20,000,000
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID over - £107,000,000

FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, ANNUITIES.

Marine, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee, Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, &c.

OFFICES IN ALL THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL CENTRES
General Manager and Secretary:—HUGH LEWIS.

WORLD-WIDE DEMAND FOR WOOL.

In view of the fact that during our past financial year Dalgety and Co. have sold at their various centres 510,664 bales of wool, of a value of over £8,250,000 sterling, it is natural that a reference to this staple product should occupy an early place in my remarks. I am glad to be able to say that, despite a good many fluctuations, a substantial rise in the value of merino and fine crossbred wools can be reported, these descriptions standing to-day at fully 75 to 80 per cent. above the level they occupied at the close of the 1920-21 season, while medium and coarse crossbreds have recovered about 40 to 45 per cent. from the almost unprecedented depth to which they had fallen during that period. These latter grades—so important to the New Zealand sheep farmer—have still a long way to go before they reach a level reasonably remunerative to growers. However, this can be only a question of time, for it seems evident that the world's demand for wool to-day is appreciably in excess of the present production, and though the fashion at the moment runs upon fine qualities, consumers will sooner or later have to turn to the coarser grades to satisfy their requirements; indeed, there are already distinct signs of a movement in that direction. There is a cable to hand this morning from New Zealand saying that the prices for crossbreds have gone up 1d or 2d.

This long-awaited development will be hastened by the steadily progressing liquidation of the old stocks of Australian and New Zealand wool held by the British-Australian Wool Realisation Association.

WHEAT, DAIRY PRODUCE, FROZEN MEAT, &c.

Passing on to the other leading products in which we are interested, the last wheat harvest in Australia was hardly up to its predecessor so far as quantity was concerned, but exports were still very important, reaching a total of nearly 2,500,000 tons and a value of not less than £25,000,000. The average price obtained, though less than in 1919-20, was still a satisfactory one.

The dairying industry now plays an increasingly important part in the fortunes of Australia and New Zealand, and the 1921-22 season in both countries witnessed a substantial growth in the production. Prices were subject to some severe fluctuations, and were much lower, on the average, than during the period of Government purchase. Consequently, the net results were rather disappointing, as costs of production and transport have been on a high level.

As regards frozen meat, prices of mutton and lamb—the latter especially—have made a welcome recovery from the low level of last year. On the other hand, the market for frozen beef has been most disappointing, and the position of this branch of the meat industry gives rise to considerable anxiety. Notwithstanding the relief afforded by a Commonwealth Government subsidy of ½d per pound on exports of beef, and a welcome reduction in handling charges and freights, the net return to the Australian and New Zealand cattle breeder has been sometimes less than, and generally speaking little more than, the cost of production. The result is a growing tendency, in suitable localities, to replace cattle with sheep and to cut losses on cattle properties by checking breeding. Many schemes have been suggested for improving the position of beef trade, and strong efforts are being made by all interested in bringing this about, but it is evident that the recovery must be protracted one.

I referred a year ago to the inconvenient position which existed in Australian and New Zealand banking circles, as the

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

(e) Including Treasury Bonds.
Tenders will be received on Friday, December 1, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of \$5,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed \$5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lord Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.				
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Silver.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	£ 11,423	£ 9,924	£ 9,286	£ 20,536	£ 11,423
Aug. 26.	38,478	159	600	28,500	11,423	9,924	9,286	20,536	11,423
Dec. 29.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	11,423	9,924	20,536	11,423
1915.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	11,423	9,924	20,536	11,423
Dec. 27.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	11,423	9,924	20,536	11,423
1916.	323,241	15,529	29	570	28,500	11,423	9,924	20,536	11,423
Dec. 31.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	11,423	9,924	20,536	11,423
1917.	367,626	16,962	28,500	19,450	130	336,504	134	134	134
1918.	343,896	15,599	28,500	19,450	139	311,334	141	141	141
Mar. 30.	323,894	14,965	28,500	19,450	148	287,750	150	150	150
June 29.	314,382	14,830	28,500	19,450	152	278,119	143	143	143
Sept. 28.	325,584	14,658	28,500	19,450	147	289,131	161	161	161
Dec. 28.	300,351	14,255	28,500	19,450	159	261,479	177	177	177
1919.	298,374	13,338	28,500	19,450	163	254,312	250	250	250
June 28.	249,127	12,648	28,500	19,450	166	246,456	169	169	169
Sept. 27.	288,847	12,199	28,500	19,450	167	245,732	164	164	164
Nov. 8.	287,843	12,210	28,500	19,450	167	244,755	148	148	148
15.	287,209	12,251	28,500	19,450	167	244,128	182	182	182

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Date.	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 19, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 18, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 19, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:					
Bank of England	9,963,424	2,591,051			
Bank of Ireland	1,210,106	483,455			
REVENUE.					
Outsoms	112,250,000	79,313,000	81,732,000	1,410,000	1,964,000
Excise	160,750,000	104,657,000	128,006,000	9,934,000	12,081,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	10,600,000	3,493,000	3,143,000		
Stamp, &c., Duties	48,000,000	38,401,000	30,671,000	620,000	570,000
Stamps	18,250,000	11,232,000	9,238,000	300,000	134,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	610,000	440,000		
Property & Income Tax (including Super Tax), Excess Profits Duties, &c.	329,000,000	171,245,000	161,850,000	3,025,000	721,000
Corporation Profits Tax	27,800,000	954,000	29,714,000		
Post Office	19,750,000	11,137,000	7,840,000	260,000	370,000
Crown Lands	54,625,000	33,600,000	31,500,000	1,250,000	1,500,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	750,000	480,000	390,000		
Miscellaneous—	14,000,000	6,526,523	7,345,873		
Ordinary Receipts	22,000,000	18,094,119	15,429,565	215,488	300,000
Special Receipts	90,000,000	32,692,705	61,668,839	1,040,940	500,000
Revenue	910,775,000	512,335,347	568,968,277	18,035,428	18,140,000
Total, including Receipts		523,508,877	572,042,783		
TEMPORARY ADVANCES REPAYED—					
Bullion	800,000	5,530,000			300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818			
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920	2,910,000	520,000			
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920	3,360,000	3,561,474			
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	27,500			
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	35,000			
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	1,553,300				
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	2,510,000	4,655,000			
(b) For other issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,879,015,000	2,630,615,000	47,100,000	53,530,000	
By National Savings Certificates	43,568,000	25,730,000	800,000	900,000	
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	20				
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35	61,655,154	119,774,449	111,372	6,940,000	
5% 1927	60,042,235		247,800		
4% 1932	25,259	10,858,639			
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	548,214,000	857,857,000	11,700,000	8,800,000	
(d) Ways and Means Advances—					
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012				
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919		7,250,000			
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921	256,746	38,681			
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	4,431,887			
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	321,533			
Total	3,135,798,806	4,243,418,769	78,014,890	88,610,000	

NOTE—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

Date.	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 19, 1921.	Week Ended Nov. 18, 1922.	Week Ended Nov. 19, 1921.
EXPENDITURE					
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	9,575,345	10,282,080	299,874	406,919
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	197,958,480	208,226,903	14,343,256	1,127,983
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,943,999	2,842,000	499,000	
Payments to Local Tax Authorities	9,788,000	4,452,990	5,655,312	100,000	250,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	1,229,152	1,106,396		
Land Settlement	3,500,000	710,036			
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,670,247	1,583,342	194,117	204,450
Supply Services	529,999,000	249,912,148	392,465,759	5,300,000	8,450,000
Expenditure	893,437,000	468,452,397	622,936,792	20,869,357	10,439,352
TEMPORARY ADVANCES—					
Bullion					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818			
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920	3,510,000	5,505,000			420,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920	4,060,000	4,061,474	700,000		
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	27,500			
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	35,000			
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922					
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904					
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300	1,553,300				
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed	2,110,000				
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills for Supply	2,022,389,000	2,629,901,000	50,255,000	55,490,000	
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,598,811	23,358,803		468,692	
Funding Loan Act, 1919	6,526,211		500,000		
Conversion Loan Sinking Funds					
Principal of National Savings Certificates—					
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	17,000,000	12,400,000	450,000	600,000	
(b) Repaid otherwise		9,200,000			
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—					
5% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	18,704,490			
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	44,134,182		100,000		
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	13,028,823	49,238,131	650,000		
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	516,627,000	827,788,000	4,500,000	19,650,000	
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	1,198,075	19,120,156		500,000	
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012				
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	11,515,000			
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911					
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England	3,132,645,493	4,239,522,334	78,024,357	87,868,044	
Bank of Ireland	1,995,246	1,927,862	2,140	104,954	
Total	3,134,640,739	4,241,450,196	80,164,301	88,000,000	
Treasury, November 20, 1922.					

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, November 22, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£ 144,067,630	Government debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	125,617,630
	144,067,630		144,067,630

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government securities	£ 49,864,51
Res.	3,209,66	Other securities	66,841,03
Public deposits	16,039,96	Notes	22,660,50
Other deposits	107,374,952	Gold and silver coin	1,827,63
Seven-day & other bills	16,190		
	141,193,674		141,193,67

* Including Exchequer Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C. 4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W. 1.

The Clerical, Medical & General

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Publishes A DETAILED LIST OF INVESTMENTS.

Apply, Chief Office: 15, St. James' Square S.W. 1.

or
City Office: 8, King William Street, E.C. 4.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Nov. 22, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,929,566	+ 40,944	- 3,304
Public deposits	16,039,966	+ 3,185,127	+ 438,997
Other deposits	107,374,952	- 2,131,036	- 16,708,309
Government securities	49,864,512	- 203,007	- 449,660
Other securities	66,841,031	+ 697,755	- 16,730,713
Reserve	24,488,131	+ 49,075	+ 905,681
Note circulation	121,407,130	- 494,830	- 1,838,785
Coin and bullion	127,445,261	+ 4,245	+ 993,104
% of reserve to liabilities	19%	+ 1%	+ 3%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£		
Aug. 30.....	127,411,172	123,928,885	124,323,071	120,478,247	21,942,287	17 3/4	18
Sept. 6.....	127,412,715	123,928,885	125,035,544	120,237,248	22,382,998	18	18 1/2
13.....	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,218,983	23,809,071	19	19
20.....	127,426,821	121,490,640	124,320,645	118,141,617	24,386,171	19 1/2	19 1/2
27.....	127,431,595	122,457,180	125,650,586	115,448,940	23,414,415	19 1/2	19 1/2
Oct. 4.....	127,422,531	123,199,775	138,862,852	133,855,507	22,672,450	16 1/2	16 1/2
11.....	127,426,683	122,569,890	127,211,971	121,596,287	23,306,798	18	18
18.....	127,435,454	121,689,530	121,335,106	114,894,104	21,595,124	19 1/2	19 1/2
25.....	127,432,534	121,886,450	125,381,314	110,089,011	23,996,084	19 1/2	19 1/2
Nov. 1.....	127,435,222	123,158,840	123,879,002	118,844,444	22,726,482	18	18
8.....	127,437,714	122,717,305	127,211,971	119,247,248	23,414,416	19 1/2	19 1/2
15.....	127,441,016	121,901,360	122,560,827	116,110,795	23,989,056	19 1/2	19 1/2
22.....	127,445,261	121,407,130	123,414,918	116,705,513	24,488,131	19 1/2	19 1/2

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1921.
Gold and balances abroad	1,360,795	1,359,960	1,356,068	1,371,187	1,383,820
Government loans and securities	2,741,845	2,737,764	2,738,271	2,714,212	2,177,561
Discounts and loans	1,097,452	1,028,063	981,671	950,879	610,257
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	2,185,015	2,039,639	1,908,856	1,842,329	1,950,038
Government deposits	340,512	371,922	507,137	624,351	133,209
Private sight deposits	1,009,672	989,470	935,346	939,943	879,310
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,013,924	1,013,671	1,013,605	1,012,348	890,971

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1921.	Nov. 7, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	1,004,852	1,004,853	1,004,854	993,639	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	55,080	321,920
Silver	67,140	63,143	63,143	55,080	321,920
Treasury notes	49,122,674	41,026,323	39,338,089	4,560,228	943,460
Bills discounted	637,372,589	578,356,761	482,302,075	96,094,810	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	517,046,199	469,456,818	409,973,301	92,609,995	2,013,860
Deposits	150,649,076	140,773,259	112,161,295	13,860,368	842,340

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	August 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
Cash	2,353,799	850,329
Loans	5,884,164	2,919,353
Special credits on merchandise	765,063	458,973
Food credits	2,050,310	857,623
Debtors	294,242	233,416
Merchandise	465,300	127,785
Discounts	512,166	148,172
Advances on securities	162,078	409,895
Foreign coin and bonds	512,839	409,895
Precious metals	478,194	311,517
LIABILITIES.		
Subscribed capital	575,000	575,000
Loan account	6,772,649	3,246,143
Deposits bearing interest	2,376,766	1,377,471
Deposits in foreign currencies	121,637	121,118
Public deposits	7,400,995	2,680,677

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 10, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Sept. 10, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash	1,296,573	1,318,214	1,317,911	1,301,786	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,366,557	4,479,792	4,431,312	4,447,283	418,400
Foreign bills	9,588	9,548	9,591	9,630	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,110,183	6,101,477	6,111,578	6,107,522	all
Other advances	2,116,274	2,303,821	2,395,640	2,463,449	79,175
Securities	482,557	485,360	534,257	534,374	205,700
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	14,106,642	13,987,270	13,641,168	13,771,086	14,401,379
Deposits & drafts	1,686,805	1,755,016	1,856,577	1,795,011	1,556,925

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 13, 1922.	Nov. 6, 1922.	Oct. 30, 1922.	Nov. 21, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	605,969	163,092
Silver	8,935	8,935	8,935	8,935	8,935	8,436
Depts. & advances	410,477	416,006	427,548	410,165	446,704	163,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	978,010	994,514	1,009,441	995,276	1,023,696	1,636,332
Deposits	41,063	33,296	30,060	22,989	40,204	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Nov. 5, 1921.
Gold	533,001	533,001	532,995	511,050	495,459
Silver	698	698	698	698	698
Government loan	12,576,714	12,566,219	12,570,231	12,577,028	11,187,217
Other advances	4,080,985	4,031,202	4,113,472	4,046,103	3,212,120
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	15,433,861	15,362,823	15,402,240	15,371,570	13,066,892
Deposits	6,425,171	6,436,772	6,487,236	6,438,968	5,757,956

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	530,301	520,580	520,099	520,254	544,952	171,175
Silver	113,682	113,788	113,947	114,159	124,025	18,350
Darlehens-Kassen	11,813	11,802	11,644	10,983	17,041	
Assets & advances	325,941	337,273	337,326	311,231	269,603	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	912,134	912,151	903,874	813,395	926,290	975,925
Deposits	132,023	128,208	143,297	200,937	86,956	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to October 31, 1922, total issues were Fr.19,437,177, of which Fr.11,644,475 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Nov. 19, 1921.	May 24, 1914.
Gold	274,052	274,088	273,939	273,545	275,140	104,918
Balance abt. and foreign bills	69,412	73,319	81,111	78,736	107,393	112,172
Gov. securities	90,606	82,295	73,926	73,946	20,780	32,465
Discount and loans	358,965	365,908	378,055	358,405	416,113	113,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	541,405	551,225	566,443	532,956	607,606	226,556
Deposits at notice	184,844	177,029	175,882	185,363	149,103	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 8, 1922.	Nov. 2, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
Gold (gold & silver and bullion)	337,995	337,544	336,384	336,493	326,292	322,650
Securities	635,235	627,374	623,719	557,484	414,158	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,621,467	6,627,455	6,660,648	6,543,145	6,150,362	934,150
Current accounts	670,895	696,934	694,896	708,835	819,582	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, and drafts	899,546,118	876,406,350	845,862,594	825,717,248
Loans	1,203,637	1,215,393	1,273,027	1,350,235
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	2,979,322,991	2,970,917	2,683,863,060	2,590,414,336
Deposits	155,522,748	108,208,383	226,161,558	217,040,559

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	14,145	14,145	14,012	14,816
Foreign coin	596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	50,510,153	51,445,575	51,630,578	48,683,892
Loans	1,937,414	1,849,680	1,728,166	1,730,216
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	70,210,720	67,934,531	70,004,923	65,329,411
Deposits	7,237,263	8,066,355	5,188,721	4,233,016

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold and bullion	228,301	228,299	228,304	228,304	228,336	76,644
Loans & discounts	500,693	516,854	421,515	415,941	363,111	88,470
Securities	9,113	13,745	18,018	25,399	18,909	24,102
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	478,134	466,555	423,751	432,305	493,380	157,266
Deposits	181,481	211,064	147,015	142,399	103,324	6,696

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold and bullion—Gold	147,290	147,290	147,290	147,293	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	35,347	35,960	37,592	37,480	28,533
Norwegian & Foreign Government securities	9,415	9,415	9,415	8,795	8,816
Discounts and loans	453,318	460,092	489,473	434,531	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	365,826	376,341	383,393	396,726	113,484
Deposits at notice	153,487	149,940	134,442	114,124	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Oct. 6, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1921.
Govt. securities	8,09,36	8,41,07	8,48,21	8,18,24	12,90,18
Other securities	1,78,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,33,44
Loans	17,25,91	16,92,14	16,87,32	17,26,48	24,65,05
Inland bills	26,21,19	26,91,09	27,20,41	26,72,62	22,66,71
Discounts	4,22,13	4,55,42	4,02,94	3,87,86	6,51,01
Dead stock	9,72	5,50	4,95	9,40	7,25
Sundries	2,47,33	2,46,61	2,46,48	2,46,44	2,15,12
Balances with other banks	44,47	40,26	40,27	37,14	37,14
Cash	7,66	6,39	6,15	7,95	10,15
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital	11,24,76	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,24,56	11,08,76
Capital paid up	5,62,44	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,62,39	5,58,44
Public deposits	4,11,89	4,11,85	4,11,85	4,11,85	3,83,66
Other deposits	12,19,58	11,66,07	11,88,72	9,84,92	9,03,69
Loans against securities	69,17,14	69,30,67	71,85,13	75,65,19	79,87,88
Sundries	1,46,90	97,84	97,84	94,19	71,08
The above includes—	1,04,13	93,63	88,94	86,51	95,02
Deposits in London	178	181	187	199	30
Advances in London	1,129	806	806	779	543
Cash, &c., at other banks in London	44	37	34	45	60

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	3,558	3,359	3,360	3,371	1,571
Government securities	36,058	34,975	36,801	36,476	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	27,615	25,460	26,631	34,722	2,400
Government deposits	4,218	4,106	4,636	2,150	2,151
Other deposits	11,054	12,346	12,528	13,334	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)

	Nov. 8, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.	Nov. 8, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.	F. m.	F. m.	F. m.	F. m.	
Gold	43,373	43,214	43,214	42,625	35,991
Balance abroad and foreign bills	1,047,467	944,256	903,756	488,458	90,379
Foreign Government securities	684,456	686,293	686,292	898,650	21,826
Discounts and loans	439,169	421,568	471,749	423,305	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,368,700	1,375,619	1,353,291	1,363,254	123,941
Deposits at notice	572,522	457,794	473,051	473,718	21,235

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level	Nov. 23, 1921.	Nov. 9, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.
London—					
60 days		3.9750	4.435	4.4425	4.4675
Cable		3.9975	4.46	4.4775	4.495
Cheques		3.9375	4.4575	4.47125	4.4925
Paris		7.07	6.52	6.92	7.11
Brussels		19.30	6.8550	5.82	6.41
Switzerland		19.30	18.87	18.29	18.38
Italy		19.30	4.12	4.335	4.705
Berlin		23.83	0.3575	0.01625	0.0157
Vienna		20.26	0.375	0.0013	0.00134
Madrid		19.30	35.50	39.10	39.50
Amsterdam		40.195	18.50	20.16	20.27
Copenhagen			14.20	18.50	18.33
Stockholm			23.50	26.82	26.83
Athens			4.12	1.65	1.45
Montreal			91.25	100.12	100.05
Yokohama			49.85	48.33	48.38
Hong Kong			54.50	54.30	52.75
Shanghai			76.50	72.45	70.70
Calcutta			26.75	29.12	29.75
Buenos Aires			103.65	134.75	121.8
Rio de Janeiro			32.42	12.50	11.75
Valparaiso			20.60	11.00	13.625

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Nov. 8, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 13, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	1.530	1.530	1.530	1.530
New York	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Berlin	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Helsingfors	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Stockholm	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Copenhagen	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Paris	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Amsterdam	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Riga	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Prague	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Rome	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	Oct. 2, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.
London	£1	1.142	1.148	1.152	1.161
New York	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Paris	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Brussels	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Switzerland	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Italy	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Stockholm	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Copenhagen	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Christiania	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Prague	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Amsterdam	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Berlin	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Helsingfors	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Reval	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60
Warsaw	100 Rmk	4.50	4.30	4.25	4.60

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From Nov. 13, 1922.	From Nov. 13, 1922.
	London on South Africa.	South Africa on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	1% prem.	2% prem.
Demand	2% prem.	2% dis.
30 days	2% prem.	2% dis.
60 days	2% prem.	2% dis.
90 days	2% prem.	2% dis.
120 days	2% prem.	2% dis.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	1% prem.	2% prem.
Demand	2% prem.	2% dis.
30 days	2% prem.	2% dis.
60 days	2% prem.	2% dis.
90 days	2% prem.	2% dis.
120 days	2% prem.	2% dis.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.
Outstanding with public	Rs. 54,01,65,000	Rs. 26,55,45,000
In paper currency reserve	Rs. 57,89,00,000	Rs. 49,65,00,000
Total	Rs. 111,90,65,000	Rs. 76,20,45,000

Tenders for Rs.1,00,00,000 three months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills were opened on November 17th.

The total amount tendered for three months' bills was Rs.2,41,00,000. Tenders at Rs.99 1a received about 60 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs.99 1a 1p, equivalent to a discount rate of 3.7642 per cent per annum. The total amount tendered for six months' bills was Rs.1,27,00,000. Tenders at Rs.97 10a received about 87 per cent. and above in full. The average accepted rate was Rs.97 12a, equivalent to a discount of 4.6036 per cent. per annum. Intermediate bills for six months only will be offered for sale in India during this week at Rs.97 13a per cent. Tenders were received on Friday, November 24th, for Rs.50,00,000 three months' bills, and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills for issue during the week beginning November 27th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are n longer announced. For the week ended November 22, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows an increase of £4,245 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.
Countries from which Consigned.	Countries to which Exported.
Belgian Congo	£ 22,926
British South Africa	816,421
Latvia	4,464
U.S.A.	3,348
Other Countries	1,950
Total value of imports of gold	849,109
	Total declared value of exports registered in the week
	141,177

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on November 23rd as follows:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold came on offer, the largest portion of which was taken for New York. India figured on a small scale. Gold valued at \$980,000 has been received in New York from London. The value of the net imports of precious metals (expressed in lacs of rupees) into India during the 12 months ending Sep. 30th last was as follows:—Gold, 27.66; silver, 14.71.

SILVER.

On the whole, the market has presented a rather tired appearance after the somewhat severe fall of the last few weeks. There have been a few symptoms both from India and China of attempts to sound whether the bottom of the setback has been reached for the present, but the way in which the parity of prices in India and China keep below those ruling here, and the fact that the Indian bazaars have from time to time resold purchases previously made, do not yet give much hope of any real solid ground. The Continent is not active, but America is ripe for selling at any considerable advance. We hear that the coinage of Mexico for September last was 36,000 gold pieces of 50 pesos each, 4,600,000 silver pieces of 1 peso each, and 100,000 copper pieces of 1 centavo each.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 31, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.
Notes in circulation	17,963	17,920	17,820
Silver coin and bullion in India	9,110	9,067	9,062
Silver coin and bullion out of India			
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Securities (Indian Government)	5,837	5,837	5,742
Securities (British Government)	584	584	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th instant. The stock in Shanghai on the 18th instant consisted of about 40,000,000 ounces in sycee, 34,000,000 dollars, and 1,160 silver bars, as compared with about 41,900,000 ounces in sycee, 35,000,000 dollars, and 1,540 silver bars on Nov. 11th.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows:—

1922.	Gold.	Silver.	1921.	Silver.
	Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.
Nov. 18.	91 11	32 1/16	32 1/16	35 1/2
20.	91 11	32 1/16	32 1/16	42 1/2
21.	91 6	32 1/16	32 1/16	48 1/2
22.	91 9	32 1/16	32 1/16	72 1/2
23.	91 8	32 1/16	32 1/16	48 1/2
24.	91 9	32 1/16	32 1/16	37 1/2

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a new sub-branch at Benfleet, under the control of Mr E. C. Howell, manager Leigh-on-Sea branch.

The Bank of Montreal have received advice from their head office in Montreal that a branch of the bank has been opened at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

A branch of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, is now open at 422 Streatham High road, Streatham Common, S.W. 16, under the management of Mr S. V. Newton.

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new branch in High street, Bromyard, near Worcester, under the management of Mr C. N. Foster.

We are informed that the laying of the corner-stone of the new Mellon National Bank building, Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, took place on October 30th. This building will occupy the entire frontage on Smithfield street between Fifth street and Oliver avenues, and will be, it is stated, one of the largest and finest edifices in America devoted exclusively to banking purposes.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked * or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'at	Pre-vious.
Railways.						
Central of New Jersey	2%*	Nov. 21				
Delaware and Hudson	2%*	Dec. 20				
Norfolk and Western	2%*	Dec. 19				
Banks.						
Anglo-Egyptian	10% p.s.	Dec. 1	Tax free	15	17 1/2	
Bank of Toronto	3%	Dec. 1	Quarterly			
Dominion (Canada)	4%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	16	16	
National of Scotland			Less tax			
Insurance.						
Sun Life	12% p.s.	Jan. 1	Tax free			
Western Alliance	24%*					
Mining.						
Deebeck Dre ging	1/6 p.s.	Dec. 7				
Globe and Phoenix	1/6 p.s.	Dec. 14	Tax free	1/6 p.s.		
Gold Mines Investment	1/6 p.s.	Dec. 14	Tax free			
Great Boulder Perseverance	1/2 p.s.	Nov. 29	In Liquidation			
New Consolidated Gold Fields	2%*		Tax free			
Do	3%*		Less tax			
Pahang Consolidated, Pref.	3%*	Dec. 6	Less tax			
Rambutan, Limited	1/8 p.s.	Dec. 22	Less tax			
Tekka, Limited	1/4 p.s.	Nov. 30	Less tax	15	10	
Wankie Colliery						
Tea and Rubber.						
Cairo (Malay) Rubber		Nov. 22	Tax free	5	nil	
Chargola Tea, Pref.			Less tax	7		
Jokas' Assam Tea	10%*	Dec. 19	Less tax	6 1/2	nil	
Sengat Rubber	5%*	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	nil	
Sungei Buloh						
United Temiang Rubber						
Other Companies.						
Aberdeen, Newcastle, and Hull	5%*		Tax free	10	10	
Steam			Tax free	5	5	
African Lakes			Less tax	5	5	
Argentine Southern Land	1/6 p.s.			6	7 1/2	
Bell (Spinning)				7 1/2	7 1/2	
Blackpool ower			Less tax			
Blackpool Winter Gardens	1/9 p.s.					
Blyth Shipbuilding	2%*	Dec. 15				
British Electric			Tax free			
Broomhill Collieries	3%*		Tax free			
Burgess Hill Water, Original	2%*		Less tax	10	10	
Do New Ord.	10%		Tax free	6	6	
Callard, Stewart, and Watt			Less tax	9 p.s.	1/1 p.s.	
Cape Electric Tramways	1/6 p.s.	Dec. 14	Less tax	20	13	
Cassell Cyanide	12%*	Dec. 7				
Caster-Kellner Alkali	7% p.s.	Dec. 1	Less tax			
Cheltenham Original Brewery	5%*		Tax free			
Chloride Electric Storage						
Cleveland Trust						
Cons. Gas, &c., Baltimore, "A"	\$2 p.s.	Jan. 2				
Do "B" Pref.	\$1.75 p.s.	Jan. 2				
County and Lane Ends Hotel	12%	(arrears)	to Sept. 30, 1904			
Pref.	4%*		Less tax	7 1/2	10	
Coventry Chain	10%*	Dec. 5		13	13	
Dennis Brothers	10%*			6		
Devon (Spinning)	2/6 p.s.		Less tax	8	8	
D. Jones Dickinson	3%*		Less tax	nil	5	
Dorman, Long, and Co., Pref.						
Do Ord.						
English, Scottish, and Colonial			Tax free	10	10	
Inv. Non-Com. Ptg. Pref.			Less tax	10		
Grand Hotel, Leicester	2%*	Dec. 14	Less tax	10	10	
Grout and Co.	1%		Less tax	10	10	
Hazlewood Shipping	1/6 p.s.		Less tax	10	10	
Hovis				8	8	
Huggins and Co.				20	40	
Hummer, Limited	12%*	Dec. 13	Less tax			
Ind. Coope, and Co.	2%*	Dec. 8	Tax free	5 1/2		
India General Navigation, &c.	5%*		Less tax	6 1/2		
Irish Times, Pref.	5%*		Less tax	2 1/2	12 1/2	
Do 2nd Pref.	7 1/2%*	(bonus 1/10 p.s.)	Less tax	1/6 p.s.	1/6 p.s.	
J. B. Broo s and Co.			Tax free			
Joshua Hoyle and Sons						
Khedivial Mill S.S.						
London Nitrate			Tax free			

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Continued.

Mappin's Mashro' Brewery	..	..	Tax free	12½	12½
Marston, Thompson, and Ever- shed	15*	Nov. 25	Tax free	9	12
Morgan's Brewery	6½%	..	..	..	..
North Cheshire Brewery, "A" and "B"	..	..	..	10	..
N.Z. Loan and Mercantile	..	..	Tax free	2	4
Oriental Gas	4½%	..	Less tax	8	8
Palmer Tyre	..	..	Tax free	10	10
Park and Sandy Lane Spinning	6/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Paton and Baldwins	6/8	Jan. 1	Tax free	..	..
Platt Brothers and Co.	5%*	..	..	..	..
Porritt and Spencer	5	..	..	..	..
Pullman Co.	\$2 p.s.	Nov. 16	..	..	..
Roach Spinning and Mfg.	10%	..	..	15	15
Robert Younger, Limited	..	..	Tax free	15	15
Russell's Gravesend Brewery	6	..	Less tax	8	8
Scottish Australian Invest.	9	Dec. 6	Tax free	11½	10
Scottish Investment Trust, Def.	9½%	..	Less tax	..	..
Seabrook Estate	5%	..	Net	15 p.s.	11 p.s.
Shanghai Waterworks	10/ p.s.	Nov. 30	Less tax	..	..
Shiloh (Royton) (Spinning)	1/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Shorl's, Limited, Def.	10/ p.s.	Dec. 5	Less tax	5	5
Slaters, Limited	..	..	..	2/	2/
South Durham Steel and Iron	..	..	..	5	5
Springwell Brewery	5*	Dec. 1	..	..	..
Star Paper Mill	1/6 p.s.	..	..	11	11
Strand Hotel, Ptg. Ord.	..	..	..	11	11
Third Edinburgh Invest, Def.	14/	..	Less tax 5/5 in £	12	12
Trust and Loan of Canada	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Trusts' Corporation, Pref.	7	Dec. 1	Less tax	..	..
Waldorf Hotel	3%*	..	Less tax	..	..
W. Butler and Co.	5	Nov. 30	Tax free	7½	10
Weardale Steel, Coal, Def.	..	..	..	6	6
Werneth (Spinning)	3/ p.s.	..	..	5	..
William Paton and Co.	..	..	..	..	..
Windsor (Spinning)	1/5 p.s.	..	..	10	5
Wm. Fison and Co.	5 1/2%	..	..	..	..
Wye Ring (Spinning)	1/3 p.s.	..	..	..	..

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Nov. 19, 1922				Aggregate 46 Weeks 1922.			
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.	
Great Central (c)	6763	36,300	134,500	170,800	2,290,200	6,032,600	8,322,800	
Do Joint Lines	1613	..	..	36,800	..	..	1,646,700	
Great Eastern (c)	1,2073	93,700	97,900	191,600	5,423,000	4,248,700	9,671,700	
Great Northern (c)	1,050	81,100	152,000	233,100	4,389,200	6,316,300	10,705,500	
Great Western (c)	3,657	209,000	348,000	557,000	13,391,000	16,782,000	30,173,000	
London & N. Western (d) ..	2,636	265,000	452,700	717,000	17,053,000	19,410,000	36,463,000	
Lon. & South. Western ..	968	105,400	52,400	157,800	6,045,100	2,615,700	8,660,800	
Lon. Brighton & S. C. (c) ..	461	68,155	23,255	91,410	4,380,839	1,254,954	5,635,793	
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	422	1,184	1,943	3,127	55,284	86,821	142,105	
Metropolitan (c)	794	33,594	4,064	37,658	1,557,511	167,288	1,724,799	
Midland (c)	1,5854	145,000	310,000	455,000	8,246,000	14,940,000	23,186,000	
Midland & S. W. Jno.	63	918	1,040	1,958	69,163	63,864	133,027	
North Eastern (c)	1,850	102,600	215,800	318,400	6,144,100	11,217,000	17,361,100	
North London	16	4,361	9,150	13,511	219,982	446,179	666,161	
South-E. & Chatham (c) ..	654	102,900	39,800	142,700	6,287,400	2,003,600	8,291,000	
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	217,065	..	..	10,475,892	
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	36	..	..	8,291,000	
Caledonian	1,097	57,400	99,400	156,800	3,343,800	4,545,200	7,889,000	
Glasgow and S. W. (c) ..	476	21,600	36,400	57,900	1,449,000	1,685,700	3,134,700	
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ..	3341	6,990	8,480	15,470	433,310	409,170	842,480	
Highland (c)	492 (a)	8,411	10,594	19,005	555,285	480,141	1,035,426	
North British (c)	1,3773	57,800	120,800	178,600	3,047,700	5,363,200	8,410,900	
Belfast and County ..	80	4,700	1,403	6,103	247,744	60,553	308,297	
Down (b)	160	5,533	4,746	10,279	282,450	161,517	443,967	
Dublin and S. East. (c) ..	538	9,961	18,592	28,553	453,166	719,807	1,172,973	
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended November 17, 1922.
(c) Week ended November 18, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	29 weeks	Oct. 21	1,049	2,75,119	+ 49,969	68,13,895	+ 24,35,244
Barsi Lk. Ry.	30 weeks	Nov. 18	118	28,900	+ 12,500	9,73,500	+ 3,02,500
Bengal & N. Western ..	3 weeks	Oct. 21	67	4,52,510	- 85,784	14,01,680	- 89,451
Bombay Nagpur	29 weeks	Nov. 18	2,703	11,86,000	+ 1,80,000	3,99,40,356	+ 52,30,095
Bombay, Bar. & C. L.	31 weeks	Nov. 18	2,994	20,01,000	+ 1,39,000	1,39,00,000	+ 10,00,000
Burma	28 weeks	Oct. 14	1,342	6,94,500	+ 1,67,652	1,83,78,371	+ 22,88,118
Calcutta & Kumaon	6 weeks	Nov. 11	239	1,26,000	- 5,387	6,98,000	- 31,588
East Indian	7 weeks	Nov. 18	4,772	31,11,000	+ 3,31,000	2,12,55,000	+ 8,90,000
G. Indian Peninsula	32 weeks	Nov. 11	3,121	25,71,300	+ 64,800	8,13,11,265	+ 40,89,351
G. Indian Peninsula ..	29 weeks	Oct. 21	3,028	11,40,000	+ 26,696	4,12,81,250	+ 42,65,345
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	3 weeks	Oct. 21	259	94,371	+ 4,685	1,60,162	+ 10,474
Do Lucknow-Breilly	3 weeks	Oct. 21	302	46,721	+ 7,288	1,51,713	+ 9,445
South Indian	23 weeks	Oct. 21	1,852	6,01,008	- 5,481	2,75,99,932	+ 30,20,213
Sikh Punjab (month) ..	4 mths	July 31	717	9,17,805	+ 94,919	33,88,925	+ 57,939
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	20 weeks	Nov. 18	752	10,700	+ 200	198,600	+ 40,200
Argentine Trans.	20 weeks	Nov. 18	111	4,410	+ 2,450	48,700	+ 14,155
B. A. and Pacific	20 weeks	Nov. 18	1,428	150,000	+ 38,000	2,643,000	+ 234,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	20 weeks	Nov. 18	3,947	174,000	+ 31,000	3,025,000	+ 10,000
B. Western	20 weeks	Nov. 18	1,882	59,000	+ 33,000	769,000	+ 470,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	40,000	+ 31,000	451,000	+ 280,000
Central Argentine	20 weeks	Nov. 18	3,305	41,145	- 12,798	78,379	- 25,404
Cordoba Central	20 weeks	Nov. 18	1,205	205,000	+ 38,000	3,787,000	+ 312,000
Entre Rios	20 weeks	Nov. 18	811	57,000	+ 10,000	1,199,000	+ 105,500
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	10 mths	Oct. 31	11	Ma 77,250	+ 25,500	..	+ 19,400
Gt. West. of Brazil	46 weeks	Nov. 18	1,005	14,700	- 1,900	577,900	- 46,400
Leopoldina	46 weeks	Nov. 18	1,831	28,874	- 361	1,360,843	- 175,655
San Paulo	46 weeks	Nov. 18	1,534	30,263	+ 6,530	1,307,169	- 76,029
State of Bahia, S.W.	6 mths	Oct. 31	52	Me 155,000	+ 86,000	624,000	+ 252,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	46 weeks	Nov. 18	838	31,036	+ 18,585	1,079,165	+ 125,375
Nitrato (a-monthly)	46 weeks	Nov. 18	366	34,160	+ 18,810	..	+ 26,557
Peruvian Corp.	4 mths	Oct. 31	1,059	1,364,200	+ 44,900	5,140,600	+ 343,780
Talca	4 mths	Oct. 31	172	17,768	+ 6,743	56,274	+ 17,438
Cuba.							
Havana Central	19 weeks	Nov. 11	..	10,236	- 472	181,362	- 20,613
United of Havana	20 weeks	Nov. 18	1,210	45,735	- 10,091	936,637	- 146,209
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	20 weeks	Nov. 18	273	34,766	+ 8,278	463,393	+ 3,549
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	20 weeks	Nov. 18	311	6,598	+ 988	89,265	+ 2,197
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	20 weeks	Nov. 18	185	3,977	+ 1,377	48,009	+ 3,093
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	20 weeks	Nov. 18	211	3,107	+ 447	45,139	+ 3,638
Midland Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	14,681	- 1,521	60,114	- 4,071
North-West Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	113	7,127	- 223	23,617	- 2,061
Uruguay North	4 mths	Oct. 31	71	2,447	+ 592	8,746	+ 2,479
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	46 weeks	Nov. 18	33	19,000	- 6,000	874,450	+ 146,850
Bilbao	10 mths	Oct. 31	15	1,880	+ 189	11,329	+ 5,282
Bolivar	10 mths	Oct. 31	136	7,100	- 948	89,623	- 11,734
Costa Rica	3 mths	Sept. 30	189	17,594	- 5,971	56,892	+ 1,530
Dorado Extension	8 mths	Oct. 31	70	15,000	- 7,500	118,710	- 73,000
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	8 mths	Oct. 31	45	4,750	- 1,250	52,000	- 9,000
Egyptian Delta	8 mths	Oct. 31	559 (c)	16,068	+ 429	190,197	+ 32,597
Gt. Southern of Spain ..	46 weeks	Nov. 11	104	Pa 110,116	+ 31,410	3,691,942	+ 1,188,635
International of	10 mths	Oct. 31	Net	7,811	- 1,221	247,523	- 16,269
Central America	10 mths	Oct. 31	252	9,010	+ 930	99,950	+ 4,170
La Guaira & Caracas ..	18 weeks	Nov. 14	403	246,600	- 123,500	5,022,800	- 1,368,800
Mexican Railway	3 mths	Sept. 30	403	115,700	- 330,900	5,374,900	- 768,800
Do	3 mths	Sept. 30	Net	10,475	- 2,582	616,200	- 167,800
Nasajo Onoraham	9 mths	Oct. 31	30	12,760	- 1,000	35,000	- 2,500
Onoraham Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	35	3,750	- 405	51,845	- 7,432
Puerto Caballo, &c.	20 weeks	Nov. 18	100	1,882	- 405	51,845	- 7,432
Salvador	1 mth	Oct. 31	..	140,536	+ 16,943	83,500	+ 16,135
San Francisco	1 mth	Oct. 31	..	5,286	- 927	83,500	- 16,135
Samana & Santiago	10 mths	Oct. 31	112 (a)	12,530	- 2,978	120,000	- 22,088
Zafra and Rmelva	10 mths	Oct. 31	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	- 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	234,202	236,625	400,430,520	+ 4,772,834	76,706,840	+ 54,882,820
Mar.	234,338	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,426	113,468,843	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	235,333	234,931	416,240,237	- 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,928
May	235,208	235,310	472,383,903	+ 4,063,751	92,931,565	+ 28,064,988
June	234,556	235,082	472,383,903	+ 12,376,822	109,445,115	+ 28,989,678
July	233,815	235,294	472,383,903	+ 19,960,589	102,338,414	+ 1,964,485
Aug.	235,205	235,280	498,702,275	+ 1,723,772	91,381,593	+ 29,046,959

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Algonquin Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	Aug. 31	810	109,278	+ 5,151	..	..
Canadian Ntn. 45 weeks Nov. 14	45 weeks	Nov. 14	324	1,634,100	+ 117,401	52,315,375	+ 6,987,584
Canadian Pac. 9 mths Sept. 30	9 mths	Sept. 30	18	18,150,000	+ 506,000	158,257,000	+ 9,789,000
Canadian Pac. 45 weeks Nov. 14	45 weeks	Nov. 14	15	2,322,000	+ 134,000	124,827,000	+ 11,561,000
Canadian Pac. 9 mths Sept. 30	9 mths	Sept. 30	15	2,322,000	+ 134,000	124,827,000	+ 11,561,000
Grand Trunk 46 weeks Nov. 21	46 weeks	Nov. 21	15	2,322,000	+ 134,000	124,827,000	+ 11,561,000
Pemiscota 1 mth Sept. 30	1 mth	Sept. 30	15	2,322,000	+ 134,000	124,827,000	+ 11,561,000

* Net earnings before deducting taxes. † Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	Aug. 31	810	109,278	+ 5,151	..	..
Mid. of W. Aust.	3 mths	Sept. 30	277	14,017	+ 4,577	33,498	+ 7,991
New Cape Central	52 weeks	Oct. 28	205	2,324	- 4	109,623	- 897
Rhodesia Railway	1 mth	Aug. 7	1,397	147,708	+ 6,102	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	46 weeks	Nov. 18	329	£92,753	+ 8,170	3,902,891	+ 216,735
Burnley Corporation	1 week	18	12	£3,102	80	..	..
Calcutta Tramways ..	45 weeks	18	35	Rs. 1,19,042	- 1,97,042	..	..
Chennai & District ..	46 weeks	16	15	£1,412	..	75,986	+ 15,48,671
Egyptian Markess ...	45 weeks	11	..	£2,384	- 190	78,129	- 1,34
Glasgow Corporation	24 weeks	18	101	£43,508	- 1,618	1,041,235	- 76,28
Isle of Thanet	7 weeks	15	..	£564	+ 29	4,426	- 93
Lancashire United ...	46 weeks	14	39	£2,895	- 216	139,636	- 19,36
Liverpool Corpora- tion Tramways	46 weeks	18	124	£27,499	- 1,241	1,347,719	+ 10,66
L.C.C. Tramways	45 weeks	16	160	£30,156	- 7,599	3,154,377	+ 278,73
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	45 weeks	15	..	Rs.40,891	- 5,367	1,041,987	- 142,72
Pernambuco Trams ..	46 weeks	29	..	£4,144	+ 633	169,622	- 8,50
Singapore Electric ..	30 weeks	July 29	..	£7,095	- 614	365,271	- 9,82

MISCELLANEOUS

STRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.—The report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1922, show a profit of £106,299, to which is added £20,390 brought forward from preceding year, making £126,689. Debenture stock interest absorbed £10,056. Interest on stock cancelled amounted to £1,304. Dividend on preference shares absorbed £37,000. The dividend of 11 per cent. on the participating preferred ordinary shares for the year absorbed £25,300. The deferred ordinary dividend also absorbed £25,300. The sum of £20,000 is transferred to reserve, while £7,729 is carried forward. The directors record, with deep regret, the death, on October 7th last, of Mr Montague Gluckstein, their esteemed chairman. Mr Gluckstein was associated with the company from its inception. The business at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, which is under the control of the company, continues to be satisfactory.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.—The revenue for the year ended June 30, 1922, amounted to £1,680,049, and the working expenses to £839,044. After providing £32,747 for debenture stock interest and £260,708 for income-tax, corporation profits tax, and final adjustment of excess profits duty, there remains a balance of £547,548; to this is added the sum of £128,739, brought forward from June 30, 1921, making a total of £676,287. The directors have transferred £250,000 to the general reserve fund. Four dividends of 2½ per cent. each have been paid, amounting to £311,895, making a distribution of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year ended June 30, 1922, thus leaving a balance of £114,392 to be carried forward to the next account. The company's cable steamer "Cormorant" struck some submerged wreckage and foundered off Rio Grande do Sul on January 24, fortunately without loss of life. The Eastern Telegraph Company's C.S. "Sentinel" has been chartered to replace temporarily the lost ship.

RUBBER.

KUALA LUMPUR RUBBER.—The loss for the year ended June 30, 1922, after crediting a sum of £932 realised from sale of investments in excess of their book value, and after charging £5,006 for depreciation, amounts to £5,514. Deducting this from the balance of £15,958 brought forward from the previous year, there remains at credit of profit and loss the sum of £10,444, which the directors recommend should be carried forward. The yield of rubber during the year was 1,030,922 lbs, being 319,463 lbs less than in the previous year and 130,922 lbs in excess of the estimate. Of this crop, 29,260 lbs were shipped to Europe and realised an average gross price of 8.25d per lb, while 1,001,663 lbs were sold in Singapore at the equivalent of 8.08d per lb. The combined average price for the whole crop is thus 8.09d per lb. The comparative "all in" costs for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 have been as follows:—

	1920-21.	1921-22.
	Lbs	Lbs
Crop	1,350,385	1,030,922
	s d	d
F.O.B cost	1 1.51	9.26
Freight, insurance, and selling charges	0 1.70	.26
Expenses in Europe, directors' fees, and exchange	0 .28	.79
	1 3.49	10.31

There is thus a reduction of 5.18d per lb, notwithstanding the great decrease in the crop.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Ploughing and sowing is being actively proceeded with under very favourable weather conditions, and farmers are hoping for a continuation of fine weather during the next few weeks in order to ensure proper germination and give the young plant a good start. Lifting of root crops is not yet completed, but there is every confirmation of a heavy yield. Grass lands are still providing plenty of feed for cattle. Steady conditions prevailed at market during the week, and while prices were maintained with regard to feeders, breadstuffs displayed a weaker tendency. Native wheat continues in fair request, and suitable milling qualities sell at 44s 6d to 46s, with inferior at 41s to 42s per 504 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions tend easier, though spot and near at hand parcels somewhat sparingly offered. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 53s 6d to 54s, No. 2 mixed Durum 50s 6d, and Rosafe 63½ lbs nominally 54s, all ex ship to arrive per 496 lbs. The cargo section ruled quiet, but after a firm opening values gave way slightly on freer offers and lower American advices. Steamers of Rosafe 62½ lbs January sold 48s 7½d, 63 lbs ditto guaranteed November shipment 51s 3d, 62½ lbs January-February 48s 3d, Baril 62 lbs afloat 50s, Barusso 62½ lbs January-February 7s 3d, No. 1 Northern Manitoba December 51s 3d to 50s 9d, and ditto November shipment from Vancouver to Germany at equal 50s 9d U.K. terms, all per 480 lbs. Crop reports are generally favourable, and while Australia indicates a lighter yield than last year, on the other hand official estimates from the Argentine point to an increase of about four million quarters. Flour market fully steady, and London standard straight run quoted 42s 6d, town households 40s 6d, patents 44s 6d to 45s 6d, and all English country straights 34s to 36s per sack delivered. Imported firm and sparingly offered. Manitoba export patents quoted 40s to 3s, top patents 43s to 45s, and Australian in limited supply at

415 to 415 6d per 280 lbs ex store. Maize quietly steady. La Plata ex ship quoted 36s 9d, ditto landed 38s 3d, American mixed ex ship 36s 6d, and ditto landed 38s per 480 lbs. The cargo section remained quiet, and tendency of prices in buyers' favour. A Plate steamer afloat sold at 35s 6d to Antwerp. Parcels in fair request at fairly steady rates. Barley continues slow of sale. English ranges from 29s to 60s per 448 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Californian 39s to 43s, Australian Chevalier 49s to 53s, per 448 lbs ex store. American malting, 48 lbs, 30s 6d ex ship, 31s 6d landed, Plate 31s 6d, Persian 28s 6d, both ex ship, and Danubian 31s 6d to 32s landed, all per 400 lbs. Oats, English, quietly steady, while ranging from 25s to 32s 6d per 336 lbs, free on rail, as to sample. Imported firmly held. Plate, f.a.q., 27s 6d ex ship and 28s 9d to be landed, No. 2 Canadian Western 33s 6d, No. 1 Canadian feed 32s, No. 2 ditto 29s 3d, No. 2 white clipped a fair trade passing. London made, all cuts, quoted £18 15s, rolled oats £18 15s, flaked oats £21 15s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal £19 10s to £20, and American, all cuts, £18 10s to £18 15s per ton. Millers' offals continue in request at fully steady rates.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1922-23, contrasted with 1921-22, 1920-21, and 1919-20.

	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.	1919-1920
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to November 18	Cwts. 461,658	Cwts. 303,137	Cwts. 353,635	Cwts. 387,543
11 weeks to November 18	4,812,158	4,036,137	4,933,581	2,563,393
Average price of English wheat per				
quarter.....	s d	s d	s d	s d
= per cwt.....	42 6	45 7	50 3	72 7
	9 11	10 7½	21 0	16 11

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn (Imperial Measure) in the past week, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1918 to 1921:—

		QUANTITIES SOLD.						AVERAGE PRICES.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
1922.		qrs	bsb	qrs	bsb	qrs	bsb	s	d	s	d	s	d
Nov. 11	135,114			144,705	5	32,981	6	42	6	42	4	27	5
Nov. 18	107,720	1		132,129	7	28,540	0	42	6	40	1	27	0
1918	72,989	5		93,085	1	11,813	7	72	4	60	10	51	1
1919	83,855	7		181,262	5	19,827	6	72	7	64	11	55	11
1920	82,514	7		120,479	3	18,755	7	90	3	89	7	51	11
1921	70,265	3		152,496	6	18,007	6	85	7	48	7	26	7

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD
PRIVATBANK,
Fredriksstad.

**Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21,000,000.**

**Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.**

*London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.*

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Producers of steel are busier than they have been for a period, and are netting £5 7s 6d f.o.t. at the works for hematite. Heavy plates for railway and other bridges are in moderate request, with, it is added, good prospects in sight. There is also more doing in pig-iron and a substantial addition to blast furnaces is projected. The most notable is the relighting of four by the Glasgow Iron and Steel Company at Wishaw—after a couple of years' stoppage. A slight shrinkage in the shipment of Scotch pig-iron to the United States has been experienced (owing to the non-arrival of carriers, which, it is expected, will be immediately overcome). Last week's exports reached to only 1,321 tons, contrasting with 320 tons a year ago. It appears that the engagements with Canada and the States still cover a heavy total. Home inquiry for Scotch foundry iron continues disappointingly small, yet is well spread, representing that consumers are acting on very narrow buying lines. No. 1 foundry iron is cabled £5 a ton and No. 3 £4 15s (both f.o.t. makers' works). It is suggested that if there is not a speedy change for the better in the home trade a closing down of certain blast furnaces is probable. Black sheets are meeting with a ready market in Japan and Australia—under $\frac{7}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ —at £10 10s (Glasgow stations), and manufacturers are hopeful as to the future. Galvanised corrugated 24 b.g. (Glasgow) are bringing £17 10s per ton. A more active business is doing in tubes, bolts, nuts, rivets, and an increased outlet is spoken of in crown and common bars, angles, hoops, and rails. Electrical, machine, and speciality engineers have had what promises to be a bit of good luck. It is understood that Glasgow electricity firms have secured part of a Natal order for £4,000,000 of electrical plant and furnishing; that locomotive builders have booked a contract which will take five to six months to execute; that Singer's Sewing Machine Company are entering on the construction of a very large line of work, and that important expansions are projected in Diesel engines' building. These departures have imported a hopeful tone. Demand for Scotch coal for shipment to the Continent continues very active. Germany, France, Italy, and Denmark are keen buyers, and merchants have to wait for supplies.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated November 23rd, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Business in pig-iron is quiet. The American demand has eased off and local consumers are not disposed to carry stocks towards the end of the year. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is still quoted 92s 6d, but it is possible to buy at a little below this figure. Hematite prices are also easier, and mixed numbers East Coast hematite is now quoted at 93s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: There is a good demand for finished steel, due largely to more shipbuilding orders being placed. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £10 10s; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: Business in imported ore is quiet. Freight from Bilbao are higher, but best Rubio is still about 22s 6d. Mediterranean ores can be bought cheaper.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—The steady expansion of the steel trade is reflected in a tendency for firmer prices for some kinds of material. Undercutting is still rife, and a great proportion of the work in hand has been booked at unremunerative figures, but makers are wanting rather more money for new contracts. The worst of the present undue competition may be regarded as over, unless something untoward occurs to check the upward movement in trade. Labour is quiet for the moment, although wages in some branches of steelmaking are down almost below the living point. The output of basic steel continues to increase, and for soft quality an additional half-crown per ton is being asked. Interest in the more expensive acid steel is now reviving, and several of the crucible steelmakers are obtaining orders. The axle, tyre and spring plants, although still short of work, are better employed than they have been. Steel foundries and forges have little to do owing to the quietude of the shipbuilding and engineering branches. These latter, however, report signs of recovery. So far as Sheffield as a whole is concerned, the new year should see the volume of trade nearly equal to what it was before the war, excepting, of course, the departments concerned with armaments. The development of the new stainless iron and steel proceeds steadily, and every week sees some new application of the material as a substitute for metals liable to corrosion. Owing to its dearness, however, its use outside of cutlery is for small articles for the most part. The market for alloys of steel is in a depressed state, and owing to the poverty of the demand and the large output facilities in France, Scandinavia, and Great Britain several of the materials can be bought at lower figures than before the war. Business in edge tools and files is brisking up, and there is full work on hand in table-knives, spoons and forks, and electro-plate. The local demand for foundry pig-iron is meagre in the extreme, and the demand for foundry gas is in better request at enhanced prices. Sales of steam coal have again improved, and there is a healthy demand for export and for home consumption. Cobbles and smalls are also moving off more freely. The house coal market is unusually quiet, as November should be the busiest month of the year. Nevertheless, best qualities are scarce, and fetch very high prices, while secondary sorts can be bought at cheap rates. Furnace and foundry coke continue in good demand, with a large overseas demand for the latter. Quotations per ton at pits are :—

Best hand-picked branch, 32s; best Silkstone, 28s; South Yorkshire steam, 21s; rough slacks, 8s 6d to 10s 6d; smalls, 3s to 5s.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The provision of increased shipment facilities has once again become a sore problem at the South Wales ports. During the past two or three weeks the docks have been glutted with tonnage, and berthing turns have involved from at least three to six days' detentions either in dock or in the roads. The congestion has reacted seriously on the working of the coaling berths, and many stoppages of work at the pits have been reported to the Coalowners' Association. The Great Western Railway Company is severely criticised on the alleged failure of the regulations which it has enforced to secure the expeditious shipment of coal; the Great Western Railway Company, on the other hand, is attributing the difficulties of the position to the refusal of the coal trimmers and coal tipplers to work an extra shift; while the tipplers and trimmers are alleging that they are not kept fully employed even under the present continuous two-shift system, and have arbitrarily refused to wait for more than two hours for coal for shipment. The Cardiff Chamber of Commerce is collecting information in regard to the length of the delays in loading turns, and to the character of the other complaints of coal shippers, and until the facts of the case have been sifted and authenticated it is impossible to say how far the congestion and its evils are due to inefficient traffic administration or to labour restrictions. The market has suffered from these evils; business has been less active than it was a fortnight ago, although towards the end of the week there were signs of improvement. The recovery of the franc has been followed by a revival in French business, and many orders cancelled or suspended recently have now been replaced. The latest returns of output show no diminution in productive activities; on the contrary, the output is increasing, and for the week ending November 11th it amounted to 1,073,600 tons, compared with a 1913 average weekly output of 1,130,000 tons. Prices have been irregular, and on balance they are slightly lower than they were a week ago, but the decrease is very slight, and the collieries are extremely well stemmed over the next few weeks.

The following are the current market prices:—Best Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s 3d; second Admiralties, 26s 6d to 27s 6d; best drys, 28s to 28s 6d; best black veins, 25s 6d to 26s; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s 6d; best bunker snalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo snalls, 12s to 15s; anthracite big vein, 47s 6d to 50s; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 65s to 67s 7d; anthracite French snalls, 70s to 72s 6d; stove snalls, 70s to 71s; rubble culm, 13s 9d to 14s; coke for export, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; iriland blast furnace coke at ovens, 25s to 26s; patent fuel, 28s 6d to 30s; pitwood ex-ship, 33s 6d to 34s 6d.

In the tinplate trade the position continues to improve, and the minimum price of 19s 6d per basis box has been easily obtained. Ruling quotations are from 19s 6d to 20s, and at these prices there is a profit.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

By Wm. F. SPALDING, Cert. A.I.B.

"It is a book that every business man ought to read."—Stock Exchange Gazette. **10/6 net.**

EASTERN EXCHANGE, CURRENCY AND FINANCE. Third Edition. By the same author. 15/- net.

THE FUNCTIONS OF MONEY. By
the same author. 7/6 net.

BANKERS' CREDITS. By the same author. 10/6 net.

BRITISH FINANCE

DURING AND AFTER THE WAR.

Compiled by Members of the British Association, and edited by A. W. Kirkaldy, M.A., B.Litt. (Oxon.). 15/- net.

THE SHAREHOLDERS' MANUAL. By Herbert H. Bassett. Provides investors with practical information regarding investments in stocks and shares. 3/6 net.

DEBENTURES : A Handbook for Limited
Company Officials, Investors and Business
Men. By F. Shewell Cooper, M.A.,
Barrister-at-Law. 6/- net.

PITMAN'S will be pleased to send you, post free, full details of these and other important books.

PARKER STREET, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2.

maturity have now been officially or semi-officially secured, to prevent the War Loan interest payment being long a cause of extreme ease, while for the long view, the prevalent hopes of trade revival, if realised, do not make for cheap and abundant money. These hopes are supported by more general reports from the discount houses of a freer supply of commercial bills. The discount market, which had shown an easier tendency in the earlier part of the week, was weakened still further yesterday by extensive buying of December Treasury bills by one of the clearing banks at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount. The rate for three months' commercial bills was weak at about $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

	Dec. 1, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$ (Jly. 13, '22)

The Bank return shows an increase, due to the usual demands at the end of a month, of £1,477,000 in the note circulation, and decreases of £5,000 in the stock of gold, and £1,482,000 in the Reserve. Borrowings by the market added a million to the other securities, but Government securities were a million and a-half lower. As the Public deposits had, nevertheless, risen by a million, other were curtailed by nearly three millions by these various drains. Currency notes outstanding were increased this week by £701,500 to £287,910,700, which includes £1,533,700 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £238,227,000, or £71,761,400 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Business has remained quiet, but there was a slight hardening tendency in the Consol market towards the end of the week on the expectation that some of the War Loan interest distributed on Friday would find its way back to the market. In the foreign market French bonds have given way, but Germans and Brazilians have rallied. Home Rails have been good and fairly animated, and Argentine and Brazilian Railway stocks are higher. Rubber shares, though firm, have not been much affected by a further rise in the price of the raw material, and oil shares have been flat as a result of fresh liquidation. The shipping market has been strong, and banking and insurance shares fairly good, but iron and steel issues have been inclined to sag. Mines are stagnant. A feature of the week has been the activity in the new capital issue market, several new offers being rapidly subscribed. Further activity is anticipated.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The unmistakable signs of an improved demand in many British industries has not yet had a marked effect on commodity markets. Moreover, as the end of the year draws nearer markets are likely to show increased signs of dullness. In the Manchester cotton trade lower values are anticipated. Demand for India continues indifferent, and though a few more orders have been booked for China, there is no expectation of buying of importance with the exchange so unfavourable. Our Bradford correspondent reports some ease in merino wool values, but that there is a general impression that the position of fine combing wool is too strong to permit of any marked fall in prices. Less demand has been experienced for pig-iron, but business in steel is improving, and the demand is better. At Cardiff, prices of most classes of steam coals rose slightly, but there is still congestion at the docks, which interferes with the free movement of trade. The improvement in the Welsh tin-plate trade is maintained. Our Bermondsey correspondent states that the hide market is steadily weakening, and that tanners apparently welcome the movement. Meanwhile the shoe trade is steadily improving. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The market has had a quieter week than for some time past, the chief features being the strength of sterling in

New York, and a renewed upward movement in the Paris rate. From \$4.49½ on the 24th, the dollar rose steadily until just under \$4.53 on the 28th, well above the highest point reached since the unpegging of the dollar rate in the spring of 1919. On Wednesday there was a slight reaction, and on Thursday, with a general holiday in America, there was a further fall. Yesterday morning, however, at \$4.51, there were signs of increased strength. For the present, there is no reason to fear any sharp reaction, although the recent rise has been perhaps too rapid to continue without small relapses. It should, however, be remembered that a tendency towards inflation, which it would be difficult to avoid should the various unemployment schemes at present under consideration be carried into effect, may go some way towards counteracting the favourable effect on rates of the similar inflationist movement in the United States. Forward quotations remain unchanged at 1 per cent. per month over spot. The Paris rate moved up rather sharply from 62.90 on the 24th to about 65.40 on the 29th, since when it has recovered again to about 64.10 yesterday morning. There has been no change in underlying conditions, and the main reason for the last improvement is a somewhat over-optimistic expectation of the results of the conference of Allied premiers in London announced for next week-end. The Brussels rate again shows a slightly wider spread above Paris. Forward rates in Paris have narrowed a little to about seven centimes a month above spot, while in Brussels they have widened one centime to three centimes per month below. The German mark has been nervous and irregular, rising up to nearly 40,000 on Tuesday on fears of French action in the Rhineland. Yesterday morning, however, it had recovered to about 32,000, very little above the previous week's quotation. The Italian rate shows on the week an improvement of one lira to 94½. Among the neutral exchanges Holland, after going strongly in our favour, has relapsed again, and at 11.41 is not much above the previous week's quotation. Madrid, at 29.41, has again depreciated some nine points. Switzerland moved much in the same way as Holland. Christiania and Copenhagen show little variation on the week, while Stockholm has gone somewhat in our favour to 16.76½. In Central Europe Vienna, at about 320,000, is much the same, and apart from certain minor difficulties, preparations for the League of Nations loan are proceeding satisfactorily. In Warsaw, however, where taxation difficulties are still unsolved, there has been a sharp upward movement from 68,000 to 85,000. Prague has remained steady at 143; Belgrade and Bucharest show a renewed tendency to depreciate. Athens, as was to be expected after recent events there, has moved up again to 315, while Constantinople has maintained last week's recovery. In the East the rupee is about the same at rs 3 31-32d; Yokohama is ¾d cheaper at 2s 1½d. The downward tendency in silver continued till a quotation of 31½d was reached on the 28th. After this some Indian buying brought rates up a little, but the outlook is still unsatisfactory. Shanghai is 1½d down at 3s 1d, and Hong Kong is also lower. In South America Buenos Ayres is ½d dearer at 44½d, Montevideo shows a slightly firmer tendency at 44d, Valparaiso, after a sharp depreciation, is back again at 36.90 pesos, the same as the previous week, while Rio, on the other hand, is ¾d cheaper at 6½d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 25th:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	10,465	Interest on Debt	1,57
		Supply Services	4,70
		Sundries	55
		Reduction of Debt	3,28
		Added to Exchequer balances ..	35
	10,465		10,46

The total revenue of £10,465,136 for the week ended November 25, 1922, compares with £15,098,917 for the corresponding period a year ago. Customs produced £3,668,000, as against £3,769,000, while Property and Income-tax yielded £2,062,000, as compared with £795,000. Excise brought in £1,839,000, while

Estate Duties at £1,010,000 compare with £1,731,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £3,289,580, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates	+ 300	National War Bonds paid off ..	- 150
4½% Treasury Bonds	+ 4,613	Treasury Bills	- 6,806
Public Debt Advances	+ 950	War Loan, &c.	- 1,119
Cunard Loan	+ 130	Other Debt	- 838
	+ 5,093		

The floating debt was reduced by £6,755,000 to £911,458,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to November 25, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	475,275,828	Raised by revenue ..	522,800,483
Dec. in balances	7,668,092	Net repayments	55,192,747
Total	467,607,736	Total	467,607,736

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term. Annuities	36	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
34% War Stock	16	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 & 5% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
44% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	1,979	1,979
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,046	1,046
4% Funding Loan	..	..	409	405	405	405	401	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	360	357	348	346	335	335	335
34% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24	24
5½% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	273	381	31	31
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	69	69
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	73
Do by tender 4%	15	961	967	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,050	878	732
Treasury Bills	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150	150
Exchequer Bonds	20	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	367
Nat'l. Savings Certs.	..	23	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,073
War Expend. Certs.	..	944	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Other Debt	..	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
American Loan	..	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	179
Temporary Advances	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	57	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,731

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	Nov. 25, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Nov. 25, '22.	Week ended Nov. 25, '22.
Temporary Advances	8,250,000	..	..	..	..
Advances by Bank of England ..	184,408,000	147,301,500	179,538,500	..	50,000
Advances by Public Debt Office ..	1,107,532,000	882,219,000	731,920,000	..	6,805,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,300,190,000	1,029,520,500	911,458,500	..	6,755,000
Total Floating Debt	..	..	..	..	..

THE NEW HOUSE AT WORK.

THE new House of Commons has been presented with a broader opportunity of showing its qualities than most new Houses have found in the first ten days of their life. Although the debate on the Address has been for several days interrupted by more serious business, we have already seen enough from the preliminary skirmishes to realise that the Government is faced with a powerful, active, and critical opposition; while the Irish Bills, whose urgency has interrupted the debate on the Address, have put the House to the immediate test of showing whether, in matters of high national importance such as this, it can eschew pettiness and meet an historic duty in the proper spirit. From this test the new House emerges with credit. The supreme task of the present session was to pass before December 6th the legislation necessary to approve the Constitution of the Irish Free State, and to translate into action the pledges given on behalf of the nation in the Treaty of December last. Political exigencies decreed that the time for considering the necessary legislation was very short indeed. It had to be passed quickly; and as regards the more important part, it had to be swallowed whole without alteration by a House to some of whose members many of its provisions were traditionally distasteful. Moreover, several of its provisions would in other circumstances have been greatly improved by wise amendment. It is, therefore, to the

credit of all sections of the House that the speedy passage, intact, of the "Bill to provide for the Constitution of the Irish Free State" was achieved without any attempt at obstruction or acrimony in any quarter.

A high tone was set for the discussion of this—the first of the two Irish Bills—by the Prime Minister and Mr Ramsay Macdonald. The former laid down that the House was limited to a single consideration: "Does the Constitution comply with the Treaty?" and he quoted the highest legal testimony in the affirmative. The speech of the latter opened with three terse sentences: "The less said about this Bill the better. Criticism is useless. Sympathy is dangerous," and concluded with an eloquent prayer for the success of the new régime in Ireland. The note thus struck was well maintained; and, although a new Labour member, who would be obscure if it were not for his unpronounceable name, attempted discord by moving the Bill's rejection, his effort passed so unheeded as to enhance the impression of general harmony. Harmony is sometimes monotonous; but the harmony of the debate on this Bill was enlivened by incisive examination of detail by legal luminaries. There was, for instance, an interesting discussion on citizenship of the new State, on the position of a British citizen resident in the new State, and on the question whether, technically, there is such a thing as a "Canadian," as distinct from a "British" citizenship. On this subject, and on the broad comparison between the Constitution of the Irish Free State and the Constitution of the Dominions, Sir John Simon, Sir John Butcher, and Mr Hogg made contributions that may come to be regarded as classical references by future students of constitutional history. In the main, however, Mr Hogg, making an effective first appearance as Attorney-General, was able to satisfy all reasonable doubts on the main point, namely, that the Constitution complies with the Treaty. In fact, the House was very much in the humour to accept his dictum: "We ought not to be so astute as to try to pick some technical flaw in the exact wording of some particular clause, and out of that spell some disagreement which would give us what they (i.e., the Irish) would regard as a dishonest excuse for getting out of our obligations."

The second Irish Bill, with which equally good progress has been made, is an omnibus Bill containing a jumble of provisions, financial and otherwise, "consequential on or incidental to the establishment of the Irish Free State." Here criticism had a broader scope, for in some clauses, at any rate, some amendment might be possible without breach of pledge. Much discussion ranged on such various topics as the salary of the Governor of Northern Ireland, land purchase, the grant of land for ex-soldiers, compensation for damage, the registration of war stock in Dublin, and the possible erection of a customs barrier between the Free State and Northern Ireland. On the last of these subjects many of the points recently brought out in the *Economist* were made by various speakers. The fact, however, obviously remains that powers to create such a customs barrier must be provided for. We can only hope that economic and political wisdom will save Great Britain, Ulster, and the new Irish Free State from the costly and irritating burden of a land customs frontier extending over hundreds of miles. But all such matters of detail, however important, are dwarfed by the fact that nothing can now prevent the faithful consummation of the Treaty. Within the next few days Southern Ireland will stand formally and legally upon the same basis as the overseas Dominions, facing a future fraught with great immediate complications, but with still greater future possibilities. We cannot do better than re-echo the hopes expressed in the House of Commons this week that within measurable time Ireland will have achieved not only peace within both of her present geographical divisions, but unity between the two.

Tranquillity has thus marked the Irish Bill's progress. But the "first week of term" has already produced abundant signs that the Government will not be allowed to rest in ease. Mr Ramsay Macdonald has given the House a glimpse of his high Parliamentary gifts, which, backed by a phalanx of 140 members, many of whom are able lieutenants, will ensure that Labour as an effective critical force will be incalculably more formidable than

in the late Parliament. It will be all the more formidable if Mr Macdonald can discipline the boisterous effervescence of some of his "new boys." The growth in strength of the Liberal opposition will quickly prove itself equally striking. In Mr Lloyd George and Mr Asquith the Premier has to face the two greatest Parliamentary figures of the day, each with plenty of skilled and energetic supporters. The delicate task of Liberal reunion is already achieved in most of the constituencies, and at Westminster, where the adage "more haste, less speed" might well be borne in mind, it is being pushed with almost embarrassing rapidity. When it is really achieved, the Liberal party will provide the House with a second cohesive opposition group not less to be respected than the first. In addition, independent thought is unusually well represented in various quarters of the Chamber. Contemplation of these new features at Westminster has already produced a visible effect in the country. It has revived public interest in Parliament; it is restoring, and will restore more clearly as time goes on the prestige of the House of Commons. For the last four years the country has had much excuse for regarding the proceedings of the House of Commons as unreal and ineffective. With such a feeling abroad, the new House had to win its spurs; and it is winning them. Whatever mistakes both Government and Opposition may make—and both will make plenty—the important fact will remain that we have got once more a Government that recognises its responsibility to Parliament, and a Parliament fully capable of performing its functions of criticism and control. The centre of gravity has once more shifted from Downing Street and Whitehall to Westminster, and for that fact alone all lovers of Constitutional Government may be devoutly thankful.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLAPSE OF RUSSIA.

THE whole world has been deeply stirred by the tragedy of the Russian famine of 1921-22, which is the worst, both as regards numbers affected and as regards mortality from starvation and disease, which has occurred in Europe in modern times. Indeed, the story of the sufferings which it has entailed called forth from Western Europe, and still more from the United States of America, what is, perhaps, one of the greatest charitable efforts known to history. In July of this year no less than ten million persons (six million adults and four million children) were being fed by the American Relief Administration, and nearly 1½ million more persons were being fed by the various European organisations under the auspices of Dr. Nansen's International Relief Organisation. This immense relief effort, carried on in the recesses of the Russian Continent, to which communication could only be obtained by an inadequate and disorganised railway system, is one which has required from its agents not only the greatest self-sacrifice and devotion, but also remarkable efficiency and perseverance under difficulties. But great though the effort was, it came too late to meet the first and most furious onslaught of famine, which reached its height in the winter and early spring of 1921-22. Moreover, the numbers of people in need of food numbered from 20 to 24 million, and of these there perished from starvation a number which it is difficult to estimate, but is officially put by the International Russian Relief Commission at two million, and by Dr. Nansen himself at three million.

The fact that this appalling tragedy can occur in a modern world in a country which boasts a considerable, if inadequate, railway system, is sufficiently disquieting, and it is of the utmost importance to endeavour to understand whether and to what extent it is to be regarded as an act of God, and to what extent an act of man. At the July meeting of the Council of the League

of Nations in London, the League secretariat was instructed to present a report on the Russian situation, and the result of its inquiry, which has been published this week in London, provides some material for answering this question.* Its conclusions, though not summarised quite in this form, quite clearly indicate that far the most important cause of the trouble was the economic condition of the country caused by the revolution following upon the disorganisation of the European and civil wars, and that the actual drought which struck the famine provinces in 1921 was only the last of a disastrous series of blows which had killed the economic life of the country. The outstanding fact which the report brings out is that before the famine year nearly half the arable land of the country had already gone out of cultivation, and that on the land which was still under cultivation, the average yield had enormously fallen, not merely through lack of agricultural implements, fertilisers, draught cattle, deterioration in the seed corn, and inability to fight insect pests—all of which had a powerful influence—but, above all, because that section of the land which had gradually been brought under more modern large-scale farming methods, slipped back through the redistribution of land into the old primitive peasant culture methods. Hence the harvest of 1920 was only 43 per cent. of the average pre-war harvest. In pre-war days one-sixth of Russia's cereal crops was exported, and Russia's own population has been reduced by about 8 per cent. through war, immigration, and recurrent epidemics, and to this extent she could have afforded to reduce her former production without distress. But so disastrous a fall in production obviously shows that by 1920 the Russian people were living on a very much lower standard of consumption. The report of the League contains a discussion of all the varied influences which brought about this result, but the most interesting and significant are the revolution in land tenure, the economic breach between the town and country, and the effect of the Soviet requisitions and food taxes. The last of these causes was perhaps the most powerful influence, and it illustrates the effect of interfering with the normal motives of economic activity. In 1918 the Soviet Government made a decree leaving to the peasant an amount of his production sufficient only for himself and his household on a fixed ration, and the whole of the rest was declared to be the property of the State. This system may perhaps have only been enforced in those localities where the Red Army could make its power felt, or where the associations of poor peasants were effective; but wherever it was enforced it stopped production, for the peasant cultivator quite naturally ceased to produce as soon as he realised that he could not use his production for his own benefit. This interference with economic motives cut at the root of economic life. But there was another cause tending in the same direction. When the Soviet system was introduced into industry, manufacturing production, already curtailed during the European War, rapidly dwindled away. The peasant could not obtain anything he wanted in exchange for his produce, and he was not willing to take and store paper roubles, which had begun their downward course. He therefore limited his output to his own requirements. An economic disease of so serious a kind cannot, however, be checked at will, and as one influence after another crushed agricultural production, the country eventually arrived at the paradoxical situation in which its output of manufactured goods, though reduced to ridiculously small dimensions (coal, 25 per cent. of normal; pig-iron, 3 per cent. of normal; cotton, 5 per cent. of normal; when the right of free exchange was restored in March, 1921. The reason for this was that in a country like Russia against the whole output of agriculture, but against the agricultural surplus; and for the reasons indicated, emphasised in the autumn of 1921 by the effect of the drought, localities. Hence the cost of industrial production in terms of an almost non-existent food supply proved prohibitive, and the phenomena associated in the Western world with periods of over-production emerged and output fell almost to nothing.

The impression left by the report, and particularly by

the discussion of the peasant system of farming, leaves the impression that a large part of Russia has slipped back half a century to the condition obtaining at the time of the emancipation of the serfs; and though a nation can no doubt trace the path of development more rapidly a second time than the first, Russia has clearly to build up again almost from rock bottom a new economic system under which, with security of tenure, the right to exchange the produce of labour and an adequate transport and credit system the agriculturalist may be induced once more to grow for market and not merely for his own immediate physical needs.

The harvest in the current year is undoubtedly better than last year, and after a discussion of many varying estimates the League's report ultimately lends the weight of its authority to an estimate of about 2,000,000,000 poods of grain, which compares with other harvests as follows (the figures are for the area of the present Soviet Russia, excluding Caucasus and Turkestan, and relate to all cereal crops):—

	Sown Area (in Million Desyatins).	Harvest (in Million Poods).	Yield (in Poods per Desyatina)
1909-13 (average)	81.2	4079	50.0
1916	82.5	3955	48.0
1920	56.8	1738	30.6
1921	49.1	1617	32.6
1922	45.0	2019	45.0

It is significant that, taking Russia as a whole, the average yield was actually more in the famine year (1921) than in the preceding year, but the harvest was less owing to the reduced area sown. The reduction in the crop was not very great, but whereas there was an actual increase in the North, it was almost a complete failure in the South-East. The disorganisation of transport and the complete disappearance of stocks as a result of a series of years of inadequate harvests must therefore be included among the causes of the actual famine and mortality. The harvest of 1922 is big in comparison with the extreme poverty of Russia during recent years, but it is pitifully small compared to the needs of the country, and its inadequacy together with the continued difficulty of getting supplies to the famine area are responsible for the fact that Dr Nansen's representative in Moscow reports that charitable effort will still have to deal not merely with the care of orphans and with medical needs, which are the universal aftermath of famine, but also once more with the actual starvation after the turn of the year. In the Ukraine the Russian representatives of the famine-stricken areas report that, as a result of the drought in June, a large part of this year's crops perished; that the famine of 1921-22 had exhausted all supplies of seed in the hands of the population, and that the consequent diminution of the net harvest of winter crops in order to make good this loss threatened a continuance of famine in those districts which had suffered in 1921-22. "In regard, therefore, to these areas, owing to the exhaustion of the population physically, of all resources for trade at their disposal and of the increasing abandonment of work on peasant farms, the Conference came to the conclusion that famine during 1922-23, although less acute, would have far more serious results than that of last year." We have no space to summarise at all fully the report on the conditions of the last few months, but the difficulty of distribution is proved more eloquently than by any written statement by the fact that the Government has been forced to commence collecting food taxes for relief purposes even in districts which are themselves short of crops.

Reference is made in the report to the great psychological effect that has been produced in the towns of Russia by the new economic policy which permits the renewing of private exchange; but the net effect of the investigation is a very pessimistic one, for it shows even pre-war Russia as a country which was economically in a very primitive condition, and that its development was very vulnerable and easily destroyed. One may question whether conditions in a continent so vast as Russia are really capable of being summarised in a few general statements in a comparatively short report, but the document now issued at all events makes an attempt to probe for the underlying influences which are affecting the life of 120 millions of Europeans at the present day.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

ANOTHER slight increase in wholesale prices of commodities as reflected in our Index Number occurred in November, the actual change being 23 points, which follows an increase of 71 points in October. This brings the total to 4283, which compares with 4357 at the end of 1921 and 2565 at the outbreak of war. As will be seen from the table below, last month's increase is more than accounted for by a sharp rise in the textile group; changes in other groups have on balance been downward:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Pro- ducts (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tim- ber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	Percentage Change.
Basis (avg. 1901-5)...	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914....	579	352	618½	464½	553	2565	116.6
" Dec., 1915....	897	446	731	711½	848½	3634	165.1
" Dec., 1917....	1286½	686	1684½	839½	1348½	5845	263.2
" Nov., 1918....	1289	782½	1848	903	1389½	6212	282.6
" Dec., 1918....	1303	782½	1805½	866	1337	6094	277.0
" Dec., 1919....	1441½	881½	2442½	1145	1453½	7364	334.7
" Mar., 1920....	1508	914	2974½	1246	1709½	8352	379.6
" Dec., 1920....	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.8
" Dec. 1921....	921½	636	1106	762	931½	4357	198.0
" Jan., 1922....	907½	654½	1066½	730	925½	4284	194.7
" Feb. "....	948	640½	1037½	696½	936½	4259	193.6
" Mar. "....	980	687	1038	700	892	4297	195.8
" April "....	1008½	667	1010	709½	890	4285	194.8
" May "....	1040½	657	1079	710½	885	4372	198.7
" June "....	1000½	676½	1135	690	887	4389	199.5
" July "....	994½	669	1120	712½	900	4396	199.8
" Aug. "....	880½	674	1123½	691½	887½	4257	193.5
" Sept. "....	873½	682½	1116	699	818	4189	190.4
" Oct. "....	885	700	1150	712	813	4260	193.6
" Nov. "....	864	703	1200½	704½	811	4283	194.7

* Corrected figure.

The only group apart from textiles to show a material change is primary foodstuffs, in which declines in foreign wheat, in barley and in meat were the principal factors. Among subsidiary foodstuffs a further small rise in tea was the only change of importance. In the textile group nearly every quotation moved upwards in varying degree, the largest rise being shown by jute. Cotton quotations have registered another increase, and it may be mentioned that the group went up in October by 34 points. In the minerals section there was a slight weakening in the minor metals. In this connection the remarks of a correspondent are of interest.

"If the big relief schemes calling for the expenditure of many millions of pounds are carried out," he writes, "various non-ferrous metals such as zinc, lead and copper are bound to benefit. The electrification of several railways, the new battleships and merchant vessels to be constructed, the tramway extensions, the new tubes, and so on, will call for metals in large quantities, and, having regard to the absurdly small stocks in the United Kingdom at the present time, it is rather a puzzle to see where supplies are coming from. Copper stocks in the United States will be cut down to 150,000 tons by the close of the year; there are now about 20,000 tons in the United Kingdom and 4,000 tons in France. Lead stocks here have been reduced to a few hundred tons, while the supplies of zinc are not more than 4,000 tons. The United Kingdom would have to look to the United States for fresh copper supplies and also for its zinc, while Spain and Australia, and possibly Mexico, would doubtless be called upon to send over lead. The price of spelter last week dropped very sharply on talk of big American purchases for early shipment, but this week, on the publication of the Government schemes, there was a very quick change of sentiment, and most of the loss was recovered. Before the war the United Kingdom could use about 11,000 to 12,000 tons of zinc per month, and any revival in the brass-making trade would mean competition for the available supplies. The exports of galvanised sheets this year will run into fully 500,000 tons; thus, allowing 100,000 tons for home use, this trade alone should easily absorb spelter at the rate of 80,000 tons per annum. Lead is likely to be in short supply for some time to come, and, generally speaking, all the non-ferrous metals are bound to come in for more attention as soon as the work is in full swing."

* "Report on Economic Conditions in Russia, with Special Reference to the Famine of 1921-22 and the State of Agriculture." To be obtained from Messrs Constable. 2s 6d.

acres) (a) prior to the war, (b) during the war, and (c) after the war :—

	(a)	(b)	(c)
United States	46.5	60.5	62.5
Canada	8.0	17.0	23.0
Australia	6.4	12.5	9.5

This welcome increase in Canadian acreage is rendered even more significant by the fact that Canada is considerably in advance of other countries in respect of yield per acre. The harvest in both Canada and the United States has been quite good, the estimates for spring-sown wheat being particularly satisfactory. The fact that a greater part of the crops has already been secured greatly enhances the reliability of these figures. In percentages of the 1921 crop, the outputs for Canada and the United States have been estimated at approximately 129 per cent. and 102 per cent. respectively. The wheat figures for British India are still better, and have been estimated, on the same basis, at 148 per cent. The International Institute of Agriculture estimates that the good returns of India, Canada, and the United States have provided 42,800,000 metric tons of wheat this season, a total of 17 per cent. above that of 1921. There seems good ground for believing that the European deficiency, together with the even more unsatisfactory results in North Africa, will be more than made good.

Our Buenos Aires correspondent reports that wheat is weak in the stalk and unduly advanced; but that this is by no means universal, and opinion inclines to the belief that, barring accidents, the yield should be fully normal, and may even be on a larger scale.

The world's supply of wheat seems well assured, if we take all exporting countries together. The output of the Western European countries, however, is clearly below that of 1921. The outlook for Germany has been prejudiced by the weather experienced in July, and an average yield is the most that can be expected. In France this year's harvest is considerably below the excellent results obtained last year, when what was practically a pre-war total was reached, in spite of the smaller acreage sown. In fact, the wheat crop is distinctly below the average, and importation is necessary to make up the deficiency. In Great Britain the crop is considered fairly good, though about 15 per cent. less than last year.

The following table illustrates the position in the four principal exporting countries of the world :—

WHEAT PRODUCTION (in Millions of Bushels).

	Average, 1909-13.	Average, 1919-21.	Crop, 1921.	Estimated Crop, 1922.
United States	686	865	794	810
Canada	198	252	300	388
Australia	85	88	144	..
Argentina	157	185	170	..

The average world crop of wheat is approximately 3,631 millions of bushels, of which only some 615 millions, or rather less than 17 per cent., enters into international trade. The four countries for which figures are given above account, on the average, for 564 millions of the total wheat exports. Accordingly, for this post-war period, with Russia no longer a factor of any importance at all, the figures for the United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina together afford a reliable index of international supplies.

Thanks mainly to the favourable situation in the New World, the price ruling to-day is within measurable distance of the pre-war level. The following table is not without interest :—

WHEAT PRICES (per quarter).

	End of Oct., 1913.	End of June, 1914.	End of Oct., 1920.	End of Oct., 1922.
British wheat.....	30/4	34/1	90/6	41/6
Foreign wheat (No. 1 North Manitoba)	35/-	37/-	116/6	55/-

This season's maize supply is not so satisfactory. The United States, which is responsible for over two-thirds of the world's production, has a crop slightly smaller than that of last year (about 97 per cent.), but the area devoted to this cereal is also smaller. In South-Eastern Europe, however, where maize constitutes the principal food of the peasantry, hominy largely taking the place of meat as

chief article of diet, the crop is, on the whole, very inferior, thanks to the extremely dry weather experienced in August and September. Crop forecasts earlier in the year were extremely favourable, though the actual figures of the Roumanian maize harvest will almost certainly prove to be less than half the earlier estimates. The recent changes in land tenure have led to an increase in the relative importance of maize as compared with wheat, and the failure of the former will still further reduce the amount of the latter available for export.

The acreage devoted to rye has increased considerably in Poland, Canada, and the United States, and the crop in those three countries shows a very considerable improvement over that of last year. The figures for oats are also good in most countries, the United States actually having a crop of 118 per cent. in terms of the 1921 output on a considerably reduced acreage. Barley, on the other hand, does not appear to have been as successful in most countries in 1922 as in 1921.

On the whole, the world's production of cereals has been fairly satisfactory this year, thanks to the position in America. Signs of a recovery in Eastern Europe seem at hand, though obscured this year by the failure of the maize crop. The acreage under cultivation in the Danube lands has increased somewhat, though the uncertainties of the political and financial situation, combined with rapid social change, must needs make recovery very slow. In 1922, however, the New World has once again redressed the balance of the Old.

ARGENTINE LAND COMPANIES.

BEFORE examining the annual accounts of the little group of British companies developing land in Argentina a clearer insight into conditions may be obtained if a brief survey is taken of recent agricultural progress in that country. As is generally known, the staple agricultural products are cereals, livestock, and wool, the second of these providing the raw material for the great chilled and frozen meat industries, together with the important hide trade. The livestock industry has passed through a period of acute depression, mainly owing to the fact that conditions have been fairly favourable for cattle rearing, with a consequent excess of supply over demand. In consequence prices fell heavily, and many companies made severe losses in this section of their activities. In cereals conditions have been fairly good, prices rising owing to troubles in the Near East, and probably to the effect of adverse climatic conditions upon crops.

Fortunately, not only was the year ended September 30th last a record one, as far as wool exports were concerned, but the world demand for wool provided an outlet at good prices for stocks on hand, including those accumulated in past seasons. The following interesting table, which we take from Messrs Ernesto Tornquist and Co.'s report, shows exports of wool from Argentina from October 1st to September 30th for the past four years :—

Destination.	1918-19. Tons.	1919-20. Tons.	1920-21. Tons.	1921-22. Tons.
Germany	..	11,250	43,480	65,520
France	28,120	32,360	16,820	45,660
Great Britain	9,970	18,600	19,430	35,180
United States	55,800	30,410	38,030	18,270
Italy	7,070	8,070	1,800	10,000
Holland	5,080	5,390	..	260
Belgium	4,060	17,660	410	20,900
Spain	1,420	320	130	730
Other countries.....	7,370	2,790	2,620	3,170
Total	118,890	126,850	132,260	199,690

It will be observed that Germany is by far Argentina's best customer for wool, with France second and Great Britain third. The heavy fall in exports to the United States is a notable feature of the table. The substantial increase in the total from 132,260 to 199,690 tons is reflected in the revenue accounts of most Argentine agricultural companies, and profits from wool sales have

proved of valuable assistance in making up for losses in other directions.

From the accounts of seven representative British companies which we have selected, we make the following comparative statement of gross and net revenue :—

	Year Ended	1919-20.		1920-21.		1921-22.	
		Trading Rev'ue.	Net Profits.	Trading Rev'ue.	Net Profits.	Trading Rev'ue.	Net Profits.
Argentine Land and Investment.....	June 30	£ 135,594	£ 98,844	£ 94,030	£ 65,772	£ 125,004	£ 88,277
Argentine Southern Land	June 30	224,087	94,134	172,500	35,463	112,970	9,267
Cordova Land	Sept. 30	214,565	125,887	131,558	40,458	60,862	5,511
Forestal Land, Timber, and Railways	Dec. 31	1,433,351	992,381	754,335	560,261	544,257	Dr.
Leach's Argentine Estates	Mar. 31	282,870	171,959	176,245	81,727	2,630	Dr.
Rio Negro	June 30	182,772	88,692	82,103	18,713	67,611	12,122
Tecka	June 30	130,614	57,703	77,951	20,731	46,258	1,234

As will be seen, Argentine land companies have, on the whole, experienced an adverse year. The Argentine Land and Investment has, however, proved an exception, with net profits improving from £65,772 to £88,277, revenue from land sales and rents showing striking increases. As has already been observed, the market for cattle passed through a period of extreme depression. A falling off in demand, due to the general economic condition of Europe, was followed by heavy offerings of cattle by breeders unable to carry existing stocks. This mainly accounts for the heavy decrease in profits of the Cordova Company, these falling from £40,458 to £5,511; the actual sales of live stock by this company amounted to only £50,915, as against £123,854 for the previous year. Although the figures of the Forestal Land, Timber, and Railways Company are included in our tables, it being obvious that any picture of Argentine land companies would be incomplete without them, the latest accounts are only down to the end of 1921; reserves were drawn upon to a total extent of £670,000, expenses and depreciation charges absorbed £544,257, leaving £126,314, which, added to the balance brought forward, provided the directors with £239,617, and, after payment of dividend on the preference shares, £127,666 was carried forward. Altogether it has proved an unpleasant year for the company, but, in spite of the setback, the directors continue to extend the sphere of the company's activities by acquiring interests in useful allied industries. Again the cause of the losses sustained is owing to unfavourable cattle sales. Leach's debit of £2,630 was helped by recoveries of overpaid Excess Profits Duty, amounting to £85,358. Of this sum, however, £36,458 was applied to "Depreciation" and £40,574 for payment of debenture interest. Sales of livestock by the Rio Negro at £16,679 were less than half of those recorded for 1920-21, but profits from wool, &c., rose from £34,158 to £43,839. The Tecka Company was rather less fortunate. In the previous year the revenue was £77,951, of which £30,508 was brought in from "Taxation Adjustment Account." This year the company has no such windfall. Livestock sales are down from £16,642 to £8,961, but earnings from wool and other sources improved from £23,973 to £32,703. Net profits of £1,234 are, however, disappointing.

In our next table we analyse the more important assets and liabilities for the past two years :—

Name.	Year.	Capital, Res'v's, Deben- and Un- tures, & divided Loans.	Cred- itors.	Land & Prop- erty.	Stocks, Invest- ments, & Cash in Hand.	Total Assets.
Argentine L. & I.	1920-21	£ 488,075	£ 68,000	£ 246,990	£ 16,063	£ 819,128
	1921-22	488,075	220,929	93,975	235,746	938,725
Argentine Sthn.	1920-21	500,000	149,364	34,793	504,001	1,188,158
	1921-22	500,000	129,746	37,363	516,076	1,183,185
Cordova Land.	1920-21	1,494,872	116,808	62,357	1,560,377	3,234,414
	1921-22	1,494,872	70,604	47,762	1,560,377	3,173,615
Forestal	1920 ..	5,165,312	2,788,226	1,666,738	4,036,506	13,656,882
	1921 ..	5,574,689	2,562,476	1,809,126	3,997,631	13,943,922
Leach's	1920-21	1,829,440	486,413	292,003	1,994,663	4,608,519
	1921-22	1,790,700	425,785	280,769	2,078,742	4,575,996
Rio Negro	1920-21	300,000	75,438	18,538	246,598	660,574
	1921-22	200,000	87,603	25,962	213,103	526,668
Tecka	1920-21	200,000	71,025	18,286	214,834	504,145
	1921-22	200,000	71,025	18,286	214,834	504,145

The directors of the Argentine Southern Land have taken steps to increase their share capital by a further issue of 100,000 £1 shares. This is in connection with the contract recently entered into by this company to purchase from the Argentine Land and Investment certain property for £90,000 payable over a period of ten years by means of the issue of shares. In the accounts of the Cordova Company stocks, produce and stores are included in one item under land and property. The Forestal Land and Timber shows a slightly increased capital; although reserves were drawn upon for £500,000, the proceeds of realisation of sundry assets account being allocated to this purpose, they are maintained within £220,000 of the previous year's figures, in spite of the substantial decrease in undivided profits. Investments have undergone a change, War Loan and Bonds to the value of £596,437 disappearing, while holdings and loans in associated companies increased from £978,417 to £2,200,000. Leach's Argentine Estates, although a bad year's trading was experienced, appears to maintain its financial position fairly well. This company, mainly producing sugar, suffered even to a greater extent than in the previous year on account of the sugar-growing zone of Argentina being again visited by severe frosts; its cane fields produced but 11,616 tons of sugar, as against 13,132 tons in 1920-21 and 21,000 tons in 1919-20. Goodwill is still retained in assets at £132,700, as pointed out in these columns a year ago, but the reserve at £420,000 remains unchanged.

Incidentally the redemption of its debenture issue proceeds smoothly, and even in the lean year just experienced by the company £40,400 was allocated for this purpose. The total debenture issue was originally for £1,000,000. This has now been reduced to £697,300. According to the terms of issue, these are repayable at par in 1934; at present they are quoted at round about 87, with a yield, including profit of redemption, of approximately 7 2s per cent. Creditors of the Rio Negro are down from £33,111 to £15,838, while debtors have advanced from £5,321 to £15,091, and cash and investments are down by over £15,000; undivided profits, however, show an increase. Reserves are slightly higher. Tecka follows a slightly different course: a reduction of creditors is accompanied by a slight decrease of debtors, reserves and undivided profits displaying a shrinkage.

In the table given below we show dividends over a period of four years, together with prices in 1921 and 1922, as compared with those in 1914. Present yields based on recent dividends are added :—

Name and Amount of Share.	Dividends.				Prices.			Pre-ent Yield.
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	July 27, 1914.	Dec. 12, 1921.	Nov. 28, 1922.	
Argentine Land & Inv't., 10s	2%	15	20	20	11	18	18	2 8 0
Argentine Southn. Land, £1	10	12 1/2	15	5	11	11	11	6 8 0
Cordova Land Ord., £1	5	7	12	12	11	11	11	4 9 0
Forestal Land Ord., £1	18	18	12	6	11	11	11	7 12 0
Do 6% Cum. Pref., £1	12	6	6	6	11	11	11	..
Leach's Estates Ord., 10s	12	12	6	6	11	11	11	..
Do Def., 1s	29 1/2	29 1/2	Nil	Nil	11	11	11	..
Do 6% Ptz. Cum. Pref., £1	9	9	6	Nil	11	11	11	..
Rio Negro Ord., £1	7	15	7	5	11	11	11	5 3 3
Tecka Ord., £1	10	15	7	5	11	11	11	4 14 0

* Free of income-tax.

This is a very interesting record. At a glance it reveals the speculative nature of undertakings engaged in agricultural industries, and it also reminds us how very necessary it is for such companies to build up ample reserves as provision against adverse seasons.

The future is uncertain. Owing to the decrease in flocks the next wool clip is expected to be smaller than in previous year, while prospects of wider markets for meat exports are not encouraging, Germany and other European countries not responding to Argentina's advances. Prices of cereals have been well maintained during the past few months, but even if exportable surpluses are of a substantial amount the trend of future prices has to be considered. However, as observed before in dealing with agricultural undertakings, we are steering through uncharted seas where lessened production may yield increased revenue and increased production less revenue.

SOUTH AFRICAN COAL RESOURCES.

(BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT.)

THE S.A. Union Geological Survey has just issued an important memoir (No. 19) on the Coal Resources of the Union, by Mr W. Wybergh, Government Mining Engineer under the Milner régime. Volume 1 comprises the coal-fields of Witbank, Springs and Heidelberg and of the Orange Free State. The area in the Witbank district containing proved coal on the No. 1 seam is given at 25,435 acres, giving 259 million tons; the area of estimated coal is given at 45,550 acres, yielding 521 million tons. The calorific value is put at 12 and 11.4 respectively in both cases over five feet of coal, the calculated yield being 10,200 tons per acre. In addition, there are 14,500 acres probably containing the seam, and representing 134 million tons. The lower portion of No. 2 seam is the only part that has been worked, and furnishes the greater portion of coal obtained from the Witbank coalfield. The proved area is taken at 47,000 acres, with an average width of nearly eight feet, 11.8 calorific value, and yielding a tonnage of 751 millions; the "estimated" area is taken at 55,560 acres, giving a total tonnage of 868 millions. The undetermined quantity is put at 500 million tons of low-grade, i.e., from 10 to 11 calorific. Although the greater proportion of the high-grade coal proved has been in the neighbourhood of Witbank, it is probable that more high-grade coal exists elsewhere. No. 3 seam is a very bright coal, probably of high-grade, but too thin to be worked. No. 4 seam is in two portions, but has been worked practically nowhere. The proved area contains 930 million tons, with a rather greater quantity in the estimated area. The average calorific value would be about 10½. Seam No. 5 is the uppermost of the series, and consequently the one most subjected to denudation; it is at present only worked at Oogies, where it is of good grade and thickness. The tonnage is estimated at 637 millions.

Mr Wybergh gives the total tonnage of proved and estimated coal in the Witbank district at 6,456 million tons, averaging 11.2 calorific. Of this about 41 per cent. is below 11 calorific, some 52 per cent. between that and 12½ calorific, while only 6 per cent., or less than 400 million tons, is above 12½, which is the standard taken by the Transvaal Coal Owners' Association for export coal. From 12 to 12.5 calorific there are 958 million tons, this grade representing 15 per cent. of the total.

The Springs area, though by no means the first to become known in the Transvaal, was the first to be opened up and worked on a considerable scale. It at one time furnished the bulk of the coal supply. But the calorific value throughout the whole field is extremely low, and the ash contents high. The only coal with a calorific value of over 10 comes from a limited area at Springs, where the lower part of the bottom seam, and a relatively thin upper seam, give good values. Of 112 million tons estimated, as in the proved areas, half has a value of less than 8.5 calorific, while less than 6 per cent is over 11 calorific. It is roughly estimated that the approved area contains three times as much coal. Of the Nigel area, the gross coal contents is put at 65 million tons, with a calorific value probably not over 9; of the Vishkuil-Delmas area 218 million tons proved, with six times such quantity estimated. Between Heidelberg and the Vaal River are at least one large and three smaller areas, one of which (Vereeniging) furnishes large quantities of coal. The South Rand coalfield, about 25 miles due south of Heidelberg, is by far the most important; it is estimated to contain 8,064 million tons of coal, ranging from 9 to 11.3 calorific. For the Vereeniging district, the Transvaal side of the river, the aggregate is given at 835 million tons. On the O.F.S. side, the total of proved and unproved coal is estimated at 11,458 million tons, of which 80 per cent. has a value of 10 calorific, or less. For the whole of the Orange Free State, the coal remaining is estimated at about nine times that quantity, but there are no data as to grade to go upon outside the known coalfields. There is a speculative possibility of an extension of the Natal coalfield beneath a portion of the Eastern Orange Free State. Both in the Transvaal

and Natal there is a woeful tendency to produce high-grade coal, and abandon much useful coal, thus wasting the Union's assets in most prodigal fashion. It is greatly to be desired that the poorer grade of coal should be utilised, by methods recently scientifically developed, so as to conserve what General Smuts recently styled "South Africa's greatest asset."

THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE unemployment problem played an important part in the recent General Election, and as a result of activity on the Labour benches has so far been the most prominent question before the new House of Commons, not even excluding the Irish Bills, which called Parliament into being for the present session. In many ways the situation is worse than it was a year ago, notwithstanding a slight diminution in the number of people unemployed. The trade union unemployment percentage at the end of October was 14.1, as compared with 15.6 at the end of October last year. The number of workpeople on the live register of the employment exchanges at the end of October was about 1,385,000, but this figure does not give the full truth, nor do we know exactly how many people are but partially employed.

The shrinkage in the volume of unemployment has been relatively small. On the other hand, it has become increasingly difficult to bear the burden. Wages have been substantially reduced, with the result that the contributions of employed workers to the insurance fund and to the unemployed workers' dependents fund are relatively heavier than they used to be. Trade unions, which have been accustomed to pay out-of-work benefit to their members, have had to cease helping their unemployed members through lack of funds. It is probably an understatement to say that the trade unions have since the onset of the trade depression distributed £12,000,000 as out-of-work pay. To-day the funds of most unions are exhausted, and this form of benefit has been suspended, with the result that State unemployment insurance benefit must be supplemented by out-relief, in the aggregate, to the extent to which in the past two years unions have assisted their unemployed members.

But local authorities and boards of guardians are now pretty well at the end of their tethers, and unable to meet new burdens or continue to carry the old ones. Local rates have already borne the greater part of the expenditure of maintaining the unemployed. Three months ago Dr Macnamara stated that not less than £90,000,000 had been dispensed by the State, since the depression began, in benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. Three-quarters of this amount, however, has been provided, or will be provided, by the contributions of insured workpeople and their employers. Consequently, the actual expenditure of the State on maintenance has been only £22½ million, whilst during the same period Poor Law guardians have contributed no less than £60,000,000 for the maintenance of the unemployed. As local rates fall more heavily upon the poor than do taxes, it will be seen that the shares of the cost of maintaining those who are out of work, borne locally and nationally respectively, have been so divided as to relieve the well-to-do at the expense of the relatively poorer sections of the community.

Where public works have been undertaken by local authorities under schemes in which State aid is granted, the main charge has, as a rule, fallen on local bodies. In the case of works approved by the Unemployment Grants Committee, for example, 29 per cent. of the cost has been borne by the central Government, the remainder falling upon the local authorities concerned. Where local authorities incur loans for non-revenue producing works, the State is prepared to pay 65 per cent. of the annual interest and loan repayment charges for half the period of the loan, but in no case for more than 15 years. As regards revenue-producing works, the grants are 50 per cent. of the annual interest for a period of five years. Up to the present local authorities have incurred under these proposals capital expenditure amounting to £17,238,000, the contribution of the State being, of course, comparatively negligible.

In view of the heavy share of the burden hitherto shouldered by the local authorities, the depression of wages, and the magnitude of the obligations already undertaken by them, it is clear that the State must accept a greater responsibility for the treatment of the unemployment problem than in the past. It is true that in the case of the export credits and trade facilities schemes large sums of money are involved, but the actual expenditure of the State cannot be large. Unless the Government is prepared to relieve the local authorities by itself assuming the necessary expenditure for the maintenance of unemployment, and then to set about a courageous policy of providing useful work, the winter will be a very black period.

There is a good deal of apprehension in the country as regards immediate prospects. The march of the unemployed to London is a symptom of a common feeling that a more vigorous policy is needed. The Prime Minister was responsible for the scare headlines and alarmist paragraphs in certain London newspapers, because of the information he supplied to particular papers concerning the records of some of the men taking part in the march. To endeavour to implicate the marchers in a "Red plot" is absurd. Unemployed marches were known before the days of Communism, and will continue so long as unemployment is handled half-heartedly. The Prime Minister, mistakenly as the Labour movement thinks, has refused to meet the representatives of the marchers now in London, but the real question is whether his Government will produce a policy commensurate with the need.

At the time of writing, Mr Bonar Law's policy has not been announced. It appears, however, that he contemplates railway developments, re-equipment, and extensions. This is all to the good. The Labour party in the House of Commons has tabled an amendment to the King's Speech on unemployment, and the Labour view will be expounded by new and enthusiastic members. In reply, the Government will state its own proposals. They will need to be more comprehensive and far-reaching than those of the late Government if they are to do anything more than mark time.

Notes of the Week.

The Reparation Negotiations.—The prospects of satisfactory progress in the forthcoming discussions on Reparation and the condition of Germany have been greatly improved by Mr Bonar Law's statement in the House that the new Government does not consider itself bound by the policy of the Balfour Note and by the calling of a meeting in London of the Allied Prime Ministers. The British Government has the best opportunity it has had since 1918 to put itself right with Europe on this vital question. It is possible that France may even yet not be prepared to respond to a generous offer from Great Britain by sitting down with us to work out a more realistic and statesmanlike policy, for the Paris Press still persists in propounding schemes which in British opinion are up in the clouds, and we may also find that, even with goodwill, the disease has got so strong a hold as to baffle the skill of the most expert physicians. But, at all events, it is to be hoped that on this occasion the British representatives will adopt a policy which will make it clear to the world that the attitude of this country, at all events on the question of the Allied debts, is no longer a barrier in the way of a settlement.

Railways and Unemployment.—The King's Speech promised that the Cabinet would examine and expand the plans which the late Government had in contemplation for alleviating unemployment, in so far as it can be alleviated by domestic action. The Prime Minister has lost no time in attempting to set things moving. On Tuesday he met in conference the representatives of the railways, and at the close of the meeting the following statement was issued:—"The Prime Minister invited the co-operation of the railway companies in anticipating the construction and replacement of capital works and placing

of orders with a view to relieving the serious unemployment situation. The representatives of the railway companies explained the steps which they had already taken, and all expressed their desire to assist in every way possible. They also promised to furnish the Government with further information as to the work which they had already specially undertaken and the additional schemes which they thought might be put in hand at an early date." No doubt the discussion centred principally on the extensive electrification schemes which some of the leading railways have for a long time had under consideration. These schemes have been hanging fire. The main reason for their postponement may be found in the general uncertainty of the railway position and the confusion arising out of the transition stage of amalgamation and absorption. But it may, we think, be fairly stated that other influences have been at work to cause delay. There have, for instance, in some cases been sharp technical disputes between expert advocates of rival schemes. There have been also the rival representations of different interests connected with the provision of different kinds of plant. There was, too, a reluctance in some railway quarters to share with other interests big new power stations. It may be that strong Government pressure will be successful in removing some of the obstacles to progress. But at best the absorption of a large number of men on these schemes is probably not an immediate hope, and presumably the hastening of arrears of general railway work is receiving the joint consideration of the Government and the railway boards. On the Government's side the intention is to bring in a new Trade Facilities Bill making a further £50 millions available for guaranteeing schemes of productive work which will employ workless labour. It will be remembered that the Trade Facilities Act passed a year ago provided for guaranteeing works up to £25 millions; but most of that sum has now been hypothecated. Cabinet plans are said to include an enlargement of the Export Credits scheme, while projects of local utility are to be encouraged with grants under the supervision of Lord St David's Committee. In all these measures and intentions the Government is working on the lines prepared by its predecessor. Such efforts are necessary; but it has to be realised that they can do little more than touch the fringe of the unemployment problem. The only cure for unemployment is the revival of trade, which can only arise from the economic and financial healing of Europe. If Mr Bonar Law can by a bold initiative lead the Allies to a sound Reparations agreement, then we shall at last have begun to tackle the unemployment problem at the right end.

Cost of Unemployment Insurance.—Some illuminating figures of the cost of unemployment relief under the State Insurance scheme were given in an answer this week in the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour. For the week ending November 17th the expenditure was £1,008,000, made up of £888,000 paid in unemployment benefit, £99,000 for administration (i.e., 11 per cent. of the average weekly income), and £21,000 as interest on the debt which the fund owes to the Treasury. Against this expenditure the fund received £625,000 in contributions from employers and employed, and £222,500 as the contribution of the State, leaving a deficit of £161,000. The accumulated deficit to date is £14,550,000, a figure which may be expected to increase to £17,000,000, or possibly £18,000,000 by the end of March if there is no improvement in employment during the winter. The figures, however, are by no means unsatisfactory from the point of view of the solvency of the fund, for it is evident that as soon as trade begins to improve and causes a reduction in the benefit expenditure and an increase in receipts, the deficit will rapidly disappear. Moreover, a fund which, when trade is normal, is likely to have an income of £50,000,000 a year, with substantially smaller outgoings, is not unduly crippled by an overdraft in respect of a most abnormal period of unemployment which is less than £20,000,000. If, therefore, it were certain that this would be the last winter of acute depression, the finance of National Unemployment Insurance would not give grounds for concern. The future is, however, not quite so clear as to justify a confident prediction. Payment under the Unemployment Insurance Act forms only a part, though

by far the largest part, of what is commonly known as the dole. The payment of the balance by Boards of Guardians is already a very serious matter financially for many localities. Moreover, trade union benefits and private savings, which have hitherto helped very considerably to enable the country to meet the effects of after-war depression, now appear to be exhausted, and if we have to face another year of unemployment of the dimensions we have recently experienced, it will be impossible to resist the demand for fuller support from the State Unemployment Insurance scheme. If this is the case, the finance of that scheme may require to be overhauled, and it is by no means certain that it would be possible to maintain the present plan, by which the greater part of the income of the fund is drawn from direct contributions of employers and employed.

Ireland and the Treaty.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—There is no ground for suggesting that the fate of Erskine Childers has caused, or may yet cause, any popular reaction in favour of Republicanism. Sincere regret for the man—for the tragedy of his life and of his death—there has been. But of cavilling at the rough justice of his sentence there has been little or none. People were rudely jolted out of a rut, and were set to consider afresh the objective values of the facts of the trouble in Ireland; they are still in a reflective mood, and the seriousness with which they face the immediate future has taken on a deeper gravity. The practical men and the idealists are for once firmly knit together with a common yearning for the restoration of order. The Constitution of the Irish Free State is in process of being finally agreed on, and there is little, if anything, to quarrel with in the provisions of the Irish Free State (Consequential Provisions) Bill. Great Britain gives no grudging recognition of the national independence of Ireland—an independence as free and unconstrained as that of the great overseas Dominions. Great Britain has also created rights and privileges to safeguard the destiny and desires of North-East Ulster, but in doing so in the Bill now under discussion she once more indicates that negotiations between Ireland and N.E. Ulster with a view to closer co-operation leading to ultimate reunion is desirable. There are provisions in the Bill for setting up the necessary Customs Houses on the frontier of N.E. Ulster in the event of the latter "contracting out" of the Irish Free State; but, of course, a temporary and provisional continuance of the existing system might, as we pointed out recently, serve to enable N.E. Ulster, after exercising her option, to reconsider the whole question in the light of other factors before anything irreparable shall have occurred. Over the Boundary Commission, if N.E. Ulster contracts out, there must be negotiation and a spirit of mutual accommodation if a chronic condition of smouldering hostility in all the border regions is to be avoided. The sweeping victory in the Tyrone-Fermanagh constituency of the Nationalist and Sinn Féin candidates renders this inevitable in view of the explicit interpretation put upon the Treaty by the British Premier and his colleagues at the time of its execution. Again, there is the question of the powers of the Council of Ireland established by the Act of 1920, and expressly kept in being by the Treaty; its powers, limited as they were to full powers over railways, regulations regarding diseases of animals, and a few other matters, were to remain exercisable in N.E. Ulster alone by the Council, which represented, nevertheless, the Irish Free State and N.E. Ulster in equal proportions. The present Bill provides that the Council's powers shall remain *in statu quo*, and not be transferred to it for a period of five years unless the Free State Parliament and the N.E. Ulster Parliament (which is given powers for the purpose) shall in the meantime pass identical Acts providing otherwise for their exercise. A strong hint, indeed, that there should be negotiations with a view to an accommodation. Again, the financial relations of Great Britain and Ireland as to existing public debt have to be adjusted under the Treaty, and for this adjustment Ireland primarily is a unit. But N.E. Ulster is assessed to pay at present nearly £8,000,000 annually to Great Britain, though in 1920 her financiers declared that Ireland, the unit, could pay no more than £5,000,000. Her hopes of fining down her £8,000,000 tribute are possibly centred in the Joint Exchequer Board, while the Irish Free State will box its corner on the larger issue with Great Britain direct, and,

failing agreement, before an arbitrator. By pooling their controversial resources they can probably do much better for themselves with a Great Britain sick of acrimony and contention, and eager to get back to business, than by fighting separate and probably inconsistent, if not positively mutually destructive, battles. Still brighter would their chance be of a beneficial financial settlement if their accord on the financial issue was shown to be a necessary part of a larger settlement embracing all the outstanding issues between them around which controversy has been raging from 1920 onwards. That Great Britain is in no ungenerous mood is clear from Mr Ormsby Gore's announcement that the British Government is prepared to support the credit of the Irish Free State for the purpose of providing the necessary moneys—a large sum—for the payment of compensation and for the completion of land purchase. For the sake of peace in Ireland and peace with Ireland, Great Britain would not improbably deal in a large-handed way with her cherished but hotly controverted financial claims if by so doing she could induce the Irish controversialists to make a similar sacrifice on the altar of economic wisdom.

Lord Furness on an Iron and Steel Trade Trust.—At the meeting of the South Durham Steel and Iron Company on Wednesday, Lord Furness advocated in public the idea of a great iron and steel trade amalgamation, which, in one form or another, has been under constant discussion in the trade itself ever since the war. At the outset the conception was, perhaps, inspired by the object-lesson of the economies achieved during the war by the allocation of orders which, among other advantages, enables the various mills to enjoy long runs on single products. But in ordinary times this is less easy than it seems, for the orders that come from all over the world to the British steel trade are, by comparison, a much more retail business than the demand for shell steel during the war, or than American orders in peace time. The movement has, however, been inspired in the last two years by very different motives. On the one hand, the shrinkage of the world's demands, as contrasted with the increased producing capacity brought into existence all over the world by the war, has produced an unexampled disproportion between plant and output; while in Great Britain it has become apparent that the war extensions themselves are unbalanced for peace time production—blast furnace capacity being too small for the steel smelting capacity, and mill capacity for rolling ships' plates being much too big for any probable demand. The associations in the trade for regulating the prices of particular products, such as plates, in England as elsewhere have been quite powerless to cope with this situation, and the fear is entertained that even if the present improvement in demand continues it is unlikely to absorb the whole of the enlarged world's capacity for some time to come, and that, in any case, there is certain to be acute internal competition in particular branches of the industry. But the sentiment in favour of co-operation, whether by an amalgamation of all, or even some, of the iron and steel concerns of the country by means of a joint sales organisation, has hitherto failed to overcome two difficulties. The first is a personal one arising out of the strong individualism of the British employer, and the second is the strong tendency since the war for the largest firms to amalgamate, not with the iron and steel competitors, but with large firms which consume their products. The leading half-dozen iron and steel firms to-day have more or less close connections with shipbuilding, engineering, and allied undertakings which carry their connections through a very large field of British industry; this makes the task a much more complicated affair than a simple iron and steel merger. Lord Furness compares the position with that in America before the Steel Corporation was formed in 1900. But that organisation, though coming after a temporary period of undue plant expansion, was nevertheless created at a comparatively early stage in America's great steel development, the output in 1900 being 10 million ingot tons (the previous maximum being 10.6 millions in 1890), compared with 31 million ingot tons in 1913 and 45 millions in 1917. Great Britain, with a maximum of

9½ million tons in 1918, cannot expect any such expansion. Her steel trade has its own special problems to face, and must work out its own appropriate solutions without attempting to imitate the remedies which have been applied in quite other conditions.

New Turkey and Its Bondholders.—The Angora Government, we believe, still continues to acknowledge its liabilities to the bondholders, by giving receipts to the agents of the Debt Commission for the Anatolian assigned revenues which it intercepts; but in other ways its action seems to portend an interruption of the service of the foreign debt. Three weeks ago it intercepted the share of the Customs revenue payable into the Ottoman Bank to the credit of the Debt Council, and intimated that it would demand complete financial independence; and this week Ismet Pasha has declared at the Lausanne Conference that it does not regard itself as the successor of the Turkish Empire, which may mean that it proposes to repudiate full liability for the obligations entered into by previous Governments, and will therefore demand a revision of the contracts assigning certain revenues to the service of the foreign loans. About a dozen of these loans are "secured" partly on the Customs, and the more important also on the inland revenues of Asia Minor and the profits of the Tobacco Régie. But under international law it cannot repudiate its liability, and its financial bondage is the result of repeated compositions with Turkey's foreign creditors. Moreover, probably 90 per cent. of the Unified Debt, and a very large proportion of the other loans, is held in France, largely by small investors, who have already lost heavily in Russian and Mexican securities, and who have votes. French financial interests are believed to have prompted the Franco-Turkish Convention; but the interests of the small investors must exercise a stronger influence on the policy of France. The "new Turk" may, of course, prove to be a Bolshevik; but the recent movements of the Turkish Unified Loan do not indicate that he is expected to be so. On October 31st it stood at about 28, on November 9th it had fallen below 23, but it has since risen to about 26. Its holders, therefore, do not appear to be seriously alarmed.

The Mesopotamian Oil Question.—A correspondent writes:—The preparations for satisfying the American demand for oil rights in Mesopotamia have incidentally shed new light on the history of the rival claims. The American demand, based on the doctrine of the "open door" for the subjects of all civilised Powers, is historically connected with negotiations conducted from about 1900 to 1911 by Admiral Chester of the U.S. Navy, of which particulars were given in the *Temps* last Monday, obviously from an American source. In 1899 he was sent by his Government to Constantinople in command of the U.S. battleship "Kentucky," to demand compensation for the American missionaries' property destroyed during the Armenian massacres of 1896. On his return he suggested to certain American financiers that as the United States had not, like certain European Powers, the habit of supporting the economic claims of its subjects by diplomatic pressure, they might obtain extensive concessions from the Porte. He returned as their agent, and was promised extensive railway and mining privileges in Asia Minor, and the right to prospect for oil in Armenia and Mesopotamia; but the negotiations, as is usual in Turkey, were prolonged, and were eventually interrupted in 1909 by the fall of Abdul Hamid, who had appropriated for his own benefit the whole of the oil resources of the Turkish Empire. Admiral Chester concluded a revised convention with the Young Turk Government, which was submitted in 1911 to the Turkish Parliament for ratification, but it was held up through the successive outbreaks of the Italian, the Balkan, and European wars. Meanwhile, according to an account given in the *Times* last Monday, the Germans had discovered oil in paying quantities near Mosul, and reported the discovery to Berlin, but concealed it from the Porte. The deception was discovered, and their hopes of a concession destroyed. Subsequently, however, German and British groups, supported by their Governments, began

fresh negotiations, and in 1913 secured for the Turkish Petroleum Company exclusive oil rights in the vilayets of Mosul and Baghdad. Half the shares were taken by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, one-fourth by the Germans, and one-fourth by the Shell and Royal Dutch. (There is reason to believe that the Porte, during the war, cancelled this concession, and made fresh offers to the American oil interests, but that the British Government was prepared to contest the legitimacy of the transfer, which was eventually precluded by American participation in the war.) At the San Remo Conference in 1921, the German shares were assigned to the French Government; whether it has held them or disposed of them to French financiers is unknown. The Chester claims, however, though again pressed recently on the Angora Government, have little practical value, and the rights in question had been offered, we believe, to other possible purchasers. The United States, therefore, based its demand on the principle of the "open door," but in the Mosul and Baghdad vilayets the door had been closed before the war by the Porte itself. The solution proposed consists in the surrender of 20 per cent. of the shares in the Turkish Petroleum Company to American holders. The Anglo-Persian is to give up 10 per cent., the French holders and the Shell-Royal Dutch combination 5 per cent. each; so that the two latter groups and the Americans will each hold 20 per cent., and the Anglo-Persian 40 per cent. of the total. The first two groups have patriotically consented; the Shell and Royal Dutch have not done so as yet. These particulars, given by Mr Sydney Brooks in Wednesday's *Evening Standard*, are, we believe, correct.

Freights and Ocean Fares.—A correspondent writes:—The increased attention now being paid to shipping shares with quite substantial rises in some of the better-class issues is based on the better outlook for the industry. The United States merchant marine is no longer a formidable competitor; French ambitions have not been realised; while the progress of the German shipping companies is not swift enough as yet to worry United Kingdom owners. Thus the importance of the British merchant marine would at once become intensified on any world revival in trade. Homeward markets have continued well engaged, with good business done from Australia both for steamers and sailers. In the Atlantic passenger trade fares are to be lowered a little, but there is no intention to reduce the rates to South America, South Africa, and the East, although, of course, on any further adjustment in seamen's wages, which is bound to come sooner or later, there would have to be a change. In the North Atlantic trade passenger business has been handicapped this year by the drastic emigration regulation in the United States, but in other directions bookings have been up to the average.

The Cotton Trade and the Cost of "Finishing."—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Another agitation is being started in Lancashire in favour of bringing pressure to bear upon calico printers, bleachers and dyers to reduce their prices. The high charges were referred to at the annual dinner of the Manchester Cotton Association, held in Manchester this week, and Mr Jesse Thorpe, the vice-president, and a well-known spinner, gave particulars of cases where it was found cheaper to send goods to Germany for finishing processes, and bring them back to this country, than have the goods finished in Lancashire. It is understood that arrangements are now being made for a joint conference to take place at an early date between representatives of spinners and manufacturers, and calico printers, bleachers and dyers, at which producers of yarn and cloth would point out how trade is being lost to this country as a result of the big prices compared with pre-war times required for printing, bleaching and dyeing. It may be pointed out that these allied trades are very largely in the hands of combines, and, despite the trade depression in spinning and manufacturing, the firms engaged in printing, bleaching and dyeing are making good profits, although many of the works are not running full time. It is being urged in some quarters that failing a satisfactory arrangement by mutual discussion, representations should be made to the Board of Trade.

Development Commission.—The twelfth report of the Development Commissioners for the year ended March 31, 1922, has now been issued. The grants in loans made during this year amount altogether to £368,450. The major proportion—namely, £229,259—is devoted to agriculture and rural industries, and the balance as follows:—

Reclamation and drainage of land	£ 9,778
Harbours.....	58,195
Fisheries	71,218

The Development Commission (constituted in 1909) is, of course, primarily devoted to the economic development of agriculture, and this fact has secured for the Commission this year, in addition to their normal resources, a windfall in the shape of a sum of £850,000, which has been placed at its disposal through the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921. One of the chief points of interest in connection with the work of the Development Commission is the assumption on which they are proceeding—namely, that the development of agriculture is bound up with the revival of rural industries, since this would help to solve the difficulty of seasonal labour, and so retain in the country districts the necessary skilled population to meet the needs of agriculture. Last year's Budget, therefore, included loans and grants of about £15,000 to assist this resuscitation of minor industries in villages, and in previous years very considerable amounts have been devoted to this same end. The bulk of the work is necessarily propaganda, and as such one cannot expect much in the way of immediate concrete results. But the great difficulty with which the revival of rural industries has to contend, and of which the Commissioners are keenly aware, is that of co-ordinating production and finding a market, and, of course, regulating production to suit such market. The problem with which the Commissioners are faced, therefore, is, if they succeed in their project of re-establishing various handicrafts and village industries such as flourishing, say, a century or so ago, how such a primitive and unorganised part of industry can be worked in with the modern highly co-ordinated system. The Commissioners in their report confess that the results they desire can "only be obtained in a highly industrialised country if such industries are able to find a place for themselves in a complex economic and commercial system, in which their position is largely affected by national and world conditions which continually shift and develop." To do something towards this end, they have established a Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau, with a grant of £2,500 to carry it on for one year. This will work in co-operation with an experimental central trading agency, started on voluntary capital under the title of "The Country Industries Co-operative Society, Limited." The Development Commission are, of course, debarred from giving financial assistance to any associations working for profit. The reports of the 12 years' work at present done by the Development Commissioners in connection with rural industries, although showing most commendable efforts, seem, in point of fact, to have done little more than prove the almost insuperable economic difficulties in reviving industrial community life in villages. Possibly, however, the same end might be attained by another method—namely, that of decentralising existing industries. The great difficulty which has prevented this hitherto has been the question of obtaining power and transport facilities in country districts. With the present reorganisation of the railway system (and especially the extension of electrification), together with the various comprehensive schemes now being formulated by the Electricity Commissioners for electrical distribution throughout the country, both of these drawbacks will in time be eliminated. In such case there would be every inducement for factories to be transferred to extra-urban districts and to the various small towns or villages throughout the country. In fact, such exodus has already begun in a small way where the power and transport facilities already obtain. Such a method would attain something of the same end as the revival of minor village industries.

Securities and Unemployment.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—Work on the large scale contemplated by the Government for alleviation of the unemployment distress can hardly be undertaken without its influence being felt in the money and stock markets. In-

vestment already asks whether new loans will be necessitated. Home Railway ordinary stocks draw renewed strength from the hope that the Government proposals may enable the companies to finance new extensions and other works at a moderate interest-charge. It is understood, of course, that the railways will utilise their forthcoming Government grants and other monies for prosecuting their schemes, but the credits are not in hard cash such as will be required for payment of wages, &c., and to provide the money some form of borrowing may have to be instituted. A fresh issue of local loans stock has been rumoured as on the way. The 4½ to 5 per cent. level of yield at which good prior-charge Home Railway securities are standing is but a few shillings per cent. higher than the return available from investment, at to-day's prices, in Conversion stock, Funding loan, and Victory bonds. The 4½ per cent. British Government guaranteed debenture stocks of the Central London, City and South London, and London Electric Railways are priced in the market at 93, giving an income of £4 16s 9d per cent. This will furnish a rough guide to the standard of yield which will have to be offered to the investor if it should be necessary to seek his co-operation in the work of assisting the most pressing of the day's domestic problems. December is not an auspicious month in which to make new issues on the grand scale. The average man and woman entertain an invincible predilection for window-dressing at the banks over the turn of any year. But if the occasion demanded the money, subscriptions to such work as this could be relied upon, for every week demonstrates the public capacity to absorb good stock if it be offered at tempting prices. In the Consol and the Home Railway prior-charge markets there are no qualms, therefore, at the prospect of new capital being required. Amongst industrial shares, inquiry endeavours to see, in advance, what companies may be expected to benefit from such orders as would follow the decision to start new railway work of important character. Iron and steel undertakings, railway carriage manufacturers, and a number of subsidiary interests could hardly fail to derive advantage from the setting-up of railway work, while the other methods of transport upon which unemployed workers could be usefully engaged are all dependent, to a greater or less degree, upon companies that can supply them with materials for carrying out their operations. Apart, therefore, from the humanitarian and economic aspects of the efforts that are to be made for the relief of those workless who are willing to work, the various schemes for giving effect to the efforts are likely to exercise a direct influence over a fairly wide circle of Stock Exchange securities, both of the gilt-edged and the more speculative descriptions.

Bolckow, Vaughan.—The directors of Bolckow, Vaughan and Co. are at last able to report that all questions affecting excess profits duty and coal award have been agreed, and that the amounts received in accordance with these settlements have been included in the company's accounts for the year ended June 30th last. Results, however, are not very pleasant. After crediting these sums, and providing for depreciation, a net loss of £85,369 is recorded. A comparison of results for a number of years is given below:—

	Gross Profit.	Depreciation and Extension, &c.	Debt. Int. and Pref. Div.	Balance.	Written Off Cap. Expenditure.	Ordinary Div.	Rate.
1906-7	£ 683,010	£ 135,734	£ 45,545	£ 501,731	£ 150,000	£ 274,630	10
1907-8	444,201	140,523	48,220	255,458	80,000	164,778	6
1908-9	322,035	173,740	51,311	96,984	nil	137,315	5
1909-10	390,485	135,317	55,477	198,691	nil	164,778	6
1910-11	403,664	173,472	56,618	173,574	nil	164,778	6
1911-12	318,861	159,887	56,119	101,855	160,000	137,315	5
1912-13	642,235	371,261	146,432	54,368	173,278	164,778	6
1913-14	371,261	132,413	50,759	154,947	nil	164,778	6
1914-15	338,119	127,967	58,099	292,565	nil	302,903	11
1915-16	*625,631	371,382	54,091	245,335	nil	329,556	12
1917-18	*771,408	324,041	46,836	394,163	nil	397,887	12
1918-19	*715,100	207,050	42,796	466,339	nil	450,677	12
1919-20	*696,785	368,415	40,197	456,752	nil	300,451	8
1920-21	*805,364	441,641	77,644	286,079	nil	286,079	12
1921-22	Dr. 34,801	50,569	72,513	291,464	Dr. 151,123	nil	nil

* After allowing for War taxation.

As there was a balance of £203,508 left over from 1921 accounts, it has been possible to pay debenture interest and preference dividend out of this, and after writing

off the debit, £14,535 is carried forward to the next accounts. But for the first time in the history of the company no dividend is paid on the ordinary shares. Shareholders who may feel disappointed with these results, before passing hasty judgment upon the accounts, should, however, wait until they hear further details, which no doubt the directors will give at the annual meeting at Manchester on Wednesday, December 20th, next. There is a reserve fund of a million in the balance-sheet, though during the year expenditure of £355,113 has been added to asset items. A curious aspect of the balance-sheet is a list of amounts owing to various persons and the small sum of cash in hand. Perhaps the money will be forthcoming from deliveries of stocks on hand and debtors. On another page the balance-sheet will be found fully analysed.

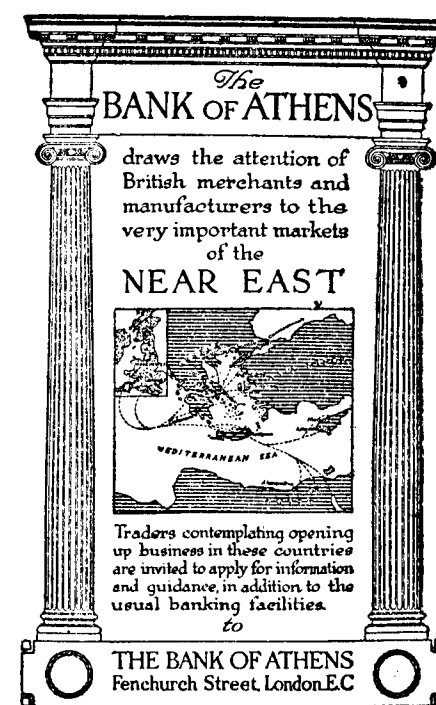
Aerated Bread Company.—In spite of a sharp fall in the gross profit, the report of the A.B.C., Limited, for the year ended September 30th shows a slight increase in net profits, there having been a saving of nearly £100,000 in working expenses. It is stated that the policy of making the earliest possible reductions in prices charged to the public has been maintained, and that "taking these price reductions into account, notwithstanding the continued depression in trade, the total volume of business for the year shows a steady increase over that of the previous year." The table below summarises the annual results since 1907:—

September.	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Depreciation, &c.	Div.	Rate.	Carried Forward.
1907-8	£ 276,252	£ 220,366	£ 55,886	£ 5,000	£ 50,409	27½	£ 17,376
1908-9	276,101	224,822	51,279	5,000	50,167	27½	15,458
1909-10	281,852	233,348	48,504	5,000	45,425	25	13,567
1910-11	283,695	236,203	47,492	5,000	40,883	22½	14,176
1911-12	284,319	227,801	56,518	8,239	45,424	25	17,031
1912-13	308,114	234,091	74,023	8,000	54,791	27½	31,253
1913-14	315,476	240,350	75,126	28,000	49,846	27½	28,543
1914-15	286,919	253,146	33,773	8,000	29,948	17½	26,598
1915-16	299,434	282,354	17,080	11,764	7,959	5	25,955
1916-17	289,199	303,882	Dr. 14,683	8,000	..	..	1,271
1917-18	419,112	322,566	96,546	59,000	28,135	15	10,682
1918-19	587,416	435,506	151,950	62,000	80,500	30	20,132
1919-20	685,831	520,274	165,557	67,882	115,060	25	14,757
1920-21	728,376	582,381	145,995	40,000	102,657	15	14,150
1921-22	637,811	488,936	148,875	48,184	87,975	12½	14,639

* Includes special bonus to employees.

Although net profits last year were slightly higher than in 1920-21, the directors reduce the dividend on the ordinary shares from 15 to 12½ per cent., special allocations requiring over £8,000 more. The latter include provision for taxation, £34,394, cost of preference share issue written off, £10,365, and additions to staff funds, £3,425. The preference share issue referred to was one of 500,000 6½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, made in July, and at the date of the balance-sheet only 5s per share had been paid up. These shares will rank for dividend in the accounts for the current year, but the policy of expansion and development of the business has been continued, the property account showing additions of £198,200 during the year. Other changes in the balance-sheet are an increase in investments from £73,600 to £159,700, and the disappearance of £135,400 which appeared last year under the head of Wilton Road Properties as an asset, representing a loan to that company which had been obtained on loan from bankers, the contra item on the debit side having also been wiped off. Cash and cash assets have been reduced by £110,600 to £60,600, Treasury bills for £75,000 having apparently been allowed to run off.

Slaters Report.—The directors of Slaters, Limited, in their report for the year ended September 30th last, state that "the continued depreciation of values during the past year, rather than contraction in volume of business, has been the chief difficulty with which caterers and provision merchants in general have had to contend, and has not been without its effect on the trading results of the company; the outlook, however, is improving, and the prospects for the present year are encouraging." This last remark, perhaps, accounts for the fact that, in spite of a fall in gross profits, a small increase in expenses, and a drop of nearly 50 per cent. in net profits, the ordinary



dividend is maintained at 5 per cent. A summary of the results since 1906 reads as follows:—

Sept. 30.	Trading Profit.	Interest and Divs.	Exp'ses and Inter-Ch'ges.	Net Profit.	Prof. Div.	Ord. Div.	Rate.	Balance.
1906	£ 52,021	£ 4,513	£ 19,508	£ 37,023	£ 5,650	£ 30,281	12½	£ 1,222
1907	52,660	4,680	20,443	37,046	5,650	30,281	12½	1,066
1908	48,302	4,718	20,756	32,385	5,650	30,281	12½	2,460
1909	41,630	4,839	21,416	25,193	5,650	19,295	8	223
1910	41,068	3,097	21,834	22,443	5,650	19,200	8	Dr. 2,417
1911	39,045	2,355	21,261	20,238	5,650	16,808	7	1,771
1912	42,890	5,119	21,881	24,229	5,650	16,808	7	1,215
1913	44,065	2,169	22,648	23,673	5,550	16,808	7	860
1914	42,506	2,133	23,822	20,881	5,640	14,180	6	Dr. 1,201
1915	12,786	1,556	20,988	Dr. 6,603	3,997	..	..	Dr. 45,178
1916	14,261	1,427	22,474	Dr. 6,786	..	..	..	Dr. 61,955
1917	19,006	2,554	27,337	Dr. 6,777	..	..	..	Dr. 63,262
1918	33,148	3,315	27,769	Dr. 3,066	..	..	..	Dr. 11,315
1919	68,612	3,193	29,858	41,947	..	..	..	7,976
1920	81,306	4,435	37,260	48,481	22,050	7,140	4	8,508
1921	60,871	4,993	48,107	17,768	4,900	9,244	5	3,791
1922	47,095	12,412	50,531	8,756	5,250	..	..	..

It will be seen that the company's history has been somewhat chequered, but after passing the preference dividend for four years in succession, the corner was turned in 1920, when arrears were paid off and net profits reached the respectable total of £48,500. The balance-sheet shows an addition during the year of £11,800 to the property item, but investments have been reduced by £8,500 and plant by £4,400. Goodwill remains unchanged at £124,500.

Anglo-Russian Trade.—It is now possible to gain some idea of the extent of the revival of Anglo-Russian trade. In the first nine months of the year there has been a gratifying increase in the value of both imports from Russia and exports of British and foreign and Colonial goods. The details, as furnished by our Board of Trade, are as under:—

	Imports From	U.K. Exports To	Foreign & Colonial via U.K.
Jan.-Sept.,	£	£	£
1921	420,702	802,304	820,928
1922	3,189,898	2,756,022	622,894
1921	2,197,007	4,234,536	596,970
1922	3,341,244	1,681,244	389,863
1921	4,862,641	1,571,858	729,854
1922	7,336,210	1,939,416	514,719

The falling off in the United Kingdom exports to the independent Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—as compared with a year ago, is probably due in a large measure to traffic for Russia, which last year went through these states, now going direct to Petrograd. Finland, of course, stands almost by itself. Therefore, to

get a fair index to Anglo-Russian trade, Soviet Russia and the independent Baltic States should be taken together, and Finland excluded, in which case the comparison reads as follows:—

	Imports from Russia. £	U.K. Exports to Russia. £	Foreign & Colonial Exports via U.K. £
Jan.-Sept. 1921.....	2,617,709	4,496,840	1,417,898
1922.....	6,531,230	4,437,276	1,012,757

It will thus be seen that, on the whole, there has been a marked advance in imports to the United Kingdom from this quarter, while the value of British, foreign, and Colonial exports has stood still. The imports from Russia consist of substantial quantities of sawn wood, flax, hemp, and other Russian produce. The exports are of a more miscellaneous character, and include coal, oil, and small quantities of machinery and manufactures. The trade with Soviet Russia has been done through the All-Russian Co-operative Society ("Arcos"), whose officials state their purchases in the United Kingdom in the past nine months amount to £3,830,988, and Russian produce sold in the United Kingdom, £2,969,194. It is anticipated that the fourth quarter of the year will see a considerable addition to these totals. Compared with pre-war times the volume of Anglo-Russian trade may appear small, but the great point is that it is gathering strength, and that there is every promise that next year will see a further substantial advance. The particulars of trade with the different states were not set out separately before 1921, Finland and the others all being shown together and included under the comprehensive head of Russia. The aggregate for the nine months' period in this and some previous years, including the pre-war year 1913, are:—

	Imports from Russia £	U.K. Exports to Russia £	Foreign & Colonial Exports via U.K. £
Jan.-Sept. 1913.....	28,591,676	12,941,701	7,231,444
1920.....	26,552,741	7,886,036	3,782,440
1921.....	7,480,350	6,068,698	2,147,752
1922.....	13,897,440	6,376,692	1,527,476

The value of United Kingdom imports and exports are thus roughly half of what they were in 1913, and imports alone half of those of 1920. Wholesale prices to-day are, however, approximately only half of the abnormally high level of 1920, though they are still 50 per cent. in excess of those ruling in 1913, facts which have to be taken into account in any calculation of the bulk or weight of the trade done.

The Problem of Bessarabia.—In view of the attempt recently made by Roumania to enter once more into normal relations with Russia and Tchitcherine's answering note, the Bessarabian question is once more brought into public notice. The attitude of the Soviet Government is based on a complete refusal to recognise the river Dniestr (Nistr) as the frontier, and an insistence on the re-establishment of the River Pruth as the boundary between the two States. There are, however, but few of the territorial changes effected since the war which are so easily defended as is the incorporation of Bessarabia in the new Roumania. On ethnic grounds, Russian statistics, which do not normally incline to favour non-Russian peoples, support the Roumanian claim in no uncertain manner. According to the census of 1912, the total population of the province was 2,583,000, of whom 1,710,000 were Roumans. But the relative importance of this 66 per cent. of the population is greatly increased when an analysis is made of the statistics of non-Roumans. The most important minority is that of the Ruthenes, with 285,000, or over 11 per cent. Next come the Jews, who predominate in the towns, with 242,000, or approximately 9 per cent. Russians and Poles together only total 138,000, and even this small proportion was made up in 1912 mainly of officials and landowners. The rest of the population comprises a few thousand German and French colonists—almost the only exponents of scientific agriculture, and a welcome element of social stability—some Bulgars, "Gagaouzes" (Turkish speaking Christians), and others. Satisfactory Roumanian statistics are not yet to hand, but the Russian census certainly provides an impartial testimony to the Roumanian character of the country. On historical grounds the case is even stronger,

for down to 1812 Bessarabia formed part of the old Principality of Moldavia, then under Turkish rule. In 1856 the southern part of the province was restored to Moldavia, but it was re-incorporated in Russia in 1878—perhaps as a slight sign of recognition for Roumanian co-operation in the war against Turkey. Since that date the people have been subjected to a process of Russification—which will probably now be turned into one of re-Roumanisation. From an economic point of view this region was much neglected under the old régime. Roads are practically non-existent, their place being taken by the merest tracks, and the railway system very small and inadequate. The grain exports of the province—which is one of the richest corn-growing lands in Europe—were directed towards Odessa rather than to their natural outlet on the Danube. Bessarabia is sadly deficient in timber, only 5.6 per cent. of the total area (of 44,000 sq kms) being forest land, while the adjoining Roumanian Province of Bukovina is particularly well-endowed in this respect. Of the total of 2,313,431 ha devoted to cereals, wheat claims the largest share (784,588 ha), maize coming next with 703,966 ha. This is about the proportion between these crops in the rest of Moldavia, though barley (533,272 ha), and rye (211,150 ha) are more strongly represented in Bessarabia than elsewhere in the new kingdom. The first land reform project, adopted by the Government of the Moldavian Republic of Bessarabia—a transition State which declared its re-union with Roumania in 1918—was of a most revolutionary character. No land was to be left to the former owners, and no compensation was to be paid. The Roumanian Government succeeded in amending this so as to allot 100 ha to the resident landlords—who, be it added, were largely Russians or Russified Moldavians—with some measure of compensation, even though wholly inadequate, for the expropriated lands. The new administration certainly leaves much to be desired, and the country has been under martial law until quite recently. The proximity of Russia and Bolshevik propaganda in Bessarabia itself explain this step, though it seems probable that the term "Bolshevik" was so interpreted as to include many quite peaceful citizens, whose only desire was for liberal reform. To speak of a reign of terror is, however, to indulge in somewhat flighty rhetoric. An improved administration is certainly greatly to be desired in Bessarabia, as in other parts of Roumania, though the Russian precedent of pre-war days can hardly be cited as a model. More attention should be paid to the just claims of the racial and linguistic minorities, on condition that these minorities themselves fulfil their legal obligations. But re-incorporation in Russia—indefensible on ethnic and historical grounds—is hardly likely to improve the economic position, or to secure equal treatment for all the peoples that inhabit the country.

Gold Mines Investment.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Some 18 months ago the directors of this Kaffir finance undertaking presented a drastic reorganisation scheme for the purpose of clearing off depreciation in the company's holdings, the par value of the shares being cut down from £1 to 10s. After a lapse of five years the old company had paid dividends totalling 12½ per cent. in respect of the 12 months ended October 31, 1918, and for the following year 5 per cent., both tax free. Practically the whole of the balance shown by the 1920 accounts, as well as the reserve fund, was applied towards writing down the investments. An interim dividend of 6d per share (less tax) was declared by the present company in February last. This was recently followed up by the declaration of a final dividend of like amount, supplemented by a bonus of 6d per share. The favourable impression produced by the announcement just mentioned is enhanced by a study of the report now in the hands of the shareholders; the net profit of £77,000 is 6d per share, the period covered being some 15 months. As against the issued capital of £242,600 there are quoted investments to the amount of £278,700, plus £61,250 net cash and unquoted investments estimated to be worth £110,300. The company, like others of the group—the Gold Fields—has taken participations in various American enterprises.

Pahang Consolidated.—This British-Malayan tin producing differs from the others by reason of the fact that it secures the bulk of its yield by milling, instead of obtaining the whole by dredging. As a result its working expenses are relatively high, and for the past two years the company has only been able to meet the fixed dividend—7 per cent.—on its participating preference shares. In respect of 1919-20 the preference received their maximum total of 15 per cent., while the ordinary got 20 per cent. A reduction in costs was effected during the past year, but proved insufficient to meet the decline in the price of the metal. Accordingly, operations were concentrated upon the more central and higher-grade properties, development being curtailed. Nevertheless, last year's output scored an increase in all respects over that of 1920-21. A windfall in the shape of the probable recovery of the whole of the excess profits duty paid or payable enables a substantial sum to be written off to depreciation without figuring in the profit and loss account. Results for the current year should benefit from the improvement in the price of tin. The company's assets include 1,400,000 2s shares in its subsidiary, the Kuala Reman Rubber Estates, which has now practically repaid the advances made to it.

African Colliery Results.—Very different stories are told by the reports of the Wankie (Rhodesia) and the Witbank (Transvaal) Collieries, in both of which British capital is mainly concerned. Thanks to a marked reduction in expenditure, the first-named, despite some falling off in the sales, earned the increased profit of £75,200, and pays a further dividend of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, a record on the present share capital. The proved coal reserves are now estimated at 6,888,000 tons, or over 20 years' supply at the current rate of output. A shaft has been sunk with a view to opening up a new colliery, in accordance with the requests of consumers, but at the meeting held last Tuesday the chairman emphasised the point that there never was any need for a new colliery, the shortage of fuel experienced being due to an inadequate supply of trucks and labour. The Witbank Colliery, on the other hand, secured a working surplus of no more than £63,900, as against £155,950, and the dividend was accordingly reduced from 3½ per cent. to 20 per cent. Payment even of this rate entailed drawing upon the carry-forward to some extent. Operations last year were adversely affected as regards internal trade by the labour trouble, and as regards external trade by British competition. The latter is not likely to decrease during the current year, but further strikes on the Rand are scarcely to be apprehended.

Ex-Enemy Debt Clearing Office.—The first report of the Controller of the Clearing Office (Germany) was issued 12 months ago, and since that time there has not been a very great addition to the claims notified by either side. Considerable interest, however, attaches to the Second Annual Report* in that it shows what progress has been made in clearing the obligations between the British Empire and Germany under the economic clauses of the Treaty of Versailles. Up to the end of September last the department had disbursed to British creditors and claimants £56½ millions, of which £39½ millions was for debts owing, and £17½ millions for proceeds of sale of property in German territory liquidated during the war by the German Government, under exceptional war measures. Total claims for debts have been £63½ millions, an addition of £8 millions during the past 12 months, of which £39½ millions, as already mentioned, has been paid by the British Clearing Office (including £6½ millions for interest), £9½ millions has been objected to by the German Clearing Office, and withdrawn by the British Clearing Office, and £21½ millions is still under consideration, the greater part of which has been contested. Claims for proceeds of liquidation and for compensation total £64½ millions, of which £10½ millions has been abandoned, and £33½ millions is still under consideration. German claims for debts notified to the British Clearing Office total £53½ millions (an increase of £9 millions since last year), of

which £16 millions has been admitted by the British Clearing Office, £4½ millions has been objected to, and withdrawn by the German Office, and £36 millions is still under consideration, the greater part of which has been contested. The difficulties of the department in providing the necessary funds to meet the various classes of claims for payment of which it is responsible will, it is stated, be greatly accentuated by the default on the part of the German Government to meet its obligations to the Clearing Office on the monthly accounts. "This will throw the liability, which should be met in cash by the German Government, upon the proceeds of liquidation of German property, to the prejudice of the ultimate chargees." The default on the part of the German Clearing Office is attributed to "the relief voluntarily accorded by Germany to her debtor nationals at the expense of her budget." Commissions earned by the Clearing Office (Germany) down to the end of March last amounted to £967,504, total receipts, including interest, reaching £982,057. The net expenses of administration in relation to German debts was £570,739, leaving a balance of £411,318, which can presumably be used to meet loss arising from failure to collect debts owing by British nationals whose solvency is guaranteed under the Peace Treaty.

The Belgian Exchange.—In a leading article on the Belgian Exchange, which appeared in last week's *Economist* (November 25th), the statistics of notes in circulation were published, through a clerical error, in the wrong order. The table should have read:—

	Dec., 1919.	Oct., 1922.
Notes in circulation	4,695,708	6,543,145
Notes and commitments at sight combined	7,200,000	7,320,000

The words "In thousands of francs" were unfortunately omitted through an oversight.

THE Royal Colonial Institute announces a meeting at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, W.C. 2, on December 5, 1922, at 8.30 p.m., at which a paper on "A Glimpse of the Union of South Africa" (with lantern illustrations) will be read by Dirk Boshoff, Esq. The Right Hon. Earl Buxton, G.C.M.G., will preside.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—NEW RAILROAD LEGISLATION PROPOSED—LARGE PACKING-HOUSE MERGER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 20.

It is now practically certain that new, and perhaps radical, railroad legislation will be attempted in the forthcoming session of Congress. In fact, party leaders, according to Washington advices, have included a revision of the Transportation Act among the principal matters to be considered by the national Legislature. Just what amendments will be proposed cannot at present be stated, and will not be known until the bills are actually introduced; suggestions already made in various quarters, however, give some idea of what may be undertaken. There is talk, for instance, of conferring broader powers upon the Railroad Labour Board, and making the latter an adjunct of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Among the other changes mentioned as likely to be attempted are the inactment of an anti-strike provision, with penalties imposed on both labour and railroads for failure to abide by the Labour Board's decisions; a clause recognising the principle of the "living wage"; an amendment to make compulsory railroad consolidations that are now merely voluntary; and the pooling of rolling stock under the control of one central corporation. An effort may also be made to repeal that section of the transportation law which authorised the Commerce Commission to fix rates which would enable the carriers to earn an annual return on their tentative property valuation at the rate of 5½ or 6 per cent. It is suggested that the commission be empowered to prescribe "just and

* H.M. Stationery Office. 1s net.

reasonable" rates. Some of the more radical members of Congress have advocated a repeal of the Transportation Act entirely. It is quite generally agreed that the present law should be amended in some respects. Its practical operation has revealed a number of weak spots. Developments of the past year have clearly indicated, for instance, that the Railroad Labour Board should be clothed with broader powers, and should work in closer co-operation with the Interstate Commerce Commission, because wages must necessarily be considered in connection with, or in relation to, rates. The agitation for a repeal of the section providing for rates that will yield the railroads a certain return is apparently based on a misunderstanding or misinterpretation of that clause. The latter remained in force two years from the time the Transportation Act became operative, and expired by limitation last March. It was intended to serve only as a temporary guide to the Commerce Commission in determining what rates should be established. It contained no guarantee of income to the carriers, either expressed or implied. As a matter of fact, the railroads have been unable to earn anything like the rate of return contemplated in that section. Pressure to amend the law, with respect to the rate-making powers conferred upon the Commerce Commission, comes principally from agricultural communities. Farmers, through their spokesmen in Congress, are evidently seeking low transportation rates for their products, regardless of whether or not the railroads earn anything. It is quite possible that an amendment will be urged recognising the principle of the "living wage," but it is inconceivable that any serious effort will be made to determine or fix such a wage, to be applied generally to all classes of railroad employees. The Labour Board has always taken into consideration the cost of living in its efforts to establish just and reasonable wages, but in its recent decision it pointed out the fallacy and danger of adopting a uniform living wage. As to the suggested amendments for compulsory consolidations and pooling of rolling stock, doubts are entertained in many quarters whether such provisions would be constitutional, for they would virtually involve seizure of private property. It is generally conceded that the Transportation Act has some defects which could and should be corrected, but conservative, financial, railroad, and business interests would regard any wholesale tinkering with the law as most unfortunate at this time, because it would create another period of doubt and uncertainty over matters that vitally affect not only the railroads, but all lines of trade and industry. Competent authorities believe it would be the wiser policy to bring about a better administration of the present statute than to experiment with a new law.

Much interest is being taken in the proposed consolidation of Armour and Co. and Morris and Co., two of the "Big Five" Chicago meat-packing houses. It is known that Armour and Co. have negotiations under way for the acquisition of the business and properties of at least one of the other large packers, and while no official statement has been made, it is generally believed that control of the Morris concern is being sought. Whether or not such a merger is consummated will depend largely, if not entirely, upon the Government's attitude. The plan has been submitted to Administration authorities in Washington, including the Federal Trade Commission, and their approval or acquiescence is necessary before it can be carried out. Should a merger of the two companies mentioned be effected, it would give Armour and Co. a pre-eminent position in the meat-packing industry. The consolidated companies would have total assets of about \$570,000,000, capital of some \$190,000,000, funded debt of approximately \$148,000,000, and a surplus of about \$64,000,000, according to the latest annual reports of those two concerns. Armour and Co. have packing plants in this country, South America, and Australia, while Morris and Co. have a number of packing establishments in the United States, and distributing stations in many important points in Europe and Cuba. An immediate result of such a combine would be a general consolidation of the facilities of the two companies, particularly distributing agencies and rolling stock. It is claimed that the merger would effect a saving of about

\$10,000,000 a year in overhead expenses, as a result of economic operation. To what extent, if any, the proposed consolidation might benefit livestock growers, as well as ultimate consumers of packing-house products, is a matter that will probably be given careful consideration by Government officials. It is by no means certain that the latter will sanction the deal. For a number of years the Federal Trade Commission has been waging war on the packers for alleged violations of the anti-trust law; it was largely instrumental in separating the meat-packing industry from the wholesale grocery business and allied trades, and in securing legislation providing for Government supervision of packing-houses and stock-yards.

FRANCE.—BETTER BUDGET PROSPECTS—BEARER BONDS—INCOME-TAX—PAYMENTS IN KIND—NEW BOND ISSUES—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 29.

THE strenuous efforts that are being made by the Finance Commission of the Chamber to reduce to considerably less serious proportions the enormous deficit foreshadowed by M. de Lasteyrie, in his Budget Estimates for 1923, now appear likely to be crowned with a substantial measure of success. The detailed proposals of the Finance Minister (referred to here last week) have now been published, and show that there has been such a distinct revival in business since his original estimates for 1923 were drawn up in March last, and that he is now justified in anticipating a much larger yield from taxation, under several headings, than he dared hope for eight months ago. He has accordingly revised several of his estimates in an upward direction, and by reason of improved trade alone, he now feels justified in anticipating extra revenue of no less than 1,120,000,000fr. He proposes to take an additional sum of 700,000,000fr during 1923 from the special tax on war profits (which he now estimates will yield a grand total of 15,700,000,000fr, instead of the 13 milliards he expected when he drew up his original estimates). The yield from customs duties on imports has been so much greater than he anticipated during the first ten months of the current year that he feels justified in estimating to draw an extra 150,000,000fr from this source during 1923. The consumption of petrol has so largely increased during the current year that the tax on it has already yielded 58,000,000fr more than during the corresponding period of 1921, and leads the Minister to anticipate that he will receive during 1923 an additional 70,000,000fr from this source over and above the amount he estimated for in March last. The yield from stamp duties, transfer fees, and income-tax on securities during the present year has already so largely exceeded Budget Estimates that the Minister has now increased his estimate of revenue from these sources during 1923 by another 200,000,000fr. He further proposes modifications in the incidence of the duties on nominative and bearer bonds that will produce an increased revenue of 65,000,000fr, and he anticipates securing another 100,000,000fr from the income-tax by controlling much more strictly the returns sent in by persons liable to this impost. From these various sources the Minister anticipates being able to secure an additional total sum of 1,285,000,000fr.

A Socialist proposal, with the object of suppressing the present popular system of bearer bonds, by transforming these instruments into nominative securities, met with scant favour from the Finance Minister, on his being asked by the Commission to state his views on the question. Nor is this to be wondered at, seeing that the author of the proposal suggests that holders of bearer bonds, in required to endorse them to dispose of them, shall be and to give several days' notice to the Finance Department by registered letter, before a sale can be completed. One bearer bond—one or more of which is undoubtedly owned by practically every working man and working woman in

the country—is that they can be bought or sold at any bank at a moment's notice, merely on presentation, and at a cost of 1fr 50c or thereabouts (which is retained by the banker as his commission). Any serious modification of the present system, such as is suggested by the proposal in question, is universally regarded here as likely to prove destructive of the whole mechanism of the French instinct to save. The Finance Minister also pronounced definitely against the adoption of M. Bokanowski's proposal for the creation of a *carnet de coupons*.

The agitation among the working-classes against the imposition of an income-tax on wage-earners continues. On Sunday last a procession of 150 working men, headed by a red flag, and carrying an effigy of the Minister of Finance suspended from a pole, marched to a house in one of the suburbs of Paris, where furniture was to be sold by auction, under distraint for non-payment of income-tax, and effectively prevented the sale from taking place. Another similar sale was also rendered impossible in another part of the city. Dozens of cases of the kind have occurred all over France. A week or two ago the whole of the men employed at one of the Paris gasworks ceased work in protest against the deduction from the pay of three or four of their number of small sums of about 35fr each for unpaid income-tax. In view of the widespread objections that have been manifested by wage-earners, the Finance Commission of the Chamber recommends that the bases of exemption from income-tax shall be substantially raised. Incomes from wages and salaries, it is suggested, shall be exempt up to 5,000, 6,000, and 7,000fr per annum (according to the population of the locality in which the assessable person resides), instead of the present bases of 4,000, 5,000, and 6,000fr. It is further proposed that exemption shall be allowed to the extent of 1,000fr in respect of each child under 16, the benefit of this reduction being given to both father and mother, when both are in receipt of wages. Incomes derived from non-commercial professions, it is recommended, shall be exempt up to 4,000, 5,000, or 6,000fr (according to population), without further rebate in respect to family charges. So far as the general income-tax is concerned, it is recommended that persons in receipt of less than 7,000fr a year shall be exempt, but that those in receipt of more than 7,000fr shall be exempt only for the first 6,000fr.

With the exception of a bare list of the value of the orders received, which is published periodically by the Ministry for the Liberated Regions, it is extremely difficult to obtain from official or other sources any reliable data showing exactly to what extent the possibilities of the Franco-German agreements for payments in kind (generally referred to as the Wiesbaden agreements) are being made use of. The paucity of the details available has given rise to a fear that the method, although it has now been in operation since the end of July, is not proving as successful as had been hoped. On September 6th the total amount of the orders placed by *sinistrés* under these agreements amounted to 2,800,000fr; on October 23rd the total exceeded 7,000,000fr, while by November 23rd it was returned as "something like 12,000,000fr" (or less than £200,000, at present exchange). The principal categories of industrial materials included in this total are reported to be as follows:—

	Fr.
Electrical plant	900,000
Textile machinery	1,180,000
Material for public works	1,100,000
Metallic construction, lifting material, &c.	2,050,000
Material for food and brewing industries	320,000
Ironmongery and sundries	170,000
Machine tools	2,200,000
Steam engines, coppersmiths' material	1,260,000

Information gathered from non-official sources, however, shows that even the figures given present far too rosy a view of the situation, as they represent merely the value of the orders given, and not the goods delivered. The of the orders given, and not the goods delivered. The actual deliveries under the Wiesbaden agreements during the four months they have been in operation are asserted to amount to a total value of rather over 1,000,000fr. So far as machinery is concerned, deliveries are asserted to have been fairly rapid, and have been made within from six weeks to two months of the placing of the orders. For small wares, however, the system is alleged to have

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up , \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over \$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



broken down completely, and the Reparation Commission will probably no longer be set in motion—as has been the case in the past—to enable a *sinistré* to obtain a lock or a door fastening from Germany through the medium of the Wiesbaden agreements.

It is announced by the Ministry of Finance that the recent issue of three and five-year 6 per cent. Treasury bonds resulted in a total subscription of 8,232,124,000fr in nominal capital, and of 8,190,963,345fr in net cash (subject to probable slight modifications when the final returns from the provincial centres have been received). The Crédit Foncier will offer for subscription on December 4th an issue of 600,000,000fr 6 per cent. Communal Bonds of 500fr each. These 1,200,000 bonds will be redeemable in 70 years at the latest, by quarterly drawings, in which 416 bonds will be reimbursed every year by 3,000,000fr in premiums (including one of 1,000,000fr, one of 500,000fr, two of 250,000fr, and four of 100,000fr). Subscribers who prefer the chance of securing smaller but more numerous premiums may participate in drawings in which 400 prizes of 1,000fr each are offered every year, plus others of 50,000fr and 25,000fr each. The issue price is 490fr, payable, if desired, in eight quarterly instalments, and it is probable the offer, as usual, will be largely over-subscribed.

Owing to a combination of causes, the situation on the Bourse this week has been depressed. The violent fluctuation of the exchange has created a feeling of uneasiness, and this uneasiness has been further accentuated by the uncertainty regarding the outcome of the Lausanne Conference. There is also a feeling that the proposed further taxation on securities may place an unduly heavy burden on investors. In French Rentes there has been no marked change, except in the case of the Three per Cents., that fell from 59.65 to 58.45. Banks generally have declined, though the drop has not been considerable. In railways there has been a fairly sharp decline, Midi dropping from 825 to 806, while Orleans is stationary at 920. Shipping has shown a similar tendency, and metallurgical undertakings and petrol have also fallen back.

GERMANY.—CABINET—FINANCES—BUSINESS—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—TRADE—WAGES—CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, November 28.

THE Cuno Cabinet has been at last formed. The composition has been in general well received, although the Cabinet is a coalition party Cabinet, and not, as was expected, a non-party or business Cabinet. The Socialists, who refused to co-operate with the industrial German People's Party, remain outside; and in the debate on Herr Cuno's first speech they refused even benevolent neutrality, and forced Herr Cuno to throw overboard, on a charge of Francophile acts in the Rhineland, his Food Minister, Dr Karl Mueller. The political prospects are not too good, but the Cabinet's future will depend mainly upon Brussels, if Brussels is to bring any reparations solution. On this point the last reports are not too favourable, and it is feared that history may be repeated, history being that under the first impression of a heavy mark exchange fall there is a general resolution to do something, but that when the mark fall ceases without having caused any visible damage to the general economic structure the good resolutions are forgotten until the next mark fall. All Reichstag parties, including the irreconcilable German Nationals, stand for the moment on the basis of the Note of November 13th.

The havoc wrought on the State finances by the price rise which followed the last mark exchange fall is described in an official statement to the Reichsrat. The total deficit, including expenditure on fulfilment of the Peace Treaty, was last estimated at 233,300 million marks. It is now estimated at 890,100 million marks, of which 45,800 million marks will be covered by that part of the Forced Loan receivable this year. The railway receipts, contrary to expectation, still cover expenditure, whereas Posts, owing to the very low charges—about 1-13th of a penny for home letters, 3d for foreign—will need a subsidy of 47.9 milliards. The Cabinet promises the much-needed reduction in officialdom. The Finance Ministry's statement for November 20th shows the Floating Debt at 958,026 millions, which, with 64,423 millions Funded Debt, makes a total debt of 1,022,449 millions, the billion being therewith passed. In fact, the Funded Debt—estimated at about 55 millions—has fallen, but the figure given is that in the last report for June 30th. The whole expenditure between April 1st (beginning of the financial year) and November 20th was 616,399 millions, of which only 3,932,981,000 marks was for interest on Funded, and 25,743,300,000 marks interest on Floating Debt. Interest on the War Debt was, therefore, under £100,000 gold at the lowest recent mark exchange. Railway expenditure is now at the rate of about a billion marks a year. Passenger fares will be increased on January 1st to between 4 marks a kilometre for fourth class and 24 marks for first-class, which will be from four to sixfold the present. The present fourth-class kilometre fare is 1-160th, first-class 1-40th, of an English penny. The much higher freight rates account for the tolerable railway finances. State railway receipts in September were 25,332 millions; in the first six months of the financial year, 92,850 millions; receipts from Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones in September 3,663 millions, which is 170 per cent. more than in April. The Customs gold surcharge for the week November 29th to December 5th has been raised to 166,900 per cent., or 1,670-fold the nominal. As a result of this high surcharge the prices of imported necessities are unreasonably dear, the price rise far exceeding the average rise in earnings.

The foreign exchanges to-day nearly regained their highest quotations of early November, apparently owing to stories of French action in the West. Prices still move upward. An exception is pig-iron, which, being fixed at short intervals on the basis of the dollar exchange, was slightly reduced on the 24th; hematite from 143,365 marks per metric ton to 130,829 marks, and other sorts correspondingly. This is the first reduction since early 1921;

and it will not be maintained on the basis of the latest dollar rise. The Steel Syndicate refused to reduce its rates for steel and rolling mill products. Privy Councillor Voegler, head of one of the largest coal and iron concerns, has spoken pessimistically about industrial prospects, this not on the ground of the currency depreciation, but on the ground mainly of Peace Treaty changes. Ruhr coal output in October was 8,827,126 tons, which is the largest since March, while the daily output was the largest since February, 1921, when the extra shifts were abandoned. Great progress, reports the *Vossische Zeitung*, has been made in native flax-culture. Native annual production in the last pre-war years was 4,000 tons; to-day it is about 25,000 tons, supplying more than half the home need. This improvement is largely the result of encouragement given during the war; but also since the war production has continued to increase.

Stocks last week rose. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for dividend-payers shows on the 23rd, 335,236, the highest figure reached, against 287,326 on the 17th. The reason was apparently the prospects of a Cabinet settlement; and the paradox continues that (1) stocks, as in normal times, are sent up by good political news, and that also (2) stocks are sent up by mark-exchange declines which are often directly caused by bad political news. To-day the Bourse is closed; but in unofficial dealings stocks were in great demand on the basis of an unfavourable exchange, of unfavourable reports from France, and of better views of the home political and industrial situation.

Wages are rising rapidly. The last detailed figures, which are for mid-October, show an average 213-fold increase since 1914; but there was a great difference—375-fold in one trade and 120 in another. On January 1, 1920, wages had risen 6.3-fold, January, 1921, 11.9-fold, January, 1922, 23.6-fold, May 42.3-fold, August 93-fold. The average monthly wage of a skilled manual employee in State undertakings, which in 1913 was 150 marks, was (for married men) 28,704 marks at the beginning of this month, while for unskilled workers, who earned only 103 marks before the war, the wage has risen to 27,040 marks. The skilled worker's wage increased 162-fold, the unskilled 263-fold. At present exchange, the skilled worker's gold wage is less than one-tenth of that of 1913. The same tendency of the payment for rough work to increase faster than that of fine work is shown in official salaries. Whereas the salary of the highest class of married officials has risen 95-fold, that of the lowest class has risen 224-fold.

ITALY.—ABSOLUTE GOVERNMENT IN ITALY—TAXES TO BE SIMPLIFIED—WORKING OF THE SUCCESSION TAX—A NEW EXCISE?

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, November 27.

THE first financial acts of the Fascist Government are promising. They have abolished useless train services in the State railways, and declared their intention to drop many Royal decrees instituting port authorities in minor ports, which would simply have expanded into a new bureaucracy, additional to the State, municipal, and other authorities governing the port administration. But the most important act of the new Cabinet has been its revenue (*esercizio provvisorio*) till June 30, 1923. The Chamber has readily assented, and the Senate will do likewise. The Government is thus empowered to act as Parliament. Moreover, the Chamber has passed the so-called Bill of full-powers. The Senate will certainly concur.

This Bill authorises the Government until December 31, 1923, to reform the civil and military services; to suppress this or that public service; to transfer railways and the other industrial State concerns to private hands; to reduce, simplify, or increase existing taxes, and to introduce new ones; to act as they will in the domain of public administration and finance. Never was such absolute power entrusted by a Parliament to the Executive. Even in time of war

there were limits to the free action of the Government. This time the only limit set to the absolutism of the Government is the duty to report before March 31, 1924—a vague and ineffectual limit, as Parliament will not be called to give a vote on such a report.

The renunciation by Parliament of all its powers for so long a period was received with general cheers by the public. Italians were sick of talkers and of weak executives. The general feeling is one of profound distrust towards Parliament. Men would accept a Czar for the sake of getting out of chaos. In finance this revulsion against political talk, abuses, tricks, and so on ought to have been a revulsion against bureaucracy. The excessive taxation, the system of piling tax upon tax, the demagogic persecution of savings and capital by taxes up to 100 per cent. of income or capital—all this was characteristic of the war and post-war period, when the Chamber was never asked to vote on financial bills, but decree followed decree on the initiative of the Government. But people who are sick of a given state of things frequently seek remedies at the source of the evils of which they complain. Oppressed by the absolute rule of an old, ineffectual, compromising, sceptic set of politicians, they hope for redress from another set of politicians, young, energetic, full of vigour and of patriotism. True, there was little to hope for from the dying Chamber. Moreover, most of the new Ministers are capable men, truly desirous of doing well. Signor De Stefani, Minister of Finance, has not announced a big programme, as did several of his predecessors, who went out of office with nothing done. He is professor of political economy at the Venice High School of Commerce, and has declared his intention of simplifying and consolidating taxes, increasing their yield not by putting rates up, but by prosecuting defaulters. If new taxes must be imposed, for every penny of new taxes a corresponding saving ought to be made in the public expenditure. His only definite disclosure was that the succession tax is to be reduced. It was high time that from the Government bench a voice should be raised against the frenzied finance of the Bolshevik after-armistice period. A few examples will suffice to give an idea of what this system meant:—

Inheritance of Each Heir or Legatee.	Property Passing From									
	Fathers and Mothers to Sons.	Grandfathers to Grandchildren and Children in Direct Line.	Husband to Wife.	Brothers to Sisters.	Uncles to Nephews.	First Cousins.	Other Relatives and Strangers.			
Lire.	Pound Sterling at the Rate of 100 Lire to £1.									
5,000	50	1-80	1-80	5-40	9-60	12	14-40	22-80	28-80	32-80
100,000	1,000	4-80	6	12	18	25-80	32-80	39-60	46-80	54
500,000	5,000	10-80	12	19-20	25-80	32-80	39-60	46-80	54	62-40
1,000,000	10,000	16-80	18	26-40	32-80	39-60	46-80	54	62-40	70-80
5,000,000	50,000	21-60	25-20	32-40	39-60	46-80	54	62-40	70-80	78
10,000,000	100,000	25-20	28-80	36	43-20	50-40	57-60	64-80	72	80
20,000,000	200,000	28-80	32-40	39-60	46-80	54	62-40	70-80	78	86-40
more than 200,000,000	more than 2,000,000	32-80	36	43-20	50-40	57-60	64-80	72	80	88

On top of this there was (a) a tax of 0.75 per cent. on the land and houses included in the inheritance. (b) A tax of 6 per cent., 9.60 per cent., and 12 per cent. of the heritage, when it falls to an heir or legatee, not the son, husband, or wife of the deceased, who receives more than 200,000 lire, and is possessed in his own right of an estate of more than 200,000, 400,000, and 600,000 lire respectively. When the maximum rate of 90 per cent. is due from a second cousin, and the rules under (a) and (b) are working at their maximum, the inheritance is subject to a rate of 102.75 per cent., which is manifestly unthinkable. Moreover (c) if the estate is subject to a life interest, the remainderman is bound to pay the succession tax at once on the half of the full value if the usufructuary is under 50 years of age, and on three-fourths if over 50. If, as frequently happens, a husband without sons makes his wife a life-usufructuary, and leaves the estate to a nephew or a cousin, the tax to be paid at once swallows up, with the accrued interests on the tax, the whole value of the succession. Therefore, latterly many heirs have been compelled to refuse to take advantage of wills in their favour. (d) There is added to the estate 7.10 per cent. of the gross sum—before deduction of the debts—for jewels and furniture; (e) funeral and other expenses are deducted at the rate of 1 per cent. on an estate from

French American Banking Corporation 67 William Street NEW YORK CITY

Cable Address - FRENAMBANK

Capital, Surplus & Undivided Profits - \$2,845,000

We transact a general foreign and domestic banking business and solicit your inquiries.

10,000 to 100,000 lire, and of 0.50 per cent. from 100,000 lire upward; (f) debts are deducted only when bearing a certain publicly registered date. Most debts are therefore not recognised as such, and the heirs have to pay the tax on them. Such was the old system. The announcement made by Signor De Stefani that the Government intends to reduce rates all round was greeted with relief by many families, menaced with ruin.

On new taxes Signor De Stefani spoke cautiously. He seemed to be favourable to a new excise capable of bringing into the tax-gatherers' net the great masses of agricultural and industrial workers, who are not subject to any direct tax on income. Except for the higher classes of workers, whose wages are over 25 lire per day, direct taxation is practically impossible; the only substitute is an excise. Wine is already taxed at the rate of 20 lire the hectolitre. As the internal price is over 200 lire, a higher rate would not be unbearable. There is much talk of the re-establishment of the flour tax, but the old flour tax (macinato) has left so bad a record that it is doubtful if even a strong Government dare reimpose it.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—THE BUDGET—INDUSTRIAL CRISIS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, November 20.

IT is now nearly a month since the Finance Minister first introduced his Budget for the year 1923, which, though coming in for some severe criticism, chiefly from members of his own party, has been finally accepted. The circumstances at present are such as the young Republic has never had to face before during its three years of existence, and the bold financial policy of the present Minister naturally has come in for a large amount of censure in all quarters. At the same time, it has been defended with perhaps more zeal than discretion by some of his ardent supporters among a rather Chauvinistic school.

The Budget showed a deficit of 540 million crowns, or some 4,000,000 at the present rate of exchange, and contemplated expenditure to the amount of some 19 milliards of crowns. The heaviest items of expenditure are those concerning the upkeep of the Army and the interest charges, including amortisation, on the public debt of some two hundred millions in sterling. The former involves a sum of over 2,700,000,000 Kc, and the latter a slightly larger amount. The former figures have come in for a good deal of criticism. The army consists of some 150,000 in all, rank and file numbering 127,000, officers 10,000, non-commissioned officers 11,000, and over 100 generals. Certainly the number of officers appears disproportionate, and the total cost of more than 10 per cent. of the total expenditure is very high for a small country. In reply, it was argued that Czechoslovakia must have a strong army to defend itself, situated as it is among doubtful friends, and not always sure of the absence of enemies nearer home.

The Minister has also been criticised for his want of encouragement of industry in not reducing taxation, and especially for keeping on the coal tax. Dr Stránský, in a speech in the Senate, instanced the case of a firm in Central Bohemia, which employed 18,000 workmen and 1,500 clerks. Gross proceeds at the end of the year 1921 reached 1,000 million crowns. Out of this 126 million Kc

went in taxes and other calls. Taxes included fees, compulsory flour loan, capital levy, coal tax, and turnover tax, of which he gave full particulars. In other words, about 12 per cent. of the total receipts went in this manner. The inference is that, had taxation been less, the profits would have been more, the shareholders would have been benefited to the prejudice of the State. When the same critic attacked the railway charges he was on safer ground, stating that the freight for 10 tons was in Czechoslovakia 205 Kc, as compared with 92 Kc in Germany, 76 Kc in France, 60 Kc in Yugoslavia, and 57 Kc in Belgium. Large reductions of expenditure on the railways have, however, been promised by the Finance Minister. He has definitely refused, however, to abolish the coal tax, saying that it would simply mean that in that case he would have to look elsewhere to make good the milliard yielded by this tax. In this same speech he was less optimistic than is his wont, but said that hard work and economy could alone help in the present crisis. He made a curious reference to the condition of affairs in Italy, saying that the rise of the lire was due to the appearance on the scene of Mussolini, and that it was individuals, not masses, who counted in times of crisis.

Considering the large amount of interest payable on the public debt, the suggestion to raise another long-term loan causes some surprise. What is called the "Investments Budget" provides for the expenditure of over three milliards of crowns on various public works, for which no funds are available. For this purpose the Minister was to be, and now is, authorised to raise a loan. Three milliards of crowns represent some twenty million sterling, which, at 7½ per cent., would entail another 200 million Kc interest. Now Dr Rasin talks of a loan of four millions sterling only on 560 million crowns, which seems to betray a certain amount of anxiety as to the industrial situation. Already a supplementary budget has been voted for another 100 million crowns for the unemployed, and, unless prices go down still lower, the promised reductions in expenditure will prove exceedingly difficult to carry out.

It is to be noticed that State expenses, in spite of an addition of over 700 millions in connection with the Public Debt, are less than the figures for 1920 by 435 millions, and this is creditable to the Ministers' desire for economy. The exact figures are 19.37 milliards, against 19.8 milliards for 1922.

The various manufacturing industries are in no better case than they have been for the last few months, but in some, as, for instance, the leather trade, the worst seems to have been past. It is not expected that more boot and shoe factories will close their doors, at least not permanently, and a moderate revival of the home trade is looked for during the winter. The export trade, upon which it exists, can only improve if manufacturers adapt themselves to altered circumstances, or else in the unlikely event of a fall in the crown. At present the output amounts to some 35 or 40 per cent. of the total capacity of the industry, and the position in other industries is probably not very different.

CANADA.—CROPS AND PRICES—SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN GOLD—FEDERAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURE—PROSPERITY OF QUEBEC—COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH FRANCE—CRITICISM OF MERCHANTS' BANK TRIAL—IMMIGRATION POLICY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, November 20.

With a large portion of what by general admission has been a most abundant crop now marketed, Canada is beginning to realise that mere abundance of agricultural products does not always spell general prosperity, and that a restoration of normal business activity cannot be expected before 1923 or 1924. One of the leading agricultural authorities in Canada recently gave his public opinion that to-day the cost of raising a bushel of wheat in Western Canada averaged 82 cents, and his estimate has been confirmed from other sources. There has been a welcome filip in grain prices during the past week, but the average farmer in Alberta and Saskatchewan is still

only getting between 80 and 90 cents per bushel for his wheat crop, and naturally they are deeply disgruntled over the existing state of affairs. It had been hoped both by producers and the business community that this year's almost record crop would put Western Canada on its feet once more, but while the situation has not in any way been worsened, the prices for farm crops have remained too low to permit any marked revival of trade. Farmers who gave their coarser grains to cattle and some who had special favours of fortune have been able to make money, but there are thousands who will just extract a bare living for their year's labours. The best judges of the problem now believe that the ultimate prosperity of Western Canada is dependent on a drastic alteration of existing methods of farming, and lament the unwillingness of many farmers to adjust themselves to new conditions. An able Western politician, who is also a practical farmer, told the writer recently that any further increase in wheat production in Canada would be a calamity, and efforts will probably be made to induce the Western farmers to devote more acreage to other crops. Canada has staked her whole future on the prosperous development of the West, and the problem must be resolutely faced. However, there is no reason for despair or even pessimism. The crop is setting a lot of money in circulation, and both merchants and manufacturers can report fair business. Unemployment is beginning to show its head in a few places, but not on a serious scale. Development and expansion, however, are going on in many directions, especially in the mining industry, and there seems no great difficulty in securing capital for Canadian enterprises. In the past month there have been a series of large shipments of gold from the United States to Canada, and the explanation offered is that, Canadian funds being at a premium, it is cheaper for the time being to send gold to Canada than to buy Canadian exchange. Prominent financial authorities think that the present premium on Canadian funds in New York is purely artificial, being caused by the sale of large quantities of Canadian securities in the United States, and that by the spring Canadian funds will again have receded to a substantial discount.

The Finance Department finds great satisfaction in the Federal revenues for October, which show an increase of \$7½ millions, as compared with October, 1921, while expenditure is \$1½ millions lower. For the seven months' period, however, which ended on October 31st, the comparison is not so good, for revenue, which is placed at \$236,835,650, only shows an increase of \$769,308 over last year's parallel figures. Expenditure, on the other hand, at \$156,820,717 shows a decline of roughly \$6 millions. On the surface there seems a promising gap between revenue and expenditure, but in the expenditure the railway burden and a variety of inescapable capital charges are not included. Better Customs receipts, which for October show an increment of roughly \$1,700,000, and higher postal returns may be taken as good indications of a trade revival. It is also satisfactory to find substantial abatements in the charges for Soldiers' Land Settlement and Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. During the month of October there was an actual reduction in the national debt of \$14,271,817, but no jubilation over this is justifiable, for the net debt, standing on October 31st at \$2,369,759,026, was actually \$40,496,124 above the figures for October 31, 1921, which were given as \$2,329,262,902.

Most of the provincial Governments are labouring in heavy financial seas; the new Finance Minister of Manitoba recently confessed that the first nine months of his financial year had piled up a deficit of a million dollars. But the Province of Quebec is a happy exception to this state of affairs. Thanks largely to the liberality of its liquor laws, the provincial Treasurer claims for the financial year ending June 30, 1922, a surplus of \$5,033,419, and had been able not only to refrain from issuing new bonds, but also to retire \$249,687 of an old issue.

Messrs Fielding and Lapointe, the two Ministers who have been negotiating with the French Government for a new commercial Treaty between the two countries, are reported to have found Canadian proclivities for liquor prohibition an obstacle to the concessions which they desire. Into only two out of the nine provinces of

Canada is it permissible to import French wines for ordinary consumption, and the French vine growing interests apparently insist that no great favours be given to the mad Prohibitionist countries of North America. Prohibition as it exists in Ontario has a decidedly Protectionist aspect. The vine-growers of the Niagara district are still allowed to sell their product freely, and as many of their brands are of high alcoholic content, they find a ready market; under the shelter of Prohibition a very profitable domestic wine trade has been built up, and the French discern in this fact another instance of British hypocrisy.

The trial of Sir Montagu Allan, the president of the defunct Merchants' Bank, has, like that of the general manager, resulted in his triumphant acquittal; but very stern comment, especially as the judge saw fit to commend Sir Montagu's actions, has been let loose in the Press. The great Tory paper of Montreal, the *Star*, and the *Financial Post*, of Toronto, join with the Progressive *Manitoba Free Press* in condemning the farcical nature of the trial proceedings, and insisting that what constitutes one of the worst scandals in the financial history of Canada ought not to be allowed to slip into oblivion without some further investigation. The Bank Act will come up for revision next session, and the Merchants' Bank case will afford a splendid text for financial critics and reformers. The farmers' associations are freely discussing the idea of a National State Bank on the lines of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and the Progressive members will be instructed to press for radical changes. Meanwhile, the *Financial Post* warns the Bankers' Association that public confidence in the Bank Act as it stands is at a very low ebb, and the Merchants' Bank fiasco provides a deplorable example of its utter failure to protect adequately the shareholders, the creditors, and even the depositors from heavy losses.

It is understood that the Government have reached some definite conclusions about an immigration policy, and its announcement is expected in the near future. Public opinion is seriously perturbed at the disclosure by the last census of the awkward fact that Canada, despite a very large flow of immigrants, failed to retain even all her natural growth of population. Lord Shaughnessy in a recent address in Montreal lent his high authority to this statement. He estimated that if Canada between 1911 and 1921 had received not a single immigrant her population by natural increase should have reached nine millions, but it was officially placed at 8,769,000, and apparently the 1,975,000 immigrants who had come in had disappeared. It is expected that the Government will restore a separate department for immigration, and will introduce legislation.

ARGENTINA.—THE NEW PRESIDENT—THE NATIONAL MORTGAGE BANK—RAILWAY PROBLEMS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, October 25.

On October 12th Dr Marcelo T. de Alvear was formally inducted as President of the Argentine Republic in the room of Dr Irigoyen. Both men were given a full meed of popular applause, and there can be no doubt in the mind of any unbiassed observer as to the popular feeling towards the distinguished citizen who has resigned his magistracy, after filling the full term of six years, only to resume his former position as head of the Radical Party. This is scarce the place to summarise either his merits or his demerits. Suffice it to say that no previous President of Argentina has ever held office during such troublous times in world politics, or been subjected to such constant and powerful pressure designed to one end. History, one makes no doubt, will do him greater justice than his contemporaries are like to do, but what concerns this country more nearly to-day is the fact that his successor has already given abundant proof of more liberal views and a more modern conception of what Argentina's place among the nations implies. At the outset, Presi-

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve Funds - - £1,350,000

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.

OVER 160 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.

JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAW, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

dent Alvear gave general satisfaction by reverting to the custom of delivering a brief official address immediately after taking the oath of fealty to the Constitution. Its tone was of necessity general, yet it struck a dignified note. Intelligent aid to industrial evolution, care for the public health, united action throughout the Republic for the common weal; these, said Dr. Alvear, were the ideals he sought, and, with the help of Congress and his fellow citizens, he believed them to be attainable. His Ministers are all men who command respect, and are credited with ability. Their political colour is naturally that of the Party in power; nevertheless, the feeling is general that as Cabinet Ministers they will not be so extreme in their insistence on the Radical dogma as their predecessors were. That business interests are most concerned with the persons who fill the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture at the present time is obvious. Both Dr Herrera Vegas and Dr Le Breton may be considered practical men of affairs, and it is reasonably certain that collaboration between the departments will be frequent. Although much has appeared in the public Press of forthcoming loans and possible revenues to be derived from oil royalties, it is unlikely that anything definite can be said until Congress meets. That it will be convened to extraordinary sessions in November has been officially stated. It has been also declared that no foreign loan will be sought until the necessary legal authority from Congress to borrow has first been obtained. This, one may unhesitatingly say, is a great step in the right direction. For under the previous Government *ad referendum* agreements were fast becoming synonymous with no agreement at all.

That an important Internal Loan will be sought seems, however, reasonably sure, and for practical purposes one may take the Cédulas of the National Mortgage Bank as giving the mean of the terms upon which such an operation would be conducted, or, say, 6 per cent. at 95. The local market, as has been mentioned in previous correspondence, is better able to handle such an operation to-day than it has ever been. Indeed, one might argue that the frequent shifts put to in connection with the short-date transactions of the Government during the last five years, and the absence of all European intervention in Argentine finance in that time, have between them prepared the local financial interests to stand alone. Reference is made to the Cédula as a base for comparison simply because this is at present the one genuinely popular investment bond in Argentina, the one form of Stock Exchange security generally understood and dealt in by all classes. The Fifteenth Series of these bonds is about to be issued, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is endeavouring to have the Cédulas of the National Mortgage Bank quoted in the official lists of the exchanges of London, New York, and Paris, Berlin, Hamburg, and Amsterdam. As the operations of the bank are extending considerably, and its terms are favourable to borrowers, the demand for mortgage accommodation on the basis of 6 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. per annum amortisation, is such as to make it of the first importance to secure as wide a market as possible for the bonds. It may nevertheless be remarked that some criticism has been raised concerning the danger of unduly rapid expansion, shown by the fact that the bank's present total of bonds in circulation—prior to the 15th Series—is \$747,000,000, Argentine paper, face value, as contrasted with \$540,000,000 on May 31, 1914.

Interest has also been aroused in financial circles by the announcement that the Public Credit Office was authorised to issue and inscribe bonds to a total face value of \$60,000,000 Argentine paper, to be known as the 1922 Issue Argentine Internal Credit. They carry 6 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. amortisation, are in bonds of \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$100 coupons, payable quarterly, beginning from January 1st in each year. It is understood that the Government will have no difficulty in placing these bonds, various financial interests having expressed their willingness to handle them for such creditors of the Government as might otherwise not be disposed to accept this form of payment. This may, indeed, be considered one of the first measures taken by the National Government with a view to putting administrative matters on a more up-to-date footing. Satisfaction has also been caused by the statement that statistical information is to be published promptly, beginning from the month of September of the current year. The quarterly statements covering import and export trade will be resumed, thus doing away with the inordinate delay which has led to the complete figures for 1920, appearing scarce a couple of months ago. Export statistics for 1921 have only been obtainable this month, figures for imports being still to seek. The various Ministries have also been called on to bring their accounts into order without further ado, and although time is too short to enable any exhaustive inquiry into new proposals for increasing revenue, it is understood that workable Budget Estimates designed to cover the needs of the administration during 1923 are already in preparation, and will be brought forward in a manner calculated to cause as little delay as possible when the sanction of Congress is sought by the executive power.

With regard to the railway position, it is as yet too soon to write with any assumption of finality. Both in the province of Buenos Aires and on the various extensions planned in connection with the State lines there appears to be a firm determination to carry out the vast programmes that have already been made public. How far the straight speaking of the various chairmen of the Anglo-Argentine lines will carry is hard to say. That their arguments are unassailable, viewed from the standpoint of the home investor in Argentine rails, even the Argentines themselves admit. Yet at the same time the expressed inability of the Anglo-Argentine companies to undertake extension work involving fresh capital outlay is brought forward again and again as being an unanswerable argument for going ahead with the official lines. Moreover, there seems reason to believe that control of expenditure in connection with the latter, both for work on the permanent way and for purchase of material and rolling stock, is far more severe and economical than has ever been known before in the history of Argentina's State systems. Moreover, their utility to the districts through which they will run is unquestionable, however true it may be that many a year must pass ere traffics are satisfactory. Thus general opinion may be said to incline to the official view, and the somewhat favourable forecast of the future indulged in by some speakers has already been taken up by a section of the Argentine Press as fair proof of the excessive haste with which the late president sanctioned the recent increases of tariffs. If the foregoing remarks appear contradictory, it should be remembered that all one seeks is to give in some sort a conspectus of the railway position as it is viewed in Argentina by those who use the lines, and to emphasise the fact that the whole situation is still delicate, calling for the utmost tact and diplomacy if further friction is to be avoided.

NEW ZEALAND.—PUBLIC RETRENCHMENT— REDUCED TAXATION—RETURN TOWARDS NOR- MAL—BRIGHTER TRADE OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AUCKLAND, N.Z., October 16.

MR MASSEY'S prediction that before the end of the year public expenditure would be well within income is already approaching fulfilment. Various favourable causes have helped towards this result; the enhanced

prices for New Zealand produce, good seasons, and the absence of industrial strife, are among the principal. But even then, only a policy of vigorous retrenchment could have insured success. The main opposition to retrenchment has come from the Labour party. The same party has opposed the reduction of taxation as far as it affects the banker, the business and professional man, and the large companies, but as Mr Massey pointed out, such taxation is eventually passed on to the public, and is eventually paid by the consumer; consequently, the worker would benefit indirectly by the relieved taxation.

The crushing burden of income tax will be reduced to a simple scale running from 1s up to 7s 4d in the £ on incomes of £10,000 or over. The graduation scale is rather a complicated one, but the principal rebates are on incomes under £10,000. Thus, on an income of £400 the tax for 1923 will be £5, against £6 5s in 1921, and the rebate will be general except in the case of incomes between £800 and £1,000, which show a slight increase in the rate, but even these are reduced compared with the taxation of 1922. Up to 1921, incomes were taxed with ordinary and war taxes, and in respect of the latter, the exemption of £300 applied to all incomes. Last year the Government brought in a single scale, and one result was that by graduating the exemption of £300 on incomes above £600, so that it disappears at £900, the taxation on all incomes above about £650 was substantially increased. On the land tax to be collected in November, 1922, there is a reduction on all grades as compared with 1921, but as compared with the taxation for 1920 the reduction only applies to taxable balances under £50,000. Other concessions are: In regard to income tax, it is provided that after this year, losses incurred in business may be set off against profits earned within the three following years, provided that any relief under this section shall be given so far as possible from the first assessment within the period of three years; and as far as it cannot then be given, from the next assessment, and so on. Also, losses incurred by a taxpayer in one business may be set off against profits earned in another business; an overdue concession is also made to coal-owners in regard to depreciation of assets. Mr Massey calculates the relief under all his proposals at £939,000. There is no doubt that the last increases in taxation were necessary only because the Government allowed expenditure to get beyond control, with the result that taxation was levied beyond the capacity of the country; retrenchment is already bearing fruit. The taxation on large industrial and commercial enterprises, the effect of which spreads over the whole community, has been reduced from about 8s 9d to 7s 4d; next year, it is hoped, that it will be further reduced to not more than 6s, and in the following year to 5s. The elections are approaching and public finance will be one of the important issues.

The return to normal conditions is becoming more accentuated. At the end of this year it is announced that the Rent Restrictions Act will be abrogated, and at the end of next year (unless previously renewed, which is improbable) also the moratorium on mortgages. Both of these emergency measures have acted very adversely on the trade and development of the country. The excess of imports over exports, which amounted to £1,986,713 during the first eight months of 1921, increased to £11,927,753 for the corresponding period of the present year. The cost of living is falling, almost every item except rent being lower, and this also will probably soon be reduced. A further reduction of 3s a week in wages has been decreed and accepted by the workers. On the other hand, the severe depression felt by the farmer last year still bears fruit, resulting in many bankruptcies, but future prospects are good. The Stock Exchange, which had been depressed during the recent war scare, is again recovering.

Letters to the Editor.

"FISCAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRISH TREATY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The writer of the article under the above title in the "Notes of the Week" column of your number dated November 18th appears to think that the British taxpayer will have to bear the cost of collecting the Customs at a land frontier in Northern Ireland, if, as seems probable, such a frontier is established.

But is it not rather the case that the whole of the additional cost involved is legally chargeable to the Exchequer of Northern Ireland?

Under Section 22 (5) of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the imposition and collection of Customs and Excise duties is a "reserved service," that is, it remains in the hands of the Imperial Government. As I read it, Customs and Excise are "reserved taxes," and flow, in the first instance, straight to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

Section 24 (1) lays down that there shall be paid each year to the Exchequer of Northern Ireland a sum equal to the (Northern) Irish share of reserved taxes, after deducting:—

(a) The amount of the (Northern) Irish contribution towards Imperial liabilities and expenditure, and

(b) The net cost to the Exchequer of the United Kingdom during the year of the services remaining reserved services.

The natural conclusion is surely that this covers any additional cost of collecting Customs and Excise revenue in Northern Ireland that would be the result of a land Customs-frontier separating the Free State from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

And consequently the British taxpayer, unless he resides within the jurisdiction of the Northern Irish Parliament, need not be greatly concerned about it.—Yours, &c.,

DOMINICK SPRING RICE.

55, Victoria road, Kensington.

THE ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your Ottawa correspondent, referring to the very serious congestion which has arisen in the transportation of the Canadian grain crop from West to East, says that this grave situation has given "an enormous impetus to the demand for the construction of the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway."

May I point out a fact, of which even some Canadians seem to be unaware, namely, that Canada possesses another alternative waterway from Montreal to the Great Lakes, shorter by 300 miles in distance and quicker by 36 hours in time than the St. Lawrence route? The Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal, to which I refer, has the additional advantage that it passes entirely through Canadian territory. The United States would have nothing whatever to do with the control of its trade or the regulation of its tariffs. It has distributed along its route water powers of great magnitude, admirably situated for supplying the cities of Montreal, and the whole of the Ottawa Valley, as well as the vast undeveloped territories to the north, with cheap and abundant electric power. The Canadian Parliament has already granted a Charter for its construction. The whole route was completely surveyed by Canadian Government engineers in 1904 to 1908. This survey cost the Canadian Government over \$750,000. The estimated cost of the Georgian Bay Canal was then estimated at one hundred million dollars, which is less than half the estimated cost of the St. Lawrence project.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was an enthusiastic advocate of this waterway. In this respect he followed in the footsteps of Sir George Cartier, Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Macdonald, and Sir William van Horne. At the Imperial Conference in London in July, 1907, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, "Canada's chief item of expenditure is in creating routes for her commerce. She has to complete her railway system, and build the Georgian Bay

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, Ltd.

EASTERN AND GENERAL MERCHANTS.

Agents and Secretaries of Rubber, Tea and Produce Companies.

1-4, Great Tower Street, London E.C.3.

Canal." Speaking in the following year, Sir Wilfrid Laurier anticipated the very difficulties which have now arisen, and cannot fail to be accentuated, as new lands are brought under cultivation and the grain crops of the West increase. The wheat of the West," he then said, "needs the shortest and cheapest route to the sea, and that route is the Georgian Bay Canal."

The policy of the Laurier Government at this time, as he and his Ministers have since publicly stated, was to have built simultaneously, and immediately finance permitted, both the enlarged Welland Canal and the Georgian Bay Canal. The defeat of the Laurier Government in 1911 prevented this being done. There is no doubt whatever that had Sir W. Laurier remained in power in 1911, his Government would have commenced the construction of the canal. One of the advantages of this waterway is that the necessary statutory powers for building it are in existence, and that the plans and surveys are in readiness, so that the works could be started at very short notice.

Opinion in Canada, as well as the United States, is greatly divided as to the St. Lawrence Waterway. While the construction of the Ottawa Waterway will manifestly increase enormously the trade of the cities of Montreal and Ottawa, the effect of the building of the St. Lawrence Waterway on the trade and commerce of the cities of Quebec and Montreal must, to say the least, be very doubtful, indeed, and may be disastrous. The international aspect of the proposals is a grave one. Senator Lodge, dealing with this question in the United States Senate in February, 1919, said:—

"We ought to think long before we join with another country to make a waterway which we cannot control. The people who control the mouth of a river control the river. If a waterway can be found through our own country, I think the canal should be built through that way. The route should be through American territory, which would give cheapness of transport to the products of the agricultural west, and yet at the same time keep it within our own boundaries. As long as a waterway is in our territory there is no danger of any international discussion. One way of making our good relations with Canada as close as possible is to avoid subjects of disputes. We are taking some risk when we put control of a large portion of our most important commerce in the hands of another country."

In commerce, and in politics, it is dangerous, as in other walks of life, to hand the key of one's front door to one's neighbour.—I am, &c., R. W. PERKS.

London, November 28th, 1922.

A LEVY ON CAPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—There are two letters on this subject in your issue of November 18th which invite comment.

Mr Pawle implies that the Labour leaders were dishonest in their proposal, hoping to secure votes "before its fallacy could be effectively disproved"; and he adds that the workers have not "caught on....." The first suggestion is unworthy; and, as regards the second, it may be enough here to say that the question of the Capital Levy awakened great interest in Labour meetings, and secured their very hearty support.

Mr Ellis Barker admonishes the Labour party for its ignorance. He thinks that, "in their opinion, money is wealth....." Whether this is said in ignorance or deliberately, it is such a childish travesty of the facts that it is waste of time to discuss a letter written in that spirit.

It is useless to attempt to deal with all the complexities of the question in the course of a brief letter to the Press. There are certain simple propositions, however, which are involved in the full proposal, which could with

advantage be considered. I would suggest, for example, that your readers should clarify their minds on this point: assuming a certain revenue has to be raised, which is the better course in the interests of the business man?—to raise that revenue by a tax measured by the income of the individual taxpayer, or by a tax measured by his wealth. I am quite aware that there are many other elements in the special "Capital Levy" proposed; but a clear answer to the above proposition would be a step towards the full appreciation of the larger question.—I am, &c.,
A. HOOK.
Shepperton, November 24th, 1922.

CURRENCY AND GOLD VALUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—What will the States whose currency has depreciated have to do in order to place it again on a firm foundation? The remedy nearest at hand would be to impose again the obligation on the central bank to exchange on request its notes against gold, and thus restore the convertibility of bankers' credits into gold. This, however, is not quite so easily done, since the notes only possess part of their former gold value. This, of course, the State would have to take into account: it should fix the gold value of the currency, and should provide that on request the bank should change it into gold at this rate. In connection therewith all claims and liabilities within the country would have to be reduced at the gold rate of the depreciated money to be determined by law. Let us take Germany as an example. At present the internal buying power of the mark represents only about 1-750th of its former gold value. According to its last statement, the Reichsbank had issued notes to an amount of nearly 450 milliards of marks, representing a value of about 0.6 milliard of gold marks. Since the currency is again to be placed on a gold basis, the notes must be exchanged against new ones at a fixed rate of exchange, and the bank would thereafter be bound to exchange the new notes on request against gold. The consequence would be that the note circulation would be reduced from 450 milliards to about 0.6 milliard of marks. In like manner, the other banking credits represented by the deposits and the current account balances, not only of the note-issuing banks, but also of all the other banks, would be reduced, since the interested parties also would be credited in full gold marks only 1-750th of their present depreciated values. By this means the money within the country would be reduced to 1-750th of the present money supply.

Not only the claims and liabilities of the banks, but also those of all other persons and corporate bodies, including the State itself, are reduced in a like manner by converting the depreciated money into its gold value. Thus the depreciation of the public debt would be reduced to 1-750th of its German value, and the commercial, industrial, and transport figures, as well as the capital of the same rate, port companies would be like the State, to pay their debts in gold marks.

Looking at this measure from a superficial point of view, it appears as if it would lead to a revolution of the mutual financial obligations of men, and nobody profits or changes in the present condition; the only change suffered financially by this measure is that a basis is obtained for the gradual reconstruction of the economic and social life of the people. By the measure here discussed, the way for reconstruction would be paved much more energetically, and would be better secured, than by the gradual deflation or a provisional stabilisation of the currency.

Whilst, therefore, this measure would considerably reduce the money circulation inside the country and fix prices again on a gold level, the fact that this restoration of the gold basis can take place immediately and without disturbing economic life cannot be too highly praised.

I need hardly mention that in making these observations I have taken it for granted, and have assumed it as a condition *sine qua non* for the accuracy of my statements, that the currency, once restored to the gold parity, is kept on such level in the future.

It should not be said that this is more than the banks

may be able to do. On the contrary, the banks, by a sound policy of credit-granting which carefully avoids all excessive issues of credits, have got it in their power to prevent a depreciation of the currency. But the Government also must not again release the banks from their obligation, on request to convert their credits into gold. This obligation more than any other is suited to remind the banks of their duties, and to cause them to keep their granting of credits within certain limits.—Yours, &c.,
Dr M. A. G. HARTHOORN.

Berlin, November 10th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

AD HOC BODIES.*

THIS is the third and last of the volumes on "English Local Government" which Mr and Mrs Sidney Webb, assisted by many zealous investigators, have been writing for several years past. They found "in the entirely unstudied archives of the hundreds of bodies of Commissioners for Paving, Cleaning, Watching, and Lighting and Improving the streets of the various English towns—and not in the unreformed Municipal Corporations—the beginnings of the most important functions of our nineteenth century municipalities." Mr Webb's earlier volumes covered the period 1689 to 1835, and described the Parish and the County, which covered all England, and the Manor and Borough, which were "islands of franchises, immunities or exceptions." In the present volume he deals with the special bodies set up by Act of Parliament to perform particular services, which we now call "ad hoc" bodies. Altogether there were about 1,800 of these separate local governing bodies, whose rule extended over a much larger area and a considerably greater population than all the municipal corporations.

Unlike the other bodies, the new authorities were created by a special local Act "to discharge one designated function for one prescribed locality"; the Acts were passed very carelessly until after 1832, when all such Bills went to a private Bill Committee, which was charged to act as a judicial tribunal, whereas hitherto decisions had been given by the M.P.s chiefly interested in the Bill. Carelessly as they were passed, this long succession of Local Acts really opened the way to our modern municipal government, and first developed the essentially English system of administration by committees representing the ratepayers who directed and controlled the staff of professional officers.

First of all Mr Webb describes the Courts of Sewers, i.e., the persons, or bodies, who looked after the Fens, marshes, and other low-lying ground which required some kind of authority to see that different people maintained their sections of wall and dyke or kept their water-courses clear. Commissioners of Sewers were very much like the Justices of the Peace who governed rural England for so many centuries, "they combined in themselves judicial, executive, and even legislative powers, all exercised under the forms of a Court of justice"; they were assisted, like other Courts, by juries, who assessed the amounts to be paid by persons benefiting from the Commissioners' works. The famous "Lords of the Level of Romsey Marsh," who have existed since the thirteenth century, were not a Court of Sewers, and had never been elected, but they remain to this day "An ancient relic of pre-statutory local government." In the Somersetshire marshes affairs were also managed without statutory authority, but (probably by immemorial custom) right up

* "English Local Government: Statutory Authorities for Special Purposes." By Sidney and Beatrice Webb. (25s net. Longmans and Co.)

to the early nineteenth century by standing juries. In Westminster the jury almost disappears, and the Commissioners become a kind of self-electing vestry, which degenerated early in the nineteenth century into a small junta of estate agents and builders.

After the dissolution of the monasteries something had to be done for the poor, and as the parochial authorities (established by 43 Elizabeth) proved inadequate Acts of Parliament in the seventeenth century set up new authorities in particular places called "Trustees, Governors, or Directors of the Poor." These bodies made many experiments, and finally proved that the Elizabethan theory of "setting the poor to work" was impracticable. At Bristol an Act created a new authority, which was a genuinely elected body for the whole city, the main idea being to set up a central workhouse. Accidentally the Bristol Guardians discovered "the workhouse test," thereby reducing the number of paupers, and their experiences with that of other bodies proved that a union of parishes was useful both for providing a central workhouse and for avoiding the difficulties and expense of "settlement."

One difficulty with the Guardians was that members would not attend meetings, but left everything to officials, who were ill-paid, uncontrolled, and correspondingly inefficient and dishonest. At first the new Houses of Industry were an improvement, although the labouring classes disliked them; indeed, in 1765 a little rebellion in Suffolk demolished these "prisons" like a Paris mob destroying the Bastille. Undoubtedly the houses were demoralising to the younger inmates.

Next Mr and Mrs Webb deal with the Turnpike Trusts, which became very numerous early in the eighteenth century, at one time numbering over 1,100 and controlling 23,000 miles of road. Before their time England had practically no roads in our sense of the word, only tracks or "rights of passage" from one place to another; with the growth of wheeled traffic these became inadequate, and in time the Trusts effected a vast improvement, which was more than worth the money wasted as well as that which had been wisely spent. Turnpike Trustees, like the Guardians, would not attend meetings, and all kinds of incompetence, corruption, and embezzlement prevailed; no one, not even the Postmaster-General, could call a Turnpike Trust to account. They could tax all vehicles or animals using their roads, but, unlike other *ad hoc* bodies, they could not levy a rate or even claim a share of the Highway Rates.

The last set of bodies to be considered are the Improvement Commissioners, which were set up to the number of three hundred in order to do the work which ought to have been done by the unreformed Municipal Corporations—where they existed—or in newer towns, which had no urban status. All towns were in a shockingly insanitary state, with no sewers or any kind of street cleaning. Great cities, like Manchester or Birmingham, were governed by Commissioners, and thus hardly felt the need of municipal status. The Manchester Police Commissioners were at first co-opted, then drawn from a limited class, and then they became "a body of elected representatives," among whom we find serving Potters, Garnetts, Taylors, and even Richard Cobden. As early as 1817, and without statutory authority, they set up their own gasworks, and were thus the pioneers in "municipal trading."

Street cleaning is a very modern thing, and did not become general till people began to realise the value of ashes and animal refuse for manure; in 1796 Marylebone drew £1,050 a year from its scavenging contractors, and gradually raised this sum to £2,350 in 1803, but after this date the sums fell off. With the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act in 1835 the Improvement Commissioners saw their functions gradually being handed over to the new bodies, which were their heirs in reality rather than those of the unreformed Corporations. Even to this day one or two sets of Commissioners remain, like that more picturesque body the Corporation of the City of London, to remind us of the bad old times. A great deal of this interesting volume is entirely new, for Mr Webb's investigators dug out their facts from the unprinted records and minutes of long-forgotten authorities.

A VOLUME OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE.*

THOSE who venture to tackle the now vast abstracts of accounts issued annually by our great municipal corporations must be possessed of an insatiable appetite for figures, and of a good digestion for such fare. The abstract of accounts of the Manchester Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1922, has just been published, and the City Treasurer (Mr John E. Bray) is to be congratulated upon the completion of this onerous task.

The loan debt at March 31, 1922, amounted to £30,163,330, which, with a population of 744,000 (1921), is equal to about £40 10s per head, against £28 per head two years ago, and £34 per head one year ago. During the year fresh mortgages at 5½ per cent. and 6 per cent., amounting to nearly £7 millions, were granted, while, on the other hand, mortgages which bore lower rates of interest to the extent of nearly £3 millions, were paid off. The higher interest rates infallibly indicate the coming financial weather, and should not go unheeded, especially in view of the fact that in the current and following years loans, amounting to about 8½ millions, fall due to be repaid.

The increase of four millions in the loan debt during the year is accounted for under such heads as town planning, electricity, gas, tramways, water works, and housing (assisted scheme). To take the tramways; the length of track operated increased during the year from 200 miles to 212 miles. The capital outlay increased by 10 per cent., and amounted at the end of the year to £2,838,254. On the liabilities side of the tramways balance-sheet there is a sinking fund of about a million pounds, representing the amount of tramway loans paid off since the beginning. Presumably this amount is available to reduce the capital outlay of £2,838,254, appearing on the assets side, in which case the net capital outlay on tramways amounts to about £1,800,000. How does this amount compare with the going concern value of the actually existing tramway plant and equipment? It would probably be difficult to answer this question.

It is very desirable that suitable accounting records should be kept of capital outlay on all such tramway plant and machinery. The capital outlay which has expired during the year can then be measured, and regularly written off. A reasoned statement would thus be available showing the capital outlay under the various classes of tramway plant still in use, based on the engineers' estimates of the remaining useful life of each class.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Monetary and Banking Policy of Chile. By Guillermo Subercaseaux. Edited by David Kinley. (Oxford) Clarendon Press. 7s 6d net.

Lloyd's Calendar, 1923. (London) Lloyd's, Royal Exchange.

The work has been published uninterruptedly for over 40 years, and in the present issue the matter in the various sections has been revised, and several new articles included. Among the latter may be mentioned articles on the coal trade in 1922 by Mr Finlay A. Gibson, and comparative costs of coal and oil by Engineer Lieut.-Commander F. T. Addyman, R.N.

The Round Table. December, 1922. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited. 5s.

Travels of a Consular Officer in Eastern Tibet. By Eric Teichman. (Cambridge) University Press. 25s net.

Western Europe and the United States. (Philadelphia) The American Academy of Political and Social Science.

National Reform Union Financial Almanack. 1922-23. (Manchester) The National Reform Union, 5, Cross street.

Montenegro. The Crime of the Peace Conference. By Whitney Warren. (New York) Brentano's.

* "City of Manchester. Abstract of Accounts, 1921-22." Manchester: The City Treasurer.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

TICKET.
December 13.

ACCOUNT.
December 14.

Settlement of the end-November account this week showed that there was some increase in the bull position amongst Argentine railway stocks, two or three Home railways, and rubber shares. This caused a stiffening of money rates in the markets affected, but, from the general point of view, capital continues to show willingness to take what new stock is offered, provided it be good and reasonably priced. On Monday, for instance, the subscription lists of the Auckland City, Tambora Rubber, and Becker Notes were all closed shortly after they opened. Dealings have begun in new Auckland debentures at a 10s premium. This success of new issues has encouraged the advent of several others promised in the near future, Bergen being one of the latest borrowers.

Business amongst existing securities is quiet, but markets continue to maintain a firm front, little disturbed by the latest political crisis in Greece, fresh weakness in the franc, and the approach of Christmas.

The War Loan hardened up, on the expectation that some of the interest cheques distributed yesterday will find their way back to the market. This had a sympathetically favourable effect upon other securities in the Consol market, though prices show comparatively little change as a whole. French Government bonds have given way, French railway issues are lower, Germans have rallied, and Brazilians, after showing hesitation, strengthened in several cases. Dollar stocks are mainly lower on the week.

Home Railways gave a good account of themselves. The feature is the way in which North-Easterns have gone ahead under the persistent buying from the North. At a more modest rate, North-Westerns, Midlands, and Great Westerns followed the same upward direction. Metropolitan and Districts stand out as examples of strength amongst Undergrounds. The lower-priced railway stocks are better, and the market shows a fair amount of animation. Its rises have not affected the partiality which continues to be shown for Argentine rails, where the traffics and the crop outlook combine to induce optimism on the part of the large body of speculative investors now following this market. Brazilian rails further improved upon their last week's advances. In other railway stocks there is nothing of interest to report. The nitrate share market has been heavy.

Rubber has risen to 1s 2½d per lb, without having much effect upon the share market, except that it has served to keep prices firm, with a hardening tendency. Oil shares have been flat, in consequence of fresh liquidation. A further reason for weakness developed in the apparently inaccurate impression which got abroad that the British Government may dispose of its Anglo-Persian oil shares. With the public doing little but selling, oil shares fell into a weak condition. The shipping market is one of the strongest round the House, and, with tobacco shares, has commanded substantial support during the week. One reason for the popularity of shipping can be found in last week's references in the *Economist* (p. 977) to the improving condition of the industry.

Banking and insurance shares are good as a while, the forthcoming dividend announcements serving to keep prices hard. Courtaulds enjoyed another bout of strength, while other textiles remain rather in the shade. Iron and steel shares showed a dwindling tendency on the passing of the dividend on Bolckow Vaughans for the first time in 60 years, but the dulness was counteracted by the hope that the Government's proposals for setting up unemployment works may indirectly advantage many undertakings of this class. The brewery market is steady. Cable stocks have further declined, owing to the disappointing report of the Western Telegraph Company, and in the wireless group business has been so quiet as to lead to no changes of note. Forestal Lands recovered sharply, Hudsons Bays, on a little profit-taking, gave way from the best.

Business in the Kaffir market is so stagnant that the usual tendency of sagging prices again set in. Shares in the producing and the deep-level companies gave way a little, and this had its effect upon Rhodesians, where Chartered went down to 11s before they recovered a few halfpence. The diamond market is very quiet. Mexico Mines of El Oro went ahead on the declaration of a good dividend. Broken Hills are distinctly better, thanks to further support from the Colony, and, amongst New Zealand shares, Waihis again advanced by reason of the unexpectedly good developments lately reported. Activity in Akims gave a spark of animation to West Africans. The tin group, however, West African, Cornish, and Middle East, is dormant. Rio Tintos moved irregularly and in accordance with the variations in the French exchange.

Mr Bonar Law has had to decline, on the ground of urgent Parliamentary duties, the invitation to dine with the Stock Exchange Committee in the House this month. The dinner-table will be dignified by six remarkably handsome pieces of

plate which have just been presented to the Stock Exchange by the Committee, the managers, and a private member.

We are officially informed that Mr Eric Richard Allen, trading as Eric R. Allen and Co., has ceased to be a member of the Stock Exchange.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded ..	556,557,324	..	..	..
4½% Treasury Bonds (by Tender November 25, 1922), £1,300,000, at £99 3s 0½d % ..	1,288,975	..	..	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 25, 1922.				
April 1 to Nov. 25, 1922, £26,868,000 ..	300,000	..	300,000	..

To the Public—				
Shipley Collieries, Limited, £350,000 6½% First Mfgs. Deb. Stk. (rep. at 104%) issued at 97½ (Nov. 27) ..	350,000	..	339,500	.. 304,500
Do 374,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at par ..	374,000	..	374,000	.. 327,250
Becker and Co., Limited, £300,000 7% 5 year Secured Notes (red. at 105%, commencing Jan. 1, 1924), issued at 99½ (Nov. 27) ..	300,000	..	297,000	.. 267,000
Tambora Rubber Estates, Limited, £50,000 Shares, £1, at 21s (Nov. 27) ..	50,000	..	50,000	.. 43,750
Moor Park, Limited, £3,000 5% Debts, £100 (free of income tax up to 5s in £), red. at par 1927-42, iss. at 97½ (Nov. 27) ..	3,000	..	2,925,000	.. 277,500
Auckland City Council, £423,400 5½% Debts to Bearer (rep. at par July 1, 1940), issued at 97½ (Nov. 27) ..	423,400	..	412,815	.. 391,645
Do £392,800 5% Debts to Bearer (rep. at par July 1, 1940), iss. at 94½ (Nov. 27) ..	392,800	..	371,196	.. 351,556
Thirsk District Water, £600 5½% Non-cum. Pref. Shares, £5, at par ..	8,000	..	8,000	.. 6,400
Star Tea, £469,447 7% Cum. Pref. Shares, £1, at par (Nov. 30) ..	469,447	..	469,447	.. 422,503
Total offered to public ..	2,616,958	..	2,248,854	.. 2,392,104
To Shareholders only—				
Malayan Plantations, 77,700 £1 Shares, at par ..	77,700	..	77,700	.. 77,700
Total to Shareholders only ..	77,700	..	77,700	.. 77,700

Total offered for subscription to date in—				
1922 ..	£560,840,957	1921 ..	£388,978,203	
1921 ..	323,809,861	1920 ..	367,549,656	
1920 ..	355,818,603	1919 ..	1,036,059,951	
1919 ..	1,002,887,445	1918 ..	1,393,381,441	
1918 ..	1,280,359,976	1917 ..	1,318,596,010	
1917 ..	1,248,052,226	1916 ..	585,436,850	
1916 ..	540,853,353	1915 ..	685,236,326	
1915 ..	661,062,326	1914 ..	512,522,633	

Auckland City Council.—Part of a total loan of £1,250,000 authorised and issued for tramway purchases. This is an offer for sale of £423,400 5½ per cent. debentures to bearer at 97½ per cent. and £392,800 in 5 per cent. debentures of £1,250,000 referred to above consisted of £857,200 in 5½ per cents. and £392,800 in 5 per cents. These were issued, with the exception of £22,800 retained for development purposes, for the purchase of the electric tramways in the city and suburbs of Auckland. Of the £834,400 5½ Tramways Company, Limited, debentures to the nominal value of £127,200 have been delivered to the debenture stockholders of the company in exchange for debenture nominal value of £283,800 have been sold in New Zealand, which, with the whole of the 5 per cent. debentures of the Auckland Electric Tramways Company, Limited, are now offered for sale. The principal and interest is payable in London or New Zealand at the investor's option, and the loan is repayable at par in 1940. These are attractive debentures, and deserved the good reception accorded to them.

Shipley Collieries, Limited.—Authorised share capital £500,000, in ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 460,000 have been issued. A first mortgage debenture has been issued. This is an offer for sale of £425,000, of which £400,000 cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 97 per cent., and 374,000 ordinary shares at par. The company has been formed to acquire the Shipley Collieries, Derbyshire. Although the collieries are valued at £1,010,000, the purchase price is by no means clearly set out. Profits arising from working the collieries are given from 1908. The trust deed provides that during the year ending December 31, 1923, and each succeeding year, a sum calculated to be sufficient to redeem at 104 the whole of the debenture stock before December 31, 1952, shall be set aside as a sinking fund. The

company reserves the right to redeem at the same price the whole or any part of the stock outstanding at any time after December 31, 1933, on six months' notice. This offer for sale contains a mass of information, but it leads one to suppose that the plant could be more modern. It is a pity, perhaps, that the promoters did not proceed by way of issuing a full prospectus instead of an "offer for sale."

Becker and Co., Limited.—Authorised capital £500,000, divided into ordinary shares of £1 each. A first debenture stock is authorised for £200,000, of which £98,000 is outstanding. This is an offer for sale of £300,000 7 per cent. five-year secured notes at 99 per £100. The "offer for sale" states that the notes are "redeemable" at £105 in five annual instalments of £60,000 each, plus premium, the last payment ending on January 1, 1928. They are secured by a trust deed, and constitute a first charge upon \$1,473,600, part of an issue of £3,200,000 7 per cent. collateral bonds of Saguenay Pulp and Power Company. The notes are further covered by a floating charge upon assets of Becker and Co., Limited. The Saguenay Pulp and Power Company is incorporated in Quebec, and an accountant's report shows this undertaking to possess timber lands to a considerable amount. Becker and Co., Limited, was incorporated in 1908. Profits are shown from 1916. The most curious statement in this offer for sale is that setting out assets and liabilities. In heavy black type we are informed that the cover for the present issue is £2,243,993, which is stated to be "more than seven times" the amount of the issue. Under this, however, is a note to the effect that sundry creditors, including taxation reserves, were £1,326,737. It would be interesting to know precisely why these figures are shown in this manner. Is it contended that while sundry debtors, &c., at £848,890, are subject to the floating charge, sundry creditors, &c., at £1,326,737 are not entitled to consideration? It is stated that the average yield upon these notes is over 9 per cent. per annum. This high yield on a specifically secured note conveys to the public the measure of risk involved in participating in this investment. The issue, however, we understand, was quickly over-subscribed.

Moor Park, Limited.—Authorised share capital £300,000, divided into 100,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. This is an issue of 300 5 per cent. debentures of £100 each at 97½, free of income-tax up to 5s in the £. Power is reserved to redeem all or any of the debentures at par after October 1, 1927, and any outstanding will be paid off at par in 1942. The company has been formed to develop an estate, which has an area of 2,935 acres or thereabouts, and lies between Northwood and Rickmansworth, on the Great Central and Metropolitan Railway. The vendor, Viscount Leverhulme, is the present proprietor from whom the company has agreed to purchase the estate for £516,000, which is to be satisfied by the allotment of 99,293 preference shares, the whole of the ordinary shares, and £216,707 in cash, leaving £75,793 available for working capital. The vendor has agreed that no payment by way of dividend or otherwise shall be made on the ordinary shares until the debenture issue has been discharged, and he will also transfer to the trustees for the debenture-holders 75,000 20 per cent. fully-paid cumulative "B" preferred ordinary shares of £1 each in Lever Brothers upon trust as additional security. Debentures will be accepted in payment of any land bought from the company at the rate of £120 per £100 debenture. The property is valued at £587,000, and the venture may develop on profitable lines, although the proposition contains some novel features as far as this country is concerned.

Spicers, Limited.—Amalgamated Spicer Brothers, Limited, and James Spicer and Sons, Limited. Share capital authorised and paid up, £1,150,000. There is loan capital outstanding of £104,020 4½ per cent. debenture stock, part of an authorised issue of £150,000, and £250,000 8 per cent. notes called in for payment on June 1, 1923. This is an offer for sale of £250,000 5½ per cent. 20-year notes due December 1, 1942, at 98 per cent. The proceeds will be used to provide funds for the redemption of the existing 8 per cent. notes. Surplus assets amount to £1,302,879, after £280,000 has been deducted on account of the 8 per cent. notes outstanding, and excluding the proceeds of the 8 per cent. notes. Profits are given from 1913, and these show present offer. Profits are sufficient to pay debenture interest, services an earning capacity sufficient to provide a good margin of cover, on the note issue, and yet to provide a good margin of cover, although, on the present basis of profits, there is not much left over for distribution amongst shareholders.

Star Tea Company, Limited.—Trading as the Star Supply Stores. Authorised capital £925,000, consisting of 500,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, 500,000 10 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares of £1, and 500,000 deferred ordinary shares of 1s each. This is an "offer for sale" of 460,447 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par, and is made in connection with a financial scheme for developing two undertakings, the Star Tea Company and Ridgways. Both companies have been closely associated for many years, Ridgways having held the whole of the ordinary shares of the Star Tea. Now, for some reason which the promoters do not make clear, the position is to be re-

versed, and the Star Tea will control Ridgways. Ridgway ordinary £1 shares to the number of 149,910 are to be acquired for £4 each. Surplus assets of the Star Tea Company are given as £380,540, while combined profits of Ridgways and the Star Tea Company are shown from 1917. But the document is somewhat reticent over Ridgways' assets. The position would have been less obscure had a full prospectus been issued instead of this "offer for sale."

The Tambora Rubber Estates, Limited.—Authorised capital £75,000, divided into shares of £1 each. Issue of 50,000 shares at 21s per share. The company has been formed to acquire "agricultural concessions" for certain estates in Sumatra. The company will acquire these concessions, together with buildings, plant, machinery, coolie contracts, outstanding advances to coolies, and rights belonging to the vendor company for the sum of £33,000, payable in cash. The vendor company has agreed to apply for 10,000 shares of the present issue. The prospectus states that, "Allowing £8,000 for the buildings and machinery, and placing no value upon the area unplanted or in course of planting, the purchase price of the cultivated area of 1,825 acres planted with rubber, practically all in bearing, works out at less than £14 per acre." Although taxation matters should not be overlooked, there may be advantages in taking an interest in Sumatra companies at the present time, and this particular undertaking looks like a promising venture.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 4½% 1925-28 ..	98 .. 98	98 .. 98	..
Loans 4½% 1929-47 ..	99 .. 99	99 .. 99	..
Funding Loan 4% ..	87 .. 87	87 .. 87	..
Victory Bonds 4% ..	89 .. 89	89 .. 89	..
Conversion Loan 3½% ..	76 .. 76	76 .. 76	..
Consols 2½% ..	56 .. 56	56 .. 56	..
Irish Land 5% ..	55 .. 55	55 .. 55	..
Local Loans 3% ..	65 .. 65	65 .. 65	..
Aust. 6% 1931-41 ..	106 .. 106	106 .. 106	..
Canada 4½% 1920-25 ..	100 .. 100	100 .. 100	..
India 3½% Stock ..	64 .. 64	64 .. 64	..
Do 7% 1926-31 ..	111 .. 111	111 .. 111	..
Do 5½% 1932 ..	101 .. 101	101 .. 101	..
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32 ..	101 .. 101	101 .. 101	..
Nigeria 8% 1949-79 ..	111 .. 111	111 .. 111	..
U. of S.A. 6% 1930-40 ..	105 .. 105	105 .. 105	..
Victoria 5½% 1924-34 ..	102 .. 102	102 .. 102	..
W. Aust. 6% 1930-40 ..	105 .. 105	105 .. 105	..

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1. l.p.d.) ..	24 .. 24	24 .. 24	..
Chartered Bk of India ..	182 .. 182	182 .. 182	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd. ..	243 .. 243	243 .. 243	..
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2 pd.) ..	84 .. 84	84 .. 84	..
London County West- minster and Parr's (£20 with £5 paid) ..	174 .. 174	174 .. 174	..
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) ..	201 .. 201	201 .. 201	..
Nat. Bank of S. Africa (£10) ..	10 .. 10	10 .. 10	..
Nat. Prov. & Union of England (£20, with £4 paid) ..	102 .. 102	102 .. 102	..
Standard of S. Africa (£20, with £5 paid) ..	114 .. 114	114 .. 114	..

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons ..	71 .. 71	71 .. 71	..
B.A. and Pacific ..	82 .. 82	82 .. 82	..
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	85 .. 85	85 .. 85	..
Buenos Ayres West. ..	82 .. 82	82 .. 82	..
Canadian Pacific ..	157 .. 157	157 .. 157	..
Central Argentine ..	762 .. 762	762 .. 762	..
Leopoldina ..	374 .. 374	374 .. 374	..
Mexican Railway ..	134 .. 134	134 .. 134	..
Do 1st Pref. ..	38 .. 38	38 .. 38	..
Do 2nd Pref. ..	25 .. 25	25 .. 25	..
San Paulo ..	126 .. 126	126 .. 126	..
United Havana ..	694 .. 694	694 .. 694	..

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7 ..	99 .. 99	99 .. 99	..
Belgian 3% ..	66 .. 66	66 .. 66	..
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914 ..	65 .. 65	65 .. 65	..
Chilian 4½%, 1895 ..	82 .. 82	82 .. 82	..
Do 7½% ..	103 .. 103	103 .. 103	..
Chinese 5%, 1912 ..	72 .. 72	72 .. 72	..
Egyptian 4% ..	69 .. 69	69 .. 69	..
French 5% ..	292 .. 292	292 .. 292	..
Do 4% ..	24 .. 24	24 .. 24	..
Greek 4%, 1884 ..	25 .. 25	25 .. 25	..
Japanese 4½% ..	105 .. 105	105 .. 105	..
Do 4½% 1910 ..	71 .. 71	71 .. 71	..
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	55 .. 55	55 .. 55	..
Peruvian Corp. Pref. ..	29 .. 29	29 .. 29	..
P.L.M. 6% ..	84 .. 84	84 .. 84	..
Portuguese (New) ..	26 .. 26	26 .. 26	..
Russian 5%, 1906 ..	99 .. 99	99 .. 99	..
Spanish 4% ..	77 .. 77	77 .. 77	..
Seine (Dept.) 7% ..	99 .. 99	99 .. 99	..
Siamese 7% ..	107 .. 107	107 .. 107	..

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" ..	23 .. 23	23 .. 23	..
Marconi Wireless ..	21 .. 21	21 .. 21	..
Marconi Canada ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Marconi Marine ..	13 .. 13	13 .. 13	..

British Railways.

Great Central Pref. ..	232 .. 25	232 .. 25	..
Great Eastern ..	38 .. 38	38 .. 38	..
Great Northern Def. ..	44 .. 44	44 .. 44	..
Great Western ..	105 .. 105	105 .. 105	..
London Brighton, "A" ..	63 .. 63	63 .. 63	..
London Chatham ..	8 .. 8	8 .. 8	..
L. and N.W. (New) ..	102 .. 104	102 .. 104	..
L. & S. Western, Def. ..	33 .. 33	33 .. 33	..
Metropolitan ..	582 .. 602	582 .. 602	..
Metropolitan District ..	45 .. 45	45 .. 45	..
North British Def. ..	138 .. 138	138 .. 138	..
North-Eastern ..	112 .. 112	112 .. 112	..
South-Eastern "A" ..	32 .. 32	32 .. 32	..
Underground Electric (L) ..	3 .. 3	3 .. 3	..
Do "A" (1) ..	43 .. 43	43 .. 43	..
Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	88 .. 88	88 .. 88	..

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio ..	73 .. 73	73 .. 73	..
Erie ..	13 .. 13	13 .. 13	..
Do 4% 1st Pref. ..	19 .. 19	19 .. 19	..
Southern ..	25 .. 25	25 .. 25	..
Do Non-cum Pref. ..	68 .. 68	68 .. 68	..

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) ..	3 .. 3	3 .. 3	..
Broken Hill Prop. (8) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Chartered (£1) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Crown Mines (10) ..	12 .. 12	12 .. 12	..
De Beers Def. (£22) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
East Rand Prop. (£1) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Geduld (£1) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Knights ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Modderfontein (10) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Modderfont. "B" (5) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Modderfont. Deep (5) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Premier Def. (2/6) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..
Rand Mines (5) ..	1 .. 1	1 .. 1	..

Miscellaneous.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Year.
Railways.					
Madras and S. Mahratta	5 1/2	..	..	Less tax	1917
Manx Electric, Prof.	4 1/2	..	..	Year to Sept. 30, 1917	..
Banks.					
Bank of New South Wales	10	Dec. 22	..	On account, 1918	..
Bank of Toronto	3 1/2	Dec. 1	..	Quarterly	..
British Overseas, "A" Ord.	6	..	..	Less tax	..
London and River Plate	4 1/2	..	..	Less tax	10
Molson's (Montreal)	3 1/2	Jan. 2	..	Quarterly	..
Royal of Scotland	6 1/2	..	..	Less tax	13
Standard of South Africa	14	Jan. 28	..	Less tax	..
Insurance.					
Law Union and Rock	4 1/2	Nov. 30	..	Less tax	12 1/2
Queensland	10	..	..	..	18 p.s.
Mining.					
Berenguela Tin	5 1/2	Dec. 16	..	Less tax 5 in £	..
Central Mining and Investment	6 1/2	Dec. 13	..	Tax free	..
Gold Mines Investment	1 1/2	..	..	Less tax	1/60 p.s.
Mexican Mines	6 1/2	Dec. 20	..	..	..
Mexican Mines of El Oro	7 1/2	Dec. 14	..	Tax free	..
Transvaal & Rhodesian Estates	12	..	..	Tax free	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Castlefield (Klang) Rubber	5 1/2	Dec. 19	..	Less tax	10
Dalkeith Ceylon	5 1/2	Dec. 7	..	Less tax	..
Deamoolie Tea	5 1/2	Dec. 12	..	Less tax	..
Doon Doona Tea	5 1/2	Dec. 12	..	Less tax	..
Eastern Assam Co.	5 1/2	Dec. 9	..	Less tax	..
Jugra Estate	10	Dec. 11	..	Less tax	..
Rupai Tea	5 1/2	Dec. 7	..	Less tax	..
Tara Tea	5 1/2	Dec. 7	..	Less tax	..
Other Companies.					
A. J. White	2 1/2	Jan. 1	..	Less tax	12 1/2
Aerated Bread Company	1 1/2	..	..	..	..
Army and Navy Invest., Defd.	4 1/2	..	..	..	..
Ashley Gardens Properties	4 1/2	..	..	..	..
Batavia, Limited	22 p.s.	Jan. 1	..	Tax free	..
Barclay, Perkins	5	Dec. 7	..	Less tax	..
Barnagore Jute	8 1/2	Dec. 7	..	Less tax	10 1/2
Berkhead Brewery	8 1/2	Dec. 7	..	Less tax	..
Birkhead, Vaughan	4 1/2	Dec. 12	..	Less tax	..
Brooke, Bond, and Co.	10	Dec. 12	..	Tax free	..
Buckley and Co.	2 1/2	Dec. 12	..	Less tax	..
Castner-Kellner Alkali	12 1/2	Dec. 7	..	..	3 p.s.
Charles Healey	14	Nov. 30	..	Tax free	20
Chester Northgate Brewery	10 1/2	..	..	..	12 1/2
Colonial Gas Association	10 1/2	..	..	..	9
Consolidated Signal, Cum. Pref.	..	..	..	..	..
Cope Brothers	4 1/2	Dec. 16	..	Less tax	..
Davy Brothers	2 1/2	Dec. 16	..	Less tax	..
East India Distilleries, Pref.	2 1/2	Jan. 1	..	Less tax	..
Electric Supply Corporation	5 1/2	Jan. 1	..	Less tax	..
Globe Telegraph and Trust	5 1/2	Dec. 19	..	Less tax	..
Holl Brothers	9 1/2	Dec. 1	..	..	15
Holl Brothers	9 1/2	Dec. 1	..	..	6
Inglis and Co.	7 1/2	..	..	..	10
Isle of Thanet Tramways, Pref.	1 1/2	..	..	..	..
J. N. Richardson, Sons, and	3 1/2	Dec. 31	..	Less tax	7
John Fraser and Sons	2 1/2	Jan. 1	..	Less tax	10
John I. Thornycroft and Co.	..	..	..	..	5
Do Ord.	..	..	..	..	7 1/2
John Mackintosh and Sons	17 1/2	..	..	..	nil
London General Invest., Defd.	7 1/2	..	..	..	25
Malcolm Campbell, Limited	10	Nov. 30	..	Less tax	..
Manbre Sugar and Malt	2 1/2	Dec. 14	..	Less tax	..
Massey's Burnley Brewery	8 1/2	Jan. 2	..	..	6
Misissippi River Power, Pref.	1 1/2	Dec. 2	..	..	..
Nasir and Collier's Brewery	6 1/2	Dec. 2	..	Tax free	..
Newcastle Breweries	1 1/2	Dec. 22	..	Subject to tax	..
Noakes and Co.	1 1/2	Dec. 22	..	..	60
North Lonsdale Iron and Steel	8 1/2	..	..	Less tax	7
Orion Oil Company	12 1/2	Jan. 2	..	..	15
Owen and Robinson	..	..	..	..	7 1/2
Pan de Azucar Nitrate	..	..	..	..	..
Paterson, Laing, and Bruce	..	..	..	..	..
Peruvian Water and Power	..	..	..	..	..
Pinnars' Hall (Austin Friars)	..	..	..	..	..
Port Madryn (Argentina)	..	..	..	..	..
Power Gas Corporation	..	..	..	..	..
St Anne's Well Brewery	..	..	..	..	..
Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Ptg. Pref.	..	..	..	..	..
Do Ord.	..	..	..	..	..
Samuel Barlow and Co.	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish Trust and Loan of Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..
Shawinigan Water and Power	..	..	..	..	..
Shotts Iron	..	..	..	..	..
Star Paper Mill	..	..	..	..	..
Tate and Lyle	..	..	..	..	..
The Mint, Birmingham	..	..	..	..	..
Tube Investments	..	..	..	..	..
Tyre Investment Trust, Pref.	..	..	..	..	..
Do Ord.	..	..	..	..	..
United Wiltshire Brewery	..	..	..	..	..
United Wire Works	..	..	..	..	..
Victoria Motor and Cycle	..	..	..	..	..
W. and A. Bates	..	..	..	..	..
Warwicks and Richardsons	..	..	..	..	..
Western Telegraph	..	..	..	..	..
Yorkshire (W. R.) Elec. Trams	..	..	..	..	..
Cum. Pref.	..	..	..	..	..

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

AERATED BREAD COMPANY, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Oct. 1, 1921.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Oct. 1, 1921.
Ord. shares	977,500	..	Property & plant	1,000,139	.. + 198,206
6 1/2% cum. pref., £1, with 5s paid	161,056	.. + 161,056	Stocks	100,518	.. - 8,923
Sundry creditors	82,479	.. - 9	Sundry debtors	23,671	.. - 7,150
S & A fund	24,575	.. + 4,283	Wilton road properties	..	.. - 149,415
Reserve	30,000	.. - 5,261	Staff pension fund	20,000	.. - 149,415
Bank loan account	..	.. - 135,415	Investments	159,747	.. + 86,138
Profit and loss	99,480	.. - 5,989	Cost of new issue of pref. shares	10,366	.. + 10,366
			Cash and cash assets	60,649	.. - 110,557
Total	1,375,090	.. + 18,665	Total	1,375,090	.. + 18,665

BOLCKOW, VAUGHAN, AND CO.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1921.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1921.
Shares 20s paid	2,639,100	..	Land, buildings, mines, and other properties	5,462,139	.. + 300,242
Shares 20s (12s pd.)	1,116,540	..	Investments	348,798	.. - 116,681
Prof. shares	472,080	..	Stocks on hand	1,116,253	.. - 483,100
Amounts owing on debt	1,040,000	.. - 1,627	Royalties	28,743	.. + 23,527
Loans & deposits	290,669	.. + 119,657	Sundry debtors	307,528	.. - 174,201
Prof. share div.	11,802	..	Loans and advances	208,448	.. + 108,175
Sundry cred., &c.	692,077	.. - 90,168	Cash and bills	1,736	.. - 7,132
Insur. reserves	157,335	.. - 7,782			
Repairs, &c.	39,506	.. - 30,051			
Reserve	1,000,000	..			
Profit and loss	14,536	.. - 339,198			
Total	7,473,645	.. - 349,169	Total	7,473,645	.. - 349,169

SLATERS, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.
Ord. shares	255,000	..	Freeholds and leaseholds	420,794	.. + 11,812
Prof. shares	100,000	..	Goodwill	124,500	..
Debtenture stock	100,000	..	Plant, &c.	72,952	.. - 4,408
Reserve fund	47,781	..	Debtors	18,825	.. - 1,625
Special reserve	5,012	..	Suspense account	..	.. - 95
Leases reserve	115,706	.. + 9,303	Stock	24,587	.. - 3,707
Reserve for dilapidations	21,983	.. + 1,094	Investments	36,194	.. - 8,518
Creditors	21,514	.. - 15,812	Cash	1,200	.. - 406
Unclaimed div.	834	.. + 64			
Deb. interest	844	.. + 56			
Bank overdraft	15,093	.. + 1,546			
Profit and loss	15,285	.. - 3,198			
Total	699,052	.. - 6,947	Total	699,052	.. - 6,947

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DICKSON AND MANN announce that they are passing the preference dividends due for payment on Dec. 1st.

SHAWINIGAN PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.—It is resolved to postpone the payment of the dividend on cumulative participating preference shares, which is due on December 1, 1922.

THE MANILA ELECTRIC CORPORATION has authorised a distribution of 20 per cent. of common stock on Dec. 28th to shareholders of record on Dec. 20, 1922. The one million dollars of stock held in trust for the corporation is to be used for this distribution. Advise Stock Exchange and take necessary steps regarding listing the additional million dollars of common stock. The board of directors has also decided to call a special meeting forthwith to increase authorised capital from six to ten million dollars, and if this is approved it is planned that one million dollars of common stock will be distributed at an early date. It is expected that 8 per cent. dividend rate will be maintained on all stock.

THE OILCOIL COMPANY, which in July last sold to the Phoenix Oil and Transport Company 5,555 shares at £18 per share, has published its annual report for the year ended June 30, 1922. A dividend of 60 per cent. is being paid.

THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY, it is stated, is to increase its capital from \$140,000,000 to \$250,000,000, and to declare a 100 per cent. stock dividend.

OIL OUTPUTS.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Comm. production for the week ending Wednesday, November 22, amounted to 840 tons.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

SATISFACTOR / RESULTS OF YEAR'S TRADE.

INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

"POSITION OF EXCEPTIONAL STRENGTH."

The annual general court of proprietors was held at Edinburgh on the 29th ultimo, his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, K.T., the governor, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, his Grace said:

I presume it will be your pleasure that the annual report and balance-sheet, with the auditors' report, which has now been in your hands for some days, shall be taken as read. In submitting this report of the results of the bank's operations during a year of peculiar difficulty as regards the trade of the country, your directors have special satisfaction in recording continued progress in the position of the bank.

DEPOSITS.

It is true that the deposits for the first time for a considerable period of years show a moderate diminution upon the previous year's figures. But in this respect we are by no means singular, and the percentage of reduction shown in our case is below the experience of some of the larger institutions as appearing in the published returns. We are fortunate in possessing valuable connections, both at home and abroad, through which, from time to time, we obtain large sums in the form of deposit money, and for a considerable period during the year under review our figures exceeded by over a couple of millions the sum appearing in the balance-sheet. The closest observers of banking statistics have been surprised that the continuous increase in banking deposits should have lasted so long, and the question has been asked for the last year or two, when the process of deflation, of which numerous signs were not wanting, should inevitably begin to tell upon the deposits of the banks? In this connection, it is interesting to note that the deposits of this bank at October, 1913, were £16,654,000, as compared with £40,265,000 in the report now submitted. The remarkable increase, however, whilst no doubt in considerable measure due to influences arising out of the war, must also be ascribed to a substantial extent to a *bona-fide* augmentation of the business of the bank.

LIQUID RESOURCES.

Turning now to our assets—and dealing first with the most liquid items—the cash on hand and with the Bank of England, and our other London bankers, and the money in London at call and short notice, are, together, slightly more than at the previous balance, and, as was to be expected, owing to the changed money conditions now prevailing, our holding of British Treasury bills at £4,030,000 shows a substantial reduction, although still representing what we regard as an ample resource of this character. As a set-off to this decrease, mention may be made of the increase of over three million pounds in our holdings of British Government securities—a large proportion of which are in the shape of short-dated bonds, forming, as has more than once been observed from this chair, an ideal banking investment.

ADVANCES.

The commercial bills and bank bills in our portfolio are just about the same figures as last year, and these, owing to the state of trade, are still somewhat difficult to obtain in any volume. It is gratifying to note a moderate increase in the bank's advances on cash credit and current accounts, which, notwithstanding prevailing conditions, stood at the date of the balance at £12,612,000. This, in addition, constitutes the staple of our banking business, and along with our discounts (apart from Treasury Bills) represents in the main the extent to which we have been able to assist in carrying on the trading operations of the country.

STATE OF TRADE.

Although there are not absent indications of an improvement in trade, these are still somewhat restricted in their area and scope, and it is impossible to look for a general revival on the scale which we would all desire until a distinct movement is seen towards the resumption of activity in our shipbuilding yards and our other constructional works, with its consequent effect upon the great steel and iron industries. Even on the Clyde, however, where the unemployment is so serious, it is understood that a limited number of contracts have been placed, or are under negotiation, and these may at least help to keep down permanent oncost charges. But it is difficult to forecast real activity until there is a definite demand

for tramp tonnage, which is, after all, the stand-by of the industry, and in the meantime this is scarcely warranted by existing conditions in the freight market. It may be hoped that the improvement which is now looked for may materialise in the course of next year, and meanwhile, it is satisfactory to find that a limited number of blast furnaces have been relit during recent months.

The perplexities of the Reparations problem, and the disorganisation of the exchanges still continue to dominate the European situation, and the highest statesmanship is called for in the efforts which are being put forth towards rectifying the economic relations of Continental countries, with a view to re-establishing the foreign trade of this country, upon which so much depends. In the meantime, this bank, with its liquid resources and large invested and readily realisable funds, is in a favourable position for dealing with proposals for accommodation on sound and safe lines, as trading enterprise broadens out, and I think it may fairly be claimed on behalf of the management of the bank that the utmost consideration has been shown to our numerous borrowing customers during the difficult period through which they have been passing. When it is reflected that the rate charged in Scotland at present for advances on cash credit accounts—in other words, on secured advances—is only 4 1/2 per cent., it will be realised that every encouragement is being offered for legitimate trading operations.

INVESTMENTS.

As regards our investments, we have on this occasion to report a highly satisfactory position, because, as is well known, there has been a marked appreciation during the past year in the values of gilt-edged securities, and as these had been written down in former years to the low prices then current, we are in the happy position of having a handsome surplus in the market value of these stocks.

PROFITS.

Passing now to the profit and loss account, our net profits, as appearing in the report, show an increase of fully £24,000 over the previous year. It is proper to emphasise, however, that before arriving at the gross profits, as appearing in the profit and loss account, full provision has, as usual, been made for all bad and doubtful debts, and, in addition, in view of the difficulties of the times, the directors have taken the opportunity arising from another profitable year to strengthen very substantially the provision against contingencies.

APPROPRIATION.—INCREASED DIVIDEND.

As regards the appropriation of our net profits, the usual provisions have been made for bank buildings and heritable property—it being explained that it has been found necessary during the year to make several purchases for the accommodation of our branches. The customary allocation has been made to the pension reserve fund, and your directors have also had pleasure in recommending an addition equal to 1 per cent. per annum to the dividend, whilst continuing the bonus of 2 per cent., the total distribution for the year being 13 per cent. as against 12 per cent. last year and 11 per cent. the year before.

ADDITION TO REST.

Further, it will, I am sure, be a great satisfaction to all concerned that we are able to add to the rest as large a sum as £161,958, bringing it up to £1,403,735. This sum with our fully-paid-up capital of £2,000,000 places the bank in a position of exceptional strength.

During the year eight new branches have been opened, and, whilst your directors have no desire to add unnecessarily to the competition which already exists, they feel that it is essential in the interests of their customers generally that the bank should be represented at all important points throughout Scotland.

The foreign business of the bank is continuing to receive special attention, and operations in this department have again yielded very satisfactory results, whilst our connections abroad are always increasing. In conclusion, the directors desire to record their indebtedness to their loyal and willing staff all over the organisation.

With these remarks, I beg to propose that the report now submitted, containing a statement of the accounts and balance-sheet of the bank, be approved, and that out of the profits of the year a divi-

lend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the half-year, and a bonus of 2 per cent., both under deduction of income-tax, be now declared in conformity therewith.

The motion was seconded by Mr Carlow, chairman of directors, and carried unanimously.

The governor, deputy-governor, extraordinary directors, and the retiring ordinary director were re-elected, and auditors were appointed for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Sir William Robertson, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Fife, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED. SITUATION IN EGYPT AND PALESTINE. IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR COTTON.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the Bank, 37 to 39 King William street, London, on the 28th ultimo, Mr Raoul Hector Poà (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. H. Mallet) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: It gives my colleagues and me much pleasure to receive you in our new premises. The Anglo-Egyptian Bank had occupied its offices at 27 Clement's lane, since the year 1865, and the housing accommodation there, which was ample at that time, when we had only two branches, became totally inadequate in 1914. During the war we were, of course, unable to obtain new quarters, and in 1918, when I had the honour of becoming your chairman, the first thing I did was to give up the then boardroom to the correspondence, and your board met in a room belonging to some neighbours of ours, who were kind enough to lend it to us when we needed it. We now have twenty branches working, and before long we shall have more and all these offices bring more work here.

Since our removal to these premises I have noticed a distinct improvement in the health of our staff, which now works in rooms where there is plenty of light and air, and I feel sure that the quality of the work yielded must be benefited by the better conditions under which it is done.

VISITS TO BRANCHES.

Since I last had the pleasure of meeting you, Sir Marshall Reid has spent three months in visiting our branches and clients in Egypt, the Sudan and Palestine. It has been the policy of your board to keep as closely in touch with the countries with which we deal as possible, and Sir Marshall's visit was fraught with marked benefit to the bank. Early in January I am going out myself, and shall take advantage of the opportunity of visiting every branch of the bank in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Trans-Jordan.

You may have noticed in the Press the announcement that the erection of a new dam on the Blue Nile has been entrusted to Messrs. S. Pearson and Sons, and in order to facilitate their work, which will employ many thousands of workmen, we propose to establish branches at Makwar, where the dam will be built, as well as at Wad Medani, not very far off, and which is the capital of the province of Dar Sennar.

There is no doubt that the money to be spent upon the dam will perform a very useful function in the Sudan, besides bringing an area of about 300,000 acres of land into cultivation by irrigation, the cotton fields of Tokar and Kassala in the Sudan being dependent entirely upon direct rainfall, which is, of course, a far less reliable way of watering than irrigation, which, within reasonable limits, can be regulated as desired.

COTTON SITUATION.

In Egypt there has been comparative quiet for some time, and I trust that the political emancipation of that country will proceed along normal lines and without friction or riot of any kind. We have to-day received an interesting telegram from Egypt as follows:—"Local politics untroubled in spite of unrest in adjoining countries and the unfortunate Cairo incident." You will admit that this is eminently satisfactory as far as it goes.

The cotton crop in Egypt is announced as being 4,002,000 cantars (99 lbs avoirdupois), but, according to private advices, we think that this figure will be exceeded and thus be somewhat larger than last year's. There is also a better demand for the article, especially in America, and all this is to the advantage of Egypt. The crops of barley, wheat and beans from which the fellah usually pays all working expenses, have not been sufficient this year to see him through, and he has had to resort to extensive borrowing, and is consequently rushing his cotton on to the market for sale.

POSITION IN PALESTINE.

The troublous times in the Near East have had their repercus-

sion in Palestine, but now that the Mandate has been granted, the Government of that country is finding less opposition to its functioning than was previously the case. Our report from Jerusalem of to-day is also of great interest; it is not absolutely clear, but our interpretation of the code is as follows:—"Considerable local anxiety as to the attitude of the Home Government regarding Palestine, and nothing will benefit this country more at the present time than definite decision to stand by Mandate."

It is to be hoped that Palestine will continue to progress satisfactorily. We are constantly being asked to advance money for building and development in that country, but, with very few exceptions, have not been able to comply. I am hopeful, however, that an agricultural and mortgage bank may in due course be established, as there is no doubt that it could be most useful, and probably a paying, proposition.

In Malta and Gibraltar trade has been very lifeless, and it would seem as if both those places will play a less important part than they did during the war.

Since our last meeting we have opened only one new branch, that at Amman, in Trans-Jordan, at the request of the Colonial Office. This is intended to facilitate the payment of the subsidy to Emir Abdullah. Amman is only about six hours by road from Jerusalem, and we have made it dependent upon our agency in that town, which is a very active and important one. Trans-Jordan will, of course, take a very considerable time to develop, but we already find some of the natives of that country alive to the advantages of banking, and trust that the knowledge of this will spread. On October 31 the ruler of Trans-Jordan, the Emir Abdullah, together with his Prime Minister, Ali Riza Pashaer, paid us a visit here, and was much interested in what banking was shown him, and in the explanations of the rudiments of Arabic by the British Resident at Amman, Mr Philby.

THE ACCOUNTS.

With regard to the accounts, the gross profits are rather less than those of the previous year, and so are the expenses; therefore the balance to be divided is much the same. The only difference we are making is that we are not proposing to pay a bonus this year, for we have before us a very considerable expenditure in that rather than to swell the distribution of profits by paying a bonus. That, after all, has only been done three times in the history of the bank, and that during exceptional times. The total of the balance-sheet this year amounts to £12,760,000, as against £14,000,000 last year—no great difference. There is a slight shrinkage in the deposits and other accounts, which have gone down from £11,800,000 to £10,600,000. That, I think, is the general experience of banks, and is owing to the very general deflation which has gone on throughout the world.

Sir Marshall F. Reid, C.I.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and a dividend of 10s per share, free of income-tax, making 15 per cent. for the year, was declared.

The retiring directors and the auditors were reappointed, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED. EFFICIENT SERVICE—ADDITIONAL CABLES.

The eighty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Western Telegraph Company, Limited, was held, on the 29th ultimo, at Electra House, Moorgate, London. Sir John Denison-Pender, G.B.E., K.C.M.G. (chairman of the company), presided.

The secretary (Mr E. Steer Hodson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The accounts for the year ended June 30th last do not show such a large surplus as for the previous year, but I think you will be satisfied with the result, taking into consideration all the circumstances with which trade and commerce have to contend in these times, for although the gross revenue was less by nearly £400,000, the net revenue was decreased by only £200,000, brought about very largely by reduced working expenses and to a small extent by some relief from income-tax, corporation profits tax, and excess profits duty, and this in spite of the fact that an additional amount of over £30,000 was required for dividends on the new shares when they became fully paid in 1921. The net result is that after payment of dividends to the shareholders at the same rate as for the past few years, viz., 10 per cent., and now on the place £250,000 to reserve, against £450,000 for the previous year, but, on the other hand, you will have observed that the general reserve fund has also been debited with nearly £380,000, being the cost of renewal of old and failing cables. Capital expenditure has been increased by over £400,000 for new cables, land, and buildings.

This amount includes the cost of additional cables between Pernambuco and Maranhão, Pernambuco and Maceio, and Rio de Janeiro and Santos. The city of Victoria, also on the Brazilian coast, has been connected to our system by duplicate cables to Bahia and to Rio de Janeiro.

A GRIEVANCE REMOVED.

It is with sensations of relief that I am able to inform you that the grievance under which we laboured for two years has at last been removed. I refer to the refusal of the United States to permit the operating at Miami, Florida, of the new direct cables between South America and North America, *via* the Island of Barbados, laid in September, 1920. The shareholders will probably remember that in August last the telegraphic cables between the South of Ireland and the United States were rendered unworkable, and consequently communication between Europe and North America was very seriously hampered. With the object of relieving the situation, the United States Government issued a temporary licence permitting the operation of the Miami cables for thirty days, to enable telegrams to be carried in both directions *via* South America between the United States and Europe only, thus excluding South American traffic. As these cables were laid expressly with the object of improving communication between Brazil and other South American countries on the one hand and North America on the other, I can only imagine that the wording of this licence was left to some irresponsible subordinate in the United States department. We at once, in the interests of Brazil, on whose territory one of the cables in question lands, refused to open communication under this permit. Such a slap in the face given by one friendly State to another could not pass unnoticed. I presume, therefore, that the matter was at once taken up by the Secretary of State at Washington, for within a few days the objectionable licence was replaced by one under which we were able to open the cable, and have since been working in the interests of the public as well as of our company. We are very glad that within the last month or two signs of improved trade in South America are apparent, and I hope this may continue, as the interests of our company are so greatly dependent on the prosperity of that great continent.

THE CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE.

The recent deplorable earthquake on the coast of Chile totally interrupted our cables and those of our competitors north of Valparaíso. Telegraphic communication by land lines and wireless was also broken. Our ship was on the work of repairs to our

cables within six days of the catastrophe, and we hope to have the many breaks in the cables repaired shortly. Some of these have already been effected.

It was with much regret the directors had to report the loss of our cable steamer "Cormorant," which foundered on January 24th last off the South Coast of Brazil, whilst on the way to Rio Grande do Sul. In the meantime, we have chartered the cable steamer "Sentinel" to carry on the repairing work, and a new vessel to permanently replace the "Cormorant" is now being built by Messrs A. and J. Inglis, Limited, of Glasgow.

The cable steamer "Norseman," which we purchased in 1904 from our friends the Eastern Telegraph Company, is now nearly forty years old, and to maintain her efficiency for our very special work would require extensive renewals at great cost on her next overhaul. It has consequently been decided to replace her also (the "Norseman" is 1,545 tons), and a somewhat larger vessel—namely, of 1,800 tons—is in course of construction by Messrs John Brown and Co., of Clyde Bank. Both new vessels should be completed about the autumn of next year.

The Right Hon. Earl of Middleton, K.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CARGO FLEET IRON COMPANY, LIMITED. COAL CHARGES—CRIPPLING BURDEN OF TAXATION.

The adjourned annual ordinary general meeting for 1921 of the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, Limited, was held at Middlesbrough, on the 29th ultimo, the Right Hon. Lord Furness (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: It has been decided to present the accounts for 1921 as far as we are able to do so rather than wait until a final adjustment has been arrived at with the Inland Revenue authorities. The profit and loss account, after providing for estimated liabilities to the Government, shows a gross trading and manufacturing profit for the year of £138,562 4s, as against £227,306 9s 7d in the previous year—a result which your directors consider very satisfactory. During the period covered by the accounts. After adding the amount £180,634 14s 11d brought forward from the previous year's accounts, and appropriating £25,000 for depreciation, and also providing £41,351 12s 6d for debenture interest, there is a disposable balance of £202,845 6s 5d. Allowing for the dividend of

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves exceed £13,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
**62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.**

NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE:
89, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliated Institutions:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

GREAT BRITAIN

MANCHESTER
LONDON
PARIS

SPAIN

VIGO
BILBAO
MADRID
SEVILLE
BARCELONA

● BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
+ BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
* BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

5 per cent. (less income-tax) paid on December 31, 1921—which you are now asked to confirm—there remains a sum of £152,845 6s 5d, which it is proposed to carry forward to the accounts for 1922.

PRICE OF COAL.

I should now like to refer to certain matters of extreme importance to our industry, and which most seriously affect our cost of output and competitive capacity. There are three vital factors—viz., the price of coal, the present high railway rates, and the excessive taxation, both national and local. You will appreciate the vital importance of cheap coal when I tell you that our works, when in full operation, consume no less than 8,500 tons weekly. The price of coal to-day, however, is altogether incompatible with the prices we are obtaining for our finished steel. The average price of the coal bought for our gas producers during the 12 months ended September 30, 1913, was 13s per ton, whereas the average price for the corresponding period in 1922 was 23s per ton, representing an increase of 77 per cent. In 1913 the selling price of finished steel was £7 10s per ton delivered, as against £8 10s per ton at the present time. That is to say, as against an increase of 77.39 per cent. on coal—which is one of the largest items of cost in the manufacture of steel—we only receive 13½ per cent. more for our finished products. Then, again, there is the question of railway rates. Since I last addressed you certain small concessions have been made, and, very welcome as they are, these reductions are totally inadequate to meet the urgent requirements of the iron and steel industry.

BURDEN OF TAXATION.

It will interest you to know that since March, 1917, this company has paid no less than £1,255,000 to the Government in excess profits duty, income-tax, and corporation profits tax, and there are still large sums claimed by the authorities. Our burden as a company is undoubtedly much heavier than that of other iron and steel works, owing to the inequitable incidence of the war taxation on new concerns. Such taxation is another almost insupportable burden, and the existence of British industry is dependent upon the new Government enforcing rigid economy and reducing the load under which we are now struggling. I must also draw attention to the question of local rating, towards which your works have recently been called upon to contribute for one year no less than £21,858 8s 10d, which is nearly four times more than the pre-war assessment. These charges are crippling to industry and accentuate the difficulty of securing business. If we are to remedy this state of affairs, those responsible for local taxation must practise strict economy. The outlook at the present time is far from good. We have enormous difficulties to overcome. Progress is bound to be slow, and the iron and steel industry of this country has a long and stern struggle ahead. It will only be possible for it to regain its former prosperity provided we all pull together as a nation and have the benefit of a wise administration in matters of both national and local importance.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The annual meeting (for 1922) was held after the conclusion of the adjourned annual ordinary general meeting for 1921. The Chairman (the Right Hon. Lord Furness), after explaining the impossibility of presenting the figures owing to the company's liability for taxation not having yet been settled, reviewed the difficulties of the past year.

He continued: Under these circumstances, therefore, your directors, after carefully reviewing the preliminary figures, have reluctantly come to the conclusion that they would not be justified in declaring a dividend on the ordinary share capital for the year ended September 30, 1922. As soon as these unfortunate taxation questions are finally settled the report and accounts for the year will be presented with the least possible delay.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and the meeting was adjourned.

SOUTH DURHAM STEEL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED. ADVANTAGE OF AMALGAMATION.

The adjourned twenty-third annual ordinary (1921) general meeting of the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, Limited, was held at Middlesbrough, on the 29th ultimo, the Right Hon. Lord Furness presiding.

The Chairman said: A year ago we adjourned our annual meeting for the preparation of the accounts, which are now before you. You will note from the balance-sheet that the profit for the year is £88,565 10s 6d, after including an estimated recovery in respect of stock values, for which we expect to receive credit when making our final settlement with the authorities for excess profits duty. It has been decided to adopt this course rather than transfer an amount from the £270,783 4s 2d which we placed to reserve in our 1919 accounts, and to which I referred at our annual meeting in 1920.

The Chairman then dealt with the various items in the balance-

sheet, and concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-fourth annual ordinary general meeting was held at the conclusion of the adjourned twenty-third annual ordinary general meeting. The Chairman (the Right Hon. Lord Furness) said:—

Although it has not been possible to arrive at a settlement of the various amounts in dispute arising out of the excess profits duty, I am glad to say we are within measurable distance of doing so, and, having made due provision for our estimated liabilities for taxation, your directors have decided to issue the balance-sheet for the year ended September 30, 1922, in order that the shareholders may know the position up to that date. It will be seen from the balance-sheet that the profit for the year is £99,650 14s 3d, and bearing in mind the general depression prevailing over the period under review we must consider ourselves fortunate in being able to record such a satisfactory result of the year's working. After providing for interest on debenture stock, dividend on preference shares, and writing off £30,000 depreciation, the same as of 10 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary share capital, which I shall later have the pleasure of moving, and to carry forward to next year the sum of £114,911 10s 8d. You will observe that the reserves stand at the same figure as in the two previous years, namely, £144,578 4s 2d. The amounts of debts due by and to the company are again both lower, and this is explained by the causes to which I alluded just now when dealing with the previous year's accounts.

PROSPECTS.

With regard to a general revival in our trade, I think the prospects for steel-plate orders are very uncertain for some time to come, because the present productive capacity of existing steel works in this country, both actual and potential, is far too great demand is necessary for the consumption of its possible output. For this reason it appears to me that the iron and steel trade of this country is in a somewhat similar predicament to that of the United States of America shortly before the formation of the United States Steel Corporation in 1900.

At that time many new works had been built, which gave a very much greater capacity, without any immediate increase in the cases, unprofitable prices. The so-called "gentlemen's agreements" were cancelled and cut-throat competition was the result.

This created a desire for physical amalgamation, and, through the genius and foresight of the late Mr Pierpont Morgan, about 50 per cent. of the important steel makers in the United States were brought together under one control, with the result that prices in that country were stabilised at reasonable figures, thus giving fair prices to consumers, and under normal conditions yielding a not exorbitant profit to the manufacturers.

A SUGGESTION.

In other words, the creation of the United States Steel Corporation had the effect of maintaining a happy medium and safeguarded extreme fluctuations in prices, and it would, I consider, certainly be very beneficial for all concerned if something on these lines could be accomplished in this country. I am convinced that, assuming it were possible for the prominent manufacturers representing this country to combine and conduct their business on a similar basis to the United States Steel Corporation, this would prove a great advantage both to the makers and consumers.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED. IMPROVED POSITION—PREFERENCE ARREARS CLEARED OFF.

The ordinary general meeting of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Cannon street Hotel, London, Lord Harris (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr H. G. Sidgreaves (one of the joint secretaries) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and the balance-sheet of New Consolidated Gold Fields for comparative purposes, the accounts of the old company being formal. The cost of management was this year £37,000 odd, as compared with £51,000 odd. They got by dividends, profits &c., £379,000 odd, as compared with last year £429,000 odd. The profit on sales of investments had increased by about £13,000 odd, but the receipts from dividends decreased on the whole by £39,000 odd. The de-

crease in the South African mining dividends, mainly due to the strike, amounted to £43,000 odd, and there was a small decrease from interest. Last year there were some special profits which had not recurred. These were almost set off by the non-recurrence of certain losses which they had to charge themselves with last year. The big item in South Africa was the non-receipt of any dividend from Robinson Deep "A" shares. That gave them to carry down £336,000 odd, as compared with £371,000, and there having been a debit balance last year, they had nothing to add to that, but had to deduct from it that balance of £111,213 odd, and in addition they had written off £147,103 odd for depreciation, that amount being considerably less than last year's, when they had to write down £492,000 odd. French Government duty and stamps was less this year—£3,440 odd, compared with £10,700 odd last year—so that they carried down to the balance-sheet, after making these deductions, £74,644 odd. The capital authorised and issued was unaltered. Sundry creditors were £137,000 odd this year, as compared with £259,000 odd last year, a reduction of £122,000, due to the withdrawal of moneys temporarily deposited with them. As regarded the contingent liabilities, there was an increase from £794,000 odd last year to £1,026,000 odd this year, £400,000 of which was accounted for by the uncalled capital of Goldfields American, and there were certain bankers' loan guarantees, also American, and there were certain new business entered into. On the amounts that might be called on new business entered into, stood other side, investments, shares in companies at or under cost, £3,571,178 odd, as compared with £3,416,908 odd. Purchases of investments, including £250,000 War Loan, exceeded sales by £301,282. An amount of £147,000 odd had been written off to reduce certain investments to current market price or valuation, leaving a net increase of £154,269. Properties and ventures stood at practically the same figure as last year.

REDUCTION IN LOANS AT SHORT CALL.

Loans at short call amounted to only £90,000 this year, as compared with £260,000 odd last, £250,000 having been invested in War Loan. Sundry debtors and dividends declared amount to £210,267, as compared with £117,777 last year, £116,000 odd being the amount due from the receiver of Simmer Deep on the prior lien bonds and first debentures. Cash advances and mortgages amounted to £272,000 odd this year, as compared with £295,000 odd last year. As regarded the cash position, this amounted to £632,000 odd this year (in addition to which they had £250,000 War Loan not included in this figure, and which, of course, was practically equivalent to cash), as compared with £709,000 odd last year.

As regarded the accounts of the old company, the Consolidated Goldfields, shareholders would see that the dividend brought New Consolidated Goldfields plus the balance brought forward and a small item of interest gave them £125,000 odd, out of which had been provided the first and second preference dividends for the year, enabling a balance to be carried to the balance-sheet of £18,496. On the credit side of the balance-sheet they showed the dividend from New Goldfields, and then there was an insignificant item of £29 7s 4d pre-war Stock Exchange Loans. He mentioned it because it was interesting and change Loans. He mentioned it because it was interesting and change Loans. He mentioned it because it was interesting and change Loans. He mentioned it because it was interesting and change Loans.

They had cleared off the preference dividends which were in arrear, and, as would be seen from the report, the interim dividend which had been declared by the new company provided for all preference dividends which would fall due up to July 1 next year. Therefore they had cleared off all preference liabilities, and they had six months of revenue to come in without any incumbrance on it, but, of course, still subject to any depreciation that might occur in the interval. He hoped the shareholders would consider that a not unsatisfactory result of the year's working. It was due to several causes, and seeing that a large proportion of their revenue accrued to them from South Africa, he thought he ought to put first of all that it was largely due to the courage, resolution, and resource of the managers and their officials, with such other employees as stood staunch during the strikes and the subsequent revolution, and thereby enabled the mines to be operated in full swing at a much earlier date than would otherwise have occurred, and enabled the companies to take advantage of the second factor, namely, the reduction in working costs, due mainly to the reduction in wages. Then there had been a third and most important factor, the weeding out of white miners who were not doing the amount of work which one was entitled to expect of them, having regard to the high scale of pay.

POSITION OF NEW COMPANY.

One or two inquiries had been received as to the meetings held by the new company and the dividends they had declared. The directors realised that if they were to employ advantageously the capital at their disposal, they were bound to look for investments

elsewhere than in gold mining, and they obtained the shareholders' consent to the formation of a new company, which should be the operating company, of which the old company held all the shares. Any profits, therefore, made by the new company when declared in the shape of dividends were paid to the old. The old company had this year received a dividend on the year 1921-22 of 1½ per cent., and subsequently had also received an interim dividend for the year 1922-23 of 2 per cent., and with those moneys thus provided they had satisfied the dividends on the preference shares, and had enough in hand to satisfy them up till the end of next June. Now the factors to which he had referred, namely, the conditions, and those improved conditions combined had had a most striking effect on some mines, but particularly Robinson Deep. The improvement in the market value of its shares since last year was very great. The change in the position of the mine was such that the board was now proposing to make a debenture issue, and consequently the company would be in a position to pay off all its indebtedness, and, therefore, the date on which it would be able to commence paying the dividends overdue would be so much nearer. The improved conditions had not affected the Simmer and Jack Mine so promptly as they had the Robinson Deep, but the board believed that they were bound to have a very good effect.

PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRIALS.

He wished he could say that the company's prospects in industries in South Africa were as encouraging as their mining prospects were, but South Africa had not escaped that depression which the war had brought to so many countries, and he feared they must wait for a general world recovery.

The Rhodesian Development Company held its meeting a fortnight ago, and the shareholders were, on the whole, satisfied that the board had done their best in a very difficult year. A hopeful report in regard to the American Trona had been issued by the New York Advisory Committee. Dealing with other of the company's interest, he said that the South American Gold and Platinum Company was, he believed, the largest single producer of platinum in the world.

Lord Brabourne seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

JOSHUA HOYLE AND SONS, LIMITED. COTTON TRADE OUTLOOK.

The ordinary general meeting of Joshua Hoyle and Sons, Limited, was held at the registered offices of the company, India Mill, Bacup, on the 30th ultimo, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Craven Hoyle, T.D., D.L., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, pointed out that the liquidation of the subsidiary businesses had been carried out, and this had had the effect of increasing the item of properties on the assets side of the balance-sheet and reducing the amount of the investments.

At previous meetings he had stated what had been the policy of the board regarding the extension of the company. The experiences of the last twelve months had proved the soundness of that policy, and not only had the allied concerns been of mutual assistance to each other, but a foundation had been laid for increasing the varieties of goods produced.

Dealing with the increase in the value of the stock, they all knew, he said, the anxieties through which the trade had passed, and the directors in meeting such a state of affairs were bound

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

to take a view, and there were three points that had to be considered—the first, that not only the directors but the shareholders had their responsibility and duty to the employees of the company. All employers of labour had been asked during the present difficult times to do everything possible to find employment and assist the nation.

The second point was in regard to running short time. Would the loss through the overhead charges be greater than a loss incurred through the price at which goods might be sold?

The third point was what quantity and quality should be made for stock, and was there a reasonable chance of their ultimate disposal at a reasonable price?

The directors had taken all these points into consideration, and decided that up to a certain point the machinery should be kept employed.

Considering the state of the trade in the period under review, the result of the twelve months' working had come out better than they could have anticipated. As to the future, there were signs that the cloud was lifting in the iron trade, and shipping, and other staple trades, though the immediate outlook was not very promising.

Though he (the Chairman) did not think that the price of cotton for many years could approach what was considered the normal pre-war price, the situation, he thought, could be much relieved. Over-riding charges could and must be reduced, and that could only be brought about through the strictest economy in the State and local affairs, and in business methods.

Sir Wm. E. Berry, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1922, to Nov. 25, 1922.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1921, to Nov. 25, 1921.	Receipts, Week Ended Nov. 25, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Nov. 25, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:					
Bank of England	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs	112,250,000	82,981,000	85,501,000	3,668,000	3,769,000
Excise	160,750,000	106,496,000	130,180,000	1,839,000	2,174,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	10,000,000	3,493,000	3,143,000	..	..
Stamp Duties, &c.	18,250,000	39,411,000	32,402,000	1,010,000	1,731,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	610,000	440,000	..	..
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	329,000,000	173,307,000	162,555,000	2,062,000	705,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	23,714,000	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	18,000,000	11,487,000	3,320,000	350,000	480,000
Post Office	54,625,000	34,600,000	32,750,000	1,000,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands	750,000	630,000	520,000	150,000	130,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	14,000,000	6,527,875	7,528,398	1,352	182,525
Miscellaneous—					
Ordinary Receipts	22,000,000	18,098,303	15,632,039	4,874	4,124,918
Special Receipts	90,000,000	32,592,705	65,793,757	..	..
Revenue	910,775,000	522,800,483	584,067,194	10,465,136	15,098,917
Total, Inc. Balance	..	533,974,013	587,141,700	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion	800,000	5,780,000	..	250,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	2,910,000	520,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	27,000	27,500	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	950,000	35,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	1,553,300	..	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	2,510,000	4,655,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,922,589,000	2,707,214,000	43,574,000	76,599,000	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply	44,268,000	26,580,000	700,000	850,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	20	5	..	..	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	..	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35	61,655,154	123,494,449	..	3,720,000	..
5%, 1927	64,655,935	..	4,613,700	..	..
4%, 1932	..	..	..	..	..
By other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	25,259	10,858,639	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	551,714,000	874,107,000	3,500,000	16,250,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments:—					
In respect of Cunard Loan	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	..
Do Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	..	7,250,000	..	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921	256,746	38,681	..	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	4,431,887	..	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	321,533	..	..	..
Total	3,198,781,642	4,356,316,686	62,982,836	112,897,917	..

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supplementary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Nov. 25, 1922.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1921, to Nov. 25, 1921.	Issues, Week Ended Nov. 25, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Nov. 25, 1921.
EXPENDITURE					
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	9,575,345	10,282,080	..	..
Interest, &c., on War Debt	319,000,000	199,531,094	209,957,441	1,572,614	1,730,538
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,943,999	2,842,000	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c.	9,788,000	4,952,990	6,155,312	500,000	500,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	1,223,152	760,853	..	..
Land Settlement	3,500,000	1,670,247	1,158,342	50,817	24,512
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	254,612,148	402,647,759	4,700,000	9,982,000
Supply Services	529,999,000	893,437,000	475,275,828	6,823,431	12,237,050
EXPENDITURE	893,437,000	475,275,828	635,173,842	6,823,431	12,237,050
TEMPORARY ADVANCES					
Bullion	..	..	5,750,000	..	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	3,510,000	5,875,000	..	370,000	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	4,060,000	4,061,474	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	..	27,000	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300	1,553,300	..	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed	2,110,000	..	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills for Supply	2,072,769,000	2,719,371,000	50,380,000	89,470,000	..
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919	6,906,849	24,035,013	308,038	676,210	..
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	6,526,211	..	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—					
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	17,400,000	13,000,000	400,000	600,000	..
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	9,200,000	..	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—					
5%, 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	18,854,490	..	150,000	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	44,284,182	..	150,000	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	14,148,065	49,238,141	1,119,242	13	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	519,477,000	835,938,000	3,450,000	8,150,000	..
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	1,198,075	19,620,156	..	500,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	11,515,000	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	55,656	111,200	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England	3,195,276,204	4,351,975,634	62,630,711	112,453,270	..
Bank of Ireland	2,188,371	2,034,500	193,125	126,647	..
Total	3,197,464,575	4,353,975,634	62,823,836	112,579,917	..

NOTE—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.
Treasury, November 27, 1922.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.
Tenders for £55,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, December 4-December 9, were opened on December 1, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £69,265,000. Tenders for Monday bills at £99 8s 5d and above in full, and Tuesday to Saturday bills at £99 8s 3d, about 78 per cent. and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £7 2s 17d. The amounts allotted were as follows:— In bonds, £5,000,000; in bills at 3 months, £50,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
1922.				
Sept. 15	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 60,610,000	£ s d	£ s d
Sept. 22	(a) 60,000,000	(a) 74,355,000	2 7 1-56	None allotted
Sept. 29	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 66,350,000	2 10 0-90	None allotted
Oct. 6	(a) 45,000,000	(a) 78,775,000	2 8 3-57	None allotted
Oct. 13	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 72,560,000	2 5 5-03	99 1 415
Oct. 20	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 61,905,000	2 5 11-06	99 3 1-75
Oct. 27	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 56,905,000	2 5 2-94	99 4 6-3
Nov. 3	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 57,330,000	2 9 1-02	99 4 8-7
Nov. 10	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 55,585,000	2 11 3-41	99 2 4-8
Nov. 17	(a) 40,000,000	(a) 62,245,000	2 8 0-95	99 4 4-6
Nov. 24	(a) 50,000,000	(a) 62,245,000	2 9 2-79	99 3 0-46
Dec. 1	(a) 55,000,000	(a) 69,265,000	2 7 1-77	99 5 0-6

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.
Tenders will be received on Friday, December 8, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £5,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govern- ment Secur- ties.	Balance at End of	Bank of England.
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£		
Aug. 26,	21,535	..	6,302	3,810	..	..	9,924	11,423		
Dec. 29,	38,478	..	169	600	18,500	..	48 1	9,286		
1915.										
Dec. 29,	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27 6	20,536		
1916.										
Dec. 27,	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19 0	6,868		
1917.										
Dec. 26,	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13 4	5,486		
1918.										
Dec. 31,	323,241	15,589	..	570	28,500	..	8 9	4,566		
1919.										
Dec. 31,	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9 1	3,573		
1920.										
Dec. 29,	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13 0	336,504		
1921.										
Mar. 30,	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	28,500	19,450	13 9	311,334	141		
June 29,	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	19,450	14 8	287,750	150		
Sept. 28,	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	19,450	15 2	278,119	143		
Dec. 28,	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	19,450	14 7	289,131	161		
1922.										
Mar. 29,	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	15 9	261,479	177		
June 28,	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,450	16 3	254,312	250		
Sept. 27,	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16 6	244,755	148		
Nov. 15,	287,843	12,210	7,000	27,000	21,150	16 7	244,755	182		
Dec. 2,	287,209	12,251	7,000	27,000	21,150	16 7	244,857	199		
Dec. 2,	287,911	12,255	7,000	27,000	21,150	16 7	244,857	199		

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

THE OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS PAID - £7,657,433
CLAIMS PAID - £27,500,000

Accidents and illness. Fidelity Guarantees. Employers' Liability. Fire and Burglary. Motor Cars. Public Liability. Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts. Executors and Trusteeships.

Head Office: 36-44 MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, November 29, 1922.

	£	Government debt	£
Notes issued	144,067,935	Other securities	11,015,100
		Gold coin and bullion	7,434,900
	144,067,935		125,617,935

	£	Government securities	£
Capital	14,553,000	Other securities	48,305,366
Reserve	3,213,517	Notes	21,183,410
Public deposits	17,028,785	Gold and silver coin	1,822,520
Other deposits	104,435,200		
Seven-day & other bills	16,281		</

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Cash and bank balances	441,824	419,981	447,719	453,360	480,457
Bank balances abroad	114,894	111,015	126,750	135,248	71,325
Call and short loans	279,021	276,778	271,989	274,418	290,020
Securities	322,009	330,646	323,471	318,753	366,823
Loans in Canada	1,211,825	1,192,614	1,196,524	1,215,936	1,343,445
Loans abroad	145,610	145,120	144,072	148,225	151,490
Other assets	104,262	99,412	97,315	100,558	101,971
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	176,919	158,087	161,887	166,085	186,798
Deposits					
Government	109,988	92,595	87,546	89,024	136,181
Public in Canada	1,648,548	1,639,485	1,668,224	1,687,162	1,798,071
Foreign	336,747	339,985	347,525	365,770	295,575
Bank balances					
Canadian	9,008	8,348	6,379	9,973	12,578
Foreign	33,706	35,073	34,284	35,491	47,444
Bills payable, &c.	23,321	22,336	21,872	24,521	35,073
Other liabilities	2,644	3,756	2,328	2,963	2,866
Capital and res.	255,331	255,197	255,068	254,414	264,334

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	8,707	8,390	8,275	8,265	8,256
Bankers' deposits	5,288	5,126	5,185	4,983	5,075
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	282	282	281	264	264
Gold certificates	10,057	10,057	10,057	9,982	9,982
Subsidiary coin	250	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic)	1,832	1,364	1,295	1,203	1,278
Do (foreign)	3	5	5	8	9
Loans and advances to the Government	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Other loans and advances	1,320	1,104	1,117	1,086	1,092
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	75.6 %	78.3 %	78.6 %	79.2 %	78.7 %

BANK OF SPAIN.

	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Nov. 26, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	2,523,590	2,523,575	2,523,533	2,523,469	2,508,788	521,775
Silver	648,208	642,569	639,513	639,155	627,626	728,600
Loans and advances	2,273,674	2,321,516	2,353,868	2,407,889	3,034,107	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,089,793	4,135,070	4,174,825	4,179,363	4,206,335	901,550
Deposits	1,080,537	1,064,348	1,064,758	1,056,409	999,988	477,500

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

	Sept. 28, 1922.	Sept. 15, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Aug. 12, 1922.	Sept. 2, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances abroad	1,360,795	1,359,960	1,356,068	1,371,187	1,383,820
Government loans and securities	2,741,845	2,737,764	2,738,271	2,714,212	2,177,551
Discounts and loans	1,097,452	1,028,063	981,671	950,879	610,257
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	2,185,015	2,039,639	1,908,856	1,842,329	1,950,038
Government deposits	340,512	371,922	507,137	624,351	133,209
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,013,934	1,013,671	1,013,605	1,012,348	890,971

BANK OF JAPAN.

	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 29, 1921.	Position June 30, 1914.
ASSETS.							
Cash and bullion	1,147,407	1,145,424	1,144,923	1,141,496	1,138,789	1,263,374	221,320
Advances	138,941	74,491	70,351	83,580	131,842	155,241	41,740
Discounts	1,185,4	1,176,021	1,176,670	1,183,871	1,189,306	94,104	70,540
LIABILITIES.							
Notes	1,205,154	1,103,219	1,104,843	1,126,715	1,237,472	1,255,800	362,270
Govt. deposits	785,945	790,598	773,994	754,827	726,123	1,255,422	87,340
Other deposits	49,472	40,639	42,228	42,070	37,973	38,736	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
ASSETS.					
Gold	1,004,849	1,004,848	1,004,852	993,709	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	14,291	321,920
Silver	66,234	61,707	67,140	5,014,796	943,460
Treasury notes	81,226,942	51,111,171	49,122,674	5,014,796	943,460
Bills discounted	801,471,152	753,723,303	637,372,589	101,661,516	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	643,749,739	582,105,055	517,036,199	95,463,895	2,013,860
Deposits	201,378,931	212,209,335	150,649,076	15,440,677	842,340

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.

	Aug. 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
ASSETS.		
Cash	5,884,164	2,919,353
Loans	76,063	857,623
Special credits on merchandise	2,050,310	233,416
Debtors	465,300	594,354
Merchandise	512,166	127,785
Discounts	162,078	148,173
Advances on securities	512,839	409,895
Foreign coin and bonds	478,194	11,517
Precious metals		
LIABILITIES.		
Subscribed capital	575,000	575,000
Loan account	6,772,649	3,246,143
Deposits bearing interest	2,376,766	1,377,471
Deposits in foreign currencies	121,637	121,637
Public deposits	7,400,995	2,680,677

BANK OF ITALY.

	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Total cash	1,332,474	1,319,820	1,296,573	1,318,214	1,371,606	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,489,149	4,365,254	4,366,557	4,479,792	3,153,433	418,400
Foreign bills	9,579	9,490	9,588	9,548	19,489	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	6,105,441	6,110,371	6,101,477	6,661,007	nil	
Other advances	2,488,584	2,086,014	2,116,274	2,303,821	3,001,138	79,175
Securities	395,664	478,445	482,557	483,360	420,844	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	14,231,328	13,874,439	14,106,642	13,987,270	14,326,059	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,701,577	1,874,436	1,686,805	1,755,016	1,708,352	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

	Nov. 27, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 13, 1922.	Nov. 6, 1922.	Nov. 28, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	605,969	163,092
Silver	1,563	8,935	8,908	8,854	8,614	8,436
Discounts & advances	383,033	410,477	416,006	427,548	434,890	163,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	965,113	978,010	994,514	1,009,441	1,021,065	316,632
Deposits	25,639	41,063	33,296	30,060	31,413	5,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	533,003	533,003	533,003	532,995	532,995	595,459
Silver & coin	658	658	658	658	658	716
Government loan	12,578,200	12,576,714	12,566,219	12,570,331	11,219,038	304
Other advances	4,091,414	4,080,985	4,031,202	4,113,472	3,283,575	
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	15,481,588	15,433,861	15,362,823	15,402,240	13,315,952	
Deposits	6,398,317	6,425,171	6,436,772	6,487,236	5,713,344	

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	531,294	530,301	520,580	520,580	545,030	171,175
Silver	113,497	113,682	113,788	113,947	124,025	18,360
Loans & advances	332,282	325,941	337,273	337,273	267,760	106,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	916,123	912,134	912,151	903,874	905,426	975,925
Deposits	12,384	13,023	128,208	143,297	100,276	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to October 31, 1922, total issues were Fr. 13,437,177, of which Fr. 11,644,475 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Nov. 26, 1921.	Position May 24, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	274,031	274,052	274,088	273,939	275,058	104,918
Balance abn. and foreign bills	70,282	69,412	73,319	81,111	106,309	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	90,556	90,606	82,295	73,926	20,755	32,465
Discounts and loans	347,735	358,965	365,908	378,055	425,959	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	534,616	541,405	551,225	566,443	589,227	225,555
Deposits at notice	182,265	184,844	177,029	175,582	175,557	69,660

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 8, 1922.	Nov. 2, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	338,560	337,995	337,548	336,384	324,990	322,650
Securities	643,710	635,235	622,374	623,719	416,060	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	6,593,901	6,821,467	6,627,455	6,680,648	6,127,136	934,150
Current accounts	679,911	670,895	696,934	640,896	839,869	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.
ASSETS.				
Gold coin and bullion, bills	398	380	340	429
Silver coin	826,483,602	865,391,247	888,094,649	899,546,118
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	764,447	737,196	840,580	1,203,637
Loans	3,133,276,346	3,161,625,773	3,132,670,816	2,979,322,991
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	342,136,922	344,041,736	342,670,816	285,253,536
Deposits				

HUNGARIAN BANK.

		Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.
ASSETS.		Krone.	Krone.	Krone.	Krona.
Gold coin and bullion, bills		14,845	14,145	14,145	14,012
Silver coin, &c.		596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.		50,113,580	50,510,135	51,445,575	51,630,578
Loans		1,814,075	1,937,414	1,849,680	1,728,166
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation		70,371,291	70,210,720	67,934,531	70,001,000
Deposits		8,073,857	7,237,263	8,066,355	5,188,000
NATIONAL BANK OF SWITZERLAND					

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Present Rate.	Date	Previous Rate.	Date
Discount	July 15, 1922	4 1/2	June 15, 1922
Deposit	June 15, 1922	2	Feb. 16, 1922

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Amsterdam	July 15, 1922 .. 4
Berlin	May 15, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Brussels	Nov. 13, 1922 .. 4 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 8, 1922 .. 6
Calcutta	Oct. 26, 1922 .. 5
Christiana	Aug. 17, 1922 .. 5
Copenhagen	Apr. 25, 1922 .. 5
Helsingfors	Oct. 16, 1922 .. 8
Lisbon	Sept. 3, 1922 .. 7
New York Fed. Reserve ..	June 12, 1922 .. 4
Madrid	May 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Paris	Apr. 27, 1922 .. 5
Rome	July 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Sofia	June 14, 1919 .. 6 1/2
Stockholm	July 1, 1922 .. 4 1/2
Swiss Bank	Aug. 17, 1922 .. 3
Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Vienna	Sept. 2, 1922 .. 9
Warsaw	Sept. 1, 1922 .. 7

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	55-27-32	64-18-23
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-24	840-845	31000-32000
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	11000-13000	30000-33000
Prague	koruna to £1	T.T.	24-02	365-375	142-143
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	20-43	12000-13000	67000-72000
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	2400-2700	10000-11000
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	730-770	800-840
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	625-675	575-625
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	275-295	290-310
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-32-34	11-40-41
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	57-17-22	67-65-75
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	18-159	16-97-1702	16-71-74
Christiana	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	21-70-75	22-12-17
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	212-217	175-177
Helsingfors	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	99-100	93-105
Lisbon	escudos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	93-94	94-95
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	21-13-18	24-14-19
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Lisbon	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
London	pounds to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
New York	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
San Francisco	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Buenos Aires	pesos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Rio de Janeiro	pesos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Montevideo	pesos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Lima	soles to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Calcutta	rupees to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Madras	rupees to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Hong Kong	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Shanghai	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Singapore	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Yokohama	yen to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Manila	pesos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86
Mexico	pesos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	48-86	48-86

+ Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Nov. 9, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.
Call money	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5
Time money (90 days) ..	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2
Non-members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2	4 1/2 .. 4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5	5 .. 5

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.
London—					
60 days		4-0212	4-44625	4-4675	4-49
Cable		4-07	4-47375	4-495	4-5162
Cheques		4-0662	4-47125	4-4925	4-5137
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-35	6-92	7-11
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-10	6-41	6-35
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	18-38	18-63	18-64
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	19-30	4-37	4-705	4-745
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	23-83	0-54875	0-0157	0-01625
Vienna	Cents for 1 krone	20-26	0-0425	0-00134	0-00137
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19-30	14-20	15-23	15-37
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40-195	18-68	20-20	20-27
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner	26-80	14-25	18-33	18-55
Christiana	Cents for 1 kroner	26-80	14-25	18-33	18-55
Stockholm	Cents for 1 drachma	19-30	4-15	1-45	1-5
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	19-30	4-15	1-45	1-5
Montreal	Cents for Can. \$1	100	91-532	100-05	99-999
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	49-85	48-00	48-38	48-45
Hong Kong	Cents for H. Kong \$	100	64-75	52-75	53-35
Shanghai	Cents for 1 shing. tael	100	77-50	70-70	71-5
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee	100	27-00	29-75	30-10
Buenos Aires	Gold pesos for \$100	103-65	136-75	122-30	122-05
Rio de Janeiro	Gold pesos for 1 milreis	32-42	12-90	11-95	12-75
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	20-60	11-00	12-30	12-20

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Guineas to £1	Sight London	Nov. 25	117-10
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	"	Nov. 27	23-90
Colombia (Bogota)	Dollars to £20	"	Nov. 28	96-75
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £1	"	Nov. 20	4-60
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	"	Nov. 24	90-23
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	"	Nov. 25	26-30
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	"	Nov. 11	18-90
Honduras	Pence to Boliviano	"	Oct. 28	16-3

Official rate.

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	Dec. 1, 1921.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	1-40	0-0335	0-0410
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123-45	2-60	0-07	0-087
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	2-704	0-067	0-079
Stockholm	"	"	2-25	0-050	0-0599
Christiania	"	"	3-53	0-073	0-088

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	1,530	1,530	1,530	1,540
New York	\$1	342	342	342	342-75
Berlin	100 Mk	4-60	5-50	4-90	5-25
Helsingfors	100 Kr	855	847	880	872
Stockholm	100 Kr	9,200	9,175	9,170	9,195
Copenhagen	100 Kr	6,920	6,915	6,920	6,940
Paris	100 Fr	2,300	2,380	2,410	2,425
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	13,425	13,450	13,450	13,500
Riga	100 Lrbl	133	133	134-5	134-5
Rome	"	1,100	1,100	1,090	1,100
Warsaw	"	1,675	1,600	1,590	1,615

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Latvian Roubles for	Oct. 2, 1922.	Oct. 9, 1922.	Oct. 16, 1922.	Oct. 23, 1922.
London	£1	1,142	1,148	1,152	1,161
New York	\$1	261	261	259 1/2	259 1/2
Paris	100 frs.	1,975	1,975	1,975	1,925
Brussels	100 frs.	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,800
Stockholm	100 kr.	4,875	4,850	4,800	4,750
Copenhagen	100 kr.	1,100	1,125	1,100	1,100
Helsingfors	100 kr.	6,875	6,900	6,925	6,950
Amsterdam	100 kr.	5,275	5,300	5,200	5,150
Prague	100 kr.	4,450	4,450	4,725	4,600
Berlin	100 M.	810	881	874	851
Helsingfors	100 rmk.	10,125	10,100	10,125	10,175
Stockholm	100 rmk.	16 1/2	11 1/2	9 1/2	6
Warsaw	100 rmk.	574	583	602	617
London	100 pmk.	76	78	76	76

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From Nov. 13, 1922.	From Nov. 13, 1922.
London on South Africa.	Buying.	Selling.
60 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
90 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
120 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
180 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
240 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
300 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
360 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
420 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
480 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
540 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
600 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
660 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
720 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
780 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
840 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
900 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
960 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1020 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1080 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1140 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1200 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
60 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
90 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
120 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
180 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
240 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
300 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
360 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
420 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
480 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
540 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
600 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
660 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
720 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
780 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
840 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
900 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
960 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1020 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1080 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1140 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.
1200 days	2 1/2% prem.	2 1/2% dis.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.
Outstanding with public	Rs. 54,01,65,000	Rs. 27,32,15,00
In paper currency reserve	Rs. 57,89,00,000	Rs. 49,65,00,00
Total	Rs. 111,90,65,000	Rs. 76,97,15,00

Tenders for Rs.50,00,000 three months' bills and for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills were opened on November 24th. The total amount tendered for three months' bills was Rs.1,14,00,000. Tenders at Rs.99 received about 20 per cent equivalent to a discount rate of 3.9120 per cent. per annum. The total amount tendered for six months' bills was Rs.67,00,000. Tenders at Rs.97 1/2 received about 57 per cent equivalent to a discount rate of 4.6600 per cent. per annum. India during this week at Rs.97 1/2 per cent. Tenders were received on Friday, December 1st, for Rs.50,00,000 six months' bills for issue during the week beginning December 4th.

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended November 29, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £4,806 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.	Week Ended Nov. 29, 1922.	Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	Week Ended Nov. 29, 1922.
Countries from which Consigned.		Countries to which Exported.	
British South Africa	£ 757,454	British India	£ 189,137
Esthonia	4,633	Norway	150,800
Other Countries	681	U.S.A.	3,485
		Italy	16,950
		Belgium	4,500
		Netherlands	365,232
Total value of imports of gold	762,768	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	365,232

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on November 30th as follows:—

GOLD.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.			Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.			
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		
Banks.									
Royal Bank of Scotland	Oct. 14	£	£ 401,959	401,959	£	£ 190,000	13	£ 50,000	£ 161,959
Breweries.									
Noakes and Co.	Sept. 30	16,700	29,483	46,183	12,500	16,500	75	17,183	29,462
Northampton	Sept. 30	27,617	31,227	58,844	8,250	15,625	12½	7,000	32,289
St Anne's Well	Sept. 30	6,715	7,516	14,231	3,840	4,000	10	6,391	5,190
Warwicks and Richardsons	Sept. 30	19,604	50,549	70,153	15,000	25,000	12½	10,000	55,276
Financial, Land, &c.									
Argentine Southern Land	June 30	38,575	9,267	47,842	25,000	5	5	22,842	33,463
Tube Investments	Oct. 31	40,165	29,890	70,055	27,030	..	..	43,025	60,433
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.									
Aerated Bread	Sept. 30	14,150	136,648	150,798	87,975	12½	12½	48,184	145,995
Slaters	Sept. 30	8,508	9,777	18,285	5,250	9,244	5	3,791	17,758
Iron, Coal, and Steel.									
Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co.	June 30	203,508	Dr 165,869	38,139	23,604	..	..	14,535	315,068
United Wire Works	Sept. 30	4,281	9,618	13,899	3,250	5,700	7½	4,949	8,549
Motor and Cycle.									
Stepney Spare Motor Wheel	Sept. 30	12,072	Dr 3,156	8,916	..	..	..	8,916	Dr 7,831
Rubber, &c.									
Caledonian (Ceylon)	June 30	Dr 9,531	4,193	Dr 5,338	..	..	..	Dr 5,338	Dr 1,674
Castlefield (Klang)	June 30	22,214	2,033	24,247	10,000	10	10	9,247	Dr 11,814
Central Sumatra	June 30	Dr 8,132	Dr 874	Dr 9,006	..	..	..	Dr 9,006	Dr 8,132
Djasinga	June 30	21,603	Dr 5,464	16,139	..	..	..	16,139	Dr 24,794
Tandjong	June 30	20,469	1,443	21,912	..	..	..	21,912	Dr 30,909
Tea.									
Kintyre	June 30	1,447	5,427	6,874	1,000	..	..	2,526	3,348
Telegraphs, &c.									
Amazon Telegraph	June 30	5,790	Dr 11,617	Dr 5,827	..	..	..	Dr 6,000	173
Tramways.									
Isle of Thanet Electric	Sept. 30	5,097	30,545	35,642	5,625	..	..	24,154	5,863
Trusts.									
Third Edinburgh Investment	Nov. 5	61,277	22,239	83,516	6,562	8,750	12	68,204	24,188
Other Companies.									
Blyth Shipbuilding	Sept. 30	3,307	15,011	18,318	11,433	6½	6½	6,885	21,817
D. Jones, Dickinson, and Co.	Sept. 30	3,040	8,407	11,447	1,740	3,480	6	2,833	3,394
Henry Bucknall and Sons	Aug. 31	3,181	10,227	13,408	18,000	..	..	Dr 5,000	7,816
Ilford	Oct. 31	6,281	52,235	58,516	11,400	24,800	8	408	Dr 3,405
Ingall, Parsons, Clive, and Co.	Sept. 30	4,759	12,891	17,650	4,156	6,185	10	8,316	41,552
John Mackintosh and Sons	Sept. 30	51,969	176,051	228,020	30,000	82,673	25	12,500	7,309
Mappin Stores (Brazil)	Feb. 28	2,420	Dr 5,570	3,150	..	..	..	3,150	151,203
Pinner's Hall (Austin Friars)	Sept. 30	3,905	11,784	15,689	6,548	6	6	2,500	3,150
"The Coventry" Chain	Aug. 31	9,387	25,071	34,458	3,028	16,760	7½	5,000	6,641

† Free of tax.

Reports and Notices.

The registered office of Ashanti Obuasi Reefs, Limited, has been removed to Basildon House, Moorgate, London, E.C. 2.

The registered office of the Argosy Investment Trust, Limited, has been removed to Basildon House, Moorgate, London, E.C. 2.

After December 2nd the address of the head office of the Guardian Assurance Company, Limited, will be 68 King William Street, E.C. 4.

To fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir John Runtz, J.P., the council of the Corporation of Insurance Brokers have asked Sir A. Ernest Bain, K.B.E., the chairman of the council, to act as president of the corporation until the next annual meeting, and he has consented to do so.

The Merchants' Marine Insurance Company, Limited, will occupy their new offices, 36-38, Cornhill, E.C. 3, on Monday, December 11th. Their present temporary offices at 21 Birch Lane and 13 King William Street will be closed on Saturday, December 9.

Owing to expansion of business, the London offices of the Scottish Insurance Corporation, Limited (home fire, foreign fire, and burglary departments), have been removed to 17 Tokenhouse Yard, E.C. 2.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., has joined the London board of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company.

In consequence of the retirement of Mr J. H. Sams as managing director of Lips, Limited, Mr W. J. Yetton has been appointed manager. Mr J. H. Sams will remain on the board of directors.

Mr Kellaway, late Postmaster-General, has joined the board of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company.

BANKS.

MESSRS STILWELL AND SONS. — Balance-sheet, October 31, 1922:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Current and other accounts	117,779	Cash at bank of England, with other bankers, and on hand	42,792
Liability to customers for cash on deposit, per contra	6,841	Customers' cash on deposit at bankers	6,841
Capital	40,000	British and Government securities and bank stock at market values (including £500 Consols lodged for widows' fund account)	49,254
		Advances to customers	45,733
		Freehold premises	20,000
			164,620

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.—The report and accounts for the year ended October 14, 1922, shows that the net profits, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to £401,959. The dividend for the year, absorbed £190,000. The sum of £20,000 has been written off expenditure on bank buildings and heritable property, while £30,000 has been carried to pension reserve fund. The balance of £161,959 has been added to rest, which now amounts to £1,403,736. The report states that all the bank's investments are valued at or of the bank is £2,000,000. The other principal liabilities are deposits with accrued interest, £40,265,017; notes in circulation, £3,036,687; sheet the chief items are gold and silver coin, currency notes, &c., £5,133,175; money at call and notice, £5,643,111; British Government securities, £14,548,622; Colonial Government securities, £634,288; other marketable securities, £480,718; bills discounted, £7,222,773; advances, £12,612,049.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3,

And over 1,600 Branches in England and Wales.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH: 168, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3.

The Bank issues Drafts and Letters of Credit on all the principal towns of the World; makes Mail and Telegraphic Transfers; effects Foreign Collections; establishes Documentary Credits; and generally undertakes EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS.

Agents and Correspondents in all the Principal Towns throughout the World.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Nov. 25, 1922.			Aggregate 47 Weeks 1922.		
	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Central (c)	6763	30,400	139,100	177,500	2,328,600	6,171,700
Do Joint Lines	1614	36,400	177,500	36,400	1,683,100	1,683,100
Great Eastern (c)	1,2074	96,700	100,900	197,600	5,519,700	4,349,600
Great Northern (c)	1,050	81,300	157,000	238,300	4,470,500	6,473,300
Great Western (d)	2,636	214,000	361,000	575,000	1,359,000	1,714,000
London & North-Western (d)	968	10,600	52,600	154,200	1,732,300	1,974,000
London & South-Western (d)	487	70,800	23,161	93,869	4,451,647	1,278,115
London, Brighton & S.C. (c)	794	33,353	3,864	37,187	1,590,834	171,152
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	63	1,039	2,024	33,633	56,293	88,445
Metropolitan (c)	1,5859	140,000	328,000	468,000	8,386,000	1,482,000
Midland (c)	63	993	1,033	2,056	70,156	64,927
Midland & S.W. Jnc.	1,850	99,600	281,000	380,600	6,243,700	1,492,970
North-Eastern (c)	16	4,379	9,316	13,695	224,361	455,495
North London	654	101,600	42,200	224,850	6,389,000	2,045,800
South-E. & Chatham (c)	..	..	..	40,104	..	..
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	8,700	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	1,097	56,400	102,800	159,300	3,400,300	4,648,000
Caledonian	476	21,100	35,000	56,100	1,470,100	1,720,700
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	334	7,540	9,810	17,350	440,880	418,980
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	492 (a)	9,124	9,303	18,125	564,407	489,444
Highland (c)	1,3772	55,200	122,800	178,000	3,102,900	5,486,000
North British (c)	80	4,630	1,281	5,911	252,374	61,834
Belfast and County Down (b)	160	5,625	4,450	10,075	288,075	165,967
Dublin and S. East. (b)	538	8,977	18,792	27,763	462,143	738,593
Midland Gt. West. (b)	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended November 24, 1922. (c) Week ended November 25, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or —	1922.	+ or —
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	30 weeks	Oct. 28	1,049	2,97,194	+ 59,593	71,11,089	+ 24,94,837
Barri Lt. Ry.	31 weeks	Nov. 4	118	59,000	+ 542.0	10,42,500	+ 3,56,740
Bombay & N. Western	4 weeks	Oct. 28	67	5,00,200	+ 19,639	19,01,886	+ 1,09,140
Bombay Nagpur	30 weeks	Oct. 28	2,703	12,36,000	+ 64,000	4,15,865	+ 55,49,000
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	14 weeks	Nov. 25	2,934	21,45,000	+ 2,84,000	1,56,77,000	+ 13,33,000
Burma	30 weeks	Oct. 28	1,342	7,55,567	+ 1,42,700	1,98,25,311	+ 26,69,592
Calcutta	7 weeks	Nov. 18	239	1,01,000	+ 20,345	7,99,000	+ 11,245
Delhi, Umballa, Kalka	25 weeks	Nov. 25	2,772	23,83,000	+ 89,000	2,42,38,000	+ 8,01,000
East India	3 weeks	Oct. 28	13	3,121	+ 25,680	84,000	+ 38,81,965
G. Indian Peninsula	31 weeks	Nov. 4	3,028	11,75,000	+ 1,73,544	4,36,05,250	+ 45,21,736
Madras & S. Mah.	4 weeks	Oct. 28	259	49,477	+ 1,542	2,09,438	+ 8,932
Rohtak & Kumaon	31 weeks	Nov. 4	1,852	8,10,764	+ 81,366	2,92,81,833	+ 23,93,942
Do Lucknow-Breilly	4 weeks	Oct. 28	717	9,17,805	+ 94,919	3,58,925	+ 57,599
South India	4 weeks	Oct. 28	717	9,17,805	+ 94,919	3,58,925	+ 57,599
Shan. Punjab (month)	21 weeks	Nov. 25	752	11,600	+ 1,000	210,200	+ 39,200
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	21 weeks	Nov. 25	111	4,280	+ 2,210	52,980	+ 16,395
Argentine Trans.	21 weeks	Nov. 25	3,428	159,000	+ 44,000	2,802,000	+ 278,000
B. A. and Pacific	21 weeks	Nov. 25	3,947	184,000	+ 32,000	3,209,000	+ 140,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	21 weeks	Nov. 25	1,882	68,000	+ 34,000	837,000	+ 504,000
B. Western	21 weeks	Nov. 25	1,882	101,000	+ 34,000	1,680,000	+ 80,000
Brazilian (b).							
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	150	41,145	+ 12,798	78,379	+ 25,404
Central Argentine	21 weeks	Nov. 25	1,205	208,000	+ 39,000	3,995,000	+ 351,000
Cordoba Central	21 weeks	Nov. 25	811	20,000	+ 3,000	1,257,000	+ 117,500
Entre Rios	21 weeks	Nov. 25	811	20,000	+ 3,000	359,900	+ 43,400
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	47 weeks	Nov. 26	838	37,220	+ 24,840	1,116,385	+ 150,215
Nitrato (S. monthly)	4 mths	Oct. 31	156	34,520	+ 18,810	26,557	+ 26,557
Puerto Corp.	4 mths	Oct. 31	1,059	1,354,200	+ 44,900	5,140,600	+ 34,780
Talca	4 mths	Oct. 31	172	17,768	+ 6,743	56,274	+ 17,438
Cuban.							
Havana Central	20 weeks	Nov. 20	120	10,064	+ 1,416	191,426	+ 22,029
United of Havana	21 weeks	Nov. 25	1,210	48,940	+ 1,415	985,577	+ 147,624
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay	21 weeks	Nov. 25	273	34,601	+ 7,959	497,994	+ 4,410
C. Urug. (East Ext.). ..	21 weeks	Nov. 25	311	6,477	+ 349	95,742	+ 2,546
C. Urug. (North Ext.). ..	21 weeks	Nov. 25	285	36,833	+ 1,007	51,692	+ 2,086
C. Urug. (West Ext.). ..	21 weeks	Nov. 25	211	2,762	+ 209	47,900	+ 2,071
Midland Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	14,681	+ 1,521	60,114	+ 2,061
North-West Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	113	7,127	+ 282	8,746	+ 2,279
Uruguay North	4 mths	Oct. 31	73	2,447	+ 592	8,746	+ 2,279
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia	47 weeks	Nov. 25	33	20,000	+ 10,000	894,450	+ 136,850
Bilbao	10 mths	Oct. 31	15	1,680	+ 189	11,329	+ 5,682
Bilbao	10 mths	Oct. 31	136	7,100	+ 991	89,692	+ 1,550
Bilbao	10 mths	Sept. 30	183	17,594	+ 5,000	118,710	+ 75,000
Costa Rica	8 mths	Oct. 31	70	15,000	+ 7,000	52,000	+ 9,000
Dorado Extension	8 mths	Oct. 31	659	15,068	+ 1,229	19,197	+ 32,507
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	29 weeks	Nov. 18	559	94,936	+ 15,230	3,791,878	+ 1,203,925
Egyptian Delta	45 weeks	Nov. 18	18	54,716	+ 3,056	711,677	+ 8,909
Gt. Southern Spain	10 mths	Oct. 31	232	7,811	+ 1,221	99,550	+ 4,170
International of	10 mths	Oct. 31	232	9,010	+ 1,221	5,301,490	+ 1,440,000
Central America	18 mths	Nov. 24	403	278,600	+ 71,200	3,71,900	+ 768,800
La Guaira & Caracas	19 weeks	Sept. 30	403	115,400	+ 330,900	6,620	+ 167,800
Mexican Railway	3 mths	Sept. 30	403	124,700	+ 142,700	98,266	+ 20,824
Do	3 mths	Sept. 30	403	10,475	+ 2,582	98,266	+ 20,824
Do	9 mths	Sept. 30	29	193	+ 12,760	35,000	+ 2,500
Nasajo Osoangham	2 weeks	Aug. 31	35	3,750	+ 1,000	51,445	+ 8,041
Puerto Cabello, &c.	8 mths	Nov. 25	100	2,550	+ 16,943	83,500	+ 16,135
Salvador	21 weeks	Nov. 25	100	140,536	+ 927	120,065	+ 22,088
Santa Fe Provino	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	5,280	+ 2,978	120,065	+ 22,088
Samana & Santiago	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	12,530	+ 2,978	120,065	+ 22,088

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

A marked improvement has taken place in the sale of crossbreds, and the difference between these and merinos is now less than it has been for the past two years. There is a particularly strong demand for 48-50's, these qualities often being 15 per cent. above last series, and both the home and American trades are keen to buy. Although medium and fine crossbreds seem dear compared with twelve months ago, these wools are still relatively cheap, and New Zealand is offering an excellent supply of most useful raw material. Good 56's halfbred wool is selling on a clean basis of 30d to 31d, inferior descriptions going at as low as 25d; 50's wool is selling on a clean basis of 21d to 24d, according to style and character. Expressed in pence per lb, the increase in the value of 46-50's is about 3d per lb, clean scoured, compared with the October 1914, and compared with July, 1914, the advance is 5d per lb; sales, at 17d, are 2d dearer than in October, and are now back at the pre-war level. Lower qualities are about 1d dearer than in October, and another 3d per lb is wanted to make the price equal to pre-war.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—November 24, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Good Med.				Extra Fine.				Same Period 1921.				Same Period 1920.			
		Med.	Good	Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good	Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good	Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good	Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Florida do.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Georgia do.....	d	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
American.....	Gra	G O L M	Mid	G M	M M	G O L M	Mid	G M	M M	G O L M	Mid	G M	M M	G O L M	Mid	G M	M M
Brazilian.....	Mid	1360	1390	1450	1480	1490	1545	1550	1550	1360	1390	1450	1480	1490	1545	1550	1550
Pernam.....	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
Maceio, &c.	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
Mossoro, &c.	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
Ceara.....	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
Maranhão, &c.	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
São Paulo.....	Mid	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1360	1460	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580	1580
Egyptian.....	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.	G F	Fr.
Upper.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Sakellariadis.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Brown.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Peruvian.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Rough.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Moderately Rough.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Smooth.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Tanguis.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Mitahi.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
West Indian, &c.	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Do.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
African, East, &c.	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Do.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Broach.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Bhownagar.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Oomra No. 1.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Oomra No. 2.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Khandeish.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Comptab.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Bengali.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Machine Ginned Seinde.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Tinnivelly.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Madras, Western.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
Madras, Northern.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
M.G. Coconada, Red.....	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700
China, Smyrna, &c.	Fr.	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700	1450	1550	1600	1650	1650	1700	1700	1700

MANCHESTER, November 30.

A rather better feeling prevailed in the market at the beginning of the week, chiefly owing to a larger inquiry in certain sections, but the hopes then entertained have not been realised, and a very limited amount of business has been done. Traders continue to anticipate lower values, and sentiment is undoubtedly very bearish. A few more orders have been booked for China in shirtings and sheetings, and the turnover has been rather larger in fancies, but with exchange being so unfavourable, there is no expectation of buying of importance just at present for the Far East. Demand for India has been of an indifferent nature. Sorting up lots have been put through at very poor prices. Owing to the absence of remittances from the Near East, deliveries are being stopped. Irregular buying has taken place in home-trade fabrics. Manufacturers continue to lose ground. American yarns for home use have been flat. The position of spinners is going from bad to worse. Egyptian spinnings have been steady in quotation, with a restricted turnover. Only occasional transactions have been put through in shipping yarns.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Com.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				Price, Nov. 23, 1922.	Price, Nov. 16, 1922.	Price, Nov. 9, 1922.	Price, Nov. 2, 1922.	Price, Oct. 26, 1922.
		Med.	Good	Med.	Fine.					
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....	d	14-79	14-77	15-36	14-54	14-34				
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair.....	d	18-25	18-50	19-25	18-65	17-75				
— Egyptian.....	d	21-1	21-1	21-1	21-1	20-1				
Yarns—32's twist.....	lb	20-1	20-1	21-1	21-1	20-1				
— 40's twist.....	lb	20-1	20-1	21-1	21-1	20-1				
— 60's twist (Egyptian).....	lb	20-1	20-1	21-1	21-1	20-1				
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	31	0	31	6	32	3	0	31	3	30
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	33	0	33	6	33	3	0	33	3	31
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	18	6	18	9	19	0	18	9	3	18
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs.....	17	0	17	3	17	6	17	0	16	6

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Com.	Corresponding dates in				Price, Nov. 30, 1922.
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American.....	d	14-79	11-29	12-70	26-42	21-81
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair.....	d	18-25	20-50	28-50	50-50	27-56
— Egyptian.....	d	21-1	18-1	30	51-1	43
Yarns—32's twist.....	lb	20-1	18	28-1	49	43
— 40's twist.....	lb	20-1	18	28-1	49	43
— 60's twist (Egyptian).....	lb	20-1	18	28-1	49	43
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	31	0	32	0	53	0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	33	0	32	0	53	0
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	18	6	19	0	28	0
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 16, 8 1/2 lbs.....	17	0	18	6	23	0

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The principal feature this week has been the firmness in Plate linseed, the market being agitated by reports of heavy rains delaying harvesting operations of the new crop, and the cabled statement of the Government of the province estimating the Santa Fé yield at only 374,000 tons, as compared with the Argentine Ministry's estimate of 660,000 tons issued three weeks or so ago. A difference of nearly 300,000 tons is sensational in its significance, and were it to be justified by actual events, the estimated gross yield of 1,531,000 tons would be reduced to about a million and a quarter tons. Argentine estimates, however, are proverbially a quarter tons. The market has been done this week, London paying £18 15s for old Plate on passage and Hull up to £18 for December shipment. New crop has also advanced, with £16 5s paid for December-January, and £15 15s January-February. Antwerp appears to have been a fair buyer of seed on spot, and of new for shipment. Business has been done in Calcutta linseed to London at £19 15s and upwards, November and early December loading. Egyptian cottonseed has maintained a firm tone, and a good trade Sakellariadis now shipping, and £10 12s 6d for early December. English demand for Soya beans is quiet, but Hamburg has paid £11 for a parcel of 500 tons, December loading. Raw linseed oil has shared the firmness of seed, and in London, on Wednesday, advanced sharply to £39 on spot. At Hull, crushers £36 spot and £34 10s December delivery, later advancing to £36 5s spot and £36 December. Forward positions hardened considerably, £33 10s being asked for January-February, and current value of crude Egyptian being £36 10s, and soap makers' palm kernel oil to America. The new tariff does not apply to this is in better supply, and quoted round £4 1/2 for crude, ex-mill. The trade in oilcakes is very disappointing, and prices are tending lower.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market is steadily weakening, and tanners seem glad of the relief, although it has had the effect of making leather buyers especially cautious in placing contracts. Best ox and heifer, selling at 7 1/2d to 9d, showed declines of 1/2d to 3/4d per lb., seconds also dropped as much as 3/4d per lb. Cows were a shade weaker, whilst kips dropped from 7 1/2d to 12 1/2d, and showing a drop of 3/4d to 1/2d. Wools were the hogg class. In wet salted hides there is a moderate business, our tanners' ideas of value. As America is still paying prices above stocks low, and tanners are only buying for immediate wants market as very weak, with most classes now of nominal value. A grades of dry hides are weaker, with no sales reported in the 10 tanners have dropped the idea of raising prices, for the simple

The Sixty Policy

Secures protection for your dependants
And a pension for yourself
And eases the cost during the present years of uncertainty

Write for particulars to the

National Provident Institution
48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

reason they find it difficult to sell at the recent level. Stocks are reported to be heavy, and the news that a large parcel of cheap bends has been sold on Russian account has not affected the position the slightest. Sellers have made the most of this sale, however, but as there seems plenty of sole leather about, buyers have not been frightened at the export of several thousand bends.

The upper leather section is a shade better, and inquiries are frequent. Glacé kid tanners are now busy, and as old stocks are cleared, they look forward to better times, especially as imported kid is dear and none too plentiful.

The shoe trade seems steadily improving, although it is far from normal. Leicester reports fair-sized orders from multiple from the shop people, suitable for the winter's trade, whilst business in the sports and canvas trade has much improved. An item of news which has caused some interest is that the War Office has issued tenders for 21,000 pairs of canvas shoes, with soles of crepe rubber, as against leather, as formerly.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, December 1.

SUGAR.—A very steady tone governed this market during the week, and a fair demand was experienced for refined descriptions, particularly British. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 55s 9d to 56s 9d; granulated, 50s 7 1/2d to 51s 1 1/2d; stoved, 51s 7 1/2d; ditto 56s 9d; January delivery, 51s. Yellow crystals, spot, 44s 7 1/2d; pieces, and June-August, 51s 9d. West India crystallised steady, with moderate spot, London, 50s 9d. American granulated, spot, 43s 9d to 45s 6d. American granulated, spot, 43s 9d to 45s 6d; fine grainy, sold, 50s; white Java medium qualities, 48s 3d to 48s 6d; fine grainy, 48s 9d to 49s; medium, May-June, done 21s 1 1/2d, c.f. and i. terms. London. White Mauritius, spot, 47s 6d; W.S.R. granulated, prompt, 23s 6d; H.U.M., 23s 4 1/2d; J., 22s 6d; C.B.S., 22s 3d, f.o.b. Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Czech granulated, November-December, sold, 22s 4 1/2d, f.o.b. Hamburg. Brazilian basis 96 per cent., December-January, quoted 18s 3d; and basis 80 per cent. ditto, 10s 6d, c.f. and i. U.K. Terminal market slightly unsettled, but dealer on balance, and a fair trade resulted. White, December, sold, 22s to 21s 6d; May, 22s 7 1/2d to 22s 10 1/2d, 22s 3d. Cuban stocks total 80,000 tons, against 997,500 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—There was a moderate inquiry from the home trade, and where sales resulted steady prices were obtained. Of East India, bold greenish sold, 10s 6d; Colombian, good bold, 86s 6d to 88s 6d. Future delivery market steady, but trade slow.

COCOA was dealt in quietly regarding spot parcels, but sellers required recent prices. Good to fine Grenada, 51s to 53s; good fermented Jamaica, sold, 50s; Accra, F.F. quality, November-January, quoted 36s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian auctions embraced some 49,000 packages, and with brisk biddings for all medium and lower qualities, prices were firm to risk dealer. Good to fine teas sold well at fully previous quotations. Ceylon sales amounted to 12,800

29th as follows:—The tallow market was steady during the week, and prices are partly 6d. dearer to-day. It is on good medium sorts that the advance is most apparent, the demand for inferior kinds showing less activity. At auction to-day 1,056 casks tallow were offered, and 449 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 43s 6d; good to fair, 42s 3d to 40s; dull to dark, 38s to 36s; hard, 43s. Australian beef: Fine, 44s 6d; good to fair, 41s 6d to 39s; dull to dark, 37s 3d to 35s; sweet, 45s. Present shipment from Australasia: Mutton, fair coloured, 48 degs., 39s; and mixed, 43s. c.i.f., London, 37s 6d. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 35s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 14d; melted stuff, 25s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 35s 6d net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 35s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 36s 6d to 35s 6d. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 32s 6d; melted stuff, 31s 6d, f.o.b.

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS—		INDIA RUBBER—		PROVISIONS—		SPICES—	
24.4d. foreign 28s. cwt.	8	Alum, fine E.L., p. cwt.	120	Para, fine, hard spot	1 1/2	Butter—per cwt.	180	Black Pepper, per lb.	5 1/2
Trinidad, per cwt.	65	Cape, good to fine	20	Plantation crepe	1 1/2	Do factory	190	Singapore, fair White	0 5 1/2
Granada, per cwt.	60	Balsam Peru	8	INDIGO—per lb.	1 1/2	Do factory	190	Black Pepper, per lb.	0 5 1/2
Ceylon, plantation	70	Capivi	8	Benzoic acid	1 1/2	Do factory	190	White Pepper, per lb.	0 5 1/2
Guayaquil	65	Camphor	8	Mid. ord. v. to good	8	Do factory	190	Pimento	0 5 1/2
Bahia, finest	60	Japan, refined	3	Low to good ord.	6	Do factory	190	Ocinamon—1st sort.	0 11
COFFEE—British grown	60	Cardamoms, Ceylon	2	Do do 1st, good	6	Do factory	190	Do 2nd	0 10
24.4d. foreign 28s. cwt.	60	Canth. rid. China pr. lb.	4	Do do 2nd, good	4	Do factory	190	Do 4th	0 9
E. India finest d. m. d.	80	Castor-oil	85	Kurpah, gd. mid. to gd.	5	Do factory	190	Chili	0 24
Do good to fine	120	Gum Benj. Sum. cwt.	60	Low to mid.	3	Do factory	190	Cloves—Lignae	45
Central American, gd.	85	Oilbalm	2	H.R.M.P.—per ton	4	Do factory	190	Cloves—Zanzibar	1 4 1/2
ord. to mid.	100	Ipecacuanha	60	Russian Sirots	4	Do factory	190	Penang	0 3
Mid. to fine	105	Must. pod, China	2	Nov. Jan.	32	Do factory	190	Ginger—per cwt.	109
Columbian, ordinary	64	Oil, Cassia	6	N. Z. spot, high fair	33	Do factory	190	Do small rough	55
Do gd. ord. to low	68	Aniseed	2	JUTE—	2	Do factory	190	Do washed	55
Do mid. to fine	101	Peppermint, H.G.H.	4	Native first marks	35/10	Do factory	190	Japan	45
OILS—		Rhubb, China, fr. to fr.	4	Do do 1st	35/10	Do factory	190	Manila, small	176
Acid, citric	1 10	DYE STUFFS, &c.	6	Do do 2nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Nitric	0 24	Galls, China, per cwt	6	Do do 3rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Oxalic, net	0 0	Turnerie, Bengal	nom	Do do 4th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Tartaric, English	1 2	Madras, finger	22	Do do 5th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Foreign	1 12	Gambier, block	34	Do do 6th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Alum lump	10 14	Do cut, ord. to fair	22	Do do 7th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Do ground	15 15	DYEWOODS—	18	Do do 8th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Ammonia, carb., p. lb.	0 4	Brazil	18	Do do 9th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Muriatic, White, ton	3 35	Eucalyptus	10	Do do 10th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	4 17	Cuba	15	Do do 11th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Acetic, lump, per ton	65	Lima Wood	20	Do do 12th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Powder	60	Logwood, Campechy	12	Do do 13th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Ashe, pot., per cwt	70	Honduras	11	Do do 14th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Pearl do	80	Jamaica	10	Do do 15th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Bleaching pwr., p. to	15/10	Bed Benders	12	Do do 16th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Borax, crystals	28	Sapang Ceylon	15	Do do 17th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Do powder	28	FLAX—spot—c.i.f.	2	Do do 18th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Crystalline	28	Biga ZE	15	Do do 19th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
88% powder	96	Perman H/A Medium	110	Do do 20th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Oilmeal	4 11	FRUIT—	1	Do do 21st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Iodine, dry	1 9	Oranges, Val. selected	15	Do do 22nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Nitrate of Soda, p. to	13/10	Do cases	15	Do do 23rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
POWERS—		Do Naples, boxes	0	Do do 24th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Chlorate, net	0 42	Lemons, Naples, cases	0	Do do 25th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Prussiate	1 5	Do do	0	Do do 26th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Do Foreign	1 5	Do Sicilian boxes	6	Do do 27th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do cases	15	Do do 28th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do Malaga cases	11	Do do 29th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 30th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 31st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 32nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 33rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 34th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 35th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 36th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 37th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 38th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 39th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 40th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 41st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 42nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 43rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 44th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 45th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 46th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 47th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 48th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 49th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 50th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 51st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 52nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 53rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 54th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 55th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 56th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 57th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 58th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 59th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 60th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 61st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 62nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 63rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 64th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 65th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 66th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 67th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 68th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 69th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 70th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 71st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 72nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 73rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 74th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 75th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 76th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 77th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 78th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 79th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 80th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 81st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 82nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 83rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 84th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 85th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 86th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 87th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 88th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 89th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 90th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 91st	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 92nd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 93rd	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 94th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 95th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 96th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 97th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 98th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 99th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176
Sulphate	2 23	Do do	0	Do do 100th	35/10	Do factory	190	Do do	176

Insurance.

DEATH DUTIES.

Leave your property intact for your heirs by effecting a Death Duty Policy.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1.

REFUGEE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Chief Office: OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER.

(For the year ending December 31st, 1921)

ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDED £6,600,000

ASSETS EXCEEDED £21,600,000

CLAIMS PAID EXCEEDED £34,900,000.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

60 Finsbury square, London, E.C.2. Premium income exceeds £1,850,000. Funds exceed £8,000,000. Claims paid exceed £4,000,000. Annual Reports and Prospectuses can be obtained on application.

THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY

STERLING FOUR PER CENT. 500-YEAR DEBENTURE STOCK.

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited, give notice that the TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 21st to the 30th instant, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the Warrants for the interest due 1st January, 1923.

No. 8 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.
1st December, 1922.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the Tenth Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at Winchester House (Hall No. 174) Old Broad Street, London, E.C.4., on Monday, the 11th day of December, 1922, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, to receive the 10th Report and Accounts, and to declare a dividend, to elect Directors and Auditors, and to transact any other business of an Ordinary General Meeting.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer wishing to attend or vote at this Meeting must deposit their Warrants with the Company at the Registered Office days before the date thereof.

The TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 4th to the 11th December, 1922, inclusive. Dated this 1st day of December, 1922.

By order of the Board,

very sceptical concerning the continuance of ease, knowing from recent experience that—quite apart from the usual squeeze at the end of the year—as soon as the Government has sold enough Treasury bills to pay off the Bank, the margin between the market and poverty is likely to be slender; and that if this has been so during the late and still prevalent depression, any revival of trade can only make it more so. And so discount rates gave way very little. The high rate at which the Treasury bills were allotted yesterday caused general surprise, and made the rate for three months' commercial bills firm, but very nominal at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.

	Dec. 8, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	(Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	(Jly. 13, '22)
Discount	1	1	1	1	(Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	(Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	$2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$	..

The Bank return showed increases of £180,000 in the Note circulation and £7,000 in the stock of gold, and a consequent decrease of £173,000 in the Reserve. Government securities rose by $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions, presumably on Ways and Means advances, while repayments by the market had reduced Other securities by two millions. Public deposits having declined by nearly six millions, there was a total addition of 22 millions to the Other deposits. Currency notes outstanding were increased by £2,667,300 to £290,578,000, which includes £1,531,800 for Notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £240,896,300, or £69,092,100 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The disbursement of Government dividends at the end of last week has failed to expand the volume of Stock Exchange business. Markets are overshadowed by uncertainty as to the outcome of the meeting of Premiers this week-end, and by the expected issues of large amounts of new stock in connection with the Government plans for alleviating unemployment. The gilt-edged list, as a whole, is lower on the week, but in the foreign section there has been some slight recovery in Brazilian, Chilean, and Chinese bonds. Home Rails are quiet, and Argentine Rails are much more subdued than in preceding weeks. Rubber shares have shown some strength, and oils rallied, the principal feature in the latter section being the rise in Roumanian Consolidated on the chairman's statement that Government compensation for the destruction of the company's property before the German advance is likely to be larger than was expected. Courtaulds and Imperial Tobaccos have been the features of the industrial section, though iron and steel shares have hardened a little. Mines have been uninteresting, though the Kafir dividends are beginning to appear.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Our Manchester correspondent this week sends an unfavourable report on the state of the cotton trade, in the course of which he mentions that "curtailment of production is increasing, and more unemployment is showing itself," adding that "traders have not confidence in current values, there being a definite belief in lower prices." Both in London and Australia wool continues in demand, and sells at prices which the present state of trade in the manufacturing centres would hardly seem to justify. The pig-iron market is quiet, but the steel trade is better and the outlook more encouraging. Our Sheffield correspondent states that "the local unemployed roll has been reduced 2,000 during the last month," and that though "it still approaches 30,000.....a regular decline henceforward is likely to take place." The South Wales coal market continues to gather strength from day to day, and the general position is sound. A good business has been done in linseed, buyers competing freely, and the demand for the oil product has been in sympathy with the improved position of the seed. Lower prices have been recorded for hides and skins, and the demand for sole leather is easier, but the shoe trade is moderately well employed.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The outstanding feature on a quiet market has again been the strength of sterling in New York. From 4.52 on December 1st the rate has moved up, quietly at first, and then, apart from a temporary check in the middle of the week, more rapidly, to a level of 4.57 yesterday morning. Quotations for forward dollars are unchanged at one cent per month above spot. No outstanding factor has appeared to explain this strong movement, which would seem to a large extent to be due at the moment to a rapid growth of confidence in America in English conditions and prospects, coupled with a scarcity of sterling bills. At the same time, although both the normal movement at this period of the year and the general increase in prices in the States would lead one to have expected a rise in quotation, the present jump upwards would seem to be too rapid to justify confidence that it will continue without interruption. The strength of sterling was reflected during the earlier part of the week in a renewed rise in the Paris quotation from 64.25 on the 1st to 65.30 on the 6th. Since then the confidence, however slight the grounds for it may be, which invariably accompanies a new Conference has brought some recovery, so that yesterday morning the Paris rate was down again at 64.05. Brussels has again widened somewhat on the Paris rate from 69.45 on the 1st to 69.50 yesterday morning. Future quotations are rather wider than last week, both in Paris and Brussels. In Italy continued confidence in the Mussolini régime has brought the lira rate down from 93 $\frac{3}{4}$ a week ago to 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ yesterday morning. Switzerland, on the news of the rejection of the proposed capital levy, recovered sharply at the beginning of the week, but this has been more than lost again, the rate standing at 24.22 $\frac{3}{4}$, as compared with 24.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ a week ago. Madrid has again depreciated slightly to 29.44, while Lisbon is a little better. Amsterdam, after being steady for most of the week, has moved up sharply in our favour to 11.45, as compared with 11.41 $\frac{1}{2}$. The German mark is as little dealt in as before, but the rate, after moving upwards a little, has been favourably affected by the approaching Conference and the report of a fresh German Reparation proposal, and now stands at about 1,000 points better at 34.500. In Central Europe, the Viennese rate shows signs of some improvement now that the new financial measures have been finally passed and the prospectus issued of the new National Bank. Warsaw, after some recovery, is back again at 80,000. Prague is fairly steady, but at 144 shows a slight tendency to move upwards. Belgrade shows some appreciation, but both the Bucharest and Sofia rates are slightly higher. The Athens quotation which is more or less nominal, has now moved up to 475. In the East, the rupee at 1s 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d is a shade cheaper, and the yen at 2s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d is also $\frac{1}{2}$ d lower. The silver market recovered a little after last week's low prices, but there is no indication of any lasting improvement. Hong Kong at 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and Shanghai at 3s 1d both show a drop from last week's prices. In South America, Buenos Ayres at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ is unchanged, as also is Valparaiso at 36.90, after being higher. Monte Video at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ d is $\frac{1}{2}$ d dearer, Rio ver. slightly cheaper at just below 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 2nd:—

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
From Revenue	Mln. £	Interest on Debt	Mln. £
Amount borrowed	11-391	Supply Services	37-6
Taken from Exchequer balances	37-364	Burdies	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	49-257		49-2
Revenue amounted to £11,391,000, to which Custom contributed £2,781,000 and Excise £1,568,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £3,071,000, Post Office yielded £1,000,000, and £1,005,000 came into the accounts under Miscellaneous. Expenditure, £49,257,400, was mainly comprised of interest on war debt, which amounted to £37,591,100.			
The week's operations increased the National Debt by £37,363,830, and caused the following changes:—			
National Savings Certificates	+ 300	National War Bonds paid off	- 1289
44% Treasury Bonds	+ 1-289	Unemployment Insurance	- 21-950
Public Debt Advances	+ 21-950	Funding Loan, &c.	- 10-750
Bank of England Advances	+ 10-750	Other Debt	- 3-988
Treasury Bills	+ 3-988	Burdies	- 013
Land Settlement	+ 013		
	+ 38-290		

The floating debt was increased by £36,695,000 to £948,153,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to December 2, 1922).

Total spent	£ 524,533,224	Raised by revenue ..	£ 534,191,565
Dec. in balances	8,170,516	Net repayments	17,828,917
Total	516,362,648	Total	516,362,648

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 820,775,000
Special Expenditure ..	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Dec. 2, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term. Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
44% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 & 5% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds ..	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,926	1,956	1,953	1,953	1,953
4% Funding Loan	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,201
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	360	357	348	346	335	335
3% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5-15 year Treas. Bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	40	40
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	69
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	735
Do by tender 4%	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	735
Treasury Bills	20	332	334	323	319	289	218	185	136
Exchequer Bonds	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	367
Natnl. Savings Certs.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
War Expend. Certs.	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,073
Other Debt	..	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
American Loan	..	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	212
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,655	7,835
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,902

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	Dec. 3, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Dec. 2, '22.	Dec. 2, '22.
Temporary Advances	10,750,000	10,750,000	10,750,000	10,750,000	10,750,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	27,250,000	147,301,500	201,488,300	21,950,000	21,950,000
Advances by Public Deposits ..	194,438,000	882,219,000	735,915,000	3,995,000	3,995,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,101,107,000	1,321,795,000	1,029,520,500	948,153,500	36,695,000
Total Floating Debt	1,321,795,000	1,029,520,500	948,153,500	36,695,000	36,695,000

A CRITICAL CONFERENCE.

By the time these lines are in print the Allied Prime Ministers will have arrived for the Conference in London. For some time past the feeling has been current in Great Britain, and now appears to have extended to Paris, that unless and until the Prime Ministers of France and Great Britain come to a joint understanding about their Reparations policy, it would be extremely unwise to summon the Germans to a Conference at Brussels for the sake of watching the futile manoeuvres of the Allied Powers. On both sides the situation calls for very great tact and statesmanship, and the penalties of failure will be very heavy indeed. In the case of Great Britain, a pessimistic answer would have to be given to the question which Mr Lloyd George asked in the House the other night—namely, whether the present spell of unemployment is a more than usually acute fluctuation in trade, or whether we must assume that Great Britain is over-industrialised, and can never hope to re-absorb our present unemployed into industry? The suggestion that the Empire may provide an outlet so large as to absorb our pre-war output is illusory, and certainly could only be achieved after many years and much dislocation in the forms of production. But a complete failure on the Reparations question means that we shall be driven back on this policy, for there is that really imminent danger that Europe may be cut out of the commercial map of the world for a decade. For France, a failure to reach a settlement within the next few months almost certainly means a complete collapse of her whole Reparations claim, and this in its turn means, as Mr Keynes clearly shows in the

current section of the *Manchester Guardian Reconstruction Numbers*, that France will be driven down the same road of monetary inflation as her debtors, and by the disguised taxation which inflation involves would pay for her own reconstruction at the expense of her investors and her middle classes. We need hardly add that if the Reparation question ends in the dissolution into chaos of the financial structure of Europe, it would be a profound disaster, not only for Europe, but for civilisation.

We have said that the situation calls for statesmanship on both sides, and we have frequently pointed out the plain and straight path for British Ministers. It is as true to-day as it was when the Bankers' Committee reported in June that no progress can be made towards a solution unless concessions are made on the inter-Allied debts. Even the Federation of British Industries, who are perhaps the best watchdogs of the British income-taxpayer, are prepared to offer a prolonged moratorium of the debts, and at, say, 20 years this is nearly equivalent to writing them down to zero. But without any desire to assume a critical attitude toward France, and recognising to the full the special difficulties of our late Ally, we venture to think that the most severe test is that which now awaits M. Poincaré and his colleagues. A recent despatch from the Paris correspondent of the *Times* suggests that M. Poincaré is meditating plans which involve the cutting down of Reparations to 40 milliards of gold marks, compared with 50 milliards, plus a contingent liability many years hence, which was supposed to be his plan in July of this year. France, like every other nation, has indeed learnt much from the logic of events, and has from time to time modified her first exalted hopes. But hitherto the reduction of these hopes has been made too late, and she has been following, but never catching up with, the rapidly deteriorating economic situation on the part of her debtor. M. Poincaré's hesitating tactics at the August Conference have been sharply criticised on both sides of the Channel. It is most important that he should not make the same mistake again.

The true situation in Germany, political, psychological, and economic, is going from bad to worse. This is very clearly shown by Dr Walter Leaf in the address given last night to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which the chairman of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank points out the essentially rotten foundations of the full employment which has been current in Germany until lately, and calls attention to the highly significant fact that unless all German trade statistics are profoundly wrong—and there is some possibility that they may be far wide of the mark—Germany, in spite of the difficulty of her depreciated exchange, has been buying more than she has sold to the outside world, and has probably been producing at less than 75 per cent. of her capacity. The German nation is to-day faced with an extreme difficulty in purchasing either food or raw materials from abroad—though 20 millions of her people have to be supported on imported food, and is faced with the most serious food problem in the coming winter. Finally, the holdings of bank balances by Germans in foreign countries have been dwindling, possibly to pay for the imports which she has been receiving in the last few months. Moreover, Dr Leaf is greatly impressed

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY.

Subscribed Capital ..	- £38,117,103
Paid-up Capital	- 10,860,852
Reserve Fund	- 10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	- 368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

OVER 1,850 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

with the psychological deterioration. "Germany seems to me to have lost the grit for which she was once famous, and is drifting towards ruin with the vacant stare of the opium victim. And the drug which has taken her into bondage is none other than the fatal opiate of a degraded currency—so pleasant at first, so horribly cumulative in its working, so hard to shake off."

It is considerations such as these that led the experts recently to seek for even a temporary means of preventing exchange depreciation without waiting for final settlement of the Reparations scheme. We gave, however, our reasons a fortnight ago for the view that it is practically impossible to expect any improvement until the Reparations scheme is settled on a possible and acceptable basis. This is the first task of the present Conference. We entirely agree with Dr. Leaf that at the moment practically nothing can be got from Germany, and that as the Associated Chambers of Commerce have stated in their manifesto, any arrangement made must relieve Germany from the necessity of paying anything in the immediate future. At the same time, it is important to remember that the physical measurement of production and a comparison of the present with the pre-war situation makes it in some degree possible to ignore values in depreciated marks, and it should not be beyond the wit of man to devise a basis of a new assessment. The effect of depreciation makes the estimate more difficult by bringing in far-reaching influences. It would, for example, be next to impossible to guess what Russia could pay ten years hence, but Germany's industrial plant and labour is not yet dissipated, and we believe the task could still be accomplished. But if France is to accept a settlement, and still more, if anyone is to be persuaded to lend money on the strength of it, there must be sound security that it will, in fact, be honoured by Germany. In the original Ter Meulen scheme and in the present Austrian settlement there is provision for pledging definite assets hypothecated as security for whatever loans are raised. France has her eyes upon German mines and forests, and it is commonly supposed here that the French plan is to take over and run these assets. But the important point is the attitude behind this claim rather than its precise form. We think there should be no difficulty in agreeing with France that if a moratorium is to be granted, something in the nature of guarantees that a banker would accept is needed, and it should not be beyond the bounds of possibility to work some practical form of security. We ought to stand by France in requiring Germany to offer something tangible in return for a moratorium. Britain, however, will not stand for a policy by which France can intervene and exploit German resources on oppressive terms, which would sooner or later provoke a renewal of war.

A fundamental difficulty from the French standpoint is to convert a claim, in respect of which no immediate payment can be expected, into cash for the relief of her own financial situation; for while Germany is in extreme difficulties economically and financially, France is faced with the task of paying interest on a debt which is constantly being swollen by expenditure on restoration, and the annual charge on which will soon absorb her whole Budget receipts. France's minimum demand is to secure at once the means of covering interest on the restoration expenditure already incurred and new expenditure which she must incur in the near future—though with a bankrupt debtor it is a regrettable necessity that the investing of new resources in the devastated areas must for the moment be limited by the financial situation. The ultimate goal which must constantly be borne in mind is to convert the Reparation debt into securities bought and sold on the money markets of the world; for it is only when this is accomplished that the political complications of the Reparation question can be disposed of. At the moment, only a very little money could be raised on the Reparation claim, and that only on condition that the total debt is fixed on a practical basis. But it has to be remembered that a loan operation might, under certain conditions, be facilitated by the fact that a great deal of reconstruction capital has in fact already been put up by the French investor, and that, if a conversion could be effected in France itself, which would transfer some of this debt to German account, the amount of new money

needed to carry on the restoration is much less overwhelming than the figures that have sometimes been bandied about.

But at the back of the problem lies the need to enlist the active interest of Germany in its solution, and in this connection the only lever that we can see is that the Allies should offer to Germany not the immediate evacuation of the Rhineland, but its progressive release as rapidly as the revised Reparation total can be converted into ordinary German securities. Unless some provision of this kind is embodied, there is little prospect of a really effective conclusion.

It is, however, desirable to remember that undue haste in the Downing Street discussions this week-end may defeat its object. At the present moment Great Britain and France are engaged in delicate and complicated negotiations at Lausanne. The upshot of these negotiations should be known within a few weeks. If the two countries can emerge from that conference in complete agreement on the grave matters of foreign policy under discussion, the way to co-operation and agreement on the Reparations problem should be rendered less difficult.

LAUSANNE AND THE FREEDOM OF THE STRAITS.

THIS week the Lausanne Conference has broached the crucial question of the Straits, and if the parties show little sign of coming to an agreement, at least they have not yet agreed to differ, but are finding it worth while to set forth their respective points of view in statement and counter-statement. The most interesting features in the debate are the reticence of the Turkish Delegation, and the active participation of the American observer. The Turks have confined themselves, so far, to expressing a preference for the Russian programme, as against any of the others that have been placed before the Conference. The Russians are the only non-Turkish party that are willing to leave the Straits under Turkish naval and military control, and their scheme would be all that Turkey could desire, but for the one serious drawback that its execution depends on the permanent backing of Turkey by Russia, or, to put it the other way round, on the permanent attraction of Turkey into Russia's orbit. Of course, the Turks realise this, and do not like it. Their aim is real as well as nominal independence; but the small countries of the Middle East, like those of S.E. Europe, can only attain to independence of this kind through solidarity with one another, and both groups have a long way still to travel before they reach this goal.

Among the S.E. European States there was a marked *rapprochement* at the beginning of the Conference. Rumania (and in a secondary degree, the other members of the Little Entente) was anxious to prevent Bulgaria from entering a Turco-Russian combination, and realised that the only means of preventing this was to reconcile Bulgaria with Greece by securing for her the already promised economic outlet to the Aegean. In the question pointed out, Rumania and Bulgaria have fundamentally the same interests, identical with those of the other Danubian countries, and divergent from that of Turkey, the potential mistress of the Straits, and Russia, the potentially predominant naval Power in the Black Sea; and if the commercial thoroughfare through the Straits becomes precarious, the railway route to the open port but to Rumania too. These welcome symptoms of solidarity have, however, been checked by the natural, though impolitic objection of M. Venizelos to the cession of further Thracian territories in order to make a Bulgarian corridor. The arrangements proposed by the Conference have left Bulgaria dissatisfied, and the subsequent *coup d'état* by the Macedonian refugees at Kustendil, whatever its outcome, is a warning that the breach between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia will not be closed so easily as that between Bulgaria and Rumania, whose acquisitions of rightfully Bulgarian territory and population have been comparatively modest.

In the Middle Eastern area, solidarity is the vision of an even more distant future. It is true that Islam is more of a bond than orthodox, but the nationality disputes between Turkey, the Arab States, and Persia are latent rather than non-existent. Turkey will not easily re-

linquish her claim to Alexandretta, now included in Arab Syria, nor Iraq acquiesce in the Turkish claim to Mosul. The Baghdad Railway between Aleppo and Nisibia will be a fruitful source of contention, for it is equally essential as a line of communication between Turkey and her North-Eastern vilayets, and as a link between the two Arab states of Iraq and Syria. Oil and Kurds, which spring from the same soil, will set Turkey, Persia, and Iraq by the ears, and will doubtless produce many more or less violent changes of frontier; and then there is the Turkish-speaking minority in Persia, which is already an object of Turkish irredentism. Thus a Middle Eastern Entente (first projected during the European War by Germany) is still far to seek. Turkey and Afghanistan may have no obstacle to friendship in the shape of hobnob, having no common frontier, but it will be more difficult to extend a common good understanding to Persia, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt, and, before that is achieved, the last word about the Black Sea and the Straits (and *à fortiori* about the Red Sea and the Suez Canal) will not be spoken by the local riverains, but by Powers outside the Near and Middle Eastern area.

What has happened this week shows that this fundamental factor in the Eastern Question, which dominated it all through the last century, has not been altered. In spite of the long strides towards independence which Turkey has made during the last four years, she is not yet able to carry through a policy of her own in regard to the Straits, but has merely the choice of identifying herself with the Russian policy or with the Western one formulated by the three Principal Allied Powers, but evidently supported by America also. This is the old familiar situation. Turkey and the other Middle Eastern countries, with stronger Powers on either side of them, must lean on one group or the other, and the direction in which they lean is almost automatically determined by the relative strength, at any given moment, of these external forces. When Russia is aggressive, Turkey will incline towards France, Great Britain, or Germany. That was the situation down to 1917. When Russia is on the defensive, Turkey will incline towards her, and that is the situation now. Lord Curzon pointed out that the respective traditional policies of Western Europe and Russia have been reversed, and M. Chicherin, in reply, gave a not unfair diagnosis of the reason. Britain had passed to the offensive, and therefore the maintenance of a zone of buffer states had now become the interest of Russia.

In other words, we are still reaping the fruits of Mr Churchill's policy. The Russians will not easily forget that, since 1917, Allied troops have on various occasions been in occupation of Odessa, Batum and Baku, and that when Denikin was on the point of collapse he was revived and almost rendered victorious by the despatch of French and British munitions through the Straits, which had just been brought under Western naval and military control by the Armistice of Mudros. M. Chicherin's declaration that the present Allied proposals will force Russia to arm is not false rhetoric, but a legitimate moral from recent experience as regarded from the Russian point of view. The present menace to Russia in the Black Sea is as genuine as that to British sea communications in the Mediterranean would have been if Russia, before 1917, had obtained the right of naval egress through the Straits into the Aegean. Lord Curzon's contention that the Russian proposals are based on an accidental and ephemeral grouping of the Powers is not unconvincing, but he begs the question when he assumes that the new Western proposals are by contrast stable and durable. Our present desire that the passage of the Straits shall be open to warships as well as to merchantmen is surely based on our temporary, though fast vanishing, military and naval superiority in this area, just as much as is the present desire of Russia to return to the *status quo* of the nineteenth century, which we at that time supported, while she opposed it. Lord Curzon and Mr Chicherin both dismiss very lightly their sudden reversal of the century-old tradition of their respective countries. Yet are they both well advised to base their policy on the facts of the last few years rather than on those of the preceding century? Is it not at least as likely that the recent facts are exceptional and the nineteenth-century situation a more normal state of affairs, to which things are likely to return?

The declaration made on behalf of the United States by Mr Child in favour of freedom of passage for warships is probably inspired partly by the immediate urgency of protecting the American relief organisations in their heroic efforts to save the minorities that are being evicted from Anatolia, and partly by the special tenacity of the American national temperament in maintaining existing American rights abroad (a characteristic which will also have an important influence on the question of the Capitulations). Yet, from a broader point of view, it is regrettable that this question of passage for warships should be thrust into the foreground. The real world-interest in regard to the Straits is that in peace or in war whether local or general, the free passage of merchant ships of all flags should be impeded as little as possible. The test of this question of warships, as of all the other subsidiary issues, is simply this: is freedom of passage for warships likely to help or to hinder the cause of freedom for merchantmen? Surely it will do the latter, as is indicated by the career of the "Goeben" and the "Breslau." Once inside the Straits, a warship is made as formidable by the geographical conditions as it is made impotent so long as it is excluded from the Narrows; and if warships may pass through, both the international authority responsible for the freedom of the waterway, and the Turkish authority responsible for the security of Constantinople, will have to treble and quadruple their precautions. If warships are to have free passage, the international authority and the Turkish authority will both insist on having mines, submarines, howitzers, and divisions in order to deal with such warships in case at any time they are tempted, as they well may be, to misconduct themselves, and when once both parties are driven to insist on powerful naval and military guarantees they are bound to come to a deadlock, since a double military and naval control of the Straits is impossible. The Turkish and the international interests in the matter can only be reconciled by demilitarisation, and the supporters of passage for warships have, therefore, first to show how demilitarisation is compatible with their demand.

A DYING ACT.

As one reads the two debates in the House this week on the Safeguarding of Industries Act, and examines the results of the divisions, one derives satisfaction from the fact that the Protectionists have received no encouragement to press on the administration of the measure. The official majority of the Government is put at 71. On Monday, when the amendment to the Address calling for the repeal of the Act was defeated, the Government majority fell to 62, although 35 National Liberals abstained from voting. Had these Liberals carried their reluctance to support the Act to the length of voting against it, the majority would have been no more than 27. As a matter of fact, twenty National Liberals and four Unionists did vote against it. On Wednesday, when the gas-mantle Order imposing a duty of one-third on mantles imported from Germany came up for confirmation, the Government could not whip up a larger majority than 51. Six Unionists and some twenty National Liberals voted against the Order, among whom were Sir Alfred Mond, Mr Fisher, Commander Hilton Young, and other ex-Ministers who had shared in the responsibility last year of placing the Act upon the Statute Book. Some National Liberals again abstained, and it is clear, so far as this Act is concerned, that the Liberals who were supporters of the late Coalition are moving definitely towards Opposition. What is also clear is that the Act, which was passed only last year as a compromise between the two wings of the Coalition, would have no chance at all of acceptance by the present House of Commons had it to begin again as a Bill. It is a legacy from the Coalition, a *damnosa hereditas*, which is in secret damned almost as much by Unionists as by National Liberals.

Let us for a moment pause and take stock of how the country now stands in regard to this Safeguarding of Industries Act. Under Part I. the so-called Key Industries get general protection for nearly four more years, that is to say, for approximately the life of the present House of Commons. Under Part II. there have been passed two Orders which will expire in August, 1924. These Orders

give protection against imports from Germany to fabric gloves and glove fabric, domestic glassware unmounted, some kinds of illuminating glassware, domestic hollowware enamelled or made of aluminium, and incandescent gas-mantles. It has taken more than a year to get these few small industries on the protected list under Part II., and time is running on. No industries have yet succeeded in getting themselves sheltered under the "dumping" clauses, which are the only permanent portion of the whole Act. And industries, which in the course of next year succeed in wriggling through the barbed wire of the collapsed exchanges clauses, cannot under the Act get protection beyond August, 1924. Every month which passes henceforward will make the protection of the collapsed exchange provisions less attractive to complainant industries—because the period of protection will be so short—and will cause the Cabinet and the Board of Trade less and less eager to put forth Orders which are here to-day and gone, as it were, to-morrow. It would seem highly improbable that the active period of complaints, inquiries, and upon rare occasions Orders, will continue for more than about six months. After that time has elapsed the collapsed exchange provisions will be so near death as to be quite moribund. The "dumping" clauses will still remain, it is true, but the results of attempts to get anti-dumping Orders made have so far not been encouraging to applicants. None have succeeded.

There is this to be said for Part II. of the Act. The protection which it holds out with one hand is very firmly withheld by the other. Scores of complaining industries have found that the Board of Trade is not to be bluffed. There is the Act, and the Board administers it faithfully and judiciously, but from the first no laxity has been permitted in the interpretation of its provisions. First the Board has to be satisfied that complainants have made out a *prima facie* case. It is not easily satisfied, and comparatively few complaints get through this first line of defence. Then comes the reference to Committees, and here again there is no readiness to accept complaints at their face value. Finally, the Board has to judge, after receiving the reports of Committees, whether the case for an Order has really been made out; even the consent of the Cabinet to an Order must be obtained. We see the result. The path to an Order is so strait and well guarded that no more than six industries out of more than a hundred which have tried to march upon it have succeeded in getting through.

It might be concluded from this survey of the Act in practice, and from the brief statutory duration of most of its provisions, that there was little to worry about. But in our view this decision would be a great mistake. The Act itself may be a matter for derision—it is styled by some the Safeguarding of Interests Act, and by others the Stopping of Industries Act—but its passage last year has done an immense disservice to the freedom of trade throughout the world. Last year there was a spate of tariff legislation almost everywhere, in Europe, in America, in the Dominions. The Protectionists in all countries were in the ascendant, and those who desired to give to the shattered world a chance of recovery were profoundly discouraged by Great Britain's lapse into protection. It was as if we in this great Free-trade country had sold the pass. It was no longer possible to quote England's belief in Free-trade if England, by passing the Safeguarding of Industries Act, had revealed her disbelief. The effects of our action were, and remain, deplorable. Here we have Austria and the Succession States ringed about with tariff walls which almost prohibit that natural flow of trade which would lead to economic recovery. We and our Allies are making a guaranteed loan to Austria, yet because of our lapse into protection we cannot insist that the tariff walls be thrown down. Satan reproving sin always fails to bring sinners to repentance. There is now some reaction against the tariff madness of last year, and that reaction might have been furthered could Great Britain, by repealing the Safeguarding of Industries Act, have demonstrated to all the world that it believed in repentance. The Act is unloved, undesired, except by those few industries which get protection under it, yet it remains as a stumbling-block, a cause of offence, in a world which is beginning to see that freedom of production and of trade exchange can alone restore the waste of war.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

We review below the annual report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which has been issued this week. At the present moment, however, oil politics are perhaps attracting more attention than oil finance. While the oil share market in Throgmorton Street is weak and neglected, oil is occupying a prominent place on the stage at Lausanne, and the contrast of these two facts shows that politicians are at the moment taking more interest in oil than investors. We mentioned last week the offer made to American interests of shares in the Turkish Petroleum Company, based on America's demand for "the open door." We referred also to the Chester concessions. Since then the *Times'* New York correspondent has reported that much interest is being taken in the United States in the departure for Lausanne of Mr Untermeyer, whose mission is "to urge upon the Lausanne Conference the claims of 22 Turkish princes and princesses to oil-fields estimated to be worth over £200,000,000 sterling." These were, apparently, formerly the property of Abdul Hamid. According to the *Times'* cable, an informant of the *New York Times* stated "that the British Government has now abandoned its contention that it had an option from Abdul Hamid on his lands, and that the Standard Oil Company, after making repeated efforts to effect an arrangement with the Turkish heirs, induced the State Department to urge the open door in Iraq for all nations, and thus help it in the campaign to wrest the oil property from the rightful Turkish heirs." The cable then goes on to say that the Standard Oil Company has issued an official denial of these charges, and announces that "it stands for the open door for all American interests in Mesopotamia, and is not attempting to appropriate there or elsewhere any rights legally owned by other interests." The curiosity of the public is whetted by such scraps of information as this; and in the absence of full knowledge of what is really going on, suspicion is naturally engendered that the influence of oil interests, British, American, or otherwise, is working vigorously behind the political scenes, and may be exerting an effect upon international negotiations which is far from beneficial or desirable. There is, in our opinion, need for a clear official statement from Lausanne on the politics of oil; and we hope also that the chairman of the Anglo-Persian at the annual meeting on Monday will see fit to enlighten the public as far as possible.

Registered in April, 1909, to acquire a concession granted by the Shah of Persia, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had anything but an auspicious infancy, and it was not until the year 1914-15 that sufficient profits were made to meet the payment of preference dividend. In consequence, the Burmah Oil Company, which in 1914 held nearly one million ordinary shares, received in payment for its share in the original concession, had to advance nearly £150,000 to pay the preference dividend. Since 1915 the company has been exceedingly prosperous. Up till that time depredations of Persian tribesmen upon the company's property and pipe lines were a source of continual trouble, but the growth of the company's operations in succeeding years has been very rapid. To what extent this is due to the contract to supply the British Admiralty with oil fuel made early in 1914, when Mr Winston Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty, which was followed in May of the same year by an agreement by the British Government to subscribe for two million ordinary and 1,000 preference shares, it is impossible to say. Had it not been for the war whether the deal was to his advantage. Mr Churchill, in June, 1914, argued that hitherto the Government had been obliged to pay excessive prices for oil, and that by making the contract with the Anglo-Persian Company "what we lose in prices we gain in profits."

During the war the company's profits rose steadily, but in the post-war boom there was an enormous expansion, and the company has become one of the largest English joint-stock concerns. In 1910 the paid-up capital was £1,150,172, and there was £600,000 5 per cent. debenture stock. To-day the paid-up capital is £17,112,800, and the 5 per cent. debenture stock out-

standing £4,750,000. Financial results for the past five years and for 1913-14 are compared below:—

March 31.	1913-14.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Profit	£ 20,785	£ 1,517,215	£ 2,287,886	£ 5,577,507	£ 5,477,627	£ 3,988,164
Fees and legal expenses ..	8,536	11,095	9,999	10,626	15,176	11,310
Debiture and other interest ..	38,960	116,560	86,575	152,500	245,312	242,187
Income-tax	..	..	125,179	430,387	500,632	181,935
Royalty to Persian Government ..	..	81,002	55,418	322,479	463,484	422,351
New issue expenses, &c.	..	42,839	..	233,302	135,543	..
Special appropriations	..	175,547	..	50,000	25,000	..
Net profit	Dr26,711	1,090,172	2,010,805	5,378,213	5,892,479	5,130,381
Brought forward	..	19,537	454,723	275,528	*56,313	1,648,792
	Dr26,711	1,109,709	2,465,528	5,653,741	5,948,792	6,779,173
Excess Profits Duty reserves ..	..	..	1,200,000	..	..	..
Debiture redemption reserve ..	..	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	100,000
Preference re-serve	..	..	..	50,000	50,000	100,000
General reserve, &c.	..	200,000	400,000	675,000	555,000	800,000
Preference dividend	..	120,000	160,000	310,000	400,000	795,000
Ordinary dividend	..	204,986	300,000	627,865	1,215,000	1,245,000
Carried forward	Dr26,711	454,723	275,528	910,978	1,648,792	1,733,173

* E.P.D. 1919-20, £854,665, deducted.

There was a sharp drop in profits in the year ended June 30th last, but thanks firstly to a drop in the amount of income-tax debited from £500,600 to £181,900, and to large amounts brought forward from the previous accounts, the balance available for distribution is £830,000 larger than it was a year ago. The royalty payable to the Persian Government is fixed at 16 per cent. of the annual net profits of all companies that may be formed to work the concession, and last year this cost the company over £40,000 less than in 1920-21. The ordinary dividend is maintained at 20 per cent., and the balance carried forward still further increased. Reserve allocations, it will be seen, total £1,000,000, as compared with £685,000 a year ago. As will be seen from the table below, which compares the latest with the preceding balance-sheet, reserves now total £4,591,757, besides which there is the provident fund of over half a million:—

LIABILITIES.		March 31, 1922.		ASSETS.		March 31, 1922.	
Amount.	£	Compared with Mar. 31, 1921.	£	Amount.	£	Compared with Mar. 31, 1921.	£
Ord. shares	6,621,458	.. + 549,458		Purchase price of concession shrs. on and adv. nces to associated cos.	22,022,759	.. + 5,667,481	
8% c.m. pref.	6,988,330	.. + 1,988,380		Refineries, &c.	5,385,408	.. + 1,523,335	
9% cum. pref.	3,500,000	.. + 1,870,516		Stocks of stores, &c.	1,347,661	.. + 62,753	
5% deb. stock	4,750,000	.. — 125,000		Stocks of crude oil, &c.	654,156	.. + 229,691	
Int. secured deb. stock	59,375	.. — 1,563		Sundry debtors	3,301,682	.. — 1,490,614	
Deposits by associated cos.	1,456,721	.. — 2,025,502		Cash	1,237,556	.. + 521,247	
Sundry creditors	2,591,620	.. + 448,397		Investments in Govt. stocks ..	594,428	.. — 1,354,112	
Employees' pension fund acct.	559,666	.. + 240,457					
Reserves	4,591,757	.. + 1,905,756					
Profit and loss	3,421,673	.. + 301,880					
Total	34,543,650	.. + 5,159,781		Total	34,543,650	.. + 5,159,781	

The authorised capital was increased in 1914 from £2 to £4 millions, and since then to £5 millions in 1917 and £20 millions in 1919. The last issue of capital was in January of this year, when two million 8 per cent. preference shares and 600,000 ordinary shares were issued at premiums of 1s and 4s respectively. In the prospectus of that issue it was stated that the Government held five million ordinary shares, of which one million were paid up to the extent of 1s per share. The Finance Accounts for 1921-22 show the Government holding "at cost" at £4,250,000. This consisted of £4,050,000 in ordinary shares, £1,000 in preference shares, and £199,000 debenture stock. The Anglo-Persian report states that since the close of the financial year a call of 19s has been made and paid on the 1,500,000 ordinary shares issued in December, 1919, and on which 1s had been paid-up. The Government, it may be mentioned in passing, has the right to appoint two directors with "a power of veto over all acts of the board and committees of the company, and its subsidiaries." At present the two directors so appointed are Lord Inchcape and Sir Edward Packe.

The increase of nearly two millions in reserves is largely accounted for by the premiums on issues of shares, which are responsible for the credit side is an amalgamation of two items, item on the credit side is an amalgamation of two items, advances to associated companies having hitherto been shown separately. A year ago they figured at £4,342,400. Investments in gilt-edged stocks have been heavily reduced, and there was a big decline in sundry debtors, but refineries, tank installations, pipe lines, &c., have been increased by £1,523,300. The report states that extensions to refineries, including that in Wales, have been delayed by strikes and other causes, but that they will be

ready to work to their fullest capacity by June next, "when a large increase in the quantity of marketable products will be obtained." Further, "rapid progress has been made with the development of existing and new distributing facilities in the United Kingdom, on the Continent, and elsewhere." At the annual meeting, on Monday, a resolution will be submitted empowering the company to borrow to the extent of one-half the nominal amount of the issued share capital, plus one-half of the amount received by way of premium.

THE IRISH FREE STATE.

(BY OUR DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Irish Free State is in being. The British Parliament, with businesslike promptitude, disposed of the two Bills submitted to it for confirmation of the Irish Constitution and for making provision for consequential matters. By Royal Proclamation the Constitution has been brought into operation. The Governor-General has been sworn in; the Dail, or Lower House of the Oireachtas, or Parliament, is in session, and the Seanad (Senate), or Upper House, is in process of being nominated or elected. An Irish Cabinet, or Executive Council, under the Presidency of Mr Cosgrave, is in charge of an Irish Free State fully dowered at last with the national independence which Ireland has for so long hungered, with legislative independence, with executive independence, with fiscal and financial independence—as free as Canada, or Australia, or South Africa. The choice of Mr T. M. Healy, K.C., as Governor-General signalled the rupture of a great tradition. It was evidently designed as a two-fold guarantee that the King's representative would not be an instrument of British policy in Ireland, utilised for British ends by a British Cabinet or Colonial Office, and that he should not serve British purposes as the centre of a brilliant social circle by aristocratic prestige or suave drawing-room intrigues. How far Mr Healy's temperament will permit of his fulfilling his intended functions of non-interference in public affairs it is difficult to foresee—or how far he can concentrate his energies on creating precedents binding his successors to the rôle of august and passive figurehead of a free self-governing State. Mr Cosgrave's list of nominations to the Seanad, including the Dowager Countess of Desart and the senior Marquis in the peerage of Ireland, shows an earnest desire to bring back into the life of the nation those elements of social and other distinction which well-recognised causes have so long incarcerated in a politically impotent minority. The restoration of peace and order will be aided by the great events of the last few days. The pride of the country has been awakened, and the lingering suspicions of British good faith cherished by not a few have been removed. There had been a lull, indeed, where no lull was expected in the larger overt acts of republican disorder—though minor acts remained numerous. But this afternoon two members of the Dail were shot—one killed, and one, the Deputy-Chairman, wounded. A painful incident, but robbed of much of its sensational effect at such a moment by the obviousness of the perpetrator's desire that it should produce a sensational effect. Rather will it accelerate the cold hardening of the popular will, the silent determination that these things cannot be tolerated in the Irish Free State. While these words are being written the Parliament of N.E. Ulster is considering the matter of "contracting out" of the Irish Free State. Everyone, however, knows in advance that the "contracting out" will become a *fait accompli* at the earliest possible moment. That demonstration of independence and individuality had got to be. But later there must ensue negotiations. There must be conference and difference, agreement and adaptation,

almost continual daily touch between Ministers or their agents and officials with the corresponding personages on the other side of the, so far, non-existent fence separating N.E. Ulster from the Irish Free State. Innumerable administrative matters require, and will continue to require, treatment during the transition period. A recent number of the *Economist* indicated briefly some main heads on which negotiation must take place. But if the Irish Free State is to scale its full weight in the balance it will need to be able to point to order restored and peace reigning within its boundaries. Mr Cosgrave, in his opening speech as President of the Executive Council, yesterday addressed N.E. Ulster in the accents of statesmanship, which lacked neither the spirit of conciliation nor the dignity of self-confidence, and enumerated some of the many advantages which might be gained by N.E. Ulster, if while retaining everything, every acre, every right, every protection, every privilege conferred by the Act of 1920, including its Parliament and Lieutenant-Governor, it threw in its lot with the the Irish Free State. Sir James Craig, on the other hand, referred last Saturday to the Boundary Commission and his efforts to arrive at a settlement with the Free State leaders. "He, for one, would not be a party to the setting up of a Commission which would involve such grave consequences for their loyal people." Now this does not go so far as some of his adherents and their Press, who frankly avow their determination to refuse to recognise the Boundary Commission if it is set up, and equally frankly to repudiate the Treaty between Great Britain and the Irish Free State, so far as they may find any of its provisions to be not to their liking. It may mean that he prefers to substitute direct negotiation for a trial before the Commission. He hinted at "some fair give and take arrangement," and "he had told the Southern Government that the boundaries were as nothing compared with the establishment of confidence and co-operation between the North and South—confidence for trade relations, confidence between the citizens, citizens of all creeds and classes, between the people as a whole, so that whether a man was on one side of the boundary or the other, he might be able to move freely and pass the time of day to his neighbour, without having to consider which side of the boundary he was on. He believed that in time that would be brought about." Herein may be described the elements of wisdom. N.E. Ulster wants to "contract out" and yet have no Boundary Commission, which is the necessary sequel to "contracting out" provided by the Treaty. But if Mr Cosgrave will hold his hand as to the Boundary Commission for a short while, just as the *Economist* recently suggested that the setting up of the new Customs frontier might with advantage be postponed for a short while, and if the other negotiations as to the Council of Ireland and as to financial indebtedness to Great Britain are allowed to ripen, he will probably find his patience abundantly rewarded. A composite agreement embracing all these diverse issues, and releasing the British Parliament from all preoccupations with outstanding Irish controversies and economic perplexities, might in truth result in an untying of knots and an unravelling of tangles which would be surprisingly profitable to Ireland, both South and North, without being otherwise than beneficial to Great Britain.

PERUVIAN CORPORATION.

THE report for the year ended June 30th last of the Peruvian Corporation shows that, while the net receipts from railways and steamers, in Peruvian currency, amounted to 5,080,707 Peruvian soles, as compared with 3,615,480 soles in the previous year, net receipts in sterling were £444,562, as against £418,040, the average rate of exchange of 21d, as against 27½d in 1920-21, being the lowest average at which net receipts have ever had to be converted into sterling. Net income from the railways and steamers was £387,293, as against £379,341, and other receipts were also higher, so that total net income was £68,000. The following table shows financial results for the past five years:—

	Year to June 30.				
	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Railway net revenue ..	£ 458,641	£ 386,364	£ 426,391	£ 379,341	£ 387,293
Government annuity ..	110,000	95,000	115,000	46,667	80,000
Guano account	..	..	..	36,026	49,798
Interest, exchange, &c..	29,337	31,641	58,413	30,893	27,965
Total income	597,979	513,005	599,804	492,927	545,056
Administration	23,389	31,892	30,894	45,816	29,926
Balance of revenue	574,590	481,113	568,910	447,111	515,130
Deb. int. (4%)	216,000	216,000	216,000	216,000	216,000
Sums written off, &c. ..	72,271	48,317	92,956	37,050	127,583
Deb. amortisation	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
Available balance	232,319	162,796	205,954	140,061	117,547
Additional deb. int. (2%)	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000
Preference dividend....	111,861	74,576	93,225	37,294	74,592
	(1½%)	(1%)	(1½%)	(½%)	(1%)
Year's balance	12,458	Dr 19,780	4,729	Dr 5,233	Dr 65,045
Brought forward	149,521	161,978	142,198	146,927	149,986
Carried forward	161,979	142,198	146,927	141,694	84,941

There was a substantial reduction in working expenses of the railways and steamers, the ratio to gross revenue dropping from 75 to 67 per cent. The full Government annuity for twelve months was received, but there still remains a balance due of five months' instalments to that date, making a total of £38,499. Guano receipts, it will be seen, show a considerable increase. The report states that the proposal of the Peruvian Government to purchase the guano rights of the corporation having lapsed, a working arrangement has been entered into, under which eight cargoes, representing 23,800 tons, have been shipped during 1922. Of the eight cargoes, two only were shipped before June 30th; six shipments, therefore, equal to 73 per cent. of the total, do not appear in the revenue for the year under review. The substantial drop in the balance available after payment of debenture interest is due to exceptionally heavy debits on income-tax and exchange account, the former being £88,044, as against £33,050, and the latter £35,539, as against nothing a year ago. The additional 2 per cent. interest to which the 4 per cent. debenture bonds are entitled when a dividend in excess of ½ per cent. is paid on the preference stock requires £108,000, and a dividend of 1 per cent. is paid on the 4 per cent. preference stock by drawing on the balance forward to the extent of £65,045. The arrears of preference dividend accrued to the date of balance-sheet have now reached £100 12s 6d per cent.

In the following table we give a comparative summary of the main items of the balance-sheet:—

June 30.	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	Debentures.	Creditors and Bills.	Sinking Fund, Reserve, Insurance and Net Revenue.	Concessions, &c.	Railways.	Investments, Bills, and Cash.
1912	£ 5,236,750	£ 67,228	£ 1,159,121	£ 12,772,305	£ 9,682,939	£ 259,155
1913	5,176,000	71,769	1,253,291	12,772,305	9,700,667	258,741
1914	5,111,750	130,829	1,370,807	12,772,305	9,741,496	322,001
1915	5,043,850	101,634	1,331,057	12,772,305	9,674,848	286,810
1916	4,975,450	84,651	1,440,396	12,772,305	9,568,853	400,943
1917	4,903,800	89,112	1,596,049	12,772,305	9,526,033	540,631
1918	4,824,050	125,153	1,734,037	12,772,305	9,506,566	579,520
1919	4,739,700	120,001	1,770,044	12,772,305	9,506,566	566,685
1920	4,650,550	137,436	1,899,811	12,772,305	9,509,988	383,273
1921	4,556,300	306,257	1,929,906	12,772,305	9,509,988	289,157
1922	4,456,650	302,463	2,022,666	12,772,305	9,509,988	295,213

There are no very significant changes. A further £99,650 of debenture bonds have been amortized at 105 per cent. Five per cent. War Loan has been increased by £100,636. books a year ago at £42,375, has been sold, cash has fallen from £45,854 to £19,070, and bills receivable have risen from £54,703 to £129,715. Apart from the eight cargoes shipped in 1922, there remain 729,300 tons of guano due to the corporation under the contract of January, 1890. No success has at present attended the experimental borings for oil. The land account shows a net

credit of £2,507, as against a debit balance in the previous year of £8,759. In addition to the improved outlook for the cultivation of coffee, the possibilities as regards fruit preservation, pig breeding, &c., are said to be favourable. The directors report good progress towards the completion of the new motor road in the direction of the colony. The total paid-up capital of the corporation is £16½ millions, of which £7½ millions is preference stock, and £9 millions ordinary stock. A study of the accounts shows that prospects of payment of a reasonable dividend on this enormous capital are as far off as ever. No dividend has ever been paid on the ordinary stock, and the preference dividend is over 25 years in arrears. The corporation was incorporated in 1890, it may be recalled, to effect the settlement of the Peruvian external debt, the bonds of the loans of 1870 and 1872 being exchanged for shares of the corporation.

SOUTH AFRICA AND PROTECTION.

(BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Transvaal Chamber of Mines has just submitted a statement to the Board of Trade and Industries on the subject of Customs Tariffs. It may be explained that there has been a very marked tendency recently on the part of South African manufacturers to push their claims for substantial tariffs, so that they may retain as much of the trade as possible, which they were able to secure owing to the exigencies of the war. Unfortunately, South Africa is very backward in industrial development outside mining, which stands in a different category, since it is a wasting asset, as distinct from a developing and expanding industry, which can profitably dispose of all it can manufacture.

The Pretoria Cement Company, which produces an excellent article, proved by engineering tests to be equal to that of European manufacture, has lately complained of the severity of British and German competition, it being alleged that the shipping companies, in this trade as in many others, short of freight, are charging as little as 12s 6d per ton from England to South Africa, while it is freely alleged that "dumping" is taking place. There is machinery in the Union providing for a dumping tariff, but it takes time to move it. General Smuts only a month ago eulogised the product of the recently-established condensed milk factory in Natal. One now hears that it is likely to close down, as the farmers have refused to supply at less than the contracted price of 9d per gallon, little enough, one would think, as the lowest retail price in Johannesburg is 4d per pint. The management complained that they could only obtain enough milk to make 25 cases a day; "if they could make 100, the financial position of the factory would be vastly improved." About a year ago a paper factory was established at Klip River, near Johannesburg, and £70,000 capital was expended. Only after it started was it found that the local raw material was unsuitable, and this had to be imported. Now it is having to fight competition from Canada, in which case also dumping is alleged.

Our local markets are so small, and the cost of freight so relatively small a proportion of the selling price, that it is difficult for local factories, with insufficiently-trained employees, to compete with highly-organised and long-established manufacturers in older and more highly-developed countries. One reads that turbines are being made in Shanghai, and wonders when South Africa will make its first motor-car. A few months ago a company was formed to assemble motor-car parts, but one does not know how it fared.

The Chamber of Mines takes the very reasonable ground that it is entirely sympathetic to the movement in favour of developing promising industries, but feels that the artificial promotion by the Government of that the secondary industries, at the expense and to the detriment of the primary industries, farming and mining, is more likely to retard than to advance the progress of the European population. It is urged that interference with trade through embargoes, dumping clauses, high Customs duties, and differential railway rates, on which Mr Martin, the President of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, has recently made vigorous attack, should be considered

not merely from the point of view of producers directly concerned, importers of similar articles, and consumers, but also from that of other producers who may be injured by such action. The advocates of local industries, and the protection which that involves, are more persistent and vocal, gaining the ear of Parliament, while inadequate consideration has been given to the harm done in other directions by the adoption of such measures. "In a number of ways the progress of the primary industries is impeded through artificial measures and expedients imposed in the interest of secondary industries. When considered in terms of products instead of in terms of money, it becomes obvious that effective protection of any one producer can only be given at the expense of other producers, who have to carry additional burdens created by artificial expedients so as to lighten the loads which would otherwise be carried by certain other classes of producers benefiting from protective measures, or to create trade which would not exist. Protection cannot be given to some industries without imposing disability on other industries. Producers of goods which cannot be protected have to give more of their products for protected articles, producers of the latter having been placed by Parliament in a privileged position as compared with the producers of exportable farm products."

The Chamber's evidence exposes the fallacy of the view that the Union should be self-contained, manufacture all its requirements, and be independent of imports. "The success of such a policy would mean disaster for all producers of goods in excess of local needs, such as diamonds, gold, ostrich feathers, wool, skins and hides, meat, maize, &c. Exports are paid for by imports, and if there are no imports there can be no exports unless exporters are willing to leave their money abroad, or give their products away." Furniture and leather goods are amongst the most highly protected industries in South Africa; they are chiefly, because more economically, carried on at the coast, largely by Kaffir labour. But as natives require little or none of these manufactures, the burden of such protection is carried almost entirely by the Europeans.

The tariff proposals of the S.A. Federated Chamber of Industries would, if carried out, have a very serious and detrimental effect on the cost of supplies for the mining industry. The general rate on these is a nominal 3 per cent., for Government since the days of the S.A. Republic has realised the importance of a low tariff as a factor in the development of the mines. The proposed new rate is 25 per cent.; doubtless the Industrialists are following Lord Milner's precept of "putting their ideals high." A similar rate is suggested in respect of agricultural machinery. Assay litharge is to be let off with 20 per cent., but inasmuch as fireclay crucibles can be made in the country, the rate suggested is the excessive one of 45 per cent.

The Chamber points out that with great efforts and at great expense the industry has succeeded in reducing cost of production considerably. The existing premium on gold is about 3s per ton milled, but is temporary, and its disappearance would again place a considerable section of the industry in difficulties. This could be met by a reduction in cost of supplies, now approximately 3s per ton higher than in 1914. In many instances, the tariff proposals would prevent the essential fall in price of supplies, as on a rough estimate they represent £500,000 a year.

It is not only in the case of mining supplies, but as regards articles consumed by mine employees that increases in tariff are proposed. This would involve higher cost of living, necessitating higher wages and increasing cost of production. The primary industries, agriculture and mining, are unable to derive any permanent benefit from protective tariffs. The farmer, having to pay more for his goods, must increase where he can the price of his products in the home market, which increases the cost of living of mine employees. But the prosperity of the miner depends on export, and higher expenses handicap him in competing in world's markets.

In 1898 the Customs duty on a variety of goods of general consumption was 7½ per cent. After the Boer

War, and with the advent of the Milner Administration, the rate was advanced to 10 per cent. By 1906 another leap forward had taken place to 15 per cent., and to as much as 25 per cent. in regard to carts and wagons and leather goods. War expenditure and the excessive cost of administration, with the necessity of providing more and more revenue, brought the general range to 20 per cent. by 1922. But when it is being acknowledged by the Minister of Finance, as well as the Minister of Railways, that the Union cannot stand £19½ millions a year in taxation (of which Customs form a considerable part) in normal times, the Federated Chamber of Industries proposes that the range be increased to 25 per cent., with 30 per cent. on wagons and clothing, and no less than 2d per lb on salt.

While protection increases costs, neither farmers or miners are able to advance the prices of their products, which are governed by world conditions, especially in respect of export trade. Protection of the farmers' internal market would mean still further increasing the cost of production on the other primary producer, the mining industry. The Chamber refers the board to its statement submitted to the Mining Industry Board indicating the enormous effect of low working costs on the profitable ore-contents of the Rand. Where a competent and impartial examination of a potential industry shows that some form of assistance is necessary, the Chamber of Mines suggests a system of diminishing bounties. Such a system would enable the community to estimate the cost of the assistance given, which is impossible under a system of import duties.

Mr S. Evans, managing director of the Crown Mines, and a keen student of economics, points out that the white population of South Africa has increased only 36 per cent. in 17 years, whereas in the same period the population of Brazil has increased 76 per cent., and that of the Argentine 61 per cent. The latter have no minerals, an important factor in the development capacity of new countries, and particularly so in the case of South Africa. He points out that the primary producer, the farmer, is the crux of the position, and expresses the opinion that the Government has not done sufficient for him. The crowd of taxes in the Union handicapped development and industry. As far as he knew, neither the Argentine nor Brazil had an income-tax. Most people would, however, think that the farmer is unduly favoured in the matter of taxation.

Notes of the Week.

The Needs of British Agriculture.—The agricultural amendment to the Address, with which the House of Commons was engaged on Tuesday, was the occasion of a debate that was mainly remarkable for two things. It produced the first speech by Mr Lloyd George in the present Parliament, and it produced from the Government the statement that in considering remedies for agricultural troubles protection and subsidies were barred. Towards the end of his speech Mr Lloyd George quoted Lord Bledisloe to the effect that "German agriculture flourished in pre-war days not in consequence of but in spite of its protectionist policy." The Prime Minister, who followed, said: "We are up against this position, that, however much we may improve our agriculture, the conditions are such that there is a very definite limit to the increase which can take place without a change in our system, either in the direction of protection, or of subsidies, both of which are barred." Later on, Mr Pretymann struck the same note by declaring: "I am not in favour of protection, or of going outside the ordinary economic law. Far from it." So at last we are able to hail the abandonment by the Conservative Party of food tax projects, and with it, in consequence, the idea of establishing any system of the general preference that will be a reality to the great Dominions. Had the debate done nothing but produce this renunciation it would have more than justified its absorption of Parliamentary time. But it did more than that. It produced from Mr Lloyd George and Mr Bonar

Law a discussion on the permanence or evanescence of large-scale unemployment, and from the former a long review of agricultural conditions, which certainly require most careful consideration. During the war, and for a couple of years afterwards, farmers were in clover; they are now faced with a serious struggle, and it must always be remembered that there are many who have recently taken to the land who are facing the struggle without the assistance of the resources provided by previous years of prosperity. The Government have already appointed a committee to inquire into the question of the system of marketing agricultural produce. Mr Lloyd George called for a far wider and more general inquiry. He looks to the land to absorb labour which industry cannot employ. In this country, he stated, only 9.2 per cent. of the employed population was engaged on the land; in France, 42.7 per cent.; in Germany and Belgium (two industrial countries), 35.8 per cent. and 22.7 per cent. respectively. "There is no country in Europe," said the ex-Premier, "except Russia, where the proportion of labour to the land is as low as ours." Having illustrated this point with statistics, Mr Lloyd George described the rural revival in Germany. In the 'eighties, he said (quoting the conclusions of Sir Thomas Middleton) German produce was on an inferior scale to ours. Twenty-five years later it has exceeded ours by 50 or 60 per cent. for the same number of acres. "That is a very remarkable testimony," he concluded, "to what can be accomplished by a great, earnest, serious patriotic effort to lift an industry from a condition of depression to a condition of productivity, where it enriches its own land, and where it provides profitable employment for a large population." Mr Bonar Law, while considering sympathetically the request for a far broader agricultural inquiry than that originally intended, applied a cold douche to his pre- rather surprising grasp of the foundations of the case against Protection; for his speech implies a recognition of costs are high, when the country can obtain more cheaply from abroad, in exchange for exports of manufactured goods, the commodity which that industry produces. In a useful contribution to the debate Mrs Winttingham emphasised the need for credit facilities, while other speakers mentioned the rating system, the cost of transport, and security promised, will be examined before next session, and he hopes to be able to make definite proposals next session. An inquiry into all these matters affecting agriculture may be useful, and we are glad that the Government are not unwilling to undertake it. But the chief feeling which a reading of the debate leaves with us is relief that the Government are alive to the restricted scope for action and are aware of the impossibility of continuing, during peace, the agricultural policy followed during the war.

The Trade Facilities Bill.—The debates in the House of Commons this week on the Trade Facilities Bill suffered after midnight—an unsatisfactory time for the discussion of important economic problems. But the second handi- responsible, because it had chosen to group in this one Bill such diverse matters as trade facility guarantees proper, the guarantee of the loan to Austria, and the In reality, the guarantee of a Sudan irrigation loan. League of Nations scheme is in an entirely different category to the ordinary trade facility loan guarantees. On Facilities Committee, and on the work of the Trade sidising " certain industries and firms with State credit, the whole, the Austrian guarantee met with widespread approval. One or two members, it is true, misreading the proposal as one merely for helping Austria, objected to undertaking financial responsibility for that country in the interests of Europe and the world in general of setting Austria on her legs once more—found a more general acceptance. The second reading debate was notable for a statesmanlike pronouncement by Mr Ramsay

Macdonald, and for a speech by Lord Robert Cecil, in which he explained the difficulties of the Austrian position, and made an eloquent appeal to the Government to make the League of Nations the pivot of their foreign policy. Mr Macdonald, who quoted the fears of some sections in Austria that the scheme would contravene Austrian sovereignty, and expressed the hope that the conditions would be tactfully and wisely administered by the League's Commissioner, closed with an expression of faith in the League:—"The League of Nations has got a magnificent opportunity.....to show that it has not only the impartiality, but also the heart, the knowledge, and the will to enter right into the kernel of the Central European problem, and to take Austria by the hand, proving not only to Austria, but proving to every country with a grievance in Europe to-day, that the League of Nations stands for something above mere nationalism, stands for something great in the moral and reconstructive life of Europe." Lord Robert Cecil claimed that "we shall get ample return if we can actually show the world that a country like Austria can, by the united efforts of members of the League of Nations, be set upon its legs. It will be a great ray of hope in the very dismal outlook before us." But Lord Robert did not overlook the great struggle which lies before Austria if she is to tread the path of economic salvation. The magnitude of the task that the Austrian people are facing has been described at some length in the *Economist*. Lord Robert Cecil sums it up concisely in a passage which deserves quotation:—"The moment we get Austria on the road to financial stability we shall have greater difficulty and greater unemployment in Austria probably than she has had for a long time. I do not believe that it can be avoided. As long as a country is content to go on increasing its inflation and diminishing the value of its currency it lives well, because it is living on its capital. The moment it puts an end to that process it lives less well, because it is forced to live on its income, and I am afraid that there is bound to be a period of great difficulty and doubt which can only be solved by the experience as to whether there is sufficient grit in the Austrian people to go through that period for the sake of recovering the solvency of their country." Like Lord Robert, we trust that this is "only a first step on the new way of dealing with European affairs."

The Bevan Case.—So far as Mr Bevan is personally concerned, his case ends with his conviction and sentence. But for a great many other unfortunate people troubles have little more than begun. The shareholders in the City Equitable group of insolvent companies will be required to meet heavy calls, the civil liabilities of directors and others—especially of the manager—will be explored, and there will be many bankruptcies. The extraordinary feature of the whole affair—that which distinguishes it from the Jabez Balfour and Whitaker Wright prosecutions—is that nobody seems to have got anything for himself out of the irregularities which have sent Mr Bevan into penal servitude. Mr Bevan contrived in the course of a year or two, by mismanagement quite incredible in its fatuity, to destroy a re-insurance company which was in fairly good repute, and to bring to bankruptcy one of the oldest firms on the Stock Exchange. Why he did it is a mystery. It was not for personal gain, seeing that he was himself destroyed in the general ruin, and fled the country practically penniless. A common rogue would have bolted with a sackful of plunder. We have pointed out more than once, and now repeat, that the City Equitable failure had nothing to do with insurance. The company and its associates failed because the assets had been muddled away. Yet it cannot be denied that the repute of insurance has suffered. Here was a London re-insurance company issuing fraudulent balance-sheets and prospectuses, and so little suspected of wrong-doing that many of the big offices had accounts with it, and went on doing business with it until just before the crash came. If the experts could be deceived in this fashion, of what avail, the public

may ask, are accounts and balance-sheets and auditors' certificates? The reply must be that against fraud there is no sure remedy and no sure protection. Sooner or later detection comes, and with it punishment, but no external precautions or deterrents can wholly restrain those who are not restrained by their own consciences. The City Equitable case stands fortunately by itself as a warning that even in so reputable a market as that for insurance there may for a while exist unsuspected fraudulent chairmen and what Mr Justice Avory bluntly calls "dishonest" managers.

An Empire Currency Scheme.—In an address delivered last Monday before the Manchester Association of Importers and Exporters, Mr J. F. Darling elaborated the scheme for currency co-operation in the British Empire by means of an issue of £1,000 millions of Empire Currency Bills, which he outlined in the *Economist* some weeks ago. Beginning with the austere text, "Bear ye one another's burdens," he proceeded to develop his scheme for a great and elastic edifice of currency based on Imperial and Dominions' debts. Currency based on debt is no new thing in our financial machinery, as the weekly returns of the Bank of England's issue department and of the currency notes account bear witness; but the scale to which Mr Darling's creation is capable of expanding is new in its extensiveness. Mr Darling's objective is a laudable one. He desires to create a credit instrument which will be a balancing factor in trade between the various parts of the Empire, without involving a variation from the normal in the relative value of their currencies. His instrument is also designed to take the place of gold as a link between these currencies. In normal times, the first of these objects is achieved by the rate of interest and the ordinary banking machinery. This new scheme would, as we understand it, postpone any automatic correction of an adverse balance, and delay the operation of a varying rate of interest. Mr Darling began by saying that, among the many things that the British Commonwealth has in common, war debt is now the most prominent, and that "a portion of it could be so handled as to convert it into an instrument for actually aiding the development and trade of the Empire." He proposes to take a portion of the debt of each country, and convert it into Empire Currency Bills. Part of the issue would be in three months' bills, the rest in the form of certificates, subject to three months' notice of repayment to be given by either side. This being done, each country should agree not to issue currency unless against gold or Empire Currency Bills; and "there should be free convertibility as between Empire Currency Bills and the currencies of the participating countries." This seems to mean that holders of the bills could at any time convert them into legal tender cash; but on a later page it is stated that "Empire Currency Bills would be payable at maturity in any of the currencies," &c. Does this mean that they are payable only at maturity? This point is obscure, but important; but Mr Darling apparently means that the bills are convertible at any time into cash, because his whole argument seems to depend on this. For he urges, if we understand him aright, that if his scheme were carried out, and owing to one-sided trade the Australian banks, for example, were full of cash in London and poor in Australia, they could buy currency bills in London, and get currency against them in Australia, and so one-sided trade would continue, instead of being checked and corrected, as now, by the consequent movement in exchange. But, we must ask, in all deference, is it desirable that one-sided trade should be thus encouraged to continue? And even if so, is it desirable, in order to meet a temporary need caused by after-war dislocation, to adopt a scheme which is rich in inflationary possibilities, as Mr Darling in effect admits when he contends that it is "not necessarily inflationary"?

The Swiss Capital Levy.—At the time when the Swiss Socialists' demand for a Referendum on their plan for a capital levy was first put forward, our Geneva correspon-

dent pointed out a vital difference between this proposal and the capital levy advocated by the Labour Party in this country. The object of the Swiss levy (heavier in its incidence than any British scheme) was not the general redemption of Federal War Debts, but the creation of a fund for social assistance. "This latter aim," he wrote, "will probably be the tombstone of the proposal, for the peasant voter is not willing to supply further money to support lazy town folk." So, in fact, it has proved. After an animated discussion, in the course of which something like a panic was created in the minds of the numerous foreigners who had put money into Swiss banks to escape the "inquisitorial" methods of their native countries, the levy has been rejected, on an 86 per cent. poll, by every canton. Votes to the number of 730,534 were cast against it: only 109,434 for. It is worth noting that under the scheme as rejected all limited companies were to be taxed, not according to their reserves, but according to their nominal share capital. Companies possessing more than 3 million francs would hand over to the State 60 per cent. of their shares. Even citizens themselves exempt disliked the idea of giving the State 60 per cent. of the votes in all limited companies. In this respect, as in the steepness of the tax-graduation, and in the object to which the sums received were to be devoted, the plan rejected by the Swiss differs markedly from that put forward in this country.

Coal Resources of Europe.—The third volume of the Report of the Mineral Resources Bureau on the world's coal, coke, and by-products during the war contains an interesting statement of the change which has taken place in the ownership of Europe's coal reserves as a result of the changes made by the Peace Treaties. The figures relate to actual and probable reserves of coal and lignite in seams of one foot thick and upwards within a depth of 4,000 feet, and are based upon the estimates of the International Geological Congress of 1913. No attempt has been made to bring up to date this estimate of reserves, and the amount of coal raised during the war has, of course, been ignored, forming, as it does, a very small part of the total resources. The change in ownership is shown in the following table:—

	Pre-War Resources.		Post-War Resources.	
	M. Tons.	% of Total.	M. Tons.	% of Total.
Germany	207,930	40.2	148,248	28.7
United Kingdom	165,387	32.0	165,387	32.0
Russia	60,170	11.6	1,588	0.4
Austria-Hungary	43,095	8.3	998	0.2
Belgium	11,000	2.1	11,000	2.1
France	8,808	1.7	18,577	3.6
Norway (inc. Spitzbergen)	8,750	1.7	8,750	1.7
Spain	5,537	1.1	5,537	1.1
Other countries	7,735	1.3	7,748	1.4
Czechoslovakia	..	..	24,493	4.7
Poland	..	..	68,829	13.3
Ukraine	..	..	55,657	10.8
	517,212	100	517,212	100

Thus Germany has fallen from first to second place, while Poland now comes next to Germany in importance. French resources have been doubled, but her reserves still remain a comparatively small portion of the whole. The Report of the Bureau is a valuable summary of the world's situation, and is published at what is in these days of expensive Blue-Books, a comparatively low figure. We cannot, however, congratulate the Bureau on the sketch maps enclosed with the Report. There is great need of an adequate series of maps showing the mineral deposits of various countries of the world, and it would greatly have enhanced the value of the work of the Bureau if they could have taken the opportunity to supply this want.

Retrenchment in Brazil.—Judging by the brief and obscure summaries of his first Message which have reached London, Senhor Arturo Bernardes has made a good beginning of his Presidential term by calling attention to the gravity of the position of the Federal finances, and proposing drastic reductions in expenditure, together with an improved control of it, and a more rapid and effective collection of revenue. Comment on his figures must be deferred till the full text is before us, but the estimated deficit apparently exceeds that of the previous

Budget, which was the largest on record, and there has also been a great and recent increase in the total Federal Debt. The over-issue of paper currency characteristic of Brazilian finance has continued, and the amount in circulation, which at the end of 1920 was 1,709,113 contos, is 2,226,000 contos at the present time. The President's proposals include a much more stringent collection of the taxes and control of expenditure, the reduction of all the Budget estimates, the total abolition of supplementary credits, and the suspension for the next two years, as far as possible, of all public works. He further proposes to provide for the service of the External Debt by the establishment of a Commission and a special fund, from which remittances are to be made to London bankers monthly. He has also removed the restrictions on exchange transactions which consisted in their supervision by special Government inspectors attached to the banks. In spite of alarming reports of disorder and impending revolution, the country, save for a few purely local disturbances, is quiet, and the Congress is believed to be disposed to support his plans. The Message also holds out hopes of a new banking system, so devised as to develop all the forms of the national production. Such a system was outlined by an eminent Brazilian economist, Senhor Ramalho Ortigão, in a book reviewed two years ago in our columns, partly as a means of virtual deflation by so increasing the product as to enable it to overtake the monetary circulation. If the system can be established and kept clear of political influence, it should go far to develop the latent resources of the country and ensure the service of the public Debt.

Shareholders' Rights in New Issues.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—The recent issue of new shares by the Malayalam Rubber Company at 20s per share, made at a time when the price was standing at about 24s in the market, gave rise to a good deal of complaint on the part of shareholders that they had not been invited to take part in underwriting what was a probable success from the start. Less might have been thought of the matter had it not been for the fact that the Malayalam Company, in sending out notices, did not provide shareholders with forms of application for any excess shares which might be left over in respect of rights not having been taken up by some of the proprietors. As everyone knows, there are always some people who throw away a company's circulars into the wastepaper basket without looking at them at all, and this is one of the most usual ways whereby shareholders lose advantages offered them through the issue of new capital. There are other reasons as well which cause people to refrain from applying for new shares, one being, of course, the fact that they may not want to put more money into a company, and they fail to realise that a sale of the existing shares is frequently advisable in order that the latter may be replaced by the cheaper new issue. Therefore, it is considered, as a rule, only fair when a new issue is made at a low price, to include amongst the other forms sent to the shareholder one paper giving him the right to apply for shares over and above those to which he is strictly entitled according to his proper proportion. The Malayalam Company, however, did not do this, and the omission has been the subject of a good deal of comment amongst shareholders. We believe, however, that private explanations were advanced to the effect that the Malayalam new issue had all been settled some time before the activity in the price of the 24s, and that, when the details were being arranged, there seemed to be little chance of shareholders wanting to take more than their proper proportion of shares. The instance shows how essential it is for directors to exercise care in the making of new issues. So far as underwriting is concerned, it is quite possible that the offer of these to a large body of proprietors would be a matter of practical impossibility. Underwriting is done in fairly large blocks; holders, as well as large, however, would insist upon a participation if underwritings were to be offered to shareholders, and to effect this would be to render an expeditious issue extremely difficult to make. We must say, however, that there is every reason why shareholders should consider themselves entitled to the right to apply

for more shares than their strict proportion if there are any of such shares left over. As a matter of fact, directors nowadays treat their fellow-shareholders with greater consideration than used to be the case in the past, but a matter like this of the Malayalam issue is a reminder that directors need to exercise extreme care in the way they go to work over a new issue, particularly when shares are offered at a price materially below that ruling in the market at the time the new shares come out. What overplus of shares there may be in such a case is the property of the proprietors as a whole. So general is the recognition of this essential fairness that the ordinary practice is for shareholders to be invited to apply for such shares, and of its justice there can be no room for argument.

Dorman, Long.—Again a heavy fall in profits are recorded in the accounts for the year ended September 30th last of Dorman, Long and Co., Limited, and the directors find that they are unable to recommend payment of a dividend on £5,999,592 of ordinary capital. The usual 8 per cent. distribution on the £1,500,000 preferred ordinary shares has, however, been made, and £40,000 placed to reserve, although the auditors point out that "no depreciation has been written off the capital expenditure in respect of the year to September 30, 1922." In the table given below profits for the last three years are set out, together with details showing how these have been distributed:—

	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Profit	£ 716,013	£ 397,711	£ 157,369
Brought forward	205,852	248,540	239,488
Debt interest	921,865	646,251	396,857
Redemption of 5% debentures ..	37,371	36,286	35,684
Reserve	20,954	10,477	..
Preferred ordinary dividend	200,000	120,000	120,000
Ordinary dividend	120,000	240,000	(nil)
	295,000	240,000	(5 %)
	(10 %)	(5 %)	(5 %)
Carried forward	248,540	239,488	201,173

The balance-sheet shows no striking changes. The balance of suspense account has now been transferred to capital of expenditure account, owing to a settlement with the Government of some outstanding points. Investments, which are given in detail, have grown from £4,656,511 to £5,022,307. Stocks, however, are down from £1,650,504 to £1,080,833. The secured loan at £918,475 is slightly lower by a few thousands, and creditors at £445,685 compare favourably with £975,710 a year ago. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed on another page. In their report the directors mention that during the last few months there has been an improvement in the demand for coal and pig-iron, and additional blast furnaces have been put into operation. Recently there has been more activity in steel, and substantial orders have been booked for constructional work and shipbuilding material.

Orient Steam Navigation.—A gratifying recovery in profits is shown in the report of the Orient Steam Navigation Company for the year ended June 30th last, the total of £282,600 being easily the highest recorded since 1913-14. The directors' report, like other shipping companies' reports, is not a very communicative document, and gives no indication as to the reasons for the sudden recovery in profits beyond mentioning that the service under the mail contract with the Government of Australia came into operation in September, 1921, and has been regularly maintained. The fluctuations of profits in the past three years may be seen from the comparative table below:—

June 30.	1913-14	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22
Profit	£ 227,454	£ 166,271	£ 162,062	£ 218,699	£ 164,656	£ 282,578
Brought forward	56,717	112,359	115,073	63,912	118,678	50,167
Deb. int. and fees	284,171	278,630	277,135	282,611	283,334	332,745
Reserve	23,383	22,895	22,561	21,265	18,014	15,123
Repairs and renewals	75,000	50,000	150,000	100,000	70,440	100,000
Pref. div.	25,000	50,000	14,603	14,603	14,603	14,603
Def. div.	10,176	14,603	26,059	78,065	130,110	130,110
	63,701	26,059	26,059	15 %	12 %	12 %
	(55 %)	(15 %)	(15 %)	(15 %)	(12 %)	(12 %)
Carried forward	86,911	115,073	63,912	68,678	50,167	72,909

* Includes £50,000 transferred from Underwriting Account.

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

The dividend on the deferred shares is paid, free of income tax, but is maintained at last year's rate of 12½ per cent. the additional amount available for distribution being used in increasing the reserve appropriation and expanding the balance carried forward. Two years ago £520,440 of the general reserve fund was capitalised, and this account for the increased amount required for deferred dividend at the lower rate in the past two years. This balance sheet, which is analysed in detail in another column, shows no changes of great consequence.

J. and P. Coats.—The report of J. and P. Coats Limited, for year ended June 30th last adds little to the preliminary announcement of profits already published. There was a pronounced recovery in net profits, namely from £2,072,400 to £3,270,900, but the latter is still well below the level of the two bumper years 1918-19 and 1919-20. The profit figure is struck after allowing for depreciation, which last year required £44,300, as against £36,400 a year ago. The balance brought forward from last year's account was £314,200. Profits and appropriations since 1906 have been as follows:—

Year ended June 30.	Net Profit After Depreciation, &c.	Interest.	Dividends and Bonus.	Pension, Insurance Fund, &c.	To Reserve, &c.
1906	£ 2,974,088	£ 36,642	£ 1,972,821	£ 294,629	£ 450,000
1907	3,056,125	19,680	2,206,642	175,963	500,000
1908	2,701,697	19,394	2,193,403	6,588	500,000
1909	2,917,667	19,399	2,427,402	32,522	500,000
1910	3,171,464	19,278	2,448,908	25,000	675,000
1911	3,102,952	19,096	2,453,808	42,500	525,000
1912	2,794,072	..	2,449,183	26,440	500,000
1913	2,903,239	..	2,449,183	..	500,000
1914	2,634,388	..	2,225,803	..	30,000
1915	2,598,966	..	2,208,347	..	100,000
1916	3,387,395	..	2,210,016	..	2,000,000
1917	3,360,950	..	2,294,131	..	..
1918	3,171,796	..	2,289,732	100,000	..
1919	3,995,149	..	2,850,638	400,000	750,000
1920	4,164,894	..	3,161,214	150,000	450,000
1921	2,072,449	..	2,911,263	..	Dr 250,000
1922	3,270,913	..	2,911,250	..	250,000

The ordinary dividend is maintained at 17½ per cent., the £250,000 withdrawn from the dividend reserve fund a year ago is replaced, and the balance forward is increased by £109,700 to £423,900. As usual, the report makes no mention of trading conditions in the past year, or of the outlook for the current year. The balance-sheet shows a reduction of £639,300 in creditors, and of £104,500 in depreciation of investments account. On the assets side, advances to subsidiary companies have declined by £300,500 to £7,539,400, while stocks are £151,100 lower at £5,948,200. The "war contingencies fund" remains at £3,000,000, but, as pointed out by the auditors, this is kept against probable loss on certain assets which, although largely affected in value by the war and subsequent conditions, remain at book value.

British Overseas Bank.—The third annual report and accounts of the British Overseas Bank for the year ended October 31st last reveal a slight decrease in earnings. Profits for the year amount to £75,287, as against £102,326 a year ago. The usual dividend of 6 per cent. is paid on the "A" ordinary share capital. This absorbs £60,000, while £15,000 is allocated to reserves, leaving £57,814 to be carried forward. A comparison of the

balance-sheet with that of last year reveals several interesting changes. Deposits are down from £1,793,941 to £1,511,511, while the acceptance business has expanded from £449,117 to £932,421. Cash in hand at £314,185 is £254,641 down on the year, and money at call and short notice at £1,019,431 is £375,569 lower. Balances with bankers abroad is £523,779 lower at £574,965. Advances are higher at £905,075, as against £385,505 a year ago. Other changes will be found in a full analysis of the balance-sheet given on another page.

Castner-Kellner Alkali.—A very substantial recovery in profits is shown in the report for the year ended September 30th last of the Castner-Kellner Alkali Company. The report vouchsafes no information as to the year's trading, or as to the reason for the improvement, but from the table below it will be seen that in the past few years there have been considerable fluctuations in earnings:—

	Profit.	Debiture Interest, &c.	Renewal and Depreciation.	Reserve and Carry Forward.	Dividend.	%
	£	£	£	£	£	
1905	52,358	10,153	23,205	1,000	18,000	4
1909	134,154	9,313	35,000	26,841	63,000	14
1910	164,554	8,986	32,500	44,318	78,750	17½
1911	178,853	8,789	32,500	47,564	90,000	20
1912	177,063	8,682	32,500	45,880	90,000	20
1913	172,348	8,372	32,500	29,382	106,094	22
1914	174,150	8,275	32,500	21,917	116,458	15½
1915	260,805	8,056	50,000	52,749	150,000	20
1916	262,208	7,706	50,000	23,252	181,250	22
1917	263,322	7,648	50,000	45,078	200,000	20
1918	261,339	7,598	50,000	48,819	200,000	20
1919	190,655	7,598	50,000	51,876	130,000	13
1920	283,854	7,598	60,000	48,132	220,000	22
1921	153,086	7,512	50,000	13,706	130,000	13
1922	249,225	7,436	nil	55,494	200,000	20

No addition is made to depreciation reserve account, which stands at £737,500, a figure which the directors consider ample at the present time, but the ordinary dividend is raised from 13 to 20 per cent., and the balance forward increased by nearly £42,000. The balance-sheet shows that a loan from bankers for £65,000 has been paid off, that the property item has been increased by £107,500 to £2,055,400, and that investments have been reduced by £98,000. The position does not appear so liquid as might be wished. Creditors stand at £589,600, while debtors figure at £106,000, stocks at £185,000, and cash and bills at £29,900. The final dividend requires £120,000. A detailed analysis of the balance-sheet is printed in another column.

Ind. Coope's Year.—A year ago Ind. Coope and Co. paid a dividend of 15 per cent. on its ordinary capital of £600,000, and distributed a bonus of £105,000. This year the dividend of 15 per cent. is maintained, but the bonus set aside is but £21,750. But perhaps in view of industrial conditions and general unemployment these results are surprisingly good. The following table shows how the company has fared from 1914:—

Year Ended Sept. 30th.	Gross Profits.	Interest on Debenture Stocks and Mortgages.	Depreciation.	Ordinary Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Carried Forw'd.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1914..	110,821	58,332	28,516	..	..	14,290
1915..	146,238	54,300	34,375	..	40,000	680
1916..	152,906	53,625	36,084	..	50,000	2,484
1917..	204,717	58,186	34,186	14,026	50,000	23,277
1918..	392,575	55,686	29,991	20,671	185,000	57,281
1919..	474,202	55,722	39,373	49,594	285,000	103,872
1920..	415,249	53,814	45,863	91,341	85,000	139,613
1921..	375,657	53,504	49,783	168,000	10,000	106,345
1922..	349,982	55,986	48,879	137,000	60,000	104,482

Gross profits are steadily declining, while the sums set aside for depreciation, it will be observed, have been higher in the past four years than in the preceding period. The directors have wisely added £50,000 to the general reserve, bringing that item up to £400,000, while the usual allocation of £10,000 has been made to debentures redemption fund, bringing total reserves up to £510,000. An interesting change is noticeable in the balance-sheet. The first item on the assets side, "purchase of business,"

at £1,814,717, disappears, and is replaced by "freehold and leasehold breweries, &c.," at £1,497,915. At the bottom of the balance-sheet goodwill is shown for the first time at £375,000. Other details in the balance-sheet will be found analysed in our usual column. It is announced that the remodelling of the company's big brewing plant is almost completed.

The Salvador Railway Report.—The Salvador Railway is at last recovering from the adversity which it has experienced since the outbreak of the European war. During the year ending June 30th last it had fresh difficulties in the shape of interruptions to traffic through "wash-outs" and landslides, which reduced the gross receipts to £177,747, against £199,501 in 1920-21; but the working expenses were reduced in a greater proportion, and were £142,404 against £174,936, so that the profit rose to £35,343 against £24,565. Passenger traffic receipts decreased by £7,399, owing to the above-mentioned interruptions, goods receipts by £17,699, though there was an increase both in the tonnage and the receipts of the export traffic, owing to the exceptionally abundant coffee crop, but the increase here was more than counterbalanced by a decrease in local and especially in import traffic. The railway, moreover, had to face increased competition by road traffic between Sonsonate and Santa Aña, and still more between the neighbourhood of the capital and the port of La Libertad, which the Government are doing their best to develop. This competition was met last April by a readjustment of export rates, which, on the whole, was attended with success. But for the current year the outlook is much more hopeful. The traffic receipts from July 1st to November 25th were £54,405, an increase of £7,841, or nearly 17 per cent. over those for the corresponding period of last year; the coffee crop is promising, though it may not reach last year's total; and, when the pending negotiations with American financiers for the settlement of the State Debt are completed and the new American loan issued, the company will obtain payment of its overdue subsidy of £44,000, with more than four years' accrued interest. The mortgage debentures at the end of last year were at 25½, the prior lien at 64½; they now stand respectively at 42½ and 72½.

Van Ryn—Robinson Deep.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Developments in connection with these two undertakings strikingly reflect the amelioration which has been effected in operating conditions on the Witwatersrand. Not so very long ago the Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate—which has already paid 37 yearly or half-yearly dividends—might have been classed among the "dying mines" of the Rand. The recent reduction in working costs brings back into the ore reserve estimate eliminated as unpayable, the total being now placed at 1,234,100 tons. This in itself would be sufficient to keep past the company has treated increasing quantities of what is termed reclamation ore—that is, material previously left behind for one reason or another—together with any fresh discoveries which may be made incidentally. The procedure of replacing this ore with old tailings enables it to be extracted without risk of the workings caving in. Of the 400,000 tons taken out of the mine during the twelve months ended June 30th last, 38 per cent. consisted of reclamation material. Under the prospective "life" of ten years, and future dividends are expected to be at a higher rate than those of recent periods. As regards the Robinson Deep, it may be recalled that at the time of issue of the last annual report the prospects appeared anything but hopeful. The company had a debt of £300,000, and there were arrears of as much as 23s 6d. The market quotation of these shares represented less than the sum of the unpaid dividends, while the "B" or ordinary were classed in the "rubbish" category. During the current half-year, however, the monthly profits have expanded to over £35,000. The change in the position has encouraged the formulation of a scheme of financing under which £250,000 of debentures are to be issued. Concurrently, a payment of 4s per share on the preference is announced. Dividends on the ordinary are expected to commence in about a couple of years' time.

tures are to be issued. Concurrently, a payment of 4s per share on the preference is announced. Dividends on the ordinary are expected to commence in about a couple of years' time.

The Luxembourg Iron Industry.—A correspondent writes:—Cooped in as she is between the great iron-producing area of Lorraine and the important Belgian industries, Luxembourg has a difficult task in disposing of her iron and steel output. She has proved herself the equal to France as to price and general sales conditions, but she is always handicapped for exports in comparison with Belgium. And without exports the iron industry of Luxembourg would die. A certain tonnage still finds its way to Germany, but, like France and Belgium, Luxembourg cannot expect to have big dealings with the Reich so long as exchange difficulties exist. Under these conditions it is satisfactory, from the country's point of view, that an optimistic attitude can be taken by the *Acieries Réunies* of Burbach Eich Dudelange Arbed, the chief associate in the *Echo de l'Industrie*, of Columeta selling group, and that the *Echo de l'Industrie*, of Luxembourg, can write that if only the question of coke supplies were solved, the national industry would never have to look back. But the paper has complaints; the coke shortage, it writes, not only threatens present output, but jeopardises the future in causing furnaces to be extinguished. It is more to be deplored because several big rail contracts are in view, and Luxembourg stands a chance of receiving her share of the orders. Certainly, present prices are not high, but that is not the paramount question at present. Iron masters want to have a sufficiently big business to enable them to place the smallest proportion of overhead costs against each ton of produce. The chairman of the Arbed company, after stating that results for the financial year 1921-1922 have been as a whole slightly worse than those of the previous year, adds that an improvement has set in during the latter months. It has permitted the making of 15,432,000 of profit and the allotment of 120f to each founder's share. The present situation, without being styled as brilliant, can nevertheless be classed as relatively satisfactory. Fuel difficulties of the company have not been of a special nature, owing partly, no doubt, to the possession of coal mines. Output for the year has been as follows:—Mines, 1,748,000 tons; coke at Burbach, 297,000 tons; pig-iron, 730,000 tons; basic and open-hearth steels, 735,000 tons; iron and brass castings, 16,617 tons; steel castings, 2,753 tons; and work in construction shops, 6,621 tons. The sub-company, Eschweiler Bergwerksverein, at the same time produced 1,869,000 tons of coal, 78,000 tons of patent fuel, 516,000 tons of coke, 44,000 tons of chilled pig-iron, 7,000 tons of puddled iron, and 56,000 tons of rolled and finished steel products. The associated concerns which have done satisfactorily are the *Sé. Métallurgique des Terres Rouges* (not so well as last year); the *Sé. Felten et Guillaume*; the *Sé. Talleres Metalurgicos* (not yet quite as it should be); the *Clouterie et Tréfilerie des Flandres* (success im- paired by a three-month strike); the *Sé. Charbonnière* paired by a three-month strike); the *Sé. d'Helchteren et Zolder*. In the latter concern's property new shafts are being bored. In a few months the full plant of the Brazilian associate, the *Companhia Siderurgica Belgo-Mineira* will be in running order.

Life Assurance Liquidations.—A correspondent writes:—The compulsory liquidation of a life assurance company is a very rare occurrence in this country. The last, until quite recently, was that of the Briton, Medical and General, which took place in the year 1893, when the policies and assets were ultimately turned over on an agreed basis to the Sun Life Assurance Company of London. There is, therefore, some excuse if the officials at present concerned in the liquidation of a company are not familiar with the procedure. Probably that is why the liquidation of the National Benefit Assurance Co., Limited, which is now in progress, appears to have been so far, conducted on somewhat irregular lines. Up to the present the liquidation has followed the directions of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, whereas, as the law

stands to-day, Section 15 of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, lays down the full procedure for winding-up assurance companies, and limits the intervention of the Act of 1908 to the provision of the machinery to be used in a liquidation under the Act of 1909. A meeting of the creditors of the National Benefit Assurance Co., Limited, was held on October 31st last. Forms of proof and for giving general and special proxies were enclosed with the notice convening the meeting. Now the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, makes it clear that in the liquidation of an assurance company the policy-holders have to be treated on a special basis. They are not ordinary creditors. The Act of 1909 provides that, where an assurance company transacts various classes of business, the funds of each class must be kept separate; so that it would be apparent, at a glance, if any of the funds had been misappropriated or used for paying claims of any other class of business or for any other purpose. It is quite certain that to invite life or other policy-holders to fill in an ordinary form of proof designed for creditors in an ordinary bankruptcy is entirely wrong. It is not even possible for a policy-holder to fill in the exact amount of his claim under his policy without carrying out the provisions of Section 17 (1) of the Act of 1909, which orders that where an assurance company is being wound up by the Court, or subject to the supervision of the Court, or voluntarily, the value of a policy of any class, or of a liability under such a policy, requiring to be valued in such winding-up, not, be it noted, for any one purpose, but for all purposes, shall be estimated in a manner applicable to policies and liabilities of that class, as provided by the sixth Schedule to the Act. If, then, we turn to the sixth Schedule, we find separate rules for valuing policies in each of five distinct classes. Class "A" deals with life policies and annuities, and Class "E" with bonds or certificates, which, of course, includes bond investment policies. How is an individual policy-holder to obtain the value of the liability of the company to him under his policy without putting himself to great expense by consulting an actuary who, in his turn, would have to obtain directions through the liquidator from the Court as to the method he has to employ in making his valuation? In sending out notice of meeting to every policy-holder, the Senior Official Receiver sent, as we have said, forms of proof; but the seventh Schedule of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, makes it clear that the value of the liability of a company in liquidation (except voluntary) to each policy-holder must be calculated by the liquidator, and, of course, by actuaries employed by him, acting under the directions of the Court. This raises the question of whether the meeting was not so irregular as to be invalid, but it is not suggested that it should be impugned; because, in fact, the resolutions adopted were, in themselves, quite reasonable and proper. It must not, however, be accepted as a precedent. Liquidation of a life office, without a satisfactory arrangement for the transfer of the business, is an exceedingly serious and disastrous measure, and causes acute distress amongst policy-holders who have attained old age, and, indeed, amongst all policy-holders whose policies have a duration of more than a very few years. It should be contemplated, even in a bad case only, after the utmost consideration for the policy-holders' interests, and in the certainty that in no other way can anything be saved for them.

Agricultural Conditions.—The monthly report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries states that the weather during November was exceptionally mild and dry, and very favourable for all outdoor work, the land working freely. Cultivation and sowing was possible throughout the country all through the month, and great progress was made. This work is in most places now well forward, the fine weather having permitted the arrears due to the protracted harvest to be largely overtaken. The open weather allowed stock to remain out practically to the month-end, an appreciable saving of winter keep being thereby effected. The lifting of potatoes was completed under favourable conditions. The tubers generally are large and of good quality. The yield per acre over the whole country is estimated at 7.1 tons, or 1½ tons per acre more than last year, and rather more than 1 ton

per acre above the average of the ten years 1912-21. This year's yield is the highest recorded since these returns first collected in 1885, the previous best being 6.9 tons per acre in 1908. The total production on agricultural holdings in England and Wales is estimated at 3,986,000 tons, or more than a million tons greater than in 1921 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war average. Both cattle and sheep have been well suited by the mild, dry conditions which prevailed during the month. The open weather permitted stock to remain in the fields, and in consequence the supplies of winter keep have been greatly conserved, the prospects now being quite satisfactory although hay, and to a lesser extent straw, is still in short supply in many places. On the whole, sheep are in rather better condition than cattle, which in some places are rather below average condition owing to the poor quality of the grass. Lambing is now in full swing among Dorset Horn flocks, and the fall of lambs is considered to be satisfactory. There is an adequate supply of labour for all requirements. Although farmers have not been discharging men to any extent the arrears of autumn work are being overtaken, and there are, on the whole, rather more casual labourers out of employment than a month ago.

The Rouble Exchange.—At the meeting of the Communist International in Moscow on November 14th, Lenin delivered an address in which he declared that the rouble had been stabilised. Next day (November 15th) the *Izvestiya* announced the issue of a new currency in 1923; the rouble of the new issue being equal to 100 of the 1922 roubles—which itself was 10,000 of the old roubles. This measure is declared to be merely "technico-practical." The following table of official quotations issued by the Exchange Rates Commission may be read with these facts in mind:—

		Value in 1922 Roubles of		
		£ Sterling.	U. S. \$.	10 Gold Roubles.
September	18.....	3,100	710	3,450
"	19.....	3,000	690	3,375
"	25.....	3,200	722	3,500
"	28.....	3,275	730	3,600
October	2.....	3,425	775	4,000
"	4.....	3,526	795	4,100
"	6.....	3,870	873	4,500
"	12.....	4,125	931	4,800
"	13.....	4,300	970	5,000
"	19.....	4,730	1,057	5,500
"	21.....	5,160	1,164	6,000
"	23.....	6,800	1,500	8,000
"	26.....	6,510	1,450	8,000
"	28.....	6,900	1,600	8,400
November	1.....	7,310	1,650	8,500
"	8.....	7,310	1,650	8,700

In pre-war currency the official rate of exchange on November 8th was thus 73,100,000 to the £. No wonder the Russian beggar now asks for a "little million."

Debt Conversion.—In a statement issued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer it is stated that the total conversions of Exchequer Bonds, National War Bonds, and Treasury Bonds effected since March 31, 1922, under the various options amounted to the nominal sum of £27,970,419, bearing an interest of £2,464,391. These were exchanged into Conversion Loan, Treasury Bonds, and War Loan aggregating £562,194,268, with interest charges of £21,622,955. Exchequer Bonds for £14,476,628 have been exchanged for £19,688,214 of Conversion Loan. National War Bonds to the total of £199,036,335 have been affected, £70,509,029 going into Conversion Loan and £14,233,521 into 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds. The 5½ per cent. Treasury Bonds lose £214,457,456, having been converted into £313,107,885 of Conversion Loan. Although interest charges are lower, it will be noticed in examining our National Debt table, given on another page, that our national liabilities have increased by over £134 millions.

Cotton Trade 'Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Although the depression in the Lancashire cotton trade is still very acute, the proposal to extend the organised short-time movement in the mills using American cotton has not been carried. Since the end of September the spindles engaged on American cotton have

run only 35 hours a week instead of the usual 48. Three weeks ago it was suggested that the curtailment of output should be increased by working the mills only 24 hours a week. The ballot on the proposal, however, showed only 69 per cent. in favour of the scheme, whereas, according to the rules of the Master Spinners' Federation no short-time proposal can be put into operation without the consent of the owners of 80 per cent. of the spindles. This result does not indicate that trade is any better, but numerous companies want to be allowed to make their own arrangements as to restricting yarn output. Financial difficulties have increased during the last two or three months, and to some extent prices of yarn and cloth are being weakened by the unloading of bankrupt stocks. It is understood that the employers' associations are in negotiation with the leading banks in order to ascertain if some arrangement can be made to prevent forced selling of goods.

Japanese Trade and Finance.—Cabled advices from Tokyo state that stringency developed in the short loan market towards the end of the month, due partly to an outflow of money to Osaka, and partly to the fact that some banks had been a little too liberal in lending money for a long period. On the last day of the month the rate for short loans rose to 11 per cent., but fell suddenly to 9 per cent. on December 1st, owing to large interest disbursements and loan repayments by the Government. On November 29th the Nippon Sekigen Bank, a small bank in Kyoto, with a paid-up capital of 1,850,000 yen, suspended payment. This failure is said to have arisen through the financing of rice speculations. The event, however, has had and will have no effect on the money market. Stock markets continued to be dull during the latter half of November, and the silk market, after a period of activity, relapsed into quiet. In view of the continued inactivity of the cotton yarn market, cotton spinning companies have undertaken a voluntary restriction of production. At November 30th the note issue of the Bank of Japan was 1,241,000,000 yen, and discounts and advances 324,000,000 yen, as compared with 1,283,000,000 yen and 227,000,000 yen respectively a year ago.

Oberzea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—BETHLEHEM — MIDVALE STEEL
MERGER—STOCK DIVIDENDS—COTTON GINNING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 27.

NEW YORK, November 27.—THE Bethlehem Steel Corporation's recent acquisition of the Lachawanna Steel Company proves to have been the first step—as many authorities surmised at the time—towards a much larger combine of “independent” steel interests. The Bethlehem now intends to purchase most of the properties of the Midvale Steel and Ordnance Company, and of the latter's subsidiary, the Cambria Steel Company. The respective boards of directors have authorised the merger, and the proposal will in due course be submitted to the stockholders for approval. Assuming that the deal will be consummated, the consolidated companies will have a total capitalisation in stocks and bonds of approximately \$456,000,000, thus ranking second only in that respect to the United States Steel Corporation. According to present plans, all of the Midvale properties are to be taken over with the exception of the ordnance plant at Nicetown. The latter is to be operated by a new and separate company, whose stock will be distributed *pro rata* among the present Midvale shareholders. In payment for the properties to be acquired, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, it is officially stated, will issue about \$97,650,000, par value, of Bethlehem common stock, of which \$95,000,000, par value, will go to the Midvale company for distribution, on dissolution, to the latter's stockholders, and the balance to the holders of Cambria stock not owned by the Midvale company. Midvale stockholders are to receive \$95, par value, of Bethlehem common stock for each two shares of \$50, par value, of the Midvale

company stock, together with a *pro rata* share of the stock of the new company to which the Nicetown plant and the assets appurtenant thereto are to be transferred. The Bethlehem Corporation will assume the bonds and other indebtedness of the Midvale and Cambria companies. Through the acquisition of the properties mentioned, it will secure plants at Coatesville and Johnstown, Pa., and Wilmington, Del., besides important developed iron ore properties in Michigan and Minnesota, and coal properties in Pennsylvania. The merger is expected to result in a material reduction in operating costs, and will enable the Bethlehem corporation to produce important lines which it does not now manufacture, such as wire and wire products, steel freight and mine cars, steel wheels, boiler tubes, agricultural implement parts, and, in fact, all the so-called commercial steel products, with the exception of pipe and seamless tubes; the corporation is planning to build a plant at one of its existing properties to manufacture both of the last-named products. It is evident, therefore, that if this deal is put through, as seems likely, the Bethlehem will become a much more formidable competitor of the United States Steel Corporation than heretofore. Bethlehem's present annual ingot capacity of 4,800,000 tons will be increased to 7,600,000 tons by the Midvale-Cambria purchase, while the combined investment in property and plant, less depreciation and depletion, is figured at about \$465,500,000, and the aggregate net quick assets at approximately \$133,700,000.

During recent weeks stock and cash dividends have been declared on a scale never before known to Wall Street. A reliable compilation, covering the past month, shows that more than 40 corporations, engaged in many different lines of trade and industry, have made such distributions to stockholders, totalling about \$1,119,000,000. By far the greater part of that amount was furnished by oil concerns, particularly various Standard Oil companies. The Standard Oil group alone has distributed to stockholders this year to date the vast sum of \$882,000,000 approximately, in the shape of cash dividends, rights and stock dividends, according to trustworthy statistics which also show that in the 10 years from 1912 to 1921, inclusive, the same group of companies distributed a total of \$1,507,632,568 in the forms indicated, making an aggregate of nearly \$2,390,000,000 since the dissolution of the old Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in 1911; the cash dividends declared this year have amounted to \$128,800,000, in round numbers, the largest total for any years since the different units of the former Standard Oil Company began to operate as independent concerns while their stock dividends have likewise established a new high record.

The widespread stock dividend movement has aroused a great deal of curiosity. Explanations given are numerous and varied. Officials of the companies concerned have invariably stated that the stock dividends, ranging all the way from 10 to 400 per cent., were declared in order to make the shares more popular with the investing public. In the case of nearly all corporations which have announced such dividends, their stocks were selling at high levels; by dividing the shares into smaller units, prices of the latter have been brought down to levels within the reach of the average investor. Practically all of these companies made huge profits during the war. Under the old excess profits tax law corporations were permitted to make a normal return of 8 per cent. on their invested capital, the latter term being construed to include surplus and undivided profits. To escape the heavy excess profits tax, corporations piled up surpluses. The repeal of that law as of last January 1st, however, removed the danger of onerous taxation, and, together with the United States Supreme Court's subsequent decision that stock dividends are not taxable, left corporations in a position to distribute undivided profits without fear of taxation. Still another reason is said to be found in the provision in this year's tax law, which makes it possible for large stockholders to liquidate their holdings under what is commonly known as the capital investment tax. That section allows holders of securities which have been owned for two years or more to dispose of them, and to pay a straight tax of 12½ per cent. on the profit from the sale of such securities, instead of the regular and heavier sur-

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

PARIS OFFICE

3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME

CABLE ADDRESS : BANKTRUST, PARIS

taxes. Notwithstanding all these explanations, the belief is quite general that the stock dividend movement has been prompted, primarily, by the outlook for burdensome tax legislation which corporations fear will be attempted eventually by the more radical elements in Congress.

There is a remarkably long list of companies which in the past fortnight have announced increases in or resumption of regular dividends, together with extra cash distributions to shareholders in several cases. That development clearly reflects the marked improvement in trade and industry since the beginning of this year, and would seem to forecast exceptionally favourable annual reports for 1922.

An interesting fact disclosed by the Census Bureau's cotton ginning report is that this year's yield of the staple has been ginned very rapidly. Up to November 14th the total quantity amounted to 8,869,857 bales, exceeding that of last year to the same date by 1,595,656 bales, or about 22 per cent. The Department of Agriculture has estimated this year's cotton crop at 10,139,000 bales, or 25 per cent. larger than last year's. The total ginned to November 14th is only 45,000 bales below that ginned from the 1920 crop, which proved to be 2,000,000 bales larger than the estimated yield this year. In most quarters, however, the latest ginning figures are regarded as further evidence that the present crop will not greatly exceed, if, in fact, it actually reaches 10,000,000 bales.

**FRANCE. -- THE PREMIERS' MEETING--PAYMENTS
IN KIND AND PRICES--BAKERS AND MILLERS
--BOURSE.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 6.

THERE is now little hope that the Budget Bill will reach the Senate in time for it to be passed by both Houses before the end of the year. There is, therefore, a strong probability that the old objectionable system of *douzièmes provisoires*, or votes on account (which was avoided last year only by the device of putting back the hands of the clock, in order ostensibly to get the Bill through its last stages before midnight on December 31st), may again have to be resorted to. Meanwhile, high hopes are being placed on M. Poincaré's forthcoming visit to London to meet Mr Bonar Law and Signor Mussolini, with whom it is sincerely desired he will be able to come to an agreement that will enable the Allies to utilise the Brussels Conference as a means of restoring economic peace to Europe. M. Poincaré, it is known, is going to London with a well-considered and coherent plan for submission to the forthcoming international gathering in the Belgian capital. The details of this plan have been held carefully secret, and it may be taken for granted that many of the statements that have appeared in the French Press as to the nature of the proposals that will be supported by the French delegates at Brussels—particularly as to suggestive coercive measures against Germany—are entirely unauthorised, and in many cases unfounded. Whether this plan will be submitted to the Allied Premiers in detail remains to be seen. What is more probable is that M. Poincaré will merely

submit a series of principles for the consideration of his colleagues, and leave the details to follow as a matter of course. One thing is confidently expected here—that the London meeting will confirm the belief, so strongly suggested by the recent note of the Allies imposing fines on guilty German cities, that a new spirit broods over Downing Street since the fall of Mr Lloyd George, and that there is much more likelihood of a really united Allied front being shown at Brussels than was the case at Spa, Cannes, or Genoa.

Genoa.

Every week brings further confirmation of the belief that the German Government is now deliberately setting itself to render nugatory the plans for securing reparation payments in kind, under the Wiesbaden agreements, as it has nullified the clauses for cash payments under the Peace Treaty itself. A copy of a confidential circular issued by the German Government to manufacturers and others has been published here showing that these traders have been directed to multiply by a co-efficient of 12 their prices for merchandise to be supplied to buyers in this country under the Wiesbaden system for payment of reparations in kind. Statements published by traders doing business with the devastated regions indicate that the quotations now issued by German firms, in response to inquiries for consignments of bricks, tiles, slates, &c., under the Wiesbaden agreements, are so high that it is impossible to take advantage of the mechanism agreed upon by the two Governments. Since November 10th, for example, the price of German bricks for export to France on reparations account has been fixed at 75f (French) per 1,000, taken at the kiln (notwithstanding that the German price is only 50f), which means that the price when delivered at, say St Quentin, carriage included, would be 150f per 1,000, whereas the price of French-made bricks (carriage, &c., included) is only 125f. The obvious inference of the French observer is that the German Government, which is responsible for fixing these prices, is deliberately attempting to *saboter* the Wiesbaden agreements. The latter, it will be remembered, expressly stipulate that German merchandise offered under them shall not be quoted at a price higher than that of similar goods on the French open market.

The city of Paris and its surrounding suburbs, together with one or two provincial centres, underwent the curious experience on Sunday of witnessing the revolutionary principle of "direct action" undergoing application at the hands of practically the whole body of the master bakers of the capital. As is probably generally known the price at which bread can be sold in this country is fixed by the Prefect in each department, in consultation with a local commission of experts, and it has stood for some time at 1f 5c the kilogramme. For some weeks past the master bakers have been agitating for an increase in this price, ostensibly on the ground of the rise in the price of flour, and have been making strenuous efforts to secure the introduction of a sliding scale, dependent on the rise and fall in the price of flour. They insisted, finally, that unless they were allowed to charge an extra 10c a kilogramme, they would have to close their shops, as it was impossible to carry on except at a loss. The Prefect, after studying the question for several days, finally refused to concede the principle of the sliding scale (on the ground, as it has been openly stated, of the possibilities for collusion between the wheat trade, the milling industry and the bakers), but consented to the price of bread being raised by 5c. The bakers retorted by promptly closing their shops at noon on Saturday, intimating that they placed their plant at the disposal of the authorities, if they (the latter) wished to undertake the responsibility of victualling the city, but that they would not continue trading at the price as fixed. The movement was so general that, according to the official figures, out of 2,159 bakers' shops in Paris, 1,071 remained closed.

The authorities promptly accepted the challenge. Notices were issued stating that from the following morning bread would be supplied from the army bakeries, and distributed from the 20 town halls of the city, as well as through the various co-operative societies and other organisations, and before noon on Sunday the bakers formally capitulated and undertook to re-open their shops on the following morning.

The causes of the incident are apparently twofold. On

the one hand, there has been an almost incredible amount of speculation in bread businesses during the past three or four years, owing to the high profits which bakers, like most other traders, have been obtaining. On the other hand, the price of flour, owing to the high profits taken by middlemen, is undoubtedly artificially high. Wheat growers in this country mostly sold their entire crops in bulk in September last, at 84s per quintal, payable on delivery, at the order of the buyer. This system has become general in France during the past three years, and is obviously greatly to the advantage of the milling industry, who are the principal purchasers. The miller is able to save the cost of warehousing, as he takes delivery only when it suits him, and he avoids locking up his capital unproductively, for the time being, as he pays for his wheat only on delivery. Further, by leaving his wheat to dry on the premises of the grower, the miller secures the benefit of a loss of 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. in the weight to be paid for when the grain is delivered.

Flour made from wheat, bought at 84f in September, is already quoted at 108f, and is expected to go still higher—largely owing to the fact, both growers and bakers complain that whereas the selling price of bread is fixed by the public authorities, the price of flour depends on the fluctuations of the Bourse de Commerce, and is always at the mercy of market manipulations. It is not surprising that wheat growers assert that the profits of the French milling industry, which varied between 7 per cent. and 10 per cent. before the war, are now between 18 per cent. and 25 per cent. As matters stand, the recent decree of the Minister of Agriculture which was signed, for the purpose of economising the amount of flour available for bread-making, and which was expected to result in a reduction of 20 per cent. in the price of the product, has apparently had no beneficial effect on the consumer.

The Bourse this week has reacted strongly against the marked depression that was characteristic of last week, and values generally have tended to rise, partly owing to the abundance of money and partly owing to the fact that no further large capital issues are expected during December. French Rentés were irregular, but the Three per Cents. rose sharply from 58.45 to 59.50. Banks generally hardened by a few points, but there were no sensational changes. Railways retained their prices, and Midi was conspicuous in advancing from 806 to 816. Navigation followed the example of London and Amsterdam, Chargeurs Réunis advancing from 482 to 580, and Messageries Maritimes from 210 to 215. Metallurgical undertakings nearly all showed an improvement, though of no very marked character. Tintos moved briskly from 1,742 to 1,800, Boléo from 586 to 602, and Utah from 895 to 939. Royal Dutch, at 22,950, was 300 points up, but Shell remained unchanged, while Steaua Romana declined from 452 to 448.

GERMANY. — CABINET PROSPECTS — FINANCES —
EXCHANGE AND BOURSE — TRADE — PRICES —
CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 5.

BERLIN, December 5.—The prospects of Dr Cuno's Cabinet are regarded as good, but the accomplishment of the big programme contained in the Note of November 13th depends mainly upon the outcome of the Brussels Conference, and unless the programme, or some alternative, can be accomplished the Cabinet may have no better fate than its predecessors. In his first speech outside the Reichstag to the Berlin Press Herr Cuno gave no indications of his further plans, and proclaimed somewhat generally for a policy aimed at reviving confidence. The Note of the Ambassadors' Conference about the attacks upon Ally officers will not help the Cabinet. The Note is sharp and humiliating. The Berlin Government has very little authority over what occurs within the States' competence; it is limited in theory by the Constitution, and more limited in practice through the disrespect for the Constitution shown by State Governments, municipalities, and other local self-

December 9, 1922.]

THE ECONOMIST.

1079

government bodies. The grievances of foreign visitors and residents which appeared so prominently in the London Press last week are all due to the belief of the States that they can not only violate the Peace Treaty—that, they hold, being a matter that concerns Wilhelmstrasse, not themselves—but can also, by seizing powers that do not belong to them, violate Federal law. The Federal Cabinet may be guilty of doing too little, but if it attempts to do enough, the States would make worse trouble than the trouble needing remedy.

The Cabinet is reconsidering Dr Wirth's foreign exchanges decree. The decree is evaded and violated. Home sales against foreign currency continue, and anyone can buy foreign exchange in the unrecognised exchange bourses which meet in cafés and private houses. A Bill adapting the Forced Loan to the currency depreciation has been prepared. The possibility of this loan's yielding any considerable sum disappeared when Dr Wirth consented to fix a maximum paper mark yield instead of, as was originally proposed, a maximum gold mark yield collectable in paper marks at the exchange rate of the subscription date. To-day the 70 milliard marks mean nothing. When the law was passed they meant 600,000,000 gold marks, which, though less than the planned milliard, was a considerable sum. New issues of capital in November were 15,223 millions, against 7,187 millions in October. Capitalisation increases accounted for 11,058 millions, new foundations for 1,182.9 millions, and bonds for 2,982 millions. Capitalisation increases in the first eleven months of the year were 34,352 millions, against 16,539 millions in the same months of 1921, but the value of the money was very much less than in 1921.

The Reichsbank's statement for November 23rd sets new records, and the statement for the 30th will probably do the same, because, though the mark has not fallen quite back to its level of early November, the supply of credit and cash to the public has not yet caught up with prices. The November 23rd statement shows this. For the first time on record the increase in Treasury bill discounts (13,795 millions) fell behind the increase in commercial bills (33,851 millions), while the Bank's holding of loan (Darlehns) notes, which represent borrowings on bonds, stocks, and wares, increased by 30,113 millions against Commercial discounts reached 208,735 millions against 1,109 millions a year before, and the loan notes holding 81,226 millions against 5,014 millions. Early in 1921, when money was easy, the loans of the *Darlehnskassen* were being paid off so rapidly that the early disappearance of these emergency credit institutions was expected. Note circulation in the week increased by 61,644 millions to 643,749 millions, and will probably be within sight of a billion by the end of the year.

The Bourse last week was firm, and yesterday it boomed. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for dividend-payers for December 1st shows 400,046 against 335,236 a week before, under the influence of the Cabinet formation, the new firmness of the foreign exchanges, and various industrial commercial developments. English capital, it is reported, is interested in the deal of the Essen Krupps with the Soviet Government, a feature of which is the concession to Krupps of 25,000 desiatines of South Russian agricultural land, which will be turned into a modern farm mechanically worked. The Prussian Trade Ministry's report for November describes slackness in some industries, caused by the public feeling of uncertainty and by shortage of working capital, and the new labour report shows 1.4 per cent. of unemployed, against a minimum of 0.6 per cent. in August. The pre-war figure in winter months was usually between 3.5 and 4.5. The heavy iron industry is suffering from coke and coal shortage. Bourse circles yesterday declared themselves doubtful about the boom, but the public is determined to buy. On December 1st the boom chiefly affected the speculative *Deutsche Erdoel* and *Deutsche Waffen* companies, both of which rose 19,000 points in a few hours. Bonds are firm, the chief feature being yesterday's rise of Colonial Fours, now the dearest of all home bonds, from 1,100 to 2,200. War Loan remains at 80.75. Fours were yesterday 385, 3½ per cents. 260, Threes 951, Prussian Threes 390, and Berlin Fours 110. To-day the Bourse is closed.

Foreign trade statistics are now issued in gold marks.

Figures (in millions of gold marks) for the first 10 months of the year, the earlier months being reckoned back for a gold mark valuation (and probably being unreliable), are :—

	Imports.	Exports.
January	330.4	324.6
February	359.6	297.9
March	563.2	324.1
April	508.0	328.8
May	565.2	391.6
June	564.6	416.6
July	684.8	320.8
August	545.1	242.0
September	421.8	280.4
October	531.7	289.9

The general tendency shown by these figures is towards a slight decline in export values, and towards stability in import values, after a sudden rise in March. In weight, the import figures continue to show large increases, even if coal, which in October increased over September by 330,000 metric tons, is allowed for. All exports in October were 1,540,000 tons, all imports 5,550,000 tons, as against 1,580,000 tons and 4,829,000 tons in September, 1,406,700 tons and 4,676,100 tons in August, and 1,807,800 tons and 4,089,100 tons in June, the last month of a relatively stable mark. It has been shown from here before that there is no reason why currency depreciation should reduce Germany's ability to import, and as the currency depreciation of 1922 had time to exert influence long before October, the above figures confirm this view. It is equally true, and here also the figures confirm it, that the depreciation does not necessarily foster export, the reason being that the home price-level has been permanently far below the foreign, so that competition up to the limit allowed by the limited surplus of goods over the home demand has been as easy after periods of relative mark exchange stability as after heavy falls.

The price rise in November was not quite as rapid as in October, but prices nearly doubled. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for December 1st shows 166,495. The movement and its distribution among classes of goods is:—

	Food.	Textiles, Leather.	Minerals.	Miscel- laneous.	Manufac- tured Goods.	All 98 Commodities.
July, 1914.	100	100	100	100	100	100
Jan. 1, 1920.	1,972	2,611	2,749	1,101	1,465	1,965
" " 1921.	2,019	2,325	2,780	1,776	1,704	2,130
" " 1922.	3,840	5,769	5,178	3,169	3,397	4,751
June 1, 1922.	9,657	9,626	10,141	6,413	6,341	8,317
Nov. 1, 1922.	88,980	153,896	128,982	72,038	57,683	94,492
Dec. 1, 1922.	144,753	266,322	219,395	134,177	118,385	166,495

If the mark's gold exchange depreciation is taken as 1-2,000th, the average gold price is much lower than in 1914; in the five groups it is higher only for textiles, leather, and minerals (but here is below the world-market gold price, which has risen more), and for manufactured goods is little more than half the pre-war price. In the first 11 months of this year prices have risen nearly forty-fold; the dollar exchange index (4.20 marks parity = 100) rose in the same time from 4,476 to 177,677, so that prices have closely followed the mark's external depreciation. They started in January, however, behind world-market gold prices, and remain behind. Stabilisation at the proposed rate of 3,000 marks to the dollar would not now be practicable, except at the cost of a decline of exports. Manufacturers and exporters, who, having successfully adapted themselves to chronic currency depreciation, are not very impatient for stabilisation, will certainly oppose any plan to stabilise at a level which would check foreign sales, and, by bringing the certainty of a price decline, would temporarily frighten off home buyers.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* publishes further figures to show the increase in the efficiency of labour. In 1913 the output of raw potash salts per man per shift was 24.7 double centers (of 1-10th metric ton); in 1919 output sank to 16.86 double centers, rose to 18.2 double centers in 1920, to 20.53 double centers in 1921, and to 26.77 double centers in the first half of 1922. The pre-war shift was one hour longer than the present. The provisional crops report for Prussia is unfavourable. Bread crops are estimated at 4,947,825 tons, against 6,805,720 tons in 1921, and all grain crops, peas, and beans at 9,117,277 tons, against 11,051,818 tons. An American expert who has

examined the matter states that the reports of this year's decline, and of the general decline since 1914, are very suspicious. Officials declare, and farmers in confidence admit, that individual producers' statistics are often below the truth, the aim being evasion of the *Umlage* requisition. This seems all the more likely because the great declines are recorded in the requisitioned products. The Prussian potato crop is reported at 27,148,900 tons, against 18,558,448 tons in 1921, sugar beet at 8,257,918 tons against 5,641,585 tons, and fodder root plants at 13,532,644 tons against 9,342,424 tons.

HOLLAND.—GERMAN INSURANCE POLICIES—BANK SHARES—FOREIGNERS ON STOCK EXCHANGE—NAVIGATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, November 30.

LIFE insurance policyholders in German companies are experiencing the some disillusion as Swiss and other non-German policyholders in Europe. When a policy for say 18,000 fl falls due, the German company will pay the amount of marks equal to 18,000 fl in 1914, i.e., 30,000 m. At the current rate this is about 11,50 fl. There are about 6,000 of this fortunate class of policyholders, of whom 2,600 insured with the "Germania." The total amount insured may be estimated at 35,000,000 fl, the discounted present value 12,000,000 fl. There have been negotiations in order to arrive at some sort of settlement with aid of the Government, but there is little likelihood that anything like a satisfactory arrangement will be reached.

The shares of our larger banking institutions have declined quite considerably during the last 18 months. The stock exchange value of shares of the Amsterdamsche Bank (outstanding capital 55,000,000 fl) has decreased 27,500,000 fl, of the Bank Associatie (capital 17,000,000 fl) 13,000,000 fl, of the Incasso Bank (capital 25,000,000 fl) 3,750,000 fl, of Marx and Co.'s Bank, in liquidation (capital 12,000,000 fl) 12,800,000 fl, of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging (capital 35,500,000 fl) 16,500,000 fl. Together, the fall in market value of the shares of these banking institutions amounts to 73,550,000 fl. The Amsterdamsche Bank has still the largest reserves in proportion to the stock capital, i.e., 79 per cent. Then the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging follows with 53 per cent., De Twentsche Bank with 36 per cent., and the Incasso Bank with 21 per cent. Leaving the Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij and the two other colonial banks (Nederlandsch Indische Escompto Maatschappij and Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank) apart, the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging holds the lead in respect of the total capital and reserves, with 111,000,000 fl, the figure for the Amsterdamsche Bank being 98,000,000 fl, and for the De Twentsche Bank 54,400,000 fl, and the Incasso Bank 30,000,000 fl.

The question of admitting foreign elements in our national system of banking and stock exchange is one which is gradually acquiring more than theoretical interest. The stock exchange committee drafted a scheme indicating the conditions under which foreigners might be admitted to the exchange, and invited the members to submit this proposal to the committee, a rather curious way of bringing the question on the agenda of the meeting of the members of the exchange. Up till now membership can only be acquired by brokers and bankers engaged in the trade of dealing in securities in Amsterdam and residing there, and being of Dutch nationality. If naturalised, they ought to have resided for the last ten years in this country. The new proposal provided that foreigners could also be admitted if they paid a guarantee of 12,000 fl (which is higher than for Dutch members), and furthermore gave an account of their career, beginning with their coming of age, and accompanied by the necessary documents. Foreigners, it was proposed, should not be entitled to fulfil functions as members of the board. In the case of naturalisation, it was proposed that two years' residence should be substituted for ten. The feeling was very much against the admittance of foreigners (Germans), and the proposal has been rejected by an enormous majority.

The number of vessels lying up in this harbour is steadily decreasing. The total tonnage lying up is 87,500, whilst the aggregate in all Dutch ports is 200,000, being 1.7th of the total Dutch tonnage. Of the Stoomvaart-Maatschappij "Nederland," 13 vessels are not yet in navigation, but of the other steamship companies in this city most of the vessels have found employment again.

ROUMANIA.—TIMBER TRADE SITUATION—SCARCITY OF CURRENCY—EXTERNAL FLOATING DEBTS—LOSSES ON MARK DEPRECIATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRASOV, November 20.

In spite of the aggravation of the Near East situation, the Roumanian exchange has remained fairly steady this month. Even the recent depreciation of the French franc, which usually provoked a corresponding decline of the lei, was unable this time to affect the Bucharest rate. On the other hand, the sharp appreciation of the lei in Paris affected unfavourably Roumanian timber exports to France, so that the present improving tendency of the French franc signifies a great relief to the Roumanian timber trade. Quite recently important quantities have been sold for French enterprises engaged in the reconstruction of the devastated area, as these enterprises have lost their patience in waiting for the practical carrying out of the Stinnes-Lubersack agreement and prefer to cover their most urgent needs on the Roumanian market, either direct or with the intermediary of Czechoslovak and Hungarian houses. During the last few weeks British timber importers have also made important purchases in Roumania. Part of the timber exported to France and England is being carried over Hungarian, Austrian, and German railways, the depreciation of the exchanges making the transport expenses lower than shipping freights. Moreover, the obstacles and risks brought about by the Near East situation have also contributed to direct Roumanian exports to Continental railways instead of using the natural waterways. However, Roumanian transports consistently avoid Czechoslovak territory, because the tariffs of that country are substantially higher than those of the neighbouring countries.

Although there has been a slow but steady increase in the note circulation since August last, there is still a shortage in the money market. This is quite natural, considering that average prices are about 25 times the pre-war price level, while the note circulation is only about 12 times that of 1914 (including, of course, the amount of roubles and kronen that circulated in the new provinces before the war). Thus, in order to satisfy natural needs, the doubling of the note circulation would be necessary; yet the Government is not disposed to adopt such a monetary policy.

A special financial committee, under the leadership of Mr E. Antonesco, one of the well-known financial experts of the country, is carrying on negotiations in Washington with Mr Mellon concerning the consolidation of Roumanian debts to the U.S.A., amounting to about \$41,000,000. According to newspaper reports, the Government has received a note from the British Government in which the latter points out that, considering the friendly attitude of British financial circles in the matter of the consolidation of the Roumanian floating debts in England, Roumania is under a moral obligation to place her orders for railway materials in England. In its reply, the Roumanian Government is said to have declared that, though at present the Roumanian State Railways cannot afford to make substantial capital investments, still, as far as possible, they will cover their needs from England. The negotiations that took place recently between Sir Basil Zaharoff and the Finance Minister, in Bucharest, gave rise to most fantastic Press comments concerning the lease of oilfields and of the State Railways against an important sterling loan, but, according to official declarations, these rumours have no foundation.

The Government intended to change the fiscal year so as to make it correspond with the calendar year, in substitution of the present system, which is similar to the English system. However, as the Budget for 1923 has not been submitted to Parliament up to the present, it is

probable that the next fiscal year will only begin as usual on April 1, 1923, instead of January 1, 1923. The Budget of the State Railways will be separated from the General Budget.

The establishment of factories is being largely encouraged by the Government; the State Railways allow a reduction of 45 per cent. for merchandise sent by a factory, and it is intended to exempt from taxation those factories which have been founded after the Armistice. Losses on German marks have been very substantial in this country. The population purchased mark notes on a very large scale, because they considered it a good investment, and, moreover, the German national minorities of Transylvania, Banat, and Bukovina have purchased marks in consequence of their political sympathies with Germany. The total losses of Roumanian citizens in consequence of the depreciation of the mark are estimated by the *Rumänische Lloyd* at three to four billions lei.

LATIN-AMERICAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COLOMBIA.—The present year closes with considerably brighter economic prospects for Colombia, whose trading and financial position has materially ameliorated. The national Budget fixed the estimates of revenues at 28,211,822.37 pesos, but, so far as the year has gone, the revenues have exceeded the anticipated total, while the expenditures have been kept down to a little over 25,000,000 pesos. The special Budget of public credit for the same period was fixed at 7,001,190.96 pesos, to be used for the admission and conversion of the various securities of the public debt, the outstanding amount of foreign indebtedness being little more than £4,000,000 (almost the whole of which is held by British investors), or 15s *per capita* of the population. The service of the debt has been discharged with commendable regularity even during the long-continued depression from which the country had been suffering, and the emptiness of the national Treasury. It may come as some surprise to readers to learn that Colombia has not, even yet, received from the United States the indemnity sum of \$25,000,000 (gold) forming part of the award under the treaty of April 6, 1914. The cash indemnity was to have been paid in instalments of \$5,000,000 each, the first to be remitted "in six months after the exchange of ratifications," which, upon the part of the United States, has not yet taken place. Colombia stands much in need of this money for the prosecution of various projects, including the construction of roads, railways, and the clearing of waterways as a means of improving transportation problems.

Month by month exports have advanced over imports during the past year, and merchants, who hitherto have been compelled to restrict their buying abroad, are once more commencing to place their orders there. Great hopes are based upon the coffee crop, which, it is thought, may reach a value of \$40,000,000. The 1920 crop had an approximate value of \$50,000,000.

A helpful factor in the economic situation of this Republic has been the establishment of a Bank of Issue (drafts, deposits, and discount), with a capital of 10,000,000 pesos, one-half of which has been subscribed by the Government and one-half by the various banks. Known under the name of the Bank of the Republic, and domiciled at the capital, Bogotá, with branches in the Department-capitals and other important cities, the institution hopes to do a growing amount of business, including agency work for the execution of fiscal operations and collaboration in the development of national industries. For its solvency the Government is solely responsible.

ECUADOR.—Something like five years' political tranquility having passed in Ecuador, it was hoped that the economic progress of that country might be permitted to continue without interruption. Unfortunately, disquiet has attended these aspirations, for, once appointment has been in the throes of revolution, and consequent upon the attempts of the brothers Alfredo and Enrique Baquerizo y Moreno to regain political power.

But President José Luiz Tamayo, whose advent to the executive chair took place in August, 1920, has proved strong enough to put down the rebellion; he has banished the two conspirators—one of whom, Don Alfredo, was formerly President. Now they have adopted the neighbouring State of Peru as a centre, whence to conduct plots against the established Government. Those who hold, or who may have held, Ecuadorian securities, will recall the many other disturbances which have seriously interfered with the economic advancement of the State in which they had invested their money—such as the revolution of 1912, when the ex-President Alfaro and his candidates were barbarously lynched.

When, in 1914, the Governments of Great Britain and France complained, through Washington, of the Ecuadorian President's (General Plaza) constant breaches of neutrality, the fault was clearly traceable to German influence; it is believed to be the same now. Immediately General Plaza's term of office was over (1916), Ecuador severed diplomatic relations with Germany, the new President, Dr Alfredo Baquerizo y Moreno, refusing to receive the Emperor's Minister at Quito. But German influence has never dwindled, and is still reflected in all branches of politics, finance, commerce, and industry throughout the State. The great handicap to British trade, and consequently to British influence, has been, and is, the high sterling rate of exchange, round about \$21.10 (before the latest upheaval), while Germany's exchange position has enabled exports from that country to be received at very low figures.

The Ecuadorian Government has for long been financially embarrassed, and unable to find funds sufficient to meet bureaucratic demands. This fact may also have had something to do with, or have assisted, the recent revolutionary outbreak; but over-trading, inflation of credit, falling prices, and general business stagnation have played their part. The country's foreign debt at the end of 1920 stood at 35,834,701 sucres,* the internal debt at 25,647,345 sucres, or a total indebtedness of 61,482,046 sucres. In 1921 this was increased by the addition of 1,353,306 sucres to the foreign debt, and 4,651,066 to the internal debt. The former was due to the interest and amortisation of the previous debt cancelled in 1921, part of the internal indebtedness being due to the same cause. Payments in 1921 on the foreign debt amounted to no more than 474,725 sucres, and on the internal debt to 1,766,838, making the total payments 2,251,563, and leaving a total indebtedness on December 31, 1921, of 65,244,855 sucres.

Letters to the Editor.

CURRENCY AND GOLD VALUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Most people will agree that a State with a currency which has depreciated to the extent that the German currency has depreciated will have to get back to the gold standard by heroic methods instead of by a process of gradual deflation. In your current issue Dr Harthorn suggests that in the case of Germany the existing paper currency should be exchanged against gold at a rate corresponding with the present internal buying power of the mark, and this is said to represent about 1.750th of its former gold value.

In recommending the scheme Dr Harthorn says:—"Looking at this measure from a superficial point of view, it appears as if it would lead to a revolution of the mutual financial obligations of men. But actually nothing is changed in the present conditions, and nobody profits or suffers financially by this measure.....The fact that this restoration of the gold basis can take place immediately and without disturbing economic life cannot be too highly praised."

This is rather too optimistic a view. It would certainly not be held by those whose property is represented by pre-war debts, such as mortgages and other obligations, including pre-war State debts.

* 1 Sucre = nominally 2s. or 50c. U.S.A. (gold).

In the case, for instance, of A, whose estate of 300 acres—or whose factory—is subject to a pre-war mortgage of 750,000 gold marks in favour of B, it is clear that a reorganisation of the currency under which B finds the amount of his mortgage reduced to 1-750th, namely to 1,000 gold marks, will be more likely to be praised by A than by B.

Although during the last two or three years the purchasing power of the interest received in marks by B has been reduced to a negligible amount by the fall in the mark, B has no doubt been hoping for the coming of better times; but he will now be faced with ruin. There is probably no remedy available for this appalling injustice, but the inevitable adoption of some such measure must unfortunately perpetuate the financial ruin of a vast number of individuals, while others will—quite undeservedly—benefit to an equal extent.—Yours, &c.,

London, December 5th, 1922.

P. D. LEAKE.

A LEVY ON CAPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your last issue Mr. A. Hook, criticising a letter of mine dealing with the capital levy, writes that my statement, according to which the Labour Party and Socialists in general very frequently confuse money with wealth, is "childish travesty of the facts." The entire literature of Socialism shows that those who advocate making the masses prosperous at the cost of the few, labour under the extraordinary misconception that prosperity can be made general by distributing bits of paper. Prosperity means nothing but an abundance of the things men need, such as houses, clothes, food, fuel, &c. That abundance cannot be created, as the Socialists and the Labour Party people maintain, by taking money from one set of people and handing it over to another set of people. It can be created only by having more houses, more food, more clothing, more fuel, &c., by increasing production, and in no other way.

I am afraid your correspondent himself confuses money with wealth. That may be seen not only by his supporting a levy on capital, but by his asking whether it is better to base revenue on income or on capital. Capital is nothing but the machinery of civilisation and production. Capital consists in the main of factories, railways, ships, agricultural lands, &c. A revenue based on capital without regard to revenue may, and probably will, reduce the capital of the nation, will limit the expansion of production, will create scarcity of the consumable articles which people need. The question whether revenue should be based on income or on capital might be countered with the question whether the owner of an orchard should sell his fruit or sell his trees for timber. No juggling with money can create plenty out of scarcity. Plenty is the fruit of industry, not of financial trickery.—I am, &c.,

J. ELLIS BARKER.

East Finchley, N. 2, December 5th, 1922.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The Labour party seem rather to have lost sight of the fact that those who are called upon to pay high income-tax and super-tax for many years to come are the very ones most likely to be hit by a levy on capital; those who pay the piper should call the tune. Mr Ellis Barker rightly points out that the worker cannot, as it were, breakfast on "Bradburies," and that he cannot get more of the good things of life unless he produces them.

The worker naturally replies that he has no objection to doing so, provided he can be assured of a fair share of that extra production; how, therefore, can this be brought about?

Surely the answer is that "payment by results" should be encouraged as much as possible; that employers should encourage staff training, and so teach workers how to produce more and earn more at the same time.

The Government can play its part by making propaganda to disabuse the worker of some of the fallacies he at present cherishes; as an example: "A piece-worker who achieves a high output is not an enemy to his fellows doing them out of a job, rather he is a friend because

if his output is high his wage will be high, and he will be able to buy more goods of all descriptions, and thus create work for others."

Everybody is agreed that greater output is wanted; the question we now have to hammer out is "how to get it."—Yours faithfully,

Jersey, December 4th, 1922.

W. BRUCE DOUGLAS.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your articles on unemployment, and in various speeches made by all parties during the election—so far as I have seen them reported—I have looked in vain for any considerable hope of permanent improvement.

There have been references to the collapse of Europe and hopes of better trade when the exchanges are stabilised, while the palliatives, such as road-making and Tube extensions, are welcomed for what they are worth.

But I notice that the Chancellor of the Exchequer—a business man who is in a position to observe the facts at close quarters—suggested in one of his speeches, and I think rightly, that Great Britain is over-industrialised.

The leaders and theorists of the industrial revolution appear to have set before themselves the aim of making Great Britain truly the workshop of the world. And the world as it was viewed by the great political economists of that time was peopled by a race which they characterised as "The Economic Man." It will be remembered by those who have studied political economy that this economic man was always prompted by motives of self-interest—that is, of what our economists thought he would consider his self-interest. And his self-interest consisted in following the pursuit of wealth—wealth meaning, in a general sense, all the good things provided by our latter-day civilisation.

But it did not occur to the economists that, for instance, the inhabitants of Mexico would forgo the blessings of railways and electric light, and sink back into tribal warfare—forgetting even to finish paying for the railways and electricity with which we had provided them on credit. It would have surprised Ricardo and his friends to know that Russia, having tasted the sweets of civilisation, would, at the bidding of a few strong men, forswear progress and relapse into barbarism—also neglecting to make provision for her debts.

It would further have been a source of astonishment to our political economists if they had realised that, far from welcoming the products of Great Britain with effusion, the countries of the world have in many cases been at considerable pains to repel such products from their frontiers by means of tariff walls—walls raised gradually higher even since the war. Because most nations, as civilisation progresses, wish to develop themselves industrially, and inspired by this desire are willing to forgo the advantage of purchasing British goods which would undersell the produce of their own nascent industries.

Is it not time, then, to face the facts? The old theory no longer fits them, and our industrial system is out of joint in consequence.

We have continued to develop our factories and workshops and encourage our population to be trained industrially in the expectation that customers will always be forthcoming for our goods. Now it appears that our old customers either cannot or will not buy. The countries of Central Europe are impoverished, and handicapped as regards purchases from the foreigner by the collapse of their exchanges; but it must not be overlooked that these very exchange difficulties serve as protection to the impoverished country and help it to make itself independent industrially.

It is calculated that if Russia could devise means of payment, her wants would provide employment for large numbers of factories, not only here, but on the Continent. But her people, having eschewed the capitalist system, cannot make use of the device of credit to obtain goods, and this state of things seems very far from coming to an end.

Then there is China, with her vast possibilities for absorption of British goods, but she is torn by internal dissensions, and the impracticability of obtaining credit bars the way to any considerable expansion. It is true that some day we may experience an effective demand

from these countries; on the other hand, things may drag on as they are.

In the writer's opinion we must make up our minds boldly to alter our theory, and instead of encouraging our young men to hope for full employment at home in an uncertain future, we must aid them to emigrate to those lands under the British Flag where they may expect greater scope, prosperity, and happiness in the development of the Empire. I notice that Mr Baldwin, at the meeting above referred to, indicated emigration as a partial solution of the problem. His statement was received with cries of dissent.

One realises that, after all we have heard about heroes for heroes in their native land, it will not be a popular cry to proclaim that a great mistake has been made, and that Great Britain is no longer able to support in active employment her large and increasing population. But the sooner we make a start with emigration on a large scale, the earlier will some perceptible alleviation of the burden become apparent. I know the difficulties in the way of this policy—the great expenditure necessary in training men for their new career, and starting them on their way, and the suspicion with which the ingress of immigrants in considerable numbers would be regarded in the minds of organised labour in our Dominions. But what are we spending now in the maintenance of hundreds of thousands of workers in enforced idleness, and consequently in a state of decreasing efficiency as industrialists, and progressive heartiness as human beings! In regard to the other point, the obvious truism could be more insistently preached to our fellow-countrymen overseas, that a larger population in their case not only means greater prosperity economically, but also, as the late Lord Northcliffe pointed out to the Australians, a greater measure of safety politically.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Berkhamsted, November 27th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

EUROPE'S PAPER MONEYS.*

"No more severe reflection could be passed on the moral and political capacity of the human species than this—Five thousand years after the invention of writing, three thousand after the invention of money, and (nearly) five hundred since the invention of printing, Governments all over the world are employing the third invention for the purpose of debasing the second." So Mr Hirst opens a bright little brochure on the exceedingly depressing subject of the riotous activity of the currency printing presses of Europe. Primarily intended, apparently, for the American reader, this little volume will wile away a pleasant half-hour even for those who have seen at closer quarters the chaos of Continental currencies. It is well-packed with historical illusions. Here is one "I remember reading in the Roman historian Sallust of a financial crisis which was ended by debts contracted in silver being paid off in copper—*argentum aere solutum est*." And again: "A few years before Adam Smith wrote his chapter on money, Frederick the Great, during the Seven Years' War, resorted to the Jew, Ephraim, who coined tin silver:—

Outside noble, inside slim;
Outside Frederick, inside Ephraim.

But Frederick, wiser and more honest than our European belligerents, made it his first care after the peace to restore an honest silver coinage." An appendix contains an article by Mr Hirst, reprinted from the *Saturday Evening Post*, reviewing the Brussels Conference recommendations on the reform of currency and public finance. Mr Hirst writes cogently and pleasantly on the need for what we may, perhaps, call the "de-Ephraimisation" of European currencies.

* "The Paper Moneys of Europe." By Francis W. Hirst. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York. Price, 75 cents.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000

Paid Up Capital ... 1,050,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ... 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

SOCIALISM REVISED AND REJECTED.*

"EXPLOITATION of the workers," as M. Aftalion points out, is the leading and sometimes the sole idea behind the current Socialist creed, and it is effective because, while in reality every member of society is frequently "exploited," it is used to bind the workers together as a single class. But as he shows its source is the Marxian theory of values, and, now that this is superseded by the derivation of value from utility, he suggests that Socialists may revert to the older position that the existing social order is based on "spoliation." Labour does not produce by itself; it works in conjunction with land, capital, and skilled management, and in the first part of this book he argues elaborately that each of these elements contributory to the product is entitled to a share in its value. If the workers received these shares, they would go where the shares are largest—to the best land, or the most highly capitalised undertakings; and production would fall off. As things are, they probably get all that labour contributes to the product. But in Part 4 he suggests that Socialists may contend that the other shares go to the wrong people, through the institution of private property; for property has for the most part been originally got by violence. Certain elements in it have been legitimately acquired—the rewards, for instance, of skilled management or of invention; but they are now inseparable from the tainted elements, and the taint is not removed by centuries of prescription, or by repeated changes, themselves legitimate, in possession. Besides, much property results, not from individual action, but from the social order, and the mass of knowledge bequeathed by past generations; it constitutes a "social surplus" which Society may justly claim. And anyhow, the owners even of legitimately acquired property cannot justly claim that they or their descendants should enjoy it in perpetuity; the State may fairly buy them out by terminable and gradually diminishing annuities, lasting for three generations, or five at most. Having presented Socialists with this revised theory, M. Aftalion proceeds to contest it in Part III. on the ground that private property makes, after all, for the maximum of social well-being. It helps to secure skilled direction of industry, and to promote saving, both of which operations would present immense difficulties to a Socialist State. Present-day Socialists dispense with the stage which Marx postulated preparatory to the social revolution; they hold that mankind can make the revolution at will. But just now it would be supremely disastrous, as interrupting the recovery from the devastation of the war. The "social surplus," however, may be legitimately reached by luxury taxes or otherwise, and devoted to social reform; and certain industries may be nationalised, though M. Aftalion deprecates their management by the State.

This is a bald summary of a very able exposition, so thorough as to be sometimes redundant, and often throwing fresh light on purely economic matters, as in its analyses of interest and profit, and in the supplementary objections brought forward against Marxism. M. Aftalion is a Professor of Law at the University of Lille, and has made a reputation as an economist. Some of his economic references, however, are not sufficiently explicit, except perhaps for experts: it is not always clear whether he is stating actual Socialist theories, or con-

* "Les Fondements du Socialisme." Etude Critique. Par Albert Aftalion. (Paris). Marcel Rivière. pp. 310. 12 fr.

Fareham Tanneries, Limited.— Authorised capital £63,000, divided into 60,000 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, and 60,000 ordinary shares of 1s each. This is an issue of 42,000 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par. Subscribers for preference shares are also offered an allocation of ordinary shares. The company has been formed to take over a tannery, which, we are told, has produced leather for over a century, yet it is somewhat curious that past profits are omitted. The purchase consideration is £30,000 for two tanneries, of which £12,000 is payable in cash, but it is only fair to say that the properties have been independently valued at £30,875. A patent tanning process is also being obtained for £2,580, payable in 1s. ordinary shares. The directors appear to be practical men, but it is doubtful if the issue will appeal to many people outside the immediate circle of their friends.

directors came to the conclusion that they were justified in recommending to you the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., and I anticipate that you will endorse their recommendation by your vote to-day.

NEW BOOK ON USES OF RUBBER.

I understand that during the next few days the Propaganda Department of the Rubber Growers' Association is issuing a compendium entitled "Rubber," telling where it comes from, what it is, how it is procured, brief story of its discovery and development, its unique qualities and its thousand-and-one scientific, industrial, and domestic purposes. I will read the Rubber Growers' Association's message to rubber shareholders contained therein:—

"Use this book yourself, and use your influence to get others to use it, because it is useful. It performs two functions. It helps to extend the use of rubber articles, it also enhances the value of your rubber investments. Remember, the more rubber articles that are brought into general use the greater the demand for the raw plantation product."

I sincerely trust that shareholders in this company will do their part, and so assist in maintaining the better outlook with which we are faced to-day.

We can congratulate ourselves on possessing a valuable property in Castlefield, the condition of which leaves nothing to be desired; the opinion of our visiting agent, Mr James Murray, is contained in the concluding paragraph of his last report, which I will read:—

"In spite of the general depression of the industry, the estate has been well maintained on first-class lines. It is conscientiously managed and in thorough good order, and I question if there is a better property in the country."

I will take this opportunity of expressing the board's appreciation of the excellent work accomplished by our manager, Mr Gardner, his assistants, Messrs Cumberbatch and Company, the local agents, and all concerned with the property, during this most trying and anxious period.

Mr Harold C. Rendle seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring director and the auditors were re-elected, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors and to the staff in the East and in London.

MOZAMBIQUE OIL AND MINERAL CONCESSIONS, LIMITED.

FAVOURABLE PROSPECTS—CAPITAL TO BE INCREASED.

The ordinary general meeting of Mozambique Oil and Mineral Concessions, Limited, was held, on the 29th ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Lieut.-Gen. Sir A. T. Sloggett, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman said: You will be interested to observe that the purchase prices of the concession was satisfied by the allotment of fully-paid shares only, no cash consideration having been paid, thus justifying the vendors' belief in the immense potentialities of your company.

I have no hesitation in saying that if our expectations are fulfilled—and I am sanguine that they will be—the future of this company is assured, and we have good reason to look forward to the greatest prosperity and success. In fact, I am bold enough to say that this company is making Anglo-Portuguese history.

As regards the future finances of your company, you will have observed from the directors' report that arrangements are in progress to meet these, and at a later stage of this meeting I will move a resolution as to increasing the capital of your company. As you are aware, when this company was formed it was capitalised on a most moderate basis, seeing that we have a concession cover-

ing an area of about 29,300 square miles, and to visualise what this area means I should mention that our concession embraces an area just about the size of Scotland.

Captain Lionel Cohen, D.S.O., M.C. (managing director), said: I should like to congratulate the shareholders on the initial success achieved by the company in the short time it has been in existence. If we can follow up the good work already done, with the same energetic consideration for the interests of the shareholders, there can be no doubt as to the very brilliant future that lies before the company.

Perhaps you will also allow me to preface what I have to say in detail, in regard to the work already accomplished, by the statement of a fact of which you are all aware—namely, that this is an Anglo-Portuguese enterprise. Our Portuguese friends are very largely interested, and I would certainly like to state that during the year and a half I have been in Mozambique I have received on your behalf every evidence of goodwill and assistance from the Portuguese Government authorities.

RESULTS OF PROSPECTING.

In order to make our prospecting work as thorough as possible, I engaged seven suitable men as prospectors, purchased tools and necessary equipment, and proceeded to Angoche in the middle of June, 1921.

It was necessary to decide where we should make our headquarters. The company's concession is a very large one, covering over 29,000 square miles. It is situated in the province of Mozambique, opposite the island of Madagascar. It extends from the port of Mozambique to the mouth of the Licungo River, a little north of the town of Quilimane.

Owing to its central coastal position I selected the port of Angoche for our headquarters. The port is about 90 miles south-west of that of Mozambique, and about 700 miles north-east of Lorenzo Marques.

A considerable amount of general prospecting work was done, and various mineral deposits, including graphite, copper and gold, were located. There is also good reason to believe that coal exists within about 50 miles of Angoche, and it is proposed to prospect this particular area by diamond drilling.

Towards the end of last year it became evident that the gold discoveries along the Nahavarra River in the district of Muguvollas and along the Namirru River in the Quilimane district were so important as to warrant the work of our expedition being solely concentrated on them.

FINANCES OF THE COMPANY.

Now, as to the finances of our company, I am pleased to be able to announce that our good friend, Mr Mansfield (of the Trade and General Trust), accompanied me on a visit to Lisbon since my return from Mozambique. Our Portuguese friends there undertook to co-operate with us in finding the additional capital required to finance the purchase and erection of the first dredger, and to field for his success in enlisting the financial, as well as the political, aid of our Portuguese friends and shareholders, as also for his company's own enterprise by increasing their existing large holding in subscribing for 50,000 of the new shares. In regard to this your chairman has given you some information.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without paying a well-deserved tribute to the valuable help I have received from our prospectors, including, among others, Mr Valentine, Mr Kent (the discoverer of the Namirru alluvial field), and Mr Green. I am sure that you, ladies and gentlemen, appreciate the arduous and even dangerous character of prospecting work in an unexplored tropical country like that of your concession.

I have always received the most loyal support from these gentlemen, and they are as enthusiastic as I am in regard to the brilliant prospects before this company.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

REDUCED WORKING COSTS.

DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER LEVELS.

The twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the New Modderfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held in Johannesburg on November 7, 1922.

The Chairman (Sir Evelyn Wallers, K.B.E.) said: Gentlemen,—The reports and accounts contain full details of operations during the year ended June 30th last. You will, I am sure, agree that the position reflected is most satisfactory, especially when due regard is paid to the unexpected difficulties caused by the protracted strike of January-March last, and the subsequent revolt, with all its potentialities of disaster. The working profit for the year was £1,167,265, a decrease of £531,787 below last year's record of £1,700,000. This shortfall was partly due to a drop of 136,000 tons in the tonnage milled, consequent on the stoppage of operations in the tonnage milled, but was mainly due to the heavy fall in the price of gold. The average price obtained during the year was £4 19s 11d per fine ounce, as compared with £5 12s 7d for 1920-1921, the revenue accruing from the enhanced price of gold above £4 19s 11d per fine ounce, as against £751,427 for the pre-standard value being £359,583, as against £751,427 for the previous year. A total of 947,000 tons of ore were milled, yielding 9.499 dwts per ton, a decrease in grade of rather less than a quarter of a dwt. This, for the reasons stated in my last year's speech, is a desirable feature. The metallurgical practice at the mine continues to be most excellent, 449,768 fine ounces being recovered during the year, with an average total extraction of 98.6 per cent. Certain small additions were sanctioned at the eastern reduction works, which will further improve the efficiency of the ore treatment plant.

WORKING COST REDUCED.

Heavy and unavoidable expenditure was necessarily incurred during the strike, but, in spite of this, the average working costs for the year show a decrease of 7d per ton milled. This is almost entirely due to the reorganisation effected after the strike, in consequence of which working costs for June last were reduced to 18s 6d per ton milled, as compared with the average of 23s 5d sequence of which working costs for June last were reduced to 18s 6d per ton milled. The total profit for the year was £1,167,265. The balance to the credit of appropriation account at the commencement of the period was £306,848, which, with the foregoing profit and £950 in respect of forfeited dividends, gave a total of £1,492,327 for disposal. This sum has been distributed as follows:—Dividends Nos. 31 and 32, £980,000; Government taxes, £158,907; net capital expenditure, after allowing for Bewaarplaats receipts, £18,824; expenditure in connection with the purchase of ex-enemy shares, £89,057, and balance unappropriated and carried forward, £245,538.

DEVELOPMENT WORK AND ORE RESERVES.

Development operations were pushed ahead vigorously during the first half of the year, an average monthly footage of 2,339 feet being accomplished, but were practically at a standstill during the strike and the subsequent period of reorganisation. As a result more than four months' development was lost, with, of course, a corresponding decrease in the tonnage of payable ore developed, which totalled 975,700 tons, of an average value of 10.7 dwts. The total footage accomplished during the year was 17,677 feet, of which approximately 11,200 feet developed ore, the remaining footage being necessary dead work in connection with the handling of ore. The outstanding feature of the year's work is that, broadly speaking, good values were encountered uniformly throughout the property all along the stretch of two miles from the is that, broadly speaking, good values were encountered uniformly throughout the property all along the stretch of two miles from the eastern to the western boundary. The ore reserves, as recalculated at June 30th last, stand at 8,577,600 tons, of a value of 8.6 dwts over 66 inches, including 393,600 tons of 6.6 dwts value in the form of shaft pillars, which are temporarily unavailable. The increase of .2 dwt in the value is due to a reduction of 2 inches in the estimated stoping width, which reduction is also the chief cause of the decrease of 307,000 tons in the tonnage. Owing to the restricted development to which I have already referred, we were unable to make good this decrease in tonnage during the period under review, but there should be a considerable improvement in this regard during the current year. The mine has now got back into its normal stride, and a substantial improvement is noticeable in the efficiency of our white labour force. The native labour contingent was seriously depleted during the strike, but your mine is a popular one with the natives, who

returned rapidly; in consequence, the position in this connection soon resumed normal. We are continuing to explore every possible avenue of further economy and efficiency in our mining and metallurgical methods, and in the consumption of stores and materials.

MARKED PROGRESS.

During the four months which have elapsed since the close of the last financial year, marked progress has been made, and the monthly tonnage milled has been steady at the excellent level of about 110,000 tons. Working costs have shown a most encouraging continued decrease, the figures for the respective months being:—July, 17s 9.6d; August, 17s 4d; September, 16s 11.7d; and October, 16s 9.6d per ton milled, as compared with last year's average of 22s 10d. The working profits have, as a result, shown gratifying increases, being:—July, £127,913; August, £140,603; September, £144,917; October, £149,671. Development work has been carried out at the rate of over 2,000 ft. per month, the reef disclosures being excellent. The two headings which are being driven from the southern boundary (by the courtesy of the Modder Deep Company), immediately to the south of the proposed new shaft, to which I shall refer in a moment, are also proving good values.

SCHEME FOR LOWER LEVEL ORE.

A comprehensive scheme has been adopted for the exploitation of the ore in the lower levels of the mine, i.e., below the 14th level. For this purpose it is proposed to sink a circular shaft in the south-western portion of the property, at a point marked on the plan accompanying the report in your possession. This shaft will cut the reef at an estimated depth of about 2,700 ft. At the same time, two inclines will be sunk on the reef from the 14th level, the eastern starting from the bottom of the present circular shaft, and the western in the line of section of No. 2 incline, furnishing an early connection with the new shaft. This lay-out, when completed, will provide favourable means of speedily and economically exploring the remaining undeveloped area of the mine. Ore hoisted through the new shaft will be sent to the existing mills by surface haulages. The estimated cost of the work contemplated is approximately £300,000, which expenditure will be spread over a period of five years. Your board is satisfied that, in this way, we shall be able to maintain the mine in its present advantageous position as regards ore reserves, and, when the upper levels are exhausted, treat the ore in the lower levels of the mine with the maximum efficiency and economy. In view of the present satisfactory condition of the mine as regards development and reserves, there is no need to commence shaft-sinking operations until about June next. In the meantime, preliminary work is being carried out to enable the actual sinking, when it is started, to be completed as cheaply and as rapidly as possible.

EX-ENEMY SHARES.

I am glad to be able to report that the matter of ex-enemy shares, to which reference has been made on previous occasions, has been finally settled on a satisfactory basis.

In view of the magnitude and responsibility of the financial arrangements involved the completion of this long-outstanding and very important matter will commend itself to you as having been effected in a very satisfactory way.

From my remarks you will have realised that your mine is in an exceedingly sound position, and that its future prospects are very favourable. This is in no small measure due to the excellent work done during a most trying year by the consulting engineer, Mr. Stuart Martin, the manager, Mr Miles Sharp, and the staff at the mine. Your board wishes to record its appreciation of these gentlemen's services.

In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the directors' report, balance-sheet and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1922.

Mr S. C. Black seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

STRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

COMPANY'S PROSPERITY MAINTAINED.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Strand Hotel, Limited, was held, on the 4th inst., at the Trocadero Restaurant, London.

Major Montague Gluckstein (the chairman) said that the accounts for the year ending September 30th disclosed a continuance of the prosperity which the company had enjoyed since it commenced trading 13 years ago. During the year under review they had been able materially to reduce their charges to the public in respect of both food and apartments. As to the latter, their present inclusive charge was for a single room 9s 6d, and for a double room 16s 6d. The reductions had been made in spite of the fact that the demand

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.



The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS—INCREASED NET PROFITS.

The report was unanimously adopted.

OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion	800,000	6,180,000	400,000	
Interest on Exchange Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904				
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	169,818	169,818		
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—	2,910,000	520,000		
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474		
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913				
Under the Housing Act, 1914	27,000	27,500		
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922		35,000		
By Exchange Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	950,000			
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	1,553,300			
(c) For other Issues:—	2,510,000	5,355,000	700,000	
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,981,707,000	2,764,822,000	59,118,000	57,608,000
By National Savings Certificates	45,018,000	27,330,000	750,000	750,000
By Exchange and National War Bonds				
B Treasury Bonds—	20	5		
5-15 year, 1925-35				
5½% 1927	61,655,154	137,029,449		13,535,000
4½% 1932	65,944,910		1,288,975	
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	25,259	10,858,639		
(d) Ways and Means Advances	584,414,000	911,307,000	32,700,000	37,200,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—				
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012			
Repayments—				
In respect of Cunard Loan				
Do Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	130,000	130,000		
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		7,250,000		
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	270,252	4,938	13,506	5,25
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	7,094,387		2,662,500
Total	162,425	121,532		

1091

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, December 15, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Dec. 6, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	<u>£ 3,288,994</u>	<u>+</u>	<u>£ 75,477</u>
Public deposits	11,412,202	—	853,754
Other deposits	126,553,624	+	22,118,424
Government securities	66,892,091	+	15,586,725
Other securities	65,830,847	—	2,104,640
Reserve	22,832,913	—	173,017
Note circulation	123,061,855	—	179,330
Coin and bullion	127,446,768	—	6,313
% of reserve to liabilities	16 1/2	—	2 1/2

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve of Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Sept. 13	127,421,141	122,062,070	123,841,089	118,218,983	23,809,071	19.9	5 1/2
20	127,426,811	121,490,640	124,320,645	118,113,617	24,386,117	19.8	5 1/2
27	127,431,595	121,490,640	120,680,586	115,440,840	24,314,415	19.8	5 1/2
Oct. 4	127,422,231	123,195,775	138,862,852	133,856,507	22,672,456	19.8	5 1/2
11	127,426,688	122,665,890	127,211,971	121,596,282	23,306,798	19.8	5 1/2
18	127,435,454	121,689,530	121,385,106	114,894,104	24,195,924	19.8	5 1/2
25	127,432,534	121,866,450	125,381,614	119,089,011	23,996,084	19.8	5 1/2
Nov. 1	127,435,322	123,158,840	123,879,002	118,854,444	22,726,482	19.8	5 1/2
8	127,437,711	123,158,840	122,617,564	116,976,945	23,368,406	19.8	5 1/2
15	127,440,655	123,158,840	122,360,827	117,000,725	23,988,055	19.8	5 1/2
22	127,445,261	121,407,130	123,414,918	116,705,543	24,698,131	19.8	5 1/2
29	127,440,465	122,884,525	121,463,985	116,240,852	25,005,390	19.8	5 1/2
Dec. 6	127,446,768	123,063,855	137,696,826	132,722,938	22,632,913	19.8	5 1/2

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Dec. 4, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Dec. 8, 1920.	Dec. 7, 1921.	Dec. 6, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	28,603,205	28,833,380	30,411,055	124,961,865	123,063,855
Public deposits	11,875,110	19,014,809	22,423,990	11,995,996	11,142,202
Other deposits	40,540,461	11,046,570	126,482,857	142,742,660	126,553,624
Government securities	30,884,765	41,461,280	72,180,016	80,636,460	65,830,847
Other securities	26,261,597	25,463,980	13,916,456	21,921,711	22,832,913
Reserve of notes and coin	36,414,802	35,947,360	125,877,511	128,433,576	127,446,768
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	50.1%	42.3%	9.8%	14.1%	18.1%
Bank rate of discount	5%	3%	7%	5%	3%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	4%	2½%	6½%	3½%	2½%
Price of Consols	75½	74½	44½	48½	56½
Price of silver per oz.	29½d	26½d	48d	36½d	32½d
Average price of wheat	31s 9d	33s 0d	89s 7d	46s 3d	42s 7d
Exchanges					
Paris	25.22½	25	58.35-80	53.80-54.00	65.10-70
New York	84.78	84.78	83.434-45	84.07-84.00	84.44-84.52
Amsterdam	12.18½	12.05-10	11.26-32	11.34-39	11.41-43½
London	20.45	20.49	25.3-26	825-880	36500-38500
Berlin	20.45	20.49	25.3-26	825-880	36500-38500
Clearing house return	375,692,000	199,913,000	764,810,000	790,961,000	743,082,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—November 29	31,673,836,000	2,574,439,000	34,248,275,000
December 6	682,223,000	60,859,000	743,082,000
Total to date 1922	32,356,059,000	2,635,298,000	34,991,357,000
Do 1921	29,718,376,000	2,829,762,000	32,548,138,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,637,683,000	+ 805,536,000	+ 2,443,219,000
	+ 8.9%	+ 28.5%	+ 7.5%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8.6%	- 26.2%	- 10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Incr. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to December 2.			
BIRMINGHAM	114,405,900	103,929,500	- 10,476,400
BRIGHTON	71,277,000	63,872,000	- 7,405,000
DUBLIN	335,688,100	295,883,800	- 39,804,300
LIVERPOOL	51,561,300	51,561,300	0
LEEDS	53,268,600	50,806,500	- 2,462,100
MANCHESTER	36,022,800	37,477,300	+ 1,454,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	424,727,300	400,327,700	- 24,399,600
NOTTINGHAM	687,674,800	719,495,200	+ 32,420,400
Sheffield	87,479,900	87,479,900	0
Wolverhampton	38,054,400	31,118,100	- 6,936,300
Other	52,710,700	44,603,700	- 8,107,000

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1921.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,072,860	3,088,330	3,073,850	2,849,400
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	129,950	130,360	130,910	139,750
Bills discounted for member banks	650,100	614,190	652,810	1,182,300
Bills bought in open market	259,230	257,410	260,890	72,950
Government obligations owned	304,460	295,120	325,710	204,540
All other resources	64,460	64,220	64,240	60,520
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	33,450	45,200	57,250	45,910
Other deposits	1,826,770	1,849,790	1,882,260	1,696,920
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,329,810	2,299,390	2,321,220	2,336,010
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	20,870	26,220	29,310	75,860
All other liabilities	26,900	26,880	26,280	24,890
Capital and surplus	322,610	321,890	321,850	316,930
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	76.4%	76.7%	75.2%	72.7%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	June 30, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Cash and bank balances	441,824	419,981	447,719	459,360	480,457
Bank balances abroad	114,894	111,015	126,750	136,248	74,325
Call and short loans	279,021	276,778	271,989	274,418	290,020
Securities	322,009	330,646	323,471	318,753	360,823
Loans in Canada	1,211,825	1,192,614	1,196,524	1,215,936	1,344,446
Loans abroad	145,610	145,120	144,079	148,325	161,490
Other assets	104,252	99,412	97,515	100,558	101,971
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	176,919	158,087	161,887	166,085	168,798
Deposits—					
Government	103,988	92,595	87,546	89,024	136,181
Public in Canada	1,648,648	1,639,485	1,669,224	1,687,162	1,798,071
Foreign	336,747	339,985	347,529	365,770	295,575
Bank balances—					
Canadian	9,008	8,348	6,379	9,973	12,578
Foreign	33,706	35,073	34,284	35,493	47,444
Bills payable, &c.	23,321	22,236	21,872	24,521	33,073
Other liabilities	2,644	3,756	2,328	2,963	2,866
Capital and rest.	255,231	255,197	255,068	254,414	264,334

BANK OF FRANCE.

	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,534,405	5,533,921	5,533,764	5,524,102	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,897,967	1,897,967	1,897,967	1,898,367	632,650
Silver coin and bullion	288,642	288,539	288,521	279,432	3,377,775
Loans and advances	4,438,470	4,494,859	4,460,832	4,593,041	2,347,775
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	36,383,961	36,114,050	35,789,281	36,666,338	5,811,875
Government deposits	28,533	68,142	62,336	62,559	183,700
Private deposits	2,118,627	2,116,011	2,222,131	2,454,393	845,960

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation	8,712	8,707	8,390	8,275	8,265
Bankers' deposits	5,319	5,288	5,126	5,185	4,983
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	283	282	282	281	264
Gold certificates	10,082	10,057	10,057	10,057	9,982
Subsidiary coin	250	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic)	1,816	1,832	1,361	1,295	1,203
Do (foreign)	2	3	5	5	8
Loans and advances to the Government	1,300	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500
Other loans and advances	1,299	1,320	1,104	1,117	1,086
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	75.6%	75.6%	78.3%	78.6%	79.2%

BANK OF SPAIN.

	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Dec. 3, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	2,523,812	2,523,812	2,523,812	2,523,812	2,509,587	521,775
Silver	2,233,428	2,233,428	2,233,428	2,233,428	2,233,428	728,600
Loans and discounts	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Treasury bills	4,083,492	4,083,492	4,135,070	4,174,825	4,212,875	901,550
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	1,054,071	1,080,537	1,064,348	1,064,758	988,450	477,500
Deposits						

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

	Oct. 13, 1922.	Sept. 26, 1922.	Sept. 13, 1922.	Aug. 26, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1921.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances abroad	1,351,025	1,360,795	1,359,960	1,356,068	1,358,936
Government loans and securities	2,742,279	2,741,845	2,737,764	2,738,271	2,174,108
Discounts and loans	1,169,965	1,097,452	1,098,063	981,671	650,006
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	2,326,897	2,185,015	2,038,639	1,908,856	2,050,821
Government deposits	385,470	340,512	371,922	507,137	144,017
Private sight deposits	865,385	1,009,672	989,470	995,246	938,468
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,012,655	1,013,924	1,013,671	1,013,605	901,167

BANK OF JAPAN.

	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Nov. 5, 1921.	Position June 30, 1914.
ASSETS.							
Cash and bullion	1,149,121	1,147,407	1,145,424	1,144,923	1,141,496	1,263,258	821,330
Discounts	102,787	138,941	74,491	70,931	83,580	105,785	41,740
Advances	213,272	211,854	176,021	176,670	183,871	86,403	70,540
LIABILITIES.							
Notes	1,142,345	1,205,154	1,103,219	1,104,843	1,126,715	1,156,594	362,270
Govt. deposits	792,365	785,945	790,580	773,994	754,827	1,391,154	87,340
Other deposits	38,732	49,472	40,639	42,228	42,070	47,154	11,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.					
Gold	1,004,848	1,004,848	1,004,848	993,698	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England	50,032	50,032	50,032	12,995	321,920
Silver	64,782	64,782	64,782	64,782	843,660
Treasury notes	77,786,910	81,226,942	81,226,942	81,226,942	84,460,084
Bills discounted	919,170,793	801,471,152	753,723,303	115,468,084	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	754,086,109	643,749,739	582,105,055	100,943,632	2,013,860
Deposits	244,969,439	201,378,931	212,209,335	25,305,114	842,340

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.

	August 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.
ASSETS.		
Cash	2,353,799	850,329
Loans	5,884,464	2,919,353
Special credits on merchandise	765,063	458,973
Food credits	2,050,510	857,623
Debtors	294,242	233,416
Merchandise	465,300	554,354
Discounts	512,166	127,785
Advances on securities	162,078	148,172
Foreign coin and bonds	512,839	409,895
Precious metals	478,194	311,517
LIABILITIES.		
Subscribed capital	575,000	575,000
Loan account	6,772,649	3,246,143
Deposits bearing interest	2,376,766	1,377,471
Deposits in foreign currencies	121,637	121,118
Public deposits	7,400,995	2,680,677

NETHERLANDS BANK.

	Dec. 4, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 13, 1922.	Dec. 5, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
ASSETS.						
Gold	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	605,969	163,082
Silver	8,653	7,563	8,935	8,908	8,143	8,438
Loans and advances	405,450	383,033	410,477	416,006	455,168	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	990,726	965,113	978,010	994,514	1,034,520	318,420
Deposits	25,947	25,639	41,063	33,286	37,775	6,016

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

	Nov. 11, 1922.
--	----------------

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

Assets.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1922.
Gold.....	33,737	33,668	33,519	32,837	32,550
Silver.....	44,188	44,182	44,175	44,164	44,160
Foreign coin.....	269,109	280,985	266,034	126,726	192,377
Foreign banks.....	810,593	832,989	902,853	764,561	1,070,174
Advances to Govt.....	493,000,000	480,500,000	453,500,000	419,500,000	385,500,000
Private loans and discounts.....	133,338,910	115,820,624	108,358,332	99,025,404	91,486,259
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	619,149,692	602,808,955	579,972,769	525,954,764	493,039,094
Deposits.....	114,012,299	97,949,405	83,156,808	80,264,038	71,863,045

BANK OF ESTHONIA.

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.
Gold, for coin, and notes.....	89,635	102,056	102,120	81,944
Gold & silver holdings.....	454,296	352,941	206,858	158,657
Discounts and loans.....	2,356,474	2,639,097	2,552,533	1,399,774
Foreign banks.....	1,412,441	1,435,846	1,229,164	207,555
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up.....	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve.....	37,771	37,771	37,771	10,674
Notes in circulation.....	1,000,000	850,000	700,000	350,000
Deposits.....	2,940,355	3,328,511	2,544,837	1,103,823

BANK OF CZECH-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

Assets.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 7, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 25, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1921.
Liabilities of the Bank to the Bank of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.....	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,084,503
Discounts & advances.....	1,971,416	1,898,917	1,889,867	1,900,193	1,935,143	4,414,798
Gold & silver holdings.....	819,232	817,821	815,146	812,381	812,218	1,125,080
Foreign bills and balances abroad.....	1,648,027	1,648,980	1,674,121	1,692,635	1,688,061	1,229,738
Other assets.....	493,686	617,871	728,922	766,706	613,507	
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	9,531,450	9,708,291	9,951,534	10,139,366	9,559,592	11,515,945
Deposits.....	3,449,760	3,288,412	3,165,137	3,031,072	3,482,559	2,312,660
Other liabilities.....	2,067,866	2,085,601	2,088,100	2,098,192	2,103,243	3,025,514

* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENS.

Assets.	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 8, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1921.
Gold.....	63,788	63,788	63,788	63,787	74,125
Other coin and notes.....	16,922	16,923	17,120	16,896	17,749
Foreign credits.....	291,017	291,787	315,463	340,670	323,136
Bills.....	1,445,009	1,455,774	1,466,139	1,477,999	633,690
Govt. advances.....	4,565,317	4,565,317	4,565,317	4,602,358	4,422,699
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	4,958,574	5,043,226	5,146,949	5,118,070	4,546,021
State credits.....	332,903	332,903	332,903	332,903	369,880
Deposits.....	1,121,815	1,037,563	972,866	1,069,592	431,538

LONDON RATES.

	Dec. 1, 1922.	Dec. 2, 1922.	Dec. 3, 1922.	Dec. 4, 1922.	Dec. 5, 1922.	Dec. 6, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.
Bank rate (reduced from 3½% July 13, 1922).....	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts.....	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
3 months' do.....	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
4 months' do.....	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
6 months' do.....	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Discounts (Treasury Bills):—								
3 months'.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Loans:—Day to day.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Short.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Deposit allowances: Banks.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½

† Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.

Comparison with the previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.				Trade Bills.			
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	
1922.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Sept. 22.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	3½	
29.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	3½	
Oct. 6.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	3½	
13.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	3½	
20.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	3½	
27.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	3½	
Nov. 3.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½	
10.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½	
17.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½	
24.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½	
Dec. 1.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½	
8.....	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½	

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate Changed.	Bank Rate Changed.
Amsterdam..... July 11, 1922..... 4	Madrid..... May 11, 1922..... 5
Antwerp..... May 15, 1922..... 10	Paris..... Mar. 11, 1922..... 5
Berlin..... Nov. 13, 1922..... 10	Prague..... Apr. 27, 1922..... 5
Brussels..... June 8, 1922..... 4	Rome..... July 11, 1922..... 5
Bucharest..... Sept. 4, 1922..... 6	Sofia..... June 14, 1921..... 6
Calcutta..... Oct. 26, 1922..... 5	Stockholm..... July 1, 1922..... 4
Christiania..... Aug. 17, 1922..... 5	Swiss Bank.....
Copenhagen..... Apr. 25, 1922..... 8	placets..... Aug. 17, 1922..... 3
Helsingfors..... Oct. 16, 1922..... 7	Tokio..... Nov. 18, 1919..... 8
London..... Sept. 3, 1922..... 7	Vienna..... Sept. 2, 1922..... 9
New York Federal Reserve..... June 21, 1922..... 4	Warsaw..... Sept. 1, 1921..... 7

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Discount	Present Rate.	Date Changed.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.
.....	4	July 13, 1922	4	June 15, 1922
Deposit.....	14	June 15, 1922	2	Feb. 16, 1922

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Dec. 9, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1922.	Dec. 6, 1922.
Paris.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	53-05-10	64-18-23
Berlin.....	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	795-800	34500-35500
Vienna.....	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	11500-12500	3 0000-3 0000
Prague.....	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	350-360	142 143
Warsaw.....	zlotys to £1	T.T.	20-43	12500-14000	80000-90000
Bukarest.....	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22½	3000-3400	725-735
Budapest.....	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	3000-3400	10000-11000
Constantinople.....	piastres to £1	T.T.	25-22½	110	730-770
Belgrade.....	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22½	550-560	600-650
Amsterdam.....	guilder to £1	T.T.	25-22½	275	310-330
Brussels.....	francs to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-45-47	11-44-45
Christiania.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	25-22½	55-10-15	69-35-40
Stockholm.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	28-10-15	24-40-45
Copenhagen.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	21-65-70	16-74-77
Helsingfors.....	marks to £1	T.T.	25-22½	218-223	178-180
Greece.....	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	99-100	315-325
Italy.....	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22½	934-94	934-94
Switzerland.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	21-21-26	24-08-13
Madrid.....	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	28-65-70	29-37-40
Lisbon.....	escudos to £1	T.T.	25-22½	53½	23-44
Alexandria.....	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97½	97½
Montreal.....	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86½	4-092-103	4-51½-52
Buenos Ayres.....	pesos to £1	Cable	4-86½	4-46-47	4-51½-52
Rio de Janeiro.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	47-62½	43½-438	44½-44
Montevideo.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	16	7½	64
Valparaiso.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	13-33	13-70	43½-44½
Colon.....	bolivars to £1	30 days	10	10	36-90
Bombay.....	rupees to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Madras.....	rupees to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Hong Kong.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Shanghai.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Singapore.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Yokohama.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Manila.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.
Mexico.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	10	10	9½ prem.

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Dec. 9, 1922.	Nov. 9, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.
Call money.....	5	5	5	5	5	5
Time money (90 days' mixed bill).....	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Non-members—eligible, 90 days.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Intelligible, 90 days.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Commercial accept., 90 days.....	5	5	5	5	5	5

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level	Dec. 9, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.
London.....	Dollars for £1	4-866½	4-406	4-4675	4-5425
60 days.....		4-10375	4-495	4-5162	4-57
Cable.....		4-10	4-4925	4-5137	4-5675
Cheques.....		7-11	6-895	7-075	
Paris.....	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-3125	6-61	6-51
Brussels.....	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	19-30	18-61	18-86
Switzerland.....	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	19-30	18-61	18-86
Berlin.....	Cents for 1 mark	23-83	0-5075	0-68	0-745
Vienna.....	Cents for 1 kronen	20-26	0-425	0-0125	0-0125
Madrid.....	Cents for 1 peseta	19-30	14-26	15-35	15-37
Amsterdam.....	Cents for 1 guilder	40-195	35-93	39-45	39-57
Copenhagen.....	Cents for 1 kroner	26-80	18-95	20-27	20-42
Christiania.....	Cents for 1 kroner	14-50	18-31	18-55	18-96
Stockholm.....	Cents for 1 krona	26-80	24-25	26-83	27-00
Athens.....	Cents for 1 drachma	19-30	418	1-5	1-15
Yokohama.....	Cents for 1 yen	100	91-874	99-999	99-999
Hong Kong.....	Cents for 1 Hong Kong dollar	49-85	47-90	48-65	48-65
Shanghai.....	Cents for 1 Shanghai dollar	53-75	53-60	53-35	53-625
Calcutta.....	Cents for 1 rupee	75-23	71-5	71-00	71-625
Buenos Aires.....	Gold pesos for \$100	103-65	26-95	29-8	30-10
Rio de Janeiro.....	Cents for 1 milreis	32-42	127-0	127-0	127-0
Valparaiso.....	Cents for 1 peso	20-60	11-00	12-20	12-20

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level	Dec. 8, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.
Amsterdam.....	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	1-34	0-0416	0-0315
Switzerland.....	Francs to 100 marks	123-45	2-432	0-087	0-064
Copenhagen.....	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	2-57	0-079	0-061
Stockholm.....	Kroner to 100 marks		2-05	0-0599	0-046
Christiania.....			3-24	0-088	0-067

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.
London (cheque).....	£1	Selling.	Selling.	Selling.	Selling.
New York.....	100 Pmk	1,530	1,530	1,540	1,540
Berlin.....	100 Pmk	342-25	343	343	342-75
Helsingfors.....	100 Kr	855	847	880	872
Stockholm.....	100 Kr	9,200	9,175	9,170	9,185
Copenhagen.....	100 Pmk	6,920	6,915	6,920	6,940
Paris.....	100 Pmk	2,300	2,340	2,410	2,405
Amsterdam.....	100 Hn.	3,425	13,440	13,500	13,500
Prague.....	100 Ltbl	133	133	134-5	134-5
Rome.....		1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
		1,675	1,600	1,590	1,615

The London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new branch at 55 and 57 Deardennate, Haslingden, Lancs, under the management of Mr W. P. R. Warburton.

The London office of the Union Bank of Canada announces that the bank's branch formerly known as Toronto, Teraulay and Dundas Streets Branch is now known as Toronto, Bay and Dundas Streets Branch.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Year.	Last Year's Dividend.
Railways						
Bombay, Baroda, and C.I.	3%	Jan.	Less tax 3/2 in £		7	7
Burns	4%	Dec. 8	Tax free		4	4
Colombian Northern	2%	Dec. 28				
Minneapolis, St. Paul, &c.	2%	Dec. 28				
Banks						
Bank of Chosen (Old and New)	8				6	6
British Overseas, "A" Ord.	3%	Dec. 31				
Guarantee Trust Co. of N.Y.	10				10 p.s.	10 p.s.
Industrial Bank of Japan	7 p.s.	Dec. 15				
Land Bank of Egypt	7 p.s.	Dec. 15				
Tea and Rubber						
Assam Company	10%	Jan. 1	Less tax			
Assam Dooars Tea	5%	Dec. 31	Less tax			
Atteree Khat Tea	5%	Dec. 31	Less tax			
Barbheer Tea	15%	Dec. 15				
Barang Tea	74%	Dec. 30				
Borelli Tea	74%	Dec. 15				
Bordubi Tea	10%	Dec. 30				
Borjan Tea	5%	Dec. 25				
Borot Tea	24%	Dec. 19	Less tax			
Changkat Balak Rubber, Defd.	5%	Dec. 19	Less tax			
Dalketh (Ceylon) Rubber	5%	Dec. 30				
Dhendai Tea	5%	Dec. 30				
Dooars Tea	5%	Jan. 1	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Empire of India and Ceylon Tea	30%	Dec. 1	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Kacharigaon Tea	74%	Dec. 15				
Lankapara Tea	5%	Dec. 11	Less tax			
Leesh River Tea	5%	Dec. 11	Less tax			
Majuli Tea	74%	Dec. 30				
Makum (Assam) Tea	5%	Dec. 11	Less tax			
Meenlas Tea	74%	Dec. 30				
Monbund Tea	74%	Dec. 30				
Nedem Tea	74%	Dec. 30	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Noyapara Tea	10%	Jan. 15	Less tax			
Rajawalla Produce	5%	Dec. 15				
Rajmaji Tea	10%	Dec. 15				
Romaji Tea	10%	Dec. 15				
Selenor Tea Rubber	24%	Jan. 1	Tax free			
Singto Tea	5%	Jan. 1	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Star Tea	15%	Dec. 15	Less tax			
Tingri Tea	5%	Dec. 15				
Mining						
Broughton Copper	5%		Less tax			
Cassell Cyanide	10%	Jan. 1	Tax free			
Chinese Engineering	1/2 p.s.	Dec. 21	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Kramat Pulai	1/2 p.s.	Dec. 30	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Oroville Dredging	1/2 p.s.	Dec. 30	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Robinson Deep, "A"	4 p.s.	Feb. 2				
Sub Nigel	3 p.s.	Feb. 2				
Sulphide Corporation	5%	Dec. 22				
Other Companies						
A. and B. Thwaites	9 (and bonus 3 p.s.)		Less tax			
Ahington Works, "A" Cum. Pref.	7		Less tax			
Do "B" Cum. Pref.	7		Less tax			
Alton and Co.	7 1/2		Less tax			
Anglo Persian Oil	20		Less tax			
Batherson Trading	24 1/2		Tax free			
Bell and Co.	15		Less tax			
Bentley's Yorkshire Breweries	6 1/2	Jan. 1	Tax free			
Bleachers' Association	5%	Dec. 18	Less tax 5/3 in £			
Blyth Shipbuilding	1/2 p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax			
Bodega, Cum. Pref.	5%	Jan. 1	Less tax			
Bolover Colliery	5%	Dec. 30	Subject to tax			
Bovril Australian Estate, Pref.	14	Jan. 2				
Brazilian Traction, Cum. Pref.	3 1/2	Dec. 15	Tax free			
British Oxygen	3 1/2	Dec. 15	Tax free			
British Tobacco (Australia)	3 1/2	Dec. 15	Tax free			
Buckley's Brewery	11 1/2		Tax free			
Canada Landed and National Invest.	24 (and bonus 1%)	Jan. 1				
Canadian General Electric	13 1/2	Dec. 31	Tax free			
Cape Electric Tramways	20		Tax free			
Carreras	5%		Less tax			
Carsons	6%		Less tax			
Carter's Knottley Brewery	6 1/2	Jan. 15	Tax free			
Catterall & Swarbrick Brewery	3 p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax			
Chili Telephone	5 1/2	Dec. 1	Less tax			
Claudius Ash and Co., Pref.	6		Less tax			
Colonial Sugar Refining Pref.	6		Less tax			
Continental Union Gas, Pref.	5 1/2	Oct. 15	Less tax			
Frederick Sage and Co.	5 1/2	Oct. 15	Less tax			
General Securities Investment	5%	Dec. 21	Less tax			
Goldsbrough, Mori, and Co.	8%		Less tax			
Government and General Investment, Defd.	8%		Less tax			
Greenwich Inland Linoleum	6%		Less tax			
Hagemann's Creameries, Cum. Pref.	6%		Less tax			
Hotel York, Pref.	1%		Tax free			
Imperial Tobacco Co. of Canada	7 1/2		Less tax			
Ind. Coupe, and Co.	7 1/2		Less tax			
J. and P. Coats	20		Tax free			
John and Edwin Wright	5 1/2		Tax free			
John Williams & Sons (Cardiff)	5%		Less tax			
Lewis and Burrows	12 1/2		Less tax			
London American Maritime	11 1/2		Less tax			
London Scottish American Trust, Pref. and Def.	8 (and bonus 1%)		Less tax			
Manbre Sugar, Def.	10		Less tax			
Manila Electric	2%	Dec. 30	Tax free			
Northampton Brewery	12 1/2		Less tax			
Orient Steam Navigation, Defd.	12 1/2		Less tax			
Port Madry (Argentina)	5		Less tax			
Power Gas Corporation	13 p.s.	Dec. 31	Tax free			
P. Phipps and Co.	10%		Less tax			
Provincial Laundries	10%		Less tax			
Rudge-Whitworth	10%		Less tax			

Savers	3 1/2 p.s.		Less tax		
Scottish Investment Trust, Defd.	5 1/2		Less tax		
Starkey, Knight, and Ford	10 1/2		Tax free		
Swift and Co.	2 1/2	Jan. 1	Quarterly		
Tadcaster Tower Brewery	7 1/2		Less tax		
The Oxford	8		Less tax		
Thornton-Smith, Ltd., Pref.	6	Dec. 22			
Tredegear Iron and Coal, "A" and "B"	7 1/2		Tax free		
Trust and Loan of Canada	5	Dec. 15	Tax free		
Trust Union	5	Dec. 15	Less tax		
Waywood Oils	5 1/2	Dec. 15	Less tax		
Wentlock Brewery	5 1/2		Tax free		
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries	11 1/2		Less tax		
Youngs, Crawshaw, and Youngs	7 1/2		Less tax		

BLANVON COMPANY.—The directors announce that a dividend on the preference shares for the half-year ending 31st inst. will not be paid.

RICHARD HILL and Co.—The directors recommend a dividend on preference shares at 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year to Sept. 30th, but regret that, for first time in history of company, they are unable to recommend dividend on ordinary shares.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.—The directors regret they are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend. Profit for the year ended June 30, 1922 (after providing for depreciation £13,872), £54,244; balance brought forward, £171,897; less amount written off material and stores on hand, £182,461; less provision for income-tax, £25,000; balance carried forward, £18,680.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, 1922.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.		
Gold.						
Balaghat	3,570	8,500	2,435	627	3,062	
Cam and Mot.	3,750				6,896	2,033
Champion Reef	15,500				24,997	6,786
Esperanza	11,776	25,894	3,208	945	4,157	
Frontino and Bolivia	2,230					8,046
London and Rhodesian	3,228					4,642
Menzies Consolidated	1,640					2,877
Mysore	18,012	46,643	6,298	4,195	10,497	
North Anantapur	12,900	13,500	7,664	858	8,522	
Oregeum	6,100	829			3,015	
Oriental Cons.					14,106	5,924
Rezene					35,000	
St. John del Rey						
Quarter ended Oct. 31st						
Glyn's Lydenburg						6,011

(a) Par value.

	Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.		
Aramayo	222	Silver 119,000 ozs.
Chenderiang	69	Two months Nov. 30th.
Deebok Dredging	27	
Geopeng	19	Sold; amount realised, £1,906.
Gopeng	65	Est. value, £6,650; est. cost, £1,640.
Iris	16	Est. value, £1,692; est. cost, £1,237.
Jantar	16	
Kamunting	80	Two months Nov. 30th.
Kinta	38	Value, £4,025; gross profit, £2,812.
Kramat Pulai	38	Profit, £1,875; gross profit, £2,812.
Lower Bichi	38	Value, £4,028; cost, £2,410; trib. profit, £94
Malayan	13	
Naraguta	93	Value, £9,510; cost, £7,852.
Naraguta Extended	16	
Pahang Cons.	166	Despatched 20 tons.
Pengkalan	134	Est. value, £1,400; est. cost, £1,025.
Pusing	134	Gross profit, £175.
Rambutan	164	Est. value, £1,690; est. cost, £725.
Ropp	104	
Sinense	259	
Southern Perak	71	Value, £2,742; cost, £1,575.
Sungai Besi	42	Est. value, £7,455; est. cost, £2,800.
Tekka	354	Est. value, £4,013; est. cost, £315.
Tongkah Harbour	91	Est. value, £3,675; est. cost, £2,450.
Copper.		
Chinese Engineering	39,280	Week ended Nov. 25th.
Chislet	15,792	Week ended Dec. 2nd.
Clydesdale	34,740	Coalbrook; 14,549 tons Blackhill.
Dundee	3,985	
East Kent	20,672	
Natal Navigation	44,491	
Northern Natal Navigation	24,069	
Twefontein United	72,028	
Vryheid	25,277	
Wankie	23,558	Coke sales, 8,808 tons.
Witbank	47,494	
Miscellaneous.	3,778	
Tanganyika		651 carats diamonds; 217 ozs gold.
New Vanu River	1,433	Rhodesia Boken Hill
Rhodesia Boken Hill		Lead.
Transvaal Silver		43,026 ozs fine silver.
Vereeniging	50,633	Blackwicks, £5,311.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—For the four weeks ended Dec. 2nd 17,110 tons of crude concentrates, assaying 62 per cent. lead and 29 ozs silver per ton.

FREMANTLE TRADING.—November: "Soft lead produced at the Fremantle works, 351 tons. Shipped from Narra Terra Mine 1,043 tons ore, estimated to contain 280 tons copper."

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—Production for Nov., 3,300 tons lead concentrates, averaging 63 per cent. lead, 31 ozs silver per ton and 8 per cent. zinc; also 2,900 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47 per cent. zinc, 6 per cent. lead and 7 ozs silver per ton.

SAN FRANCISCO MINER OF MEXICO.—November (four weeks): "Ore treated, 6,450 tons; lead concentrates produced 1,610 tons; zinc concentrates produced 640 tons; estimated net smelter return, \$99,548, U.S. currency; operating expenses, development, \$2,550. The estimated net smelter return includes an allowance for operating expenses include \$6,015 incurred in such work. Smelter return includes \$13,750 zinc concentrates."

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.—During the four weeks ended November 18, 9,484 tons of ore and 2,402 tons of silimes were milled at the Central mine, producing 2,129 tons of lead concentrates (including 293 tons from the de-leading plant), which assayed 44 ozs silver, 66 per cent. lead, together with 3,541 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 11 ozs silver per ton, 7 per cent. lead, 47 per cent. zinc.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended Dec. 3, 1922.		Aggregate 48 Weeks 1922.	
		Passenger, &c.	Goods, &c.	Passenger, &c.	Goods, &c.
Great Central (c)	67 1/2	37,300	146,900	184,800	2,365,900
Do Joint Lines	16 1/2	94,800	107,400	5,614,500	4,457,000
Great Eastern (c)	1,207 1/2	79,000	159,800	4,549,500	6,533,100
Great Northern (d)	1,050	212,000	364,000	1,380,700	1,750,700
Great Western (d)	2,635 1/2	272,000	58,000	1,665,000	2,053,900
London & N. Western (d)	968	108,000	25,187	5,017	5,017
Lon. & South Western	487	1,030	1,984	36,868	1,624,106
Lon. Brighton & S. C. (c)	423	33,272	3,986	475,000	8,253,000
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	79 1/2	137,000	338,000	1,948	1,948
Metropolitan (c)	1,683 1/2	304	76,300	377,700	3,346,100
Midland (c)	1,850	108,400	9,376	13,860	238,848
Midland & S. W. Jno.	16	4,484	43,500	208,418	2,089,300
North Eastern (c)	654	106,700	21,030	40,505	40,505
North London				2,479	2,479
South E. & Chatham (c)				459,200	4,750,100
Underground R.R. (c)				5,621	5,621
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)				58,900	102,100
Caledonian	1,097	476	7,350	9,400	57,300
Glasgow & S. W. (c)	334 1/2	8,327	8,933	12,260	57,734
Highland (c)	492 1/2	6,370	122,300	181,000	3,161,600
North British (c)	1,373 1/2	4,705	1,392	6,027	29,896
Belfast and County	80	5,621	3,875	9,693	29,896
Down (b)	160	9,459	20,809	30,265	471,601
Dublin & S. East. (b)					
Midland Gt. West. (b)					

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended December 1, 1922.

(c) Week ended December 2, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	31 weeks	Nov. 4	1,043	Rs. 3,06,455	+ 89,645	Rs. 74,17,544	+ 25,84,474
Balti Ry.	31 weeks	Nov. 4	113	59,000	+ 54,200	10,42,500	+ 4,59,700
Bengal & N. Western	31 weeks	Nov. 4	67	6,27,000	+ 219,000	1,79,30,000	+ 1,04,25,000
Bengal Nagpur	31 weeks	Nov. 4	11	14,53,000	+ 3,21,000	2,05,78,657	+ 61,00,900
Bombay, Bar. & C.O.	31 weeks	Nov. 4	1,194	25,53,000	+ 1,25,563	6,86,056	+ 1,65,65,000
Burma	25 weeks	Dec. 25	1,349	753,000	+ 34,074	2,73,25,000	+ 8,15,000
Delhi, Umballa &	8 weeks	Nov. 25	2,772	10,87,000	+ 14,000	2,66,96,785	+ 46,21,771
East Indian	9 weeks	Dec. 30	3,081	28,14,000	+ 1,75,541	4,36,06,456	+ 20,35,000
East India	34 weeks	Nov. 4	30	11,75,000	+ 11,889	2,63,92,000	+ 1,38,35,000
Madras & P. Mahr.	5 weeks	Dec. 2	269	54,563	+ 8,088	2,92,81,783	+ 23,93,55,000
Madras & P. Mahr.	5 weeks	Dec. 2	302	81,261	+ 81,386	53,88,925	+ 57,90,000
Robt'k' & Kumaon	5 weeks	Dec. 2	1,853	2,17,805	+ 94,919		
Do Lucknow-Braill	31 weeks	July 31	717		1,000	222,200	+ 38,200
South Indian	4 mths	Dec. 2	753	12,000	+ 1,690	57,240	+ 18,000
Shim. Panjab &	2 weeks	Dec. 2	111	161,000	+ 43,000	2,99,00,000	+ 321,000
Argentine (a)	2 weeks	Dec. 2	2,448	202,000	+ 46,000	5,410,000	+ 590,000
Argentine N.E.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	3,947	85,000	+ 43,000	1,785,000	+ 340,000
Argentine Trans.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	1,633	106,000	+ 56,000	539,000	+ 118,000
B. A. and Pacific.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	1,633	41,445	+ 12,798	78,379	+ 25,000
B. A. Gt. Southern.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	190	201,000	+ 35,000	1,312,000	+ 127,000
B. Western.	2 weeks	Aug. 31	3,305	55,000	+ 9,500	378,500	+ 40,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	1,205	19,600	+ 2,500		
Central Argentine.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	811				
Cordoba Central.	2 weeks	Dec. 2					
Entre Rio.	2 weeks	Dec. 2					
Buenos Ayres (b)	10 mths	Oct. 31	1,005	Rs. 77,250	+ 25,600	609,200	+ 49,000
Braz. Gt. Southern	18 weeks	Dec. 2	1,831	37,594	+ 5,519	1,428,265	+ 170,000
Gt. West. of Brazil.	4 weeks	Dec. 2	159	31,985	+ 6,398	1,371,326	+ 84,000
Leopoldina	4 weeks	Nov. 30	52	1,000	+ 98,000	774,000	+ 370,000
San Paulo	7 mths	Nov. 30	52	56,540	+ 21,390	1,152,925	+ 154,000
State of S. E. W.	2 weeks	Dec. 3	338	27,646	+ 7,460	6,497,260	+ 293,000
Chile and Peru.	4 weeks	Nov. 30	266	1,377,100	+ 50,530	56,274	+ 17,000
Argentina	4 weeks	Nov. 30	1,669	(b) 17,768	+ 7,473		
Nitrato (4 monthly)	5 mths	Oct. 31	172			64	
Peruvian Corp.	4 mths	Oct. 31		10,378	+ 3,974	1,034,422	+ 149,000
Taitai	2 weeks	Dec. 2	1,610	49,851			
Colomb.	2 weeks	Dec. 2					
Havana Central	2 weeks	Dec. 2					
United of Havana.	2 weeks	Dec. 2					
Uruguay.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	273	31,825	+ 594	529,819	+ 5,000
Central Uruguay.	2 weeks	Dec. 2	311	6,440	+ 887	102,182	+ 3,000
C. Urug. (West. E. B.)	2 weeks	Dec. 2	185	4,201	+ 927	55,893	+ 1,000
C. Urug. (West. E. B.)	2 weeks	Dec. 2	219	2,790	+ 149	50,691	+ 3,000
C. Urug. (West. E. B.)	2 weeks	Dec. 2	811	14,681	+ 1,521	60,114	+ 2,000
C. Urug. (West. E. B.)	2 weeks	Dec. 2	219	4,127	+ 1,521	25,612	+ 2,000
Midland Uruguay.	4 mths	Oct. 31	713	5,830	+ 722	12,578	+ 3,000
North-West Uruguay.	5 mths	Nov. 30	113				
Uruguay Uruguay.	4 weeks	Dec. 2	35	Rs. 25,000	+ 467	919,450	+ 136,000
Other Paraguay.	11 mths	Nov. 30	13	2,282	+ 685	13,612	+ 12,000
Alooy and Gauda.	11 mths	Nov. 30	136	7,700	+ 827	97,566	+ 14,000
Blanco	11 mths	Nov. 30	189	17,494	+ 5,971	56,885	+ 7,000
Coliver	5 mths	Sept. 30	139	15,000	+ 7,500	118,770	+ 73,000
Costa Rica	5 mths	Oct. 31	70	4,750	+ 1,250	52,000	+ 9,000
Dorado Extension	8 mths	Oct. 31	65	(a) 16,068	+ 19,089	197,197	+ 12,223
Dorado Extension	3 weeks	Nov. 25	104	Rs. 95,515	+ 3,056	711,696	+ 8,000
Argentine Delta	4 weeks	Nov. 25	104	54,716	+ 1,221	279,850	+ 11,000
Gt. Southern of Spain	10 mths	Oct. 31	233	9,010	+ 930	5,646,300	+ 1,514,000
International of	18 mths	Nov. 30	403	\$337,100	+ 82,500	4,538,700	+ 1,139,000
Central American	20 weeks	Nov. 30	403	\$1163,800	+ 370,500	870,800	+ 320,000
La Guaira & Caracas	4 mths	Oct. 31	109	\$254,600	+ 2,582	98,266	+ 20,000
Meridian Railway	4 mths	Sept. 30	193	10,875			
Do	2 weeks	Aug. 31	35	12,765	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 7,000
Nasajo Oscarhamu	8 mths	Aug. 31	35	2,734	+ 16,451	57,139	+ 7,000
Woman Railway	2 weeks	Dec. 2	100	140,536	+ 927	85,500	+ 16,000
Puerto Caballo, &c.	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	5,262	+ 2,978	120,006	+ 22,000
Salvador Province	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	(a) 12,530			

31s 6d to 32s, both landed. Plate 31s 3d and Persian 28s 6d, both ex ship, all per 400 lbs. Maize more or less neglected, with tendency of prices in buyers' favour. Plate ex ship 35s, ditto landed 36s 9d, American mixed ex ship 35s 9d, ditto landed 37s 3d per 480 lbs. Cargoes generally inactive and values easier owing to recent heavy shipments from the Argentine. Steamers of La Plata, January shipment, sold 35s 6d, and ditto on passage 35s to 34s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats slow and native varieties easier at 24s to 32s per 336 lbs free on rail according to sample. Foreign also tends downwards in view of forward weakness. La Plata f.a.q. ex ship 27s, ditto landed 28s, No. 2 Canada Western 31s 6d, No. 2 Canadian feed 27s 6d, No. 2 white clipped American 36 lbs 27s 3d, all landed per 320 lbs. Oatmeal in quiet request, and prices 10s to 20s per ton lower for home milled. London made, all cuts, quoted £17 15s, rolled oats £17 5s, whole groats £17 15s, flaked oats £20 15s ex mill. Ordinary Scottish oatmeal £19 to £20, and American, all cuts, £18 10s, all per ton.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—Business in crude and semi-manufactured steel continues to progress, and the output of the open-hearth furnaces in this district exceeds the pre-war average; but, owing to the greatly increased capacity since the war, a good deal of the plant is still idle. The demand is chiefly for basic steel, but sales of acid steel have improved considerably of late, and the position of hematite pig-iron is better than it has been for nearly two years. More furnaces are working, and prices are 5s. or more per ton better. Foundry and forge iron are still in a condition of depression owing to the circumstance that the general improvement in trade has not yet reached the iron foundries. For this reason producers of foundry iron are unable to obtain a price which covers the cost of production. More orders for railway steel are coming in, and the outlook for shipbuilding steel and tools

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—In usually well-informed quarters it is credited that the shipbuilding outlook is hopeful, and that it is safe for those concerned to calculate that the Clyde will be secure at least one of the war vessels for which the Admiralty have invited tenders, and that two to three first-class large liners are to be, or have been, booked for the river. There are also some tramps spoken of as likely to come North between now and the beginning of another year, when, it is believed, a state of sustained activity will obtain. As to the new boats that have taken them at cost, which should, it is vinned that builders have taken them at cost, which should, it is stated, work out at about pre-war level, or thereabout. The recent drop of 10s a ton, to £12, in boiler plates has given a slight fillip to home inquiry, and the new boat-building fixed has led to more quotations being steady at near—angles, £9 for home, £8 for ship-plates, £9 5s for home, £8 5s for export; steel hoops, ment; channels, £9 5s for home, £8 5s for export; steel hoops, £10 15s home, £11 2s 6d export. Ten days ago Germany was offering some descriptions of steel here, but the movement has made no progress. The pig-iron position in the United States, and 2,342 tons were shipped from Glasgow to the United States, and there are some fair contract lots yet to go West; but, notwithstanding, the make is ahead of consumption, and at a few works production is accumulating. Practically, home inquiry is at a stand, and dealers say prospects are as poor as they have well-nigh ever been. On Wednesday sellers of Scotch No. 3 were asking 99s, f.o.b. Glasgow, while Middlesbrough No. 3 was 92s, f.o.b. Middlesbrough. Mixed numbers East Coast hematite were named at 94s. Throughout the week Scotch coals have been in strong request; but coal masters and merchants have been slow sellers, as they are filled up with contracts for all outputs down to the end of the year. Several collieries are fully booked on to the finish of March. This applies to Lanarkshire, Fife, and Lothian pits.

Our Middlesbro' correspondents' report, dated December 7th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The demand for pig-iron is generally quiet before the turn of the year, as consumers do not want to carry stocks. This is the case at present. The output of Cleveland Foundry pig-iron is still very limited, but it suffices for the limited demand. Prices are as follows:—No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. 9rs 6d to 9rs per ton; East Coast mixed numbers hematite, 9rs 6d per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: The steel trade is 9rs 6d per ton. The outlook is more encouraging. Steel ship plates, 9s to 9s 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, 9s 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore is a very quiet market, and prices are a shade lower, in spite of firmer freights. Best Bilbao prices are 9s 6d per ton, c.i.f., Tees.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—The South Wales coal market goes on gathering strength from day to day. There may have been one or two weeks during the pressure of the recent American demand when market conditions were more active, but there has been no period during the past two and a-half years when the general position has been sounder. The collieries are producing almost pre-war outputs. The latest official returns show a production of 94 per cent. that of the record output year of 1913; the supply of tonnage is abundant, and is not so unwieldy as it was during the severe congestion of a week or two ago; the collieries are exceptionally well stemmed up to the end of the year; and prices are slowly but steadily advancing. The demand is general, and is greatest in the most important of the normal markets. The fears that the spurt was only of a temporary character have been dispelled, and contracts as well as current prices are being favourably affected. The leading collieries are not to-day prepared to sell for 1923 deliveries at the prices they actually accepted a month ago. Under forward contracts placed then the second Admiralties were bought for delivery over the first half of next year on the basis of 25s and 25s 6d per ton, and some of the leading first-class Admiralties between 26s and 26s 6d. These coals are now quoted at 26s 6d and between 28s 6d and 29s 6d respectively. The chief stimulus is an expanding foreign demand, but colliery salesmen are also influenced by the contingency of higher labour cost arising from an increase in wages, while exporters have been placing a certain amount of speculative business to meet the possibility of a recurrence of trouble in the United States, when the wages and other questions left unsettled in the recent coal strike come up for final adjustment. The only weakness of the market is for anthracite, anthracitic dry steam coals, and through steam coals of inferior quality. Foreign buyers are everywhere giving preference to the cleaner classes of coal, but with the demand overtaking the supply it is probable that the improvement will very quickly reach down to the inferior steam throughs. There have been slight fluctuations in coke, patent fuel, and pitwood prices, and contracts for pitwood have been placed for next year's

supply on the basis of 30s, ex-ship. The following are the current market prices:—Best Admiralties, 28s 6d to 30s; second Admiralties, 28s to 28s 6d; best drys, 27s 6d to 28s; best black veins, 28s to 28s 6d; Western Valleys, 27s 6d to 28s. 6d; Eastern Valleys, 26s 6d to 27s; best bunker smalls, 17s to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 16s to 17s; anthracite big vein, 38s to 40s; antracite machine-made cobbles, 55s to 57s 6d; anthracite French nuts, 67s 6d to 70s; stove nuts, 67s 6d to 70s; rubbly culm, 14s 6d to 15s; coke for export, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; inland blast furnace coke, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; patent fuel, 28s 6d to 30s; pitwood, ex-ship, 33s 6d to 34s. There is a steady improvement also in the iron and steel trades. There is a better demand from abroad, and increases in the minimum prices both of steel bars and of tinplates are regarded as imminent. Since the minimum schedule was introduced a few weeks ago the price per basis box of tinplates has been increased from 19s 3d to 19s 6d, and it is considered likely that the price will be further increased before the end of the year to 20s. It is reported that an arrangement has been arrived at with the merchants to allow them 1 per cent. commission on sales at these prices.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The feature of the trade continues to be found in the raw material markets. Both in London and in Australasia, wool continues to meet a good demand, and is selling at prices which the present state of trade in the consuming centres would hardly seem to justify. As a matter of fact, many descriptions are relatively dearer than tops, and this is an anomaly that will have to be rectified before progress can be made. As things are, users appear to be determined to hold out to the last possible moment against current prices of tops and yarns, yet unless topmakers can buy at lower prices than those now current in the primary markets of the world, it is difficult to see how cheaper tops are to be produced. Of course, spinners cannot afford to hold off indefinitely, and at present it is merely a question of which end of the trade will capitulate. There has been a slightly easier tendency in merino values, but there is no quotable change in topmakers' quotations. In crossbreds, quotations remain very firm, with, if anything, a hardening tendency in medium sorts. Spinners are not booking much bulk business, neither on home nor export account. They have sufficient work in hand to keep machinery fully employed for the next two months or so, but it would be a relief to most firms to see more buying on forward account. The piece trade presents no new feature. Business is slack, and although rather more interest is being shown in men's wear and in certain crossbred fabrics, the position as a whole is by no means encouraging. It is feared that the last has not yet been seen of the financial difficulties which have been so prominent during the last two years, and, taken all round, there is lack of confidence in the future which is in marked contrast to the active demand for raw wool.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The little weakness that developed last week at the London sales is still in evidence, though the auctions are still going well. The catalogues are being cleared every day in good style. It is now correct to say that merinos have declined 5 to 10 per cent., the fall being most in evidence in short-stapled wools, such as are usually taken by the Continent. At the same time, we think that scoureds have also slightly depreciated. Even when the utmost allowance

(" Manchester Guardian Commercial.")

"Th- Stabilisation of the Exchanges II" ... J. M. KYNES
With comments by H. CAILLAUX, Mr. R. C. LEFFINGWELL, and
Mr. ALBERT STRAUSS.
"Devaluation versus Deflation" ... Professor IRVING FISHER
"The Real Ratio of International Exchange" ... Professor P'GOU
"Germany's New Exchange Regulations" ... Professor SCHUMACHER

"The Bank of England and the Big Five" HENRY FELL
(Lloyds Bank)
"State Intervention in Banking" F. F. STEE E
(London County Westminster & Parr's Bank)

A series of articles on the present Banking position in France, Italy,
Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland, Holland, Switzerland and
Spain.

A special Supplement showing a series of illustrations of the Bank of England in former times, to-day, and as it will be, if the projected changes are carried out. A number of photographs of the interior of the Bank are being published for the first time.

One Shilling. Post Free from GUARDIAN BUILDINGS,
MANCHESTER.

has been made for any decline in both greasy and scoured new clip wools, the prices which are now being paid cannot but be regarded as very satisfactory. The second-hand lots offered do not always come up to the owners' ideas of prices, and these are being withdrawn in the expectation that they will realise more money if they are offered again in the new year. Home trade buyers are taking the larger part of the offerings, some very good wools being acquired for top-making purposes. In spite of the ease, however, prices have not come down to the level desired by Bradford top-makers. It is understood that there has been some rather cheap selling of average 64's for next year's delivery, prices accepted for that date being under 5s. This quality of tops cannot be made at that price out of wool bought in London or Australia to-day, and the sellers of the tops are obviously speculating on wool becoming cheaper. Whatever happens in the future, there is nothing wrong at present with London values, and the fall which has taken place only brings them down to the level of the last Liverpool auction. No doubt Continental buyers are considerably hampered by the depreciation of their currencies, and were it not for the fact that the mark is almost valueless, Germany would be buying a considerably larger quantity. American firms are picking up a few merinos, but are certainly taking no more than other sections.

Some large weights of New Zealand and Australian crossbreds are being catalogued, and although these are scarcely making the extreme prices current during the first week, everything is being cleared, holders meeting the market very freely. A wonderfully large amount of crossbred wool coming forward, and it is all being readily absorbed. Of course, Bradford top-makers have found substantial relief by the large purchases of matchings by America during the interval between the present and the previous London auctions, and this is encouraging them to buy with greater freedom. Fine crossbreds have gone back to the level of last series, but medium crossbreds are still 15 to 20 per cent. dearer, and coarse crossbreds are fully 5 per cent. dearer. Slipe crossbreds are selling exceptionally well, notwithstanding the big weight catalogued almost daily. America is a free buyer of slipe half-bred lambs; in fact, anything around 56's quality is being taken readily for shipment across the Atlantic. These wools are practically all being taken for the woollen trade, and will answer their purpose very well indeed. Scoured crossbreds are also moving very freely, these being bought principally for the home trade.

The decision of the United States Treasury Department that carbonised wool shall bear the same import duty as tops—33 cents per lb and 20 per cent. *ad valorem*—is resented in London and Bradford. It is regarded as an entirely selfish action, but one which will react to the disadvantage of the American public.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—December 1, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
							Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Florida do.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Georgia do.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American.....	1354	1384	1444	1474	1484	1539	772	947	1147	521	771	1271
Brazilian.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maceio, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mossoro, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ceara.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maranhão, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
São Paulo.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upper.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sakellariadis.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peruvian.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Moderately Rough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smooth.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanquila.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mitafi.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Indian, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do Sea Island.....	1050	1150	1325	1425	1525	1625	900	1100	1300	1100	1400	2000
African, East, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do West.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Burtee.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Broach.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Bhowmuggar.....	970	980	1030	1070	1110	1150	740	815	915	719	794	929
Machine Ginned Oomra, No 1.....	940	990	1040	1080	1120	1160	750	825	925	725	800	935
Machine Ginned Oomra, No 2.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Khandeloh.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Compah.....	1140	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	715	755	795	835	875	915	690	740	815	625	675	775
Machine Ginned Bolnde.....	705	745	785	825	865	905	670	720	805	605	655	755
Timbirely.....	132	1365	1405	..	..	..	130	1080	..	1040	1090	..
Madras, Western.....	1080	1115	1155	1195	..	..	745	795	..	900	950	..
Madras, Northern.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M. G. Cocoonada, Red.....	Fr. 1140	..	..	..	..	..	776	..	..	800	..	..
China, Amvna, &c.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

MANCHESTER, December 7.

Trade in the market this week has not shown any improvement. Owing to the absence of fresh contracts, further ground has been lost by spinners and manufacturers. Curtailment of production is increasing, and more unemployment is showing itself. Traders have not confidence in current value, there being a definite belief in lower prices. Only occasional sales have occurred in piece goods for India and China. Manufacturers have met with no support worth mentioning from the minor outlets East and West and the home trade. The yarn market has been flat. Very poor prices have had to be taken for American qualities, and rates in Egyptian cents have favoured buyers.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Dec. 7, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Nov. 30.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 16.	Nov. 9.	Nov. 2.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American, per lb	14.22	14.79	14.77	15.39	15.36	14.54
Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian, per lb	17.50	18.25	18.50	19.25	18.65	17.75
Yarns—32's twist, per lb	20.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1
40's twist, per lb	20.1	20.1	20.1	21.1	21.1	20.1
50's twist (Egyptian), per lb	28	28.1	29	29	29	28.1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	30	31	31	32	32	31
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	32	33	33	33	33	32
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	18	18	18	19	18	18
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs	16	17	17	17	17	16

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Dec. 7, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American, per lb	14.22	11.13	12.54	27.10	21.40	22.84
Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian, per lb	17.50	19.75	28.00	48.50	27.56	31.95
Yarns—32's twist, per lb	20.1	18.1	29	52.1	41.1	35.1
40's twist, per lb	20.1	17.1	27.1	49.1	42.1	35.1
50's twist (Egyptian), per lb	28	32	44	91	69	45.1
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	30	31	31	32	32	31
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	32	33	33	33	33	32
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	18	18	18	19	18	18
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs	16	17	17	17	17	16

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEED.

Quite a good business has been done in linseed, crushers entering the market and buying freely both of new crop Plate and of Calcutta. Hull paid £16 10s and up to £16 15s for Plate, December-January, and £16 to £16 5s for January-February shipment, with London a good buyer of Calcutta at £20 2s 6d to £20 5s for first week of December loading, and £19 5s later December. Immediate requirements having been met, the market has been quieter, but quotations remain at about the higher level. Linseed is very scarce on spot, and commands a high premium, as also does December shipment of old Plate crop. There is, however, a fair quantity on passage, viz., 28,000 tons to the U.K. and 50,300 tons to the Continent.

The demand for the oil products is fair, with forward delivery fully firm in sympathy with the improved position of seed, owing to the reports of rains in Argentina and dealers short of oil covering their commitments. Spot offers round £36 per ton, naked, ex Hull mill, and December at the same figure, while for January-April £33 10s is about the value. Egyptian cottonseed has been active, crushers having to meet £10 17s 6 for Sakellariadis, holders now quoting £11 for afloat and £10 18s 9d December loading. A good business has also been done in Bombay cottonseed. Cotton oils have continued a steady market, with a very good trade reported in refined. Crude

The Most Progressive
Office for all Classes of
Insurance and Assurance
EAGLE, STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS
INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.,
Head Office: BRITISH DOMINIONS HOUSE, ROYAL EXCHANGE AVE., E.C.3.
BRANCHES AND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.K.
ASSETS EXCEED £20,000,000

is still scarce and difficult to buy, current value for Egyptian being £36 10s ex Hull mill, and for ordinary refined (soapmakers' grade) £37.

A cargo of Manchurian soya beans, December-January shipment, has been secured by Scandinavia at £10 17s 6d. Coromandal ground nuts for shipment have been done at £19 15s to Hull and £20 5s to London. Some business has been done in Toria rapeseed, Rotterdam paying £16 5s and £16 7s 6d for shipment early in the new year.

A good trade is reported in palm kernel oil, but ground nut oil is scarce. Rape, soya, and castor oils are all steady, and values about unchanged. Demand for linseed cakes is still disappointing, but cotton cakes are in slightly better request, and prices of the same are inclined to harden.

Shipments of Plate linseed from January 1st to November 30th are returned:—To U.K., 197,300 tons; Continent, 410,000 tons; and to North America, 277,000 tons—total, 884,300 tons; and of Indian, to U.K., 162,675 tons; Continent, 123,050 tons—total, 285,725 tons.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A further easing in the prices for market hides and skins was recorded at the Bermondsey auctions held on Thursday, ox and heifers making from 7½d to 1½d per lb less money. Cows and bulls were steady at the previous week's figures, but, on the other hand, all classes of kips showed further reductions of ½d per lb. Calfskins depreciated in value to the extent of from 7½d to 7d per lb, the first class of these goods now fetching from 7½d to 12d per lb, with seconds realising from 6½d to 10d. Sheepskins were a trifle firmer, in view of the continued shortage of this material.

The foreign hide section also reports prices as easier, although values are still too high to permit of much business on account of the home trade, except in regard to immediate requirements. At origin, however, the United States is still interested, and small parcels of Frigorifics have changed hands at recent figures. Dry and dyesalted descriptions have come in for attention where the price has been right, but the business passing is very limited, and in the main confined to immediate needs. Latest cable advices from America are to the effect that the hide market there continues weak, and that all quotations are merely nominal.

The demand for sole leather is falling flat, both Northern tanners and Bermondsey merchants agreeing in this respect. The fine weather is a contributory reason, as boot repairs have not been in the market for bends of late. Tanners are already showing signs of weakness, and sales have been made this week at ½d per lb reduction on those of a week or two ago. Offal shares with bends the prevailing depression, and the fluctuation of the French exchange has affected export of rough leather to France. Much is expected of the improvement in the American exchange, and merchants confidently anticipate large sales of sole leather when the position is ripe. If it happens, the leather will come on a heavily stocked and depressed market, and will not improve the outlook.

Business in upper leathers is slow, orders being for very small parcels at low figures. Holders of chrome calf and glacé kid are, however, taking a strong stand, as comparatively little is arriving from America.

The shoe trade is moderately well employed, makers of women's footwear and sporting goods receiving the best part of the trade. There is a slight spurt in fancy leather goods for the Christmas trade, but so far this has not come up to expectations. Makers of travelling goods are very slack indeed, the public apparently having little money to spend in this direction.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, December 8.

SUGAR.—General steadiness characterised this market, and a moderate demand was experienced, chiefly for British descriptions of refined closing easier. A large and varied assortment of Java whites remains available on spot, London. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 55s 3d to 56s 3d; granulated, 50s 1½d to 50s 7½d; yellow crystals, 44s 1½d; pieces, 37s 6d to 40s 6d for yellow, and 45s 1½d for fine white. Granulated, January delivery, 51s; February-March, 51s 3d; April-May, 51s 6d. Glebe K and standard granulated, spot, London, 50s. Crystallised West India in steady support, and good qualities sold, 44s to 46s. American granulated, spot, 50s. White Java, spot, 48s to 49s 6d; good to fine grainy grocery, 48s 9d to 49s; ditto, June-July, new crop, sold, 21s. c.f. and i. London. W.S.R. and H.U.M. granulated, ready shipment, quoted 23s; J, 22s 6d; C.B.S., 22s, f.o.b., Amsterdam. Czecho-Slovakian granulated, December, 22s 3d; April-August, 23s 6d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Belgian granulated, F.W., December, 21s 9d; and ordinary, 21s 6d, f.o.b., Antwerp. White Mauritius, spot, 46s 6d to 47s. Cuban

basis 96 per cent., February-March, sellers, 17s 3d; Brazilian, ditto, December-January, 17s 9d; ditto, basis 80 per cent., December-January, 10s 9d, c.f. and i. terms, U.K. Cuban stocks, 49,500 tons, against 967,500 at corresponding period last year. Terminal market rather unsettled. White, December, sold, 21s 6d to 21s 9d; March, 22s to 22s 4½d and 22s 3d; May, 22s 4½d to 22s 6d. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s 6d.

COFFEE.—Market quite steady, with moderate support accorded from home-trade buyers, but business with exporters is still carried on slowly. Of East India, fine bold Mysore sold, 127s; fair bold Costa Rica, 102s 6d to 103s. Futures remain slow but steady.

COCOA.—Actual business was confined to a narrow limit, but no appreciable alteration occurred in prices. Accra, F/F quality, December-February, quoted 36s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian tea auctions embraced some 44,500 packages, and with fair and well distributed competition a steady tone resulted, quotations being on a par with previous level. Ceylon sales totalled 13,100 packages, which cleared to a good demand at firm rates. Java in fair support at full prices.

RICE.—Old crop firm, and sparingly offered. Two stars, spot, 15s 9d to 16s; December, 13s 9d; new crop, February, steamer, 13s 6d, c.f. and i. Broken kinds steady, quiet. Rangoon beans, spot, 7s 10½d paid. Japanese peas, afloat, sold, 27s 6d; December-January, 25s 6d.

SPICE.—Pepper met with moderate attention, and steadiness governed the market. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 4d; ditto, January-March, 3½d; Aleppy, spot, quoted, 4d; Tellicherry, 4½d. White Singapore, spot, 5½d; Muntok, ditto, 6½d, as to quality; fair January-March, done, 6½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 9½d to 10d; October-December, 6½d to 7½d, c.f. and i. Pimento, spot, 2½d. Flake tapioca, fair quality, on spot, quoted, 3½d per lb; ditto, December-February, buyers, to London, 28s 6d; Havre, sold, 29s 6d to 30s 3d, c.f. and i. terms. Fair Penang seed pearl, spot, 24s; sago flour, November-December, sold, 12s 3d; January-March, 12s 3d. Desiccated coconut, spot, fine cut, sold, 36s 6d; medium, 37s; January-March, 36s.

FRUIT.—The market for currants ruled quiet, on former terms. Pyrgos, 56s; Vostizza, 70s to 80s. Valencia raisins quietly steady. Halves quoted, 42s to 44s; quarters, 60s to 65s. Sultanias moved off slowly. Smyrna, 95s to 110s; fine to choice, 120s to 135s. Dates: Hallowee, spot, 24s.

JUTE.—Presented irregular features, under reserved offers and fair disposition shown to purchase. First grade, November-December, usual Continental ports, sold, £36 10s to £36; December-January, £36 10s to £37 5s and £36 10s; January-February, £37 15s to £38 and £37 5s; February-March, £38. Lightning grade, December-January, £35 5s to £34 15s; January-February, £35 15s to £35 5s. Hessians, 10 oz, spot, 36s 6d; due steamer, sold, 37s 6d; 8 oz, spot, 27s 6d; A twills, spot, 86s; B, 70s 6d.

H&M.P.—Manila qualities received fair support and a firm tone ensued. J grade, December-February, sold, £33 to £34; K, £32 to £32 10s; L, £31 10s to £32 5s; M, £30 10s to £31 5s. New Zealand slow, but steady and fair quality, on spot, held for £31 10s. Italian P.C., spot, £59. Indian hemp firm, with moderate inquiries. **SHELLAC.**—Market quietly steady, and T.N., spot, quoted 345s; December, 330s; March, sold, 290s to 295s and 290s.

COPRA.—Market after opening the week firmly assumed a quieter tone. F.M.S. Straits, November-December and December-February, Rotterdam, sold, £25 to £25 1s 3d, and £24 18s 9d; Ceylon, ditto, quoted £26 12s 6d; Java, £25 5s; Dutch East Indies, £25; Cebu, £24 15s; mixed, £24; South Sea Islands, £24 5s. Palm kernels, December-February, Liverpool, sold, £17 6s 3d to £17 5s.

RUBBER.—Market slightly unsettled, and a moderate business was effected. Standard crepe and sheet plantation, spot, also December, sold, 1s 2½d to 1s 1½d; January-March, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d; April-June, 1s 3½d to 1s 2½d; July-September, 1s 3½d to 1s 3½d. To New York, standard sheet, January-February, sold, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 1½d; soft fine, 11½d; Caucho ball, 11½d.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Hen liquid yolk, China, 1½ per cent. boracic, spot, prime quality, 107s 6d; for shipment, 1½ per cent. boracic, November-January, 105s c.f. and i. Dried whole native, on the spot, 8½d; and spray, 9d; dried yolk, spot, 9½d. Hen albumen, on the spot, 3s; for shipment, November-January, 2s 11d, c.f. and i.

MENTHOL.—Spot quoted 42s 6d; forward, 39s. Japanese pepper-mint oil, spot, 8s 6d; shipment, 8s 3d; aniseed, spot, 2s 3d; refined camphor, spot, 3s 10½d; crude, 3s 6d per lb. Japanese wax, spot, 75s cwt.

GIRARD TRUST COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



Equipped to perform all
kinds of fiduciary service—under appointment
by courts, corporations
and individuals.

Correspondence invited.

Chartered 1836.

Capital and Surplus \$10,000,000.

Member of Federal Reserve System.

OILSEEDS.—Market opened firmer, but irregular since. Bold Bombay, afloat, £20 15s. Small Bombay, November-December, sellers, £19 15s. Calcutta, afloat, £20 5s; November-December, sold, £19 15s to £19 17s 6d; Plate, afloat, £19 2s 6d; November-December, sellers, £18 12s 6d; December-January, sold, £16 15s to £17 2s 6d; January-February, new crop, sold, £16 5s. Rapeseed quiet. Toria, afloat, £18 17s 6d; January-February, £16 12s 6d; real bold Ferozepore, November-December, £17 7s 6d. Cottonseed firm. Egyptian black, December, £11 5s, and white, sold, £10 13s 9d to £10 15s to £10 18s 9d. Bombay, December-January, £3 15s paid. Gingly quiet. Chinese, new, December-January, quoted £21 2s 6d. Continent: large Bombay, December-January, £21 15s. Castor, Bombay, November-December, £17 5s, sellers, to Hull; February-March, £15 10s. Ground nuts steady. Coromandel, machine dried, November-December, £20 10s; ordinary, £19 10s; East African, November-December, £20; Nigerian, £20; bold Bombay, December-January, £19 15s. Chinese, December-January, £19 15s. Soya beans, Manchurian: new crop, December-January, £11 12s 6d; January-February, £11 10s per ton.

OILS.—Linseed market irregular but firmer. Spot, net, naked, 38s 6d; December, 36s 6d; January-April, 34s; May-August, 31s 3d. Rape dull. Crude, spot, 42s; refined, 45s. Cotton steady. Crude Egyptian, spot, 36s; common edible, 43s; deodorised (in barrels), 46s. China-wad quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 70s; shipment, 65s. Coconut firmer. Ceylon, spot, 40s; d; December-January, 39s 6d; Cochin, ditto, quoted 44s. Soya steady. Oriental, barrels, November-December, 36s. Japan fish firm. November-December, cases, 25s 9d. Cod inactive. English, spot, 29s 6d. Ground nuts firm. English crushed, naked, spot, 45s; deodorised, barrels, 54s. Turpentine easier but irregular. American, spot, 104s; December, 104s; January-April, 105s 3d. Rosin easier. American, grade B, 15s; F, 15s; G, 15s; H to I, 15s; WG, 19s; WW, 20s. French, F/G, 14s; WW, 16s 6d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

METALS.—Tin: Opening movements showed a downward tendency in prices, due to selling pressure with a moderate turnover, including standard, cash, at £174 15s to £174 10s; January, £175 10s; and three months, £176 to £175 7s 6d. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £178, c.i.f. The market subsequently improved under the influence of good buying orders, especially for distant position, and values registered a sharp advance. By the middle of the week cash sold up to £179 5s, January £180 15s, and three months at £180 10s. On Thursday rates were again firmer, with a large business. Standard, cash, sold, at £180 5s, and three months £181 to £181 5s to £181 2s 6d to £181 5s. A firmer tone again prevailed at the final session, and a fairly good business transpired. Cash sold at £181 10s to £181 5s; three months, £181 15s to £182 15s to £182. English ingots, £180 5s to £180 10s.

Copper commenced the week with a steady tone, and fair dealings occurred in cash at £62 5s, and three months at £63 3s 9d. Later transactions displayed slight irregularity, though values on balance were little altered. On Wednesday cash stood at £62 10s, and three months, £63 3s 9d. On the following day the tendency was barely steady, with moderate trading. Cash sold at £62 10s to £62 8s 9d; and three months, £63 7s 6d to £63 3s 9d. No material variation occurred in prices at the final session, and a good business was effected, including cash, at £62 11s 3d to £62 10s, and three months £63 7s 6d to £63 5s. Electro, £69 10s to £70; best selected, £65 10s to £67 10s; strong sheets, £96; wire bars, £70. Antimony, ordinary, £27 to £29 10s. Aluminium, home delivery, £100 to £102 10s. Lead dearer, at £26 to £25 5s, as to position. Spelter dearer, at £38 5s to £35 5s, according to position.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner's report dated December 6th is as follows:—The tallow market was quieter during the week, and prices are unchanged to-day. The demand, though falling off, is still fairly good for the time of year. The stock in London on November 30, as returned by the wharves, amounted to 9,609 packages, showing a decrease during the month of 4,995 packages. At auction to-day 1,310 casks tallow were offered, and 611 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 43s 6d; good to fair, 42s 3d to 40s; dull to dark, 38s to 36s; hard, 43s. Australian beef: Fine, 44s; good to fair, 42s to 39s; dull to dark, 37s 3d to 35s; sweet, 44s 5d. Present shipment from Australasia: Mutton, fair coloured, 44s degs, 39s; and mixed, 43s, c.i.f. London, 37s 6d. The market letter is unchanged for tallow, stuff is dearer. Town tallow, 35s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 14d; melted stuff, 26s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 35s 6d net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frait casks, 35s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, —; fair to dull, 36s 6d to 35s 6d. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 32s 6d; melted stuff, 32s 6d, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—DECEMBER 7.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	8 d	8 d	8 d	8 d	8 d	8 d	8 d
Short-horns	6	4	2	10	11	0	12
Devons	7	0	7	10	6	0	7
Norfolks	6	2	6	10	nominal	nominal	nominal
Scottish	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal
Irish	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal
Fat Cows	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal	nominal

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—DECEMBER 7.

English British Queens	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.
" Eclipse	3	0	3	0
" King Edwards	2	6	3	0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.				INDIA RUBBER.—				PROVISIONS.—				SPICES.—							
COCOA—Dutch	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	Albino fine E.L., p. cert120	150	8	8	Para fine, per cwt	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Butter—	nom	nom	nom	Black Pepper	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
25 1/2 foreign 25cwt.	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	Caspe, good to fine.	20	0	29	Plantation crepe	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Irish creamery	nom	nom	nom	White Pepper	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Trinidad, per cwt.	60	60	60	Balsam Peru	10	8	8	INDIGO—per lb	8	8	8	Do factory	nom	nom	nom	Pimento	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Granada	47	65	0	Capivi	1	6	0	Bengal, good red vio-	8	0	9	Argentine	154	170	8	Cinnamon—1st sort	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ceylon, plantation	53	70	9	Ganar	1	6	0	let to fine	8	0	9	Dutch	154	170	8	Do 2nd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Guaymas	53	65	0	Japan, refined	3	9	4	Mid. ord. vio. to good	6	6	8	New Zealand	166	0	181	Do 3rd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bahia, finest	50	62	8	Cardamomo, Ceylon	2	5	6	Low to good ord.	4	4	6	Danish	20	0	202	Do 4th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
OFFSHORE—British growth	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	Cardam'rb', China prib	4	9	6	Madras, dry leaf, good	4	4	6	Bacon, engd.—Irish	134	0	134	Do 5th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
25 1/2 foreign 25cwt.	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	Cashew, Ind. 1st	6	9	6	Do low to ord.	1	0	3	Curry, engd.—Irish	114	9	124	Cassia Lignea	45	0	9
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gum R'ban, Sum.cwt	6/08	10/08	0	Kurpal, good mid. to	5	5	6	Canadian	95	9	18	Cloves—Zanzibar	0	9	9
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oiljinnam, drops	0	100	0	Low to mid.	3	6	8	Hamp—Irish	85	0	96	Penang	3	0	0
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do fat to good	60	0	100	WHEAT—per ton	£	£	£	Canadian	0	0	0	Ginger—per cwt.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ipecacuanha	7	0	0	Russian Siret	41	0	0	American	0	0	0	Ochims, cut	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Japan	2	0	0	Do "J" Grade	33	10	0	Leard—Irish bladders	84	0	0	Do small rough	55	0	0
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Musk pod, China	65	0	95	Do "N" Grade	33	10	0	N.Z. up-4, high fair	33	0	0	Do washed	57	0	0
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "P" Grade	33	10	0	Beef—per 8 lbs	8	10	0	Japan	45	0	0
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "Q" Grade	33	10	0	Beef—Frozen, per lb	2 1/2	11	5	Jamaica, small	176	0	22
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "R" Grade	33	10	0	Cheese—Canadain	120	0	120	Do 1st	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "S" Grade	33	10	0	New Zealand	120	0	120	Do 2nd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "T" Grade	33	10	0	Eng. Cheddar	115	0	145	Do 3rd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "U" Grade	33	10	0	Dutch	nom	nom	nom	Do 4th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "V" Grade	33	10	0	Eng. or 1st—English	36	0	32	Do 5th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "W" Grade	33	10	0	Do 2nd	25	0	27	Do 6th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "X" Grade	33	10	0	Do 3rd	25	0	27	Do 7th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "Y" Grade	33	10	0	Do 4th	25	0	27	Do 8th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "Z" Grade	33	10	0	Do 5th	25	0	27	Do 9th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AA" Grade	33	10	0	Do 6th	25	0	27	Do 10th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AB" Grade	33	10	0	Do 7th	25	0	27	Do 11th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AC" Grade	33	10	0	Do 8th	25	0	27	Do 12th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AD" Grade	33	10	0	Do 9th	25	0	27	Do 13th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AE" Grade	33	10	0	Do 10th	25	0	27	Do 14th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AF" Grade	33	10	0	Do 11th	25	0	27	Do 15th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AG" Grade	33	10	0	Do 12th	25	0	27	Do 16th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AH" Grade	33	10	0	Do 13th	25	0	27	Do 17th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AI" Grade	33	10	0	Do 14th	25	0	27	Do 18th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AJ" Grade	33	10	0	Do 15th	25	0	27	Do 19th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AK" Grade	33	10	0	Do 16th	25	0	27	Do 20th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AL" Grade	33	10	0	Do 17th	25	0	27	Do 21st	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AM" Grade	33	10	0	Do 18th	25	0	27	Do 22nd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AN" Grade	33	10	0	Do 19th	25	0	27	Do 23rd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AO" Grade	33	10	0	Do 20th	25	0	27	Do 24th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AP" Grade	33	10	0	Do 21st	25	0	27	Do 25th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AQ" Grade	33	10	0	Do 22nd	25	0	27	Do 26th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AR" Grade	33	10	0	Do 23rd	25	0	27	Do 27th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AS" Grade	33	10	0	Do 24th	25	0	27	Do 28th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AT" Grade	33	10	0	Do 25th	25	0	27	Do 29th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AU" Grade	33	10	0	Do 26th	25	0	27	Do 30th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AV" Grade	33	10	0	Do 27th	25	0	27	Do 31st	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AW" Grade	33	10	0	Do 28th	25	0	27	Do 32nd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AX" Grade	33	10	0	Do 29th	25	0	27	Do 33rd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AY" Grade	33	10	0	Do 30th	25	0	27	Do 34th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "AZ" Grade	33	10	0	Do 31st	25	0	27	Do 35th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BA" Grade	33	10	0	Do 32nd	25	0	27	Do 36th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BB" Grade	33	10	0	Do 33rd	25	0	27	Do 37th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BC" Grade	33	10	0	Do 34th	25	0	27	Do 38th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BD" Grade	33	10	0	Do 35th	25	0	27	Do 39th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BE" Grade	33	10	0	Do 36th	25	0	27	Do 40th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BF" Grade	33	10	0	Do 37th	25	0	27	Do 41st	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BG" Grade	33	10	0	Do 38th	25	0	27	Do 42nd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BH" Grade	33	10	0	Do 39th	25	0	27	Do 43rd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BI" Grade	33	10	0	Do 40th	25	0	27	Do 44th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BJ" Grade	33	10	0	Do 41st	25	0	27	Do 45th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BK" Grade	33	10	0	Do 42nd	25	0	27	Do 46th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BL" Grade	33	10	0	Do 43rd	25	0	27	Do 47th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BM" Grade	33	10	0	Do 44th	25	0	27	Do 48th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BN" Grade	33	10	0	Do 45th	25	0	27	Do 49th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BO" Grade	33	10	0	Do 46th	25	0	27	Do 50th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BP" Grade	33	10	0	Do 47th	25	0	27	Do 51st	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BQ" Grade	33	10	0	Do 48th	25	0	27	Do 52nd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BR" Grade	33	10	0	Do 49th	25	0	27	Do 53rd	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BS" Grade	33	10	0	Do 50th	25	0	27	Do 54th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BT" Grade	33	10	0	Do 51st	25	0	27	Do 55th	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do good to fine	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oil, Cassia	10	0	10	Do "BU" Grade	33	10									

end of last week from the result of the Treasury bill tenders. Three months' bills were taken at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but higher quotations are given and made effective. Yesterday money remained extremely abundant, with some extensive purchases of January Treasury bills by one of the banks. Loans up to the last day of the year were to be had freely at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills) ..	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	..

The Bank return showed a minute increase in circulation and a corresponding decrease in the Reserve, there being no change in the stock of gold. Redemption of Ways and Means advances reduced the Government securities by nearly thirteen millions, and the deposits consequently declined, Public by one million and Other by nearly twelve. There was an increase of £1,890,300 to £292,468,300 in currency notes outstanding this week, which includes £1,529,300 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £242,789,000, or £67,199,400 below the maximum.

The principal features of the statement of average weekly balances of the London Clearing Banks for November, which is printed in detail on a later page, is the increase shown for the second month in succession in both acceptances and loans and advances. The comparative table below gives the aggregate figures for the nine English banks:—

	Dec., 1921.	March, 1922.	June, 1922.	Sept., 1922.	Oct., 1922.	Nov., 1922.
Capital and reserves	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9	115.9
Acceptances	65.3	57.1	55.2	49.9	56.9	64.8
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,818.6	1,746.9	1,755.2	1,660.6	1,686.2	1,667.4
Total liabilities	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,926.3	1,826.4	1,859.0	1,848.1
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	273.5	245.8	251.3	233.2	244.3	239.2
Money at call	105.7	102.5	113.0	104.4	104.7	97.5
Investments	343.3	322.7	412.0	405.8	394.4	389.9
Discounts	424.3	350.5	346.2	295.9	309.1	298.3
Loans and advances	762.3	746.2	723.3	711.3	723.7	732.3
Cover for accept., premises, &c. ..	90.7	82.2	80.5	75.8	82.8	90.9
Total assets	1,999.8	1,919.9	1,926.3	1,826.4	1,859.0	1,848.1

Deposits have fallen, but the total is still well above the average for September. There is also a drop in investments, which may have been responsible, to some small extent, for the recent dulness in the gilt-edged market.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock Exchange settlement this week passed off very easily, and the week in Throgmorton Street has, on the whole, been featureless. Business is slack, but there is no general weakness, and the tendency is to look for improved business in the New Year. War Loan, after early weakness, made a recovery, in which Conversion Loan shared, the heavy recent liquidation in this latter security having apparently ceased. In the foreign market the features were the strength of Chinese issues and fluctuations in Brazilians. Scarcity of stock caused some rises in the Home Railway section, though demand was not very active. Argentine Rails weakened on profit-taking. Rubber shares retained their firmness, but oil shares, in spite of some recovery on the Shell dividend announcement, are a poor market. Kaffirs, as well as dollar securities, were affected by the strong movement in sterling exchange. In the industrial sections, iron, coal, steel, and armament shares were prominent for strength, the placing of orders for two new battleships adding to the confidence of the market.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The healthy tone in the South Wales coal market continues to be maintained. Coal prices have further advanced, America having again come into the market, while further inquiries are being received from foreign countries. Business in pig-iron has been quiet, and our Middlesbrough correspondent reports that it "will continue so until January," adding that "makers are not inclined to cut prices, expecting a better demand later"; the price of hematite is easier on account of foreign competition. Iron and steel manufacturers are inclined to look forward to the future

with considerable confidence, and business is expected to improve early in the new year. Our Glasgow correspondent states that "in the last few weeks.....fully 60,000 tons of building" have been placed with local shipyards; while our Sheffield representative mentions that the placing of contracts of the two capital ships of the British Navy will soon improve the position and outlook. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarn have been steadier, but buyers in the Manchester cotton trade continue to confine themselves to immediate requirements. An increased number of inquiries has, however, been received for India trade. In the wool trade prices are steady, but there is no activity to record. Conditions in the boot trade are slightly better.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

All other movements during the week on the foreign exchange market have been overshadowed by the appreciation of sterling in New York, which has proceeded even more rapidly than a week ago. From \$4.56 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 8th the rate jumped on Monday to \$4.59, on Tuesday to \$4.63. During Wednesday the rate at one time reached \$4.70, but a reaction followed from this figure, and the rate closed for the day at \$4.66. On Thursday there was a further reaction, but the rate closed above the worst at \$4.64 $\frac{3}{8}$, and by yesterday morning had again recovered to \$4.65 $\frac{1}{2}$. Much natural excitement has been caused by this rise in value, and there have been many attempts to explain it. The more fundamental causes have been dealt with here repeatedly. There has been the upward movement of prices in the United States, the improvement in British export trade, and the growing conviction in America of the stability of the British financial position. More immediate has been the lightness of cotton purchases by Great Britain, which has gone some way towards counteracting the normal movement at this time of the year. In addition, it is reported that there has been recently a return of large balances from New York to London, a movement which, if it sets in on any large scale, may well continue for a considerable time. In particular it has been suggested that a number of large American operators, calculating on an unfavourable issue to the Lausanne Conference, have been caught short, and have had to cover hurriedly. On the whole, the feeling that the rise has been too rapid is probably correct, and the reaction in the middle of the week was a natural one. Nevertheless, unless the very real and serious threat of further reparation difficulties should again disturb Europe, there would seem enough justification to expect the rate to remain at least about its present level, if, indeed, it does not continue to appreciate quietly. Forward quotations have widened a little to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per month above spot. Paris, from 64.47 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 8th jumped to 65.07 $\frac{1}{2}$ on Monday and 65.50 on Tuesday as the result of the break-up of the Premiers' Conference, but fortunately somewhat steadier views would seem to be taking shape in France, and one may hope that the fall in the rate on Thursday and yesterday morning to 63.70 may reflect a better attitude. At the same time, it would be interesting in this connection to know the reason for the reduction this week of 33,600,000 in the gold balances abroad of the Banque de France. The Brussels rate is again somewhat wider, and a clear explanation of this movement is still lacking. Whether police intervention, which took place this week in the activities of certain exchange dealers, will help to clear up the matter is still uncertain. Forward rates in Paris are about 9 centimes per month above spot, in Brussels about 8 centimes below. Italy on the week is about one lira higher at 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Berlin rate, which jumped last Saturday to 37.250, was little affected by the rejection of the new German note, and since then has actually recovered to about 35.500. Dealings in marks, however, remain very restricted, and the rate may at any moment again move very rapidly. Among neutral currencies the most remarkable movement has been the jump in the guilders from 11.45 $\frac{1}{2}$ a week ago to 11.60 $\frac{1}{2}$, after being 11.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ on Wednesday, while Switzerland has followed much the same movement from 24.23 to 24.46 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the Scandinavian currencies have also gone markedly in our favour, Helsingfors following more slowly from 180 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 185. In Central Europe Vienna remains steady at 320,000, while Poland at 81,000 also shows little change. Prague, on the other hand, has moved up from 144 to 151 $\frac{1}{2}$.

CLEARING THE AIR.

THE adjournment of the discussion between the Allied Prime Ministers is the best that could be expected from last week's Reparation conference, and though the official communique indicated quite clearly that agreement on matters of principle had not yet been reached, we are disposed to regard the omens as by no means unfavourable. The atmosphere of the Conference seems to have been more friendly than of late, and three weeks for deliberation give the opportunity that was required for bringing about a closer harmony of view. A step of very great importance was taken by the British Government in expressing its readiness to modify the policy of the Balfour Note in return for a settlement which may have a great probability, if not absolute certainty, of being final. Mr Bonar Law has not made this offer the occasion for a dramatic gesture, but it is very important that France should not imagine this to be a matter of very small moment to Great Britain. There is sometimes an inclination in Europe to regard Great Britain as the rich uncle, upon whom all inconvenient debts can be unloaded, but the simple fact is that Great Britain, the most heavily taxed country in the world, is deliberately shouldering this immense burden for the sake of restoring peace, confidence, and prosperity—not from quixotic motives, but for the sake of self-preservation and of civilisation. Thinking Frenchmen know that in the event of a breach in the Entente Great Britain could strike a fatal blow at French credit. Such a breach would be a profound disaster for the world, and no effort must be spared to avoid it. But it should be clearly understood in Paris that the Prime Minister's offer on the war debt question is strictly conditional on a final agreement.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 9th:—

	Receipts.	Min. £	Expenditure.	Min. £
From Revenue	11,565	350	Interest on Debt	1,001
Amount borrowed	4,500	4,500	Supply Services	5,714
			Sundries	190
			Added to Exchequer balances ..	150
	16,065			16,065

Revenue keeps fairly steady at £11,565,000, although the corresponding figures a year ago were £15,610,200, but this latter total included £4 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions under Miscellaneous receipts, as against one million last week. Customs brought in £2,922,000, and Excise contributed £1,746,000. Property and Income-tax yielded £1,847,000, while £1,254,145 came into the accounts from interest on Sundry Loans. Expenditure, at £15,915,000, was mainly represented by interest on War Debt, absorbing £9,851,000.

The week's operations increased the National Debt by £4,500,315, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £	Public Debt.	Min. £
National Savings Certificates ..	350	Advances	210
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Treasury Bonds	4,953	Treasury Bills	1,778
Bank of England Advances	1,500	Unemployment Insurance ..	180
		Sundries	145
	+ 6,813		- 2,313

The floating debt was reduced by £500,000 to £947,653,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to December 9, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	540,448,183	Raised by revenue ..	545,756,733
Dec. in balances	8,020,052	Net repayments.....	13,328,602

Total

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure...	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Dec. 9, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	18	17	16
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % War Stock	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	2,067
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	957
4% Funding Loan	..	..	409	409	405	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	360	357	348	335	335
4% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	266	690
5-15 year Treas. Bonds	..	..	..	..	23	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	273	381
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	40	40
Do by tender 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	..	..	..	..	..	8	8
Treasury Bills	15	361	957	1,107	1,121	1,060	878
Exchequer Bonds	20	322	394	323	319	218	185
Nat'l. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	294	342
War Expend. Certs.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097
American Loan	..	51	51	51	51	51	51
Temporary Advances	..	1	204	455	243	205	147
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,776
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,743

* Corrected figures.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	Dec. 10, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Dec. 9, '22.	Dec. 9, '22.
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..
standing	..	..	..	..	..
Advances by Bank of England ..	20,000,000	..	..	12,250,000	+ 1,500,000
Advances by Public Debt	193,808,000	..	..	201,278,500	+ 210,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,091,466,000	..	..	734,125,000	- 1,790,000
Total Floating Debt	1,305,274,000	1,025,520,500	947,653,500	500,000	

If France has had any doubt about the position of Great Britain it should be set at rest by Thursday's debate in the House of Commons, the most striking feature of which was the very large measure of agreement on all sides of the House. The underlying feelings were clear. First and foremost was the very pronounced sympathy with France, and the desire to do her full and ample justice. But a second sentiment was equally clear, namely, a disbelief in the policy of occupying the Ruhr—on the grounds first that it would be likely to cause prolonged disturbance to the peace of Europe, and make a final and satisfactory settlement impossible; and in the second place because it would certainly be a most ineffective means of securing Reparations, and would send the franc tumbling down into the same morass as the mark, whereas wiser counsels might succeed in retrieving the present desperate state of German currency. We may add that the House reflected the opinion of the country on the further point that Great Britain is not disposed to make an unconditional pact to guarantee France's security. Before such a pact can be contemplated there must be a uniformity of policy in general, and outstanding questions—including naval disarmament—must be cleared up. In any case a pact of security must be one which is open to other nations of Europe, and is under the ægis of the League of Nations. On these conditions, and on no others, this country is wholeheartedly in favour of a pact which will relieve France's natural anxieties.

If on these terms France can put fear behind her, and will eliminate from her Reparation policy the incompatible motive of desiring to crush Germany, there ought to be no difficulty in coming to agreement with Great Britain. The features of the programme are clear. (1) There must be a new investigation of Germany's ability to pay, and agreement on a definite figure. We are not among those who think that depreciation has made this an impossible task. It has made it more difficult, but the figure decided upon must be well within the theoretical maximum, for otherwise we should be taking away any incentive to increase production. An expert inquiry could, in our opinion, give what has never hitherto been available—a reasoned estimate of what could be paid by Germany without crippling production. (2) The method of payment must be such as to give Germany every incentive to pay off as much as possible at an early date, and to change a debt payable to the Allied Governments into a debt owed to individuals. This means that ample

time should be given for payment, but a high rate of discount be allowed if the annual amounts are anticipated and paid off in large sums; and, further, that the occupation should cease as payments are made. Whatever views may be held of the prospects of floating a German loan to-day, there is no doubt that if the bill is to be paid at all it will ultimately be settled by large borrowings by Germany. It is important that Germany should be told now that such payments will relieve her from the Rhineland occupation. (3) The stabilisation of the mark is, of course, the essential preliminary of any scheme of payment. (4) Control of Germany's finances in the sense of the right of following and examining the operations of her financial machinery is already in force, and is sufficiently effective to enable the Allies to know at once whether Germany is or is not carrying out her programme.

There remains, however, the difficult question of whether anything further in the way of a pledge is to be asked from Germany in return for the essential moratorium. In Great Britain it is usually assumed that the desire to restore her world credit and to recover the Rhineland will be sufficient inducement to cause Germany to carry out the Allied programme. At any rate, it is almost universally believed that forcible occupation of the Ruhr or indeed any further attempt to drive Germany to make the effort which no one can make for her is bound to fail. We are, however, disposed to think that it may not be wise to give Germany an unconditional moratorium qualified only by the fact that statistics are being collected by finance inspectors in Berlin. Great Britain might reasonably agree with France in principle that some additional security should be put up, and that the first question the Germans should be asked is what security they propose to offer for a long moratorium. Our Treasury could not be more profitably employed than in considering alternative plans in the event of the German spokesman failing to make a satisfactory offer.

Mr Bonar Law devoted a part of his speech in the House of Commons on Thursday to those who, like ourselves, have urged that we should be prepared to forgo both our share of Reparations and our claims from France, Italy, &c., in return for a settlement, while continuing to pay America. The Prime Minister argued, quite truly, that it is not going to be easy for us to pay America, and, indeed, the plan—which is undoubtedly the most probable issue—really means that the only annual external debt charges which will remain as the result of the war will be £100 millions or so due from Germany to the European Allies, and, say, £60 millions from Great Britain to the U.S.A. Mr Law argues that this would be a harder burden for Great Britain than for Germany, because the latter has wiped out her internal debt by inflation, whereas we have to find a large sum in interest on a very heavy National Debt. This argument, which has been making its appearance frequently of late, is not very convincing, and fails to appreciate the economic differences between internal and external debt. The paying of interest on internal debt, it is true, is not a mere transfer of purchasing power from A to B, but has an effect on production by limiting the rewards of economic enterprise. But so long as our tax system is not unfair in discrimination these disturbances are not very far-reaching, and, looking at the matter over a long period of years, a sinking fund of £50 millions would wipe out far the greater part of the National Debt in a generation.

But there is another side to the picture. Inflation may reduce internal debt to negligible proportions; but we are not ready to assume that when stabilisation on some new low level is attained its evil effects entirely cease. Germany's middle-class has been destroyed, habits of saving and economy undermined, morale weakened, and foreign credit so shaken that even with a stabilised mark she would not rank on equal terms with countries with more normal currencies. A patient cannot go through the most violent fevers without having to face a prolonged period of convalescence.

These considerations are not without interest for France, who is coquetting with the idea of inflation as a means primarily of relieving the pressure of her internal war debt and expenditure on the restoration of the devastated areas, &c. French opinion seems unwilling as yet to admit that her taxpayers should be called upon to

shoulder any of her war charges. But that in the long run is the only alternative to inflation. Great Britain must bear some of the responsibility for encouraging France to believe that she could get a large indemnity out of Germany; but we have never ourselves acted on that assumption. Our Budget to-day approximately balances; but it includes a very considerable sum for the relief of unemployment in our industrial districts, which Lord Derby once described in Paris as our "devastated areas," and nearly £100 millions a year for pensions, which France is charging to her "recoverable" expenditure. In these and in many other ways we are paying, and must continue to pay, for the war; and the first step towards understanding with France will be taken when she realises that, whatever action may be taken in regard to Germany, she will never get sufficient reparation to enable her to escape from this necessity. If, however, she resorts to inflation, she will be striking a serious blow at the thrifty habits of her people.

A very satisfactory feature of Thursday's debate was the action of Mr Lloyd George. No action of his has ever been more diplomatic than his resisting the temptation to take part in the debate and confining his intervention to the comparatively harmless issue of what he did or did not say in his election speeches in 1918. To have spoken either in support or in criticism of Mr Bonar Law or of M. Poincaré could not have helped, and would almost certainly have made the task of conciliation more difficult.

BALANCE-SHEETS AND WINDOW DRESSING.

In the course of his summing up in the Bevan case the judge made some scathing observations on the subject of the window dressing with which the defendant was charged, and which had been contended by his counsel to be a quite ordinary transaction in the City. "I have," said his lordship, "heard with astonishment that any man who had been connected with the Stock Exchange or with finance in the City of London during the last twenty years should be putting forward as a valid excuse the entry in a balance-sheet of matters which were only put there, to use the defendant's own expression, 'for purposes of window dressing.' Suppose a shopkeeper put into his window attractive goods, with attractive prices marked on them, and when a customer handed over the money the shopkeeper said: 'I am sorry; I have got your money, but I cannot deliver the goods because they are all covered by a bill,' or 'because I have only borrowed them,' what would they think of the shopkeeper, then? So with an insurance company or any other company. If they put into their balance-sheets as assets things which, in fact, they did not possess, then said: 'But this is only window dressing,' it was no answer, even though it were true; and I hope it is not true that that kind of window dressing is an everyday transaction in the City."

Mr Justice Avory may rest assured that the kind of window dressing that he describes is "not done" in the City, except when, as in the Bevan case, somebody either deliberately fraudulent, or forced, as he thinks, by desperate straits with desperate measures, manages somehow to secure, by the determination of a dominant personality, the collusion of the considerable number of people whose consent is necessary to the publication of a false balance-sheet. The suggestion that these things happen every day was a, perhaps, legitimate effort on the part of defendant's counsel, but the City knows them to be dishonest, and the City is, on the whole, a very honest place, partly, perhaps, because it could not attempt to carry through its immense volume of business unless it was able to assume that in the vast majority of cases its spoken word, or even its nod, is as good as a bond, signed, witnessed, and engrossed.

Nevertheless, everybody knows that window dressing, of a kind, does happen and is happening with especial intensity in these present weeks. Hamlet tells us that on the approach of Christmas "the bird of dawning singeth all night long"—in other words, the cock crows all night—"so hallow'd and so gracious is the time"; it is still truer that at this season everyone who has an

annual balance-sheet to prepare for the inspection of the public and of his bankers and other creditors, is devising ways and means for making it look as pretty as possible. Recent weakness in gilt-edged securities has been suspected to have been due to sales by artists who are aiming at a strong foreground effect to be produced by a holding of cash which is not thought necessary at times when the picture is not being exhibited. It is not a pretty practice, but the mere fact that this old evil is now once more, thanks to Mr Justice Avory, a matter of comment and criticism, shows at least that we are slowly struggling back to the level of honesty, or dishonesty, at which we stood before the war, and are getting away from the camouflage and eyewash which the need for putting a brave front on our financial and political position, at a time when our existence as a nation was threatened, went far to justify—if it really deceived anybody who was worth hoodwinking. Before the war, as some of us remember, there used to be periodical discussions concerning the practice of bankers who called in loans from the bill brokers in preparation for their half-yearly balance-sheets and monthly statements, and forced the bill brokers to borrow from the Bank of England "cash," which made its appearance at the head of the assets of the banks. It was argued that if the banks thought it necessary to make this window dressing effort at a time when their position was published, it might be inferred that they were guilty of a certain amount of overtrading at times when their figures were not exposed to the daylight. Since it was the bankers themselves who chiefly criticised their weaker brethren on this point, we may be fairly sure that the evil was not very serious, but it certainly existed, though some of the bankers did not indulge in it at all, and others, while denying that they ever called in a loan in order to increase their parade of cash, admitted that they sometimes allowed their bill case to empty itself partially, by omitting to replace their maturities. Which seemed to come to very much the same thing. It was in order to put an end to this evil practice that, when the banks resumed publication of monthly statements, it was agreed that the statements should be based on weekly averages instead of on the position on any one day. And bill brokers now say that the only result is that window dressing withdrawals happen once a week instead of once a month, and are made all the more inconvenient by this greater frequency, and also by the amalgamation process, which has made the little fingers of the Big Five thicker than their fathers' loins.

But the banks, as need hardly be said, are by no means the only window dressers, and quite apart from deliberate efforts to make the assets side of a balance-sheet look nice by a moderate amount of temporary manipulation, which is a very different matter from the fraud that was so properly scourged by Mr Justice Avory, there is necessarily an elusive and sometimes almost mystical quality of the entries on the credit side of a balance-sheet. Who can say what they are really meant to imply? In Chapter XI. of Pixley's "Duties of Auditors," this authority says that "it was explained in the previous chapter that the debit side of the Balance-sheet was frequently erroneously called the Liabilities Side, and instances were given of items which appear on that side of the account which are not really liabilities. Still, strong reasons exist for not calling the credit side of the Balance-sheet the Assets Side, as has also been for some time the usual practice. Professional accountants, who themselves used the term for many years, have lately been impressed at the meaning endeavoured to be put upon it, it never having previously occurred to them that anyone could truthfully assert that they believed that the amounts opposite the items on the credit side of a balance-sheet were their actual realisable value." And yet, unless this is the meaning, or something like the meaning, of the sums put down against the greater number of items on the credit side, what is the significance of a balance-sheet? Mr Pixley admits that in the balance-sheets of banks, discount companies, trust and investment companies, &c., the credit side is a statement of assets; moreover, he quoted a legal opinion to the effect that "a full and fair balance-sheet must be

such as to convey a truthful statement as to the company's position," which surely points to some connection between realisable value and sums set down on the credit side. Moreover, the practice that he recommends of writing down goodwill to nothing, or reducing its amount in the balance-sheet to its "saleable value," seems to show that he himself strives to make the items on the credit side mean what they are believed—so wrongly according to his first quoted statement—by the unenlightened layman. Goodwill, which austere finance will not permit to be shown in a balance-sheet at all, is often the most valuable of the assets owned by the proprietors. Who shall say what is the real value of the goodwill of the Bank of England, or of Arthur Guinness, Son and Co.? And here we see how the best balance-sheets are often the most deceptive, since they are allowed by auditors to sin, because they sin only on the side of the angels. The banks not only show no goodwill, but their premises are often written down absurdly below their true value—the Bank of England's are not shown at all, unless they are wrapped up, with so many other things, in "Other Securities"—and in good times lumps of money are safely tucked away in hidden reserves by making quite unnecessary provision for "bad and doubtful debts." If the Bank of England chose to put its goodwill at ten years' purchase of its real annual earnings on the assets side of its account, what sort of a stock dividend could it declare?

OVERSEAS TRADE IN NOVEMBER.

At first glance the November trade returns make a rather mixed showing. On the one hand the visible import excess is about £3½ millions larger than in October, or than in November, 1921, and the increase in exports in November was to a negligible extent due to heavier takings of raw materials. On the other hand, the value of the exports of British produce and manufactures was £6 millions higher than in October, and £3½ millions better than a year ago, when prices were higher. One point to remember in reading the November returns is that the comparison with a year ago is no longer vitiated by the coal stoppage; indeed, the latest export figures compare with the figures for a period a year ago when, to some extent, arrears accumulated during the coal stoppage were being worked off. It is only in comparing the eleven months' figures that the labour troubles of 1921 have to be constantly remembered. As regards the value figures, the fact that prices in many instances have been severely cut since this time last year must be borne in mind. A summary of the value figures for November and the first eleven months of 1921 and 1922, is given below:—

MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in November, 1922.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	89,253,780	95,600,143	+ 6,346,363	+ 7.1
British exports	62,894,842	66,490,784	+ 3,595,942	+ 5.7
Re-exports	9,823,199	9,148,128	- 675,071	- 6.9
Total exports	72,718,041	75,638,912	+ 2,920,871	+ 4.0
Excess of imports over total exports	16,535,739	19,961,231	+ 3,425,492	+ 20.6

ELEVEN MONTHS Ended NOVEMBER 30.

	1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease in 1922.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	1,001,422,825	1,009,031,435	+ 7,608,610	+ 0.8
British exports	643,821,532	661,613,394	+ 17,791,862	+ 2.8
Re-exports	97,848,481	95,298,805	- 2,549,676	- 2.6
Total exports	741,670,013	756,912,199	+ 15,242,186	+ 2.0
Excess of imports over total exports	259,752,812	252,119,236	- 7,633,576	- 3.0

From the financial point of view the most important fact revealed by these value figures is that on the eleven months the visible import excess has been reduced by over £100 millions, and has been brought within reasonable distance of the visible excess of pre-war days. The average monthly visible balance in 1922 so far is £13,829,021. In 1913 this monthly average was

£11,164,534. The substantial improvement in the visible trade balance must be counted among the factors that are contributing to the favourable movement of sterling exchange.

Turning to the import accounts, we find that, although on the whole prices have fallen, November imports of food, drink, and tobacco were £4½ millions higher than a year ago. For the eleven months, however, there is a decline of nearly £98 millions under this head. An increase like that of last month is probably accidental. Among imports of raw materials raw cotton is prominent with a drop, compared with November, 1921, of £1,772,847, the quantity imported having dropped from 1,950,263 cents to 1,829,627 cents. But on the eleven months raw cotton imports are over 2½ million cents higher than last year. Of sheep and lambs' wool we took in November rather less than a year ago, at a rather higher value, but for the eleven months the figures are striking, the quantity imported having risen slightly from 3,303,217 cents to 3,467,075 cents, and the value largely from £37,810,788 to £54,439,550.

It is, however, the export side of the returns which calls for more special notice. Here, once again, coal is a remarkable feature, the November value of coal exports being over £2½ millions higher than a year ago. It is also significant that, in spite of the severe cuts that have been made in prices, the value of exports of iron and steel manufactures in November is higher than a year ago. Iron and steel exports have been climbing recently, and, with the coal figures, are the most encouraging of recent foreign trade features. The average monthly exports of coal in 1913 were 6,033,343 tons. Last month we exported 6,570,758 tons, or half a million tons more than the pre-war monthly average. The monthly average coal exports for 1920 were 2,077,654 tons, for 1921 2,055,041 tons, and for the first 11 months of 1922, 5,294,885 tons. The average monthly export this year of manufactures of iron and steel has been 278,108 tons, as compared with corresponding figures of 141,701 tons in 1921, 270,935 tons in 1920, and 414,102 tons in 1913. The following table shows exports of iron and steel manufactures and coal month by month during 1920, 1921, and 1922:—

MONTHLY EXPORTS OF COAL AND IRON AND STEEL.

	Coal. (In Thousands of Tons.)			Iron and Steel. (In Tons.)		
	1920.	19 21.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January	3,359	1,700	4,021	257,158	232,380	253,354
February	2,601	1,729	4,014	226,387	166,869	223,616
March	2,406	1,968	5,201	290,039	148,852	295,820
April	1,996	607	4,097	269,499	160,133	258,413
May	2,139	14	5,057	326,177	99,014	272,437
June	1,931	8	4,794	283,428	64,701	236,298
July	2,097	816	5,064	368,481	64,001	251,743
August	1,847	3,103	6,146	276,083	76,461	269,983
September	1,476	3,407	7,083	253,510	133,324	279,168
October	1,417	3,406	6,196	274,399	155,848	347,128
November	1,361	3,594	6,570	237,672	193,550	372,332
December	2,302	4,309	..	190,392	205,274	..

The steady climb of iron and steel exports has brought the figure for November to a point higher than has been reached in any month since the war. These figures illustrate the great benefit to the export trade of the country that has followed the great sacrifices in wage rates that workers in these great industries have accepted. In the painful process of getting back to an economic basis, these two industries have led the way. They are now beginning to reap the benefit. It is a pity that many other industries have been so slow to follow their example.

Cotton yarn exports in November were 15 million cents, against 20½ millions a year ago, but the 11 months' figures, at 189½ millions, are 60 millions better than those of last year, and approximate to pre-war results. Cotton piece goods exports for November and the 11 months were 398½ million and 3,820 million square yards, as compared with 343 million and 4,188 square yards in 1920, and 363½ million and 2,572 million square yards respectively last year. In themselves these figures are not suggestive of the difficult times that Lancashire is facing. The statistics of shipping engaged in foreign

trade show signs of greater movement, the tonnage clearing with cargoes during the past 11 months being 54½ millions, as compared with 32 millions and 33 millions respectively in the corresponding periods of 1921 and 1920. The bullion and specie figures for the 11 months are as follows:—Imports this year, £40½ millions, last year £57 millions; exports this year £50½ millions, last year £66½ millions.

In the trade report section at the end of this issue will be found details of the November returns. If we can find in them little to support the idea that a boom is approaching, we can at least take courage from certain favourable signs, especially those to which we have drawn particular attention. Those who are allowing optimism with regard to the trade outlook to run away with them would do well to read the valedictory address of Colonel Armstrong, the retiring President of the Federation of British Industries. Colonel Armstrong, having mentioned the signs of betterment in the trade outlook, struck a note of considered caution, which is illustrated by the following extract from his address:—"We can accept that there is a slight betterment in the position as compared with 1921, both in actual values and, what is more important, in the wider spread of the improvement over our various industries. It might be possible to find comfort in these statements if we were in the happy position we held in 1913 and had under consideration a cyclical period of severe trade depression. Unfortunately, our present position is far more serious. The industries of the country have in greater part to provide the means for the service of an immense internal debt, the payment of interest and sinking fund on an external debt, and to provide funds for charges undreamt of in 1913, in part due to the war or to altered conditions which have arisen in consequence of the war and the general change in standards which has taken place."

THE COAL INDUSTRY.

CONSIDERABLE attention has been paid recently to the situation in the coal industry, and Labour members in the House of Commons have pressed for an inquiry into the matter. This, however, has been refused by the Prime Minister, primarily on the ground that "none of the proposals which have been put forward to help the position are practicable, and an inquiry at the moment is more likely to do harm than good."

A correspondent calls attention to the great changes that have, in fact, taken place, and suggests means to improve the situation still further:—

"Something like a silent revolution is going on in the coal mining industry," he writes. "We are getting a much improved output per man-hour worked, in spite of restricted hours, limited shifts, and a faulty wage system. Coal export prices are once more at competitive levels, and industrial fuel costs have been reduced low enough to enable iron and steel manufacturers to quote competitive prices for nearly all their products in nearly every neutral market. We are exporting more iron and steel than any other country, and the position is improving week by week. But when there is sufficient trade available to employ all our furnaces and ships we shall find the coal output insufficient unless certain reforms are effected in the mining industry. Before the war we obtained more than 5,500,000 tons of coal per week the year round, and we had none too much. Now, with our increased steel and other manufacturing capacities—steel plants alone having been increased by 50 per cent. since 1914—we shall require, as a bedrock minimum 6,000,000 tons of coal per week if all our works and workers are to be fully employed."

"Remarkably enough, the working miners, who laid themselves open to charges of slacking for several years, are showing us the way to full production on an economic basis. While the average weekly output in 1913 was 5,520,000 tons, this figure had fallen to 4,307,000 tons in the first 13 weeks of 1921 (i.e., the last quarter before the big stoppage). In this connection, it is worth recalling that in the middle of the war no less a person than Mr. Stephen Walsh, writing in the *Manchester Guardian*, admitted that 'unjustifiable absenteeism was losing the country 26,000,000 tons of coal per year.' In the early weeks of 1921, when the output was still worse, nearly all

the other miners' leaders asserted that, under private enterprise, production would never improve, but might get even worse. It is important to remember that, when it was taking 1,200,000 mine workers to get only 4,250,000 tons a week, it was insisted by the leaders that there could be no improvement without nationalisation.

"Turning to the present day, however, we find that with only 1,114,695 mine workers we are obtaining an extra 1,100,000 tons per week. After the big stoppage, without an extra tub or tool, with no revision of hours or shifts, and actually with fewer men at work, the output immediately began to improve, until we have reached these remarkable figures:—

Week Ending.	Weekly Output (in Tons.)	Week Ending.	Weekly Output (in Tons.)
October 14.....	5,254,900	November 11.....	5,440,500
" 21.....	5,355,000	" 18.....	5,376,000
" 28.....	5,388,300	" 25.....	5,471,800
November 4.....	5,423,400	December 2.....	5,573,300

In the first quarter of 1921, with wages at the pinnacle, we only obtained 3½ tons of coal per man per week. We are now getting nearly 5 tons. This improvement is good in the circumstances, but it is not enough to give the miners good wages and industry cheap coal at the same time, nor will it prove enough to set all our furnaces and ships going. We have drifted into an absurd position of recent years. Forty years ago we obtained 6 tons of coal a week for every man employed at the mines. In the last five years, with much better appliances, we have scarcely had 4 tons per man-week. In spite of the present efforts of the miners, the output is not up to 5 tons per man-week. Of this small output per unit of labour, with an increased investment of capital per ton raised annually, and with other costs and charges per ton increased, we cannot pay the miners well and have reasonably cheap coal for industry at the same time. Obviously the only way to succeed in this task is by increasing the output per unit of labour and capital, and this can best be accomplished by a re-arrangement of working shifts, and a full restoration of the piece-work system of wages.

"When the Eight Hours Bill was going through Parliament we were promised the three-shift system, an improved output, and a reduction of standing charges per ton. Nevertheless, only a few collieries are now operated more than two seven-hour shifts per day, while many work only one shift. Not only is this the case, but various guaranteed minimum rates, allowances, and subsistence wages have almost completely done away with the system of payment by results. Men can sometimes get nearly as much money for easy work as for hard work. Such a revision of working shifts and wage-paying methods is needed as will yield a very much bigger output per unit of labour and capital. That is the only way to obtain a production sufficient for our increased industrial capacity, sufficient for our foreign coal trade, and sufficient also to afford good wages for miners and reasonably cheap coal at one and the same time."

The increase in production this year, to which our correspondent refers, has been disposed of in the manner indicated in the following table, to which we add the figures for 1912 and 1913 for purposes of comparison:—

(In tons.)

Monthly Average.	Production.	Exports.		Home Consumption.
		Foreign.	Bunker.	
1912	21,701,000	5,370,400	1,524,300	14,806,300
1913	23,951,000	6,117,000	1,752,000	16,082,000
1922.				
First quarter	20,734,000	4,412,100	1,467,700	14,854,200
Second quarter	19,184,000	4,649,100	1,475,800	13,059,100
Third quarter	21,112,000	6,097,500	1,578,500	13,436,000
October	23,114,300	6,196,400	1,621,900	15,296,000
November	23,678,300	6,570,800	1,617,600	15,489,900

It will be observed that the output figures for November of this year are well above the average for 1912. Exports have been increasing steadily throughout the year, while the increase in bunker coals is a welcome indication of increased shipping activity. The recent rise in the figures of home consumption is in part due to seasonal movements (especially for domestic consumption), but is

also in some measure due to an increased demand for industrial purposes.

The discussions in the House of Commons, however, have turned mainly on the question of wages. The average weekly wage for all classes of persons employed in collieries may be summarised as follows:—

Year.	Average Rate of Weekly Wage	
	s	d
Average, January, 1904, to July, 1914.....	29	9½
1912.....	29	7
1913.....	32	6½
1914 (to July)	31	7½
October, 1922.....	50	0

The figures are taken from the "Industrial Year Book (compiled from official sources), save those for October 1922, which are estimated by the Mining Association. Working on the basis of this October figure, the average weekly wage in the industry in that month was approximately 68 per cent. above the ten-years' average 1904-1, and approximately 58 per cent. above the average of the first seven months of 1914. The *Ministry of Labour Gazette* gives the cost of living figure for October 1922, as 78 per cent., and for November 1st last as 80 per cent. above that for July, 1914. It is clear, therefore, that the present rate of real wages in the coal-mining industry is considerably below that of 1914; and it must not be forgotten that the average rate gives no adequate description of the conditions prevailing in low-wage districts, where the wages compare very unfavourably indeed with the pre-war situation. At the same time, wages have been lower, and seem at present to be moving slightly upwards. If this improvement continues, the position in the industry may be expected to improve and become at least as favourable as that in other trades. A permanent improvement is only to be looked for with further development in the general revival of trade on the one hand, and, as our correspondent suggests, a still further increase in the output per unit of labour and capital on the other. It should not be forgotten, however, that this depends almost as much on an increase in technical efficiency as it does on the attitude of the workers themselves.

THE COPPER POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

THE rather firmer advices from the United States, coupled with a report that the Anaconda Company has started negotiations for control of the Chile Copper Company, reawakened interest in the copper position at the opening of the present month, and the outlook for the metal is now regarded as distinctly more promising. When dealing with copper it is as well to bear in mind the important fact that the leading producing countries were left by the war much better equipped for general progress than the consuming countries have turned out to be; thus the huge surplus which accumulated during the long period of forced production at inflated prices has taken longer to disperse than producers anticipated; and even now the principal European users of the metal are not able to secure anything like their normal needs, owing, for the most part, to the chaotic state of the exchanges. Had the requirements of Great Britain, France, Germany, and other manufacturing countries for virgin copper kept pace with the American consumptive demand during the past year or two, production by now would have been nearly overtaken, and the unsold stocks in the hands of the Copper Export Association would have completely vanished.

Standard copper at the end of November was £62 2s 6d cash, and £62 17s 6d for the forward position, against £67 2s 6d and £68 2s 6d respectively on November 30, 1921. On the twelve months there has thus been a loss of £5 to £5 5s per ton, and electrolytic during the same period has declined from £75 10s to £69 15s, thus falsifying the very optimistic forecasts that were made in the latter half of last year. Movements all through the year

have been comparatively small, and at times copper producers and their agents have had a very hard task to hold the market up. At the opening of the year cash figured at £65 17s 6d on the London market, with three months £66 17s 6d, and throughout the first month movements were unimportant. February, however, saw a much weaker feeling develop, and at the close cash copper was down to £58 15s, with forward 20s more, and electrolytic copper £64 10s. Further recessions followed, but in the second quarter the market began to pick up a little, although a good deal of fluctuation was witnessed from July to September, cash finishing the last-named month at £64, with three months £64 10s, and electrolytic £72. During October the market showed more activity, which was continued into last month, but this had little or no permanent effect on values, although at the beginning of December there was a firmer feeling in evidence, with more inclination to make purchases, and sentiment seemed to have changed again for the better. This was due to the announcement of the big constructional schemes to provide employment for thousands of workless men during the next few years, these embracing railway and tramway extensions, bridge building, the electrification of several suburban railways, while with the spurt in merchant shipbuilding and the laying down of two new battleships would undoubtedly call for large supplies of manufactured copper and also brass. The spurt in buying that came along some time ago was merely speculative business, with nothing much in the shape of a demand from genuine trade consumers to back it up, but the movement this time is based on a genuine prospective expansion in the demand from users, and in view of the small stocks held in the country, the current level of prices cannot be regarded as anything else than cheap.

If all the plans recently under discussion, the cost of which will run into millions of pounds, are carried out, copper metal will be wanted in much larger quantities throughout the coming year, and the era of living from hand to mouth adopted by metal users for a long time past will come to an end. The United Kingdom imports of copper are now at the rate of 53,000 tons per annum, but there would certainly have to be an increase of 30,000 to 40,000 tons at the very least if the consumptive demand for industrial purposes assumed anything like normal proportions. The shipbuilding yards in the United Kingdom have been very slack during the last year or two, and large quantities of copper go in ordinary times to the making of ships; thus the loss of this important outlet and the absence of the Naval demand for brass-making purposes has made itself felt very severely. Any renewal of this important outlet for new copper would have a very good effect on the general position of the metal, and do much to offset the comparatively poor demand in other directions. The copper and brass tube makers here have had a very lean time of it this year, and there has been very little doing for Indian account in copper sheets and yellow metal, there being a certain amount of competition in various lines from German makers who can secure a lower freight from Hamburg to the Indian ports. The present stocks of sheets in Bombay are several hundred tons more than they were at the opening of the year, but with any revival in the Eastern trade further supplies would be called for, and the rather brisker demand now coming along for yellow sheets will certainly lead to the replenishment of the depleted stocks at present held, early in 1923. The export of wheat and coal in addition to the usual produce should do much to revive trade in India, and the circulation of more money would soon start a revival in the demand for copper and other metals. Copper sulphate just now is in fairly active demand for foreign account, but this trade would go ahead much faster if the European exchanges were on a better footing.

A close examination of the statistical position of copper reveals the fact that this is perfectly sound; in short, it is better than it has been for several years. The available supplies in the United Kingdom may be taken as 24,500 tons, of which a large proportion is rough copper. In the States the stocks of refined copper are reduced to about 125,000 tons; based on actual figures, up to the end of last month, the refinery output in the United States for all 1922 should approximate 700,000 tons. Adding the

stocks of 250,000 tons brought forward from 1921 the American supplies will come to about 950,000 tons, out of which the domestic consumption will absorb 500,000 tons and the export trade 325,000 tons, leaving the tonnage to be carried forward 125,000 tons, or practically half what they were at the end of December last year. The world's output of copper for 1921 is estimated by one authority as 547,000 metric tons and consumption figures at 600,600 tons, but these tonnages have been surpassed this year, and next year should be even better. Germany this year has been the largest foreign buyer of American copper despite the exchange position, and that country will obviously make every effort to increase its purchases in 1923. The pre-war consumption of copper in Germany averaged over 200,000 tons per annum, and the present tonnage absorbed is a little more than half this quantity. Refined copper in Hamburg is quoted at about 225,000 marks per 100 kilos., and naturally buyers have been seriously disturbed by the exchange movements. German copper consumers, however, seem to be able to adjust themselves to the ever-changing conditions, but it is perfectly certain that any movement towards stability in the mark would work in their favour. Germany has of late been finding a good outlet for manufactured copper in India and also in other directions, and there does not seem to be any reason why the consumption should not be worked up to 150,000 tons in the coming year. Germany could not obtain anything like the copper wanted during the war years, and is still very short of actual stock. The steady work on merchant shipping and the industrial undertakings planned should assist the German copper trade.

Stocks in France are small, and while fresh buying has of late been delayed owing to the fall in the franc, it is certain that the demand will increase next year. France has also important electrification schemes under consideration; the reconstruction work will be pushed forward; great strides are being made with merchant shipbuilding, and additions are being made to telephones and telegraphs. There has been some talk of further large supplies of scrap metal being available, but virgin copper will be wanted on a much larger scale in 1923, and the same remark applies to Italy and Switzerland. Japan and China are also becoming more interested in the metal. America will no doubt continue to receive increased supplies of copper from South America. The Chile Copper Company, for instance, in a few months' time will be turning out copper at the rate of 100,000 tons per annum and the Cerro de Pasco half that amount, but in the States the copper mining industry is very seriously handicapped by the shortage of labour, and the refinery output is not likely to go over 70,000 tons per month for some time yet. The American consumption is increasing, and the exports this year will exceed the totals for the three previous years, and be fully equal to 1918. Production should expand in other directions, but there is no reason to anticipate anything of an unwieldy character even if the developments in South America, South Africa, and Australia, &c., come up to expectations. The industrial world is still unsettled, but it is heading steadily in the direction of a general trade revival, and certainly the United Kingdom and most of the principal European countries will want copper on a much larger scale in the coming year. There has been a lot of false optimism since the Armistice, but the outlook now is decidedly better for all non-ferrous metals, and copper is bound to receive its full share of the business that may be going. If production increases it should find a good demand running side by side; thus there does not seem to be any reason to anticipate any spectacular lift in rates. South American copper can undoubtedly be produced very cheaply, but taking the present cost of wages, fuel, &c., into account in the trade generally current rates cannot be regarded as excessive. Producers anticipate better prices, but they would be well advised not to try to force the pace too much and frighten buyers away, as there are now several metals which can be used as substitutes for copper. The expansion in the demand may be rather slow at first, but every indication points to an improving call for the metal in 1923. This week, despite the improvement in the exchange, both standard and refined copper have moved steadily upwards.

DUNLOP RESULTS.

It is little more than ten months ago since the financial world was staggered by the enormous deficit disclosed in the accounts of the Dunlop Rubber Company. The report for the year ended August 31st, published early in February, stated that in the years 1919-20 the company made arrangements to provide for very largely increased production, and entered into forward contracts for rubber and cotton on a scale commensurate with the programme of expansion laid down. When the slump in trade and prices occurred in the autumn of 1920, the company "found itself over-bought to a large extent at most unfavourable prices." The effects were felt not only in the main company, but throughout all the subsidiary and associated companies, and the sum required to reduce the cost price of stocks to market prices at the date of the balance-sheet was £8,262,300, to which was added £616,200, representing non-trading debits of an abnormal or non-recurring character and losses on exchange. After payment of debenture interest, and transferring the bulk of the amount brought into the accounts to reserve, a debit balance of £8,320,000 was carried forward. At the annual meeting, held on February 10th, the accounts were passed on the condition that an investigation should be made into the circumstances under which the loss on trading had been incurred. In March it was announced that Sir Arthur Whinney had been appointed to conduct the investigation, with the assistance of a committee composed of Mr J. M. Thomson, Sir Josiah Stamp, and Mr F. Sobey. This committee of inquiry has not yet completed its investigations, but it is expected that its report will be available early in the coming year.

In the meantime, the directors have produced another report, in which they state that in connection with the financing of the American subsidiary it has been found necessary to close the accounts on June 30, 1922; this report, therefore, covers a period of ten months only. According to this document there was a profit for the period of £1,054,700, but this figure is given "after charging to the Reserve account losses on Forward Contracts over market prices arising during the period." A reference to the balance-sheet shows that the reserve account has been reduced by no less than £1,860,100, so that in reality there has been a loss for the ten months of £805,400, to which must be added the losses of two of the subsidiaries, namely, £44,100, being the net trading loss of Dunlop Plantations, Limited, for the calendar year 1921, and £115,300, the net trading loss of the Improved Steel Company, closed down in April, 1922. These items and debenture interest, amounting to £307,000, increase the debit balance to £1,271,800. As already mentioned, however, the reserve fund is drawn upon to the extent of £1,860,100, so that a credit at profit and loss account of £588,300 is shown. This reduces the debit balance brought forward of £8,320,000 to £7,731,700, which is carried forward. In the comparative table below, we give the figures for the ten months ended June 30th last in the form presented in the accounts:—

August 31.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.*
Net profit	£ 381,919	£ 1,368,432	£ 2,163,896	£ 8,320,007	£ 588,268
Brought forward..	37,679	122,760	402,593	1,700,324	Dr 8,320,007
	419,598	1,491,192	2,566,489	Dr 6,619,683	Dr 7,731,739
Preference div'nd.	26,200	249,849	278,125	77,187	..
Written off	36,055	120,000	..	..	..
Reserve	175,000	250,000	335,500	1,623,137	..
Ordinary dividend	149,102	468,750	252,540	..	..
(15 %)	(31 1/2 %)	(15 %)	..	..	..
Carried forward..	33,241	402,593	1,700,324	Dr 8,320,007	Dr 7,731,739

* Ten months to June 30th.

The directors mention that sales in the home market were adversely affected by the prolonged dispute in the engineering trade, which resulted in a serious curtailment of output from a number of the most important chassis manufacturing customers of the company during the best selling period of the season. "Foreign competition, facilitated in the case of European countries by depre-

ciated currencies, has been especially keen, while large quantities of surplus stocks from various foreign markets have been imported and sold at cut prices." The decline in the exchanges and generally disturbed economic conditions have adversely affected the company's overseas trade, "but on balance the company has succeeded in avoiding loss on its external trade." The loss sustained by Dunlop Plantations, Limited, already mentioned, is said to be due entirely to the low price of rubber. Balance-sheet changes are set out below:—

June 30, 1922.		June 30, 1921.	
LIABILITIES.	Amount.	LIABILITIES.	Amount.
Prof. shares	5,000,000 ..	Land and plant ..	2,486,814 ..
Ord. shares	14,881,484 ..	Debtors	2,473,436 ..
8 % deb. stock ..	3,000,000 ..	Stock	2,362,735 ..
Income stock ..	103,359 ..	Investments at ..	11,344,377 ..
Reserve	907,520 ..	or under cost ..	2,174,936 ..
Forfeited share ..	4,375 ..	Cash and bills ..	351,417 ..
account	1,293,153 ..	Goodwill, &c. ..	241,855 ..
Creditors	2,019,978 ..	Ex's of new cap. ..	7,731,739 ..
Bank loans	..	Profit and loss...	..
Total	27,209,869 ..	Total	27,209,869 ..

The outstanding alteration on the debit side is the reduction in the reserve to what appears to be a hopelessly inadequate figure. In the previous report it was stated that the reserve fund was sufficient to provide for losses on the balance of forward contracts. At the same time, it cannot be assumed that the bulk of the £907,500 now standing at reserve will not be required for this purpose. The bank overdraft, which is secured on a deposit of £3 millions of 8 per cent. debenture stock, the unissued balance, has increased by £652,300. Investments in subsidiary companies have increased by £1,171,800, and the interest in the American company by £741,100, while debtors, which include amounts due by associated companies, have been reduced by £1,854,700. With reference to the American company the report says that after prolonged negotiations the necessary capital has now been found, and that the financing will take the form of a joint issue of capital in America and London. This should mean some lightening of the main company's burden, but a study of the balance-sheet shows that the position is very unsatisfactory. The directors speak of a report to be presented in due course to shareholders, dealing with the rearrangement of the capital. This, it would appear, will have to be of a very drastic nature if a stronger balance-sheet is to be presented at the end of the current year. The shareholders are to be asked at the meeting or Monday to vote an additional £10,000 to Sir Eric Geddes for his special services during the year ending September 30, 1923.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE LISTS.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

ONE of the Temporary Regulations insisted upon by the Treasury as precedent to the re-opening of the Stock Exchange in January, 1915, was that every transaction which took place in the markets should be officially recorded in the Stock Exchange lists. Particulars had to be given, at that time, of the distinctive numbers of bonds and other bearer securities that were sold, and the name of the seller had to be supplied in the case of registered stock. The intention was, of course, to prevent stocks and shares, in the possession of enemy holders, from being sold in the Stock Exchange markets. Before long, the practice fell largely into desuetude, and, after some time, the Stock Exchange Committee, with the acquiescence of the Treasury, abolished the necessity of providing the names of the sellers, or the distinctive numbers of bonds that were sold. Another and a later modification permitted members a discretion in the matter of marking bargains in any deals which involved less than £100 in money. Jobbers, too, were not required to mark bargains done with one another. The obligation to see that bargains are recorded is generally assumed to rest upon the seller. A venerable Stock Exchange cynic declared that the record of "business done" in the Stock Exchange, as reflected in the Official List, was a catalogue of such bargains as those which had been

Notes of the Week.

executed badly; that is to say, at prices which the broker felt to be unsatisfactory. There was something in the gibe, but when marking of bargains was made compulsory, and everybody had to record each separate deal, the matter became one of serious rather than of jocular interest. As usual, there were clever people who quickly grasped the opportunities which this marking of bargains gave them for creating whatever impression they wished to communicate to the mind of the public. An atmosphere of activity could be given to any particular shares which a "bucket-shop" desired to popularise, by the simple method of sending in numbers of orders in small amounts, and having each bargain marked in the Official Lists. Steps were taken by the Stock Exchange Committee to stop this method of using official publications as a vehicle of publicity afforded to undesirable issues, but for a long time past there has been great dissatisfaction felt amongst members of the Stock Exchange at the way in which the lists are used for the reproduction of bargains at prices which, it is contended, frequently give the public a wrong idea of a price. To the man reasonably conversant with Stock Exchange dealings, the quotation of half-a-dozen prices in the "business done" column of the newspapers affords him a very fair idea of the price which he may have to pay, or that at which he can sell. He knows that he is not likely to buy at the bottom, or to sell at the top, nor does he expect to be able to deal, both ways, at the middle figure. He is aware that the provision of a special mark against a particular price infers that it relates to some bargain out of the ordinary. A low price would be regarded by him as evidence that somebody wanted to sell five shares; a high price, that a purchaser had given what appeared a fancy figure in order to round off a holding of stock. He knows that the jobber neither wants to buy five shares nor to sell an oddment, since both bargains would, in all probability, be unprofitable to the jobber, since he would have to pay for the former, or to deliver the latter, losing stamps and fees thereby. Where the trouble arises, however, is with clients who fail to appreciate the method of Stock Exchange marking, and who think that, if a bargain is specially marked at 22s 9d in shares which stand nominally at 25s, they, the buyers, should certainly be able to get them at 23s or 23s 3d. It is surprising how considerable is the dissatisfaction arising from what would appear to be a very slight ground for misapprehension, but so many have been the complaints of late that the Stock Exchange Committee are about to institute another form which members of the House shall use in the marking of bargains. The new form provides a space for the record of bargains in small amounts in such cases as those where the seller, instead of the buyer, pays the stamp and fee; and a second column, in which bargains of £100 or under in value can be placed. The rule has already been passed, but comes up for confirmation on Monday, and there is some talk of its being opposed in its present form. No further obligation is laid upon members as to what bargains they must and those which they need not record, but where transactions are concerned with small amounts, these will be specifically indicated in the Stock Exchange Official Lists and the newspapers. Reverting to the case of the man who sells five shares at 22s 9d when the market price is more like 25s, it will be readily seen that an unauthorised clerk, hurriedly marking 20 or 30 bargains at a time, may include this particular deal in the ordinary column which refers to bargains "at current prices." Scores of mistakes do indeed happen in this way, but the mere fact of having renewed attention drawn to the necessity for correct marking of bargains will have a good deal of effect in securing that this really important branch of the Stock Exchange business—important, because it is so keenly watched by thousands of the public—shall be carried out with a greater degree of care than is bestowed upon it at the present time. Some Stock Exchange members would do away altogether with any compulsion in the way of marking bargains. Such a reversal of the policy of publicity would be a matter for lively regret to those who appreciate how useful to the public these markings—in spite of misunderstandings to which they give rise—undoubtedly are.

Lord Curzon and the Near East.—This week's news from Lausanne is of happy augury. Before the admirable persistence of Lord Curzon, loyally supported by the French and Italian representatives, the Turks have withdrawn from an impossible position, and have accepted propositions which mark a turning point in the whole intricate business of straightening out the muddle in the Near East. The most important concession made by Ismet Pasha lies in his announcement of Turkish willingness to join the League of Nations—a step that may provide the key to the problem of the Straits. Turkey also accepts the principle of protection of minority populations as laid down in the treaties recently concluded by the Allies. So, although there may be serious obstacles yet to be surmounted before a satisfactory peace is definitely signed, two weeks' news marks very significant progress in the right direction. The kudos which Lord Curzon derives from this success will go far to stifle the controversy over the Curzon-Gounaris letters of last February and March. These letters are undoubtedly useful to those who want a new stick with which to beat the deceased Coalition Government. For a comparison of Lord Curzon's letters with other declarations of Coalition policy in the Near East provides a fresh illustration of that vacillation of which we have so frequently complained. But, as regards the features of the incident which are attracting most attention, we fail to share the excitement apparently felt in some quarters. It is surely unreasonable to blame Lord Curzon for advising the Greeks, on the eve of an inter-Allied Conference, not to precipitate any violent change in the military situation. Nor is there anything particularly surprising in the fact that Lord Curzon's reply has passed from the memory of the Ministers to whom it was circulated. If read by a Minister his letter would at that date appear to be the obvious and proper answer, and for that reason would scarcely claim more than passing attention. Political circumstances at home were at that particular date unusually absorbing. The same fortnight (February 25th to March 9th) which covered the Curzon-Gounaris correspondence and its circulation by the Foreign Office, saw also the battle between Mr Lloyd George and Sir George Younger over a proposal for a General Election, and the dismissal of Mr Montagu for the fault, curiously enough, of not circulating an important letter to the members of the Cabinet. Under such circumstances, more important papers than that which contained Lord Curzon's reply to the late M. Gounaris might well have escaped notice. Such things, of course, should not happen. Cabinet Ministers should be infallible in memory, and superhumanly persistent in attention to detail, even amid the most disturbing circumstances. Moreover, it is very easy now, in the light of subsequent events which have cost M. Gounaris his life, to go back to Lord Curzon's letter of March 9th and to say that it should have received the more careful consideration of his colleagues. But for our part we cannot regard the incident as damaging to Lord Curzon, nor do we include it as a fresh count in the indictment against the Coalition Government. It is easy enough to make out a formidable case against the Coalition Government's Near Eastern policy, without making very dubious capital out of this correspondence.

The Collapse of Russian Agriculture.—Under this heading we discussed recently the League of Nations' Report on the Russian situation. In the current issue of the *Yale Review* we find an article by an eye witness, which, in the main, supports and illustrates the conclusions there reached. The author of the article, Madame Emma Ponafigine, gives an interesting account of what happened on her own estate in Russia under the Bolshevik régime. We make the following extract:—"The best estates, as is well known, were at first turned into 'state farms' that were intended to serve as models to the peasants while furnishing the markets with their surplus products. The state farms were generally managed by

men who took absolutely no interest in the work except in so far as they made fortunes for themselves by turning the inventory and crops to their own profit. Such managers as did try to make a success of the farms were hampered by the eight-hour work day, and by 'workmen's committees' that permitted no discipline or individual direction that could have led to good results. As might have been expected, the state farms ran down from day to day. The number of cattle and horses decreased, farm implements disappeared, buildings were not repaired, and a good part of the fields remained uncultivated, and the hay uncut. Our former estate may serve as an example. While it was in our hands, we supplied food to a considerable staff of workmen, many of them with families, and a large house filled with our family and guests. Besides feeding all these, we put on the market annually a considerable quantity of flax, rye, vegetables, cattle, horses of our own raising, and dairy products. When, early in the spring of 1919, our estate, together with several others around us, was turned into a state farm, horses and cows from the other estates were added to our stock, all in good condition. The new manager found in our barns and granaries fodder for cattle and grain for all his workmen, which had been confiscated from us. During the first summer of Bolshevik management this herd of cows supplied dairy products to all living on the farm, and to a children's colony of about 60 persons. Several families of Red Army men in the villages that did not own cows were also furnished with milk at fixed prices, in addition to a considerable quantity that was taken to the city daily for the agricultural department. As we were still allowed to live in a cottage on our estate, we witnessed what happened the next summer, after the cows had spent the winter under communist care, and the fields had been tilled according to Bolshevik theories. Two of the cows succumbed to the new régime. And that summer there was not milk enough for the children's colony; none was given to the villagers, or taken to the city, and after July it became necessary to buy butter for the farm hands. I remember that in July 12 cows gave at a milking only 28 pounds, though most of them had recently calved. Anyone who had observed how the cows had been cared for during the long Russian winter, and how the herdsman treated them in the summer, would have understood the decrease in the milk. The soil was no better managed than the livestock. Not all the fields had been ploughed. There was no flax, and only sufficient rye, oats, and potatoes to feed the farm hands until Christmas. Much of the hay was not cut, and it is needless to say there was absolutely nothing for sale—no dairy products, grain, vegetables, cattle, or horses—and yet in the autumn, at a meeting of the State Agricultural Department, glowing accounts were sent from our former estate of the success of the farm under the new system." Madame Ponafigine adds that "most of the communist managers succeeded no better than that." The article also describes the work of the Bolshevik "Committees of the Poor," which effectively "nipped in the bud...all signs of thrift and prosperity as soon as they were seen in the villages."

More Agricultural Inquiries.—For long it has been a favourite device of Governments, when uncomfortably pressed, to appoint a committee, or at need a Commission to "inquire and report." No pledges have more signally failed to materialise than those which, in the glow of 1918, Mr Lloyd George and Mr Bonar Law promised a "happy and contented countryside." By way of soothing discontent, two more agricultural inquiry committees have been added to the Departmental Committee, presided over by Lord Linlithgow, which is looking into methods of selling and distributing agricultural, horticultural, and dairy produce, and, in particular, the differences between producers' and consumers' prices. First, the Ministry of Agriculture has collected a body of representatives of different interests and groups to advise it about allotments. Over this Lord Ancaster, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, presides, supported by Lord Stanhope, Sir Kingsley Wood, Mr F. D. Acland, Mr George Nicholls, and others. Then there is to be a Commission

of Investigation—three economists to be selected after consultation with Mr Lloyd George—into what is vaguely called "agricultural prosperity"—that is to say, presumably, why there is none in Great Britain at present. But neither the landowner, the farmer, nor the agricultural worker can afford to wait while their case is inspected. They want what the *Times* calls "speedy release from the threat of impending ruin." The *Agricultural Gazette* puts it even more plainly. The facts, they say, are acknowledged. What remains is "for the Government to recognise its responsibility and act... The time has gone by for these procrastinating inquiries."

Tax Evasion in Europe.—In the last Reconstruction Supplement of the "Manchester Guardian," attention is called by two contributors to an interesting minor effect of the Capital Levy in Czechoslovakia and the proposal to impose one in Switzerland. In the former case the assessment was calculated, amongst other things, on the difference between the money value of capital holdings on March 1, 1919, and on January 1, 1914. It was therefore to everyone's interest to declare his pre-war property as high as possible, with the consequence, we are told, "that there appeared a huge number of supplementary income-tax declarations, which brought in to the State very considerable arrears of tax." In Switzerland similar considerations played a great part in the rejection of the proposed levy. Writing before the poll, the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* observes that, "the compulsory disclosure by the banks of their clients' accounts, it is now realised, would affect innumerable persons who have not made complete income-tax returns, and they would therefore find the proposed measure extremely inconvenient," although not themselves owning sufficient property to be liable to the capital levy itself. These two statements open up a line of thought not wholly devoid of interest and piquancy.

Manchester and Safeguarding of Industries.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The present position of the Safeguarding of Industries and Dyestuffs Acts is causing considerable interest amongst the members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and, as can easily be imagined, there is some difference of opinion on the board of directors as to what action should be taken. The situation was discussed at a board meeting held last Monday, when the president stated that the question had been talked over by the executive committee a few days earlier, and that Sir Edwin Stockton, M.P., had made a proposal, which, if agreed to, would settle the matter. The president pointed out that in 1921, when the Safeguarding of Industries Act was before Parliament the board had passed, by a very narrow majority, a resolution asserting that the Bill was likely to prove injurious to the trade and commerce of the country, although they agreed that it might be necessary for some time to protect certain key industries. Sir Edwin Stockton, M.P., then explained that his proposal was to take a referendum of the members on the two questions: (1) Are you in favour of the repeal of the Safeguarding of Industries Act? and (2) Are you in favour of the repeal of the Dyestuffs Act? The resolution was seconded, and, after discussion, carried. Voting papers are to be sent out immediately, and the result should be of considerable interest to traders throughout the country.

Iron and Steel Output.—The statistics published by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show that the production of pig-iron and steel continues to improve, the production of pig-iron in November amounting to 493,900 tons, and of steel ingots and castings to 600,300 tons. In the case of pig-iron, this is the highest monthly total since January, 1921, and in the case of steel since December, 1920. Pig-iron production is, however, still only 57 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1913, and although steel production amounted to 94 per cent. of the 1913 monthly average it is much below the steel producing capacity of the country, which was increased by at least 50 per cent. during the war. The exports of iron and steel in November amounted to 372,300

tons, exceeding the previous post-war record (July, 1920) by 3,800 tons. These are referred to in greater detail in an article on a previous page on the November Trade Returns. Exports of pig-iron accounted for 117,700 tons, and it is interesting to note the complete reversal of the position compared with the corresponding period last year as set out in the following table:—

	Pig-Iron.		1922	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
September	121,700	6,900	12,400	87,700
October.....	94,300	9,500	17,900	130,000
November	99,900	10,900	12,800	117,700

Last year, as a consequence of the coal stoppage, we were importing pig-iron on a large scale from the Continent, while the big exports this year are due largely to exports to America owing to the recent coal strike in that country.

Customs and Excise Duties.—The annual report of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for the year ended March 31, 1922, elaborates in detail the figures already given in the Finance Accounts. As regards Ireland, the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, was put into operation in respect of Northern Ireland as from November 22, 1921. The result was the transfer to the Government of Northern Ireland as from that date of Northern Irish Old Age Pensions, Entertainment Duty, and a number of Excise Licence Duties. Under an arrangement made under Section 63 of the Act, the Customs and Excise Department is at present continuing to carry out its previous functions as agent for the Northern Irish departments concerned, in relation to practically the whole of the transferred services. Receipts from the Key Industry Duty, levied from October 1, 1921, amounted in the financial year to £140,300, on goods imported to the value of £421,700, the principal contributor being optical glass and instruments, which produced a duty of over £33,000 in the six months, while scientific glassware, &c., produced £19,900. Under the heading of "new import duties," receipts totalled £1,698,100, against £5,480,900 in the previous year, the difference being mainly accounted for by motor cars, the post-war demand for which had been largely satisfied. The receipts from clocks and watches and musical instruments also fell considerably, but those from films were larger.

The Mexican Railway.—The report of the Mexican Railway Company for the half-year ended June 30th last shows receipts of \$7,274,585 and expenses of \$5,752,679, as compared with \$6,769,255 and \$5,750,426 respectively in the corresponding period of 1921. Net revenue is thus \$503,077 higher at \$1,521,905. This improvement is due to the company's property and rolling stock, which have permitted the working to be carried out in a more efficient manner, and partly to a decrease in operating costs compared with the strike period in the first half of 1921. At the standard rate of 24d the net revenue is equivalent to £152,190. To this is added £14,267 for differences in exchange and £5,296 for interest and transfer fees, making a total credit to net revenue account of £171,753. The debit balance at the end of 1921 was £581,546, and after payment of interest on debentures and deferred interest certificates and transferring £10,000 to reserve for taxation there is a deficit of £508,156 to be carried forward. On January 1st next the company will distribute a further sum of £62,697 in anticipation of profits payable to the trustees of the registered "A" stock, making with the previous redemption on July 1st a total redemption of 20 per cent. of the amount of stock issued. It has now been decided to work the mountain section of the line by electric traction, and a contract has been entered into for a supply of electric locomotives, under which the terms of payment are spread over a period. The cost of equipment and track work will amount to about £500,000. An increase of rates was sanctioned on May 30th, but did not come into force until December 1st, so that the effect is not yet seen on the returns. Net revenue for July to October of this year, indeed, at \$870,800 is \$320,200 lower than in the corresponding period of last year.

Base Metal Companies' Results.—By a coincidence, writes our mining correspondent, the bulk of the reports just lately to hand are those of companies producing one or more of the principal non-ferrous metals. As to the copper undertakings, the Arizona, which once figured prominently, is now merely a holding concern, its property having been sold for shares in the Phelps Dodge Corporation, of the U.S.A.; as part of the bargain the last-named concern undertook to provide the interest on the preference issues. The accounts show that last year's results are less favourable than might have been inferred from the declaration of a dividend of 1s per share, tax free. This distribution called for £76,000, whereas the net revenue amounted to only £47,000; the difference was made up by the transfer of £50,000 from reserve, leaving £20,400 to be carried forward. The Inland Revenue authorities have admitted the company's claim for return of the whole of the excess profits duty charged—£361,200—and have actually handed over £300,000; per contra, they make substantial demands in respect of income-tax. A report by the company's representative on the board of the Phelps Dodge Corporation gives an interesting account of the position at the different properties and works. The boards of the Tanganyika and Zambesia companies intimate that the next accounts will be made up to December 31st, and submitted in July; meantime they give particulars concerning the progress of the Union Minière du Haut Katanga, in which large interests are held. It appears that as a result of the decision to keep the plant in full activity this concern in 1921 headed the world's list of producers; receipts and expenses balanced. At 46,348,000 tons ore, containing 2,812,800 tons copper, the ore reserve estimate scores a large expansion over that of 1920. As mentioned in our columns some time ago, a large programme of expansion is being carried out. The Tanganyika Company, it may be recalled, made an issue of 10 per cent. preference shares last June. Some subscribers are displeased to learn that there will be no interim distribution, the full year's dividend being payable next July. Thanks to the conduct of operations throughout the year without interruption, that important mining and ore treatment undertaking, the Sulphide Corporation, in 1921-22 made a net profit of £82,800, as against £30,000 for 1920-21. The last-named sum provided 5 per cent. on the preference. For the past year the preference get a total of 15 per cent., and the ordinary 5 per cent. The ore reserves stand at 1,343,200 tons, representing over ten years' supply. Covering a period of reduced production and low market prices the annual statements of the Nigerian companies naturally make a poor showing. In the case of the Bisichi, however, there are the points that extensive areas have been proved, and that improvements to the equipment enable comparatively low grade ground to be treated at a profit. Of the moderate surplus earned by the Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) practically the whole was absorbed by allowances for depreciation and the like. Much depends upon what financial arrangements can be made to permit the completion of the company's hydro-electric power installation. The Geovor (Cornwall) is scoring fair progress, and can report the existence of relatively substantial ore reserves. The Chenderiang (Malay) last year made a small loss. The Malayan Tin Dredging Company, which for several of the war years paid dividends totalling 25 per cent., and for 1920-21 disbursed 10 per cent., last year made only £3,000; this, with excess profits duty refunded, is added to the carry-forward. Prospects for the current year have been improved by the advance in the price of the metal. The balance-sheet of the Southern Perak Dredging indicates that to bring the company to the producing stage a bank overdraft was required. Fair profits have been earned during the first two months of operations; after December the preliminary washing should have been completed, and profits of £3,000 to £4,000 per month are looked for.

British Glass Industries.—The third annual report of British Glass Industries, Limited, will not give much material assistance to shareholders desirous of learning the true position of the company. For the year ended March 31, 1921, £91,136 was shown at the credit of profit and loss account, although it was fairly obvious that more

than that amount was needed to write assets down to a value more in keeping with current values. In the accounts and balance-sheet for March 31, 1922, the same policy is followed. A loss for the year of £58,321 is shown, which is deducted from the above-mentioned credit of £91,136, and a balance is brought down of £32,815. To enable these results to be shown, assets are valued at £4,448,713. These comprise investments in allied companies taken at cost amounting to £3,339,742, less a reserve of £457,752. The auditors, however, call attention to this item, and the directors, in their report, remark that this "is the cost price of such investments after reserving against such figure certain capital profits, and, as stated by the chairman at the last meeting, the value of such investments is not represented by equivalent assets." The auditors also draw attention to the value placed upon loans at £88,400, and current accounts of subsidiary companies at £91,470. Preliminary expenses under assets at £161,860 is also an item which calls for comment. The company's bankers hold a first charge upon the whole of the assets against a loan which, including interest, amounts to £405,364. Even a second charge is recorded for £12,219. It is, perhaps, extraordinary to find that in the year no dividends were declared by any of the controlled companies. The Canning Town factory, however, made a profit of £20,720. The directors, it is stated, are considering proposals for the reorganisation of the company. We would suggest that the sooner this is done the better it will be for all parties interested. In another column we analyse the balance-sheet.

Camp Bird Group.—The annual statement of these British-American mining enterprises have a disappointing story to tell. The Santa Gertrudis, whose properties are situated in Mexico, received a small dividend from its operating subsidiary. Practically the whole sum was absorbed by interest on and expenses in connection with the issue of £300,000 8 per cent. notes by means of which the company was financed a couple of years ago. That the ore reserves in the company's own property should show a further decline is not surprising, as it was known to be approaching exhaustion; but it is a little disappointing to find the same condition of affairs in the El Bordo Group, operated by the company in consideration of 40 per cent. of the profits. Much interest attaches just now to the outcome of work at the deepest level of the Malinche Mine (one of the said group); so far the reef has not been cut. The Mexican Corporation, whose position was referred to in our columns a few weeks ago, is making good progress in the expansion of its output from the surface ore deposits and in the unwatering of the deep mine at Fresnillo. Some shareholders have been disappointed at the period which will elapse before the revenue from the former source is supplemented by crushings from the latter; but at the meeting held on Tuesday last the chairman gave so encouraging an account of the prospects as to bring about a recovery in the price of the shares. The interests of the Camp Bird now consist mainly of holdings in the two undertakings whose affairs have just been dealt with. Receiving no dividends from either, it naturally has to report an excess of expenditure over income. The balance-sheet shows a loan of £106,200, secured by deposit and investments; the preference dividend is in arrears since June, 1920. Unfortunately for people interested in these enterprises, there has lately been a fall in the price of silver as well as gold.

Garden City Finance.—One of the most interesting social experiments in England is the First Garden City, Limited, at Letchworth—an experiment since followed elsewhere. After an existence of 18 years, the company is in a financial position strong enough to warrant the raising of the dividend from 2½ per cent. to 4 per cent. Interest on the prior charges has always been paid, but the ordinary shareholders received no dividend until 1913, when 1 per cent. was paid. During the war the directors found so much difficulty in raising the extra capital so constantly required by a company which does not sell parcels of land as they are developed (the usual practice of land com-

panies) that they suspended the payment of dividends until the end of 1918, when 2½ per cent. was paid. The net profit is now £5,008 more than it was a year ago, and so the dividend is raised to within 1 per cent. of its maximum. Altogether the interest on a capital expenditure of rather over half-a-million will work out at a little less than £24,000; thus philanthropy gets very nearly its proverbial 5 per cent.

Transvaal Output in November.—The statistics of gold output in the Transvaal for November are below those for October, but an improvement on the total output for the preceding months. The November output amounted to 764,476 ounces of fine gold, compares with 778,159 ounces in October and 704,236 ounces in the month of November last year. The following table shows the production for a number of years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January..	787,467	782,634	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728
February..	753,594	781,321	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	
March ..	736,689	787,094	696,881	712,379	707,036	671,123	511,338
April	754,672	745,778	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	
May	777,681	779,385	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	629,786
June	761,764	759,724	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	
July	761,087	757,839	736,199	725,497	736,099	693,555	730,635
August ..	781,150	756,658	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	
September	771,587	738,251	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089
October..	732,339	751,290	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	
November	783,066	722,839	690,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	778,159
December	774,462	722,419	641,245	650,191	632,215	681,847	
Totals ..	9,296,618	9,018,084	8,418,292	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	6,229,399

NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED at the End of Last Eight Months by Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors.

	April, 1922.	May, 1922.	June, 1922.	July, 1922.	Aug., 1922.	Sept., 1922.	Oct., 1922.	Nov., 1922.
Gold mines....	138,277	155,425	170,464	172,886	175,054	174,565	175,129	173,173
Coal mines....	11,385	11,525	12,117	12,371	12,270	12,000	11,495	11,089
Diamond	1,232	1,219	1,211	1,211	1,219	1,234	1,218	1,237
Total	150,894	168,169	183,792	186,466	188,543	187,799	187,842	185,499

It will be noted that the number of natives employed at the gold mines shows a decline on the preceding month.

THE Board of Trade announces that, consequent upon the death of Mr W. P. Bowyer, Senior Official Receiver, attached to the High Court in Bankruptcy, the President of the Board of Trade has appointed the Hon. Walter John Harry Boyle to be the Senior Official Receiver as from October 23, 1922.

Oversea Correspondence.

IRISH FREE STATE.—OPENING OF PARLIAMENT—IMPORTED CATTLE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, December 14.
The Oireachtas, or Parliament, has been completed by the election of the remainder of the Seanad in accordance with the Constitution, and has been formally opened by the Governor-General. His speech, beginning with a personal message of congratulation and good wishes from His Majesty, continued with a general pronouncement of the Government's general programme for the terms and phrasing of which the new Ministers were responsible in accordance with well understood constitutional precedents. The Seanad, after a short discussion and without a division, appointed Lord Glenavy to be its chairman and Mr. James Douglas to be vice-chairman. The former, recently Lord Chancellor of Ireland, is an Irish Protestant, who has always been prominent in the Synod of the Church of Ireland. Mr Douglas, a Dublin merchant, came into general public knowledge principally as the active organising spirit of the Irish White Cross, which disbursed something like £1,500,000 in relief during the last two years. He is known to be a man of character and ability and a Quaker.

British Government departments are not always at their best in dealing with Irish affairs—probably from lack of direct touch with them. Some little time before the year 1800 and the Act of Union a register for British Government securities was

established in the Bank of Ireland in Dublin, and nowhere else outside London could transfers of such securities be registered. Not long after the Treaty of December, 1921, it occurred, or was suggested, to some doubtless excellent official in London that this register ought to be removed from Dublin to Belfast. The reasoning was obscure, as the date of its establishment shows that convenience and not political considerations were at the root of the arrangement. Preliminary and other protests were unavailing, and the matter was coming to a head recently, when the Dublin stockbrokers took the matter up with the aid of Mr Healy, K.C., rendered professionally prior to his appointment as Governor-General. The matter when carried to higher quarters was soon disposed of—especially when the fact was brought out that of some £111,000,000 Government securities registered in the Bank of Ireland in the names of Irish owners, £105,000,000 are held in the Irish Free State and only £5,000,000 in N.E. Ulster. This is a small matter, perhaps, but one by no means devoid of significance. One of much wider importance, however, arises in connection with the Importation of Animals Bill now before Parliament at Westminster. It relates to the raising of the embargo upon the importation of Canadian cattle, and it cannot be satisfactorily discussed in detail while its ultimate provisions are not yet finally fixed. The removal of the embargo was advocated, pressed, and carried to the point of adoption on the grounds that it would cheapen the supply of meat to the British consumer, and that there should be no "protection" for British and Irish cattle, and that there ought therefore to be no restriction on the free import of Canadian cattle except in so far as regulations for the prevention of the introduction and dissemination of disease might so operate. It now appears that the effect of the Bill will be to impose statutorily stereotyped restrictions upon Irish cattle, which are notoriously free from disease, because such restrictions are to be imposed on the Canadian cattle, and that this is the purport and result of a hitherto undisclosed bargain between the Colonial Office and Canada—a bargain, if it, in fact, amounts to a bargain, whose existence was maladroitly betrayed in Committee. It is hard to resist the conclusion—and other features in the debate confirm it—that protection for British cattle breeders supplies the principal colouring matter for the Bill in disregard of the British farmer who fattens cattle, and the British public who buy them for food. The Irish Free State cannot complain if Great Britain adopts protection avowedly, but it may protest at undisclosed bargains and at protection camouflaged as health regulations. But why should N.E. Ulster be wounded in the house of its friends? Why, if it insists upon bargaining within the fiscal boundaries of Great Britain, should British trade and agricultural policy discriminate against it?

UNITED STATES.—SHIP SUBSIDY LEGISLATION— TRADE AND INDUSTRY—STOCKS AND BONDS— RAILROAD MERGER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 4.

The Ship Subsidy Bill, strongly advocated by President Harding, was passed by the House of Representatives last week, but only after it had been so emasculated by amendments that it bore little resemblance to the original administration measure. Even in its revised form the Bill caused a wide split in the ranks of the dominant party. The final vote showed a majority of only 24 in its favour, the record being 208 to 184; 69 Republicans voted against it, while four Democrats supported it. Among the principal changes in the measure as it passed the House are the following:—Vessels owned by industrial corporations, when engaged in transporting their own products, would not receive subsidies, although the latter would be granted to them on commercial business. The provision giving shippers who use American vessels a rebate from their income-taxes equivalent to 5 per cent. of the amounts paid in freights was eliminated, as was also the section giving the Shipping Board control over rates and practices in the intercoastal trade. The clause

authorising the Shipping Board to sell ships without advertisement or competitive bids was likewise struck out. The minimum interest rate to be charged on loans made under the proposed construction loan fund was increased from 2 to 4½ per cent., while the interest rate on unpaid balances for ships purchased from the board was raised to a minimum of 4½ per cent., instead of 4 per cent. One of the most vital and important amendments stipulates that no expenditure shall be made from the Merchant Marine Fund except under appropriations made annually by Congress. The Administration Bill provided for the creation of a so-called revolving fund of \$125,000,000, from which subsidies were to be paid, without the necessity of obtaining the consent of Congress. If that amendment is finally adopted many authorities, including even advocates of a shipping subsidy, claim that the legislation will be of little practical value, for the reason that shipping interests could not count with any degree of certainty upon getting a subsidy should the making of such an appropriation be left each year entirely to the discretion of Congress. The measure, as approved by the House, will be presented to the Senate for consideration. What action the latter body will take is problematical; it is also uncertain whether or not such changes as the Senate might make would be accepted by the House of Representatives.

Negotiations are said to be nearing completion whereby the New York, Chicago, and St Louis, the Toledo, St Louis, and Western, and the Lake Erie and Western railroads will be merged and operated as one system. The consolidation, if effected as now seems likely, will be the largest combination of railways brought about in recent years; it involves approximately 1,725 miles of track. Details have not been announced, but it is understood that the financing will include the issue of new stock of the New York, Chicago, and St Louis Railroad. It is expected that the merger will meet with the approval of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, since the three roads were placed, with others, in the same group by the Commerce Commission in its tentative plan for railroad consolidations.

A further slackening of activity is noted in most primary lines, especially textiles, but the quieting down is considered seasonal. The volume of business in primary markets, generally, seems to have reached its peak in October. Both jobbing and retail trade, however, were better in November, and the present month is expected to be the best of the year for retailers. Records for the past two months show that wholesale and jobbing trade this autumn was the best since 1920. Most industries continue as active as heretofore. Iron and steel production is said to be fully 80 per cent. of normal, and is limited only by car or fuel shortage. Coal production has been increased lately, as shown by car loading reports, but this country faces a shortage of 15,000,000 tons of anthracite coal before the end of winter, according to an estimate made by the New York State Fuel Administration. Railway material still figures most prominently in the buying of iron and steel, more than 10,000 freight cars having been purchased at Chicago last week, while heavy sales of fabricated steel and plates for oil tanks are reported. Demand for hides and leather has fallen off somewhat, with the former displaying an easier tendency. Western shoe factories are enjoying good business, but Eastern manufacturers report a decrease in the volume of new orders. All building materials continue unusually active for this season of the year, owing in large measure to the remarkably open weather still being experienced in many parts of the country; orders, production, and shipments of lumber still reach big totals. Delayed coal shipments, however, have caused some curtailment of production of brick, lime, and cement. Most of the plants at the leading automobile centres are reported running at capacity, with a further increase in employment. Furniture manufacturers generally are also operating at full capacity, while the leading carpet and rug mills have been swamped with orders from all sections of the country, and their entire available production is now sold ahead for several months. The marked activity in the furniture and floor covering industries reflects the building boom during the past year. Glassware manufacturers seem to be deriving some benefit from the strike in the crockery industry. Jewelry trade—usually one of the first to feel business

depression and about the last to recover—is reported as very satisfactory, especially in the East; manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers are quite agreed that business in jewelry and silverware this autumn has been much better than a year ago. Although there has been a material decrease in the amount of new business done lately in primary textile markets, particularly cotton cloths and cotton goods, the textile industry in New England has booked a heavy volume of orders for future delivery, and is operating at a rate above the normal average. That applies also to mills producing woollen and worsted fabrics. The last chapter in the prolonged strike of textile operatives in New England was closed a few days ago when the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, the largest manufacturer of gingham in this country, if not in the world, resumed operations, the local unions in New Hampshire where the plant is located having voted to return to work, although still protesting against the 54-hour week, which the company had insisted upon after restoring the 20 per cent. wage reduction announced last February. Cotton goods mills in the South are likewise heavily sold ahead and running at a high percentage of capacity. Cotton yarn spinners in that section report much the same condition, and many are behind on contract deliveries. Prices of all textiles, finished and unfinished, are firmly held at the higher levels recently established, owing to the continued strength of raw materials.

As a result largely of aggressive attacks by bearish operators, both railroad and industrial shares on the Stock Exchange declined recently by successive stages to the lowest levels reached since last summer. At the bottom prices, stocks, especially the more speculative issues which had led the previous upturn, showed losses ranging all the way from 10 to nearly 70 points, as compared with this year's highest levels. Numerous speculative accounts, weakened by the declines, were eliminated, and there was considerable liquidation to register losses for income-tax purposes. With no adverse developments sufficient in themselves to account for the sharp breaks, the decline was generally regarded as a natural reaction after the prolonged bull movement which some observers think was overdone. Within the past few days the stock market has rallied well from the lowest points under covering by shorts and steady accumulation of standard shares by substantial interests. The bond market, after declining more or less in sympathy with stocks, has lately shown some improvement. Investment demand has been anything but vigorous in recent weeks. In many cases new bond offerings have sold slowly, and large blocks have often been left in distributors' hands. The market has apparently been suffering an attack of indigestion. Bankers have many new offerings, but they are withholding them until those already put out are absorbed. The total of new issues last week was only about \$19,500,000, and much smaller in the preceding week. Not much increase in the investment demand is expected this month, but bond dealers are counting on the usual reinvestment of funds during January, and prices of bonds on the Stock Exchange may soon show further advances in anticipation of more active buying after the turn of the year.

FRANCE.—THE EXCHANGE MARKET—PRICES— SHIPPING SLUMP—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 13.

The report drawn up by M. Jacques Duboin on the steps to be taken to reorganise the exchange market in this country and on the modifications to be made in the so-called "Law of 1918 Prohibiting the Export of Capital," which has just been adopted by the Parliamentary Commission for the Repression of Speculation, begins with the common-sense statement that "it would be ignoring economic realities to suppose that speculation in exchange can be suppressed." The report recognises that the exchange market is now a world market, that it is false to regard Paris as its principal seat, and that foreigners in all countries can no more be prevented from selling French francs than they can be forbidden to buy whatever they desire in any market they choose. The

National Bank of Commerce in New York

President
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits over	\$10,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world bringing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2



only question to be considered by the Commission, therefore, was whether, since the law of April 3, 1918, prohibits the export of capital, the transactions in foreign exchange on the Paris market are really legitimate in themselves and properly supervised. At present, the report shows, admission to the exchange room at the Paris Bourse is strictly limited to authorised persons, the details of whose transactions are carefully recorded, and from which the official rates of exchange are established. The report shows that, as a matter of fact, the official exchange market at the Bourse does not open until 1.30, and closes at 2.30 (unlike that of New York, which is open all day). Barely 10 per cent. of the exchange transactions, however, are effected on the official market. "All the big transactions take place in the morning, outside the Bourse, between banks or bankers, who are put in touch with each other by experts who specialise in this kind of business." It is easy to see, therefore, that the official rate of exchange, which represents merely the average rate of the trifling number of transactions effected during the hour the official market is open, in no way corresponds with the rates at which the bulk of the business is done.

After commenting on the extraordinary development of arbitrage operations since the war, the Commission insists that the law forbidding the export of capital is observed only to a trifling extent, and that the supervision stipulated for scarcely exists. In proof of this, the fact is cited that hundreds of millions of francs have been sent out of France in payment for Royal Dutch, Shell, and other descriptions popular here, in spite of the law. The enormous losses suffered by small French purchasers of German and Polish marks is cited as another instance of wholesale infringements of the same law. The Commission expresses its astonishment that the judicial authorities, notwithstanding the law that exists, declare that no prosecution has ever been brought for illicit speculation in exchange, and that they have no official knowledge of the enormous purchases of foreign shares that have taken place, or of the huge speculative purchases of German

and Polish marks, Roumanian leis, &c. The system of paying stamp duties on all kinds of foreign shares offered on the French market, which was compulsory before the war, "has now been almost completely abandoned, precisely because of the variations in exchange rates."

The Commission recommend that three distinct measures should be taken to remedy the existing state of affairs. Firstly, they urge that the official exchange market in Paris shall be open throughout the morning, when the bulk of the business is done; that, instead of publishing one "average" rate every day, the authority in control of the exchange market shall make public the rates at which the various transactions are effected, so that givers of orders can check the terms on which business is done; and that the number of inspectors whose duty it is to examine the records of transactions shall be increased, in order to ascertain if the various operations are really legitimate. Secondly, the Commission proposes that a market shall be created at the Paris Bourse that would enable a trader to buy exchange for future delivery. Such a market would not only act as a regulator of the ordinary exchange market, the Commission suggests, but would enable manufacturers, who need raw materials for which payment has to be made at fixed dates, to secure the necessary foreign currency from the moment they agreed to accept delivery. The creation of such mechanism, it is pointed out, was the object of one of the resolutions passed at the Genoa Conference. Such a market already exists at Antwerp, and has already proved of immense service to small traders. Finally, the Commission recommends that the law prohibiting the export of capital should be strictly applied, and that the penalties for infringement should be increased. In view of the fact that the position of the franc is largely due to heavy purchases of dollars and sterling on German account, the Commission urge that the German Government should be called upon to requisition, for the purpose of being used to make Reparation payments, the foreign currency held by its nationals, in order to put an end to speculation in exchange by the latter.

The French official index figure for wholesale prices for November shows, as was expected would be the case, an appreciable increase in the cost of both foodstuffs and raw materials, the reason, doubtless, being the serious fall in the value of the franc, owing to speculative operations during last month. The detailed figures, as compared with those for October, are as follows (on the basis of 100 for the period 1901-1910):—

	End of October (corrected).	End of November (provisional).
General index figure (45 categories)	390.0	407.0
Foodstuffs—		
General figure for 20 categories	362.5	383.8
Vegetable foods only (8 categories)	339.3	346.2
Animal foods only (8 categories)	402.1	430.3
Sugar, coffee, cocoa (4 categories)	329.9	366.1
Raw materials—		
General figure for 25 categories	412.0	425.5
Minerals and metals (7 categories)	370.7	365.7
Textiles (6 categories)	521.4	548.0
Various (12 categories)	381.4	399.2

The index figure for the retail prices of 13 categories of foodstuffs in Paris for November is returned as 3,191, or 197 per cent. increase on that of 1914, as compared with 3,120 (or 190 per cent. increase on 1914) for October.

The French shipping industry remains in a very unsatisfactory position. This is alleged to be due not merely to the falling off in foreign trade that is common to all nations, but largely to the deplorable effects that have resulted from the application of the Eight Hours Law to the French mercantile marine, which has undoubtedly compelled French shipowners to incur much heavier working costs, and placed them under an unfavourable handicap as compared with their British competitors. The latest figures available show that at the end of October there were 694 French merchant ships, with a total gross tonnage of 1,433,052 tons, lying up in the country's ports. These vessels included 45 passenger steamers, with a total tonnage of 263,803 tons, 307 "mixed" and tramp steamers, totalling 879,486 tons, and 167 sailing vessels, amounting to 238,333 tons. In addition, five French ships, with a combined tonnage of 13,250 tons, were lying up in foreign ports, and 29 foreign vessels, totalling 81,777 tons, in

French ports. The recent serious strike of seamen in several of the French ports, it will be remembered, was directed against the new decree modifying the Eight Hours Law as applied to shipping, with a view to adapting the principle to the period actually worked by the seaman. The Chamber has devoted two entire sittings to the question, with the result that the action of the Government in authorising the signature of the decree in question was approved by 368 votes to 182.

Last week's tendency of firmness on the Bourse has been well maintained, among the contributing factors being the improved position in the Near East and the belief that effective measures will before long be taken in connection with the problem of Reparations. In French Funds there have been no material changes, while both Russian and Turkish stock have improved, though only slightly. Banks are notably stronger, *Crédit Lyonnais* rising from 1,460 to 1,495, *Banque de Paris* from 1,350 to 1,360, and *Union Parisienne* from 740 to 755. Railways have well maintained their position, and in certain instances show an advance on last week, but shipping is weaker, *Chargeurs Réunis* having declined from 520 to 500, and *Transatlantique* from 220 to 211. Metallurgical undertakings with some exceptions are lower, but mines are markedly stronger, *Tintos* moving from 1,880 to 1,905, and *Boléo* from 600 to 640, while *Utah*, after being firm in the early part of the week, closed 610, dropping back from 640.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—FINANCES—EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—TRADE METHODS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 12.

THE suspension of the London negotiations has had, so far, no effect on the exchanges. The rejection by the Allies of the plans submitted by Herr Bergmann seems, judging by the newspapers, to have been welcomed by an influential part of industry, although industry a year ago pledged itself to Dr Wirth to guarantee an international loan. The organ of Herr Stinnes now complains that industry was not consulted in advance about the rejected offer, and condemns the offer as unwise. The settlement, if it is a settlement, of the Ally claims for the attacks on Ally officers in Passau and Ingolstadt is not satisfactory, and sets a bad precedent. The Federal Government, not the towns, had offered to pay the fine of 1,000,000 gold marks. This sum, which is 2,000,000,000 paper marks at present exchange, could not possibly be borne, as the Allies demanded, by two little towns, and it means a serious new burden to the already passive foreign payment balance. It is further undesirable that in a time of peace Governments should levy administrative fines under threat upon foreign Governments or cities. There is no recognised international machinery whatever for such fines, and they are exacted on the bad foundation that Germany is helpless.

The Reichswirtschaftsrat has declared against the amendment of the Forced Loan law. From the amended loan the Government expects 140 milliards (double the original estimate), but the Reichswirtschaftsrat finds that in view of the currency depreciation this increase has little value, and demands an entirely new measure which will really compensate for the depreciation. The Government is not bound by this advisory body's recommendations. The Reichstag has amended the income-tax for 1922 to 10 per cent. for the first 300,000 marks, 15 per cent. for the next 300,000, and so on in increasing stages to 60 per cent. on income exceeding 7,500,000; and for 1923 to 10 per cent. on the first 1,000,000 marks, 15 per cent. on the next 1,000,000 marks, and so on up to 60 per cent. on income exceeding 18,000,000 marks. It is not likely that these rates can be borne. In 1923 an income of 6,000,000 marks, which is only £150, or in buying power perhaps £350, pays 30 per cent. on the last 2,000,000 marks. Experience shows that such heavy direct taxes are evaded, and evasion is facilitated by the changes almost every week in salaries, wages, and rates of profits. A more effective reform is the proposed compulsion to pay on a whole year's assessment in advance, instead of, as now, quarterly in advance. The present system is unfair between classes, as the workman's 10 per cent. is deducted

from his wages at once, while the multi-millionaire's 60 per cent. is paid very long after it is received or earned in money which has a mere fraction of the original value. The Customs gold surcharge will be raised on the 13th inst. to 178,900 per cent., or 1,790 fold the nominal. Revenue is still rapidly increasing, and as the price rise has now about caught up with the mark exchange's depreciation, a new period of state financial recovery—of course, with the declining real deficits expressed in much higher nominal figures than before—must begin if there is no new mark exchange fall.

The Reichsbank's statement for November 30th brought the expected record. Note circulation increased by 110 milliards, against a past record (November 15th) of 65 milliards, Treasury bills by 79½ milliards (former record 71 milliards on October 31st), and commercial bills by 38 milliards, which is behind the record of 49 milliards on November 15th. Note circulation is now 754,086,109,000 marks, Treasury bill discounts 672,222,197,000 marks, commercial bills 246,948,596,000 marks. The outstanding advances of the *Darlehenskassen* have declined slightly to 91,700,000,000 marks. The Reichsbank clearings in November totalled 1,463,765 millions, against 140,492 millions in November, 1921, and 5,582 millions in November, 1913. Figures published by the *Vossische Zeitung* show that the Reichsbank holds about half of all the private bills in circulation, and four-fifths of all discounted Treasury bills. Creditors are taking measures to guarantee themselves against loss caused by belated payment in ever worse money. The Association of Paper Merchants has decreed that its members shall sell only on condition that tardy debtors pay the banks' usual interest and other charges, plus a supplement representing the fallen value of the mark. This measure must be classed with the Court of Appeal's decisions as a blow against the legally enacted validity of the paper mark.

The Bourse last week was firm. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for dividend-payers shows on the 8th 456,480 against 400,046 a week before, while home loans have risen from 2,264 to 2,550. The latter rise is probably due to the inclusion of Colonial Fours, which, again on reported buying, rose to 5,000, while Federal Threes, which long led, are only 1,025, Fours 422, 3½ per cent. 260, and Savings and Premium 130. The Dresden Bank has decided to double its capital, which is at present 550,000,000 marks. Krupp's report for 1921-22 shows gross profits of 906,163,973 marks against 272,088,344 marks in 1920-21, net profits 147,783,214 marks against 93,690,316 marks, dividends 8 and 10 per cent. against 4 and 6 per cent. The company reports remarkable progress in the new kinds of production enforced by the cessation of arms manufacture. As compared with the preceding business year the output of motor-cars increased 4½-fold, reaping machines, &c., 2½-fold, textiles machines 4-fold, and small machines of various kinds 2½-fold. The company is now producing 50-ton railway tank trucks and 50-ton freight trucks. Christmas business is dull, and there are reports of working shortened hours from the textiles branches. The reason given, as a rule, is shortage of working capital, but public buying is also at present declining. The iron and steel industrial branches are, with certain exceptions, still booming. The trade journal, *Stahl und Eisen*, states that "Happily the price rises on the home market have not had the injurious influence which was feared. Part of the home market showed, in consequence of the money shortage, a certain reserve, but the demand for some products, i.e., half-finished iron and steel and railway permanent way material, was so great that it could not be satisfied." The Elberfeld Iron and Steel Association reports that business activity in Solingen was good without exception, but in other centres of production of small metal goods there are signs of stagnation. In general, it is now safe to declare that the heavy mark collapse of the summer and autumn will not, any more than did past mark collapses, cause serious injury to industry. The prices obtainable have more or less adapted themselves to the production cost, and the necessary working capital has been supplied by inflation credit. The Reichsrat has approved of a law raising the minimum capital of limited liability companies to 300,000 marks.

The Reichswirtschaftsrat has passed a resolution concerning foreign trade methods. While declaring that the present system of compulsory invoicing to high-exchange countries in these countries' currencies cannot be permanently maintained, it declares that for the present the Foreign Trade Boards (*Aussenhandelsstellen*) should grant export licences only on condition of invoicing, according to the exporter's will, either in the currency of the buyer's country, or in any other high currency. As high currency countries, the resolution proceeds, are counted England, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, the United States, Canada, South and Central America, Japan, China, Persia, Egypt, and their colonies and protectorates. To low-exchange countries, that is, all countries not in the above list, invoicing and payment for exports should be in marks, or in the currency of the buyer's country, but a high-exchange currency may be used at home as basis for calculation of prices to low-exchange countries. This matter has importance, because the Ambassadors' Conference has drafted a protest to Germany, demanding abandonment of the compulsory system of demanding "world-market" prices from high-exchange Ally countries, while lower prices are charged to low-exchange countries. As export licences are granted only on condition that this distinction is made, the practice is considered to be a breach of Article 266 of the Peace Treaty. In fact, in addition to the discriminatory limitation against most Ally countries, there is a further taxation discrimination, owing to the fact that the export duties are assessed on the price, and are thus much heavier on exports to high-exchange than to low-exchange countries. The system is very injurious to British export trade. Firstly, because the large profits (difference between home prices and world-market prices) gained from sales to high-exchange countries make it possible to sell with no profit at all to low-exchange countries; and the import figures of most of these countries, and also of Finland, which now counts as high-exchange, show that Germany has captured these markets almost entirely, in so far as finished goods are concerned. Secondly, the goods delivered at specially low prices to low-exchange countries, ostensibly for their own consumption, are re-exported to high-exchange countries, and compete with these countries' own production or in their own export markets. This abuse was first complained of by German exporters themselves (e.g., the case of Danzig), because it involved the pocketing by the middlemen countries of a price difference which might have gone to Germans. Discussing the impending Ally protest, some Germans say that the remedy will be to charge all countries the same price, which would be something between the high world-market price and the present low-exchange countries' price. This would make it possible for Germany to undersell high-exchange competitors in both classes of markets.

AUSTRIA.—POLITICS AND RECONSTRUCTION—INFLATION CHECKED—FINANCIAL REFORM—BALANCE OF TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, December 1.

THE political situation has taken a turn for the better. The fear that the Social Democrats and the Communists might usurp power and cause further heavy losses to private property owners in the near future is steadily subsiding. For the most part this lies to the credit of the Chancellor, Dr Seipel, and the policy inaugurated by him. During the last fortnight the struggle in Parliament for the passing of the Reconstruction programme has been particularly fierce. The Bourgeois parties used their entire strength for the purpose of passing the Bill, whilst the Social Democratic Party invented ever new technical difficulties in order to delay the carrying through of the Bill. Although there is still doubt as to the result of the League of Nations reconstruction scheme, it is a matter of fact that all attempts on the part of the Social Democrats to mobilise the proletariat for opposing the scheme have failed. The party

itself feels that it would suffer heavy losses if a new General Election should be held, as has been threatened by the Chancellor several times. They have not the courage, however, to reject it unconditionally, but concentrated their opposition against the stipulations of foreign control, from which they fear a great limitation of their power. Whilst they were not able to prevent the passing of the Bill in the National Assembly (Lower House), they succeeded in hindering it in the Federal Council (Upper House), and so forced the Government to submit the entire Bill to the National Assembly again. (The Austrian Constitution provides in the case of a Bill passed by the National Assembly not being sanctioned by the Federal Council, it has to go back to the National Assembly; when it is passed there by regular procedure a second time, it becomes law without the sanction of the Upper House.) Although this procedure will only cause a delay of a few days, the Social Democrats were able to prove by it that they decline taking the responsibility for the Reconstruction programme.

The development of the political situation in Italy, the difficult industrial crises in Czecho-Slovakia, the strong competition of Germany, and public sentiment in Austria as well, have all caused the population to be no longer afraid of the Social Democrat leaders' threats of an upheaval. This is indeed great progress in comparison with the state of affairs which prevailed in Austria up to a short time ago. Another very important reason for the slight improvement is the fact that the contempt for the krone and the fear of holding it a day longer than absolutely necessary have disappeared. Though the krone has not yet recovered abroad, and foreign exchanges, excepting the mark, show no downward tendency in Vienna, the depreciation of the krone in Austria has not gone any further. Also savings accounts with the banks have been growing steadily during the last few weeks; cash on hand is no longer being converted into goods or securities immediately, but is being held. During the first fortnight of November very high rates of interest were being offered for money, i.e., 2-2½ per cent. per week (100-130 per cent. per annum).

German competition is, however, making itself increasingly felt in Austria's trade and industries. Despite the advances in the prices of German goods, most of them are still 40 to 50 per cent. cheaper than in Austria. Numerous Austrian firms have, therefore, made considerable purchases in Germany, in spite of the Germans' restrictions to check the influx of Austrian buyers; these firms are now underbidding prices here with these imported goods. The slump in the prices of textiles, shoes, and other articles, which took place here during the last two months, was for the greater part due to this fact. Shoes which cost 375,000 kr at the end of September are now to be had for 180,000. In the prices of textiles a fall of about 50 per cent. took place during the same period. The stagnation has also affected the iron and steel works and the engineering industry most seriously. Most of the big works are on half-time, and have had to dismiss half of their workers. Austria is therefore finding herself in the midst of a serious industrial crisis, which is accentuated by the reluctance of consumers to buy. The number of unemployed has increased to 82,784, a relatively high figure if one considers that in Imperial Austria, which had four times the population of the present Republic, only 94,399 unemployed were registered in December, 1913. On the Stock Exchange a heavy fall in all securities has been experienced during the past fortnight, so that the prices, especially for industrial securities, compared with those in August, show a fall of 40 to 50 per cent.

The figures relating to Austria's balance of trade for the first three months of the second half of 1922 have just been issued. During this period the imports amounted to 384 million gold kronen and the exports to 291 million gold kronen, so that the exports amounted to 73 per cent. of the imports. This shows a remarkable improvement in comparison with the first half of 1922, when exports represented only 62 per cent. of the imports.

Two important financial transactions will be carried through in the near future; the first will be the issue of 50 millions of gold kronen in Treasury bills (not 65

millions, as stated in my last letter), of which 30 millions will be taken up by the banks and 20 millions offered for public subscription within Austria. The remaining 80 millions of Treasury bills from the 130 million gold kronen loan will be placed abroad, and the delegates of the League of Nations here have promised to give all possible assistance to the Government in obtaining foreign subscriptions. The second transaction will be the issue of shares of the new note-issuing bank up to the amount of 15 million gold kronen. The statutes of this bank were passed in Parliament yesterday. The greater part of these issues will probably have to be taken up by the banks. As the public has had such terrible experiences with all Government securities since the War Loan, it is very reluctant to acquire any Government paper. Besides this, the present stringency of money is so great that people are able to get much more interest by lending money privately than by investing it in Treasury bills, which will bear only 8 per cent. Only the hope of improving the present money situation, and the promise of a reduction in taxes for the subscribers, might induce the public to take up these Treasury bills.

The chief item of financial interest during the last fortnight was the decision of the Government to stop the note-printing press on November 18th. The State will thus cease to draw bank-notes against uncovered Treasury bonds, and will endeavour to carry on for the next two years with the returns of the Internal Loan, the tax returns, and the expected credits from the League of Nations. In fact, the return of the Austro-Hungarian Bank on November 23rd showed for the first time a decrease of 28 milliards of kronen in the bank-note circulation. The note circulation on this date amounted to 3,133 milliards of kronen, of which 2,560 milliards represented the requirements of the Treasury. It remains to be seen if the Treasury will really be able to continue this moderation, and not apply to the Issue Bank in the near future. Certainly, the statute of the new Issue Bank forbids granting credits to the State without ample security, but if one considers that the State Railways, in spite of their almost prohibitive tariffs, have a deficit of 1,507 milliards of kronen, one is able to conceive how difficult it will be for the Government to save and to carry on with the limited means at its disposal.

Owing to the great number of sales on the Stock Exchange and on the different merchandise exchanges, the stringency of money, from which the market has been suffering so long, has suddenly ceased. Credit was plentiful last week, and rates of interest dropped from 2-2½ per cent. to ½-1 per cent. per week. The Government hopes that this comparative ease in the money market will facilitate the placing of the 20 million gold kronen in Treasury bills. The subscription of these bills will begin on December 4th. The commodity price index figure, which showed a decrease of 8 per cent. last month, shows a further one of 6.2 per cent. for the period October 15th to November 15th. This decrease is a result of the reduction in the prices of fat, sugar, meat, potatoes, and some textile products. On the other hand, the prices of flour and bread advanced slightly and house rents considerably during the same period.

AUSTRALIA.—BAWRA—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, November 6.

STEPS are being taken to continue the existence of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association, Limited ("Bawra"), with a permanent organisation. The company was formed for the purpose of realising the carry-over wool resulting from the British Government war purchases, one-half of the profit on resales of which was to go to the Australian growers. That those in charge of the company had further intentions was hinted at in the statement made on July 27, 1921, by the chairman, Sir John Higgins, in which he used the expression "whether it will become necessary to continue in some form or other as a medium in connection with the disposal

of future Australian clips." The present proposal, however, is of a different character, as no reason of a "necessary" character is now put forward while the scope of the proposals includes "the protection, the stabilisation, and the development of the Australian pastoral and agricultural industries." Although wheat, butter, tallow, hides, and so forth are not specifically mentioned, they are plainly included in such terms as pastoral and agricultural products, and the scheme, therefore, amounts to a general control over marketing arrangements for the greater part of Australian exports. To carry out the scheme would mean that £6,000,000 of capital, representing the final balance of the woolgrowers' half-share in profits on wool, would be retained by the company instead of being distributed, and the chairman states that it should be possible over a cycle of years to average not less than, say, 8 per cent. dividend. This would require the transaction of an active business by the company, in addition to its proposed functions of regulating and advising, and when compared with the profits and dividends of companies already connected with wool and similar classes of business, having regard to their reserve funds and to their debenture stocks at somewhat low interest rates, the estimate of 8 per cent. dividend for Bawra, which implies a higher rate of profit to allow an ordinary margin, is regarded as a sanguine one.

The great objections to the scheme are that it means diverting the company from the one object for which it was established, namely, the distribution of the proceeds of the carry-over wool, and that it means withholding from the woolgrowers £6,000,000 of capital which they are entitled to receive in cash, and which they could apply to productive uses individually instead of leaving it in the company. Some of the ideas of the chairman with regard to the conduct of the business are regarded as decidedly speculative, as although regulation of production is in no way suggested, he considers it possible to raise prices by means of control of selling arrangements. As to the object of organising growers into one big concern, it is pointed out by critics of the scheme that various associations are already in existence which act efficiently in dealing with their interests. The scheme is being actively opposed, and the wool-selling brokers are unanimously urging woolgrowers throughout Australia to delay signing proxy forms for the meeting called for December 6* to consider the resolution authorising the directors to conduct the company as a central organisation.

After the reduction in imports which took place during the 1921-22 financial year, there has been a tendency to increase during recent months. The Australian trade figures for the three months ended September 30 compare with those for the corresponding period of the previous financial year as follows:—

	1921-22.	1922-23.	
Imports—	£	£	£
Merchandise	21,020,552 ..	31,228,924 ..	+ 10,208,372
Gold	10,026 ..	22,529 ..	+ 12,503
Total imports	21,030,578 ..	31,251,453 ..	+ 20,220,875
Exports—			
Merchandise	25,061,166 ..	21,265,854 ..	— 3,805,312
Gold	654,231 ..	932,484 ..	+ 278,253
Total exports	25,715,397 ..	22,198,338 ..	— 3,527,059

The decrease in exports since July 1st is principally in wheat and flour, little of which remained available for export after that date. The prospect for the new harvest is at best only moderately favourable, and the quantity of wheat and flour available for shipment during 1923 will be much smaller than during the past two years. The butter export season is at present shaping favourably in Victoria, but less favourably in other States, and the total quantity for the season will depend largely on the weather after Christmas. With a diminution in exports and an increase in imports, the tendency will be for the

* Cables from Melbourne state that at this meeting an amendment was carried by a large majority to the effect that the wool and other assets of the association should be realised and the proceeds distributed among the shareholders as soon as possible, and the company wound up and dissolved. The directors were requested to give effect to the resolution without delay.—Ed., *Economist*.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.,
EASTERN AND GENERAL MERCHANTS.
AGENTS for ENGINEERING and ESTATE
SUPPLIES and HARDWARE GENERALLY.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
(Associated with Harrison's Ramsay Proprietary, Ltd., established throughout Australasia).

1922-23 season to result in a reaction from the large Australian balances held in London last June, leaving out of account any possibility of a renewal of Government borrowings on a heavy scale.

Letters to the Editor.

EMPIRE CURRENCY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Referring to your note on the Empire currency scheme, may I express regret that in my address it was not made clear that Empire currency bills would be payable only at maturity. At first it may appear that the scheme is "rich in inflationary possibilities," but this is really not so if the total amount of the issue is kept within reasonable limits. What this amount should be is a matter for consideration by the participating countries. I merely suggested that £1,000 millions for the whole Empire is probably not excessive. In arriving at this figure I had to bear in mind that the credit system of Britain absorbs over £700 millions of Treasury bills, which would be exchanged for the currency bills. In view of the great increase in the liabilities of Empire banks, it is doubtful if the amount of Treasury bills outstanding could be reduced much further without interfering with the banks' ability to assist trade and industry. Under the scheme a measure of elasticity similar to that enjoyed by the British banks would be afforded to the banks in the Dominions, which at present they do not possess. This in addition to providing what you aptly describe as "a balancing factor in trade between the various parts of the Empire."—Yours faithfully,

J. F. DARLING.

FISCAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRISH TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The letter of Mr Dominic Spring Rice raises an interesting point which I deliberately avoided in the article to which he refers. I was anxious to avoid entering into details which might blur the broad outlines of my main proposition, or give rise to controversies detaching attention from major issues. That the land Customs frontier would be extraordinarily expensive was one proposition of fact: that its administrative cost would involve a substantial burden on the British taxpayer was another—but I did not say that the whole administrative cost would be borne by the British taxpayer. My general conclusion was that both N.E. Ulster and the British taxpayer who were economically and pecuniarily interested in avoiding the creation of a Customs barrier, did not require a precise apportionment of the exact amounts of cost and inconvenience to be borne by each severally.

Primâ facie—in the light of White Paper methods—the apportionment would proceed thus. Total Customs revenue collected in the whole area of Great Britain and N.E. Ulster would be apportioned by ascertainment of consumption of dutiable articles in the respective areas, and failing definite ascertainment by reasoned conjecture and application of population ratio, wealth ratio, and similar factors, total cost of collection (including cost of Customs barrier) would be apportioned either to represent the result of a fraction of the whole represented by the apportioned revenue, or it would be fixed by reference to corresponding and variable factors.

In Dail Eireann yesterday, Mr Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council, referring to this subject said:—"The administrative expenses of a land Customs board (for which the North-Eastern Government would be liable to a share as apportioned by the Joint Exchequer Board....."

In any event, the contribution of N.E. Ulster to Imperial funds is to be periodically re-assessed by the Joint Exchequer Board in the light of its relative taxable capacity. The more it pays of the cost of the Customs boundary the less it can pay towards Imperial funds. Consequently the British taxpayer will have to pay, sooner or later, directly or indirectly, certain not inconsiderable sums in respect of an economic absurdity for which he has neither desire nor respect on any grounds whatsoever.—I am, yours faithfully,

YOUR DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT.

December 7th, 1922.

ARGENTINE MEAT EXPORTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In the concluding paragraph of the interesting article published in your issue of the 2nd inst., page 1021, "Argentine Land Companies," it is stated, "meat exports are not encouraging, Germany and other European countries not responding to Argentina's advances."

This statement is not wholly correct. Note should be taken of the fact that a provisional agreement has been concluded between the Argentine and German Governments by which the former is to deliver 100,000 tons of live cattle and 100,000 tons of frozen meat, to be carried in German vessels. Furthermore, two co-operative syndicates—one Argentine-German and the other Argentine-French—have been formed to export meat to Germany and France, 55 retail shops having been opened in the former and 30 in the latter country. In fact, owing to the unusual amount of cattle offering, Argentine meat-exports have at no time been more encouraging than during the latter months of the current year.

While it is true that a meat-combine has been formed in the United Kingdom to restrict the quantity of meat reaching this country from the Argentine and South America generally, and that the price of the commodity will hereafter be controlled, the supplies arranged for should be sufficiently large to bring abiding prosperity to the South American meat export trade.—Yours faithfully,

PERCY F. MARTIN.

Milan, Italy, December 5th, 1922.

INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your issue of October 21st it is stated that 72 per cent. of the population of India depend for their livelihood upon pasture and agriculture with less than 1 per cent. of industrial workers. Will you kindly let me know from what sources this information has been taken? Many of us here would place the estimate of the population depending upon pasture and agriculture as being nearer 92 than 72 per cent.; also, if your figures be correct, it will be interesting to know exactly how your informant places the other 27 per cent. of the population of this country.—Yours faithfully,

W. J. LLOYD.

5 Lyon's range, Calcutta, November 20th, 1922.

[The figures given in our article are from the Report of the Indian Fiscal Commission (page 16). The Indian Census gives a total population of 319 millions in 1921, and 315 millions in 1911. An agricultural and pastoral population of 224 millions would be about 70 per cent. There is in India a very large town population engaged in small trades and in home industries. Then there are many millions engaged in transport services, domestic and Government services, forestry, and so on. There would, of course, be a larger proportion than 70-72 per cent. depending indirectly, as well as directly, upon agriculture and pasture.—Ed. Econ.]

THE CAPITAL LEVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your issue of December 9th Mr J. Ellis Barker recurs to this subject. He reiterates the statement that "the Socialists and the Labour party maintain that abundance can be created by taking money from one set of people and handing it over to another set of people," or, in the words of his previous letter, that money and wealth are identical. Perhaps he will give the names of some of the recognised leaders of those parties

that support this crudely nonsensical statement. I am acquainted with many of those leaders, and have no hesitation in saying that Mr Barker's allegation is pure folly.

Mr Barker proceeds from absurdity to absurdity when he suggests that I confuse money with wealth, because I support a levy on capital. What a curious exhibition of logic. I wonder if this singular argument applies also to Professor Pigou and the many other prominent men who support the levy?

Not contented with that piece of futility, Mr Barker proceeds to refer to the proposition whether it is to the advantage of the business man that his taxation should be measured by wealth rather than by income. What he understands by this is shown by his "counter" question, "whether the owner of an orchard should sell his fruit or sell his trees for timber." Apparently, in his view, to measure taxation by wealth rather than by income means paying the tax by a sale of the permanent assets of a business instead of out of its liquid profits. The country was flooded with this sort of thing during the late election, but the readers of the *Economist* are entitled to something better than the journalistic polemics served out to an ignorant electorate. The proposition suggested above is merely this: A certain sum having to be raised by direct taxation, will the business community pay a larger or less proportion of this certain sum if their contributions are measured by wealth instead of income? It is a question which I think the business community will find little difficulty in answering.

The second greatest party in the State (with many outside its ranks) is profoundly convinced that a wholesale redemption of the National Debt by means of an assessment based on aggregate wealth is a vital necessity to the whole community, and not less to industry. The Conservative party (and doubtless others) is equally convinced that the proposal is ruinous folly. Whatever one may think of it, it is at least a live issue of the very first importance. It should, therefore, be treated as a serious proposition. The arguments for and against it should be set out dispassionately, with a single desire to reach the truth. Mr Barker, with his wide knowledge and experience, could do useful work if he would approach the question in this spirit, and if he would cease to confuse the issue by enlarging upon the real or imaginary ignorance of the other side.—I am, &c.,

A. HOOK.

Shepperton, December 14th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

RECENT ECONOMIC LITERATURE—A MONTH'S SURVEY.

THE distinguishing mark of recent economic and semi-economic publications is the high proportion among them of works of a more or less statistical character—descriptive rather than analytic or critical. The process on which one sees the economists of the world as engaged is still under—the mass of evidence of disorganisation, chaos, collapse, they are mainly not so much struggling to organise their impressions as endeavouring to record what they are, and this record may be of great value to future students.

This is certainly the case with the carefully collated *Exchange Tables of the World*, of which the first volume, covering the period from January 1, 1914, to December 31, 1921, has just been published from Christiania (Okonomist Literatur, Klingenbergsgateng), mainly in English. M. Emil Diesen, the author, has here collected daily exchange rates for London, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, and the other Continental centres.

M. Buffet's study of *Le Cours de la Rente Française et son Soutien par l'Etat* (Paris: Librairie Générale de Droit et de Jurisprudence) belongs essentially to the same category; and so, with a difference, does W. H. Stenier's *Mechanism of Commercial Credit* (Appleton's, 12s 6d), although it is a book intended to be read, and the others are strictly works of reference. In the case of invaluable and well-appreciated publications as the *Insurance Guide* (two vols., 15s each; Charles and Edwin Layton)

and *Lloyd's Calendar* for 1923, one need only note appearance in an up-to-date form. A model descriptive work of its kind is the very careful and thorough *Rapport sur le Commerce et l'Industrie de la Suisse en 1921* (Zurich); this contains both statistical matter and surveys, industry by industry, of the various departments of Swiss economic life in the year under review. There is more of propaganda purpose in the *Report on Economic Conditions in Russia, with Special Reference to the Famine of 1921-2 and the State of Agriculture*, originally published by one of the departments of the Soviet Commissariat (its name is much too long to set out), and now issued in this country by Constable at 2s 6d. On this disastrous collapse of agricultural productivity, consequent on the war, the revolution, and the grain requisition policy, the report is very frank. It further contains some useful and interesting discussions on the utilisation of electrical power, and the way in which it can be generated, not only from water and peat, but from the air. For the student of the war period the new volume in the Carnegie Endowment's Series: *Bibliographical Survey of Contemporary Sources for the Economic and Social History of the War*, by Mr G. Bultuley (Clarendon Press, 10s 6d) will be indispensable. The reader depressed by all these documentary volumes may turn with relief to Mr F. W. Hirst's witty little *Paper Moneys of Europe* (Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 75c), which will instruct him almost without his noticing it. Another admirable pamphlet is Dr Arthur Shadwell's discussion of *The Engineering Industry and the Crisis of 1922* (Murray, 1s 6d).

M. Aftalion's *Les Fondements du Socialisme* (Paris, Rivière, 12 francs) is a thoroughgoing attack on any and every sort of Socialism; though, as so often, the author fails to discriminate between his own definition of the views attacked and that accepted by their supporters, his argument is, in substance, anything but superficial. Mr Pell's *Riddle of Unemployment* (Cecil Palmer, 7s 6d) is one more of the innumerable "solutions" by way of banking and currency manipulation. Mr Peel is not a Douglasite, but his basis is hardly more substantial. Mr Silverman's *Substance of Economics* (Pitman, 6s) is, on the other hand, a clear and workmanlike exposition on thoroughly orthodox lines, intended for the general reader and the student interested rather in practical applications than in theoretic points.

THE A B C OF BUSINESS.*

This book is like a great many others, except that its style is more readable and its content more extreme. Mr McKee writes of American business organisation, of money and banking, of wages and wealth, of speculators and markets. And his purpose is plain. It is to disillusion all who have foolish fancies about mending (or ending) our economic system.

Frankly we do not believe that Mr McKee will bring a single wanderer back to the fold. People do not invent foolish economic projects for the sake of so doing, but because they see certain perfectly obvious economic evils which they believe that those projects will cure. If we wish to persuade them to abandon their folly it is necessary to show either that these evils are beyond human control altogether, or that the methods proposed for dealing with them are not the right ones. But Mr McKee does neither of these things. He devotes himself to showing that all things work together for good so wonderfully that we must, in flat defiance of all our senses, conclude that there are no evils worth mentioning. His monograph is just a homily on the theme, "all's right with the world," which, after all, it is not.

The book ends with a chapter on internationalism and a chapter on education. In the former we learn that "the world is divided for the sake of convenience into certain business areas"—truly the most remarkable description of our world of inconvenient, squabbling nationalist States that we have yet encountered. In the chapter on education we are cautioned not to allow ourselves to read a book before we have ascertained that the

* "The A B C's of Business." By Henry McKee. (New York) The Macmillan Company. 1922. 91.

author is "a really respectable authority on the subject." Mr McKee's views on economics might provoke us to criticism, but this pronouncement in the name of education leaves us simply speechless.

THE BANKERS' HAND-BOOK.

It is almost unnecessary to say that "The Bankers' Almanack,"* in addition to being an international reference book and directory of the world's banks and allied institutions, contains also much other useful information compiled for the assistance of merchants and traders generally. In its pages we find the London and Provincial Clearing House returns over a long series of years; annual averages since 1844 and weekly returns for twelve months of the Bank of England; fluctuations in Bank rate, bullion returns and brokers' discount rates since 1884, changes in the minimum discount rates of the Banks of England, France, Germany and Holland, since 1844, and Belgium since 1851. There are also statistics showing the positions of the banks of the United Kingdom at the outbreak of the War, at the Armistice, and annually since; highest and lowest prices of Consols annually since 1822; average prices of gold and silver monthly in recent years, and fluctuations in bar silver since 1833. It would be difficult, we should imagine, to find a banker who was not armed with a copy of this volume.

* "The Bankers' Almanack and Year-Book." 1922-1923. London: Thomas Skinner and Co. 42s net.

THE MONEY MARKET.*

MR. SPALDING'S "practical guide" to the money market is a very useful addition to the select list of books on what is, it must be admitted, a highly technical subject. But he has succeeded in making his book a very readable one, and he is, moreover, at a great advantage in being no mere theorist, but a practical man who knows his subject from A. to Z. The greater part of the volume is devoted to a historical review from the pre-goldsmith times of the various component parts of the complicated financial machine of the present day. We must confess that our own attention was particularly attracted by the chapter on "The Money Market Article of the Newspapers—Its Origin and Development," but whether City editors as a class deserve his eulogistic descriptions of their efforts is perhaps open to question. "That terse, nervous English which is so marked a feature of the City articles of our time," might be taken in more ways than one; but it is gratifying to know that a hundred years or so ago, when there was a joint-stock company craze, the City pages of the Press were "in no small measure the means of purifying the atmosphere of City life." The author expresses astonishment at "the ease, the skill, and the erudition displayed by the City editors" during the war period, and tells us that "they treated the world to a perfect feast of literature, ranging from the dry-as-dust dissertations on economics to the exhilarating joys of higher finance." We think he is on safer ground when he suggests that "the men and women of to-day who wish to be something more than mere nonentities can no longer afford to ignore the City news; they are expected to be able to discuss it with the men of affairs; consequently the City article has not only progressed, it has also advanced in favour." Those who wish to be able to read the City columns of the newspaper with a greater understanding cannot do better than study Mr Spalding's book on the money market.

* "The London Money Market." By William F. Spalding. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman. 10s 6d.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last Fifteen Years from 1906 to 1920. Sixty-seventh Number. (London) His Majesty's Stationery Office. 10s net.

The Economic Journal. December, 1922. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited.

This issue includes "Empty Economic Boxes: A Reply," by Professor Pigou, and "Professor Cassel on Money and Foreign Exchange," by Professor Cannan.

Anuario Financiero y de Sociedades Anonimas de España. (Madrid) Plaza de Oriente 3.
Income-tax Handbook. By J. L. Ounsworth. (London) Wm. Collins, Sons, and Co., Limited. 2s 6d net.
The International Mercantile Diary and Year-book, 1923. (London) The Syren and Shipping, 91 Leadenhall street, E.C. 3. 7s 6d.

The export merchant will find this volume of considerable value. It informs him clearly concerning such important matters as postal, parcels, and samples regulations; how Customs' dues are payable; the number and language of copies of bills of lading and Consular invoices required, and also particulars of any special packing and marking to meet Consular requirements.
The Slavonic Review. Vol. I., No. 2. December, 1922. (London) Eyre and Spottiswoode, Limited. 5s net.

The Stock Exchange Official Intelligence.—We are informed that applications for copies of this work at the subscription price of 70s per copy should be sent to 26 Austin Friars, E.C. 2, or to the publishers (Messrs Spottiswoode, Ballantyne, and Co., Limited, 1 New street square, E.C. 4) by the 30th instant. Copies will thereafter be obtainable only at the full published price (80s net).

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business.

Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

Foreign Branch: 168, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET. ACCOUNT.
December 28. December 29.

The last Stock Exchange settlement before Christmas ran through on oiled wheels this week. The only change in the speculative position, so far as the contango rates reflected it, was a larger bear account in some of the oil shares, and, curiously enough, in certain home railway stocks. The markets are not bad as a whole. The tendency is to look for improved business in the New Year, which to the Stock Exchange ear means an accession of buying in the various markets. In advance of this, therefore, a good many prices are better, although the rise in the value of the pound in relation to the dollar has caused depression in Kafirs, owing to the corresponding fall in gold, and to a general fall in what the Stock Exchange calls dollar stocks, i.e., American railroad issues, a few Canadian municipal loans, certain American industrials, Japanese and Cuban dollar bonds, and others in which the value of interest and principal fluctuates according to the New York rate.

The War Loan has been weak, but at 99½ attracted a good deal of support, with the result that the price recovered without much difficulty. Evidently, too, the tap has been turned off in the Conversion Loan. All the big sellers have disappeared for the time being, and the price, released from liquidation, followed the rally in the War Loan. A good deal of selling of Colonials had little effect upon quotations. Home Railway prior-charge stocks are quiescent, dealers in the market averring, with jocular melancholy, that they will have to leave off jobbing for a week or two in the New Year, in order to get their books straightened out and the new stocks appropriately labelled. In seriousness, however, there ought to be a substantial volume of trade in this department as soon as the New Year starts. The market continues to look for new issues, bearing British Government guarantees, in order that the work of electrification and railway extensions for unemployment alleviation may be taken in hand.

Amongst foreigners, one feature is the strength of Chinese bonds, more especially those of the two 8 per cent. series, owing to a statement by the Chinese Legation that it is hoped shortly to raise a loan that shall cover arrears of interest on these issues. The new Peruvian 7½ per cent. Guano Loan was promptly subscribed. Various Scandinavians, Government, and municipal issues alike are lower. Brazilians have fluctuated somewhat erratically, but within narrow limits, and in the French Government stocks trading has been on a small scale.

The Home Railway market went better, the carry-over disclosing a shortage of stock in certain cases. The Scottish varieties have been prominent with good rises. Undergrounds are dull. The heavies hold their prices fairly well, but the public is not doing very much here. Mexican Railway stocks do not move, although the report was regarded as satisfactory. Argentines gave way on a slight pressure to take profits. Leopoldinas took a jump, on the company's success in its appeal, though the rise brought in a little selling.

Rubber rather disappoints its supporters by not rising to its 3d-1s 6d straight away, but the steadiness of the weekly advance causes the market to remain hard; at the same time, it fails to stimulate public business to any extent. The oil market is above the worst, but it remains out of favour; the cut of 5 per cent. in the Royal Dutch dividend was counteracted by the maintenance of the Shell's usual 2s per share interim dividend. Mexican Eagles are dullish on dividend expectations. Latest developments in connection with the Roumanian Consolidated and Phoenix merger have excited more interest than orders.

By far the most active section of the industrial market is that for iron, coal, steel, and armament shares. The placing by the Government of orders for two new capital ships from Cammell, Laird, and Co., and Armstrongs gave a fresh fillip to the optimism engendered earlier by the revival of trade in shipbuilding circles. Prices are substantially better on the week, and there has been a wide circle of attention attracted to this department. Shipping shares are quiet. There is little doing in the banking group. Insurance issues hang fire. Amongst textiles, Courtaulds stand out as the principal feature of strength. Tobacco shares remain a hard and a very lively market. Lyons are better. Maypoles gave way on the passing of the final dividend, but the price recovered, because purchasers argued that the company should now have weathered the worst of its troubles. Cook, Son and Co. ordinary and preference jumped up sharply, on the announcement that Sir Herbert Cook desired to write down his shares in a manner which will place the company's capital in a more favourable position for dividend earning. Electricity supply shares are more easy to sell than they are to buy, the market being strengthened by the announcement that an important scheme is in progress for arranging a general agreement of interest. In the wireless group, Marconis are better, while cable stocks have recovered from most of their recent heaviness. Newspaper shares keep firm. The tea market holds its prices with noticeable hardness, in spite of the remarkable rises which have occurred during the past month or so. Land shares are somewhat neglected. Kafirs are depressed by the fall in the price of gold, due to the rise in American exchange. The Cape has been doing little, and Paris practically nothing, in gold-producing shares. The French are, however, buying diamonds, and there has also been mild activity in a few of the leading copper descriptions, though the markets for tin shares are stagnant. Russian mining shares show lower levels. Mexicans are none too bright. The Indian mining market has been cheered by a rise in Balaghat.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded	£	£	£	£
¾ % Treasury Bonds (by Tender December 8, 1922)	567,624,850	..	..	..
Adjusted figure	Nil	..	..	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 9, 1922.				
April 1 to Dec. 9, 1922, £27,518,000	£	£	£	£
	350,000	..	350,000	..
To the Public—				
Peruvian Government 7½ % (Guano) Loan of 1922, £1,250,000 at 95 % red. at par June 1, 1948 (Dec. 14)	1,250,000	..	1,125,000	..
Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co., 1,500,000 Cum. Pref. Shares, £1 at 2s 6d p.s. (Dec. 15)	1,500,000	..	1,462,500	..
S. Instone and Co., Limited, 500,000 7½ % Cum. Pref. Shares, £1 at par (Dec. 11)	500,000	..	475,000	..
British Oil Securities, 300,000 Ord. Shares, £1 at par (Dec. 11)	300,000	..	262,500	..
W. and A. McArthur, Limited, 139,300 7½ % Cum. Pref. Shares, £1 at par (Dec. 11)	139,300	..	121,888	..
Anglo-Continental Guano Works, £150,000 7½ % Deb. Stk. (rep. at 105 % up to Jan. 1, 1934, and at 102½ from 1934-54), iss. at 99 % (Dec. 13)	150,000	..	141,000	..
Total offered to public	..	3,812,800	224,912	3,587,888
To Shareholders only—				
Dacia Romano Petroleum, £100,000 short term 8½ % Deb. Stk. (red. 1923-28), issued at par	100,000	..	100,000	..
Total offered to Shareholders only	..	100,000	100,000	..

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1922	£388,978,203
1921	367,549,656
1920	1,036,059,951
1919	1,393,381,441
1918	1,318,536,010
1917	585,436,850
1916	685,236,326
1915	512,522,633

Peruvian Government 7½ per Cent. (Guano) Loan of 1922.—This is an offer at 95 per cent. of £1,250,000 sterling bonds to bearer, the proceeds being required for the repayment of "certain" outstanding European liabilities, and for other purposes. Principal and interest are payable in London in sterling, free from all Peruvian taxes. The loan will be repaid at par on or before June 1, 1948, by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 1½ per cent. per annum, to be applied yearly in purchasing bonds when the price is at or below par, or in drawing bonds at par when the price is above par. The redemption of the bonds by means of the sinking fund will begin on June 1, 1924. The Government reserves the right to redeem the outstanding portion of the loan on or after June 1, 1933, at 105 per cent., on giving six months' notice. Payment of principal and interest is the direct obligation of the Republic of Peru. The loan is further secured by (a) a first charge on the revenue derived from the tax which is levied on all guano sold for consumption in Peru, and (b) the deposit with the bankers' agents of more than 50 per cent. of the shares of the Compania Administradora del Guano. This company is the only channel through which the Government sells guano in Peru. The yield from the now existing tax (at the present exchange of 18s 4d per £P) was £154,273 for 1919-20, £181,188 for 1920-21, and £184,646 for 1921-22. The tax may be increased proportionately to any depreciation in the Peruvian exchange, as the amount required for the annual service of the loan is but £112,500. The bankers concerned have apparently taken every possible precaution to protect bondholders' interests, but it is obvious that the measure of risk involved is reflected in the substantial yield offered. We understand that the issue was oversubscribed. The Peruvian 5½ per cent. (salt loan) has fluctuated between 80½ and 95 this year, while City of Lima 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds have been as low as 57½, and as high as 74.

The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited.

—Authorised share capital £8,240,000, of which £3,980,000 has been issued. There is also outstanding £896,209 4 per cent., and £2,000,000 6 per cent. debenture stock. This is an offer of 1,500,000 cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 20s 6d per share. A novel feature of the issue is the terms of the rate of interest offered. Up to January 1, 1933, the shares are entitled to 6½ per cent. dividends; after this date the rate will be 6 per cent. This issue will rank equally with the existing issue of £1,000,000 "A" cumulative preference shares, and immediately after the issue of £240,000 4½ per cent. cumulative preference shares. The object of the issue is mainly to provide for redemption of the 4 per cent. debenture issue, which falls due for repayment on January 1, 1923, and the present holders of this stock are offered preferential treatment. The voting powers of preference shareholders are limited. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain a good shipping preference share, but whether debenture holders could be advised to take up preference shares in lieu of their present holdings is another matter. It would have been better, perhaps, if more information had been published in the prospectus, as an example to other concerns not so well placed.

W. and A. McArthur, Limited.—Authorised share capital, £350,000, divided into 250,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 100,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. The present issue consists of 139,300 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each at par. The company was reconstituted in 1908 to take over the Australian warehouse business in Sydney of a company of the same name, which was formed in 1898 to carry on a business established in 1841. The proceeds of the present issue will be used for the repayment of the outstanding balance of the debenture stocks, amounting to £160,000, the company, out of its own resources, providing for the purpose an additional sum of £20,700. When the repayment of the balance of the original £200,000 debenture stocks has been completed, there will be no mortgage upon the freehold or leasehold properties or other assets of the company ranking in priority to the preference shares, except a mortgage of £30,000. Properties appear to stand in the books at conservative figures, and surplus assets, at £255,269, compare favourably with an issued capital of £198,200. The net profits are given from 1913 in the prospectus, and from the information given it appears that the company has progressed along sane lines, so that the issue is a fair industrial risk.

S. Instone and Co., Limited.—Authorised share capital £1,000,000, divided into 500,000 participating cumulative pre-

ference and 500,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. The undertaking was formed in 1910, as a private company, to acquire the business of coal exporters, shipowners, bunkering contractors, &c., founded by Sir Samuel Instone and his brothers in 1904. The whole of the 7 per cent. participating cumulative preference shares are now being offered for public subscription at par. In addition to the fixed dividend, the shares have the right, in any year when a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, to a further dividend at a rate not exceeding 3 per cent. Of the ordinary shares, 300,000 are issued and fully paid, the whole being held by the directors. Profits are given from 1916 to 1921, and a fairly informative statement of assets and liabilities appears. This shows the net surplus of assets to be £1,167,387. It should be noticed that the prospectus states that "the values placed upon the shares in the Bedwas and Askern Collieries are based upon the colliery valuations set forth" in a report of a colliery expert. Moreover, it is admitted that, "in common with other companies carrying on business of a similar nature," profits are expected to show a reduction for the year ended October 31st last. A statement as to the company's powers of charging assets in priority to the rights of preference shareholders would have been welcome. Even if it is assumed that the coal industry is once again on the road to prosperity, this preference issue was not of outstanding merit.

The Anglo-Continental Guano Works, Limited.

—Authorised share capital, £700,000, divided into 300,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, and 400,000 ordinary shares of 2s each, all of which has been issued. This is an issue of £150,000 7 per cent. debenture stock at 99 per cent., being part of a total authorised issue of £225,000. It is repayable at 102½ on January 1, 1954, if not redeemed before this date by the operation of a sinking fund. The company, however, reserves the right to redeem debenture stock before 1934 at 105, and any time after at 102½. The company was formed in December, 1916, and acquired from the Public Trustee a German-owned business, which was engaged in importing Peruvian guano and manufacturing fertilisers, &c. Profits are given from 1916, and surplus assets are shown to be worth £709,877. The debenture stock will be secured by a trust deed, which constitutes a specific first mortgage "on the freehold and leasehold premises of the company, as within mentioned." Among assets, property and plant are valued at £189,829, and it is to be presumed that all properties of the company are included in the trust deed. The stock is a fairly good industrial investment.

The British Oil Securities, Limited.

—Authorised capital, £300,000, in ordinary shares of £1 each. This is an issue of the whole number at par, but 100,000 shares have already been applied for. The company will acquire 1,000,000 shares, or such number as the directors may decide, in the Canadian U.S. Oil and Refining Corporation. These shares, it is stated, are being dealt in at \$1.50 in Canada, and will be acquired at \$1.25. It is not clear, however, why the vendors offer the shares so cheap. The Canadian U.S. Corporation, the prospectus states, was registered in February of last year, and has paid quarterly cash dividends at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and "a stock bonus" at a similar rate has also been distributed on the issued shares ranking for dividends. A balance-sheet of the Canadian company is given, but details of profit and loss account are lacking. Investors should satisfy themselves as to the actual money received on account of oil, also the actual quantities of oil produced. The property consists of more than 11,600 acres, on which 54 wells are now stated to be operating. In addition, control was obtained in October last of the Mid-West Oil and Paint Company of Independence. The corporation has no debentures or mortgages outstanding, and no bank overdraft. The proceeds of the present sale are for the purpose of further development. Past experience has taught most of us to tread warily when examining the merits of an oil proposition.

British Orion Oil Company, Limited.—Authorised capital, £400,000, divided into 395,000 shares of £1 each and 100,000 shares of 1s. each. Of this, all the 1s shares and 110,502 £1 shares have been issued. Five per cent. of available profits will go to holders of 1s shares, the remainder being distributed amongst holders of the £1 shares. Voting rights are rather unusual. Every member of the company has one vote, but it is provided "for the time being" that holders of the 1s shares "collectively" shall have "as many votes as the holders of all the other shares." The company was formed in July, 1922, to acquire shares in a Roumanian company known as "Orion Societate Anonima de Petrol." Much information is given about this latter undertaking, but a balance-sheet and profit and loss account are significant omissions. The above details have been taken from an advertised statement made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. Until further information is vouchsafed, shrewd outside investors could not very well be expected to come into the proposition.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
War (3½%, 1925-28) 95½	95½	95½	..
Loans (5%, 1929-47) 99½	99½	99½	..
Victory Bonds (4%, 1929-42) 102½	102½	102½	..
Victory Loan (4%, 1925-28) 85½	85½	85½	..
Conversion Loan (3½%, 1925-28) 88½	88½	88½	..
Consols (2½%, 1912-14) 74½	74½	74½	..
Irish Land Stock (2½%, 1912-14) 57½	57½	57½	..
Local Loans (3%, 1912-14) 63½	63½	63½	..

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1, f.p.d.) 2½	2½	2½	..
Chartered Bk of India 18½	18½	18½	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 p.d.) 23½	23½	23½	..
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2 p.d.) 8½	8½	8½	..
London County Westminister and Parr's (£20 with £5 p.d.) 17½	17½	17½	..

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons. 73½	73½	73½	..
A. and Pacific 83½	83½	83½	..
A. Gt. Southern 83½	83½	83½	..
Buenos Ayres West. 79½	79½	79½	..
Canadian Pacific 155½	155½	155½	..
Chirral Argentine 75	75	75	..
Leopoldina 36	36	36	..
Mexican Railway 13	13	13	..
Do 1st Pref. 38	38	38	..
Do 2nd Pref. 25	25	25	..
San Paulo 122	122	122	..
United Havana 69	69	69	..

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7 99	99	99	..
Belgian 3% 66	66	66	..
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914 65	65	65	..
Chilian 4½%, 1895 81	81	81	..
Do 7½%, 1912 107	107	107	..
Hinese 5%, 1912 73	73	73	..
gyptian 4% 69	69	69	..
rench 5% 29½	29½	29½	..
Do 4% 23½	23½	23½	..
riev 4%, 1884 24½	24½	24½	..
Japanese 4½%, 1910 104	104	104	..
Do 4% 1910 71	71	71	..
Mexican Cons. 1899 54	54	54	..
Peruvian Corp. Pref. 29	29	29	..
P. L. M. 6% 83	83	83	..
Portuguese (New) 27	27	27	..
Russian 5%, 1906 84	84	84	..
Spanish 5% 77	77	77	..
Seine (Dept.) 7% 100½	100½	100½	..
Siamese 7% 107½	107½	107½	..

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 23½	23½	23½	..
Marconi Wireless 24½	24½	24½	..
Marconi Canada 1½	1½	1½	..
Marconi Marine 1½	1½	1½	..

British Railways.

Great Central Pref. 24½	24½	24½	..
Great Eastern 39	39	39	..
Great Northern Def. 45	45	45	..
Great Western 106½	106½	106½	..
London Brighton "A" 65	65	65	..
London Chatham 88	88	88	..
London N. W. (New) 104	104	104	..
London S. W. (New) 104	104	104	..
London S. W. (New) 104	104	104	..
London S. W. (New) 104	104	104	..

American Railroads.

Chicago & Ohio 71½	71½	71½	..
Do 4% 1st Pref. 16	16	16	..
Do 4% 2nd Pref. 16	16	16	..
Do 4% 3rd Pref. 16	16	16	..
Do 4% 4th Pref. 16	16	16	..

Mines.

Knights 1	1	1	..
Modderfontein (10) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (5) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (2½) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (1½) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (¾) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (¼) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (1/16) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (1/32) 4½	4½	4½	..
Modderfontein (1/64) 4½	4½	4½	..

Miscellaneous.

Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) 74½	74½	74½	..

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'est Pre-vious.
Railways.						
New York Central	12½	Feb. 1	..	..	5½	5
to Clear	3½	..	..	..	..	..
Banks.						
Commercial of Scotland "A"	..	..	..	Less tax	16	15
Do "B"	..	..	..	Less tax	10	10
alo-Belgian	..	..	..	..	10	12
London and River Plate	4%	Dec. 23	Subject to tax	..	10	12
ational of New Zealand	12½	Jan. 4	Tax free	..	16	61
ational of Scotland	2½	Dec. 21	Less tax	..	..	..
ster Bank	2½	Dec. 21	Less tax	..	..	..
Insurance.						
London and Scottish	2/ p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Associated Tea of Ceylon	5 %	Jan. 1	Less tax 5/ in £	..	..	..
aracora Tea	5 %	Dec. 30	Less tax 5/5 in £	..	..	..

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Continued.

Bogawantalawa Tea	6%*	Jan. 3	Less tax 5/ in £	..	..	..
Darjeeling Cons. Tea	5 %*	Dec. 22	Less tax	..	..	..
Dejoo Tea	5 %*	Jan. 18	Less tax	..	..	..
Jetinga Valley Tea	7 %*	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Jorehaut Tea	10 %*	Jan. 5	Less tax	..	..	..
Kilimichal (Rubber) Developm't	5 %*	Dec. 21	Less tax	5	nil	..
Rim (Malacca)	5 %*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Sembilan Estates	7½ %*	Dec. 22	Less tax 5/1 in £	..	..	..
Southern India Tea	7½ %*	Dec. 22	Less tax 5/1 in £	..	..	..
Mining.						
Apex Mines	5 %*	Feb. 16	..	16½	17½	..
Geduld Prop.	10 %*	..	..	..	..	..
Kalung Gold (Liquidation)	2/9 25 p.s.	Dec. 20	..	..	..	..
Kinta Tin	16 p.s.	Dec. 28	Less tax 5/	..	..	..
Modderfontein Deep	70 %*	Feb. 1	..	120	150	..
Natal Navigation	5 %*	..	..	..	..	..
Pato Mines	7 p.s.*	Dec. 28	Less tax	..	..	..
Ropp Tin	10 %*	Jan. 2	Less tax	..	..	..
Shanau Mines	6½ %*	Jan. 11	Less tax 3/11½ in £	27½	30	..
Sulphide Corporation	2/ p.s.	Jan. 22	..	5	nil	..
Tongkah Harbour Tin	50 p.s.	Dec. 30	..	..	..	..
Utah Copper	7½ %*	..	..	..	..	..
Van Ryn Gold	7½ %*	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Arkus Printing	12%†	Dec. 19	..	15	10	..
Alexandria Water (45 share)	4/ p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Amalgamated Press (1922)	10*	..	..	..	..	..
American Telephone and Telegraph	\$22.25 p.s.	Jan. 15	..	..	..	..
Armstrong Whitworth Developm't	..	..	..	12½	15	..
Arms and Navy Investment	17½	..	..	11	10½	..
Armiton Coal	3/ p.s.	..	..	4/ p.s.	2/ p.s.	..
Belfast Mineral Water	8 %†	..	..	10	10	..
Birkenhead Brewery	8 %†	..	..	10	10	..
Birmingham Rowton Houses	8 %†	..	..	15	15	..
Blumen Bros.	2½ %†	..	..	17½	..	..
British Industries	7	Dec. 15	..	..	..	..
British Thomson-Houston, Cum. Pref.	13%	Jan. 2	..	..	..	..
California Petroleum	3 %	Jan. 2	..	..	..	..
Canada Permanent Mortgage	3 %	Jan. 2	..	..	..	..
Carron Grove Paper	5*	..	..	..	..	..
Dominion of Canada Invest.	5*	..	..	..	..	..
Edward and John Burke	5*	..	..	..	..	..
Egyptian Salt and Soda	5/ p.s.*	Jan. 31	Less tax	17½	22½	..
European Gas	7½ %*	..	..	10	12½	..
Finlay and Co.	24 %*	Jan. 15	Less tax	4	2½	..
Do (bonus)	7½ %*	..	..	12	12	..
First Garden City	7½ %*	..	..	12	12	..
Fraser, Holroyd, and Healy's	5 (2 years to Sept. 30, 1913)	..	..	..	..	..
Gates's Castle Brewery, Pref.	5	Jan. 1	Less tax 5/ in £	..	..	..
G. B. Kent, Cum. Pref.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
G. D. Peters and Co., Pref.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Harrisons and Crossfield, Pref.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Henry Paulder and Co.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Hill's Dry Dock, & Co.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Hotel Cecil, Limited	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Howard and Bullough	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
H. P. Tyler	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Hudson's Bay Company	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Idris and Co., "A" Ord.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Illinois Car and Equipment	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Investors Mort. Security	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Ipsworth Brewery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
J. and E. Hall	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Jennings Bros. (Cockermouth)	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
John I. Thornycroft	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
J. W. Cameron and Co.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Krupps (Essen)	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Leeds and Burrows	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Lobitos Oilfields	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Lochelly Iron and Coal	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
London and N.Y. Investment	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Mackay Companies	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Miners' Safe	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Norfolk Lonsdale Iron and Steel	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Northern Amer. San Trust	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Oceanic Consolidated	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Officers' Brewery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Ord.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Do Additional	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Do New	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Premier Portland Cement (Rhodesia)	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
R. B. Chellaw Steam Navigation	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
R. Hood Haggie	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Richard Thomas and Co.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Ridgways	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Rossleigh	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Royal Dutch Petroleum	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Seabrooke and Brewster, Pref.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Scottish-American Mort.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Scraper's Brewery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Second Industrial Trust	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Second Investors' Mortgage	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Shell Transport	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Showell's Brewery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Sir H. W. Trickett	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Sena Sugar Estates	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Stratton & Derby Brewery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Thomas Salt, Def.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Tinsley Park Colliery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Truswell's Brewery	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Unic Motors, Cum. Ptg. Pref.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
United Indigo and Chemical	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
United Tobacco Co. South	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Do (bonus)	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Victoria Pier, & Co. Southport	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
W. and R. Cook	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Waterlow and Sons, Def.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Williamsons	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
W. B. Mew, Langton, and Co.	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Western Canada Investment	10 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..

CHICAGO BREWERIES, LIMITED.—It is decided not to recommend a dividend for the year ended Nov. 30, 1922.

LANGLAND BRIDGE AND ENGINEERING COMPANY.—Directors recommend dividend of 7½ per cent., free of tax, on ordinary shares numbered 1 to 225,000, making 10 per cent., tax free, for the year ending January 31, 1923, and 4s per cent. per annum, free of tax, on amount of calls paid in advance.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.—The board recommend the payment of a dividend from the surplus profits account of 16s per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital class "D," in addition to the guaranteed dividend of 4½ per cent. for the half-year ending January 31, 1923, and 4s per cent. compensation paid by the Secretary of State for India on account of income-tax as per Clause 4 of the Contract with him of December 17, 1919.

LIQUID ASSETS INCREASE.

Liquid assets had increased by £260,000, and they bore a satisfactory ratio to the bank's liabilities to the public. The increase was mostly in cash and public securities, the latter being composed chiefly of short-dated Imperial Treasury bills. The small reduction in bank premises resulted from the sale (at a profit) of a portion of the bank's properties not required for its own purposes.

DORMAN, LONG AND CO., LIMITED.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

REVIEW OF COMPANY'S INVESTMENTS.

PRESENT CONDITIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Messrs Dorman, Long and Co., Limited, was held at the registered offices, Zetland road, Middlesbrough, on the 13th instant, Sir Arthur J. Dorman, K.B.E., in the chair.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report having been read, the Chairman said: 'Turning to the directors' report, you will see that the profit and loss account for the year, after the stocks have been written down to their present value, shows a profit of £160,368 13s 11d, which, together with the balance of profit brought from last year of £239,487 16s 11d, makes a total of £399,856 10s 10d, which your directors propose to deal with in the following manner: £35,684 is applied to the payment of interest on debentures, £120,000 for the dividend on the 8 per cent. preferred ordinary shares for the year, £3,000 directors' fees, £40,000 to general reserve account, leaving a balance to be carried forward to next year's account of £201,172, omitting shillings and pence, which I will continue to do throughout.

I now go through the balance-sheet in the usual way.

On the liability side you will see that the paid-up share capital has been increased during the year to £7,499,592, due to the payment of the final call of 4s per share on the issue of £3,000,000 ordinary shares. There is a small account of £408 due in respect of unpaid calls.

The company's holding in the 4 per cent. first mortgage perpetual debenture stock has been increased during the year by £3,500, bringing the total of their holding in this stock to £58,620.

MORTGAGES REDUCED.

The 5 per cent. sinking fund mortgage debentures have been further reduced by the amounts required to be paid off and cancelled under the terms of the trust deed. The outstanding 5 per cent. debentures with interest accrued to date now amounts to £398,540, against £405,060 last year.

The amount of the secured loan has been reduced by £20,000, and now stands at £918,475.

The debts due by the company, which last year stood at £975,709, now amount to £445,685 only. The amount has been very considerably reduced by the settlement of a portion of the claims arising in connection with taxation, and also by curtailment in trading, which has unfortunately existed throughout the year.

The reserve accounts, which in the 1921 balance-sheet stood at £745,342, now amount to the sum of £595,990. This reduction is due to the appropriation of £159,828 to meet the loss on the year's working at the North-Eastern Steel Company, Limited. I will refer again to this matter after I have taken you through the balance-sheet. I have already dealt with the figures in the profit and loss account.

VALUABLE ASSETS.

On the assets side of the balance-sheet the amount of capital expenditure now stands at £3,377,110, including the sum of £253,095 net expenditure during the year, but excluding expenditure on the items dealt with in the suspense account. The balance of the suspense account, which appeared in the 1921 balance-sheet, and which at September 30, 1922, amounted to £1,894,727, has been carried to the capital expenditure account. This reduction in the suspense account as compared with last year arises mainly through the settlement of the company's claims in respect of the special expenditure on plant at Redcar, and also from the transfer of a portion of the Dormanstown property to Dormanstown Tenants, Limited, a public utility society formed for the purpose of building houses for our own men employed at the Redcar works.

The investments, which now amount to £5,022,306, as against £4,656,510 in last year's balance-sheet, have been mainly increased by advances to Bell Brothers, Limited, of £300,000, and to the North-Eastern Steel Company, Limited, of a net sum of £75,172, after writing off £159,828, the amount of that company's loss on the year's working. The advances have been made to enable those companies to carry out their programme of developments.

The amount of stocks in hand in the 1922 balance-sheet is

Bills discounted and other advances had continued to diminish in ordinary course, as forecast at the last meeting, the reduction being about £250,000. Profits were about the same as last half-year, and he thought they must be regarded as satisfactory in view of the keen competition in London exchange, from which an important portion of the profits was derived. The small increase in charges was represented chiefly by greater taxation.

£1,080,833, as against £1,650,503 in 1921. This decrease again reflects the comparative smallness of the company's trading during the year, and the further depreciation in values which has taken place.

The amount of the debts due to the company at the end of 1922 amounts to £819,677, a decrease of £182,187.

This year the amount of cash at the bankers and in hand amounts to £260,528, as against £231,844 last year.

DORMAN'S INVESTMENTS.

It will be seen that the total of our investments forms a very large proportion of the company's assets, and while the balance-sheet gives particulars of the assets included in the capital expenditure account, the particulars of the investments are dealt with in more general terms. I think it right that the shareholders should have more information with regard to the company's investments than it is possible to give in the balance-sheet. I will therefore refer to our investments in more detail.

As the balance-sheet tells you, the sum of £4,548,885 is invested in shares in our allied companies; of this sum £1,400,000 is represented by our holding of the whole of the share capital of Sir B. Samuelson and Co., Limited, which was acquired by us in 1918. That company is the owner of Sherburn and Hedley Hope Collieries, with an output of 650,000 tons of coal per annum; Spawood Mine, near Gisborough, with an output of 300,000 tons of ironstone per annum, with blast furnaces producing, when in operation, 280,000 tons of pig-iron per annum. They also own two modern batteries of coke ovens, which supply the town of Middlesbrough with gas, also by-product plants and a slag grinding plant for the manufacture of road metal. The works are situated in close proximity to our Britannia Works, so that molten metal can be carried direct from the blast-furnaces to our steel furnaces at Britannia, thereby enabling Britannia to effect very considerable economy in producing their steel. The works also have a considerable river frontage, with a good wharf.

This property is uncharged with any debenture issue, and the price paid for the shares included, of course, not only the plant and machinery, but also the investments, stores, stocks, and cash to the total of £500,000.

BELL BROTHERS.

£620,000 of our investments is represented by our holding of the whole of the ordinary share capital of Messrs. Bell Brothers, Limited, which company has £361,386 outstanding debentures and £500,000 preference shares. In addition to our holding the ordinary shares we have advanced to Messrs Bell Brothers, Limited, £300,000 for further developing their mineral properties.

Messrs Bell Brothers are the owners of the following collieries:—Browney, Tursdale, Bowburn, and South Brancepeth, with a total output of 650,000 tons of coal per annum. They are also the owners of the following ironstone mines:—Park Pit, Skelton, and Dumpsey in Cleveland, and Burley in Northamptonshire, with a total annual output of 825,000 tons of ironstone. In addition, they are the owners of the Clarence Iron and Steelworks and Rolling Mills, with a large area of land and good river frontage and wharf. Their output capacity is 400,000 tons of pig-iron and 250,000 tons of steel per annum.

Messrs Bell Brothers are at present engaged in considerable development work in their collieries, which will have the effect of largely increasing their output of coal, and are building a new battery of coke ovens. Their by-product plant is a modern one, and in addition they have a rectifying plant in which all the crude products produced by the various plants of the allied companies are refined.

BENZOL OUTPUT.

Their output of rectified benzol will shortly exceed 2,000,000 gallons per annum, with 50,000 gallons of tar acids and 100,000 tons of various other oils and by-products, including sulphate of ammonia. Messrs. Bell Bros. not only supply their own requirements in coal, but are able to provide us with large quantities for use in our own works and for export. Included in their assets is a

holding of 168,000 ordinary shares and 30,000 debentures in the Horden Collieries, Limited.

In 1919 we purchased the whole of the preference shares and the whole of the ordinary shares, with the exception of 21 shares in the Carlton Iron Company, Limited. The company has no debenture issue, and the price paid for the shares included, in addition to the fixed plant, stocks, stores, and investments to the value of £420,000. They are the owners of the Mainsforth Colliery, with an output of 500,000 tons of coal per annum, and also of the Last-furnaces and coke-ovens at Carlton. This investment stands in our books at £1,023,328. We largely use the Mainsforth coal in our own works, that colliery being nearer in point of distance to our works than any other colliery in Durham—a saving in carriage is thereby effected.

The blast-furnaces are engaged in the manufacture of ferro-manganese, of which we, Bell Bros., and North-Eastern Steel Company, Limited, require a considerable tonnage for use in the steel furnaces. The company is also able to sell ferro-manganese and coal for home use and export.

NORTH-EASTERN STEELWORKS.

I now come to the last of our allied companies—i.e., the North Eastern Steel Company, Limited. We are the holders of the whole of the share capital, which stands in our books at £260,384. The company have two debenture issues, of which £250,000 and £50,000 are respectively outstanding.

The works of the North-Eastern Steel Company, Limited, adjoin our Britannia works, on the opposite side to those of Sir B. Samuelson and Co., Limited. Here, again, the supply of molten metal to Britannia for steel-making, after providing for their own requirements, has proved an advantage to Britannia. In addition to our holding the share capital of this company, we have advanced to them sums amounting to £945,171 to pay for the extensive alterations to their plant which have been carried out, and to provide them with necessary working capital.

As you already know, that company has converted their steel plant from a Bessemer plant to an open-hearth basic plant, comprising a mixer, tilting furnaces, a new battery of coke-ovens, together with a modern by-product plant. The utilisation of surplus waste blast-furnace gas has been effected by the erection of gas engines for the generation of electricity.

They have also completed new works for grinding basic slag for fertilising purposes, and a new ore-handling gantry. In addition, they have made considerable alterations to their rolling mills, and have rebuilt their four blast-furnaces, two of which are now working. Each of these furnaces is giving a weekly output of 2,000 tons of basic pig-iron, which, I believe, compares favourably with any blast-furnaces in this country to-day similarly employed.

LOSS WRITTEN OFF.

The alterations have taken a good deal longer to carry out than was expected, and you will readily understand that during the progress of the alterations the working conditions were not conducive to economical production. Owing to the dislocation of work during the alterations, the result of the year has been unsatisfactory, and a loss of £159,828 has been incurred, but as this was due to temporary conditions, it cannot be taken as affecting the real value of the works.

As you will see from the balance-sheet, we have written off this loss from our reserves. All the companies are possessed of very valuable assets, and in normal times are each capable of earning a profit showing a good return on their capital.

This year, however, owing to the extraordinary depression in trade generally, and in the iron and steel trade in particular, they have failed to contribute their proper proportion to our funds, in fact, they have been fortunate in avoiding making a loss. With the exception of the North-Eastern Steel Company, Limited, they have managed to make both ends meet, and to contribute to our revenue for the year.

The remaining £473,000 is invested in our Kent undertaking, and in several other companies which are in one way or another closely connected with our trading interests, mainly in the direction of absorbing our output.

THE KENT COALFIELD.

With regard to Kent, you will be interested to hear that in the spring of this year we entered into negotiation with Lord Cowdray with a view to securing his co-operation in our undertaking. I am pleased to say these negotiations have been successfully concluded, and a company has been formed under the title of Pearson and Dorman Long, Limited, which has acquired from us the whole of our interests in that county.

The shares in the new company are held equally by ourselves and Whitehall Securities Corporation, Limited, one of Lord Cowdray's companies, but as the transaction was not completed during our financial year, the investment amounting to £245,417, still appears in our balance-sheet under the heading of Channell Steel Shares. Further coal areas are now being acquired under

an agreement we have signed with Kent Coal Concessions, Limited, and their Allied companies; if and when the negotiations which are now in progress with the landowners under the terms of that agreement are completed, the new company will have under its control a compact district of some 30,000 acres which, according to our mining experts, contains the best coal bearing properties in Kent.

An immediate start is being made on the sinking of the first two coal pits at Betteshanger, near Deal, and by the time we meet again I hope to be able to report that satisfactory progress has been made both there and in other directions. I cannot offer you a better assurance of the hopeful nature of this enterprise than the fact that we have secured Lord Cowdray and his associates as our partners.

LINKS OVERSEAS.

£60,000 is invested in shares in Braithwaite and Co., Limited, thus associating with ourselves a company having engineering work in West Bromwich and Newport (Mon.), and a valuable connection in India as general contractors and constructional engineers. Messrs. Braithwaite and Co. take from us steel required by them in their many undertakings, helping to find an outlet for our products. In our holding in this company we are shareholders in a profitable business, and we may reasonably expect a good return by way of dividends on our investment.

In South Africa we are associated with the constructional engineering firm of Messrs Wade and Dorman, Limited, in which company we hold half the capital, amounting to 25,000 shares at £1 each fully paid, and 25,000 shares at £1 each, 10s paid. This company also purchase from us steel required in their business, and have established a valuable connection for us in South Africa.

We hold 40,600 ordinary shares of £1 each fully paid in the Bowesfield Steel Company, Limited, a profitable undertaking, which purchase from us annually a large tonnage of steel bars required by them for the manufacture of corrugated sheets.

We are interested in the British Magnesite Calcining Company, Limited, a company with which many of the large steel manufacturers of this country are also associated. The company is not yet operating, but the works are now nearing completion, and it is hoped that British steelmakers will shortly receive the benefit of their production, and thereby escape from complete dependence upon Austria for their supply of calcined magnesite. Our holding amounts to £18,000 in ordinary shares and debentures.

We hold £58,620 of our own first mortgage debenture stock and £4,400 of our sinking fund debentures which have not yet been cancelled. We also hold £23,060 4s per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the North-Eastern Steel Company, Limited, and £100 6 per cent. second mortgage debentures of the same company.

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.

The remainder of our investments consists of a number of small holdings in various concerns which supply one or other of our requirements, such as the Steeley Lime Company, Limited, Messrs Casebourne and Co., Limited, cement makers, of Haverton Hill, and in agency associations which act as our selling agents in China, the Near East, and Egypt.

This finishes the list of our investments, and I think you will agree that I have put before you particulars of a vast undertaking. It will convey even more to you when I tell you that we have to-day 16,000 shareholders, and that we employ in normal times over 20,000 hands. We can produce annually 1,340,000 tons of ironstone, 1,800,000 tons of coal, 900,000 tons of coke, with a corresponding output of by-products, and 1,200,000 tons of pig-iron, all contributing towards the supply of the raw materials we require for the manufacture of 1,000,000 tons of steel per annum, which is the capacity we possess to-day.

If the capital sum invested in the undertaking seems large, I think we are justified in claiming that it is small when these productive capacities are taken into consideration.

With such a capacity of output of minerals and pig-iron you will understand how badly we have been hit by the depression, and how readily we should respond to any improvement in trade, however slight. For example, at one time we had only three furnaces in blast out of 32. To-day we have 11.

HOW TO GET BEST RESULTS.

Taking the industry as a whole, I think I am safe in saying that over a period of time the best results are obtained by those who possess the larger control of the elements of production.

The disposal of this large output is not an easy matter, and it will interest you to know that our own constructional departments and our wire and sheet works are actually absorbing our steel to-day at the rate of 190,000 tons per annum. A further 80,000 tons per annum are taken by the companies in which our funds are invested, making up the very satisfactory total of 270,000 tons.

You will see, therefore, that the policy of your board in recent years has been, on the one hand, to increase our control of the sources of supply of raw material, and on the other to add to the

outlets for disposing of our productive capacity of 1,000,000 tons of steel per annum. To what length the principles of this policy should be carried is a matter which has continually engaged our attention.

If we had been wise in gathering under our control the interests which I have just enumerated, might it not be wise to continue the process still further? Is the unit of 1,000,000 tons of steel per annum at which we have aimed large enough?

Would a larger unit prove more economical in manufacture, or would it prove unwieldy and difficult to handle. These are questions which we have always before us, and you may be assured that your directors will not lose sight of any opportunity which offers itself whereby the value of the undertaking can be added to.

At the moment we are of the opinion that it is not to our advantage to increase our steel capacity, and that our proper policy is to continue on the lines we have followed in recent years—namely, to increase the outlets for the disposal of our products.

IMPROVING DEMAND.

In the directors' report, which you have before you, we have referred to the improvement in demand which has taken place recently, and to increased activity in shipbuilding and construction business. There are signs that this may continue, and there is strong evidence that India, the Colonies, and the other customers abroad are about to enter upon programmes of development which have been too long deferred.

Nevertheless, we are still a long way off the stability in prices which seemed to be approaching when I last addressed you. During the last year lack of demand for steel, combined with the collapse of Continental exchanges, which has enabled our Continental competitors to quote very low prices, has brought about a scramble for orders at almost any price. To-day we are selling heavy steel rails, joists, sections, and shipbuilding material at a price which is not 25 per cent. above pre-war price.

When I compare this with railway rates, which are 60 per cent.; coal, which is 80 per cent.; bricks, engineering plant, and other stores used in iron and steel-making, which vary between 50 per cent. and 200 per cent. over pre-war prices, I venture to say that the bulk of heavy steel manufactured to-day in this country from pig-iron is being produced at a loss.

In our own case we should have been hard put to it to make a profit had it not been for the provision I have said we made for the disposing of our output. It is difficult to see where further reduction in cost is possible while factors outside our control remain so high, and I should be wrong if I failed to warn you that until conditions alter which will enable us to reduce the cost of production or to raise the price of steel, the prospects of our industry are not very encouraging.

SIGNS OF RELIEF.

Fortunately, as I have said, there are to-day signs of relief. We must remember, too, that the iron trade changes very rapidly, and it is by no means impossible that by the time we meet again the improvement which seems to have set in may have so altered conditions as to have put our steel-making departments once more on a profit-earning basis.

During the year we have been free from labour trouble. The men in all departments have worked well, and they and their leaders have stood loyally by all their agreements with their employers.

Our managers and staff from top to bottom have rendered us excellent service, and have helped us in every way possible to bring down cost. Since we last met we have instituted a pension fund on a contributory basis for their benefit and for those of the staffs of our allied companies.

A dividend on the preferred ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, was declared, the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

"ANOTHER VERY SATISFACTORY REPORT."

NEW CAPITAL ISSUE SHORTLY.

ADVANTAGES TO PERSIA OF COMPANY'S WORK.

The 13th ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, London, Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr John Clark) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: It is with very great pleasure that we have been able to submit to you for the past financial year what I am sure you will all regard as another very satisfactory report and balance-sheet.

When addressing you at the last annual meeting I indicated that there would be some falling off in profits for the year now under review, owing to the lower prices of products, but that this

would be partly compensated for by increased throughput, and that in any case the amount available for dividends would be larger than in the previous year, as we should no longer be liable for excess profits duty. If you will turn to the profit and loss account, you will see that this forecast has been amply verified, since the reduction in net profits is very much less than the sum which was set aside in the previous year to meet E.P.D. and corporation profits tax.

The figure of £3,130,380 16s 2d carried to the appropriation account is, I should explain, the net profit for the year arrived at after allocating in this company and in the various subsidiary companies constituting our group, including the net increase in the carry-forwards of these companies, a total of about £2,500,000 to depreciation and reserves. In the appropriation account we have, as you will see, allocated a further £1,000,000 to depreciation and reserves, making a total of no less than about £3,500,000, which in one form and another has been reserved by our own and our subsidiary companies out of the year's profits. This may at first glance strike you as an unduly heavy writing off, but I am sure you will agree with me that we are acting wisely in following a conservative policy in the matter of our writings off for depreciation and in the appropriations to our reserve accounts, and in not recommending any increase of dividend.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

As regards prospects for the current year, I am not yet able to make any definite forecast. As you will have seen from the report, the completion of the extensions to our refineries has been delayed by strikes and other unavoidable causes, and it has not yet been practicable to estimate the extent to which our output at the Abadan Refinery will be affected by the recent fire. The actual amount of material damage done was small—not more than about £50,000—and it is covered by insurance, but as it destroyed some of the finishing plant, our output of refined products from this refinery will be temporarily curtailed. Part of the damaged plant can be, and is being, replaced immediately out of plant sent out for extensions, but this, in turn, will cause further delay in the completion of the extensions at this refinery, as fresh plant will require to be sent out to replace the material appropriated to remedy the fire damage. The recent further fall in the price of products will also unfavourably affect the present year's results. On the other hand, the bringing into operation of further units of our refinery at Llandarcy has enabled us to considerably increase our production of crude oil, and the fall in prices will to some extent be offset by the termination this month of our old contracts for benzine and kerosene. But, taking all these circumstances into consideration, I do not think we can, consistently with the carrying out of our policy of conserving our resources as much as possible, look for any increase in dividend on our ordinary shares for the current year. In the following year, however, our programme of extensions will be nearer completion, and as we shall then be in a position to deal with a much larger volume of oil, our profits should, provided present prices are maintained, show a substantial increase.

PETROLEUM PRICES.

As regards the future course of the markets for petroleum products, it is, of course, impossible to prophesy with any accuracy, but there are indications that prices have now passed the low-water mark. The price of crude oil in Mexico has, owing to the falling off in production in that country, advanced appreciably, and this has been reflected in some of the other producing countries. The price of fuel oil, which had fallen to a point at which it could not in many cases be produced at a profit, shows signs of improvement—in fact, a very large contract has recently been placed in America at a price which shows an advance of about 10s per ton on the price at which the same contract was placed a year previously. The prices of kerosene also have advanced materially in America during the past few months, partly owing to the large amount of that product which is now being converted by cracking into the more remunerative form of benzine. Benzine (or petrol) is the only main product which does not at the moment show any indications of improvement, there being large accumulations in the United States of stocks of this commodity, but I do not anticipate that this position will continue for long, since the consumption of benzine is increasing by leaps and bounds, and the price of kerosene has now about reached a point at which many refiners will not find it remunerative to convert it into benzine.

On the other hand, the falling off in production in Mexico is more than offset by increased production in other countries, but I am of opinion that the largely increasing demands of the world for petroleum products, which will become accentuated as economic conditions in Europe improve, will more than counterbalance any increased production, and that the tendency within the next few years must be in the direction of higher prices.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

I will now call your attention to the balance-sheet, and to such items as need explanations. On the debit side of the account the amount of paid-up capital was, you will see, £17,112,838 5s 7d, representing an increase of £4,408,354 8s 9d on the amount shown 12 months previously. This mainly consisted of the balance of the calls on the 9 per cent. preference shares and the proceeds of the further issue of £2,000,000 8 per cent. preference shares, but it also included £549,458 5s paid up in respect of the 600,000 ordinary shares issued in March last. The outstanding calls have since been paid, and the 10s remaining unpaid on the 1,500,000 shares previously issued to the original shareholders has also since been called up and paid.

The amount of debenture stock outstanding has been reduced by £125,000, this being the amount falling due for redemption during the year.

The employees' provident pension and insurance fund account amounts now to £559,666 3s, being an increase for the year of £240,456 14s 8d. The rapid growth of this fund is extremely pleasing to the board, and I am sure it will be equally so to the shareholders and to the members of the staff, as it carries out in a very substantial manner the profit-sharing principle which has now been accepted as an essential for the success of industrial and trading institutions.

The next item calling for comment is "reserves." In our previous accounts we have shown the amounts realised for share premiums under a separate heading, but as they are in effect reserves we have now included them under the general heading of "Reserves," which now, including the further allocations from the year's profits, show a total of £4,591,756 14s 5d, as against £2,500,000 in the previous year. As I have previously indicated, these reserves are quite distinct from the large amounts which we have written off for depreciation, and they are augmented by the net increase of the carry forwards in the profit and loss accounts of our various companies.

DIVIDEND.

The balance at the credit of profit and loss account, after paying dividends on the preference shares for the half-year ended September 30th was £3,421,672 18s 2d. Since the close of the year a further £437,500 has been paid out in respect of preference dividends for the half-year ended March 31, 1922, and out of the balance remaining we now recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, absorbing £1,245,000. This will leave a balance to carry forward, subject to E.P.D., if any, for the year 1920-21 and corporation tax for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 of £1,739,172 18s 2d. No settlement has yet been arrived at with the Inland Revenue authorities in respect of E.P.D., but the carry forward is more than ample to cover any possible claims on this or any other taxation accounts.

Coming to the credit side of the account, you will see that we have now included "advances to associated companies" in the first heading. The word "associated," so far as it refers to advances, should, I may mention, be subsidiary, inasmuch as all the advances in question were made to companies in which we own all the shares. Our reason for making this change is that these advances have been made in lieu of issuing fresh capital for our subsidiary companies, and therefore that they, in effect, stand in the same category as our shareholdings in these companies. For example, in the case of the "National Oil Refineries, Limited," our issued share capital was only £200,000, whilst the capital outlay of this company was in the neighbourhood of £3,000,000. By not issuing capital to the full extent of our subsidiary companies' capital outlay we not only save double stamp duty—i.e., on the subsidiary companies' as well as on the Anglo-Persian Company's—issues—but we are in a better position for writing down rapidly, as we hope at an early date to do, a large portion of our capital outlay in these concerns. The amount of advances to these companies included in the total of £22,022,759 3s 11d shown under this heading is £7,399,938 14s 5d, representing principally advances to the National Oil Refineries, Limited, and the British Tanker Company. The next item on this side—viz., refineries, tank installations, pipe lines, &c.—shows an increase for the year, after writing off amply for depreciation, of £1,523,334 5s 2d—this, of course, representing the expenditure for the year consequent upon the large developments in our operations. Perhaps I should also explain that the contingent liability for uncalled capital in other companies shown in parenthesis under the first heading, is chiefly in respect of our participations in the various foreign producing and distributing companies in which we have taken an interest and pursuant of our policy of extending our sources of supply and of creating direct outlets without the intervention of "middlemen" for the whole of our products. But as these companies are entirely under our own control, the liability cannot be incurred without our consent.

NEW ISSUE SHORTLY.

As regards our future financial programme, it is, I think, needless for me to point out that we have not yet got to the end of the vast capital outlay which is required to carry out all the steps necessary to enable the company satisfactorily to meet all competition and to dispose of the whole of its products to the best advantage. As you will have gathered from the large sums which we have carried to depreciation and reserves in this and previous years, we are meeting this capital outlay to a large extent out of profits. But in addition to this further funds are required, and to provide these it is intended to make a further issue of 850,000 ordinary shares, being the balance still available for issue without disturbing the Government's majority interest. The proceeds of this issue, together with our withdrawals from profits for depreciation and reserves, will, we anticipate, suffice to meet all the capital requirements necessary for carrying out our present programme of extensions, including our expenditure in connection with the testing of new territories in other parts of the world.

The issue will be made at the earliest favourable opportunity, and it is intended, as on previous occasions, to give existing shareholders in this company and in the Burmah Oil Company special consideration in allotment.

Whilst on this subject, I would like to say that the board were extremely disappointed at the very small proportion of the applications which they were able to allot to applicants for the last issue of ordinary shares. The issue was made at an attractive price in order to give existing shareholders and the public an opportunity of participating in the great prosperity of the company, but it was not anticipated that this would lead to such an enormous oversubscription.

QUOTATION CANARD.

In this connection there is another matter to which I ought to refer, and that is the absolutely unfounded *canard* to which currency was given recently, to the effect that the Government and/or the Burmah Oil Company were desirous of placing their shares on the market. This *canard* was apparently based upon the fact that the company had applied for an official quotation for the whole of the 8,100,000 ordinary shares which have been issued. This application, however, was not made on the initiative of the company or of either of the two shareholders in question. What happened was this. Acting solely in the interests of the public who took up the 600,000 ordinary shares issued early this year, we applied in the ordinary course to the Stock Exchange Committees both in London and Glasgow for an official quotation for these shares only. The application was granted by the Glasgow Committee without question, but was refused by the London Committee on the ground that they could not give a quotation for these shares unless the 7,500,000 shares previously issued were included in the application. We protested against this ruling on the ground that there was no intention or desire on the part of the original shareholders to obtain a quotation, but without avail, and we therefore had no alternative, short of allowing the 600,000 shares issued to the public to remain unquoted, but to put in an application for the whole number. It will be seen, therefore, that the application for an official quotation for the shares held by the Government and by the Burmah Oil Company was due entirely to the ruling of the London Stock Exchange Committee.

REFINERIES.

Having dealt with our financial matters, I will now give you a few explanations in regard to the progress of our working operations. Beginning with refineries, you will have seen from the report that, although our refineries at Abadan and Llandarcy have shown a steady increase of throughput, the work on their extensions has been impeded by strikes and other causes.

The most serious of these interruptions occurred a few months ago at Abadan, where, owing to a strike among the Indian skilled labourers, engineered by seditious agents from India, we had to summarily dismiss over 2,000 of the Indian artisans employed by us. Before this strike occurred we had been gradually training Persians to take the place of the imported Indian labour, and though the process of training was slow, the results on the whole were satisfactory. On the occurrence of the strike we decided to substitute the deported Indians by local labour. On the whole, we have no reason to regret the change, as the Persian, when trained, is at least as good an artisan as the Indian. Moreover, a workman employed in his own country and accustomed to the local conditions of life is more contented, and is therefore a more satisfactory employee than a foreigner.

The completion of our extension work, both at Abadan and Llandarcy was further impeded by the strike which occurred in the engineering trade in this country last spring, which caused serious delay in the deliveries of plant.

Both of these refineries will, however, it is hoped, be in operation to the full extent of the additions which have been budgeted for by the middle of next year, and we shall then be in a position materially to increase our takings of crude from our producing

companies and to place on the market a correspondingly increased quantity of refined products.

The refinery, which is being erected in France by one of the companies with which we are associated, will, it is hoped, be completed within the next two or three months, and this also will admit of a further increase in our production of crude and sale of refined products. The new refinery which is being erected at Grangemouth by Scottish Oils, Limited, for the purpose of dealing with Persian crude, and the similar one which is being erected by our associated Australian company—the Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Limited—will probably be completed by the end of next year, and these will afford a still further means of increasing our production of crude, and of providing profitable outlets for the products to be derived therefrom.

SHALE INDUSTRY.

The shale mining operations of Scottish Oils, Limited, have proceeded steadily since the interruption caused by the unfortunate coalmining strike, and the refinery works are now again in full operation. The wages at present being paid to our shale miners are higher than the current rates for coalminers, and we hope that this satisfactory state of affairs may continue, but should there be any further decline in the values of our products the position will need to be reconsidered—much as we should regret this—because at present prices we are only working to a bare margin of profit.

DISTRIBUTING ORGANISATIONS.

As regards our distributing organisations, both at home and abroad, considerable progress has been made during the past year. In the United Kingdom the British Petroleum Company and Scottish Oils, Limited, have largely extended their facilities, with the result that a considerable increase is shown in their sales. Some of this increased demand for our products is no doubt also due to the fact that as time goes on the public are becoming more and more convinced of the superior quality of the B.P. petrol and other products which are being produced by us at our Llandarcy and Scottish refineries. I may mention that with these refineries immediately under the eyes, not only of our scientific staff but also of the men who have to sell the products, absolute excellence and regularity of quality are ensured.

As mentioned in the report, the distributing organisations which have been created by our associated companies in France, Belgium, Denmark, and Norway have all now begun operations, and are proving valuable auxiliaries to our distributing concerns in this country. Negotiations are still proceeding for creating similar organisations in other European countries, but we are delaying final arrangements until we are ready to supply the quantity of our own products necessary to maintain these additional outlets.

During the year we and our associated companies have completed a number of additional fuel oil bunkering installations at important ports of call in the United Kingdom, the Mediterranean, India, Ceylon, Africa, and Australia, and these are now carrying on an active trade.

PRODUCTION.

Although it is rather putting the horse behind the cart, I will now, to maintain the same sequence as I have followed before, give a few explanations regarding what is after all by far the most important part of our business—viz., production—since upon this is based the whole of our future prosperity.

Well, on this point I am glad to be able to give you the most confident assurances. As mentioned in the report, the older wells of our producing companies in Persia continue to maintain their wonderful rate of production, the oft-quoted well No. F7 still continuing to produce its 12,000 barrels daily, while other wells brought in are even beating this famous well. I have not hitherto quoted the production figures of our producing companies, but now that the public are interested in the Anglo-Persian Company as ordinary shareholders, I think the time has come when this reticence should be abandoned in order that you may be better able to judge for yourselves as to the future prospects of the company.

These figures for the past few years have been as follows:—

	Tons.
For 1918-19	1,106,415
For 1919-20	1,385,301
For 1920-21	1,743,557
For 1921-22	2,327,221

whilst the production for the current year is estimated at 2,900,000 tons. As I have often pointed out, the only limits to the ability of our producing companies to supply us with crude are, so far as we can judge, (1) the capacity of our pipe lines and (2) the extent of our refineries. The programme that we have been working to for several years past has been to bring these two facilities up to a total capacity of 5,000,000 tons per annum. Our pipe lines and pumping stations have now been increased to permit of pumping this quantity of oil to the seaboard, but our refinery capacity has not yet, owing to the delays to which I have referred,

reached this figure. Our refinery capacity to-day is approximately 3,100,000 tons; by June next it should be 4,100,000 tons, and by the end of next year we expect it to reach 4,500,000 tons, at which figure we shall probably rest for the time being until we are in a better position to judge where further refineries can be erected to the best advantage.

As to the ability of our Persian producing companies to produce this quantity of oil, and to maintain production at that rate, there can, I think, be very little doubt. During the year additional test wells which have been put out as "feelers" beyond the proved areas of the fields which we are now operating have considerably extended the area of the proved territory, and all of these give evidence of being of the same high producing character as those from which we are now obtaining our production. We have been carrying on, and will continue to do so, an intensive drilling programme, so that we may be able to maintain production in the event of the wells which we are now operating showing any falling off. Such of the wells as have been carried down to the oil sands and are not required for production have been capped so that they may be immediately ready for production whenever required. The others only require a few feet of drilling to bring them into production. Those remarks only refer to the operations of our subsidiary companies operating in the Bakhtiari country.

OTHER DRILLING OPERATIONS.

In order that we may not be dependent entirely upon Persia for our supplies, we have, as you are aware, acquired concessions in various other parts of the world, and are now, either directly or in conjunction with associated companies, conducting drilling operations in four different parts of the Argentine Republic—viz., at Comodoro Rivadavia, Neuquen, Santa Cruz, and Bahía del Fondo, in New Brunswick, Hungary, Jugo Slavia, and in Venezuela. No very definite results have yet been obtained in these countries. In the Argentine we have struck some wells of moderate capacity in the Comodoro Rivadavia field, but we are not yet satisfied that the production is sufficiently large or reliable, or the quality of the oil sufficiently good, to justify commercial exploitation, particularly under the difficult conditions and unfavourable laws and regulations at present obtaining in that country. We also hold concessions or options on concessions in various other parts of the world on which our geological staff are carrying on investigations before we decide as to the advisability or otherwise of expending money in testing operations. In British New Guinea (Papua) we are carrying on geological investigations and drilling operations on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. These, so far, have given no conclusive result, but are hopeful.

RELATIONS WITH THE PERSIAN GOVERNMENT.

As regards our relations with the Persian Government, I regret to say that during the past year a very active anti-British propaganda, emanating, it is believed, largely from Bolshevik sources, has been carried on in Northern Persia. This was chiefly based upon the Anglo-Persian Agreement, which has been the subject of so much comment, but it has also been directed to a considerable extent against the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and other British institutions. I cannot believe that this propaganda has had the support of any responsible or well-informed Persians, because I am sure that they all fully recognise that the British support which they have received since the beginning of the war, and before the war, is the only thing that has preserved the independence of the country, and that has saved it from being overrun by the anarchy and ruin that now prevail in Russia. So far as concerns the part played by the Anglo-Persian Company in the economic and financial situation of the country, I think we can claim that the large sums we have been paying to the Persian Government during the past few years in respect of royalties, and the vast sums of money we have been spending in the country, have been the chief assets of the country during all these troublous times, and that the advances which we have from time to time made against the former have on more than one occasion saved it from what might have proved a disastrous "coup d'Etat." It has been represented that the Persian Government do not receive a proper proportion of the profits made by the Anglo-Persian Company, that the company by exploiting these oilfields is dissipating the wealth of the country, &c.

BENEFITS TO PERSIA.

But what is the truth of these statements? The royalty paid by us to the Persian Government is a varying amount dependent upon our profits, but in the financial year under review the amount of royalty paid by the Anglo-Persian and its subsidiary companies, apart from large subsidies paid to the local chiefs, was £553,795 8s 4d. In the principal oil-producing British Colony the amount of royalty paid on the same quantity of oil would have been £177,000. In Mexico the amount payable would have been £417,000. Even in the United States, where the fields are situated in the midst of vast consuming markets, and where the oil is consequently much more valuable than in Persia, the amount receivable by the State would have been less than £500,000. In

the countries where the royalties take the form of a percentage (usually 10 per cent.) of the crude oil produced, the amount payable would on the average not have worked out to more than from £100,000 to £400,000, according to the market price of the crude for the time being. So that in the matter of royalty the Persian Government would appear to be doing at least as well as the Government of any other oil-producing country in the world.

Apart from this direct gain to her revenue which Persia is deriving from our enterprise, she is, however, gaining numerous indirect advantages. For example, we are spending in Persia itself no less than about £1,500,000 per annum in payment for Persian labour, supplies of local material, foodstuffs, &c. Of this Persian labour, supplies of local material, foodstuffs, &c. Of this sum about £1,100,000 per annum is spent in payment for labour alone, this expenditure now giving hitherto unknown employment to as many as 20,000 Persians. No such colossal revenue-producing or labour-employing industry has ever before been known in the country, and I have no hesitation in saying that if the exploitation of the oilfields of Southern Persia had been placed in other hands, or had been distributed among a number of individuals or companies, the development of these fields would have been much slower and the income derived therefrom by Persia would have been nothing like so great. Abundant proof of the correctness of this statement can be found by comparing the progress which has been made by us in Persia with the progress which has been made in other countries, such as Trinidad, Venezuela, and Roumania, where the exploitation has been in a number of different hands.

What does not appear to be understood in Persia is that a large proportion of the profit earned by the Anglo-Persian Company is not in any way inherent to Persia or to our concession, but is due to the profits made on the refining, transport, and distributing branches of our business which have been established outside of Persia and on which fully three-fourths of our capital has been expended. Were the Persian fields to shut down tomorrow these branches of our business would still earn their profits because they could be employed in dealing with crude

and/or products from other countries. In nearly all other countries the company which owns a concession is only a producing company, its profits are limited to the profits on the crude oil, and the royalties paid by it—if any—are, as I have already explained, paid in the form of a percentage on the crude, or at a rate per ton calculated on the estimated value of the crude.

LABOUR PROBLEM.

Another complaint raised against us is our inadequate employment of Persians. Needless to say, as it is manifestly to our advantage to employ Persians to the greatest extent possible, this is a problem that has always been engaging our attention. From the very commencement of our operations in Persia we have been training local labour to the utmost possible extent, and we have now to a large extent substituted this locally trained labour for the Indian artisans whom we had at first to import in large numbers, notwithstanding that this substitution has entailed considerable loss owing to the delay in carrying out our operations consequent upon the lesser efficiency of the local labour whilst in process of training.

Desire has been expressed that Persians should be employed in the higher technical works of the company, such as geology, surveying, draughtsmanship, chemistry, engineering, &c. This is a desire which, of course, has our fullest sympathy and support. Our management in Persia have, in fact, for some time past been engaged in trying to formulate a scheme for the establishment of a technical school or schools of a suitable character at one or more of the principal centres—such as Teheran or Isfahan—and have already practically concluded arrangements for establishing such a school at the latter place. But these schools cannot be a success without the whole-hearted good will and encouragement of the Persian Government and of Persians themselves, and I trust that these two important factors in the carrying out of our scheme for technical instruction in Persia will be forthcoming.

The Chairman having paid a tribute to the good work of the staff and replied to questions, the resolutions were carried unanimously, and a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

REASONS FOR REDUCTION IN COAL SALES. DISTURBANCES DISORGANISE RAILWAY. PRESENT POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

ALLOCATIONS.

The profit and loss account shows the disposal of the balance at June 30, 1921, in accordance with the resolutions of the last general meeting. I need not recapitulate the items. The balance brought forward from that year was £19,987, which makes a total credit to the account at June 30, 1922, of £374,674. Of this income-tax absorbs £155,243 and corporation profits tax is estimated at £21,300; the interim dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, paid on May 15th last, amounted to £140,000, which leaves an available balance carried to the balance-sheet of £58,130. It is proposed to write off the balance of the cost of share warrants to bearer, &c., in connection with the increase of capital, which took place two years ago—namely, £1,351. The further remuneration to which the directors are entitled amounts to £1,819. The balance dividend of 3½ per cent., free of tax, which we propose to declare to-day, amounts to £49,000, which will leave a balance to be carried forward to the current year of £5,959.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

As regards the balance-sheet, there is no new feature of interest. The creditors—£95,733—consisting mainly of income-tax, unpaid dividends and debenture interest, show a reduction of about £30,000 compared with the preceding year. The reserve account for redemption of debentures has been increased by the annual drawing of £24,000, making a total of £228,000. The cash stood at £350,000. The debtors consist chiefly of the Kailan Mining Administration current accounts, including the balance of our share of profits to June 30th last. The other items on the credit side of the balance-sheet do not require any comment.

You will notice that the auditors in their report state that they have received all the information and explanations that they have required, subject to the production of the usual inventories of stocks of the Kailan Mining Administration at June 30, 1922, which were in transit. These inventories have been prepared in the usual course, but apparently by some oversight were not despatched as promptly as they should have been. They have now arrived, and are found to be in order.

RESULTS OF THE KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION.

The net profit of the Kailan Mining Administration, after providing for interest on the 6 per cent. Kailan bonds, redemption of bonds for the year, reserve for depreciation, and the proportion to the board. It arises from circumstances beyond the control of those who have the management of our affairs in China, as I will explain later. The net result is that we are able to pay a balance dividend of 3½ per cent., making 13½ per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, which is equal to 18 per cent., less tax, a substantial result when considered by itself and apart from our achievements in previous years.

Our share of the profit amounts to \$2,528,683, against \$3,850,013 in the preceding year. The credit to our profit and loss account, including interest in China and after making certain adjustments, is £352,295, the average rate of exchange for our remittances for the year being 25 5¼d per dollar. Interest in Europe amounts to £45,734, against £72,221 in the preceding year, the reduction being caused by the fact that the funds in hand were considerably less, and the rates of interest obtainable for money on deposit having been almost nominal. There is a profit of £10,804 on the sale of 5 per cent. National War bonds. The agency fee and the other receipts amount to £6,333. The total to the credit of the profit and loss account is therefore £395,168. The expenses in Europe show a slight increase, and the debit on the exchange account also shows an increase. The net balance carried down is £354,686.

COAL SALES

The report states that the sales of coal for the year amounted to 3,536,000 tons, a reduction of 249,000 tons compared with those of the preceding year. You may recollect that an increase, not a decrease, of sales was expected for the year with which we are dealing. It is therefore interesting to follow the course of the sales throughout the year. The expected increase began in the first week of the year and continued week after week almost without a check until it reached its maximum in the week ended February 4, 1922, the increase up to that date being over 300,000 tons. The profits up to that time were quite satisfactory. The sales then began to decline steadily until, in the middle of May, the increase over the preceding year had disappeared, the lowest point being reached in the week ended May 20th, when the sales recorded were only 18,000 tons. The sales varied from that time from about 25,000 to 35,000 tons per week up to the end of the year, the consequence being that instead of the large increase which was shown in the middle of February, there was a deficit, as already stated, of 249,000 tons. The reduction in sales and the reduction in the profits of the Kailan Mining Administration, compared with those of the preceding year, is stated in the directors' report to be due chiefly to the disturbed political conditions in Northern China, which culminated in military operations during the months of March and April last in the Province of Chihli, where the Kailan mines are situated. It is not due to any falling off in the demand for our coal.

The first sign of trouble, so far as the business of the Kailan Mining Administration is concerned, seems to have been in the month of January last, when a large part of the rolling stock of the Pekin-Moukden Railway, on which line the Kaiping mines, the Port of Chinwangtao, and the great depot of Tientsin are situated, was held up at Moukden (the capital of Manchuria, which lies to the north of the Province of Chihli) in readiness for future eventualities. From that time onwards the business suffered from the restriction of the facilities for the transport of the coal from the mines, and the deliveries of coal began to decline.

RAILWAY COMPLETELY BLOCKED.

I will try to state in the briefest terms what happened. During the month of April the Manchurian or Northern Forces were moved southwards along the Pekin-Moukden Railway into the Province of Chihli with the object of attacking the Southern Forces, which were disposed approximately on a line south-west and south of Pekin and Tientsin respectively. The Northern troops were defeated in a general engagement, and a retreat began along the railway line towards Shanhaikwan on the way to Moukden. This necessarily meant that large bodies of the defeated soldiery passed through our Kaiping mines area and the Port of Chinwangtao, which is the outlet for our overseas trade. The railway became completely blocked, work at Chinwangtao was suspended, there was general confusion, and, as I have already mentioned, the sales fell to an almost negligible figure. Emergency measures had to be taken for the protection of the mines by such small forces as could be obtained from elsewhere or organised on the spot. Negotiations were opened up with the chiefs of the rival forces with satisfactory results. The Northern Forces withdrew to Shanhaikwan, the first station beyond our point of shipment at Chinwangtao, and the situation began slowly to return towards the normal.

TRIBUTE TO ADMINISTRATION'S EMPLOYEES.

The reduction in the sales is only one element in the losses, direct and indirect, arising from these disturbances. How serious they have been is indicated in the statement of accounts before us, but it is quite possible to exaggerate the significance of them. This is the first time in a period of 20 years that our operations have met with serious interference. It is to be remembered that during these troubled months, except for a fortnight in the month of May, the output was maintained at a high figure. The acting general manager wrote afterwards that neither he nor the engineer-in-chief at any stage considered that there was danger of any serious loss or damage (that is, physical loss or damage) in the mines area provided that panic among the employees could be prevented. You must remember that we have something like 20,000 labourers at these mines. That was done, and I ought to say here that the engineer-in-chief displayed great energy, ability, and initiative in dealing successfully, as he did, with the difficult situation. The general behaviour of the administration's employees in the mines area throughout the crisis is reported to have been admirable. None of the employees or the members of their families appear to have suffered in any way except through unavoidable anxiety or inconvenience, and there does not appear to have been any loss of, or damage to, property of any kind.

Unfortunately, the Northern Forces in their retreat took with them all the railway rolling stock on which they could lay their hands, and the negotiations which have been undertaken by the Chinese Government for the return of it seem to have been without result. The position has, however, been greatly eased for the Pekin-Moukden Railway by the use of cars from other lines.

PRESENT CONDITIONS.

The general situation, although greatly improved, is not yet normal. It has been rendered more difficult, and the sales have been diminished by a strike which broke out at certain of the mines in the last week of October. The trouble seems to have originated in the workshops of the Pekin-Moukden Railway at Tongshan and Shanhaikwan, demands being made in regard to wages and leave, some of which appear to have been of a preposterous nature. The strike was settled by apparently large concessions being made on the part of the railway. Similar demands were thereupon made by our workmen at Chinwangtao and at some of the mines. The management, recognising that there had been an increase in the cost of living, made an offer of increased wages in order to meet what they regarded as a reasonable grievance. Though the offer appeared to have been acceptable to the majority of workers, owing to the action of the extremists the strike continued, and a serious situation developed. A considerable force of Chinese police was obtained from Tientsin to deal with the strikers, and a party of British troops was sent for the protection of the European staff and their families. Ultimately order was restored and the strike ended after lasting about four weeks by the acceptance of the terms which had been offered by the management to the men at the outset.

Most of this information has reached us within the last few days, and it must be read in conjunction with the statement in the directors' report relating to the results likely to be obtained for the current year.

PROSPECTS.

I have dealt concisely but frankly with these two troubled periods, the one in the financial year to June 30th last, the other in the year now current, because my colleagues and I feel that it is our duty to give you as accurate a view as we can of the course of affairs. Let us turn for a moment, in conclusion, to the other side of the picture.

I have already said that we are behind with our sales for the current year, but we still have over six months to run. We have a very large stock of coal ready at the mines and depots. The mines are developed for the production of about 4,500,000 tons per annum, which can be increased to double that quantity if need be. The coal in sight amounted at June 30th last, in round figures, to 24,000,000 tons. The demand for our coal continues, and, given normal conditions, it should increase year by year. The doubling of the railway from the mines to the Port of Chinwangtao, to which I referred last year, has, of course, been delayed by the disturbances of last spring, but the work is going on, and is expected to be completed by the end of next year. This will greatly facilitate the delivery of coal from the mines. All that is required, therefore, is an adequate supply of rolling stock on the part of the railway to enable us to keep pace with the increasing demand for our coal and to ensure the future prosperity of our enterprise, in which our confidence is unabated.

I now move, "That the directors' report and accounts to June 30, 1922, be and they are hereby received and adopted, and that a final dividend be declared of 3½ per cent., free of income-tax, making 13½ per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, payable on December 12, 1922."

Mr F. Cattier seconded the resolution, and after the Chairman had replied to one or two questions, it was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman then proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Mr Edmund Davis, Mr Lambert Jadot, and the Chevalier E. de Wouters.

Colonel H. A. Micklem, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Sledge, seconded by Mr Howard, Messrs Annan, Dexter and Co. were reappointed auditors, and the proceedings then terminated.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

DIRECTORS FOR THE NEW BOARD.

A special general meeting of the proprietors and debenture stockholders of the South-Eastern Railway Company was held, on the 13th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, to consider a resolution confirming the scheme for absorbing the London and Greenwich Railway Company, the Victoria Station and Pimlico Railway Company, and the Mid-Kent Railway (Bromley to St. Mary Cray) Company, under the provisions of the South-Eastern Railway (Southern Group) Preliminary Absorption Scheme of 1922.

The secretary (Mr Charles Davis) read the notice convening the meeting.

Mr H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, the chairman of the company, presided, and in moving the resolution said that, as those present were probably aware, the Act of Parliament passed in 1921 amalgamating the railways insisted upon one of the constituent companies in

each group absorbing a certain number of subsidiary companies. Compulsion did not necessarily lead to very agreeable negotiations—generally the reverse. Not one of the three railway companies he had mentioned had had the slightest wish to cease to exist; they were all perfectly satisfied with the punctually paid rent charges from either the South-Eastern Railway or the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, and the stocks of all those three companies were trustee stocks. Considerable difficulty had been experienced in persuading the stockholders of those companies that their position would certainly be the same, and might possibly be improved by converting the annual income they received in the shape of a rent charge into interest on debenture stock, but after considerable time and trouble the position had been accepted. He added that the preliminary scheme for absorption into the Southern Group was now in form, and had only to go to the tribunal for its consent.

Sir A. W. Smithers seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

MR SHEATH ELECTED A DIRECTOR.

The Chairman, in moving a resolution confirming the appointment of Mr Charles Sheath as a director of the company, said that Mr Sheath had made up his mind to retire from the secretaryship of the South-Eastern Railway Company, and not to place himself in competition with others for the secretaryship of the Southern Group. The board had accepted the resignation, and had at once placed Mr Sheath on the board as a director, and by doing so had made him eligible to serve as a director on the new Southern Railways Group. The record of Mr Sheath in the history of the railway industry was probably unique. As a lad of fourteen, over half a century ago he was engaged in the secretary's office of the South-Eastern Railway Company, and, following the advice given him by the late Mr Samuel Smiles, then the secretary of the company, that "a rolling stone gathers no moss," he had never from that day rolled out of the secretary's office. In that time Mr Sheath had earned not only the respect and the affection of all the directors, but he was beloved by the staff and, he believed, also by the stockholders of the South-Eastern Railway Company.

Sir A. W. Smithers seconded the motion, remarking that he was quite sure the new group would gain a great advantage in having one of Mr Sheath's ability and experience among them.

Sir Robert Perks, as an old stockholder, and Mr Rodocanachi, as the chairman of the audit committee, both desired to associate themselves with what had been said as to the value of Mr Sheath's services.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

DIRECTORS FOR SOUTHERN RAILWAYS GROUP.

A resolution appointing Brigadier-General the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., Mr. Edward William Mellor, Mr. William Newburn, Sir David Lionel Salomons, Bart., and Mr Charles Sheath as representative directors on the board of the Southern Railways Group was unanimously approved, and the sum of £16,420 was voted to the four directors not elected to the new board by way of compensation for loss of office.

The Chairman explained that that represented four years' purchase of the fees, and would be paid out of the compensation granted by the Government. He also stated that a meeting would be held in February next for the purpose of declaring a dividend, and in reply to a question as to the progress of the electrification scheme, explained that the construction company had been formed; it had sent out specifications to get tenders, and they hoped very shortly to be able to commence work, and thus to give a large amount of employment to people in their own particular districts. A contract for the supply of electricity had been arranged with the London Electric Corporation.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANY.
NEW DIRECTORS—COMPENSATION TO RETIRED DIRECTORS.

An extraordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the London Chatham and Dover Railway Company was held, on the 13th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, for the purpose of electing three directors of the company to serve on the board of the company incorporated by the Railways (Southern Group) Amalgamation Scheme, 1922, and for the purpose of assenting, if thought fit, to the payment out of the assets of the company of compensation to the directors, not so elected, who suffered loss by abolition of office.

The Right Hon. Sir William Hart Dyke, Bart. (the chairman of the company), presided, and said: The names submitted for approval to the meeting were Sir George Younger, Bart., Sir Vincent Caillard, and Sir Francis Dent. The names and abilities of those gentlemen were too well known to need eulogy. The name of Sir George Younger had been a household word in the Press from the political point of view, and there were other reasons also

why a gentleman of his ability should be appointed. Among them was the fact that the stock of the company was largely held in Scotland, and it was fortunate to be able to have him as representing the interests of Scotland on the new board. Sir Vincent Caillard was a gentleman who had devoted the whole of his life to most important financial business, and there were few living Englishmen who had been appointed to more missions abroad by different Governments. As to Sir Francis Dent, they would all remember the severe test to which their railway system had been put during the war, and how splendidly it had come through that trial. Sir Francis Dent for some years had been the manager of that company, and on those grounds alone he was quite certain the stockholders would elect Sir Francis Dent. As to the compensation for the directors who were not elected to the new board and lost office, the amount was placed at £17,562, a figure which represented four years' purchase of the fees paid to the directors concerned. He believed that in every other case compensation had been granted by the proprietors of railways on the same basis.

The resolutions were carried.

ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.
IMPROVED RESULTS.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Orient Steam Navigation Company, Limited, was held on the 12th instant, at the company's offices, 3 and 5 Fenchurch Avenue, London, Sir Kenneth S. Anderson, K.C.M.G. (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr R. T. Garrett) having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profit on the year's working was £275,015, and the balance of the revenue account was £317,621. After paying the preferred dividend they recommended that a dividend at the same rate as last year be paid, and that £100,000 be transferred to general reserve, leaving £72,908 to be carried forward. If the net result shown was better than last year, it was due not to an increase in voyage earnings, which, in fact, showed a shrinkage, but to a very considerable and most welcome drop in the cost of running. The most notable economies had been in coal, provisions, stores and repairs. Wages, however, were slow in reverting towards the pre-war standard. As regarded passenger earnings, their steamers' average had been less both outward and homeward, the latter markedly so. It could be little better than guesswork to forecast what they were going to be.

SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN RATES.

There had been a substantial all-round reduction in their rates, which had come into force on the 1st of the current month. He wished they could have taken the step sooner, for there was good reason to fear that the high level of rates was strangling traffic, especially saloon traffic. Costs, however, had hitherto forbidden such a step, and even now the reductions more than discounted the realised economies. It was impossible to say how far reduced rates would act as a stimulus to traffic, and their experience up to date this year was that intermediate steamers, though dispatched in the height of the season, displayed a deplorably thin list. On the other hand, reports as to the prospects of the next homeward passenger season foreshadowed an improvement, and the reduction in rates should help.

As regarded third-class traffic, the company had had a very fair share during the past year, but its volume next year would depend primarily upon the extent to which the Imperial Government and the Commonwealth were able to get their emigration scheme into active being. Their average homeward freight earnings had been lower, due to reduced rates, which they could ill afford. The average outward freights, however, had been better, but that was due to the greater carrying power of the steamers employed this year as compared with last.

The percentage of the aggregate trade carried by the mail steamers was small, and although during the 12 months in question there was a slow but steady improvement in the volume of shipments, which was still maintained, the steamers on the United Kingdom outward berth, as a whole, fared badly; in fact, the percentage of cargo relatively to space offering was worse than in 1920-21.

The growth in Australia's exports justified an expectation that there would shortly be a corresponding growth in her imports, and, indeed, there were already some supporting signs of this, but the tendency for the volume of Australian imports and exports, and from the United Kingdom, to become increasingly ill-balanced had been a normal feature for many years, and at best, therefore, they must expect a continuance of dearth of cargo outwards. In a lesser degree even the homeward trade was at present in the same plight, the berth being swamped with tonnage, while weather conditions had unfortunately affected the prospects of export in wool, wheat, and dairy produce.

SAILINGS.

At the previous meeting he said that, except for some phenomenal change in the conditions, they would not be justified in reviving fortnightly sailings, and although he had been criticised with regard to that statement, he was to-day of precisely the same mind. The existing services had again proved adequate, and more than adequate, to deal with all the trade offering. So far from there being any lack of accommodation, the supplementary steamers supplied had shown very poor results. It was perfectly clear, therefore, that, failing an equally sudden and utterly improbable expansion in the traffic, to double suddenly the sailings throughout the year would result in no commensurate increase of revenue, and that the greater part of the additional cost would be thrown either upon the passenger fares or upon subsidy. In his opinion, it was better, in the first instance, to meet the gradual increase in traffic by an increase in the size of the steamers. The two new steamers recently ordered conformed to this policy. They would be faster and larger than any of their predecessors, so much larger as, in the opinion of the managers, fully to anticipate future developments, and while avoiding any endeavour to be the last word in ostentatious luxury, their design would lay emphasis on all the essential features of comfort.

Sir Duncan Carmichael seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, managers, and staff terminated the proceedings.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO., LIMITED. "BOTTOM OF THE SLUMP REACHED."

The twenty-first annual general meeting of John I. Thornycroft and Co., Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Sir John E. Thornycroft, K.B.E., M.Inst.N.A. (managing director), presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the accounts showed a profit of £49,140 due to the conservative view taken in previous years as regarded the distribution of dividend. In coming to the decision to pay no dividend on the ordinary shares, they had given the matter their most careful consideration, and he hoped that shareholders would accept the view that their action was in the best interests of the company. Their reserves and carry-forward amounted to over £310,000, against an ordinary share capital of £300,000.

The past year had been a period of exceptional depression, which continued at the present time, although there were signs of improvement in some directions. The completion and delivery of vessels on hand, a substantial amount of ship repair work, and the sale of motor spare parts had served to help them over what he trusted would prove the worst period, but it was impossible to speak with certainty of the course of trade during the current year. Inquiries received would seem to indicate that the bottom of the slump had been reached, but the prices at which some firms had accepted orders were so low that they could not even cover a portion of their working charges, so that he was afraid the impression would be given of some revival, which was as yet only artificial. While they could not expect in the immediate future orders for destroyers, their knowledge and experience in the construction of special types of craft should put them in a better position than firms whose business had been almost entirely confined to the construction of cargo vessels.

The turnover on ship repair work had been considerable, and promised to continue. Southampton had been rapidly developing in importance as a terminal port for the Atlantic services, and the company had during the year increased their facilities there. They had on hand a number of orders for motor-boat and marine motors. The motor-vehicle business continued to be adversely affected by the disposal of surplus war vehicles and the dumping of vehicles from countries the currency of which was depreciated. They had continued their policy of development abroad. Their balance-sheet indicated a very healthy position, and, in the event of reasonable success in the current year, there was nothing in the way of the benefit accruing to the ordinary shareholders.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

AMALGAMATED COTTON MILLS TRUST, LIMITED. IMPROVED TRADE PROSPECTS.

The fourth annual general meeting of the Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust, Limited, was held, on the 14th inst., at Yard Works, Preston, the Right Hon. Lord Fairfax presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said: The year has been one of acute post-war reactions throughout the world. Conditions generally have been the very antithesis of those under which trade can flourish—one has only to consider for a moment the vagaries of the mark and other European currencies which have depreciated even to a greater degree, to realise how thoroughly the world of commerce and finance is out of

joint. When it is borne in mind that the majority of our productions are specially manufactured for consumption abroad, you will realise how seriously the unsettled state of foreign markets has affected us during the past year.

The only really stable elements in the trading position have been the trading burdens—crushing taxation, chaotic exchanges, coupled with political and social unrest. There is an ever-growing conviction amongst business men that the Government must now make determined efforts to relieve the trade of the country from excessive taxation, which at the present moment is strangling industry. The corporation profits tax is, in my opinion, most inequitable, especially as it does not permit a company to set off the loss of one accounting period against the profits of another. Without wishing to introduce politics into a speech of this nature, let us hope that the new Government will make the reduction of taxation its first duty. None the less signs are not entirely wanting of a more hopeful outlook. There is undoubtedly a break in the settled gloom which has so long prevailed. When we look back over the year that has gone and compare the position now with what it was twelve months ago we realise that the corner has been turned, and that the great jig-saw puzzle is being slowly pieced together out of what seemed to be a hopeless welter of incongruous pieces.

The relations of all our companies with their operatives have been thoroughly satisfactory, and certain necessary reductions in wages have been agreed to in good spirit. The directors intend, when trade improves, to increase the assistance they have extended in the past to various welfare schemes which have been inaugurated for the benefit of the operatives.

With regard to the results of the subsidiary companies for the period under review, I am glad to say that the aggregate result, which is arrived at after deducting the losses made by certain of the companies from the profits made by others, may under the adverse trading conditions referred to previously be considered very satisfactory, and I am able to assure you that the preference dividends of the parent company have more than been earned. As you are aware, each of our subsidiary companies is a separate legal entity, and separate balance-sheets are prepared in each case. The balance-sheets of the subsidiary companies are made up to September 30th, one month earlier than those of the parent company. These balance-sheets are collated and summarised so that your directors can follow the progress of each company separately, and the position of the amalgamation as a whole. The directors, with a view to enabling the shareholders to form an opinion of the value of their investments in this company, have had a consolidated balance-sheet prepared, and I am glad to be able to state that, after allowing for the combined liquid assets of the companies, less all liabilities, and after, of course, cancelling all inter-company loans, our share capital represents a price per spindle less than the value at which mills have changed hands recently, which price is again very considerably less than present-day replacement value.

Col. Seddon Brown (managing director), in seconding, said: During the year under review trade has again been abnormally bad. Short time has been almost universal in the Lancashire mills, and a considerable amount of machinery has been stopped. Some of our mills have run at practically full capacity, but others which cater for markets that have been more disturbed have run very broken time, and the figure of 75 per cent. is the approximate average of all the plants in the amalgamation. However, having regard to the times we are going through I consider that the results achieved by the amalgamation are not unsatisfactory in the aggregate.

With regard to the various plants in the amalgamation, I am

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

pleased to be able to inform you that every one of them have been kept up to concert pitch. We have not allowed the depression of trade to influence us when expenditure was necessary for keeping the plant, machinery, and buildings in the highest state of efficiency.

Referring to trade prospects, I believe we are through the worst. I think that I am on common ground with most other people who have to give opinions on this subject when I say that the depression has been longer than any of us anticipated, and the recovery will be slower. However, during the past few months there have been signs all round us of some recovery in trade in general, but when this will expand to such an extent as to enable us to run all the looms and spindles in Lancashire at full capacity, I dare not prophesy. I am really glad to inform you that in spite of everything, I personally have unbounded confidence in the future of the Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust, Limited. I shall never rest satisfied until I can address a meeting of shareholders which has once again upon the agenda the sanctioning of a dividend on the ordinary shares of the company, but I submit in times such as we have gone through it is no small achievement to have earned more than the preference dividends on our capital.

The report and balance-sheet was unanimously adopted.

BISCHI TIN COMPANY (NIGERIA), LIMITED. DIFFICULT YEAR FOR THE INDUSTRY.

The eleventh annual general meeting was held on the 11th instant at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr James Gardiner (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman said that the tin-mining industry had passed through a year of adversity even more severe than the previous one. The price of the metal continued to fall, and the average price realised by the concentrates produced during the year was only £111, as against £153 in the previous year, a difference of no less than £42 per ton, or over £17,000 on the year's production. A still further depreciation, which took place at the commencement of the present year, forced the directors to seriously consider the advisability of a suspension of operations (a step decided on by several Nigerian companies) until the return of better times. The question of the deterioration in all buildings, surface works, and stores which followed a stoppage of work in a climate such as that of Nigeria, to say nothing of the dispersal of the labour force, was so serious a one that he felt sure they would not only approve of the decision to continue work on the restricted lines as defined last year, but agree that the small loss, really only a paper one, was far from unsatisfactory when everything was taken into consideration.

Although it was true they were working low-grade ground to-day, he wished particularly to emphasise the fact that they were heading for the richest portions of the deposit on this, the original Bischi property, and that largely increased returns might be expected as work progressed. The directors were not unmindful of the rich ground which they had, and would not hesitate to take advantage of this when the price of tin justified such action. Their property was one of the most economically managed in Nigeria, and, seeing that costs had been so reduced as to permit of such low-grade ground being worked at a profit under the very adverse conditions ruling last year, he did not think they need fear results when they were treating their richer ground, with the improved price of the metal which might be reasonably anticipated. Both actually and potentially they held a very valuable property. During the past few weeks there had been an appreciable rise in the price of the metal, the figure at the close on Friday being £180, as against £157, the average price which their concentrates realised last year, and, with the political situation clearer and the European outlook, he trusted, brighter than it had been, it was only reasonable to expect that the improvement would shortly be reflected in the economic position generally, and that when he next had the pleasure of addressing them the price of tin would be such as to be entirely satisfactory to all concerned.

The report was unanimously adopted.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED. RESULTS OF THE STRIKE—IMPROVED PROSPECTS.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Mr L. B. Burns presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the outstanding feature of the financial year under review had been the strike of white employees, involving the whole mining industry on the Rand. In the case of their own mine, the strike cost them some £30,000, and resulted in a loss on operations for the first quarter of 1922 of £19,514. It in a loss on operations for the first quarter of 1922 of £19,514. It explained entirely the reductions in tonnage crushed and gold produced, and in a large measure the decrease in the net profit

earned from £90,393 to £54,183, which necessitated a reduction in the dividends paid from 15 per cent. for the year 1920-21 to 10 per cent. for 1921-22. Since the end of June they had the following increased profits to record:—July, £9,069; August, £9,220; September, £10,117; October, £10,422; and November, £11,005.

This satisfactory improvement was accounted for by the fact that costs had now dropped to below 20s per ton, as compared with over 25s ruling at this time last year. If it had not been for a decrease within the same period of about 11s per ounce in the price at which the company's gold was realised, and the gradually rising exchange, which now represented 2s 6d per ounce on the production of the mines, the effect of the lower working costs would naturally have been still more marked.

Cable advice had just been received from Johannesburg stating that the South reef section of No. 4 mine had been completely unwatered, and that 100,000 tons of payable ore not included in the ore reserves would therefore be rendered available for stoping. While it was impossible to give precise figures, they had every reason to assume a considerably longer life for the mine than they would have been justified in assuming two years, or even a year, ago. The improvement in the profits earned by the company during the current half-year justified an increased distribution to the shareholders. The directors had therefore great pleasure in announcing the declaration of an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., free of income-tax, as compared with 5 per cent. distributed in respect of the half-year ended June 30th last.

Mr L. Albu seconded the motion, and after referring to the lessons taught by the strike, remarked that there seemed every probability that there would be industrial peace on the Rand for some years to come, and he could see in front of the mining industry a period of prosperity.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT. (000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.	Balance at Bank of England.
1914.	£ 21,535	..	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	..	48½	9,924	11,423	9,286
Aug. 26.....	38,478	..	169	600	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dec. 30.....	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	27½	54,621	20,536	..
1915.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	19½	118,102	6,868	..
Dec. 29.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	13¼	186,637	5,486	..
1916.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	8½	305,133	4,566	..
Dec. 27.....	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	4,000	9½	337,537	2,802	..
1917.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13½	336,504	134	..
Dec. 29.....	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.	..	28,500	19,450	13½	311,334	141	..
1921.	323,584	14,965	3,000	..	28,500	19,450	14½	287,750	150	..
Mar. 30.....	314,382	14,830	3,000	..	28,500	19,450	15½	278,119	143	..
June 29.....	325,584	14,658	3,000	..	28,500	19,450	14½	289,131	161	..
Sept. 28.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	..	28,500	19,450	15½	261,479	177	..
Dec. 29.....	285,374	13,338	6,000	..	28,500	19,450	16½	254,312	250	..
1922.	289,127	12,648	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16½	246,456	169	..
June 28.....	287,911	12,295	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16½	244,857	199	..
Sept. 27.....	290,578	12,502	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16½	247,759	171	..
Nov. 29.....	292,468	12,430	7,000	..	27,000	21,150	16½	249,602	146	..
Dec. 6.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Dec. 9, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Dec. 10, 1921.	Week Ended Dec. 9, 1922.	Week Ended Dec. 10, 1921.
Bank of England....	..	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.	..	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
Customs.....	112,250,000	88,684,000	91,395,000	2,922,000	3,254,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	108,810,000	134,355,000	1,746,000	2,245,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	3,495,000	3,495,000	3,495,000	..	139,000
Estate, &c., Duties.....	48,000,000	41,011,000	34,054,000	780,000	866,000
Stamps.....	18,250,000	12,722,000	10,189,000	490,000	250,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	630,000	460,000	10,000	10,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax.)	329,000,000	178,225,000	167,750,000	1,847,000	2,285,000
Excise Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	954,000	29,714,000	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	12,247,000	9,270,000	400,000	380,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	36,600,000	35,850,000	1,000,000	1,500,000
Crown Lands.....	750,000	630,000	520,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	7,887,226	7,631,172	1,254,145	..
Miscellaneous.....	..	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts...	22,000,000	18,260,818	16,154,280	111,023	146,319
Special Receipts...	90,000,000	34,602,689	73,897,956	1,005,000	4,534,843
Revenue.....	910,775,000	545,756,733	613,922,388	11,565,168	15,610,162
Total, Inc. Balance ..	..	556,930,263	616,996,894	..	..

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Dec. 9, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Dec. 10, 1921.	Week Ended Dec. 9, 1922.	Week Ended Dec. 10, 1921.
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion	800,000	6,430,000	..	250,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,910,000	520,000	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	27,000	35,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	1,553,300	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	2,510,000	5,355,600	..	..
(c) For other issues: By Treasury Bills for Supply	2,041,579,000	2,830,710,000	59,872,000	65,888,000
By National Savings Certificates	45,868,000	28,330,000	850,000	1,000,000
By Exchequer and National War Bonds	20	5	..	..
By Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..
5-15 year, 1925-35	61,655,154	152,529,449	..	15,500,000
5%, 1927	70,907,535	..	4,962,625	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	25,259	10,858,639	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	594,664,000	918,157,000	10,250,000	6,850,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..
Repayments	130,000	130,000	..	..
In respect of Cunard Loan	..	7,250,000	..	..
Do Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	..	..	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	270,252	43,938	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	7,094,387	..	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	321,533	..	..
Total	3,391,542,998	4,588,520,637	87,499,793	105,098,162

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Dec. 9, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Dec. 10, 1921.	Week Ended Dec. 9, 1922.	Week Ended Dec. 10, 1921.
EXPENDITURE				
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,000,000	9,751,474	160,582	160,582
Interest, &c., on War Debt	519,000,000	246,972,755	9,850,533	6,357,561
Road Fund	10,000,000	2,943,999	2,842,000	..
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c.	9,788,000	5,802,990	6,514,651	9,339
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	2,500,000	1,229,152	..	46,061
Land Settlement	3,500,000	788,512	2,216,746	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,721,802	1,221,015	39,993
Supply Services	529,999,000	271,237,499	419,548,931	5,713,851
Expenditure	893,437,000	540,448,183	700,502,938	12,061,972
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	6,400,000	..	350,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	3,940,000	6,735,000	180,000	500,000
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922	4,060,000	4,761,474	..	700,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	27,000	50,000	..	15,000
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	950,000	..	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300	1,553,300	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	2,110,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	2,189,549,000	2,858,751,000	61,650,000	74,540,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919	6,921,203	25,075,138	14,310	662,322
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds	7,026,211	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920	18,350,000	13,500,000	500,000	500,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	..	9,700,000	..	..
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off—				
5%, 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000	19,612,208	18,854,490	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	44,384,182	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	14,220,672	49,238,341	..	100
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	528,437,000	858,838,000	8,960,000	14,730,000

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues	
	Apr. 1, 1922, to Dec. 9, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Dec. 10, 1921.	Week Ended Dec. 9, 1922.	Week Ended Dec. 10, 1921.
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917	1,198,075	21,280,179	..	960,023
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919	243,012	..	..	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—				
Cunard Loan Repayments	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)	5,000,000	11,515,000	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	59,656	112,450	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—				
Dec. 9, '22.	3,388,389,520	4,585,641,328	87,349,269	105,149,417
Dec. 10, '21.	1,955,467	2,009,564	84,476	936
Bank of England	1,198,011	869,745	235,000	41,339
Bank of Ireland	3,153,478	2,879,309	150,524	51,255
Total	3,388,389,520	4,585,641,328	87,349,269	105,149,417

Note—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922.

Treasury, December 11, 1922.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £50,000,000 in three months' Treasury Bills dated from Monday to Saturday, December 18-December 23, were opened on December 15, 1922, and the total amount applied for was £67,355,000. Tenders for Monday bills at £99 7s 6d and above in full, and Tuesday to Saturday bills at £99 7s 4d, about 84 per cent., and above in full. The average rate of discount for Treasury bills was £2 11s 0.62d. The amounts allotted were as follows:— In bonds, nil; in bills at 3 months, £45,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932, Average Price.
Sept. 29, 1922.	£ 55,000,000	£ 66,350,000	2 10 0-90	None allotted
Oct. 6	55,000,000	78,775,000	2 8 3-57	None allotted
Oct. 13	45,000,000	72,560,000	2 5 5-03	99 1 4-15
Oct. 20	40,000,000	61,905,000	2 5 11-06	99 3 1-75
Oct. 27	40,000,000	56,905,000	2 5 2-94	99 4 1-63
Nov. 3	45,000,000	57,330,000	2 9 1-02	99 4 8-7
Nov. 10	45,000,000	55,585,000	2 11 3-41	99 2 4-8
Nov. 17	40,000,000	62,245,000	2 8 6-65	99 4 4-6
Nov. 24	50,000,000	52,240,000	2 9 2-79	99 3 0-46
Dec. 1	55,000,000	69,325,000	2 7 1-77	99 5 0-6
Dec. 8	55,000,000	70,595,000	2 11 1-09	None allotted
Dec. 15	50,000,000	67,355,000	2 11 0-62	None allotted

(a) Including Treasury Bonds.

Tenders will be received on Friday, December 22, 1922, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £50,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, December 13, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.			
Notes issued	£ 144,070,695	Government debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other securities	7,434,900
		Gold coin and bullion	125,620,695
	144,070,695		144,070,695
BANKING DEPARTMENT.			
Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government securities	£ 53,927,091
Rest	3,331,143	Other securities	66,123,250
Public deposits*	10,112,664	Notes	20,909,385
Other deposits	114,772,579	Gold and silver coin	1,825,752
Seven-day & other bills	16,092		
	142,785,478		142,785,478

* Including Exchequer Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON with PREVIOUS WEEK and a YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Dec. 13, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,331,143	—	£ 8,483
Public deposits	10,112,664	+ 1,029,538	3,745,515
Other deposits	114,772,579	+ 11,781,045	26,096,851
Government securities	53,927,091	+ 12,965,000	15,872,539
Other securities	66,123,250	+ 292,403	582,316
Note circulation	22,735,137	+ 97,776	1,573,140
Coin and bullion	123,161,310	+ 97,455	990,824
% of reserve to liabilities	184%	+ 18%	34%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.
Sept. 20, 1922.	£ 127,426,811	£ 121,490,640	£ 124,320,645	£ 118,141,617	£ 24,386,171	198 1/2
Oct. 4	127,422,231	122,467,180	120,660,580	115,448,940	23,414,456	161
11	127,426,688	123,199,775	133,856,507	122,672,456	23,306,798	161
18	127,435,454	121,689,530	121,596,282	115,448,940	23,306,798	161
25	127,432,534	121,886,450	121,385,106	114,894,104	24,195,524	194
Nov. 1	127,435,322	123,158,840	123,879,002	118,597,245	23,368,406	192
8	127,437,711	122,519,305	122,617,564	116,974,245	23,389,056	192
15	127,441,016	121,901,960	122,414,518	116,705,543	24,488,131	194
22	127,445,261	121,407,130	122,414,518	116,705,543	23,005,390	194
29	127,440,453	121,463,525	121,463,525	116,240,853	23,005,390	194
Dec. 6	127,446,753	123,063,855	127,695,826	132,722,338	22,832,913	181
13	127,446,447	123,161,310	124,885,243	120,050,341	22,735,137	181

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Dec. 11, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Dec. 15, 1920.	Dec. 14, 1921.	Dec. 13, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	£ 28,373,630	£ 28,333,380	£ 131,236,390	£ 124,734,450	£ 123,161,310
Public deposits	11,217,543	19,014,809	19,400,584	13,858,179	10,112,664
Other deposits	39,377,829	41,248,964	126,069,985	104,869,430	114,772,579
Government securities	13,034,576	11,046,570	77,122,702	69,799,630	53,927,091
Other securities	30,985,460	41,461,280	72,206,889	80,682,795	66,123,250
Reserve of notes and coin	24,321,926	25,463,980	14,025,142	22,152,821	22,735,137
Coin and bullion	34,245,556	35,947,360	126,811,532	128,437,271	127,446,447
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	48%	42%	93%	143%	181%
Bank rate of discount	4 1/2 %	5 %	7 %	5 %	3 %
Market rate, 3 months' bills	4 1/2 %	5 %	6 1/2 %	3 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
Price of Consols	74 1/2	74 1/2	43 1/2	49 1/2	55 1/2
Price of silver per oz.	29 1/2 d	26 1/2 d	42 1/2 d	35 1/2 d	30 1/2 d
Average price of wheat	31s 0d	33s 0d	88s 5d	46s 8d	42s 2d
Exchanges—					
Paris	25-22 1/2	25-17 1/2	51-35-50	51-35-50	51-35-50
New York	84-80	84-75	84-15 1/2	84-15 1/2	84-15 1/2
London	121 1/4	121 1/4	11-18-28	11-17-54	11-18-55
Amsterdam	209 1/4	209 1/4	252-260	730-770	35500-38500
Berlin	270,566,000	199,913,000	670,589,000	734,399,000	592,289,000
Clearing house return	..	..	..	..	..

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
January 1—December 6, 1922.	£ 32,356,059,000	£ 2,635,298,000	£ 34,991,357,000
December 13	541,434,000	50,855,000	592,289,000
Total to date 1922.	32,897,493,000	2,686,153,000	35,583,646,000
Do 1921	30,400,591,000	2,881,946,000	33,282,537,000
Increase or decrease in 1922..	+ 2,496,902,000	+ 195,793,000	+ 2,692,695,000
	8 2/3 %	6 7/8 %	6 9/10 %
Total for 1921.	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	3,281,946,000	38,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921..	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8 6/8 %	- 26 2/3 %	- 10 4/5 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. November, 1922.	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.	London County and Parry's Bank, Limited.	National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacons Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ...	7,331	34,053	1,439	2,199	34,648	52,102	28,419	29,117	3,885	4,746	197,939
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	2,019	6,906	424	1,003	7,130	11,214	8,719	6,781	142	1,009	45,347
Items in transit	3,772	19,151	2,692	4,678	14,512	14,020	21,352	14,598	4,480	2,760	102,015
Money at call and short notice	5,805	52,595	1,745	532	69,156	48,062	72,989	44,238	3,066	3,139	301,327
Investments	11,113	71,690	4,652	8,705	92,840	54,376	57,405	56,497	19,219	8,179	384,676
Advances to customers and other accounts Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	36,508	131,198	7,186	5,082	120,619	182,425	105,980	123,919	17,622	19,365	749,904
Bank premises account	5,576	5,015	133	1,809	12,556	23,575	12,477	2,931	227	723	65,022
Investments in affiliated banks	1,506	4,735	346	370	5,086	4,957	4,112	4,301	573	702	26,688
	73,630	333,364	18,617	24,378	364,218	394,290	314,444	284,622	49,214	40,623	1,897,400
LIABILITIES.											
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts	11.40	11.18	8.52	10.51	10.58	14.92	10.00	11.04	8.93	12.85	11.57
Capital paid up	2,349	15,592	800	1,000	14,373	10,860	9,004	9,309	1,500	1,875	66,662
Reserve fund	1,400	8,250	800	500	10,000	10,860	9,004	8,878	1,000	1,100	51,792
Current, deposit, and other accounts	64,305	304,507	16,884	20,912	327,290	348,995	283,946	263,504	43,457	36,925	1,710,725
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	5,576	5,015	133	1,809	12,555	23,575	12,477	2,931	227	723	65,021
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reduction of bank premises account	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	73,630	333,364	18,617	24,378	364,218	394,290	314,444	284,622	49,214	40,623	1,897,400

BANK OF JAPAN.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 21, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Oct. 7, 1922.	Nov. 5, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
Cash and bullion ..	1,142,121	1,147,407	1,145,424	1,144,323	1,141,496	1,263,258	221,320
Discounts	102,787	138,941	74,341	70,331	83,580	105,785	41,740
Advances	213,272	211,854	176,021	176,670	183,871	86,403	70,540
LIABILITIES.							
Notes	1,142,345	1,205,154	1,103,219	1,104,843	1,126,715	1,156,594	562,270
Govt. deposits	792,365	785,945	790,598	773,994	754,827	1,391,154	87,340
Other deposits	38,732	49,972	40,639	42,070	42,070	47,154	11,440

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 22, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 8, 1922.	Nov. 5, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
Total cash	1,333,469	1,332,474	1,319,820	1,296,573	1,316,490	1,221,875	1,221,875
Inland bills	4,521,749	4,489,149	4,365,254	4,366,557	3,164,005	418,400	418,400
Foreign bills	9,529	9,579	9,490	9,588	19,496	81,300	81,300
Treasury	6,111,451	6,105,441	6,110,371	6,110,183	6,665,230	..	..
Other advances	2,253,728	2,488,584	2,086,014	2,116,274	2,732,634	79,175	79,175
Securities	395,067	395,664	476,445	482,557	419,794	205,700	205,700
LIABILITIES.							
Notes in circulation ..	14,228,437	14,231,328	13,874,499	14,105,642	14,250,976	1,556,925	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,636,202	1,701,527	1,874,436	1,686,805	1,597,451	193,975	193,975

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Dec. 11, 1922.	Dec. 4, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Dec. 12, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	605,969	163,092
Silver	8,851	8,663	7,563	8,935	8,276	8,436
Depts. & advances	396,162	405,450	383,033	410,477	442,912	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	976,289	990,726	965,113	978,010	1,021,226	316,632
Deposits	28,989	25,947	25,639	41,063	33,376	5,016

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Position May 31, 1921.
Gold	533,012	531,915	531,294	530,301	545,164	171,175
Silver	108,946	113,391	113,497	113,682	115,005	18,350
Depts. & advances	11,688	11,668	11,846	11,813	17,781	..
Assets & advances	367,304	357,569	356,282	356,941	307,893	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	955,079	987,885	916,123	912,134	931,380	275,925
Deposits	110,651	79,117	125,984	132,023	102,039	33,750

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to November 30, 1922, total issues were Fr. 19,354,013, of which Fr. 11,667,675 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Dec. 9, 1922.	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Dec. 10, 1922.	May 24, 1921.
Gold	273,978	274,037	274,031	274,052	274,856	104,918
Balance abn. and foreign bills	90,213	77,029	70,282	69,412	106,504	112,172
Swedish and fo. Gov. securities	94,420	93,918	90,556	90,606	23,713	32,465
Discounts and loans ..	464,634	401,307	347,735	358,965	531,390	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	521,776	582,404	534,616	541,405	576,366	226,555
Deposits	363,511	206,936	182,265	184,844	314,579	69,663

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Nov. 26, 1922.
Gold	533,053	533,050	533,003	533,001	495,459
Silver	430	536	668	698	425
Government loan	12,535,333	12,571,256	12,578,200	12,576,714	11,230,178
Other advances	4,218,119	4,148,259	4,091,414	4,080,985	3,354,917
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	15,361,486	15,385,993	15,481,588	15,433,861	13,563,332
Deposits	6,597,792	6,545,561	6,398,317	6,425,171	5,636,540

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1921.	Position May 28, 1921.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	338,620	337,816	338,563	337,995	325,733	322,650
Securities	591,185	618,404	643,710	635,235	394,795	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	6,661,322	6,704,738	6,593,501	6,621,467	6,273,485	934,150
Current accounts	509,508	517,989	679,911	670,895	634,053	112,125

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 9, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills ..	465	398	380	340
Silver coin	8	8	8	8
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts	721,244,516	826,483,602	865,381,247	888,094,649
Loans	702,346	764,447	787,196	840,580
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	3,417,786,498	3,133,276,346	3,161,625,773	3,132,670,816
Deposits	207,846,951	342,136,922	364,041,736	265,253,336

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.
Gold coin and bullion, bills ..	15,342	14,916	14,845	14,145
Silver coin, &c.	596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	48,897,969	49,245,537	50,113,580	50,510,153
Loans	1,893,808	1,860,987	1,814,075	1,937,414
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	72,007,176	72,016,112	70,371,291	70,210,720
Deposits	5,934,573	6,407,920	8,073,867	7,337,263

BANK OF NORWAY.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,291	147,291	147,292	147,293	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	39,683	36,303	35,418	37,536	28,533
Norwegian & foreign Gov. ment securities	9,415	9,415	9,415	8,792	8,816
Discounts and loans	435,308	446,269	446,599	444,359	76,511
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	358,024	371,650	360,288	392,508	113,484
Deposits at notice	134,022	141,437	153,878	126,672	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.

(000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1921.
Coin and bullion ..	228,290	228,301	228,299	228,304	228,335	76,644
Loans & discounts ..	462,035	500,693	516,854	421,515	319,791	88,470
Depts. abroad	10,893	9,113	13,745	18,018	13,226	24,102
Securities	15,562	16,066	15,910	16,499	40,411	11,988
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	459,310	478,131	466,555	423,751	465,041	157,266
Deposits	169,211	181,484	211,064	147,015	136,998	6,696

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

(000's omitted.)

	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Nov. 3, 1922.	Oct. 27, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1921.
ASSETS.						
Govt. securities	8,36,64	8,23,57	8,07,08	8,09,36	8,41,07	11,09,50
Other securities	1,26,09	1,26,09	1,26,09	1,28,31	1,28,31	1,33,45
Loans	16,60,51	16,76,32	17,36,26	17,25,91	16,92,14	26,96,75
Cash credits	25,99,18	25,68,78	26,02,05	26,21,19	26,51,09	22,14,22
Inland bills	5,00,05	4,39,27	4,30,99	4,22,13	4,55,42	6,29,65
Foreign bills	16,71	12,85	12,59	9,72	5,61	5,59
Dead stock	2,48,26	2,47,75	2,47,42	2,47,33	2,46,61	2,17,23
Sundries	52,92	52,61	52,11	44,47	40,55	44,91
Balance with other banks ..	5,09	6,17	8,74	7,66	6,39	10,54
Cash	27,95,32	30,87,36	32,71,26	33,46,00	31,75,37	23,99,74
LIABILITIES.						
Subscribed capital	11,24,84	11,24,84	11,24,76	11,24,76	11,24,56	11,23,84
Capital paid up	5,62,46	5,62,46	5,62,46	5,62,46	5,62,39	5,62,21
Reserve	4,11,89	4,11,89	4,11,89	4,11,89	4,11,85	3,91,79
Public deposits	9,06,74	8,22,54	10,77,99	12,19,58	11,66,07	5,34,64
Other deposits	67,21,58	70,05,57	69,82,94	69,17,14	69,30,67	77,35,79
Loans against securities	1,16,92	1,21,84	1,46,90	1,46,90	1,46,90	1,09,46
Sundries	1,20,78	1,16,67	1,12,43	1,04,13	93,63	
The above includes—						
Deposits in London	187	202	204	178	181	31
Advances in London	959	979	1,129	1,129	806	549
Cash, &c., at other banks ..						
Cash, &c., at London		36	50		37	64

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Present Rate.	Date	Previous Rate.	Date
Discount	July 13, 1922	4 1/2	June 15, 1922.
Deposit	June 15, 1922	2	Feb. 16, 1922.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Amsterdam	July 18, 1922
Athens	May 15, 1920
Berlin	Nov. 13, 1922
Brussels	June 8, 1922
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920
Calcutta	Dec. 14, 1922
Christiana	Aug. 17, 1922
Copenhagen	Apr. 25, 1922
Helsingfors	Oct. 16, 1922
Lisbon	Sept. 3, 1920
New York Federal Reserve ..	June 21, 1922
Madrid	May 11, 1922
Paris	Mar. 11, 1922
Rome	Apr. 27, 1922
Stockholm	July 1, 1922
Sofia	June 14, 1919
Swiss Bank	July 1, 1922
Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919
Vienna	Sept. 2, 1922
Warsaw	Sept. 1, 1922

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Dec. 16, 1921.	Dec. 8, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	52-97-53 02	64-37-42 1/2
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	818-823	35500-35500
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	11000	31000-31000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	335-345	143-145
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	20-43	12500	75000-80000
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-24	nom	720-740
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	2700-3000	10000-11000
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	705-735	800-850
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	575-625	610-660
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	335-345	375-400
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12-10 1/2	11-45-48	11-44-45 1/2
Brussels	franc to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	55-30-40	69-50-70-00
Christiana	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-15 1/2	27-00-05	24-00-05
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-15 1/2	16-97-17-01	16-93-96
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-15 1/2	22-15-58	22-15-20
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	217-220	181-184
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	100-101mm.	370-390
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	91-92	91-91 1/2
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	21-45-50	24-20-25
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-24 1/2	28-42-47	29-45-46
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	53-4	4 1/2	2 1/2
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-65 1/2	4-65 1/2	4-65 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-65 1/2	4-65 1/2	4-65 1/2
Buenos Ayres	pence to peso	T.T.	47-62 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pence to milr.	90 days	16	7 1/2	6 1/2
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	40-40 1/2	43 1/2
Valparaiso	pence to £1	90 days	13-33	40-60	36-90
Edna	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	117 1/2 prem	9% prem.
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	1s 3d-4d	1s 3d-4d	1s 3d-4d
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	1s 3d-4d	1s 3d-4d	1s 3d-4d
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	1s 3d-4d	1s 3d-4d	1s 3d-4d
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 7d-2s 7 1/2d	2s 4d-4 1/2d	2s 3d-3 1/2d
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	3s 6d-3 1/2d	3s 1d-1 1/2d	3s 1d-1 1/2d
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 3 1/2d-3 1/2d	2s 4 1/2d-4 1/2d	2s 4 1/2d-4 1/2d
Tokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	24-58 1/2	2s 3 1/2d	2s 3 1/2d
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T.	24-06 1/2	2s 3 1/2d	2s 3 1/2d
Mexico	pence to doia.	T.T.	26 1/2d-29 1/2d	25d-28d	25d-28d

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Nov. 15, 1921.	Nov. 16, 1921.	Nov. 23, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 7, 1921.	Dec. 14, 1921.
Call money	5	5	5	5	5	5
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bank acceptance	5	5	5	5	5	5
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5	5	5	5	5	5

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level	Dec. 15, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1922.
London—					
90 days	4-86 1/2	4-13	4-49	4-54 1/2	4-62 1/2
Cable		4-17 1/2	4-51 1/2	4-57	4-65 1/2
Oblique		4-17 1/2	4-51 1/2	4-57	4-65 1/2
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-92-30	6-85	7-075
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	7-61-50	6-35	6-65
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	19-40	18-64	18-98
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	19-30	4-53	4-745	4-995
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	23-83	0-52	0-0125	0-0125
Vienna	Cents for 1 krone	20-28	0-04	0-0014	0-0014
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19-30	14-90	15-37	15-73
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40-195	36-40	39-57	39-94
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner	26-80	19-33	20-42	20-64
Christiana	Cents for 1 kroner		15-50	18-55	18-96
Stockholm	Cents for 1 krona		24-63	26-97	27-00
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	19-30	4-25	1-5	1-3
Montreal	Cents for Can. \$1	100	92-95	99-99	99-99
Tokohama	Cents for 1 yen	49-85	47-90	48-55	48-65
Hong Kong	Cents for H. Kong \$		54-60	53-35	53-625
Shanghai	Cents for 1 Shng. tael		75-60	71-00	71-625
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee		27-60	30-10	30-90
Buenos Aires	Gold pesos for \$100	105-65	132-90	119-20	117-00
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis	32-42	12-80	12-60	12-25
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	20-60	11-00	12-25	12-00

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Ecuador	Suores to £1	Sight London	Dec. 9	17-30
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	"	Dec. 12	23-90
Colombia (Bogota)	Dollars to £20	"	Dec. 12	96
Nicaragua	Colonos to £1	"	Dec. 6	4-65
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	"	Nov. 24	9-20
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	"	Dec. 9	27 1/2
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	"	Nov. 18	19-80
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	"	Oct. 28	16 1/2

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level.	Dec. 15, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	1-54	0-0315	0-0305
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123-45	2-90	0-064	0-0645
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	2-87 1/2	0-061	0-060
Stockholm	"	"	2-87 1/2	0-061	0-060
Christiana	"	"	3-67 1/2	0-067	0-0658

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 17, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	1,530	1,530	1,535	1,540
New York	"	342	342-25	343	342-75
Berlin	100 Rmk	4-60	5-50	4-90	5-75
Helsingfors	100 Fmk	855	847	868	872
Stockholm	100 Kr	9,200	9,175	9,170	9,180
Copenhagen	100 Kr	6,920	6,915	6,920	6,950
Paris	100 Fr	2,300	2,380	2,410	2,425
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	13,425	13,450	13,450	13,500
Prague	100 Lrbh	133	133	134-5	134-5
Riga	"	1,100	1,100	1,090	1,100
Rome	"	1,675	1,670	1,590	1,615

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Lats for	Nov. 1, 1922.	Nov. 8, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1922.
London	£1	23.16	23.16	23.29	23.42
New York	"	5.18	5.20	5.20	5.21
Paris	100 frs.	36.56	33.36	34.90	37.50
Brussels	100 frs.	33.50	30.64	32.47	35.24
Switzerland	100 frs.	94.00	95.35	95.57	97.64
Italy	100 lire.	21.50	21.42	24.78	24.22
Stockholm	100 kr.	139.50	139.48	139.88	139.90
Christiana	100 kr.	94.50	96.40	95.75	95.11
Copenhagen	100 kr.	105.00	104.86	105.36	105.66
Prague	100 kr.	16.30	16.81	16.64	16.38
Amsterdam	100 fl.	203.00	202.77	204.30	205.04
Berlin	10,000 rmk.	11.50	5.30	7.76	8.92
Helsingfors	100 fmk.	12.94	13.54	13.01	13.16
Reval	100 emk.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52
Warsaw	10,000 pmk	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00

Note.—The unit of Latvian money is the Lat, equal to one gold franc.

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From Dec. 9, 1922.	From Dec. 9, 1922.
London on South Africa.	Buying.	Selling.
South Africa on London.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.		
Demand	11 1/2% prem.	3% prem.
30 days	11 1/2% prem.	3% prem.
60 days	11 1/2% prem.	3% prem.
90 days	11 1/2% prem.	3% prem.
120 days	11 1/2% prem.	3% prem.

* No premium allowed on amounts under £100.

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £50.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
Aus. tralis.	New Zealand.	Aus. tralis.
Aus. tralis.	New Zealand.	Aus. tralis.
T.T.		
Cable	100	100
On demand	98	98
30 days	97 1/2	97 1/2
60 days	97	97
90 days	96 1/2	96 1/2
120 days	96	96

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

	March 31, 1922.	Dec. 9, 1922.
Outstanding with public	Rs. 53,96,70,000	Rs. 28,57,40,000
In paper currency reserve	Rs. 57,89,00,000	Rs. 49,65,00,000
Total	Rs. 111,85,70,000	Rs. 78,22,40,000

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended December 13, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £321 compared with the previous return.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on November 30, 1922:—

	£
Cash at the Bank of England	3,519
British Government securities—	
Value as on September 30, 1922	13,595,637
British Government Securities since purchased (cost price)	26,491,708
Total	40,090,864

India Office, December 11, 1922.

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on December 13th as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue was £125,619,160 on the 6th inst., as compared with £125,617,935 on the previous Wednesday. To-day's price for exportable gold—88s 5d—is a further low record since a quotation per fine ounce has been fixed for such gold. The bulk of the available supplies have been taken for the United States of America. Gold valued at \$6,472,000 has arrived in New York, \$5,622,000 from London, and \$850,000 from France. The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of November, 1922:—Imports, £4,185,199; exports, £2,336,713. The value of the net imports of precious metals into India (expressed in lacs of rupees) for ten months of 1922 was as follows:—Gold, 25.65; silver, 13.26.

SILVER.

The price of cash silver, sustained by purchases for the Indian bazaars for shipment by this week's settlement steamer, and assisted by a measure of bear covering, remained fairly steady. When, however, the Indian prompt demand was practically completed, and forward selling still came from that quarter, the weak tendency of the market reasserted itself, and a sharp fall ensued on the 12th inst. of 3/4d for cash and 7/8d for two months' delivery. The strong appreciation of sterling in terms of the U.S. dollar conduced to this result by making American sales more enticing. Absence of buyers to-day carried the price to 30 1/2d for cash and 30 1/4d for two months, the lowest quotations since March 5, 1921. Referring to our paragraph last week about Dutch coinage, we have been informed that the alloy of the florin, 1/2 florin, and the 2 1/2 florins (under the regulations of the bill of November 27, 1919) has been reduced to 720/1,000, of both for circulation in the Netherlands and in the Dutch East Indies. Of the above coins, all the 1/2 guilder pieces and more than 2,000,000 florins have been sent to the Dutch East Indies, and 3,000,000 guilders have been deposited with the Netherlands Bank for circulation in Holland itself. Shipments of silver from New York during November were quite large. The amount has been cabled as 5,190,000 ounces.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.
Notes in circulation	17,761	17,730	17,647
Silver coin and bullion in India	9,002	8,972	8,889
Silver coin and bullion out of India	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion in India	5,742	5,742	5,742
Securities (Indian Government)	585	584	584
Securities (British Government)	585	584	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 7th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 9th inst. consisted of about 34,000,000 ounces in sycee, 36,000,

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Dec. 10, 1922.				Aggregate 49 Weeks 1922.			
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	
Great Central (c) ...	6763	39,500	146,200	185,700	2,405,400	5,464,800	8,870,200	
Do Joint Lines ...	1613	...	...	37,300	...	...	1,757,300	
Great Eastern (c) ...	1,2073	100,100	95,800	195,900	5,714,600	5,522,800	10,237,400	
Great Northern (c) ...	1,050	79,700	161,100	240,800	4,629,200	5,794,200	10,423,400	
Great Western (c) ...	3,657	196,000	350,000	546,000	14,000,300	17,700,000	31,700,300	
London & N. Western (d) ...	2,656	278,000	476,300	754,000	17,730,300	20,815,000	38,545,300	
London & South Western (c) ...	968	105,300	49,700	155,000	6,360,600	7,716,000	14,076,600	
London, Brighton & S.C. (c) ...	487	74,790	24,996	99,786	4,598,287	1,328,298	5,926,585	
Maritime & Carlisle (c) ...	422	983	2,018	3,011	58,306	92,857	151,163	
Metropolitan (c) ...	794	33,683	3,270	36,953	1,657,789	178,018	1,835,807	
Midland (c) ...	1,5854	132,000	313,000	445,000	8,655,000	15,475,000	24,128,000	
Midland & S.W. Jno. (c) ...	63	829	1,287	2,116	48,027	91,120	139,147	
North Eastern (c) ...	1,850	97,700	246,700	344,400	6,443,800	12,017,000	18,460,800	
North London (c) ...	16	4,478	9,720	14,198	233,323	474,591	707,914	
South-East & Chatham (c) ...	654	102,500	39,500	142,000	6,598,200	2,128,800	8,727,000	
Underground E.R. (c) ...	...	...	...	230,088	...	...	11,157,248	
London & Sub. Group (c) ...	...	...	...	6,189	...	...	2,317,431	
Caledonian (c) ...	1,097	57,000	95,600	152,600	5,516,200	4,845,700	10,361,900	
Glasgow and S.W. (c) ...	476	22,300	30,700	53,000	1,514,200	1,786,900	3,301,100	
Gt. N. of Scotland (c) ...	3343	7,460	8,510	15,970	455,700	438,890	894,590	
Highland (c) ...	492 (a)	8,358	9,097	17,455	581,092	507,474	1,088,566	
North British (c) ...	1,3773	56,900	120,100	177,000	3,218,900	5,728,400	8,947,300	
Scottish & County Down (b) ...	80	4,570	1,446	6,016	261,649	64,602	326,251	
Dublin and S. East. (b) ...	160	4,476	3,840	8,316	298,372	173,632	472,004	
Midland Gt. West. (b) ...	538	9,838	15,599	25,437	481,440	775,007	1,256,447	

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended December 8, 1922.
(c) Week ended December 9, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	32 weeks	Nov. 11	1,043	2,92,812	+ 69,306	77,10,356	+ 26,53,788
Barelly Ry.	32 weeks	Nov. 11	118	25,100	+ 10,400	10,97,800	+ 3,32,200
Bombay & N. Western	6 weeks	Nov. 11	67	6,64,170	+ 1,30,410	31,93,090	+ 1,61,508
Bombay Nagpur ..	32 weeks	Nov. 11	2,703	14,46,000	+ 219,000	4,44,77,865	+ 61,00,986
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	16 weeks	Dec. 9	2,994	21,85,000	+ 79,000	2,01,15,000	+ 17,35,000
Burma	32 weeks	Nov. 11	1,342	7,11,330	+ 1,65,347	2,12,89,987	+ 30,50,502
Delhi, Umballa & Kalke	9 weeks	Dec. 2	239	98,000	+ 15,719	9,94,000	+ 85,500
East Indian	10 weeks	Dec. 2	272	30,23,000	+ 54,000	3,04,18,000	+ 761,000
G. Indian Peninsula	32 weeks	Nov. 11	3,121	32,13,400	+ 1,87,600	3,29,93,935	+ 41,57,834
Madras & S. Mahr.	32 weeks	Nov. 11	3,028	12,75,000	+ 1,63,491	4,48,81,250	+ 46,85,227
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	6 weeks	Nov. 11	259	50,014	+ 7,410	3,12,706	+ 27,731
Do Lucknow-Breilly	6 weeks	Nov. 11	302	50,648	+ 6,319	3,20,252	+ 9,207
South Indian	32 weeks	Nov. 11	1,852	8,39,032	+ 25,292	3,01,20,315	+ 30,19,234
Do Lucknow-Breilly	5 mths	Aug. 31	717	7,64,549	+ 23,119	41,53,474	+ 81,058
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	23 weeks	Dec. 9	752	10,100	+ 800	232,300	+ 39,000
Argentine Trans. ...	23 weeks	Dec. 9	111	4,310	+ 1,860	61,550	+ 19,915
B. A. and Pacific ..	23 weeks	Dec. 9	3,428	165,000	+ 35,000	3,130,000	+ 356,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	23 weeks	Dec. 9	3,947	194,000	+ 42,000	3,604,000	+ 228,000
B. Western	23 weeks	Dec. 9	1,882	104,000	+ 29,000	1,889,000	+ 1,20,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	44,000	+ 32,000	583,000	+ 381,000
Central Argentine ..	23 weeks	Dec. 9	3,305	192,000	+ 22,000	4,388,000	+ 408,000
Cordoba Central ..	23 weeks	Dec. 9	1,205	57,000	+ 7,300	1,369,000	+ 134,300
Entre Rios	23 weeks	Dec. 9	811	18,400	+ 500	396,900	+ 40,400
Brazilian (b).							
Brazil Gt. Southern	10 mths	Oct. 31	1,005	77,250	+ 25,500	...	+ 19,400
Gt. West. of Brazil.	49 weeks	Dec. 9	1,005	15,600	+ 1,300	624,800	+ 51,000
Leopoldina	49 weeks	Dec. 9	1,831	28,800	+ 596	1,458,065	+ 170,043
San Paulo	49 weeks	Dec. 9	1,534	30,469	+ 898	1,401,795	+ 158,803
State of Bahia, S.W.	7 mths	Nov. 30	52	15,000	+ 98,000	774,000	+ 350,600
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	49 weeks	Dec. 9	838	35,160	+ 20,905	1,188,085	+ 192,510
Nitrato (4 months)	4 weeks	Nov. 30	566	27,646	+ 7,460	...	+ 19,097
Peruvian Corp.	5 mths	Nov. 30	1,059	1,321,100	+ 50,530	6,467,260	+ 293,250
Talca	5 mths	Nov. 30	172	19,756	+ 10,147	76,023	+ 27,585
Cuban.							
Havana Central	23 weeks	Dec. 9	1,210	11,058	+ 1,603	223,210	+ 20,308
United of Havana ...	23 weeks	Dec. 9	1,210	48,346	+ 3,084	1,082,774	+ 152,682
Uruguayan.							
Central Uruguay ...	23 weeks	Dec. 9	273	31,272	+ 3,914	561,091	+ 8,918
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	23 weeks	Dec. 9	311	6,452	+ 848	108,634	+ 4,316
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	23 weeks	Dec. 9	185	3,252	+ 89	59,145	+ 1,040
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	23 weeks	Dec. 9	911	3,381	+ 914	54,072	+ 4,910
Midland Uruguay ..	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	14,681	+ 1,521	60,114	+ 4,071
North-West Uruguay	5 mths	Nov. 30	113	9,787	+ 296	33,442	+ 2,319
Uruguay North	5 mths	Nov. 30	73	3,830	+ 722	12,578	+ 3,003
Other Foreign.							
Alcoy and Gandia ..	49 weeks	Dec. 9	33	30,000	+ 10,000	949,450	+ 146,850
Bilbao	11 mths	Nov. 30	15	2,282	+ 467	13,612	+ 4,815
Bolivar	11 mths	Nov. 30	136	7,700	+ 665	97,366	+ 12,356
Costa Rica	4 mths	Oct. 31	189	18,191	+ 1,481	75,063	+ 3,011
Dorado Extension ..	8 mths	Nov. 30	70	15,000	+ 7,000	118,770	+ 9,000
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	8 mths	Nov. 30	31	4,750	+ 1,250	52,000	+ 9,000
Egyptian Delta	29 weeks	Dec. 9	6,594	16,068	+ 429	199,197	+ 32,507
Gt. South. of Spain	48 weeks	Dec. 2	104	36,038	+ 37,378	3,384,431	+ 1,214,116
International of Central America	10 mths	Oct. 31	104	54,716	+ 3,056	71,696	+ 8,909
La Guaira & Caracas	18 mths	Nov. 30	232	9,010	+ 930	247,523	+ 16,269
Mexican Railway ..	21 weeks	Dec. 9	403	216,400	+ 101,100	5,862,700	+ 1,131,300
Do	4 mths	Oct. 31	403	116,800	+ 370,500	4,587,800	+ 1,615,800
Nasajo Oconashamun	9 mths	Sept. 30	193	12,700	+ 1,000	11,330	+ 20,824
Oconashamun Railway	2 weeks	Aug. 31	193	12,700	+ 1,000	...	...
Puerto Cabello, Edo.	23 weeks	Dec. 9	100	2,973	+ 1,061	35,000	+ 2,500
Salvador	1 mth	Oct. 31	...	140,536	+ 16,943	60,112	+ 9,031
San Fe Province ..	10 mths	Nov. 30	...	4,430	+ 77,330	...	...
Samana & Santiago	10 mths	Nov. 30	112	4,430	+ 77,330	...	...
Zafra and Huéla ..	10 mths	Nov. 30	112	4,430	+ 77,330	...	...

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.									
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.			
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -		
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Anglo-Argentine	49 weeks	Dec. 9	329	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Burnley Corporation	1 week	Dec. 9	329	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Calcutta Tramways...	48 weeks	Nov. 30	352	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Chatham & District...	49 weeks	Nov. 30	15	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Egyptian Markets ...	49 weeks	Nov. 30	15	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Glasgow Corporation	49 weeks	Nov. 30	15	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Tramways	27 weeks	Nov. 30	101	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Isle of Thanet	10 weeks	Nov. 30	101	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Lancashire United ...	4 weeks	Nov. 30	39	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Liverpool Corpora...	4 weeks	Nov. 30	39	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
L.C.C. Tramways ...	49 weeks	Nov. 30	124	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	37 weeks	Nov. 30	160	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Pernambuco Trams.	49 weeks	Nov. 30	124	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		
Singapore Electric ...	30 weeks	July 29	...	492,900	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,630		

TRAMWAY & OTHER MONTHLY GROSS & NET RECEIPTS.									
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month.		Total Receipts.			
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -		
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Barcelona Traoc.	10 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 1,136,400	+ 895,434	37,715,000	+ 4,936,213		
Barcelona Traoc.	10 mths	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 1,136,400	+ 895,434	37,715,000	+ 4,936,213		
Brisbane Electric	11 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	Rs. 18,210,000	+ 3,915,000	162,410,000	+ 24,230,000		
Brit. Columbia	4 mths	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 11,900,000	+ 2,739,000	10,863,000	+ 2,243,000		
Electric, &c.	4 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 450,250	+ 2,925	547,270	+ 28,025		
Buenos Ayres La	5 mths	Nov. 30	Net	Rs. 861,812	+ 19,359	3,375,461	+ 103,393		
Croze Trams	5 mths	Nov. 30	...	Rs. 27,233	+ 42,74	948,536	+ 15,582		
Burnham Electric	3 mths	Oct. 31	...	Rs. 613,119	+ 5,061	295,823	+ 7,196		
Trwys. & Light.	3 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 66,423	+ 1,645	...	...		
Cape Elec. Trams.	1 mth	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 232,838	...	...	...		
Canadian - Watern	1 mth	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 48,652	...	...	...		
Natural Gas ...	1 mth	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 56,522	+ 11,538	56,522	+ 11,538		
Cartagena and	11 mths	Nov. 30	12	Rs. 2,184	+ 467	26,175	+ 1,640		
Horneria Trams.	1 mth	Sept. 30	Gross	Rs. 29,300	+ 12,700	...	...		
Catalinas Wateh.	Year	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 11,14,936	+ 141,063	14,558,623	+ 182,095		
Cities Service Co.	7 mths	Nov. 30	Net	Rs. 1,074,587	+ 138,411	14,123,441	+ 232,222		
Cordoba Lights &c.	28 weeks	Nov. 30	Gross	Rs. 266,74	+ 3,549	185,868	+ 29,977		
Eleo. Sup. of Vico.	9 mths	Sept. 30	Gross	Rs. 24,789	+ 107	962,328	+ 119,157		
Light & Power	4 mths	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 1,055,362	+ 84,774	4,874,641	+ 1,081,512		
International	4 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 20,971	+ 47	82,313	+ 1,067		
Light & Power	8 mths	Aug. 31	Net	Rs. 47,188	+ 1,230	25,258	...		
Kalgoorlie Elec.	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	Rs. 43,090	...	19,802	...		
Tramways	10 mths	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 41,273	+ 1,373	1,391,814	+ 69,155		
Keystone Tele.	1 mth	Nov. 30	Gross	Rs. 142,063	+ 4,494	511,378	+ 45,996		
La Guaira Harbr.	11 mths	Nov. 30	Net	Rs. 25,946	+ 282	73,862	+ 44,577		
La Plata Electric	11 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	Rs. 59,216	+ 1,616	605,642	+ 33,336		
Lima Light, Pwr.	10 mths	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 112,443	+ 962	185,274	+ 101,151		
Manila Electric	10 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Rs. 313,943	+ 9,165	1,451,956	+ 3,307		
Railroad, &c.	11 mths	Oct. 31	Net	Rs. 144,640	+ 13,974	269,415	+ 36,341		
Pera Electric	1 mth	Sept. 30	Gross	Rs. 11,585	+ 3,744	104,774	+ 52,500		
Puebla Tram. &c.	6 mths	Aug. 31	Net	Rs. 99,000	...	25,509	+ 277,812		
Rangoon Electric	11 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	Rs. 1,34,450	+ 22,100	25,509	+ 277,812		
Shanghai Electric	11 mths	Nov. 30	Net	Rs. 1,62,516	+ 13,866	191,966	+ 2,793,629		
Union Electric Co.	11 mths	Nov. 30	Max.	Rs. 190,503	+ 5,653	2,009,946	+ 150,000		
Montevideo	1 mth	Sept. 30	Gross	Rs. 153,997	+ 4,571	51,997	+ 45,300		
Victoria Falls	9 mths	Sept. 30	Net	Rs. 43,200	+ 23,700	425,100	...		
Transvaal	Quarter	Sept. 30	Net	Rs. 50,000	...	...	...		

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan. ...	235,653	235,395	393,892,529	+ 75,303,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb. ...	235,653	235,625	400,430,580	+ 4,772,834	76,706,840	+ 54,882,520
Mar. ...	234,802	234,986	473,433,886	+ 16,059,426	113,468,843	+ 54,637,199
Apr. ...	234,338	234,955	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May ...	235,333	234,931	447,229,150	+ 4,069,751	99,911,565	+ 28,064,928
June ...	235,208	235,310	472,383,903	+ 12,376,622	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678
July ...	234,556	235,082	412,736,397	+ 19,960,589	102,238,414	+ 1,964,485
Aug. ...	231,815	235,294	472,244,561	+ 31,911,051	86,565,595	+ 36,787,070
Sept. ...	235,205	235,280	498,702,275	+ 1,733,772	91,381,593	+ 29,046,959

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Algonquin Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	Aug. 31	...	118,737	+ 37,086	388,749	+ 18,760
Canadian Ntn. 49 weeks	Dec. 7	...	...	1,398,300	+ 2,434	57,101,734	+ 7,200,914
Canadian Ntn. 10 mths	Oct. 31	...	...	7,881,100	+ 935,091	48,941,275	+ 7,208,236
Canadian Pac. 49 weeks	Dec. 7	...	...	84,155,000	+ 75,000	173,16,000	+ 7,492,000
Canadian Pac. 10 mths	Oct. 31	...	...	23,062,000	+ 972,000	147,899,000	+ 10,588,000
Grand Trunk. 49 weeks	Dec. 7	...	...	7,800,000	+ 109,000	27,111,000	+ 1,501,000
Temiscouata 1 mth	Oct. 31	...	...	444,230	+ 71,069	20,233,509	+ 267,498

*Net earnings before deducting taxes. †Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	Sept. 30	810	110,723	+ 7,043	48,158	+ 11,412
Mid. of W. Aust.	4 mths	Oct. 31	277	14,650	+ 3,411	117,671	+ 1,338
New Cape Central	5 weeks	Nov. 18	405	2,637	+ 224	...	...
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	Sept. 30	1,397	140,418	+ 9,213	...	...

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.							
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	49 weeks	Dec. 9	329	£92,901	+ 6,978	4,177,481	+ 239,633
Burnley Corporation	1 week	9	12	£3,335	- 26	1,133	- 1,133
Calcutta Tramways	48 weeks	9	354	Rs124,977	+ 28,905	16,691,111	+ 16,691,111
Chatham & District	49 weeks	7	15	£1,417	- 25	88,342	- 1,133
Egyptian Markets	49 weeks	9	..	£2,612	+ 224	88,212	+ 13,266
Glasgow Corporation Tramways	27 weeks	9	101	£43,507	- 2,137	1,170,707	- 81,677
Isle of Tynes	10 weeks	6	..	£524	+ 46	5,956	- 89
Lancashire United	49 weeks	4	39	£252	- 155	148,209	- 20,100
Liverpool Corporation Tramways	49 weeks	9	124	£28,201	- 1,835	1,431,013	+ 5,528
L.C.C. Tramways	37 weeks	13	150	£23,930	+ 111	3,421,885	+ 281,320
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	45 weeks	Nov. 30	..	Rs10,891	- 5,361	1,014,387	+ 142,772
Perambalur Trams	49 weeks	Dec. 10	..	..	..	£2,432	- 8,713
Suzarak	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay-ment of Deben-ture Interest.	Amount Avail-able for Dis-tri-bution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia-tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divid-ent.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.	Rate.				
		£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Banks.											
Commercial Bank of Scotland....	Oct. 31	57,817	349,599	407,416	..	182,285	(A16 B10)	170,000	55,131	341,896	(A15 B10)
London and River Plate	Sept. 30	317,524	107,468	424,992	..	204,000	10	..	220,992	404,184	12
National Bank of Scotland	Nov. 1	66,461	291,063	357,524	..	128,263	16	165,000	64,261	285,458	16
Breweries.											
Officers'	Sept. 30	51,613	10,104	61,717	2,400	6,000	10+	..	53,317	15,462	10+
Showells	Sept. 30	12,443	24,432	36,875	13,800	10,000	12½	5,000	8,075	28,190	15+
Stretton's Derby	Sept. 30	57,802	51,530	109,332	12,600	15,000	15	25,000	56,732	46,911	15+
Thomas Salt and Co.	Aug. 31	88,845	42,743	131,588	11,347	4,504	7	17,000	98,737	60,623	7
Yates's Castle	Sept. 30	43,353	22,482	65,835	15,000	..	..	30,073	20,762	26,454	..
Canals and Docks.											
Hills' Dry Docks & Engineering	June 30	18,008	Dr 807	17,201	..	..	..	..	17,201	22,647	10
Financial, Land, &c.											
Investors' Mortgage Security	Sept. 30	15,548	71,831	87,379	21,750	34,800	12	14,958	15,871	74,771	12
Second Investors' Mortgage	Sept. 30	4,622	18,734	23,356	8,861	8,351	7	1,126	5,018	19,688	7
Western Canada Investment	June 30	5,033	10,388	15,421	5,000	2,500	5	1,000	6,921	..	..
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Hotel Cecil	Aug. 31	25,385	39,780	65,165	25,000	16,000	4	..	24,165	26,295	2½
Iron, Steel, and Coal.											
Arncliffe Coal	Sept. 30	12,618	19,845	32,463	1,086	13,000	4 p.s.†	..	18,377	Dr 3,377	10+
John I. Thornycroft and Co.	July 31	55,748	35,640	91,388	30,630	..	..	..	60,758	60,708	7½
John Spencer and Sons	June 30	7,814	29,563	37,377	6,638	..	..	15,000	15,739	..	..
Richard Thomas and Co.	Sept. 30	219,603	239,644	459,247	240,713	54,854	2½	..	163,680	282,975	2½
Motor and Cycle.											
D. Napier and Son	Sept. 30	7,024	Dr 26,571	Dr 19,547	22,500	..	..	Dr 50,000	7,953	79,099	..
Oil.											
Trinidad Leaseholds	June 30	171,897	54,244	226,141	..	..	..	207,461	18,680	151,484	..
Rubber, &c.											
Asahan	July 31	11,017	646	11,663	..	..	..	1,000	10,663	Dr 9,742	..
Broom's (Selangor)	June 30	Dr 3,419	558	Dr 2,861	..	..	..	..	Dr 2,861	Dr 10,938	..
Killinghall (Rubber)	June 30	15,584	659	16,243	..	2,625	5	..	5,000	Dr 6,547	..
Lenggeng	July 31	3,899	Dr 1,436	2,463	..	..	..	..	2,463	Dr 7,927	..
Pullangode	June 30	Dr 1,253	Dr 1,843	Dr 3,095	..	..	..	..	..	Dr 3,095	Dr 6,641
Sekong	July 31	Dr 5,787	Dr 6,887	Dr 12,674	..	..	..	..	Dr 10,500	Dr 9,845	..
Sembilan	July 31	13,578	Dr 1,424	15,002	1,680	3,808	4	..	9,514	Dr 6,975	..
Sungel Kari	Sept. 30	Dr 2,438	457	1,981	..	..	..	..	1,981	Dr 3,030	..
Sungei Karl	June 30	12,036	Dr 250	11,786	..	..	..	2,500	9,286	Dr 15,111	..
Shipping.											
Argentine Navigation	Dec. 31	Dr 289,118	Dr 389,630	Dr 648,948	..	..	..	..	Dr 648,948	Dr 411,169	..
Shops and Stores.											
Finlay and Co.	Sept. 30	2,494	12,894	15,388	775	9,750	10	3,800	1,063	25,493	12½
Harrods (Buenos Aires)	Aug. 31	30,350	Dr 52,908	Dr 22,558	..	..	..	Dr 22,558	..	102,885	..
R. and J. Dick	Aug. 31	Dr 60,784	Dr 80,989	Dr 141,773	..	..	..	..	Dr 141,773	Dr 213,595	..
South American Stores (Gath and Chaves)	July 21	Dr 9,780	Dr 123,973	Dr 114,293	..	..	..	Dr 123,973	Dr 9,780	41,813	3
Textiles.											
W. and R. Cook	Oct. 31	861	2,361	3,222	..	2,326	5†	..	896	..	..
Trust.											
Army and Navy Investment	Nov. 30	9,269	37,169	46,438	13,189	16,121	11	7,000	10,128	10,350	10½
Northern American	Nov. 1	75,057	73,843	148,900	17,487	40,804	14	11,500	79,109	74,154	14
Other Companies.											
British Glass Industries	Mar. 31	91,136	Dr 58,320	32,816	..	..	..	..	32,816	Dr 23,171	..
Carreras	Oct. 31	33,942	97,060	131,002	20,000	36,000	15†	12,369	62,633	86,210	12½
Carron Grove Paper	Oct. 28	14,952	31,642	46,594	4,800	18,000	4†	1,111	22,683	19,173	2½
Dunlop Rubber	June 30	8,320,007	(t) 588,268	(t) 7,731,739	..	..	..	..	Dr 7,731,739	..	..
General Billposting	Sept. 30	3,982	12,038	16,020	1,661	5,586	10	..	8,773	9,648	6
Idris and Co.	Oct. 31	3,172	12,536	15,708	7,300	5,000	10	..	3,408	6,705	..
R. Hood Haggie and Son	Oct. 31	49,177	43,988	93,165	4,000	24,000	10+	15,000	50,165	20,580	10+
Sir H. W. Trickett	Nov. 30	Dr 4,517	32,085	27,568	8,438	10,404	7½	6,250	2,476	..	..
Waterlow and Sons	Sept. 30	96,376	112,294	208,670	56,700	86,250	12½	..	65,720	240,565	12½

† Free of tax.

(t) 10 months.

† Free of tax.

(t) 10 months.

6½ lbs December-January sold to Germany at about 47s per 480 lbs. Crop prospects in the principal exporting countries are fairly favourable, though it is reported that harvest operations have been hampered by rains in Australia and Argentina. Visible stocks in the United States show a small increase, while the movement of Canadian grain is retarded by cold weather. Floating supplies are on a lighter scale, but weekly shipments are rather larger. Flour remains quiet, and home-milled 6d per sack cheaper on the week. London standard straight run quoted at 41s., patents 43s to 44s, town households 39s per sack delivered in London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents range from 40s to 43s, Minneapolis good patents 42s to 42s 6d, and Australian 41s per 280 lbs ex store. Maize quiet and a shade easier. Yellow La Plata ex ship quoted 34s 9d, ditto landed 36s 3d, American mixed, ex ship, 35s 9d, and ditto landed 37s per 480 lbs. The cargo section ruled dull, and prices largely nominal in absence of demand, though slight concessions would have to be made in order to trade. Trading in English barleys is almost at a standstill, and values weak, except for choice malting descriptions. Quotations range from 27s to 55s per 48 lbs, free on rail, according to sample. Imported kinds also in slow support at easier rates. Californian quoted at 39s to 42s 6d, Australian Chevalier 49s to 52s 6d per 48 lbs, ex ship, to arrive. Plate 30s 9d, Persian 28s 6d, both ex ship; American malting, 48 lbs, 30s 6d; and Danubian 30s 6d, both landed all per 400 lbs. Oats continue in quiet request, and values barely steady. English varieties range from 24s to 31s per 336 lbs, free on rail as to sample. Of imported, Plate f.a.q. 26s 6d, ditto landed 27s 6d; No. 2 Canadian Western 31s, No. 3 ditto 29s 9d;

No. 2 white clipped American, 27s, all landed per 320 lbs. Oatmeal quietly steady at the recent decline. London made, all cuts, £17 15s; rolled oats, £17 5s; whole groats, £17 15s; flaked oats, £20 15s, ex mill. Ordinary Scottish oatmeal £19 to £20, and American all cuts £18 10s ton.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated December 14th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Business in pig-iron is quiet, and will continue so until January. Makers are not inclined to cut prices, expecting a better demand later. Hematite is easy, and prices are rather lower by reason of foreign competition. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is now 91s per ton, and E.C. hematite mixed numbers 93s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Steel works look upon the future with much more confidence, and business certainly promises to improve with the New Year. Enquiry is better all round. Steel ship plates, £9 to £9 10s; steel ship angles, £8 15s to £9; iron bars, £10 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron Ore: Business has been done over the first quarter of next year, and best Bilbao Rubio is a shade firmer at 22s per ton c.i.f.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The placing of the contracts for two capital ships for the British Navy will soon improve the position and outlook for local industry. Sheffield will produce

two-thirds of the armour, a goodly share of the guns and shells, while a considerable number of firms will be called upon to supply tools, castings, forgings, and a variety of other steel material. The work should early in the new year absorb a couple of thousand of the unemployed workmen. The output of heavy steel in this district increases day by day, and the improvement is now extending to the better qualities of steel, such as railway material, forgings, castings, &c. Prices of crude mild steel have gone up 10s per ton all round, while the appreciation in scrap is even more pronounced. As the cost of production has gone makers are no longer off as regards earnings. Price cutting is still rampant, and most of the work will not earn its cost. The South American railways are coming to the British market again for rolling stock. Much of their requirements for two years have been met by Belgium and Germany, but the experiment has either proved unsatisfactory or the Continental makers are no longer able to give prompt delivery. The export returns for November are very favourable as regards iron and steel material, as the improvement upon all recent months was large, and increases have now been continuous since midsummer. A substantial share of last month's increase was represented by the shipment of 80,000 tons of pig-iron to the United States. Exports of special steels, railway material, and agricultural and general engineering did not show much improvement, nor do they indicate any expansion of the motor industry. None of the Continental markets are able to buy Sheffield products on any considerable scale. A forward movement is apparent in the coal trade. Home consumers are taking increased tonnages of steam coals, and the export demand continues good. The mild weather, however, tends to keep sales of house coal to a low level. Foundry and furnace coke are in good demand, with prospects of increased business in the new year. South Yorkshire steams are still being quoted at 20s and 21s at pits, with best Tyne steams 25s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The improvement noticeable in the trade and industrial positions over the past two weeks still holds good. Disappointment is experienced at the appointment of the share which the Clyde has gained in the appointment of the Admiralty new building programme. It is understood that the new tonnage which will come North will constitute a substantial monetary consideration, exceeding that in some cases involved

in the constitution of hulls. In the last few weeks, say from the beginning of the month, fully 60,000 tons of building have been placed with yards on the upper and lower reaches of the river, and in addition several respectable contracts have been earmarked for the dismantling of obsolete vessels, all of which goes a good way towards the easing of the unemployment situation. It is reported this week that a lot of repair work has come to hand here, and that some 25 boats are now in the docks for fitting-out and reconditioning, one of the most profitable branches that enters into the ship construction industry. There is said to be more doing in general engineering and iron and steel connections. There are favourable reports in circulation as to various works extensions being in contemplation, and one important line has just been given out—by Stewart and Lloyds to Messrs Braby, Limited, for a new melting shop at Mossend, the cost of which is put at over £30,000. Steelmakers are benefiting from the increased operations (indicated above) in force on some sections of the Clyde, and are more easily than of late commanding full list prices—boiler plates £12; ship plates, £8 15s; and sections, £8 7s 6d. Iron and steel bar rollers are meeting with an increased outlet, round £10 10s. Pig-iron makers continue dependent mostly on inquiries from the States, but customers there are operating on very moderate lines. About 1,600 tons were shipped to New York last week. The current price is practically 10s for No. 1, and 9s for No. 3 f.o.t. makers' works. Founders are rather better employed, and the same can be stated of tube-makers, bolt and rivet makers, and specially classed engine builders. Inquiries for coal from the Continent are lighter, the rate of exchange having rather gone against buyers. Home sales poor, especially of rounds and very small descriptions.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been on abatement this week in the strength of the South Wales coal market. The docks have continued abundantly supplied with tonnage, and, notwithstanding the difficulties of congestion, the Great Western Railway Company has been able to secure such expeditiousness in the administration of dock traffic and the use of the shipping appliances as to reduce complaints of colliery stoppages to a minimum. The production of coal, therefore, has been maintained at a high level,

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended Nov. 30.		Eleven Months Ended Nov. 30.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	9,331,730	9,436,809	130,873,959	93,557,171
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	650,106	653,265	6,042,479	4,948,671
C. Meat	6,721,478	7,954,780	125,239,352	94,514,769
D. Animals, living, for food	27,921	25,745	2,749,739	1,555,146
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable ..	13,402,081	13,409,696	152,774,092	126,690,080
F. " " dutiable	9,296,493	11,717,457	89,475,922	92,352,278
G. Tobacco	1,601,086	2,322,802	21,082,557	16,743,461
Total, Class I.	41,240,955	45,500,554	528,231,160	430,551,576
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	290	112	12,129,700	165
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	406,707	559,434	5,975,613	4,847,190
C. Iron ore and scrap	354,798	377,048	4,762,741	4,262,640
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	501,278	1,154,119	7,636,717	7,408,538
E. Wood and timber	3,390,936	4,005,761	27,071,918	34,023,489
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	13,580,375	11,817,528	62,292,314	73,735,850
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	3,519,331	3,966,807	39,412,232	57,879,377
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	120,434	302,445	781,011	2,160,677
I. Other textile materials	1,023,530	1,311,775	8,728,659	9,831,037
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and resins ..	3,090,959	2,603,647	35,399,273	33,973,780
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,266,177	1,282,683	9,402,833	13,492,174
L. Paper-making materials	991,888	829,108	12,485,751	8,499,259
M. Rubber	618,590	796,393	5,667,049	6,486,369
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	1,070,577	1,214,230	7,637,599	9,141,857
Total, Class II.	29,945,930	30,223,090	243,383,404	265,742,390
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	146	65	241,374	23,272
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c. ..	575,050	656,047	6,405,691	6,408,337
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,489,094	876,831	21,712,882	9,303,081
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,215,761	1,336,510	17,140,109	16,283,963
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	473,872	590,995	6,277,284	5,709,993
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	132,836	177,643	1,807,067	1,348,560
G. Machinery	648,144	651,171	10,263,370	7,747,173
H. Manufactures of wood and timber ..	263,134	342,813	4,576,397	3,463,388
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	528,030	828,358	5,899,659	6,247,691
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	528,030	828,358	7,148,584	8,433,654
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,859,109	1,769,410	19,604,410	19,694,719
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	718,397	915,993	7,401,791	9,855,240
M. Apparel	923,847	1,136,191	10,066,086	13,120,560
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours ..	899,075	1,066,086	11,708,668	10,377,912
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured ..	3,132,234	2,949,840	53,407,907	37,461,418
P. Leather and manufactures thereof ..	1,151,161	1,134,787	7,739,647	10,611,888
Q. Paper and cardboard	884,958	1,180,597	10,565,570	11,259,940
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircrafts)	433,712	608,682	6,153,821	6,100,313
S. Rubber manufactures	543,684	358,239	4,518,293	5,103,109
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	1,795,771	2,292,343	18,219,808	22,305,702
Total, Class III.	17,912,712	19,586,709	226,754,356	210,081,043
IV.—Animals, not for food	18,925	32,350	360,539	334,496
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles..	135,258	257,440	2,693,356	2,511,930
Total	89,263,780	95,600,143	1,001,422,825	909,031,435

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

ITALO-BELGIAN BANK.

Banque Italo-Belge.

(Société Anonyme.)

Capital Fully Paid: Frs. 50,000,000.

Reserves: Frs. 26,000,000.

Head Office - - - - - ANTWERP

Branches—FRANCE: Paris. ARGENTINE: Buenos Aires. BRAZIL: Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Campinas.
CHILI: Valparaiso. URUGUAY: Montevideo.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CHAIRMAN.
EMILE FRANCOU, Minister of State, Director of the Société Générale de Belgique, Brussels.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.
F. H. BALZAROTTI, Chairman of the Credito Italiano, Milan.

DIRECTORS.
ARTHUR BRYN, Chairman of Lloyd Royal Belge, Antwerp.
FERNAND CARLIER, Director of Crédit Mobilier de Belgique, Antwerp.
GEORGES DEPREZ, Director of Cristalleries du Val St. Lambert, Liège.
CHEVALIER DE WOUTERS D'OPLINTER, Vice-Chairman of the Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, Brussels.

LÉON EISEN, Director of the Banque d'Anvers, Antwerp.
EMM. JANSSEN, Partner of the firm Solvay and Co., Brussels.
ALBERTO LODOLIO, Director of the Credito Italiano, Milan.
CARLO ORSI, Director of the Credito Italiano, Milan.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.
HECTOR CARLIER, Antwerp.

DIRECTOR-MANAGERS.
FELIX DELABORDE, Antwerp. EUGENE TERROIR, Antwerp.

LONDON OFFICE: 50, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.
Manager—CHARLES DELBEKE.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

GENTLEMEN.—We have the honour to present to you our Report and to submit for your approval the Balance-Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account of our Bank for the Eleventh Financial Year ended 30th June, 1922.

The business stagnation emanating from the world crisis, of which mention was made in our last report, has resulted in a reduction in the transactions of our branches. Adopting an extremely prudent course, justified by the instability of the political and economical world, we have chosen to confine ourselves to transactions which form the normal activity of a commercial bank, and to grant to our regular clients the financial support they are accustomed to receive from us.

During the year under review the drop in the price of raw materials and of the South American export goods has caused a diminution in the volume of business. This diminution, which is reflected in certain items of the Balance-Sheet, puts in evidence the ease with which our clientèle have reduced of their own accord, naturally and logically, the importance of their commitments.

In Brazil the import trade, almost relieved of its old stocks, has begun cautiously to renew its supplies. The purchases abroad, however, have not yet assumed the importance to be desired; it should be noted in this respect that the drop in the Brazilian exchange is an unfavourable factor for the importer—a factor which the export of coffee and other goods is not able to correct.

In Argentina and Uruguay, two countries exporting practically similar goods, we have seen a marked improvement in the price of wool, hides and wheat, and a resumption of the export of these products. On the other hand, cattle-breeding is passing through an acute crisis. The export of meat has been reduced in considerable proportions and the prices obtained by the breeders and by the frozen meat industry offer hardly any remuneration. The crisis in this industry, which is an important element in the national wealth of the Argentine, has resulted in a general uneasiness in the economic condition of the country. This position, however, does not affect us directly, as we limit our business to commercial transactions on the Buenos Aires and Rosario markets. The import trade has regained some of its importance in the Argentine, but in Uruguay there is still almost complete stagnation.

In Chili, the nitrate industry—principal source of the country's vitality—has been through a long period of depression, out of which it appears to be emerging. The exchange has considerably improved.

The above exposition of the situation will give you some idea of the difficult period through which the South American countries where we are established have been passing as a consequence of the world crisis. The activities of the banks in general have suffered the effect of such conditions and money has commanded lower rates of interest. As usual, true to our policy of caution, we have maintained a strong cash position in all our Branches, and this, as may be inferred, has entailed some sacrifice of interest.

Our Agencies in Paris and London have given, as in the past, to our Overseas Branches such services as have justified their establishment.

In Belgium we have continued to grant to the manufacturers and to the export trade the necessary assistance for the financing of their exports. The latter, however, in consequence of the crisis and the exchange factor, and despite the combined efforts of interested parties, i.e., banker and exporter, do not yet develop as much as might be desired. Wherever we possibly can help the exporter, we do not hesitate to second him; sometimes even without expecting an immediate profit, and considering only the future. When, however, it is a question of granting long term credits, of insuring exchange for several years, and of taking large risks, you will esteem no doubt, as we do, that apart from a reasonable assistance involving clearly defined risks and amounts in harmony with our resources and with the general needs of our clientèle, it would be imprudent and illogical to entirely substitute ourselves for the manufacturer or for the trader, who must themselves appreciate up to what limit they can assume these risks.

In Italy the industrial and commercial activities of the country have shown a notable improvement, which has resulted in a resumption of trade with South America. One can reasonably hope that this movement will continue to develop in the future. Our Bank has, as in the past, facilitated the transactions between Italy and South America, thanks to the valuable and efficacious collaboration of its friends, the Credito Italiano, who have continued their efforts towards the extension of business with Latin America.

BALANCE SHEET, at 30th June, 1922.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	Frs.		Frs.
Capital	50,000,000.00	Premises	6,495,864.45
Reserves—		Furniture and Fittings	1,000,000.00
Legal Reserve	1,863,712.28	Cash in hand and with Banks	182,217,206.27
Extraordinary Reserve	24,136,287.72	Bills Receivable	218,934,385.97
		Securities	2,749,918.89
Current and Deposit Accounts	460,936,678.38	Current Accounts—	
Bankers and Correspondents	160,976,827.49	Bankers and Correspondents	143,857,430.90
Bills payable	11,604,243.35	Clients, guaranteed and not guaranteed	167,727,879.59
Interest and Dividends not claimed	174,625.44		811,685,810.69
Depositors	259,936,253.75	Securities deposited	143,885,408.76
Re-discount Bills	1,102,310.42	Securities deposited as collaterals	116,540,844.99
Interest and dividends	5,000,000.00		259,936,253.75
Carried forward	1,188,469.33		
	7,290,779.75		
	Frs. 976,908,906.16		Frs. 976,908,906.16

PROFIT and LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30th June, 1922.

	Frs.		Frs.
General Expenses	7,352,675.90	Brought forward from the Business Year 1920/1921	16,082,746.00
Distribution of Profits:		Interest, Exchange, Commissions, etc.	
5 per cent. to the Legal Reserve	483,808.46		
1st dividend of 5 per cent.	2,500,000.00		
15 per cent. to the Board of Directors	861,895.88		
2nd Dividend of 5 per cent.	2,500,000.00		
Extraordinary Reserve	1,636,287.72		
Carried forward	1,188,469.33		
	9,119,000.39		
	Frs. 16,472,576.29		Frs. 16,472,576.29

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XV.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1922

No. 4,139.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2
ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHCHILD, President

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full Information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

issued by the Company may
be obtained on application
from the Head Office or any
of the Offices or Agencies
of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

Christiania, Norway.

Founded by 50 Norwegian and Foreign Banks and
amalgamated with the Christiania Banking Houses.

Tho. Joh. Heftye & Søn

(Established 1769),

and

Sev. Chr. Andersen.

(Established 1845).

Transacts all kinds of Banking business.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Fully Paid Lire 300,000,000
Reserve Lire 90,000,000
Deposits and Current Accounts at 31st Dec-
ember, 1921 Lire 4,419,768,340

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having
correspondents in all Countries, and is specially pre-
pared to grant facilities for the development of trade
between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."
Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	1157	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		The Common Sense of	
Through Christmas Spec-		Economic Science	1179
tacles	1159	An Optimist on Population	1179
Reparations: Old Prob-		Property Insurance	1179
lems and New Hopes ...	1160	A Spanish Year-Book	1179
Progress at Lausanne ...	1161	Books Received	1180
State Control in Peace and		Stock Exchange News—	
War	1161	The Stock Markets	1180
The Wool Trade	1162	New Issues	1180
Cable Companies' Shares		Active Securities	1181
and Results	1164	Company Meetings	1182
Influence of a Falling Ex-		Government Returns—	
change on Wealth—I. ...	1165	Public Income and Expen-	
Notes of the Week—		diture	1190
Employment in November	1166	Currency Notes Account ..	1191
Cost of Living	1166	Bankers' Gazette—	
The Government and In-		Bank of England	1191
dustry	1166	Clearing Returns	1191
The Stock Exchange and		Overseas Bank Returns ...	1191
Christmas	1167	Loan and Discount Rates	1193
Austrian Government 8 per		Overseas Bank Rates	1194
Cent. Gold Loan	1167	Rates of Exchange	1194
Outward Coal and Freights	1168	Bullion	1194
Export Credits	1168	Imports & Exports of Gold	1194
The Economic Condition of		Gold and Silver Prices ..	1195
Venezuela	1168	Indian Treasury Bills	1195
Retail Trade and Co-opera-		Company News—	
tive Results	1168	Dividend Announcements	1195
Scotch Whisky Trade ...	1169	Mining Output Statistics .	1196
Importing Wheat as Flour	1169	Transvaal Gold Outputs ..	1196
Samuel Allsopp and Sons	1170	Reports and Notices	1196
De Beers Diamond	1170	Analysis of Balance-sheets	1197
Taqaah and Abosso	1170	Oil Outputs	1197
Bank Failures in Japan ..	1170	Railway & Tramway Traffic	1198
Overseas Correspondence—		Profit and Loss Accounts	1199
United States	1171	Commercial Reports—	
France	1172	Corn Trade	1197
Germany	1173	Iron and Coal Trade	1199
Russia	1174	Wool Trade	1200
Norway	1175	Cotton Trade	1201
Canada	1176	The Timber Trade	1201
Argentina	1177	Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	1202
Letters to the Editor—		Hide and Leather Trades ..	1202
Capital Levy	1178	Overseas Produce Markets	1202
Unemployment	1178	Price Current	1203

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s. 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at
Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons,
5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings, Sugar
Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street;
Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 53 Finsbury
pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,
37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad
street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

AFTER being surprisingly plentiful, money suddenly
tightened on Wednesday, when a considerable amount was
borrowed from the Bank of England at 3½ per cent. On
Thursday conditions were more comfortable, but there was
evidently very little margin. Discount rates remained firm,
three months' bills being taken readily at 2½ per cent. and
occasionally at 2¼ per cent. For January delivery business
was reported at a shade over 2¼ per cent., but the demand
on these terms was not at all keen.

	Dec. 21, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3% (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1 (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½

The Bank return showed a seasonal increase of £1,729,100 in the circulation, and with a slight decrease in the stock of gold the Reserve fell by £1,731,300. Repayment of Ways and Means advances was reflected in a decline of £2,905,000 in Government securities and market borrowings in an advance of £2,674,300 in Other Securities. Deposits were thus £1,489,700 lower, £8,390,800 coming off Other, while Public rose by £6,901,100. Currency notes outstanding were increased this week by £6,161,300 to £298,629,600, which includes £1,526,900 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £248,952,700, or £61,035,700 below the maximum.

We are informed that the Treasury Commissioners have promoted Mr G. B. Niemeyer, C.B., Deputy-Controller of Finance in the Treasury, to be Controller of Finance in succession to Sir B. F. Blackett, who has been appointed Finance Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India. Mr Niemeyer has graduated from the most difficult times in British financial history, and his close association with Sir Basil Blackett in the last few years may be regarded as an assurance of continuity of policy among the Chancellor's principal advisers.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

As is customary in the week before Christmas, business in the stock markets has been of small volume. Chief attention has centred on the heaviness of Conversion Loan, together with some selling of War Loan and other gilt-edged issues, and on the support accorded to industrial shares of some classes. In the foreign market French and German bonds have hardened, Peruvians have spurred upwards, while Rio Tintos have had a very substantial rise, chiefly on buying orders from France. Home Railway stocks are being supported on divided hopes, and on the idea that trade improvement will benefit the railways first of all. In the industrial sections, Courtaulds and Bradford Dyers have been conspicuous for strength. Electricity supply shares and the Wireless group also hardened. In the oil market the Mexican Eagle dividend failed to revive activity. The rubber share market is steady, but quiet. South African mining dividends declared this week accord roughly with expectation, and the market was not affected by them.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The commodity markets are fairly quiet all round on account of the coming holidays, but a feeling of optimism is noticeable as to better business in the New Year. In the South Wales coal trade the position would be rather favourable if it were not for the serious traffic congestion at ports. During the week the British Admiralty, the United States, and French State railways have placed contracts. Incidentally our Cardiff correspondent points out that at relative current prices South Wales steam coals are cheaper at Boston (Mass.) than the best grade United States steam coals. The tendency in the pig-iron market is towards better prices for the first quarter of next year, but makers maintain that their present prices are still below cost. The steel trade shows continued improvement, a fair number of orders having been booked. Our Glasgow and Sheffield correspondents both write in optimistic vein. Conditions are good in the wool trade, many Bradford manufacturers being inclined to the view that prices are not going to fall. The Manchester cotton market is quiet, but firm, a description which also applies to the hide and linseed markets. Our timber trade correspondent points out that prices of building timber may possibly be higher in 1923.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market the outstanding feature has been the sharp movements occasioned on Saturday last by the sensational rumours in the American Press of the imminence of an American loan to Germany. The immediate result was a sharp fall in the quotation of the mark down to about 26,500, but during the day the rate rose again to rather under 30,000. It is interesting, however, to see that, in spite of the definite *dementi* given to these rumours, the mark has since then remained steady between 30,000 and 31,000, a distinctly lower level than for some time past, the reflection, it would seem, of a feeling that America will be forced in the end to take a share in the Reparation settlement. The Paris rate, as was to be expected, shared in the improvement of the mark, and though quotations have been rather more irregular, they have been kept on a lower level than in the preceding week. Yesterday morning, however, the rate had risen again somewhat to 62.35, and showed, if anything, a rising tendency. At the same time, the Brussels rate was 67.85, a slight narrowing in the spread between the two quotations. In Paris the forward rate narrowed to 4 centimes per month above spot and in Brussels to 5 centimes per month below. As was expected, the New York quotation for sterling has shown some hesitation after last week's rapid upward movement, and from \$4.63½ on the 15th has been down to as low as \$4.61½ on the 20th. Yesterday morning, however, there was again some improvement to \$4.62½, and the rate shows a tendency to remain firm. Forward quotations have again widened a little to 1½ cent per month above spot. At 91 lire, the Italian rate is rather less than 1 lira down on the week, but the tendency would again seem slightly upwards. Among neutral exchanges Switzerland and Spain have moved against us in sympathy with New York; Amsterdam, on the other hand, at 11.62, has moved more than 1 cent. in our favour. In Scandinavia, Stockholm at 17.16½ has moved rather sharply against us, Copenhagen at 22.43½ has moved even more sharply in our favour, while Christiania has also depreciated slightly. Helsingfors, on the other hand, where the exchange position is being carefully regulated, shows little change at 185. In Central Europe, Vienna remains the same at 320,000; Warsaw, however, has again depreciated to 83,000. Prague, after rising rapidly, and so far without explanation, to 165, has recovered to 153½, but at this level is still somewhat above last week's quotation. Belgrade during the week depreciated rapidly to well over 400, and now at about 400 is well above recent quotations. Bucharest, after going up to 800, is back again at 760, while Athens is about the same at 375, and Constantinople at 800. In the East the rupee has appreciated very slightly to 1s 4d, while the yen is slightly cheaper at 2s 1½d (last week 2s 1½d). Silver fell sharply at the end of last week on offerings from China and India, but since then there has been a slight recovery. Hong-kong at 2s 3d is ½d cheaper, and Shanghai 1d cheaper at 3s 0½d. In South America, as compared with December 15th, Buenos Ayres at 44½d is fractionally dearer, Monte Video has risen ½d to 44½d, Rio is about ½d cheaper at 6½d, while Valparaiso has recovered in value from 37.20 to 36.20 pesos.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 16th:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	9,987	Interest on Debt	1,416
Taken from Exchequer balances	978	Supply Services	7,960
		Sundries	363
		Reduction of Debt	306
	10,965		10,085

Revenue amounted to £9,986,800, and compares with £24,315,000 for the corresponding week last year. But then special receipts yielded £8,400,000, as against only £41,832 for the period under review. Excise a year ago totalled £9,805,000, but last week the yield was only £2,790,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £2,359,000, as against £918,000, and total expenditure at £9,758,940 compares with £10,988,125. The week's

operations reduced the National Debt by £306,409, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates	+ 350	Bank of England Advances	- 8,900
Public Debt Advances	+ 9,650	Treasury Bills	- 1,139
		Unemployment Insurance	- 190
		Telegraph Money	- 600
		Funding Loan, &c.	- 250
		National War Bonds Repaid	- 100
		Old Sinking Fund	- 10,306
	+ 10,000		

The floating debt was increased by £525,000 to £948,178,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to December 16, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	550,207,123	Raised by revenue ..	555,743,565
Dec. in balances	8,098,569	Net repayments	13,635,011
Total	542,108,554	Total	542,108,554

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure	823,846,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure...	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT.

(Million £.)

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1917.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Dec. 16, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315	315
Term Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16	16
3½% War Stock	16	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	2,087	2,087
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	957	957
4% Funding Loan	..	..	409	409	405	405	401	401	401
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	360	357	348	346	335	335	335
3½% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	266	266	690	690
5-15 Year Treas. Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	23	24	24	24
5% Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	273	381	166	166
Do by tender 5%	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	40	40
Do by tender 4½%	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	8
Treasury Bills	15	961	957	1,107	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	733
Exchequer Bonds	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185	150
Nat'l. Savings Certs.	..	138	227	267	274	285	294	342	366
War Expend. Certs.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt	..	1,941	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,075
American Loan	..	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Temporary Advances	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147	215
Other Capital Liabilities	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,448	7,655	7,777
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721	7,843

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out-stand- ing	Dec. 17, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Dec. 16, '22.	Dec. 16, '22.
Temporary Advances	13,000,000	..	..	4,250,000	8,000,000
Advances by Bank of England	193,508,000	147,301,500	210,328,500	210,328,500	210,328,500
Advances by Public Deposits	1,084,161,000	882,219,000	735,000,000	735,000,000	735,000,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	..	..	..	..	1,125,000
Total Floating Debt	1,290,669,000	1,029,520,500	948,178,500	948,178,500	948,178,500

THROUGH CHRISTMAS SPECTACLES.

The last day of the year is the time for sombre retrospect; the first day of a new year the time for stern resolutions. To face those tasks we need a tonic, and this, mercifully, is provided just in time, by the brief respite of Christmas-tide, when, for a short while, men try to look only on the bright side, and to make the most of it. This year, when no humane citizen can altogether banish from his mind the picture of unemployment, poverty, and struggle, a brief surrender to the Christmas spirit is perhaps more needed than ever. And so, with sincerity, we once more wish our readers the old traditional wish of "A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year," without looking too closely to see whether there is a star shining in the East that calls us to witness the birth of better times, or whether the good ship Prosperity has really set sail for our shores. Let us all for the moment play Mark Tapley. Time enough in the next 51 weeks to ape Mrs Gummidge. If doubts assail, let us borrow Mr Micawber's assurance that "something will turn up"—remembering that in his case something did "turn up" in the end. Times such as those through which we are passing are apt to turn many of us into cynics and doubting Thomases; so that to indulge in a brief period of

light-hearted cheerfulness may do no harm, and may even in the long run restore the balance of perspective and judgment. In the stress of daily life it is often forgotten that clouds have silver linings. For once in a way, let us see the silver lining and forget the cloud.

Among the strange articles that emerge from the maw of the Christmas cracker is sometimes to be found a pair of rose-tinted spectacles. Put them on, and the scene changes from sombre to bright. All through the autumn you have been saying that the great rise in the American exchange is largely a sign of bad trade, and small British purchases of raw materials in America. You will see it now as a great Christmas present to a nation that has to buy dollars to pay for purchases and to meet interest on a huge debt. You will see that British exports are rising; that coal production and exports are up to pre-war level, and iron and steel exports higher than at any time since the war; that employment, despite the showing of the Labour Ministry's percentages, is better in many vital industries. Even without the aid of the magic spectacles you will see that the income-tax demand (which has a way of arriving on Christmas morning, in order to show, presumably, that our Government officials are not above a grim joke at this season) asks you to pay only 5s instead of 6s in the pound. The list of things you would see through these cracker spectacles could be greatly lengthened—we will add to it in a moment—but we prefer to break the recital here with a reminder that light-hearted cheerfulness is not the only ingredient of the Christmas atmosphere. It may be the most obvious and instinctive. But the more essential ingredients of the Christmas atmosphere are peace and goodwill. "Peace and goodwill!" the cynic will exclaim, "the words are mockery to-day." Last week, next week, the cynic may convince us; but not to-day. This being Christmas, let us remember that, though her footsteps lag, and sometimes seem to slide backwards, Peace has made some progress. First and foremost, the League of Nations, that great instrument of world peace, is growing slowly but surely in prestige and power. From Lausanne, Allied solidarity and Lord Curzon may yet send us, if not a Christmas, at least a New Year gift of peace in the Near East. Nor at this season can we stifle the hope that Mr Bonar Law, having abandoned the baneful policy of the Balfour Note, may bring us into warmer friendship with the United States, and into closer harmony with France over the great problems that hold back Europe from real peace and well-being.

"What of Ireland," the cynic will ask, "is there peace there?" Between Irishmen and Irishmen, alas, there is bitter internecine strife. But this is the first Christmas for centuries that has seen between the English Government and the representatives of Southern Ireland a full, ratified, legalised peace, and between Englishmen and the majority of the men of Southern Ireland a real understanding and goodwill. The removal of the last British troops from Ireland surely marks an event in the history of peace, and we can only pray that the peace that has fallen between Irishmen and Englishmen will, long before next Christmas, have fallen also between Irishmen and Irishmen. Of politics, too, it may be said by some devoted coalitionist, that we have exchanged the peaceful collaboration of parties for the strife and clash of party

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

CHAIRMAN:
The Right Hon. R. McKENNA
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS:
FREDERICK HYDE EDGAR W. WOOLLEY.

Subscribed Capital ..	£38,117,103
Paid-up Capital ..	10,860,852
Reserve Fund ..	10,860,852
Deposits (June 30th, 1922) ..	368,230,831

HEAD OFFICE: 5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

OVER 1,650 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

OVERSEAS BRANCH: 65 & 66, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2

AFFILIATIONS:
BELFAST BANKING CO. LTD. THE CLYDESDALE BANK LTD.
OVER 110 OFFICES IN IRELAND OVER 170 OFFICES IN SCOTLAND

THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

battle. In our undaunted determination to look on the cheerful side, we prefer to say that we have exchanged the dishonesty of insincere and makeshift compromise for straightforward party Government, and a dictatorship for Cabinet responsibility. Even yet the cynic may not be convinced; but when we come to consider British industry, we shall hear of him no more. For in British industry Christmas marks the close of a year in which peace has been the great outstanding feature. Only one great dispute has marred that peace in 1922. It is a peace that has, admittedly, entailed the resignation of millions of workers to sacrifice and privation. Nevertheless, it is a peace that will contribute in the long run, more than anything else, to the prosperity of the industries upon which those workers depend for their well-being. It is a peace that has been, to some extent, forced by economic circumstances. But that, in the realm of industry, a closer co-operation between employers and employed has been, and is, developing, cannot be doubted; and therein lies a good augury for the future.

Year in and year out, the business world is wrestling with difficulties and facing grave problems. At Christmas-tide, we suggest, it is a useful exercise to count up, rather, such reasons as there are for cheerfulness and confidence. Last Christmas we recorded our belief that we had then reached the bottom of the long depression—the "darkest hour before the dawn." The dawn is slow—to the all-night watcher, perhaps almost imperceptible. But the dawn, in our belief, has begun, and no one can intelligently study the course of events since last Christmas without detecting signs that the light is gaining on the darkness—painfully, laboriously, perhaps, but yet gaining.

REPARATIONS: OLD PROBLEMS AND NEW HOPES.

DURING the last week or so the Reparations discussions have to a considerable extent been diverted from Europe to New York and Washington, and the Press has been full of the part which America might take in assisting a European settlement, either by modifying her attitude on the war debts or even actually by a loan. But at last the inevitable retorts have come. Mr Lamont, of Messrs Morgan and Co., has declared that under present conditions there is no prospect of a loan; while from Washington we are told that there is no change of policy on the war debts, and that in the opinion of the American administration the first step for Europe to take is to settle the amount which Germany can pay. This, after all, is the point which Mr Morgan and his colleagues on the Bankers Committee put to France last June, and the difficulty which then arose still stands—namely, that France cannot surrender her claims unless she has some assurance that the claims against her will also be reconsidered. We have never been able to accept the American view that the Reparations question could be dealt with apart from the inter-Allied war debts; but we may venture to hope that, as Great Britain has already indicated her willingness to modify debts due to her in return for a reassessment of the German obligation, France may be willing to discuss a fresh estimate of the German total without waiting for America to declare her policy on the debt which France owes to that country.

We hold, however, as we have always held, that in any case it is imperative to endeavour to arrive now at a figure of what Germany can pay, and in recent weeks we have ventured to approach certain leading economists in France, Germany and other countries with a view to ascertain whether agreement is possible, not upon the total which Germany should be asked to pay, but upon the principles to be adopted in estimating what she can pay. We have not printed any of the replies received in the *Economist*, because, in the first instance, economists of various nations naturally look on the question from different standpoints, and we are endeavouring to discover if it is possible to lay down a series of propositions which would be accepted by experts of the different countries. We hope to be able to state shortly the result of this endeavour, and if it succeeds it should serve as a guide to the sort of conclusions which could be reached if the Allies decide formally to set up an international committee

of experts to consider the matter or to refer it to the Finance and Economic Committee of the League of Nations.

It may be said that the assessing of Germany's capacity to pay is the business of the Reparations Commission. This is not the case, for the Commission is only responsible for remitting German payments at a particular time if it considers them beyond her immediate capacity. It is probable that the staff of the Commission has made researches into the ultimate theoretical capacity of Germany; but if so, it has not published them, nor has the Commission as an official body proceeded so far as to make any pronouncement on the question. At the same time, the general impression among economists is that the pre-war statistics of Germany, together with current physical as distinct from financial data, relating to production and trade do afford the basis upon which an expert inquiry could be founded. The extent and duration of the effects of currency depreciation are more difficult to estimate, and in any case non-economic considerations will make the figure that is ultimately selected a matter of judgment, compromise and bargains. It is, for example, evident that the amount which the German Government can levy from its people for reparation purposes is very different from the amount which could be taken for an object which the nation was wholeheartedly anxious to pursue; and this consideration means that it is of the utmost importance to frame the final scheme in such a way that there is a strong inducement to Germany to pay off its obligations. It is thus evident that an inquiry by experts would be limited to examining and naming two maximum figures—(a) the amount that could be levied by the Government from the German people without affecting production, and (b) the extent to which her exports are capable of being expanded in excess of her necessary imports. In other words, the inquiry would furnish certain of the essential data on which the politicians would reach their decision. Even if the investigation confirmed merely some of the more generally current estimates, it would be of great value in resolving some of the more widely differing views which are at present held on these questions.

In the meantime, Mr Stanley Baldwin has gone to Washington to discuss the funding of the British Debt to America, and his departure has been made the occasion in some quarters for discussing the sort of concessions which the British taxpayer would like America to make. Such controversy seems to us untimely. The important thing which Mr Baldwin has to say to America is to explain what has transpired at the London Conference, and to satisfy the American Government that we have a genuine policy for dealing with the European tangle; that we hope soon to see America collaborating in her own way to assist in this difficult task, and that as between ourselves we rely on her to make the terms of payment of our own debt as easy as possible. The one important point which we think the Chancellor is in duty bound to stress is that our debt must be paid in goods, and that America is herself making the burden of repayment unendurable if she continues to impose increasing barriers in the way of our trade with the United States.

On the whole, the discussions now proceeding are taking place in an atmosphere much less strained than has recently been the case, and in particular we note with pleasure the modified tone in Paris, where the enthusiasts for the forcible seizing of the Ruhr or the German mines and forests are less vocal, and more moderate counsels are making themselves heard. At the same time, it is quite evident that the world is not ready to assume that if Germany accepted a final settlement, she would be prepared to carry it through simply in order to re-establish her credit and prestige. If, as is clearly necessary, a moratorium is granted in January during which a stabilisation scheme may be put into effect, Germany must offer some sort of additional security until payments can commence. It is possible that passing certain German resources, such as Customs receipts, through the hands of an Allied controller, who would pass them on to the German Government for the period of the moratorium, would meet the case; but there are a hundred similar devices which might be suggested, and it is for the German Government itself, as the party which is applying for a moratorium, to make its own proposition. The economic

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$27,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

situation in Germany is serious, but it would be a mistake for us to press our former Allies to accept a settlement made under the influence of panic. Mr. Bonar Law has chosen his ground on this question very well, and we have great hopes that the improved atmosphere among all the parties concerned, which is indeed much better than could have been hoped a few months ago, may lead to a settlement in 1923.

PROGRESS AT LAUSANNE.

OUR conviction (which we have entertained from the date of the Mudania Armistice) that the Lausanne Conference would not break down has been justified once more, though last Tuesday—when Lord Curzon delivered something like a twenty-four hours' ultimatum on the question of the Straits—a rupture seemed more imminent than at any previous moment. However, the Turks have conceded the essential points in the Allied Governments' programme. There are to be genuinely demilitarised zones; a representative international authority which will inspect the demilitarisation besides conserving the waterway; and a right of thoroughfare for warships as well as for merchantmen. Lord Curzon and Ismet Pasha are to be congratulated on the achievement of an agreed programme for the regulation of the Straits problem. If only this wisdom had not had to be bought by four years of post-war destruction, but had entered into the Treaties of Versailles and Sévres! Such an agreement is invaluable in itself, for in view of what had happened to the first Turkish treaty, Lord Curzon's threat to insert his programme into the new instrument, whether the Turks assented or not, was not of happy augury, while the Turks, on their side, would have found the reconstruction of their national life as impossible now as it has been since the Armistice of Mudros, if they had failed again to come to an understanding with the Allies. At the same time, the details of the agreement are not beyond criticism. It may be observed that in regard to the free passage of merchantmen of all flags in peace time, and of those belonging to countries not at war with Turkey in war-time, there has been agreement all along. To our mind this is the vital point, and the rupture (happily averted) has been risked over much more dubious questions. The passage of warships is in contradiction with the traditional British policy; it is unwelcome to the Turks; it is fiercely opposed by the Russians. In insisting upon it, Lord Curzon therefore has not necessarily furthered the cause of stability; but time alone will judge between his policy and that of Palmerston and Stratford de Redcliffe. The Americans, too, appear to consider treaty stipulations sufficient, and to deprecate the

creation of an international organisation for carrying them out; but this is a difference of secondary importance.

Meanwhile, there is a deadlock in regard to the Capitulations and to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. On the latter point the Turks have a very strong case. The Patriarchate, as organised by Mehmed the Conqueror before the rise of nationalism in its modern form, was an organisation for giving cultural, and to a large extent juridical, autonomy to one element in the multinational Ottoman Empire. In its essence it is a political institution, and was therefore doomed from the moment that an independent national Greek State came into existence, since from that moment there were two incompatible claims on its loyalty. The events of the last ten years have made the majority of the former *ressortissants* of the Patriarchate (e.g., the Macedonians, Kretans, Khiois, Mitylenæans, and the present refugees from Anatolia) into subjects of the Greek Kingdom, and have thereby reduced the position of the Patriarchate *ad absurdum*. Had Greece fulfilled her dream, and eventually annexed the seat of the Patriarchate to her territories, she would undoubtedly have stripped His Beatitude of all but his "spiritual" functions, precisely as the Turks have done with their Caliph. Neither Patriarchate nor Caliphate, in their traditional form, are compatible with the sovereign national State, and it is as unreasonable to ask Turkey to leave the Patriarch his "non-spiritual" powers as it would be to demand of Greece that she should allow the Turkish Caliph temporal power over her Muslim citizens in Macedonia. The perpetuation of such anachronisms is not a safeguard, but a provocation. However, this is a much less serious problem than the Capitulations, which involve the whole status of foreign residents in Turkey, and to the abolition of which the Turks attach capital importance. Fortunately, the mutual concessions already made over the Straits are a good augury for similar adjustments in this other field—where, indeed, compromise ought not to be difficult, since it is a question of innumerable details which do not stand or fall together, but can each be treated on its merits.

STATE CONTROL IN PEACE AND WAR.

For many years there has been, and there probably will be for many years to come, a section of the community which advocates the nationalisation of production and distribution. The arguments for and against private enterprise are familiar to our readers. But whereas pre-war discussions of the question were largely academic, the events of the great war will be brought forward and used by both sides in their own support. Sir Arthur Goldfinch, Director-General of Raw Materials during the war, in a recent lecture to the Bradford Textile Society, made an interesting contribution to this discussion. As head for four years of the Raw Materials Department, which sold

nearly £500 millions worth of materials, Sir Arthur is in a unique position to assess the benefits and disadvantages of State control.

Soon after the outbreak of war it became apparent that unregulated private enterprise could not cope with the situation, and the State found itself in the position of having to conduct or control and regulate a large portion of the industry of the country if chaos was to be avoided. Looking back upon the war and post-war period of State control of industry, now that it is receding into a truer perspective, the unbiased observer will feel inclined to say that on the whole the system, haphazard though it of necessity was, worked better than was expected by those who, like ourselves, are very conscious of the drawbacks of bureaucracy. At the same time it cannot be claimed that the system of State control was an efficient or economical one. Of that our war experience was no criterion since the ordinary financial tests were entirely lacking. Hence it is not possible to argue from our war-time experience that State control or management in time of peace is a feasible alternative to the competitive system.

State control of industry in normal times has usually taken the shape of bureaucratic regulation. But the system adopted in the war was not bureaucratic control in the ordinary sense of the term. In the abnormal conditions prevailing, and under the stimulus of patriotic motives, the State was able to command the services, in a large number of cases voluntary, of the best brains trained under the competitive system. It is true that towards the end of the war the business men working in the various State departments showed signs of becoming infected with the bureaucratic germ, and by long and close contact with "red tape" in all its forms of having become tainted with the worst vices of bureaucracy, the essential weakness of which is that it shifts responsibility from the individual on to the machine. In fact, however, the system adopted during the war owed what success it achieved, on the one hand, to the fact that patriotic motives to a large extent supplanted those of private gain, and on the other, to an almost universal standardisation of demand, which would be entirely impracticable in time of peace. For example, all available steel was allocated among some score or so of users—shells, tanks, guns, aeroplanes, and so on—all of which were under control, whereas in normal times there is an immense diversified demand spread over innumerable industries at home and abroad. The direction of the resources of the country from Whitehall would be impossible except under the most rigid system of dictatorship to the public as to its tastes in food, drink, clothing, and what not, to which it would certainly not submit except in a time of national crisis. There is also the further point that in war time it was possible for the various departments of control to dictate to the foreigner what he should buy from us. In peace time foreign countries have a choice of markets which no amount of State regulation in one particular country can control.

The conclusions reached by Sir Arthur Goldfinch, after a very fair balance of the arguments, is that the success of State control in war time "offers no encouragement whatever to the renewal of such ventures in peace time." In regard to wool, the principal commodity under Sir Arthur's control, he says:—"When, however, I ask myself what justification the great work of the control period offers for believing that State control of the wool trade, or any like trade, would be beneficial in peace times, I answer, without a shadow of hesitation, that no such justification could be discovered by the careful examination of the facts by any competent observer, however conscious he might be of the imperfections which attach to private enterprises, and however anxious to find a road to a more ideal state of things." He does, however, assert that "it can be demonstrated, without a shadow of doubt, that the influence of British Government departments throughout the war was, with almost unvarying consistency, exerted in the direction of arresting and correcting the inflation of prices which always accompanies great wars. No competent critic who compares the course of prices within the British Empire with the course of prices in the United States and in neutral countries can doubt that market inflation during the war would have been incomparably greater in this country if Government departments had not exercised their powers to check the boom in prices,

or can fail to note that the boom did not reach a really dangerous point in any of our important markets until Government control began to be relaxed."

The late Director of Raw Materials is righteously indignant with some of the unreasonable criticisms levelled against certain Government departments for losses incurred in Government trading. "It is true that the Auditor-General in the discharge of his duties records certain discrepancies which have not been satisfactorily explained to him by the departments, and some of which no doubt indicate gross blunders involving regrettable loss to the State. The total of these losses, excluding for the moment the losses attributable to falls in market prices, are on the highest possible computation considerably below £1,000,000, and in many cases the department concerned has made out a very plausible defence. The total amounts handled by the departments in question, according to the accounts published in the same Blue Book, exceeded £2,400,000,000 sterling, so that on the very worst showing the losses attributable to office blunders were less than one-twenty-fourth per cent. If we condemn some of the Government trading departments because they did not sufficiently guard themselves against the fall in prices which was to follow the boom, what shall we say of that monument of optimism run mad—the last balance-sheet* of the Dunlop Rubber Company? What of the sensational collapse of such creatures of the boom period as the Western Counties Shipping Company? The losses inflicted on the public by the ventures I have mentioned bear a much higher proportion to the total volume of private trading in the period affected than the blunders of the Government departments bear to their colossal turnover during the war period."

Sir Arthur Goldfinch is a business man, and therefore holds no brief for the Civil Service, but he pays a striking tribute to the Civil Servant. "It is to the permanent Civil Service that we owe in a great measure that in the spending of ten thousand million pounds sterling of public money in all sorts of novel and improvised fashions, which to a great extent over-rode all established checks, all hint or suspicion of corruption has been so remarkably absent."

But, as we have said, our experience of State control from 1915 onwards affords no criterion of what would happen under a bureaucratic system in time of peace, nor can any test be brought forward to prove that the saving which the abolition of a competitive system might effect would be sufficient to pay the cost of bureaucratic direction.

THE WOOL TRADE.

(FROM OUR BRADFORD CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the last three months the raw material markets have continued to be the chief centre of interest in the wool textile industry. In all the principal markets of the world buyers have been active, and values have been consistently high, and, as in the first three quarters of the year, there has been no apparent connection between the demand for wool and the demand for the finished article. In pre-war days an active wool market was a sure indication of activity in the consuming centres, but for many months past there has been a missing link. Wool has been keenly competed for, sorters and combers have been exceptionally busy, spinners have had sufficient work in hand to necessitate a considerable amount of overtime, but manufacturers, although better employed than for a very long time, have not experienced that rush of orders which the demand for wool would seem to imply. Moreover, much of the business that has been taken by manufacturers has been at unremunerative prices, and so one feels that in the activity which has characterised some sections of the industry, the weaving department has not had its full share.

This apparent anomaly can be explained in two ways. In the first place, the purchasing power of the public at home and abroad is still much restricted, and both manufacturers and merchants have been liquidating old stock; secondly, the increasing number of looms in other countries makes for a larger demand for raw material,

tops, and yarns, and a corresponding decline in the demand for fabrics woven in the United Kingdom. Indeed, there is a strong feeling in some quarters that the export trade in wool textiles will tend more and more to develop in semi-manufactures—that is, tops and yarns—and that the outlet for cloth will be gradually restricted as other countries increase their weaving plants.

A notable example of the way in which the export demand varies is found in the case of Italy. At one time that country was a splendid market for Bradford piece goods; then the Italians developed their weaving industry, and looked to Yorkshire for yarns instead of fabrics; next came the Italian spinning mills, which meant a demand for tops instead of yarns; and now there are in Italy several large combing establishments from which spinners can obtain nearly sufficient tops to supply their spindles. Much the same sort of thing is taking place in Japan, and although it naturally takes years to complete the evolution, yet the tendency is ever present, and must be taken into account. It suggests, among other things, that the export houses in this country must always be on the alert and ready to open up and develop new markets to take the place of the old ones.

To return for a moment to the raw material position, a feature of the trade during the past few months has been the re-entry of America into the world's wool markets. The settlement of the tariff question paved the way for a big buying movement in this country and in the colonies, and American influence has made itself felt throughout the industry. United States buyers were extremely active in London during the October series of auctions, and about the same time they turned their attention to Bradford, taking, in the course of a few weeks, practically the entire stock of crossbred matchings held by topmakers. In Australia and New Zealand they were active competitors, and to their operations more than to anything else is due the marked recovery in crossbred values. This demand for crossbreds, especially fine and medium qualities, came at a time when users were getting seriously alarmed about the steady rise in merinos. Tops were being sold at prices which spinners found were almost prohibitive, inasmuch as with every advance in merino tops they experienced the greatest difficulty in making anything like a corresponding price for their yarns, and it is not too much to say that by the end of October there was something almost approaching organised opposition to current values. Spinners refrained from buying anything but what was needed to cover their most pressing engagements, and it was not surprising, therefore, when at the Liverpool auctions merino wool showed a slight ease.

This easier tendency has again been noticeable in London during the current series of sales, but it must be admitted that merinos have not declined to anything like the extent that users expected. It is generally thought that a big buying movement would result if 64's tops could be bought at about 4s 9d to 4s 10d, but even allowing for the recent ease in wool, raw material cannot be bought in any market to-day to bring in average 64's tops at less than 5s; indeed, wool bought in Australia during the last few weeks will mean at least 5s 1d in the top. The real fact is that merinos are in an exceedingly strong position. The supply is limited, and as B.A.W.R.A. surplus stocks of superior combing wool are practically exhausted, users will have to depend on the current clips in Australia and South Africa. It has to be remembered that in the ten months ended last October B.A.W.R.A. disposed of 228,536 bales of combing merinos in addition to the privately-owned wool that was offered by auction, so that if consumption continues on anything like the scale of recent months, all the available merino wool will be wanted.

Basing their opinions on the statistical position, some members of the trade do not hesitate to predict that 64's tops will be selling at 5s 6d by the end of next April, and even if that proves to be an unduly optimistic forecast, there is little or nothing in the present situation to encourage the hope that values will fall much below the current level. An easier tendency may be seen until the turn of the year, after which, unless the unexpected happens, there is likely to be a recovery.

The course of values at the London sales is shown in the following table, the pre-war prices being given for comparison:—

Description.	COLONIAL WOOL in LONDON. First Cost, Clean, Without Oil.			
	July, 1914.	Oct. 26, 1922.	Nov. 24, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.
70's superior fleeces	32 ..	66 ..	63 ..	61 ..
64's good pieces.....	28 ..	60 ..	56 ..	55 ..
56's fine crossbred fleeces	26 ..	36 ..	37 ..	37 ..
46's crossbred fleeces	17 ..	15 ..	17 ..	17 ..

The most significant feature of these prices is that for the first time since the great slump in trade 46's wool is up to the pre-war level. The improvement in the demand for crossbreds, as already mentioned, is mainly due to American buying, but no doubt a contributing factor has been the high value of merino, which has tended to force some of the demand on to the cheaper qualities.

In the following table the fluctuations in the prices of tops are shown, a comparison being made between pre-war, boom, slump, and current values:—

Description.	COLONIAL TOPS in OIL.			
	July, 1914.	April, 1920.	April, 1921.	December, 1922.
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.
70's warp	33½ ..	178 ..	42 ..	65 ..
64's average	31½ ..	166 ..	32 ..	60 ..
60's super	30½ ..	156 ..	33 ..	54 ..
56's average	24 ..	100 ..	24 ..	35½ ..
48's carded.....	18 ..	56 ..	16 ..	19½ ..
46's carded.....	16½ ..	46 ..	14½ ..	17 ..
40's carded.....	15½ ..	37 ..	13 ..	15 ..
46's prepared.....	18 ..	48 ..	15 ..	17 ..
40's prepared.....	16 ..	38 ..	13 ..	15 ..
36's	15½ ..	36 ..	13 ..	14½ ..

As already indicated, spinners have been well employed for several months past, and at the present time they have enough work in hand to keep machinery running full time for at least two months. Recently, however, there has been a lull in new business both on home and export account, owing to the unwillingness of manufacturers to enter into forward contracts on current quotations. The advance in crossbred wool and tops has been followed by a general hardening in quotations for crossbred yarns, and it is evident that manufacturers are making a wider use of these qualities in order to lessen the cost of production. In the Botany section the bulk of the business is being done in the finer counts, such as 2-56's to 2-70's, and during the last week or two some big orders are reported to have been put through in 2-60's. Consumption in the hosiery section is also being well maintained, though users are inclined to operate with caution and avoid committing themselves too far ahead. There is an active demand for hand-knitting yarns for the retail trade—a branch of the industry which offers considerable scope for enterprise. A very noticeable improvement has also to be recorded in the mohair section, both single and twofold yarns being wanted, and most firms are booked up for two or three months ahead. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that raw mohair has made a wonderful recovery, and the big surplus stocks in South Africa, which were a legacy of the war, have been practically cleared.

With regard to the future, one could write with a good deal more optimism if conditions were more settled on the Continent and if financial affairs in the piece goods trade were less disturbing. It is a matter for regret that many of the merchanting houses are still hampered by lack of means, and while this state of affairs continues it is useless to look for any material improvement in general conditions. The failures which are reported from time to time are an indication of the troubled waters through which the trade is passing, but they by no means reveal the whole story. Private arrangements are still being made, and the piece trade as a whole is having an anxious time. Yet the general impression is that even in this section of the industry the worst has been seen, and that those who have managed to weather the storm will ultimately come through and make good. But recovery in the piece trade will not be rapid. So much depends on the general state of employment in this country and a return to more settled conditions abroad, and, above all, a material appreciation in the currencies

* Published in February last.

of the nations which were formerly our best customers for pieces. On the other hand, the outlook at the other end of the trade is distinctly encouraging. The demand for wool may be expected to continue, and although no one wants to see the very high prices which have ruled throughout the greater part of this year for merinos, there is every reason to expect a steady demand for all classes of raw material at prices which will encourage the grower and yet be on a basis to lead to increased consumption.

CABLE COMPANIES' SHARES AND RESULTS.

THE business of cable companies is of such a nature that it very quickly reflects any increase or decline in trade activity. It was obvious, therefore, that shareholders in cable companies had to expect the 1921 accounts to show a formidable decline in gross revenue. This, as will be seen from the statistical tables which we present below, actually took place. But at the same time most of the companies found that falling prices and reduced taxation brought down their expenses very substantially, and an increase in net receipts was the rule rather than the exception. The six companies whose figures we examine below show, in their latest accounts, an aggregate fall of £1,349,968 in gross receipts, but aggregate working expenses (including taxation) were £1,610,504 lower, leaving aggregate net receipts higher by £260,636. These results, and the contribution of each of the six companies towards them are shown in the first table:—

	Gross Receipts.		Working Expenses.		Net Receipts.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
Cuba Submarine ..	99,154	72,932	41,347	50,846	57,807	22,086
Direct Spanish ..	133,757	114,407	107,446	121,935	26,311	Dr 7,528
Eastern ..	4,381,856	4,124,976	3,312,799	2,803,446	1,069,057	1,321,530
Eastern Extension ..	2,514,825	2,394,325	1,862,379	1,267,224	652,446	1,127,101
Great Northern ..	2,051,346	1,517,779	1,410,671	1,079,047	640,675	438,732
Western ..	2,073,498	1,680,049	1,330,961	1,132,501	742,537	547,948
	11,254,436	9,904,468	8,065,603	6,454,999	3,188,833	3,449,469

It should be noted that while the other companies' accounts refer to the calendar year 1921, the Western's latest accounts are for the year ended on June 30th last. The past year's large aggregate fall in working expenses contrasts with a rise, for the same six companies, of nearly £1,000,000 in the previous 12 months. The Eastern Extension company stands out with the largest individual increase in net profits. This is due largely, as the chairman pointed out at the annual meeting, to a reduction in the taxation item by over £480,000, caused in the main by the abolition of the excess profits duty. The crescendo and diminuendo of the demands of the tax collector have played so important a part in the accounts of cable concerns in recent times that it is perhaps worth while to set out separately for the past two years working expenses proper and taxation, which we do in the following table:—

	Working Expenses Proper.		Excess Profits Duty, Income-Tax, &c.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
Cuba Submarine ..	£ 34,284	£ 33,010	£ 7,063	£ 17,836
Direct Spanish ..	91,956	96,177	15,490	25,637
Eastern ..	2,988,783	2,518,101	324,016	285,345
Eastern Extension ..	1,196,241	1,082,371	666,138	184,853
Great Northern ..	994,004	1,079,047	*416,667	
Western ..	1,024,425	871,793	306,536	260,708

* Reserved for extraordinary taxes.

The Eastern, which a year ago showed the largest rise in working expenses proper, this year shows the largest reduction. As usual, the various boards of directors have made prudent use of the year's available profits. The Great Northern distribution is raised by 2 per cent., but the other five companies maintain the rates of the pre-

vious year. The Eastern places £500,000 to reserve, against £600,000 a year ago, but raises the carry forward by over £250,000; Eastern Extension reserves £500,000, against £450,000, and increases the carry forward by £227,000. How the various companies distributed their profits is shown below:—

Company.	Prior Charges, Pref. Div., &c.	Ordinary Dividend.		Rate Paid for 1920.	Placed to Reserve, &c.	Inc. or Dec. in Carry Forward.
		Rate.	Am't			
Cuba Submarine ..	£ 6,000	% 7½	£ 11,200	% 7½	£ 15,000	— 10,114
Direct Spanish ..	3,000	10½	6,465	10½	5,000	— 21,995
Eastern ..	150,000	10½	500,000	10½	500,000	+ 251,529
Eastern Extension ..	30,096	10½	400,000	10½	500,000	+ 227,100
Great Northern ..	22	22	330,000	24	88,888	+ 16,787
Western ..	32,747	10½	311,895	10½	250,000	— 14,347

† Free of income-tax.

A large part of the property of cable companies is of necessity in the nature of quickly wasting assets, and therefore the accumulation of large resources is peculiarly essential in their case. The following table shows the enormous reserve funds built up by the larger concerns:—

Company.	Total Capital.	Reserves (After Latest Additions).	Book Value of Cable, &c.	Cash and Investments.
Cuba Submarine ..	£ 220,000	£ 124,529	£ 232,876	£ 142,049
Direct Spanish ..	94,655	166,643	90,925	158,882
Eastern ..	9,000,000	3,069,636	11,080,159	1,737,955
Eastern Extension ..	4,752,400	3,754,018	5,053,466	3,516,176
Great Northern ..	1,500,000	4,198,854	2,019,572	5,125,890
Western ..	3,937,625	3,097,297	4,364,325	2,408,097

The reports, as a rule, observe the excellent practice of including a list of reserve fund investments, and these lists represent for the most part high-class and readily marketable investment securities. The policy of accumulating these huge liquid resources is standing the companies in particularly good stead just now, when arrears of repairs, replacements, and extensions, left over from the war period, have to be caught up.

In a final table we show how the quotations of the companies' securities have moved recently, and how they compare with the quotations current just before the war:—

Name.	Prices of 1921.		Prices of 1922 (to Nov. 30).		Price July 27, 1914.	Price End of 1921.	Price Dec. 20, 1922.	Yield.
Anglo-American ord. stock ..	Hgst. 49½	Lwst. 42½	Hgst. 67	Lwst. 49½	65½	49½	61½	£ s d 6 0 3
Do 6% non-cum. pref. ord. stock ..	87½	73½	104½	84	108½	84	102½	5 18 0
Do deferred stock ..	18½	14½	25	18½	21½	18½	23½	6 9 9
Cuba Submarine (£10) ..	7½	6½	8½	7	..	7	8	+8 15 0
Direct Spanish (£5) ..	8	7½	9½	8	..	8	9½	+5 0 0
Eastern Extension (£10) ..	16½	15	19½	16½	12½	16½	19½	+5 1 0
Do 4% pref. deb. stock ..	65½	61½	83	66½	97½	66½	80½	5 1 0
Eastern Telegraph ord. stk. ..	16½	15½	19½	16½	130½	16½	190½	+5 5 3
Do 4% pref. ..	66½	61½	83	66½	97½	66½	80½	4 19 6
Do 4% pref. deb. ..	67½	61½	82½	65½	92½	65½	80½	7 12 0
Gt. North. Telegraph (£10) ..	26½	20	31½	26	32½	26	28½	+5 4 0
Western Telegraph (£10) ..	16½	14½	19½	16½	13½	16½	19½	+5 4 0
Do 4% deb. stock ..	66½	60½	82	65½	96½	66½	80½	5 0 0

† Free of income-tax.

In 1921, a year of widespread depreciation, cable stocks distinguished themselves by small gains. This year their quotations have participated to a substantial extent in the appreciation which has marked the year in so many sections of the Stock Exchange. As regards the immediate prospects, the position is not very easy to sum up. Cable companies, like other concerns, depend upon active trade to swell their earnings. But they have shown that, on the other hand, they, like other people, benefit from a fall in the level of commodity prices. In any case, the stockholder in cable companies has this reason for confidence, that many shareholders in industrial concerns have not got, namely, that the companies have in the past built up such formidable resources that they can face with equanimity a succession of lean years. It may, perhaps, be difficult for some investors to get the bogey of wireless competition out of their minds. But there is no indication as yet that the future does not hold plenty of opportunity for cables, as well as wireless, to prosper.

THE INFLUENCE OF A FALLING EXCHANGE ON THE WEALTH OF A COUNTRY.—I.

(BY A GERMAN ECONOMIST.)

THE present state of German finances and German economics and its connection with the capacity of Germany to make Reparation payments has given unique importance to the question of how far a depreciation of the currency does bring about a real diminution in the wealth of a country.

To begin with, a serious depreciation of the currency is bound to bring about a far-reaching redistribution of wealth. The debtor is relieved, the creditor is *pro tanto* impoverished. The chief debtors, the State and the corporations, are greatly favoured. Taxpayers in general, whether national or municipal, can throw their burdens on to the shoulders of those taxpayers who have been unwise enough to lend gold, and who are being paid in paper. As far as appearances go, this is a mere shifting of wealth. The *ownership of material wealth* is greatly affected by it, though the *material wealth* itself, so it seems, is hardly changed at all. State-owned railways and municipal trams get rid of their liabilities, but their physical substance is not eaten up by this mere legal transfer. A farm does not necessarily deteriorate if the mortgage on it evaporates, and if the mortgagee is broken. Nor do the physical qualities of an industrial plant depreciate, even though the debenture holders are defrauded and ruined, whilst an increased dividend accrues to the shareholders.

This argument is fairly sound when the depreciation of the currency is moderate in amount, and when it does not affect a very broad class of the inhabitants of the country. When depreciation is very violent, however, and when the class affected is very numerous, the result is a social upheaval. The purchasing power of the creditor class—to which must be added those wage-earners whose wages do not increase as fast as the value of money decreases—is, so to speak, wiped out, at least as far as it is derived from income. It is supplemented for the time being by the transformation of capital into income; old savings are eaten up; household goods, jewellery, carpets, family treasures and the like, are sold, and their proceeds diverted to the supply of daily wants. Owing to this diversion of capital, the consumption of commodities is for the time being greater than the *income* of the nation; it is enhanced by the fear that, later on, prices are sure to rise. So goods which are not actually needed are bought on a large scale. Feverish buying of this kind cannot, however, do away with the fact that the annually recurring income of a large stratum of society has dwindled to vanishing point, even though this difference may have accrued to other classes.

This means, in practice, a loss of markets for agriculture and industry, for even if we assume that the peasant, the millowner, and the nondescript profiteer have practically annexed all the wealth which was formerly owned by the cultured middle class, and that the working class has not lost anything, the new rich may have got the *income* of the old, but they have not got their *wants*. They do not subscribe, for example, to the journals which those classes formerly took in, and which they have been forced to give up on account of their inability to pay the increased prices. The circulation begins to dwindle, until, as is happening just now in Germany, one paper after another is discontinued. In many lines of production sales diminish, and diminish to such a degree that overhead expenses and general costs of production increase greatly. This being so, the same physical plant is turning out a much smaller output at ever-increasing costs per unit. And naturally this must result financially in considerably diminished returns. Financial weakness of this kind is apt to lead to a physical deterioration of the plant, as repairs, reserves, and depreciation charges are reduced. This is clearly visible, for example, in the case of municipal tramways. The public are unable to pay the increased fares, though they are not really high when compared with the general level of prices. As a result, there is a permanent deficit, and the rolling stock and the permanent way deteriorate visibly. The situation is very much like that of the crisis which follows a violent change in commercial policy. The erection of a

high tariff wall would exclude certain industries from their accustomed markets. They might find new markets amongst the beneficiaries of the tariff itself, it is true, but these latter often neither desire the old goods nor do they consume them in sufficient quantities. A change in the direction of production would, no doubt, be possible in many cases, though not in all. Where it is not possible, the plant which formerly produced goods for the lost market will lose value as a going concern, though physically it may still remain intact. Other concerns may adapt themselves to the change, but both time and capital are needed to bring this about.

The chief result of a long-sustained depreciation of money in an old industrial country is the disappearance of working capital. The savings of the middle-class are frittered away, while farms and plant get cleared of their mortgages. This huge expropriation, which we may call "inverted socialism," may, no doubt, lead to an increase in the value of fixed capital, but it does not increase working capital. The £40 interest which a farmer may save on a mortgage by paying back £1,000 in valueless money does not provide him with the new working capital. The dividend-earning capacity of an industrial concern may be increased by the wiping out of liabilities, but while wise managers will put back most of these earnings into plant before paying any dividends, thus safeguarding themselves against depreciation and physical deterioration, others will pay dividends which, converted into gold, are very small, but which impress shareholders with a false glamour of prosperity, and induce them to riotous spending. In any case, the working capital is not increased. At the best such working capital as is taken from the investor is transformed into fixed capital, while the investing public eats up its depreciated funds in order to live. Bank deposits and savings-bank accounts shrivel up when converted into stable currency, and even the people whose incomes are fairly large are no longer able to save. They have learned by experience that spending money in the purchase of commodities is the only way of avoiding an almost complete loss. Even if 10-20 per cent. were paid for long-term deposits, investors would be losers, for 100,000 marks, returned after a year with 20 per cent. increment, are worth but 30,000 marks if the pound has gone up in the same time from 9,000 marks to 36,000 marks.

The shortage of capital is increased by investments in foreign currencies, where alone the public is safe from the effects of automatic depreciation. Some of this exported capital may facilitate the working of home industries by financing imports. A large part of it, however, is really a loan to foreign countries, the interest thereon being re-invested, as and when it falls due, while some of it, such as pound notes and dollar notes, or foreign exchange, is merely hoarded. The public are sometimes so reluctant to part with these hoards that they borrow money on them as collateral, whenever they are short of cash, paying over 20 per cent. interest a month!

This shortage of capital would be ever so much greater were it not for the reluctance to indulge in new investments. In agriculture, for example, there is a tendency to quit intensive farming, as the amount of cash needed for importing feeding stuffs, or for buying fertilisers, is so huge when reckoned in depreciated money that farmers are afraid to run the risk. They prefer to hoard notes or to buy useless commodities, while consuming a much greater part of their produce than they ever did before. The results are extensive farming, high prices, and the need of importing from abroad food which was formerly raised at home. This, of course, leads to an adverse change in the balance of trade.

Manufacturing concerns are affected in a similar way. Mills cannot finance the importation of raw materials if they do not export most of their finished produce, but have to sell instead against home currency. This reduces their production, and also, in the long run, the value of the undertaking as a going concern.

The best concerns have used their earnings for the upkeep and even for the extension of the plant, but in many cases the capital needed has been so great that the stock has had to be watered, and frequently it has been impossible to find the money for greatly needed ex-

tensions. Notwithstanding a very great shortage of coal in Germany, very few mines have been enterprising enough to open up new shafts. The risk of having to import from England coal which has to be paid for in gold is considered to be much less than that of spending vast sums of money on such improvements. This is also one of the reasons why building cannot go on. So production is greatly reduced all round.

Notes of the Week.

Employment in November.—In view of the improvement in the November trade returns and the more cheerful reports that come from some industrial centres, the official figures of unemployment in November are at first sight disappointing, for both the trade union percentage and the percentage for all workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act increased slightly last month. The end of October figure for unemployment reported by trade unions was given last month by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* as 14.1 per cent. This figure is now corrected to 14.0 per cent., and the end of November figure is given as 14.2 per cent. Recent movements of this percentage are traced below:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.

End of—	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January ..	2.2	0.3	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8
February ..	2.0	0.3	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3
March	1.9	0.3	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3
April	1.7	0.3	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0
May	1.9	0.4	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4
June	1.9	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7
July	1.9	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6
August	2.0	0.5	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4
September ..	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6
October	2.2	1.1	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0
November ..	2.0	1.1	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2
December ..	2.6	1.4	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	..

* Excluding coal miners.

† Corrected figure.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act rose from 12.0 at October 23rd to 12.4 at November 20th. The chief industries where a decline in the demand for labour was reported were the building trades and the cotton industry. On the other hand, conditions improved in the coal mining and pig-iron industries, in tinplate and steel sheet manufactures, and in some sections of the metal trades. In the coal-mining industry the unemployment percentage fell from 5.6 on October 23rd to 4.9 on November 20th. At the other end of the scale one finds an unemployment percentage of 37.6 in shipbuilding. The total of registered unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at November 27th was 1,437,000; whereas at the end of October the number on the live register was 1,385,000. Put in this way, the figures appear to tell a dismal story. The returns for this month are, however, not to be interpreted at their face value, and illustrate the danger of drawing conclusions from small variations or regarding them as more significant than their statistical value justifies. Thus, the trade union percentage is stated to show a rise from 14.0 per cent. to 14.2 per cent. But examination of the details shows that in the more important trades from which returns are received, unemployment has fallen. How, then, can the situation be worse? The explanation of the mystery is that in the current return a larger number of engineering unions are included than in last month's figures, and as these trades have over 27 per cent. of their members out of work, the inclusion of this larger proportion makes the average higher, though in the engineering trade unions themselves the percentage of unemployment has fallen from 27.6 to 27.3 per cent. We have recalculated the current figures in respect of the same number of trade unionists for each trade as figured in last month's returns, and we find that instead of having risen, the percentage has fallen a shade, from 14.0 to 13.9 per cent. When we come to the insurance figures the position is more doubtful. The number of unemployed books lodged is greater than a month ago; but, even in this case, the figures published a month ago relate to October 27th, a date when it is believed that an abnormally large proportion of workpeople were completing the

"special period" or "gap," but by November 20th, to which the current figures relate, they had come back on to the insurance fund for a new benefit period. To the extent that this is the case, the increased unemployment is a statistical illusion. Indeed, whereas the chart of the Minister of Labour gives the impression that the improvement in employment has come to an end and the trend is beginning to move in the wrong direction, the detailed trade reports themselves indicate that this is not the case. Only in building, cotton, some branches of the clothing trade, and in pottery is there any set-back. In all other trades conditions are stationary or improving—the latter condition being reported, in particular, in mining, iron and steel, and engineering, in addition to many minor trades. The points we have criticised are not of great intrinsic importance, but in view of the importance of the unemployment problem it should be possible for the Ministry of Labour to portray more accurately the trend of current movements.

Cost of Living.—The cost of living for an average working-class family, as calculated by the Ministry of Labour, remained stationary in November, and on December 1st was 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The following table shows monthly movements of this percentage figure over a period of five years:—

ALL ITEMS: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January 1st	85.90	120	125	165	92
February ..	90	120	130	151	88
March ..	90	115	130	141	86
April ..	90.95	110	132	133	82
May ..	95.100	105	141	128	81
June ..	100	105	150	119	80
July ..	100.105	105.110	152	119	84
August ..	110	115	155	122	81
September ..	110	115	161	120	79
October ..	115.120	120	164	110	78
November ..	120.125	125	176	103	80
December ..	120	125	169	99	80

Retail food prices at December 1st showed an increase of 78 per cent. over the pre-war level, as compared with an increase of 76 per cent. recorded at the beginning of November. The slight advance shown last month was due to small increases in the average prices of eggs, cheese, tea, milk, fish, and frozen mutton. On the other hand, British meat, bacon, and butter were slightly cheaper. Among articles outside the food group which became cheaper last month were candles and men's clothing.

The Government and Industry.—The Federation of British Industries has sent to the Prime Minister a manifesto urging the Government "to devote their efforts to the removal of the many difficulties and impediments which are at present delaying revival of trade." This document gives pride of place to economy and reduction of taxation. "Some substantial relief of taxation is an essential preliminary to any trade revival," and the maximum relief to industry would be afforded, says the manifesto, by (a) the abolition of the Corporation Profits Tax and (b) a substantial reduction in the rate of income-tax, and concurrently with such a reduction some remission of indirect taxation. The Federation disavows the responsibility of suggesting the line which economies should take, but expresses regret that the Geddes Committee recommendations were not more fully carried out. Since Sir Eric Geddes has just become president of the Federation, we may perhaps expect to hear more from this quarter on the economy question before long. Having recently issued a memorandum on inter-Allied debts and exchange stabilisation, the present manifesto does not touch those subjects. It does refer, however, to the important question of the high tariffs set up in so many countries since the war, and makes the following point:—"It is most important that energetic action should be taken by His Majesty's Government before these tariffs have had time to crystallise and before vested interests dependent upon high rates of protection have been created. The general course of action to be taken by His Majesty's Government

is obvious. They should endeavour to secure satisfactory Commercial Treaties with as many countries as possible." The suggestion is made that the personnel of the Government departments concerned is insufficient for the expeditious negotiation of such treaties, and that voluntary assistance from the business community might be utilised. The proposal is also put forward that a small expert Commission might be appointed "to go into the whole question of the commercial relations with foreign countries." On the subject of industrial legislation the Federation emphatically protests against "a regrettable tendency," noticeable in recent years, "to bring forward legislation regulating or restricting the operation and development of industry without laying down the principles upon which such regulation or restriction is to be exercised. Instead of defining the principles, wide powers have been entrusted to administrative officials on the assumption that these powers will be reasonably and equitably exercised." Other questions discussed are the rating of machinery, postal charges, and possible economies in educational administration. We suggest that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might do worse than study this manifesto during his voyage across the Atlantic.

The Stock Exchange and Christmas.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—"Seasonable gaiety has usurped the place of business seriousness in a good many of the markets of the Stock Exchange during the past few days. When toy balloons are flying about all over the House, from one market to another, it is exceedingly difficult to concentrate upon the strict attention to business that, in ordinary times, occupies the chief notice of Stock Exchange members. The mechanical difficulties of collecting prices, &c., are greatly increased, and clients who may find unexpected quotations appearing in their newspapers can sometimes put this down to the result of Christmas festivities. In the House itself, on Wednesday, the committee and managers gave their annual Christmas dinner, to which a number of prominent guests accepted invitations. From the point of view of prices, the week before Christmas is invariably associated with quiet selling on behalf of people who want to pile up cash balances with their bankers at the end of the year. Such realisations are generally done some ten days in advance, in order that the money may be forthcoming in time to allow it to be paid in before New Year's eve. This year the predilection for window-dressing has pursued its common course. In addition to such particular reason for selling stock, a surprising number of people go over their lists of securities before the year closes, and throw out all such oddments as they have accumulated during the twelve months, and which they do not intend to keep into a new year. Consequently, scores of bargains are done every day in such small amounts of stocks and shares as threaten to break the hearts of the brokers and jobbers concerned—not to mention the amount of extra work thrown upon clerical staffs who are thinking more about Christmas presents, and the spending thereof, than they are of making out transfers and delivering stock. There is, however, one aspect of business which is not generally recognised at the present time. Without its being advertised in any way, a large volume of Stock Exchange trade is taking place, not only in one market, but in several others, through the medium of really substantial lines of stocks and shares that are being placed with banks, insurance companies, South African houses, and other large buyers. These deals take place without the market being disturbed to the extent of a sixteenth in the prices of the stocks concerned. Such business goes, of course, into the hands of the big firms, as a rule, and the smaller man, and the public alike, hear nothing about it. The Home Railway market is not one of those to which this specialised class of business applies as a rule, although some of its gilt-edged stocks are sold and bought in blocks during the last few days of the year. The ordinary stocks, however, are maintained in price by reason of the expectation that, when the market re-assembles in 1923, and the new stocks become familiarised to the ordinary investor, there is likely to be a considerable impetus given to business. With dividend declarations coming along directly afterwards, it is expected that the public interest will be quickened, and that the process of rounding-off amounts, selling some and buying others, is likely to give

COX & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1758.

Head Office: - 16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

City Office: - 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Branches in INDIA and EGYPT.

Undertake

FOREIGN BANKING

transactions of every description.

Correspondents in all parts of the world.

rise to a really active market in Home Railway stocks. Discounting such probable activity, a number of prices have been advancing during the past few days, because it is assumed that people will be more willing to buy stock, in order to make up level amounts, than they will be anxious to sell at a time when the railway industry emerges finally from its Governmental bonds and becomes firmly established on its own feet once more. So far as the industrial markets are concerned, the speech of Mr Bonar Law at the end of last week was sufficiently hopeful to lead to a much more cheerful feeling pervading the market for oil, shipbuilding, textile, and other shares in such companies as are likely to benefit in the New Year by the increased trade which the Prime Minister foresees. Therefore, with all the handicaps to which Stock Exchange business is subject during the few days before the Christmas holiday, it is worth noticing by those who follow the markets that a decidedly firm tone prevails, in spite of the mild dulness exhibited by the Consol market, and which may be attributed to the window-dressing proclivities already mentioned. Next week will see the closing days of the old year, when business is never brisk in Stock Exchange circles, but, for all that, the settlement with which 1922 winds up may quite well prove to be a profitable and a fairly large one when it comes to be adjusted on Friday.

Austrian Government 8 per Cent. Gold Loan.—Subscriptions are now being invited for an issue of Austrian Treasury Bonds of the nominal amount of \$6,000,000 U.S.A., the subscription price being par, less interest at 8 per cent. per annum, calculated from the date of subscription to June 1, 1923. The loan is repayable on that date, either in dollars or in Austrian currency at the fixed rate of 70,000 crowns per dollar, at the option of the holder. The bonds are to be redeemed by the Austrian Government out of the proceeds of the loan which it is proposed to issue next year under the auspices of the League of Nations, in accordance with the Geneva Convention. The present issue—which is an interim arrangement for meeting immediate needs—is specially secured on the Customs Duties and the proceeds of the Tobacco Monopoly in Austria. It is intended that next year's loan shall be backed by guarantee of Great Britain, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Switzerland, but up to the present no way appears to have been found for combining into a form acceptable to investors the guarantees of countries whose own credit standing is so varied as those of the countries mentioned. It is greatly to be hoped that a solution will be found to this awkward problem, as it is one of the fundamental difficulties to be overcome if international action of this kind is to succeed. Applications for the issue of bonds referred to above can be forwarded through the Anglo-Austrian Bank in London. The financial position of Austria has improved considerably of late in anticipation of this scheme, which will, it is hoped, set the country definitely on its feet again. At present, however, the industrial world is faced with falling prices and other unpleasant economic features of a return to financial sanity. The ultimate fate of this remnant of the Habsburg Monarchy must depend, however, on the success of next year's loan. The recent compromise between the Government of Dr Seipel and the Socialists may prove, however, to be an important step towards the settlement of Austria's administrative problems: though Dr Zimmermann, the League's Commis-

sioner for Austria, has preferred to take his appointment "on approval" for a short period in order to see how the compromise will actually work in practice. On the one hand, a considerable measure of freedom of action must be allowed to the Commissioner in order that the League plan may have a fair chance, but, on the other hand, it is reasonably certain that no scheme could succeed in face of the opposition, both inside and outside Parliament, of the Socialist parties. The subscription list for the new loan—which we hope will prove attractive to the Austrian investor—closes on December 30th, and upon its successful flotation will depend in large measure the economic and financial reconstruction of the country.

Outward Coal and Freights.—A correspondent writes:—Considerable interest is being shown in the outward coal position, and while at the moment the markets are under the influence of the holidays, everything points to very active conditions early in 1923. The coal position in the United States is still unsettled. No serious attempt has been made to recover the export trade, and in some quarters another strike is considered probable if the coal-mine owners attempt to reduce wages, as they will practically be forced to do in order to compete with British coal. If the miners go on strike in April the Canadian markets would feel the effects, and in the circumstances it is not at all surprising to find that already there are orders coming over for fairly large quantities of Welsh coal for shipment to Montreal next April. In addition to this, there are orders for American account, among them being one for New York for 50,000 tons of Admiralty coals for delivery during the first quarter of 1923, and inquiries are also to hand for shipment during the second quarter. The Chile State Railways will call for tenders for 250,000 tons of coal in February, and, generally speaking, the outward coal market looks very healthy, with steamers booked this week from Wales to Genoa, Port Said, River Plate, and Bombay. In the homeward markets there is a seasonal lull, but the inquiry from the Argentine has again been fairly brisk, with steamers booked up for January and February loading. The freight money paid has been 25s 9d from down-river and 26s 6d to 28s 9d from such places as San Lorenzo and Bahia Blanca, the bulk of the steamers being for the Antwerp-Hamburg range of discharging ports. North American business has been slow, owing to the exchange position, but there is some inquiry about for the Mediterranean and a big contract pending for Greece. All the Eastern markets have continued very firm, with more interest shown in steamers from Bombay/Karachi, while rice from Burmah has been shipped for Germany. The demand for steamers to load ore from the Mediterranean and Bay ports is becoming more active on the better outlook in the iron and steel trades, and a large number of orders is circulating, including Hornillo/Middlesbrough at 7s, Melilla/Manchester at 7s 6d, and Santander/Glasgow at 8s.

Export Credits.—A Board of Trade statement shows that the total advances, credits and guarantees sanctioned up to October 2nd last, under the Overseas Trade (Credits and Insurance) Act of 1920, totalled £21,319,123. Of £3,120,711 advances sanctioned, £1,742,142 had been taken at that date, the countries affected being Austria, Finland, Bulgaria, Baltic Provinces, Poland, Jugo-Slavia, Roumania, and Czecho-Slovakia. General and specific credits taken amounted to £1,643,548, and guarantees to £4,557, making a grand total of advances, credits, and guarantees taken of £3,390,247.

The Economic Condition of Venezuela.—Judging from the report of the British Minister at Caracas just issued by the Overseas Trade Department, the prospects of Venezuelan recovery from the post-war depression of trade are good. Favourable signs are the possession of a sound currency, which stimulates purchasing power by its appreciation above sterling, and even the American dollar, and is never tampered with by the Government; the passing of a new Petroleum Law which should attract more foreign capital, the prospect of political quiet through the unanimous re-election of General Gomez to the Presidency till 1929, and the competence, unusual in

Spanish America, of the financial administration, which can apparently be trusted not to abuse the facilities for supplementary expenditure given to it by the legal limitation of the duration of the Congressional Session. The leading exports, however, are still low in price, and cocoa, the second in importance, has risen considerably since the end of last year; but coffee, which is 60 per cent. of the total, has fallen slightly. The export of hides and skins is only about 29 per cent. of its pre-war average, the frozen meat industry, established during the war, is suspended, the British cattle company which supplies it is concentrating on the improvement of the breed, and has been robbed of stock by "semi-revolutionary" bands from Columbia; and balata hardly pays for collection. But the Caribbean Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of the Shell, has begun to earn profits, and other undertakings, notably British Controlled Oilfields, Limited, seem on the way to do so. Among minor exports, that of egret feathers has fallen in value over 50 per cent. since 1919—a decline which calls for no regret. The export of gold—two-thirds of it "placer," presumably got by individual diggers—has increased, and the briquettes from the State coal mines seem to have a future as marine fuel. Only one copper-mining company is now in operation, with an export of 6,422 tons in 1921. In the last two years there have been heavy Budget deficits, met, however, by Treasury reserves accumulated during the war and the year of prosperity following it; they are ascribed mainly to the fall in Customs revenue, and to expenditure for special and non-recurrent purposes and on public works. The total public debt is about £5,000,000; the foreign debt is being duly redeemed, and the floating debt is small. In foreign trade the United States leads both in imports and exports; in shipping, Holland has lately taken the first place, followed by France and the United States, Great Britain being fourth. But the improvement in exchange should give opportunities of developing British trade on British ships. The report is full of statistical detail, and presents an unexpectedly favourable account of a country which has not been noted in the past for good government or stability.

Retail Trade and Co-operative Results.—The returns of the distributive co-operative societies operating mainly among the industrial classes are a useful index to the prospects of retail trade generally. Reviewing the balance-sheets for the last few months of some of the societies, a correspondent finds a hopefulness that is supported by figures indicative that the worst has been reached, and that the probability of a revival early in 1923 is assured. At Halifax the committee is "satisfied that the trade slump has now reached its worst, and there will be better trade in the future." At Hull the sales to the 33,455 members during the last three months were £463,128, a decrease of £105,397 on the corresponding period of 1921. This decrease was 18½ per cent., while the cost of living fell 29 per cent. that quarter, so that the business done was fairly satisfactory in amount, although the dividend on purchases was reduced to 6d in the £, and £5,000 has had to be taken from the reserve fund. At Keighley the trade has fallen off by 10 per cent.; at Nottingham by 18 per cent.; at Stockport 6 per cent.; at Enfield 14 per cent., and at Birkenhead 23 per cent., but here, as at Hull, the committee call attention to the decrease in the cost of living being more than the lessened total of trade. Lower prices as well as unemployment have had much to do with the decreased turnovers of the co-operative societies, hence the optimistic outlook universally taken in the movement. At Liverpool, where the co-operative membership is 61,544, the trading returns for April to July showed a smaller decrease by £90,000 than for January to April, and since July many of the departments of the stores have shown increases over the sales of the latter half of 1921. But when allowance has been made for lower prices and short-time in many industries, notably in Lancashire, the fact stands forth that thousands of members continue to trade with the multiple shops and the private traders of their towns. The average weekly purchases per member are often absurdly low, in view of the claim put forward that the four million members of co-operative societies represent

the purchasing power of sixteen to twenty millions of the population. During the rationing period of the War the highest registration with co-operative societies was for sugar, and ten million was the total of the population so registered, but the tea figures were never more than three millions, and in other commodities even less. Last quarter the average weekly purchases were only 8s 7d at Liverpool, as compared with 11s 11d a week last year; at Failsworth (Manchester) they were 14s 11d as against 18s 10d. During 1921 the average weekly purchases of co-operators for the whole of the country were 18s 7d, which amount was greatly helped by the Scottish purchases—in many cases over 24s per week. In 1921 the average purchases of the Woolwich members were only 14s 3d, whereas they were 17s 10d the previous year. These figures—which should have been maintained, because the opening of hundreds of new departments and branches should counteract the decreased values—compare with 8s 8½d in 1913, and it may be regarded as generally true that the trade per member has not doubled, although prices are so much higher than they were in the year before the War. The difficulties of co-operative societies are due in great degree to the increased overhead charges, and to the wages having been liberally advanced during 1920. Committees have found it harder to secure reductions than do some of their competitors, and these expenses for 1922 are nearly as high as in 1921, when the wages paid to distributive employees exceeded by two millions those paid in the previous year. Moreover, these advances took place in a year when the total trade of the British societies fell to £221,000,000 from the £246,000,000 of 1921. Stocks generally have been considerably reduced, many committees having instructed their buyers to make as few purchases as possible; in some cases large sums have been allowed for depreciation in order to bring values to current market prices.

Scotch Whisky Trade.—The new Highland distilling season is now well under way, writes an Edinburgh correspondent, and, all things considered, the distillers have done fairly well in the way of booking filling orders. The North of Scotland Malt Distillers' Association has reduced its official flat filling price by 6d to 5s 6d per proof gallon. Always cautious, the Association deferred calling the usual meeting until a number of distillers, growing impatient, announced their own prices without waiting for the Association. The majority of the members may be loyally endeavouring to adhere to the Association's prices, but a substantial proportion of the season's make will undoubtedly be sold at round 5s per proof gallon. The proprietors of a few favoured distilleries have fixed their price as high as 6s 3d per proof gallon, and while a number of their more important customers are said to have carried their protest to the length of withholding the usual bonding orders, it is generally anticipated that the distillers in question will eventually dispose of the whole of their output. Prospects on the whole are favourable for the season. Home-grown barley is not of the uniform high-class quality which could have been desired, but the price for the better qualities has been fairly steady at round 45s per quarter. Quite a lot of Danish and other foreign barley is being landed at North of Scotland ports for distillers, but it is feared that, taken all over, the extract of whisky will not be up to that of last year, the universal lack of sunshine having affected the saccharine qualities of the grain. Most of the Highland distilleries are expected to work up to top-notch capacity, as, while the output of the last two seasons has been substantial, the shortage of matured whiskies brought about by the prohibition of distilling during the last years of the war, and the imposition of the three years' age limit is proving quite as serious as was feared, despite the shrinkage that has taken place in the consumption at home and abroad. The best opinion seems to be to the effect that yet another bumper season's output of malt whisky is necessary to bring the stocks up to the level necessitated by the changed conditions. The total stocks of home-made spirits have increased from 129,381,000 proof gallons on October 31, 1920, to 138,942,000 proof gallons on October 31, 1921, and to 145,312,000 proof gallons on October 31, 1922. The Revenue officials, unfortunately, do not discriminate

between the different classes of spirit in bonded warehouses, so that it is impossible to say what proportion of those totals constitutes malt whisky of the various categories and what grain whisky. The consumption continues to languish as a result of the high spirit duty. For the 12 months to September 30th—which is the period which permits of the fairest comparison to show the effects of the last increase in the spirit duty—the combined consumption of home-made and imported spirits amounted to 17,732,855 proof gallons, showing a decline of 1,272,750 proof gallons as compared with the preceding year. This follows upon a decline of 4,886,021 proof gallons in the 12 months ending September 30, 1921. Of the last year's decline, no less than 991,296 proof gallons were attributable to imported spirits, but nevertheless the slump in the consumption of home-made spirits as a result of the increase in the spirit duty by 22s 6d to 72s 6d per proof gallon in April, 1920, has now assumed serious proportions. Assuming that the consumption had remained as it was in 1920, when the duty was raised from 50s, the yield now at 72s 6d is practically £3,000,000 per annum less than it would have been at the old rate of duty. The export trade has also suffered severely from Customs duties and other restrictions imposed in overseas markets, those being generally held in the trade as being the result of the British Government's mistaken policy at home. For the current year the total shipments will work out at, approximately, 5,500,000 proof gallons, which compares very poorly with the figure of over 10,000,000 gallons which obtained in 1913.

"Importing Wheat as Flour."—A powerful agricultural group in the new House of Commons has accepted as a "plank" in its platform for the new Parliament a resolution against "importing wheat as flour." As this phrase, familiar as it may be to grain importers, will not be equally known to all, it may be useful, however briefly, to define what exactly is meant by the resolution. With respect to its economic bearings, nothing need be said for the moment as even a convinced Cabinet could not interfere with the many contracts already existing for December, January, and February shipments of flour to British ports. The Victorian Britain had witnessed population gaining not on the home production of wheat alone, but on the milling machinery for grinding wheat. Thus an annual importation of about a million sacks of flour into London, and three millions into all other ports, had come to be accepted as customary, and it would be difficult to find in any journal of the last century any protest against the form in which material for the loaf was put on British quays. With the new century, however, there came a great and notable revival in British milling as a great industrial art. By the year 1911 Britain could not only produce any flour that any foreign mill could turn out, but had incidentally acquired the machinery to grind the entire forty million sacks required annually by the consumer. These great advantages soon began to tell, and by 1914 the British mills were not only giving complete satisfaction to bakers, but were gaining ground on the foreign ones from which less and less flour was required. The war not only checked, but absolutely reversed this process. The Government took over the home mills, and reduced the percentage of quality in the grists. Before the war an extraction of 25 to 28 per cent. of the coarser and outer portions of the wheat berry left nothing but fine flour even for the poorest consumer, while farmers obtained fully 25 per cent. of middlings, sharps, and bran for their pigs and other live stock. War flour was, however, an extraction first of 80 and then of 90 per cent. The public were compelled to eat what hitherto had gone to the trough and the manger. There was, however, one avenue left open to the wealthy and the wary. The Government could not forbid the importation of Canadian flour without doing an injury to a Dominion, or shut out American without hurting an ally. "Milling Orders" succeeded one another in rapid succession, but control of fine quality flour was never adequate, or, as regards hotels and clubs, very serious. By 1918 the *cognoscenti* had been taught to identify imported flour with fine quality flour, and although the war ended officially in June, 1920, it was not till March 31, 1921, that the bureaucracy re-

leased its hold on the British mills. Allowing six months for adjustment, the bread made by our own mills has now for over a year been of pre-war excellence, but unfortunately the shippers of flour have learned to regard the captured British markets as a valuable asset. London this year has received nearly two million sacks of overseas flour, and not only do such imports throw milling operatives out of employment, and cause the loss of interest on capital sunk in machinery, but they also deprive the farmer of the by-products, the middlings, and so forth, which he particularly needs for building up his fattening animals and for keeping his fowls laying. There is even springing up a new type of miller who buys English wheat in small quantity to flavour Argentine for general utility, and who incorporates these grists with American and Canadian strong wheat imported as flour. In this way a miller with very moderate machinery (in output per day), and with very few skilled operatives to pay, can yet do a really large business with the baker. The Agricultural Committee contends that the importation of wheat as wheat, and not as flour, could not affect the price of the loaf. On this assertion issue will almost certainly be joined. There is only one way in which the British miller can prove his point, and that is by proving as he did before the war that he can, in open competition, capture and hold the market by his efficiency.

Samuel Allsopp and Sons.—A further decline in earnings is recorded in the report of Samuel Allsopp and Sons for the year ended September 30th last, although even the present trading profit of £239,927 is nearly double pre-war figures, as a perusal of the following table shows:—

	1914-15.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Trading profit	£120,717	£307,268	£355,434	£346,918	£251,125	£239,927
Debiture interest, &c.	71,201	97,915	100,058	102,365	101,160	104,355
Red. of Certs. of Rights	42,796	42,796	42,796	42,796	42,796	42,796
Depreciation and repairs	45,917	82,246	104,964	114,916	92,140	77,780
Net profit	3,599	84,311	150,414	129,637	57,825	57,792
Brought forward	13,048	20,930	19,324	19,324	19,324	19,324
Reserve	16,647	105,241	169,738	148,961	77,149	77,116
Preference dividend	..	50,000	72,061	51,871	47,107	47,107
Ordinary dividend	..	33,917	58,413	58,413	10,030	10,030
Carried forward	16,647	21,324	21,116	19,661	20,013	19,979

The participating preference shares receive, in addition to their 5 per cent., a further $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., as last year, while a 3 per cent. distribution is again made on ordinary capital, as against $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the two years 1918-20. The most favourable feature about the accounts is, perhaps, the saving which has been effected over repairs and amounts required for maintenance. Repairs and maintenance of premises and plant take this year £44,283, as against £62,942 a year ago, but depreciation of plant, casks, &c., absorbs £29,563, as compared with £25,396. On turning to the balance-sheet several interesting changes are noticeable. Stocks at £346,039 are down by £118,281, holdings of barley malt, hops, ale, &c., falling from £380,657 to £255,042. Cash figures at £354,568, as against £339,972, and an item, we assume consisting mainly of trade investments, is up from £275,672 to £288,963. Goodwill is still retained in the accounts at £700,000, while reserves of £200,000 remain unchanged. The directors have no doubt given much attention to the last-mentioned two items, and perhaps the chairman may refer to them at the general meeting, which is to be held on December 29th. An analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in the usual column.

De Beers Diamond.—Within the past three years, writes our mining correspondent, the shareholders in this South African consolidation have tasted the extremes of wealth and poverty. In respect of the year ended June 30th, 1920, holders of the deferred capital received £3 per £2 10s share, the distributions in all calling for nearly $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions. For 1920-21 the rate on the deferred dropped to 10s, and the preference dividend has since been in arrears. Due partly to financial conditions, and partly to the flooding of the market with stones stolen by the Bolsheviks, the demand for freshly-cut diamonds became so small that the leading South African companies suspended production entirely or to a great extent; such inquiry as existed could

easily be met out of the stocks on hand. Hence "diamond account" in the De Beers statement to June 30th last figures for little more than £400,000—a mere ghost of preceding totals; and to enable the company to cover its expenditure, over half-a-million was taken from the general fund and the "stabiliment" reserve. These two now figure at slightly over £1,000,000. Investments in other diamond mining companies stand at £2,905,100; blue ground on floors, £1,719,200. Debtors, special investments, and cash amounted to £749,300; current liabilities to £480,700. Appended is an analysis of the accounts for each of the past three years:—

	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Diamond account	£6,761,840	£2,300,851	£401,816
Interest, &c.	236,060	639,448	324,675
Brought in	889,029	1,602,307	1,022,189
Totals	7,886,929	4,542,337	1,748,680
Mining expenditure	1,991,258	1,976,053	798,553
Other expenditure & charges	741,976	735,454	530,477
Totals	2,733,234	2,711,507	1,329,030
Net profit and balance	5,153,695	1,830,830	419,650
Taxation	439,550	6,593	86,507
To reserves	382,070	119,505	..
Dividends	3,740,000	1,240,000	..
Carried forward	592,075	464,732	333,143

* Including £1,010,232 from general fund.
† Including £557,457 from reserves.

The De Beers directors confirm the statements recently current as to an improvement in the diamond trade, but add that "the total recovery will necessarily depend upon the return to normal of trade conditions generally throughout the world." The change for the better is reflected in the announcement that one-half the preference dividend due to the end of 1922 is to be paid. This, representing 15s per share, will absorb the substantial amount of £600,000. No light is thrown in the report upon two important questions—the rumoured resumption of mining in January and the purpose to which the new creation of deferred shares is to be devoted. Probably some information will be vouchsafed at the meeting which is to be held on the 29th inst.

Taquah and Abosso.—These two West African gold propositions continue their struggle against the difficulties attendant upon shortage of labour. Various remedial measures have been projected, but up to the present little success can be boasted. Last year Taquah made the slightly increased profit of £9,000; this, however, provided less than half the sum required to cover the dividend of 5 per cent. declared in January, the balance coming out of the carry forward. Not unnaturally in the above-mentioned circumstances the ore reserves show a reduction; still, the present total is sufficient to keep the mill going for more than three years at the 1921-22 rate of extraction. Working costs show a moderate reduction. The Taquah Central property—which this company sponsored some two or three years ago—has proved a disappointment, and work is suspended. The Abosso's profit of £5,700 compares with a loss of approximately equivalent amount in 1920-21; the cash position does not permit even a small distribution. There is the satisfactory point that a reduction of over 7s per ton was effected in the cost ratio. At 292,100 tons the ore reserves indicate a small falling off; the value has, however, been maintained at 34s 6d per ton. The quantity represents over four years' work.

Bank Failures in Japan.—We are informed that since the Nippon Sekizen Bank closed its doors on November 29th, several other banks have suspended their payment. They are all, however, very small, some being almost unknown to the general public, and consequently no serious results are anticipated. Nevertheless, the principal bankers, at the suggestion of the Bank of Japan, held conferences on December 15th at Tokio and Osaka, at which it was agreed that they will assist each other to prevent any disturbances which may be caused by various current rumours. As the result of those conferences, the public tension is gradually being relieved.

The Ministry of Finance in Tokio has also issued a statement, in which it states that the Bank of Japan is endeavouring to give the utmost assistance to banks in order to allay uneasiness. "At the same time, the Finance Ministry is urging the banks to protect the interests of the depositors, and is prepared, if necessary, to take all appropriate means in order that the situation be not aggravated."

Oversea Correspondence.

**UNITED STATES.—GOVERNMENT'S FINANCING—
FEDERAL BUDGET—TAXATION PROPOSALS—
COMMODITY PRICES—OCTOBER RAILROAD EARN-
INGS—STEEL CORPORATION'S STATEMENT.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

NEW YORK, December 12.

To meet obligations maturing on December 15th, the United States Treasury has offered new certificates of indebtedness and notes, totalling approximately \$700,000,000. The offering, which is one of the largest financial operations undertaken by the Government since the war, includes two series of certificates, aggregating about \$400,000,000, one bearing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and maturing in three months, while the other carries 4 per cent. interest and will mature in one year. The other part of the offering consists of some \$300,000,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. two and a-half year Treasury notes; the right is reserved to allot additional notes to the extent that $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Victory notes may be tendered in payment. In his letter to banking institutions, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon explains that the December maturities are being financed on a short-term basis in the belief that prospects for the next year or two point to the probability of substantial retirements of early maturing debt out of current receipts. There will become payable the middle of this month about \$700,000,000 of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Victory notes, also approximately \$200,000,000 of Treasury certificates of indebtedness and some \$100,000,000 in interest on the public debt, or a total of about \$1,000,000,000. Against these payments the Treasury is said to have available balances amounting to about \$275,000,000, and expects to receive in the neighbourhood of \$275,000,000 in income and profits taxes this month. The new notes and certificates just offered are expected to provide for the remainder of the December 15th maturities, and leave a margin to cover the Treasury's immediate cash requirements, and such balance of the 1918 war savings certificates as may have to be redeemed in cash in the New Year. With the completion of this month's financing, the Treasury will have taken care of most of the short-dated debt maturing this fiscal year.

Last week President Harding transmitted to Congress the Federal Budget covering the year ending June 30, 1924. The following table, from the President's message, summarises the estimated receipts and expenditures for the next and the current fiscal year, and compares them with the actual figures for the fiscal year ended June 30th last:—

BUDGET SUMMARY.

(Exclusive of Postal Revenues and Postal Expenditures paid from Postal Revenues.)

	Estimated.		Actual, 1922.
	1924.	1923.	
Total receipts	\$3,361,812,359	\$3,429,882,959	\$4,109,104,150.94
Total expenditures (including reduction of the public debt required by law to be made from ordinary receipts)	3,180,843,234	3,703,801,671	3,795,302,499.84
Excess of expenditures Excess of receipts	180,969,125	273,938,712	313,801,651.10

Whereas for the last fiscal year receipts were \$313,801,651 larger than expenditure, the current fiscal year is expected to show an excess of

expenditure to the amount of \$273,938,712, while for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, a surplus of \$180,969,125 is indicated. Estimated receipts for the current fiscal year show a decrease of more than \$670,000,000 as compared with those for the fiscal year 1922, while the decline in receipts for the 1924 fiscal year, as compared with those for the present year, is estimated at approximately \$68,000,000. Expenditures for the coming fiscal year, however, are expected to show a decrease of nearly \$523,000,000 from those for the current fiscal year, which are only about \$91,500,000 below those for the fiscal year 1922. The deficit now figured for the year ending June 30, 1923, is much less than that forecast last July, when it was estimated at \$697,000,000, as against the \$273,900,000, approximately, now estimated. The more favourable outlook, the President explains, is due mainly to a substantial increase in receipts during the past five months, resulting from better collection of ordinary revenues, a gain in Customs receipts, continued enforcement of economies, and a revision of the expenditure programme based on five months of actual operation. In the list of appropriations for the fiscal year 1924, the largest single decrease is that of \$50,000,000 for the Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation. The Army appropriation shows a reduction of more than \$20,300,000, while the allowance for the Treasury Department is cut by about \$11,700,000, for the Department of the Interior by almost an equal amount, and for the Navy Department by not quite \$1,400,000. The Department of Agriculture gets an increase of approximately \$18,800,000, the United States Veterans' Bureau about \$18,200,000, and the State Department appropriation is nearly \$4,000,000 larger, while that for the Tariff Commission is doubled. President Harding points out that the greater part of the Government's expenditure is in the nature of fixed charges, and that only about one billion dollars are subject to administrative control and economy. He expresses deep concern over the increasing indebtedness of States, counties, and municipalities.

The most noteworthy features in Secretary of the Treasury Mellon's annual report, submitted to Congress last week, were his remarks and recommendations on taxation. He renewed his plea for a reduction of high surtax rates, which, he declared, operate to reduce rather than increase the Government's revenue. High rates, he said, "sound productive, but the fact remains that they are becoming increasingly ineffective and are yielding less and less revenue every year." He gave convincing figures showing that high rates have caused the gradual disappearance of the taxable incomes to which they were intended to apply. The principal method adopted to escape the burdensome surtax, he said, was to invest in tax-exempt securities, the volume of which now amounts to about \$11,000,000,000. Such securities, he estimated, are reaching the market at the rate of \$1,000,000,000 annually. Mr Mellon asserted that investors who normally would put their surplus funds into productive enterprises "are automatically driven, under the pressure of high surtax rates, into investment in tax-exempt securities, with the result that the Federal Government loses the revenue, business and industry lose the capital, and funds badly needed for productive purposes are diverted into un-

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

productive and frequently wasteful public expenditure." He therefore strongly urged the prompt enactment of the proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting the further issuance of tax-exempt securities. He expressed the belief, however, that the change most necessary was the lowering of the surtax rates themselves, and recommended a reduction from the present 50 per cent. maximum to 25 per cent., which, with the normal tax rate added, would mean a cut from 58 to 33 per cent.

Commodity prices continued to rise in November, but less vigorously than in October. *Bradstreet's* index number of December 1st was \$13,7835, showing a gain of 3.3 per cent. over November 1st, of 21.9 per cent. over December 1st a year ago, and of 30 per cent. over the low level touched on June 1st of last year. From the peak point on February 1, 1920, the present index number shows a decrease of 33.9 per cent., but indicates an increase of 58.2 per cent. as compared with August 1, 1914. During November more commodities and groups showed declines than was the case in the preceding month. Food products and textiles were outstanding features of strength, while some weakness was displayed by fruits, fuel, metals, and naval stores. As indicating the marked strength in prices this year, as compared with last, it is not without interest to note that 70 commodities are higher, 24 are lower, and 12 remain unchanged.

Net operating income of 189 of the first-class railroads in this country amounted to \$85,234,000 for October, representing a return at the annual rate of 4.05 per cent. on their tentative property valuation. This compares with \$105,425,600 for October, 1921, which was at the annual rate of return of 5.01 per cent.; in September of this year the carriers reported net operating income of only \$58,457,000, equivalent to an annual return of 2.88 per cent. on property valuation. Gross revenues for October, \$549,284,800, were 2½ per cent. larger than in October of last year, while operating expenses, totalling \$428,265,000, were 7.8 per cent. greater. Unusually heavy expenditures were made for maintenance of equipment, the total reaching \$130,212,000, or an increase of 16.2 per cent. over October, 1921. Although there was a gain of 7½ per cent. in the volume of freight traffic carried in October, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, operating revenues showed an increase of only 2½ per cent., owing to the reduction in freight rates that became effective during the past year.

The United States Steel Corporation for the first time since last February reports a decrease in unfilled tonnage at the end of November. The total is given as 6,840,242 tons, representing a decrease on the month of 62,045 tons. Although unexpected, the reduction is not regarded as of much significance.

FRANCE.—TARIFF AGREEMENT WITH CANADA— BREAD PRICES AND PROFITEERING—THE CO- OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 20.

THE new Franco-Canadian commercial agreement, which was signed last Friday by M. Poincaré and the Minister of Commerce on behalf of the French Government, and by Lord Hardinge and the Canadian Ministers of Finance and Marine for the British Empire and Canada, is welcomed here as a marked advance on the old convention, which was negotiated by the same Canadian Ministers, Messrs Fielding and Lapointe, fourteen years ago. Canada receives forthwith—that is, as soon as the new agreement has been ratified—the benefit of the French minimum tariff in respect of about 120 categories of her exports, and of the intermediate rate (between the French general and minimum tariffs) for about 400 others. It is further stipulated that the duties on these 400 categories will be brought down automatically to any still more favourable rates that may subsequently be granted to the United States. An outstanding principle of the whole agreement, in fact, is to give Canadian imports into France at least equally favourable terms to any that may be enjoyed by American goods. Canada will enjoy, further, for all categories not included in the two lists referred to above, the rates imposed by the general tariff

of 1919 (which were considerably lower than those established by the Decree of March 28, 1921), so long as this tariff is applicable to American products; and if the United States ceases to come under this régime, a reduction of 25 per cent. of the difference between the French general and minimum tariffs will then be allowed to Canada. French exports to Canada will receive the general treatment of the most favoured nation; that is to say, they will be admitted at intermediary Canadian tariff rates, or any others that may be more favourable (Imperial preference rates, reserved to Great Britain and the Dominions, being alone excluded from this arrangement). Further, in the case of 90 categories of French goods, a reduction of 10 per cent. on the intermediary rate is accorded, and a reduction of 15 per cent. is given in the case of three categories of piece goods made in Alsace and Lorraine. French motor-cars, locomotives, preserved fruits, fish, &c., silks, rubber goods, gloves, feathers, films, wines, fruit trees, lace, embroideries, table ware and table and essential oils are among the articles that benefit from the new tariff agreement.

The revelations arising from the recent "strike" of the Paris master bakers, in regard to the excessive profits made by millers, flour dealers and others interested in the manufacture of bread, have been rapidly followed by Parliamentary action for the purpose of fixing the price of flour. The proposals took the form of a Bill introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, M. Chéron, the discussion of which has occupied several sittings of the Chamber, and has resulted in a number of very exciting passages of arms. The fixing of the maximum price at which bread may be sold has been for some time past in the hands of the prefects of the various departments, whose power to vary the price, after taking the advice of certain consultative committees of experts, is conferred by statute. A good deal of trouble has arisen in various parts of the country, however, from the fact that, although the bakers have been limited as to the price they could charge for their product, they have been largely at the mercy of speculators in regard to the price they were called on to pay for flour, which has been steadily rising for some months past. The object of the Bill referred to was to confer on the prefects discretionary powers, in regard to fixing the price of flour, similar to those they now hold in regard to the price of bread.

The discussion naturally extended to the whole question of the high cost of living and the wave of profiteering from which the country at large is now suffering. Of what use would it be to fix the price of bread, asked one of the members for Paris, if beefsteak is still to remain at 16f the kilogramme? M. Chéron agreed, and pointed out that, once the bread question is settled, that of the price of meat would have to be dealt with. Several members insisted that the prices of foodstuffs at present prevailing were higher than had ever been reached during the war. The fear was also expressed that, on the principle that empty stomachs have no ears, there is a danger of social disorder, unless steps are taken to limit the profiteering that now exists in all departments of commerce. Complaints were numerous in regard to the fact that the law against illicit speculation in foodstuffs and other commodities has been allowed to come to an end by effluxion of time, with the result that thousands of pending prosecutions have been necessarily dropped; and urgent appeals were made that this law should be renewed as from October last, when it automatically ceased to be operative.

The debate showed that there was a general sentiment in favour of freedom of trade, but that this principle has been largely vitiated in France owing to the absence of anything like real competition, because of the existence, in trades connected with the food supply, of protective "rings" and other forms of associations for both defensive and aggressive action in common. So far as flour is concerned, the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture appeared to be that the heart of the trouble lies in the fact that at present there is not one but three distinct sets of market quotations—the so-called official prices, the ordinary consumption prices, and the middlemen's prices—which state of things, he said, must be put an end to. The only really dear wheat, he asserted, was foreign-

grown wheat. In the result the Chamber, by a show of hands, authorised the prefects to fix for both flours and bran, not a general price limit, but a price limit by departments, in accordance with local circumstances. Another article adopted sets forth the elements of valuation (average price of home-grown wheat, cost of milling, transport, degree of pure flour, &c.). A Socialist amendment forbidding deputies or senators to act as directors of any financial company, and particularly of flour-milling concerns, was carried by 480 votes to 80. Penalties were also fixed for speculation in flour.

The régime of high prices that has prevailed in this country since the war has had a remarkably stimulating effect on the co-operative movement, which has developed enormously during the past four or five years. Exact figures as to the present strength of the movement are unobtainable, but some idea may be gathered from the following details, which are extracted from the recently published "Annuaire de la Coopération pour 1922," and show the comparative statistics for 1913 and 1920:—

	1913.	1920.
Number of co-operative societies	2,980 ..	4,043
Membership by families	864,922 ..	2,498,449
Do do per society ..	297 ..	628
Turnover	317,572,890 ..	1,839,538,723
Average turnover per society	120,197 ..	477,813

With the fall in prices in 1920 there was an appreciable falling off in the strength of the societies, but since last spring, when commodity prices again took an upward trend, these losses have been more than recouped, it is asserted. The greatest progress has undoubtedly been made by the district societies, each controlling several branch shops, which have vigorously and successfully combated profiteering prices, particularly in the devastated regions. The following comparative figures for 1919 and 1921 set forth their growth:—

	1919.	1921.
Number of branches	1,837 ..	2,010
Membership in families	266,420 ..	449,445
Paid-up capital	13,721,054 ..	30,759,581
Turnover	228,30,008 ..	390,564,437

The fact that these societies are exempt from the tax on turnover has recently provoked condemnatory resolutions from many associations of traders, and the argument has lately frequently been heard that only organisations that sell exclusively to their members should be allowed to call themselves co-operative societies. From the private trader's point of view, however, these are both matters that require careful handling. It will be recalled that in 1905, when the co-operative societies of France were compelled to assimilate themselves to their private competitors by having to incur the cost of *patentes*, or trading licences, most of them retorted by transforming themselves into limited companies and selling to all comers. It is announced that if the imposition of the tax on turnover is insisted upon, those societies that still sell only to their own members will take a similar course, and thereby offer still stronger competition against the private trader.

On the Bourse this week there was considerable animation, the early days being characterised by marked weakness, which was, however, followed by a no less striking recovery. The dominating element was the fear of a possible rupture of the Entente, and when this was eliminated the relief found expression in a general strengthening all round. French funds were generally weaker, the Three per cents. being typical in declining from 59.45 to 59.30. Banks generally declined, but railways maintained their position. Metals, apart from Pontgibaud, which moved briskly from 1,185 to 1,265, were dull, and mines generally were weaker than last week.

GERMANY.—LOCAL FINANCES—REICHSBANK— EXCHANGE AND BOURSE—FOREIGN TRADE— SHIPPING PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 18.

MARKETS towards the end of last week were dominated by the expected American intervention, and further influenced by the British opposition to occupation of the Ruhr and by French utterances on the same subject. The recovery of the mark in New York to around 5,000 to the dollar may, if maintained, even bring a slight price-

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3

Capital Authorised £3,000,000

Paid Up Capital 1,050,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,287,671

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,
CHINA, and PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange; Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On **Current Accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

fall, because the unofficial indexes show that last week the price-rise for commodities almost ceased, and stocks rose very little. The enormous inflation reported for the first week of December was on the basis of the past price-rise, and such inflation is likely to continue. Not much hope is felt that American action will bring any speedy Reparations settlement, and the prospects of an American loan are considered small.

The Finance Ministry's report for December 1st to 10th shows an increase of the Floating Debt from 1,166,046 to 1,289,165 millions, and of the total debt from 1,230,469 to 1,353,588 millions, or 275-fold the pre-war figure. Revenue received in the ten days was 19,306 millions, expenditure 142,425 millions, only about one-seventh of expenditure having been covered. The Customs gold surcharge has been raised from December 20th to 1,899 per cent., or 1900-fold the nominal, and for the first time exceeds the mark exchange's gold depreciation. The Reichsbank's price for gold coin purchases is 1,000-fold the nominal. Official salaries and allowances for December have been raised, as compared with November, by 44 per cent. An official memorandum puts the past annual average cost to Germany of the army of occupation at 1,660 million gold marks and 4,200 million paper marks, at which rate the cost for 15 years would be 16.6 milliard gold marks and 47.2 milliard paper marks, or at current exchange 37 billion paper marks.

Prussia's Budget for 1923 shows estimated revenue of 149,360 millions, recurring expenditure 150,300 millions, and non-recurring expenditure 11,050 millions, the deficit being 11,986 millions. The question of the financial needs of the municipalities has been again before the Reichstag. The Erzberger Financial Reform took from the municipalities, as from the States, the right of levying income and property taxes (other than land tax), and left the local Governments largely dependent upon subsidies out of the yield of these taxes, also of the sales tax, and some other taxes. The Erzberger Law (*Landessteuergesetz*) is now being amended; but the new Bill does not, although the local Governments demanded it, restore the right of levying income and property taxes. The amended Bill increases the percentages payable to the municipalities by an estimated total of 8,400 million marks, which is considered inadequate. When, as is proposed, the Sales Tax is increased from 2 to 2½ per cent., the share of the municipalities in the yield will be increased from 10 to 20 per cent., while the whole yield of the Land Purchase Tax, instead of only half as heretofore, will be allotted to the States, which will give half to the municipalities. In general, the local Governments' revenue from payments by the Republic will be increased by 40 per cent. In addition, the Republic's payments will be accelerated, so that the local Governments will in future lose less from the currency depreciation. The States and municipalities will be further given increased rights to levy certain minor taxes. State finance has not been improved by the sale of the railways to the Republic. The States, it is true, delivered themselves from the railway deficits, were compensated according to their invested capital, and were cleared entirely of debt; but the Republic paid not the capital, but only interest thereon, and the burden of this interest on the Republic, as well as its value to the States, has dwindled rapidly, so that ultimately the Republic gets, practically free of real debt, a present of the whole railway system, which even in present bad conditions is paying its way, and has all its old potential profit-making power.

The Reichsbank's return for December 7th shows the

new large increase of 92,808 millions in circulation, 54,464 millions in discounted Treasury bills, 34,251 millions in private Bills, and 61,511 millions in the Darlehns note-holding. The last increase is much the biggest recorded. The bank's holding of these notes is now 139,298 millions, the circulation 13,800 millions, and the total of the outstanding loans 153,200 millions. The Commerz und Privat Bank has decided to raise its capital by 450 million marks to 800 millions, 350 million new ordinary shares being taken over by a syndicate at a price of 685 per cent., and part thereof being offered to the present shareholders at 750 per cent. There will also be issued 100 millions 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares with five-fold voting power, the aim being to guard against foreign control. The Chemnitz Bankverein, Hessische Bankverein, Thüringian Landbank, and three other provincial banks will be absorbed. Money is still dear. Recent municipal loans bear from 6 per cent. to 9 per cent. (Darmstadt) interest, and are issued at between 95 per cent. and par.

Stocks last week rose slightly, the improved mark being counteracted by the new hope on the United States. In many stocks there were heavy realisations, due in part to the need of cash for the holidays. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* dividend-payers' index figure for the 15th shows 469,593, against 456,480 a week earlier. Buying of Colonial Fours continued, the quotation on the 13th being 5,400, but in after-Bourse dealings 9,000 is stated to have been reached. Concerning this loan, in which English interest has been shown, a semi-official statement says that the loans amalgamated in Colonial Fours were raised for productive aims, mainly railways, and the cost of interest and amortisation was a local liability, the Empire merely guaranteeing. According to general international principle, proceeds the statement, the local primary liability is not affected by the change of sovereignty; and the position is the same as with the local debts of Alsace-Lorraine, for which Alsace-Lorraine remains liable. The Federal Government is negotiating in order to have the same principle recognised in regard to the Colonial debts. Bond quotations on the 15th were:—War Loan, 80.75; Federal Fours, 430; Three and a-half per cent., 258; Threes, 1,050; Savings and Premium, 150; Prussian Four per cent. Consols, 185; Three per cent., 363; Bavarian Fours, 195; Hamburg Staats-Rente, 175; Berlin Four per cent., 105.

Details of trade in October, of which the totals have already been given, were (in metric tons):—

	Imports.	Exports.
Food and forestry products	1,124,196	141,327
Minerals and mineral oils	3,968,652	646,646
Chemicals	81,019	206,541
Textiles, feathers, &c.	18,306	20,410
Leather	1,117	5,200
Paper and cardboard	9,320	47,686
Stone wares	1,158	57,147
Pottery	18,396	50,377
Glass	1,367	11,568
Iron and iron alloys	296,301	246,074
Copper and copper alloys	14,691	7,446
Wares of base metals	28	1,964
Machines	909	42,448
Electrical wares	242	8,250
Vehicles	1,514	11,172

Hamburg's shipping in November was:—Arrivals, 877 vessels of 1,045,557 net tons; departures, 1,044 vessels of 1,081,315 tons. Shipping in the first eleven months of 1922, and in the same months of preceding years, was (net tons):—

	Arrivals.	Departures.
1922	11,964,003	12,249,288
1921	8,556,129	8,566,404
1920	3,845,641	3,780,850
1919	1,303,629	1,271,941
1913	13,006,426	13,321,269

In two months of 1922, Hamburg's shipping exceeded that of the same months of 1913. The price of pig-iron has been raised from the 16th to:—Hematite, 182,243 marks per metric ton; foundry iron No. 1, 160,328 marks; ditto No. 3, 160,258; Siegerland steel-iron, 180,575; Spiegeleisen, 189,535. Scrap iron now fetches 145,000 marks, as against 1,900 marks in December, 1922. The Steel Syndicate's prices were not raised this week, but manufacturing consumers are protesting against present prices as much too high. The dollar exchange, which is now usually taken as the basis of calculation, has not

reached again its highest point of November 8th, but, in the meantime, the price of bar-iron has been put up, in many stages, from 154,000 marks to 293,200 marks, and other Syndicate products correspondingly. The Syndicate retorts that it receives payment only on the 15th of the month following delivery, and that payment is therefore made in much worse money than that of the delivery date. Retail prices of necessities have risen since January (Frankfurt-on-Main) as follows (marks per metric pound):—

	January 7.	December 16.
Rice	6	300
Butter	42	1,700
Lard	26	1,380
Margarine	19.50	1,130
Santos coffee	44	3,200
Eggs (each)	4.30	95
Potatoes	1.25	9
Bread (1,500 grm.)	6.25	220
Wheatmeal	5	265
Matches (10 boxes)	4	180
Petroleum (litre)	9.50	400
Boots	320-480	16,000-23,000

Business continues dull. There are further reports, mainly from the textiles branches, of cutting down of production, and Christmas shopping is badly hit by the fact that earnings have not yet caught up on prices, the price-rise this time having been much more rapid than during the earlier mark collapses.

RUSSIA.—STATE BANK—HARVEST—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Moscow, December 6.

THE State Bank, which celebrated on October 7th its first anniversary, has now at its head the following persons, four of whom were known in financial circles in Russia before the revolution—A. L. Scheinman, President; N. N. Koutler, formerly assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Finance; Z. S. Katzenbaum, formerly employee of the Russo-Asiatic Bank; P. A. Sadyrine; A. G. Khrouchev, formerly Assistant Minister of Finance; A. D. Schelezinger, formerly a director of the Merchants' Bank in Moscow; A. I. Schevtzof. The bank has opened numerous branches in Russia and the federated Republics, and has constituted a fund in *valuta* and merchandise to serve as a basis for future work. In conformity with a decree of October 11th, the State Bank has been authorised to issue its own bank notes for 10, 20, 30, 50, 100, 250, and 500 gold roubles. These notes are guaranteed up to 25 per cent. in precious metals, and the balance in stable foreign values, in merchandise easily realisable, and short-term obligations. The issue department of the Bank announced on November 28th that banknotes for two million gold roubles had been issued, the summary of the gold reserve of the State Bank (quite separate from the gold reserve of the State, according to special decree) reading as follows:—

Dr.	Gold Roubles.	Cr.	Gold Roubles.
Russian gold pieces	2,000,000	Banknotes	2,000,000
Gold in bars	1,835,917	Balance available for issue	3,146,530
Foreign gold pieces	229,393		
£ sterling 125,000.. =	1,081,250		
	5,146,530		5,146,530

The banknotes were put into circulation on November 27th and on November 29th 114 million paper roubles were paid for a 10-rouble gold note—the official rate for 10 roubles gold that day being 117 millions. The Russian Government now propose to issue gold pieces under the name of "tchervonetz," containing 1 zolotnik 78.24 doli gold. The unofficial rate of exchange for the paper rouble during the last few months has been the following:—August 1st, 18 millions to the £ sterling; September 1st, 21 millions; October 1st, 38 millions; November 1st, 75 millions; December 1st, 105 millions. Lenin, in commenting on these astronomical figures in his speech at the fourth Congress of the Communist International on November 14th said, "This fall is not important seeing that we can cancel the noughts, and we are quite clever in this art." In fact, the rouble named

"1922" has had four noughts cancelled, and in accordance with the decree of October 24, 1922, the Council of People's Commissaries has decided with "a view to simplifying calculations and accounts" to put into circulation on January 1, 1923, paper money (model 1923), when the rouble will be equal to the former one million roubles or to 100 roubles model 1922.

The State Bank plays the principal rôle in furnishing credit to commercial undertakings; recently these undertakings have been assisted by the Co-operative Bank and by various credit organisations. The following figures have recently been published:—

To October 31st, from Date of Institution of New Economic Policy.	Gold Roubles.	%	Bank for South-West (Rostov).	Gold Roubles.	%
State Bank	6,319,005	77.5	Four credit societies ..	133,267	1.6
Supreme Economic Council (Economic section)	410,559	5.0		88,916	1.3
Co-operative Bank	939,390	11.5			
Ukraine Bank	255,767	3.1			
			Total	8,146,904	100

The Industrial Bank was opened on October 19th by Krasnotchekof, President of the Supreme Economic Council, who stated that 90 per cent. of the shares in the bank were subscribed by State institutions (State Bank, textile, leather, sugar, salt, and naphtha syndicates).

Without funds to cover the State deficit and to permit a revival of industry, and having lost hope for the moment of obtaining Governmental loans, the Russian Government have proceeded to a policy of heavy internal taxation. In his letter to the 5th Congress of the Pan-Russian Professional Unions on September 19th, Lenin wrote, "No one wishes to lend us money; we must, therefore, pursue the very painful and difficult road of saving little by little, of increasing taxes to re-establish gradually the dilapidated railways, machines, houses, &c." Acting on this policy the Government have recently by decree established a tax on property and income to be devoted to the reconstruction of agriculture. The Customs dues have been increased, Excise duties placed on salt, sugar, tea, coffee, wine, beer, tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, alcohol, candles, benzine, kerosene, saccharine, &c. In addition the railway tariff was increased on November 1st by 50 per cent. for travellers and 25 per cent. for luggage and goods, and on December 1st a further increase of 50 per cent. was put on travellers by first and second-class, and 33½ per cent. on travellers by third-class, and 300 per cent. for goods traffic. The institution of first and second-class carriages (named "soft seats") and third-class ("hard seats") is of interest.

The 1922 harvests of cereals for human and animal consumption, and potatoes are now stated to amount to 2,800 million poods—i.e., 70 per cent. of the pre-war production.* The relief organisations are inclined to consider these figures exaggerated, in view of the reports that famine will reign in the South Ukraine within a short time and shortage will occur generally in the Volga areas. With reported good harvest prospects, the Government in September last issued a State loan in wheat as follows: the bonds were sold at the current price of a pood of wheat—i.e., 3,800,000 roubles—with the Government's obligation to repay on December 1st either a pood of wheat or the equivalent in roubles at the current exchange. The value of the bonds rose in November to more than 10 million roubles. The results of the loan are not yet known. The tax in kind from this year's crop in Russia, excluding the Ukraine, amounted on November 15, 1922, to 244,931,000 poods of different products, of which 213,114,000 poods consist of cereals and forage; on November 15, 1921, the tax amounted to 78,302,000 poods. The question of the export of wheat during the current cereal year has been largely discussed, the Central Statistical Department estimating the exportable surplus from 100 to 150 million poods, but up to the present time no export has taken place. At Novorossisk there are about 5 million poods of grain in the silos and warehouses, but these are destined for export to Transcaucasia and Black Sea ports during the winter months. One of the trust companies, "Khlebo-product," is reported as having sent a representative to Germany to ascertain the possibilities of grain export. From the date of the revolution to 1920 exports and imports were suspended, but with the application of the

* For League of Nations' estimate see the *Economist*, December 2nd, p. 1017.

new economic policy imports and exports have developed. For 1921 and the first six months of 1922 the following are the figures:—

	Poods.	Value. Gold Roubles.
Imports 1921	11,157,000	125,798,000 (12 months)
1922	66,484,000	152,788,000 (6 months)
Exports 1921	2,603,000	2,997,000 (12 months)
1922	14,763,000	24,848,000 (6 months)

Imports consist chiefly of food (21.5 per cent.), manufactured articles (2.6 per cent.), paper, cloth and clothing, chemical products, metals. The following figures have been published as representing the value of exports made by certain trading institutions since the introduction of the new economic policy to October 20, 1922:—

	Value (Million Gld. Rbls.)		Value (Million Gld. Rbls.)
Naphtba export	14.0	Metal Trust	1.7
Centro Soyonz	14.0	Various Petrograd organi- sations	4.0
Branches of Centro Soyonz	2.7		
Agricultural Union	2.1		
Leather Trust	1.0		
Forest Trust	16.0	Total	55.5

The following figures represent the value of the fuel, mineral, metallurgic, textile, electro-technic, chemical, rubber, and leather production for the year ending October 1st, as compared with the figures of 1913 and the past two years:—

	Gold Roubles.
1913	2,554,075,000 (100 %)
1920	288,038,000 (11 %)
1921	407,370,000 (15.9 %)
1922	500,597,000 (19.6 %)

The revival in industry shown by these figures coincides with the development of the new economic policy. The above figures represent the large industries, in which owing to lack of capital the greatest difficulties in the way of revival are found; taking the small industries into account, it may be stated that the total industrial production is not more than 25 per cent. pre-war. The fuel industry—coal (34 per cent. of pre-war production) and naphtha (49 per cent.)—and the electro-technical, rubber, and leather industries are stated to be in a favourable condition, the textile and chemical industries fair, the metallurgic and mineral production particularly difficult. A few published examples of investment of foreign capital are the following:—Peronne oxygen factory at Petrograd (French group); Norwegian company at Petrograd, the Trading Shipping Company, for import and export trade; Russian private bank, founded by a Swede, Olaf Achberg, capital stated as 10 million gold roubles. In the capital of this bank the State Bank will participate as to 10 per cent., and will have a representative on the board. A German-Russian company was given a concession on October 19th to establish a consortium of German factories in Russia, under the direction of Otto Wulf, and which will also engage in the import of metal goods and the export of raw materials.

NORWAY.—A TAXPAYERS' UNION—LABOUR TROUBLE—EXCHANGES, MONEY, AND STOCKS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, December 9.

WHILE, a year or two ago, our Danish and Swedish neighbours formed their "Taxpayers' Union," which has acquired a considerable influence and strength, such an organisation has not till quite recently been formed in our country. It is meant to be entirely non-political, and is, of course, without any legal authority. As a representative of the sorely-tried taxpayers, its object will be to criticise the ever-growing carelessness of those who have the power of the purse, to follow closely the way in which they handle the public money and to expose reckless waste, thereby preparing the public mind for the election, in due course, of men who will study economy. Some energetic men are at the head of the union, and as all classes feel the pressure of taxes, and are convinced that if it continues it will "break the camel's back," there is no doubt the union will get many supporters. The union, as one of its first actions, has produced some statistics which show that from 1914 to 1921 incomes have generally trebled, or somewhat more, while the taxes have multiplied about ten times.

When, last spring, the wage agreements between employers and employees expired, it was found necessary to revise wages downwards. Negotiations between the parties interested having failed, the case had to be referred to a court of arbitration. Among the stipulations of the award of that court, an important one was that, in October next, the wages were to be reduced or increased in proportion to the then cost of living, as shown by the official figures of the Statistical Central Bureau. In October the figures showed a fall, justifying a reduction of wages of 4.7 per cent. Although the Labour leaders, both those that were members of the Arbitration Court and those outside that court, were understood to acquiesce in that stipulation, they subsequently protested against it, and the protest has resulted in a strife the result of which, to begin with, is that some of the workmen have struck without legal notice. The Government is considering the situation.

For the week ended December 7th there was some contraction in the note circulation of the Bank of Norway. On November 30th it was Kr.371,650,000, but had, on the 7th inst., gone down to Kr.368,024,000. The reserve went up from Kr.50,641,000 to Kr.54,267,000, and the sum owing by foreign banks rose from Kr.36,303,000 to Kr.39,883,000. The official discount rate remains at 5 per cent., and there is money enough for general purposes.

The exchanges have been somewhat irregular. Today sterling went down to the lowest point touched for a very long time—viz., Kr.23.95 to the pound. The rate is likely to harden again, however. All other exchanges were also weak. French francs are very low, Kr.37.25 to roof, which is not much above 50 per cent. of the normal pre-war rate (Kr.72 to the roof). Marks have kept steady at about 0.07 krone for 100 marks. The stock market is rather inactive, with a somewhat firmer tone for banking shares. Government bonds have been somewhat weaker. Rumour has it that a very drastic reduction in the Government Budget is to be attempted next year. If this turns out true, and can be carried out, it will give a very welcome impetus to trade and industry.

CANADA.—THE IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE—NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE AND AUSTRIA—BUSINESS SITUATION—RAILWAY DIFFICULTIES—YIELD OF CROPS—THE FEDERAL REVENUES—TRADE RETURNS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, December 4.

MR BONAR LAW's plan for an Imperial Economic Conference, for which invitations are reported to have been issued, has provoked considerable discussion in Canada, but has excited no marked enthusiasm. In some quarters it is welcomed as likely to turn in the direction of Canada a steady and fruitful stream of immigrants and capital, but in others it is suspect as a probable source of serious discord and controversy. Until the question of Dominion status and the constitutional relations of the different units of the Commonwealth is bravely faced, the prospects of success for schemes of economic co-operation between them are poor.

Meanwhile, word has come from Paris that Messrs Fielding and Lapointe, the two Canadian Ministers, have agreed upon the broad principles of a new commercial treaty between the two countries. Many of the details have still to be worked out, but the expectation is that the new arrangement will remove the discrimination now existing in favour of many American products which are grown as cheaply in Canada and will give a much-needed stimulus to the trade between the two countries. Mr Robb, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, is in Australia upon a similar mission, but he has landed in the midst of a general election, and (as a result) has been unable to make much progress.

The general business and industrial situation, while it falls short of the hopes raised by the crop estimates of August, is regarded as distinctly better than at the corresponding date last year. Grain prices, however, after a welcome rise, have now had a set-back, and there is general agreement that this year's abundant crop has not yielded its producers—at least, in Western Canada—a reasonable margin of profit. Miss E. Cora Hind, the

commercial editor of the *Manitoba Free Press*, whose authority on crop problems stands very high, expresses the view that with wheat averaging a dollar per bushel at the head of the Lakes, there is little or no net profit for the Western farmer after deducting costs of production and transportation charges unless he had managed to grow at least 20 bushels per acre, which is 2½ bushels more than the average yield this year. Reports from Winnipeg and other Western points indicate that, despite the heavy movement outward of grain, the amount of money available for new buying in the West is disappointingly small. There is general complaint that the banks are laying hands on most of the proceeds of many farmers' crops, but the bankers claim to be exercising leniency, and only collecting a fraction of their debts.

In many districts in Eastern Canada there is a marked revival of demand for goods, especially warmer clothing, and wholesalers and manufacturers find it reflected in their order books. The plants of the great basic industries—like lumbering, pulp and paper milling—are working at full capacity, while there is no abatement of activity in the Ontario mining camps. Unemployment is beginning to raise its head in the cities, but no one who will face physical labour need be idle. In the province of Quebec alone it is calculated that 40,000 men will be required in the woods this winter to keep pace with the demands of the pulp and lumber mills. The asbestos industry in the same province is also reviving, and shipments in October were 4,500 tons greater than in October, 1921. In the maritime provinces the lumber mills are busy, with prices advancing, and export orders are plentiful. The fish trade, however, is dull, and centres dependent upon it are not prosperous. In Central Canada the coal situation is still causing some trouble, and economies have to be practised; but the West no longer depends upon American supplies, the consumption of Alberta coal being now general. In British Columbia the export lumber business has improved, but there is a serious car shortage.

Sir Henry Thornton, the new president of the Canadian National Railways, has now arrived in Canada and assumed his onerous duties. For the moment he has established his headquarters in Ottawa, but their permanent location in the capital is impossible. Montreal was the headquarters of the old Grand Trunk system, and Toronto of the C.N.R., and there is proceeding a bitter controversy as to which city has the better claim for the headquarters of the consolidated system. There are also disturbing signs that the pledge about eliminating all political influence from the management of the State railways will frequently be honoured in the breach. At a recent by-election in Ontario the electors were exhorted to vote for the Liberal candidate on the ground that if he were returned the Government railways would at once place large orders for a new brand of train coupling which is manufactured in the chief town, and thereby provide fresh employment. Sir H. Thornton will have to show great determination if this incident is to be solitary.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics have now issued these final estimates of the total yields (in bushels) of the principal field crops (the 1921 final estimates are included in brackets):—Wheat, 391,425,000 (300,858,100); oats, 513,033,000 (426,232,900); barley, 73,237,400 (59,709,100); rye, 35,730,000 (21,455,260); peas, 3,674,600 (2,769,981); beans, 1,454,700 (1,089,900); buckwheat, 10,424,000 (8,230,100); flax seed, 5,685,200 (4,111,800); mixed grains, 27,513,900 (22,271,500); corn for husking, 17,382,000 (14,904,000); potatoes, 99,675,000 (107,346,000); turnips, &c., 88,088,000 (79,150,300); tons: hay and clover, 14,547,400 (11,366,100); alfalfa, 728,400 (662,200); fodder corn, 7,382,100 (6,361,600); sugar beets, 173,000 (268,000).

The average yield per acre of the chief crops, with the parallel figures for 1921 (within brackets) are as follows:—Wheat, 17½ (13); oats, 35½ (25½); barley, 28½ (21½); rye, 17 (11½); peas, 19½ (14½); beans, 18½ (17½); buckwheat, 19 (22½); flax seed 10 (7½); mixed grains, 35½ (25½); corn for husking, 54½ (50½); potatoes, 145½ (152½). The total production of wheat is the highest on record with the exception of 1915, and the average yield is also higher than for any but that same year, when it reached 26 bushels per acre. The oat yield has only been exceeded in 1920.

The November returns show a gratifying increase in

the Federal revenues, which are no less than \$6,741,733 greater than for November, 1921. For the eight-month period ending November 30th they have reached a total of \$183,050,179.40 as compared with \$154,253,302 for the parallel period of 1921. In November customs brought in two million dollars more, but the main increase came from the excise duties, which produced an extra 3½ million dollars; the additional sales tax is now bearing fruit. But its imposition has checked the decline in the cost of living, and prices in several lines have actually risen. The Finance Department on December 1st paid off the unconverted portion of its 1922 bond issue, and thereby disbursed some 80 million dollars of principal, in addition to 10 million dollars of interest.

Trade returns for October were also encouraging. Exports were up \$22,735,665 and imports \$7,356,953. The bountiful Western crop is largely responsible for the increase in exports. The proportion of imports which are taken from Britain is slowly rising; in the twelve-month period ending October 31, 1921, it was 15 per cent. of the total, and in the parallel period lately ended it has risen to 18 per cent.

ARGENTINA.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE PLANS—PROVINCIAL BORROWINGS—BRIGHTER TRADE OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, November 22.

PENDING the reopening of Congress for extraordinary sessions, which will take place in December, there is little concrete information obtainable concerning details of the Government's future financial policy. What is known is that active preparations for drawing up Budget estimates and ascertaining precisely how the nation stands financially, are in hand, while the Minister of Finance has asked for, and obtained, a detailed statement of the national floating debt. Detailed returns supplied by the Accountant-General's Department put the exact sum known to be outstanding at \$809,574,211.35 Argentine paper, but to this must be added the obligations contracted in divers forms by the State railways, the difference of exchange due to the British Government in connection with the cancellation of the last loan, and sundry commitments of the Ministry of Public Works. In round numbers this is represented by \$300,000,000 Argentine paper, and, conjointly with the Budget proposals for 1923, the question of how this total floating debt may best be consolidated is one of the most important questions with which Congress must deal. That it can be dealt with as a whole is out of the question, if only owing to the fact that although nominally the whole sum comes under the head of short-dated loans, there is external debt involved bearing clauses providing for regular renewals at pre-arranged rates, together with sundry amounts due on definite dates any time between now and 1927. In round numbers there are \$400,000,000 held abroad and \$630,000,000 in Argentina. The latter amount is largely held—in fact, if not in name—by the Banco de la Nación, which has discounted, for the direct lenders, Government Treasury bills. To all intents and purposes the lenders are the Argentine banks, who have thus employed a large proportion of their deposits, otherwise idle, at a profit of round about 1 per cent., but it is obvious that this makeshift financing must sooner or later end. How this can be brought about expeditiously, cheaply, and, above all, without unduly raising popular anxiety, is the crux of the whole problem. For while a foreign loan of 30 or 40 million sterling—or its equivalent in dollars U.S.—can be successfully launched once Congress has given its sanction, no machinery at present exists in Argentina whereby the 600 odd million in paper dollars can be permanently taken off the market. Private investors, in the sense understood in Europe, do not exist. The banks, although overflowing with superfluous deposits, cannot, under local business conditions, and in view of the local commercial psychology, work below a very safe percentage of cash in hand to sight liabilities. No day-to-day loans, no easily realisable bills purchasable, are to be met with in Buenos Aires, and the banker must therefore be very careful to adjust the granting of his big advances in accordance with the dates on which his big deposit accounts fall due. They may be

renewed, but, also, they may not; and, working under such conditions, the six months Treasury bills of the Government have, in practice, almost become, in the case of the Argentine banks, akin to big Treasury reserves, whence the till may be refilled by the simple process of re-discounting. To be brief, so frequent and so regular have the renewals of this class of Government obligation become during the last two years, that Treasury bills may be considered as having been absorbed into the currency mechanism of the country. Any abrupt attempt to withdraw this 600 millions would therefore be, in all likelihood, as prejudicial in its effects as would be the case were 30 per cent. of the republic's circulating medium to be impounded.

It is therefore in the highest degree probable that a plan will be outlined under which the temporary holding of Government bills by the Argentine banks will be converted, in as unostentatious a manner as is possible, into a permanent investment in Government bonds, convertible into current money only under certain contingencies—that is, as far as the Government, as debtor, is concerned. According to official figures published recently, every bank working in Argentina held its share of internal obligations of the floating debt, as well as other commercial entities, such as insurance and mortgage companies. There is small likelihood of any change having occurred in the meantime, and it would need little more than a series of book entries to "consolidate" in each institution this floating debt as a permanent holding—call it guarantee, reserve fund, or what you will, it matters not—only encashable in the event of liquidation, and having no market save between bank and bank at other times.

Given the immediate trade perspective, anything tending to restriction of banking facilities and commercial credit in general must be shunned. Linseed and wheat, oats and barley, the new maize, the Mendoza vineyards—in short, all agricultural and horticultural produce promises an exceptional yield. Prices may be lower—in the case of linseed, February futures are decidedly lower—but the volume of mercantile transactions involved in the collection, transport, and overseas shipment of Argentina's harvest for 1922-23 will be very great. Admitting that cattle prices are low, and likely to remain so for some months, at any rate, the addition of the amount represented by the meat trade will make the balance-sheet for the period named show highly satisfactory results to this republic as a whole. Unfortunately, the optimistic temperament of the Argentine leads to this favourable prospect being discounted in advance, and that on a cash basis. For the recent loan proposals of the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, and Tucuman would have been better postponed until the admitted difficulties attendant on consolidation of the national finances were surmounted. As things stand, Buenos Aires province is authorised by its legislature to borrow \$35,000,000 gold, Tucuman has already negotiated a 30 million dollars paper loan, of which a third liquidates floating indebtedness, while the balance goes to construct public works, which may or may not be necessary, but which certainly do not appeal to one as revenue-producing items; and Santa Fé can also find use for more or less the same amount of money. In the case of Tucuman, the business is being carried out by a firm of Dutch bankers, who will also be interested in controlling the contracts for such construction as is undertaken, the basis of the loan being 6 per cent. at 90, which, all things considered, has every appearance of being a profitable undertaking—for the lenders. Buenos Aires province has, in a manner of speaking, forestalled the national plan. Its loan is sanctioned on the basis of local borrowing for the purpose of redeeming floating debt and the pledging of provincial credit abroad for such money as is to be applied to public works. For the internal portion of the loan the limit has been set at \$45,000,000 paper, which is about half the amount of the gold total, and its price fixed at the minimum of 85, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. amortisation.

While local rates for money are still nominally 5 to 7 per cent. for advances and discounts, there is an undercurrent of uneasiness shown by would-be borrowers as to the intentions of the Government, and this may very well mean a firm market in the course of the next month. An Argentine daily has, indeed, gone so far as to say that

the Government has made its plans for the issue of 3-3½ per cent. bonds to the banks on lines such as are traced in the preliminary paragraphs of this letter, and it is needless to emphasise the tonic effect that such action would have, judged from the banker's standpoint.

Export business, and consequently the offer of exchange, is increasing daily. In the cereal markets the certainty of big crops and cheap freights, together with some doubt as to the European demand due to heavy harvests in Canada, keeps prices down. Spot wheat in Buenos Aires, export type, is a bare \$11.50 Argentine paper per 100 kilos, while in linseed, though spot seed is quoted at \$19.10 Argentine paper per 100 kilos, February/March deliveries are but \$15.50, the tendency of the market being decidedly weak. Wool prices are firm, and some exceptional lots of fine staple Rivers wool have brought as much as \$31 Argentine paper per 10 kilos, while \$18 to \$20 is the current price for fine Rambouillet, medium cross ranging from \$12 to \$15. The clip being one of the smallest known for the last 20 years, and exchange very favourable to the French and Belgian buyers, who have always shown most interest in the Argentine staple, prospects for those having wool are exceedingly bright. Indeed, the same may be said of all Argentine business of a productive nature at the present time, whence it naturally follows that subsidiary services also stand to make a better showing during the next twelve months than they have done for some time past. In short, 1923 should open well, and close better, if no unforeseen difficulties of exceptional magnitude occur.

Letters to the Editor.

CAPITAL LEVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Mr Hook, in replying to Mr J. Ellis Barker, states that Professor Pigou and "many other prominent men" support the proposal, but, unfortunately, he does not quote any argument put forward by them, much less one that can be considered unanswerable. Professor Pigou is most certainly entitled to his own opinions—opinions of considerable weight—but surely no standard of infallibility is claimed for him? I venture to submit that the overwhelming majority of eminent economists are of the opinion that the proposal is not a sound one.

There is one point to which I would like to call Mr Hook's attention. It has been stated definitely by the Labour party that the levy would only affect one quarter of a million people, and would only be imposed where over £5,000 worth of capital was in individual hands. It would not affect companies, corporations, or co-operative societies. Does Mr Hook seriously believe that? Almost all individuals owning more than £5,000 worth of capital are holders of shares in joint-stock companies, and it would be impossible to manipulate the levy without inflicting injury upon such companies.

If this is not the case, the levy could only operate upon small business men. This would mean restricting competition in the interests of larger business concerns, and I submit that this cannot possibly be regarded as in the workers' interests.

Mr J. Ellis Barker puts the matter in a nutshell when he writes:—"No juggling with money can create plenty out of scarcity. Plenty is the fruit of industry, not financial trickery."

If the nation has increased liabilities, let us be straightforward and increase taxation. Taxes are only imposed in order to create a fund to meet the expenses incurred in the government of the nation, and they should therefore be taken out of the income of the nation. Any attempt to introduce any other methods should be discouraged and discountenanced.—I am, &c. JACK W. CHERRY.

20 Upper Parliament street, Liverpool,
December 19th, 1922.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your issue of the 9th inst. a correspondent, "C.," suggests that "we must make up our minds boldly to alter our theory," and this alteration consists in exporting our young men instead of vainly seeking to keep them usefully employed.

"C." shares the illusion that only an increase in exports can cure unemployment, yet it is obvious, to anyone who thinks, that foreign trade which results in the import of commodities producible at home has no effect on the amount of employment, although it increases the amount of our exports. Compared to our total production, our exports, which pay for the import of goods we cannot produce—excluding what we re-export—are relatively small. And we cannot increase their quantity.

We can, however, enormously increase the amount we produce for ourselves. Couldn't we treble our present food supply, replant our woods, rebuild our filthy towns, and make for ourselves a long list of commodities which we are importing from America, Switzerland, Belgium, France, not to speak of Germany? Of course we could.

And which is best? To produce for our own market, which is ascertainable and stable, or for the foreign market, which is speculative, and therefore unstable? If our foreign market suddenly fails, our men are thrown out of work. They cannot suddenly fit themselves for a different trade, particularly in an industrial country; nor would the necessary plant be available if they could do so. Change of production is the cause of unemployment. But what is the cause of this change, of inconstant production, which exists even in our own market? The answer is: "Undirected subdivision of labour."

The farmer who grew all his own food, whose wife spun the cloth, &c., knew what to produce year by year. So did a village community; but millions of people, living hundreds of miles apart, sending their goods hundreds of miles by rail, have lost touch with, although all dependent on, one another. They now produce on the off-chance of their output being sold. If it isn't, their labour is wasted. Our farmers to-day can't sell their potatoes. They would better have been unemployed. Next year they try to be wiser, when there may actually result a shortage of potatoes. And so the game goes on. In industry, over-production of some things; under-production of others. Men thrown out of work. Unemployment. What Mr Baldwin terms over-industrialism is, in reality, insane industrialism. But what does Mr Baldwin know of production?

The orthodox economists tell us that "demand" will regulate supply. "That the quantity of commodities brought to market naturally suits the effectual demand." (Adam Smith, "Wealth of Nations," chapter 7.) Brought to market, indeed! They have to be produced long before they are brought to market. Demand does not, and never will, deliver the goods. A shortage cannot generally be made good immediately. And when it is remedied there may, perchance, result a surplus and a different shortage, under our present economic system.

Subdivision of labour necessitates the industrial organisation of a whole country. How equity and contentment are to be secured is too large a subject for this letter, but the policy of *laissez-faire*, or muddle-through, will never bring them about. The facts to which old economic theories fitted are slums, universal strife, and unemployment. These theories were always false. The application of a right theory never leads to wrong practice.

Mr Bruce Douglas, in his letter on a "Levy on Capital," says rightly that a greater output is wanted. If he desires to know how this may be realised, and what the output is to consist of, I would refer him to "The Real Wealth of Nations" (Harrap).—Yours faithfully,

J. S. HECHT,

Fellow of the Royal Economic Society.

7 Frognal, N.W. 3, December 13th, 1922.

Books and Publications.

THE COMMON SENSE OF ECONOMIC SCIENCE.*

Mr Dane has shown some audacity in the choice of a title, but his little book bears out the claim to common sense. He writes for the million rather than for the classroom, avoiding the technical terms which used to make economics so obscure; instead of beginning in the usual way with definitions and abstract propositions, he prefers to start from facts. His main theory is that the economic system depends upon free contract: "Where free contract and its enforcement are recognised there is welfare; where free contract and its enforcement are abolished, there is penury." One common fallacy is to suppose that improvement in production merely saves and displaces labour: "What it has done, in fact, and does, is to translate labour from unskilled to skilled." By abolishing merely human drudgery and by lowering the cost and adding to the variety of products, "improvement creates new wants and desires which it requires as much labour as before to satisfy." It is clear that the chief gain from the use of machinery has been secured by the working classes, because their labour has become more effective.

On several points Mr Dane rejects the commonly received theory; thus he maintains that Labour, "in the full and proper sense of the word, is invariably the employer and Capital the employed." Similarly, he denies that the rent of land is based on "surplus," pointing out that the rent paid for buildings is "exactly on all fours with the return on any other active capital"; he denies, too, the usual axiom that land is limited, pointing out that "every improvement and intensification of agriculture is equivalent to an increase in the area of land," and that improvements in transport have a similar effect. Further, he points out that land, as we understand it, is not the gift of Nature, "the gift of Nature is swamp, and prairie and wilderness." He objects to the land theories usually associated with the name of George, and maintains that neither nationalisation nor municipalisation can save us from land monopoly.

Mr Dane, of course, is a Free Trader, and his exposition of foreign trade is good: he demonstrates that a protective tariff, either for agriculture or manufacture, must cause loss; he goes so far as to predict that free exchange will some day win. His views on the relation of demand and supply lead to the cheerful conclusion that trusts and monopolies will generally break down through changes in demand, unless they improve the processes of supply.

One new theory—that wages ought to correspond with changes in the cost of living, and not with the value of the services rendered—gets short shrift from Mr Dane; he is no less hostile to another new doctrine—that taxation may be imposed to "correct" the distribution of wealth; indeed, his last chapter is a clever dissection of economic fallacies connected with taxation.

* By Edmund Dane, LL.B. 5s net. Mills and Boon, London.

AN OPTIMIST ON POPULATION.*

This little book is a collection of articles contributed by a Professor at the University of Pavia during the past eleven years to the *Corriere della Sera*, of Milan. Some, of course, are slight and only of passing interest, but much of the matter is of permanent value. Prof. Coletti is a recognised authority on Italian emigration, and on population a thorough optimist. Malthus, he thinks, would have written differently had he been alive to-day. The Italians in 1510 numbered some 11 millions; in 1800 some 18 millions; in 1861 25 millions; in 1921—owing, it is true, partly to the suspension of emigration—40 millions, in spite of war losses and the ravages of influenza. Births decrease as civilisation increases, in Italy as everywhere else; the increase of population is due to the greater length of lives. An Italian baby in 1912 had an expectation of life longer by 12 years than if it had been born in 1877.

* *Studi sulla Popolazione Italiana in Pace e in Guerra*. Da Francesco Coletti. Bari: Gius. Laterza e Figli, 1923.

The quality of the population is improving also, and the Italian people are becoming more and more unified. The book is full of interesting sidelights on Italian life. Piedmont, we learn, has copied from France the growing habit of birth restriction; and there has been a large and unexpected increase of population since 1911 in Venetia—even in the invaded province of Belluno. As in other countries, there is a marked drain to the towns. Pellagra, once the curse of the maize-eating agricultural districts of southern Lombardy, has now almost disappeared—so much so that the characteristic eruption as shown on the feet and legs of a patient has been modelled in wax for historical purposes—and survives only in a few communes near Pavia. It has been extinguished by higher wages and better housing and food. There is an interesting account of the effect of Italian emigration (written in 1911) on the well-being of the backward Southern provinces through the remittances (some 500 million lire yearly) from the emigrants, with a concurrent decrease in mortality and in crimes of violence, an increase in average stature (a sure index of progress) in peasant independence, and peasant proprietorship, a leading factor in social stability. We have said enough to show that the book deserves attention from all students of contemporary Italian society.

PROPERTY INSURANCE.*

IN Great Britain the valuable contributions to insurance literature are almost all the work of officials in daily practice. They read papers before insurance institutes, and contribute to a publication such as the Insurance Guide and Hand-book referred to above. But in the United States, in which every State and territory has a Government Department concerned with the direct supervision of insurance, there is so wide an interest in the subject that Universities have professorial chairs of insurance, and concern themselves directly in its theoretical and practical teaching. Dr Huebner is one of these professors in the University of Pennsylvania, and his book on Property Insurance is a standard work. The new edition is revised and greatly enlarged. Insurance falls naturally into two main divisions: Personal and property. Personal insurance is that which covers human beings (life and accident); property insurance is that which secures indemnity against losses on property. In this second category, which is the one treated in this book, come fire, marine, motor car, fidelity guarantee, credit, and miscellaneous branches of insurance protection. The range is wide. Dr Huebner concerns himself mainly with practice in the United States, but his book is useful in this country. British offices transact a vast amount of property insurance on the other side of the Atlantic, and no British official can consider his education complete unless he learns at least as much about American practice as he does about that in his own island.

* *Property Insurance*. New edition. By S. S. Huebner, Ph.D. 12s 6d net. D. Appleton and Co.

A SPANISH YEAR-BOOK.*

THIS valuable work, which has now reached its seventh successive year of publication, gives in its first part statistics of the area, population, production, communications, and public finance of the Spanish kingdom; the second part is a Directory of Spanish joint-stock companies, compiled under great difficulties owing to the secretiveness of their boards. However, the editor enumerates 3,795 in all, of which 170 are foreign—banking, insurance, and mining, almost all the latter being Belgian, French, or British. Of the native companies the paid-up capital exceeded 7,296 million pesetas, gas and electric power companies (the latter mostly) coming first in numbers, and only a little below the railways in paid-up capital. Some are large, many only small; both serve to indicate the wide use in Spain of electric power, of which the output has increased 51 per cent. since 1917, and will be further increased by some 220 per cent. through the works now projected or in progress. Many other interesting and some curious items of information

* *Anuario Financiero y de Sociedades Anónimas de España, 1922*. Director: D. Daniel, Ria y Periquet. (Madrid) Price to non-subscribers, 50 pesetas.

The week has seen the declaration of a good many dividends from South African mining companies, and the results are much about the same as had been expected in advance. Consequently, the Kaffir market is but little influenced by these announcements. Diamonds, however, have been good, though not holding their best levels. De Beers were somewhat ousted from their usually prominent position by the rapid rise in Rio Tintos. Mexican and Russian mining shares have leaned to the lower side, and the various tin sections scarcely moved at all. The liveliest mining shares of the week were Cam and Motor and London and Rhodesia. This pair provided an unusual amount of excitement, and, after the prices of both had spurted in remarkable manner, the end of the week found them slightly subsiding under the weight of a wave of profit-taking.

Chief Foreign Branch	-	168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch	-	1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch	-	42, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch	-	94, Portland Street, Manchester.

The Home Railway market is buoyed by hopes of the dividend declarations to be made next month. Money, moreover,

To the Public—		Total offered for subscription to date in—		Total offered for subscription for whole year—	
Borough of Devonport Council, Auckland, N.Z., £50,000 54% Debts, to Bearer (rep. at par 1959), issued at 97½ (Dec. 18)	50,000 ..	48,750 ..	2,500 ..	46,250 ..	
S. F. Edge's Pig Farms, £50,000 7½ 1st Mort. Deb. Stk (rep. at 105 1928-38), issued at par ..	60,000 ..	60,000 ..	6,000 ..	54,000 ..	
Do 20,000 8% Cum. Pref. Shares, at par (Dec. 18) ..	20,000 ..	20,000 ..	2,000 ..	18,000 ..	
Cooper and Co.'s Stores, £500,000 5% Mort. Deb. Stk. (rep. Jan. 1, 1933, at 105%, or after Jan. 1, 1940, at par), issued at par ..	500,000 ..	500,000 ..	50,000 ..	450,000 ..	
Do 400,000 7% Cum. Pref. Shares, £1, at par ..	400,000 ..	400,000 ..	50,000 ..	350,000 ..	
Amblamania Tea Estates, 392,500 Shares, 2s, at par ..	39,250 ..	39,250 ..	9,812 ..	29,438 ..	
Cardinal and Harford, 70,000 7% Cum. Pfg. Pref., £1, at par (Dec. 20) ..	70,000 ..	70,000 ..	8,750 ..	61,250 ..	
Total offered to public	1,138,000 ..	129,062 ..	1,008,938 ..		
Total offered for subscription to date in—	1922 ..	1921 ..	1920 ..	1919 ..	1918 ..
£573,375,650	377,741,985	365,672,862	1,035,794,130	1,358,840,931	1,318,596,710
1920 ..	1919 ..	1918 ..	1917 ..	1916 ..	1915 ..
365,672,862	1,035,794,130	1,358,840,931	1,318,596,710	585,436,850	685,236,326
1,035,794,130	1,358,840,931	1,318,596,710	585,436,850	685,236,326	612,522,633
1,358,840,931	1,318,596,710	585,436,850	685,236,326	612,522,633	
1,318,596,710	585,436,850	685,236,326	612,522,633		
585,436,850	685,236,326	612,522,633			
685,236,326	612,522,633				
612,522,633					

The Amblamana Tea Estates, Limited.—Authorised share capital £50,000, divided into shares of 2s each, of which 392,500 shares are now offered for subscription at par, and 107,500 shares have been issued to the vendor in part payment of purchase price. The company has been formed mainly to acquire two tea estates in Ceylon. The approximate area is 722 acres, and the properties have been independently valued at £43,333. The purchase price is £43,000, of which £32,250 is payable in cash. Crop yields are given from 1919, and no sum is payable for goodwill, but it is noticeable that past profits are omitted. The capitalisation price per acre looks rather high in our opinion.

Miscellaneous.									
Aerated Bread (11) ..	148x.	142x	Hud-on's Bay (11) ..	78	78	+	+	+	+
Amal. Cottons (11) ..	148	148	Imperial Tobacco (11)	345	356	-	-	-	-
Anal. Persian Oil (11)	428	442	+ 3	Langgi Pianos (11) ..	148	148	+	+	+
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) ..				Langgi Pianos (11) ..	148	148	+	+	+
Asa. Pine (11) ..	1	31	- 3	Lever Bros 7% Cmp (1)	143	143	+	+	+
Barker, John (11) ..	28	242	+ 3	Do 8% Cn A Prf (1) ..					
B'hamsall Arms (11) ..	76	76		Do 20% Cmp Pr Ord (5)					
Brazil Traction (\$100)	472	484	+ 12	Lister (11) ..	275	275	+	+	+
British-American (11)	47	47		London Fields (11) ..	41	41	+	+	+
Burnah Oil (11) ..	47	42	- 5	Lyons (J. & Co.) (11)	413	413	+	+	+
Costs (J. and P.) (11)	342	342	+ 3	Magadi Soda (11 Ord.)					
Courtaulds (11) ..	242	3	+ 3	Mexican Eagle (\$10.)	23	23	+	+	+
Cunard (11) ..	14	14		Pekin (2) ..	76	76	+	+	+
Dorman, Long (11) ..	148	148		Rubber ..					
Dunlop Rubber (11) ..	39	16	- 3	Investment (11) ..	78	78	+	+	+
Fine Cotton Spinners ..				Shell Transport (11) ..	474	474	+	+	+
(Forestal) ..	242	242		Smith & Argentine ..					
Furness, Withy (11) ..	148	148	+ 3	Meat (11) ..	43	43	+	+	+
Highlands and Low-lands ..	15	18	+	United Serdang (21) ..	78	78	+	+	+
				Used Tobacco (21) ..	78	78	+	+	+
				Vallambrosa (21) ..	78	78	+	+	+
				Vickers (11) ..	78	78	+	+	+
				Watney Def. Stk.	1284	1284	+	+	+

Index Number (L1) 28 11 28 11

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

MEXICAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

"QUIET AND STEADY PROGRESS."

CABLE REPORT FROM MEXICO.

ELECTRIFICATION OF MOUNTAIN SECTION.

The hundred and fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Mexican Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, Mr Vincent W. Yorke, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr C. Tennant) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that the half-year to June 30 last had been one of quiet and steady but not very rapid progress. Their business in Mexico had proceeded without interruption, and much good work had been done in the rehabilitation of the property. The gross takings of the railway are about half a million pesos more than in the corresponding half-year, and about \$1,300,000 less than the preceding half-year. The results of the latter were abnormal, however, as they reflected the very heavy traffics involved in the clearing up of the enormous congestion of freight at Vera Cruz. The gross revenue for the half-year might, therefore, be regarded as thoroughly satisfactory.

INCREASE IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Passenger traffic had been excellent, and the figures showed an increase over the corresponding period of 19 per cent., and constituted a record. They had given better facilities and offer greater comfort to the travelling public, and there had been plenty of money in the pockets of the working classes. The introduction of buffet cars had given great satisfaction, and the institution of excursion trains to the Pyramids on Sundays had proved popular. Ordinary goods traffic had increased by about 1,100,000 pesos, off-set by a decrease of over half a million in fuel oil traffic. This oil traffic, with which he was comparing, was due to very exceptional circumstances, and they did not expect it to be so big again. The net increase of over 600,000 pesos was, therefore, quite satisfactory.

The percentage of expenses to receipts showed a reduction from 85 to 79 per cent., due not so much to economies as to the fact that in the corresponding period very serious strikes added enormously to the cost of operation.

On balance net revenue showed an increase of 503,000 pesos, and the debit balance to net revenue account, which stood at £804,000 in June, 1920, had been reduced to £508,000. This is rather slow progress, but it is in the right direction.

RENEWALS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

A great deal of further work had been done to the permanent way, stations, and rolling stock during the half-year, and the effects of the large sums spent during the last two years on renewals and improvements were beginning to show themselves. The general manager believed the property to be in better order than at any time in its history. The relaying of a portion of the upper section with heavy rails was now approaching completion, and the greater part of the work on the stations had been done, with the result that they would be far better and more permanent structures than ever before. The rolling stock, in good repair, was now more than was required for the traffic offering, and though there was still a certain shortage in passenger cars, it was not seriously hindering successful operation. It seemed reasonable to hope, therefore, that the high ratio of expenses would soon show a decreasing tendency, as the cost of upkeep, now that arrears had been overtaken, ought henceforward to be very much less.

ELECTRIFICATION OF MOUNTAIN SECTION.

At the last meeting he mentioned the electrification of a portion of the mountain section. The board had now ordered electric locomotives, and arranged for the other necessary work to be put in hand. This action had really been forced upon them. Their locomotives were mostly old before the revolution, and went through a very rough time during the revolution, and their condition was such that many were becoming inordinately expensive to keep going, and were rapidly wearing out. They were advised that within the next two years they would have to spend a very large sum on new locomotives, mainly on those working the mountain section. It seemed to them that, as the expenditure had to be faced, they had better investigate the latest methods of mountain

traction. Expert advice was very definitely in favour of electrification, at any rate of the steepest part of the mountain, and the economies held out were such that, even if they were realised only to the extent of 50 per cent., the spending of the half million sterling contemplated should prove a very satisfactory investment. The first locomotives were due for delivery in October, 1923, and he did not suppose the new system would be in operation until early in 1924. Payment for the locomotives was to be extended over a period on very reasonable and satisfactory terms.

PACHUCA AND TAMPICO RAILWAY.

As to the new Pachuca and Tampico Railway, as the concession called for the early completion of a certain amount of line, instructions had been given for construction work as soon as convenient to Zimapan, about 50 kilometres from the present terminus. They were advised that the work up to this point would be comparatively inexpensive, as the country presented no natural difficulties, and they had a sufficient quantity of old rails for this length of line. Further development must await the raising of the funds necessary for construction, and though he had very great confidence in the future of the undertaking, the board would be very reluctant to ask for new money, at any rate in this country, while the present relations, or want of relations, between H.M. Government and the Republic of Mexico continued.

CURRENT HALF-YEAR.

In conclusion, he said: Turning to the working of the current half-year, it is satisfactory to be able to point out to you that, although gross traffics have fallen off very materially, we have been able to reduce expenses almost to the same extent, and the ratio of expenses to receipts is only 80 per cent. for the four months to October 31st, as compared with 79 per cent. for the same period of 1921. Unfortunately for the current half-year, the coming into force of the increase of rates, which I gave you to understand would be in July, was delayed until the first of this month, and the increase will not be fully in force until the New Year. Business conditions in Mexico, as in the rest of the world, have been unsatisfactory for the last few months, and, on the whole, we may congratulate ourselves on having earned as much money as we have. We have urged our general manager to cut down expenses in every direction possible, and he is quite alive to the importance of the matter.

LATEST REPORTS.

A cablegram just received was as follows:—"Owing to financial depression and recent bank failure, business prospects for next six months are poor, and will be reflected in our earnings from import traffic; local traffic is keeping up well and improving every day. Crop prospects on our line were never better, all available land is under plough. Political conditions are slowly improving, and nothing but small parties of bandits causing some trouble. Labour is somewhat unsettled, but not unreasonable."

They were doing all they could to get rid of debt to the debenture-holders in respect of overdue interest, and on January 1st would have paid off 20 per cent. of what was owing to the holders of registered stock issue "A" within 12 months. There were many directions in which the business could be developed, but fresh money would be needed for such development, and the sooner, therefore, their credit was re-established the better.

CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT.

I am glad to be able to say that the Government of General Obregon has not, in my judgment, in any way weakened during the last six months; in fact, if anything, it appears to me to have improved its position. The disorders in the country, which are occasionally reported, are both trifling and insignificant, and our own business has worked without unpleasant incidents of any kind. As regards their attitude towards the Mexican Railway, I think it only just to say that since they came into power two and a-half years ago they have treated us with studied fairness and courtesy, and this in spite of the fact that we are running in competition with their own business, the National Railways.

Mr Henry Goschen seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, the general manager, and the staff.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF DIFFICULT YEAR'S TRADE.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL, CHILE, AND ARGENTINE.

The sixtieth ordinary meeting of the London and River Plate Bank, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at 7 Princes street, London, Mr J. W. Beaumont Pease (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr George E. Smith) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that since the last meeting the banking world had lost a very distinguished banker by the death of their esteemed colleague, Sir Richard Vassar-Smith.

TRIBUTE TO SIR RICHARD VASSAR-SMITH.

It was impossible to speak in adequate terms of the position which Sir Richard had won for himself, not only in the respectful judgment, but also in the hearts, of all those with whom he came into contact. He had a wide and long experience of men and affairs, and to all banking and other councils he brought the ripe wisdom resulting therefrom, combined with the invariably sympathetic outlook inherent in his personal character. In every sense and from every aspect his influence was always for good. Of his departure from their midst they could say not only that they had lost a very great banker, but that, in the words spoken of another whose lines were laid in the more venturesome places of the ice-bound territory far south of South America, "There went out a very great gentleman." He was largely responsible for the negotiations which led up to the acquisition of this bank by Lloyds Bank, and their most fitting tribute to his memory would be to see that this great banking machinery was not allowed to rust by not being fully employed. The close association between Lloyds and the London and River Plate Bank had been emphasised this year by the fact that they now shared a common chairman, and the utility of this intimacy was recently shown in the way they successfully made an issue of £1,000,000 of debentures for some of their South American friends with the co-operation and assistance of Lloyds Bank.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

Dealing with the items appearing in the balance-sheet, the Chairman said that the depreciation in the capital employed abroad was more than covered by the carry forward and other funds of the bank. Current accounts and deposits standing at £26,950,351 showed an apparent decrease of £3,051,417. As a matter of fact, the total of the current accounts and deposits as expressed in foreign currencies was almost identical with that of the previous year, but owing to the fall in the rates of exchange of the different countries the amount of sterling into which, for the purpose of the balance-sheet, they were converted appeared less. If they had been converted at the same rates as were applied in the balance-sheet of 1921 their sterling equivalent would have been £29,913,001, a decrease of only £88,000 odd. Profit and loss account standing at £302,592 showed a decrease of £297,332. He did not know whether any of the shareholders were disappointed at this reduction. Those who had followed the trend of business in South America during last year, and had seen the reports of other banks operating in these countries, must have been prepared to see considerably lower figures. If they had been so minded, the directors might legitimately have shown a larger total of profits, but they preferred to err on the safe side, and in a year of bad trade and many failures they had provided liberally for any possible losses. Cash on hand at bankers and branches showed an apparent decrease of £2,769,089, but as a large proportion of this total was in foreign currencies, converted into sterling at lower rates than last year's figure, the comparison was misleading. This year's total of cash, if converted at last year's rates, would appear as £12,620,000, a decrease of a little over £1,000,000.

CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL.

The Chairman then referred briefly to the conditions ruling in the principal countries in which the bank operates. In Brazil, he said, the adverse balance of trade reported on August 31st last year as £10,343,000 had this year been converted into a surplus of exports over imports amounting at August 31st last to £11,935,000—a difference in favour of the country of no less than £22,278,000 in eight months. Despite this circumstance, exchange continued on its downward track, and at one time fell below 6d. Some slight recovery had recently taken place, and to-day the rate was quoted at 6½d. It was not easy to say to what this improvement was actually due, but there was no doubt that the frank *exposé* by the recently-elected President of the Republic of Brazil's financial position, the publication of the programme of economy which he had

set himself to carry out, and the removal of vexatious and unproductive fiscal measures had all contributed to this. Brazil's external debt was now very heavy, and the amount of the fiduciary circulation equally so, the latter amounting to no less than 2,226 contos, as against 621 contos in 1910. This enormous increase was not felt during the war, due to the fact that the cheque system was not generally in vogue in Brazil, and that paper money being, therefore, the main circulating medium, in a country larger than Europe, it was found that heavy and constant shipments of actual currency were required in order to finance successfully the export trade of the country at prices infinitely higher than those ever known in its history. But, with the reapse in the value of her exports and curtailed demand, an adverse balance of trade came about, and the inflation of the fiduciary issue had its inevitable effect upon exchange. The measures now advocated by the President of the Republic, namely, the suspension of public works for a period of two years, the cessation of supplementary credits, the establishment of a special fund in London, and the general practice of rigid economy would, when carried into effect, no doubt relieve the Brazilian Government in the heavy burden which they had to bear—at great sacrifice, through the depreciation of the milreis—in effecting the remittances necessary for the services of their foreign debt. A stable financial position would induce the import of foreign capital for permanent investment in agriculture and mining, and would promote further immigration, which was greatly needed.

POSITION IN ARGENTINE.

As regards the Argentine, the President's message emphasised the fact that Argentina's chief needs to-day were peace, both at home and abroad, and rational development of local industries, with a view to improving the balance of trade. The floating debt of the Republic stood at July 31st at \$628,800,000, which would probably be increased at the end of this year, since the Budget would show a deficit. From a telegram received on December 16th, it was estimated, on a very conservative basis, that the surplus available for export of wheat would amount to 3,000,000 tons, of linseed 1,200,000 tons, and of oats 650,000 tons, which compared very favourably with last year's figures; and while it was too early to say that a bumper harvest was assured, the outlook would be hard to improve upon. The prospects for maize and sugar cane were also very good. The employment of funds in the Argentine throughout the year under review had been difficult, and the margin generally less remunerative than in previous years, which was, however, more or less the position in all countries, owing to trade depression and the reduced purchasing power of the respective currencies. It was satisfactory to be able to point to the steady recovery in exchange, which had now risen to 44½. Deposits in the banks, which at September 30, 1916, amounted to \$1,505,814,000, reached the sum of \$3,244,436,000 at the corresponding date this year, whilst cash held rose from \$645,423,000 to \$971,278,000. Paper money in circulation at the dates above mentioned amounted to \$1,013,000,000 and \$1,362,563,000 respectively, from which it would be seen that practically the whole of the increase in the currency circulation had remained in the coffers of the banks. Last year he referred at some length to the position of the Argentine railways, in which there was a vast amount of British capital invested. Negotiations between the railways and the Government were completed during the year, and, as a consequence, judging by the market quotations and information received, the capital to which he referred appeared to be reaching a more satisfactory basis. This, they felt, was very important, because they appreciated how closely the prosperity of the Argentine was wrapped up with its transport system, and they knew that further British capital in any volume for future developments could only be supplied through the good credit and stability of the existing Anglo-Argentine railway companies, which had been the fount of so much enterprise, energy, and capital in the past.

PROSPECTS IN BRAZIL.

Trade in Chile, though still unsatisfactory, had shown some signs of improvement. Business generally in imported goods had been on a reduced scale, but there would be more activity in that department were it not for the low rate of exchange, which militated so much against imports by increasing their currency costs. There was, nevertheless, an expansion in the volume of shipments to Chile during recent months, and its continuance would depend very much on the all-important nitrate trade, the influence of which was felt throughout the whole of the country.

NITRATE POSITION.

The uncertainties concerning nitrate prospects had been to some extent removed, chiefly owing to the fixing by the Nitrate Association of very moderate prices, and to the liquidation of the pool. Hopes were somewhat confidently expressed that the total shipments for the current nitrate year would exceed 1,500,000 tons. The United States of America had been a large buyer, and a fair demand had also been experienced from various other quarters. Sulphate of ammonia, the great competitor, was scarce and dear, and were it not for the unstable exchanges in some Continental countries, notably in Germany, this year's shipments and consumption of nitrate of soda would undoubtedly greatly exceed the above estimate. The problem lay in finding the price that would stimulate consumption, and at the same time leave a fair margin of profit to the producer. Proof that there was little margin in the present prices lay in the fact that only 49 oficinas were working out of a total of 149.

The bank's branch at Bogota, in Colombia, continued to make satisfactory progress, and good results were anticipated from the branches recently opened at Medellin and Manizales. The economic instability of Portugal was due in great measure to the want of political continuity. The frequent changes of Government greatly prejudiced the establishment and execution of a sound financial programme. Although he had shown some indications, perhaps, of improvement, the general situation was still full of difficulties, and no improvement could be complete without the recovery of some of the markets which had been partially lost since the war. He had referred already to one or two illustrations of the way in which Latin-American countries had been handicapped in this respect by being unable to export their goods to Germany and Austria. The extreme complications and difficulties of the situation were common knowledge. They could only hope that, as a result of the deliberations of the great Powers, with the help of the best brains available on the subject, some amelioration of the present difficulties might be discovered.

Mr Herman B. Sim seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A dividend of 4 per cent., less income-tax, was declared for the half-year ended September 30th last, payable on the 22nd inst., and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

The best thanks of the meeting were given to the managers and staffs of the respective establishments for the zeal and ability displayed in conducting the bank's affairs.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the proprietors of the National Bank of Scotland, Limited, was held, on the 20th inst., at the bank's head office in Edinburgh.

His Grace, the Duke of Montrose, K.T., governor of the bank, presided.

In moving the adoption of the report, as published, his Grace said: Your directors have had a difficult year, but I am pleased to be in the position to submit to you a satisfactory report, looking to the conditions that have existed. You will observe from the balance-sheet that the bank's paid-up capital, £1,100,000, remains the same as it was last year, but the position has been strengthened by the application from profits of £100,000 to the reserve fund, which now exceeds the capital to this extent.

Coming to the profit and loss account, there is a net profit of £291,063—an increase of £5,600 over the previous year. You will note there is a gross profit of £696,809, an increase of £15,355. Management charges, however, have again been heavy—the amount being £405,746, an increase of £10,000 during the year, and of £237,000 compared with 1914. A bonus included in this amount was paid to the staff in December last. Income-tax is a heavy charge, showing a large increase compared with the year 1912. While the profits show a slight increase, your directors did not feel warranted in making any increase on the dividend, and after providing for a dividend of 16 per cent., less income-tax, the same as in the past seven years, they were in a position to make appropriations to the property account, pension fund, and annuity fund, in addition to £100,000 placed to the credit of the bank's reserve fund. The bank's annuity fund, to which £15,000 has again been allocated, has had at all times the sympathetic consideration of the directors, and they are pleased to note that the committee of the fund, helped by the bank's contributions from profits, is now in a position to increase the annuity to widows from £60 to £100 per annum. The capital of the fund, inclusive of the aforementioned £15,000, stands at £244,000. The colonial and foreign department of the bank shows steady progress, and is found very serviceable to the customers, especially in these difficult times of fluctuating exchanges. As regards the work of the bank, the staff have again given every satisfaction, and the directors appreciate the special interest which so many of them take in their work and in the bank's affairs.

His Grace then moved that the report, as printed, be adopted, and this was seconded by Mr. Charles Ker, C.A., and agreed to. The dividend of 16 per cent. will be paid in equal parts on January 9th and July 10th next.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

The one hundred and sixty-second half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the Western Australian Bank was held on Wednesday, November 1st, at the Banking House, St George's terrace, Perth, W.A., Sir E. H. Wittenoom, chairman of directors, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that the directors were again able to declare the usual dividend, and in addition to carry forward the substantial sum of £21,099, an amount almost sufficient for a similar dividend. The net profits were £30,276, almost the same as September, 1921, and £1,793 less than in March last. The amount of £21,099 carried forward was £12,653 less than in September, 1921, and £5,277 more than March, 1922, but it had to be remembered that in March last an amount of £25,000 was transferred to the reserve fund. The deposits amounted to £3,146,346, being £36,703 more than in September, 1921, and £180,326 less than in March last, a reasonable fluctuation on such a large sum, and the figures indicated the continued popularity of the bank and confidence of the public. Advances totalled £3,233,741, showing an increase of £48,000 as compared with the previous September, and £70,147 on the figures for March. "Specie, bullion, and Australian notes on hand," at £563,031, was £54,847 less than for the previous September, and £254,619 less than March last. It was a disadvantage to have too large a sum lying idle. Taken altogether, the figures might be considered satisfactory.

The number of lambs would be much less than usual, and it was feared that some of the old sheep would be lost. Fortunately, a good clip of wool had been secured, and a large quantity had been sold last Monday at excellent prices. Indeed, it was a gratifying sight to see the splendid samples of some 20,000 bales exhibited by the agents at Fremantle. Unless rain fell in the early summer, fat meat must become scarce after February or March. Agriculturists had also suffered in the northern areas for want of rain, and from those parts the yield would be below the average.

The motion for the adoption of the report and balance-sheet was adopted.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF EXCEPTIONAL STRENGTH.

The twenty-sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the Sulphide Corporation, Limited, was held, on the 21st instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kintore, G.C.M.G., presiding.

The secretary (Mr C. R. Fisher) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said, in the course of his speech: When we met here last year I ventured to predict that the financial year then current would prove more satisfactory to us than its predecessor had been, and to-day I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon the fact that this prediction has been verified. Circumstances have not allowed us to achieve any such brilliant result as we have sometimes done in the past, but a sufficient profit has been made to enable us to bring the dividend on our preference shares up to the full 10 per cent. to which they are preferentially entitled, and at the same time to resume the payment of dividend on our ordinary shares, although as yet only on the modest scale of 5 per cent. We have had a year's work at Broken Hill uninterrupted by strikes or other untoward happenings, and although the disabilities created by the Edmunds Award, of which I spoke at length last year, have continued, our output has been somewhat larger than at first seemed probable, while the average prices of lead and silver have been maintained at a level which has enabled us to make profits, at any rate, higher than those of the two previous years.

NECESSITY FOR MODIFICATION OF THE AWARD.

I mention these facts as a cure for undue pessimism, but what I said last year about the gravity of the position created by the Edmunds Award, and the dependence of the Broken Hill industry, while that award holds good, upon the maintenance of relatively high prices for lead and silver, still remains true.

Fortunately, during the past year the prices of these metals have been well maintained, but some modifications of the award, in order to meet the event of a fall in prices, and to place the industry upon a sounder basis, is so obviously desirable that I have good hopes that before long its terms will be reviewed, and a more elastic scale arrived at. This will require to be sufficiently favourable to the mine workers on the Broken Hill field to attract the full supply of efficient labour which is indispensable.

ORE PRODUCTION.

Our total production of crude ore from the Central Mine last year was 120,603 tons. This compares with a production of 62,419 tons during the seven working months of the preceding year, in which owing to the late strike the first five months were unproductive. Whether owing to the increased wages and reduced hours conceded by the Edmunds award or to a sort of strike weariness consequent on the orgy of strikes in which Broken Hill has indulged itself for several years past, it has been an outstanding feature of the past year that there have been no stoppages due to industrial disputes. To find a year similarly uninterrupted we have to go back as far as 1915, when our output of crude ore was slightly over 200,000 tons.

With regard to costs, I spoke at some length last year, pointing out how under the combined influence of reduced tonnage, higher wages, and dearer materials these had risen from about £7 a ton of lead concentrates in 1916 to £12 9s 5d in 1921. In the past year there has been a slight reduction, our lead concentrates having cost us £11 15s 10d.

TREATMENT PLANT.

As regards our treatment plant at the mine, the efforts of our technical staff have been continuously directed to further reducing the lead and silver in our zinc concentrates, where they are practically valueless, and transferring them to the lead concentrates, where they have their full value. I spoke last year of the progress that had been made in this direction, and I am glad to say that it has continued during the past year, and is still continuing, with considerable benefit to both classes of our concentrates. Finality, of course, is never reached in the improvement of methods of treatment, but so far as our present methods go, the work is now so good that I do not think we can expect much further advance in recovery or segregation, except as to the slime zinc concentrates, from which as the result of much experimental work more lead and silver is now being successfully transferred.

HEALTH CONDITIONS.

There are two other matters which I desire to mention. The first of these is that the Technical Commission of Inquiry into the health conditions of Broken Hill, which was appointed by the New South Wales Government, has now made its report, after personal investigation, of the condition of over 8,000 mine workers. All the recommendations of this commission have been complied with by the mining companies, and the conclusion the commission arrives at is that under these conditions "mining can be carried out without danger to mine workers." The completion of the work of the commission and the generally satisfactory report they have made on health conditions at Broken Hill is of much importance as disposing of the exaggerated statements made by the unions regarding the effect on health of work in the Broken Hill Mines, and it clears the ground for a review of the Edmunds Award at no distant date.

EXTENSION OF MINERAL LEASES.

The other matter on which I have to remark is the extension of our mineral leases for a further period of twenty years from the date of the expiry of the present leases. In our case, the principal lease expires in 1924, and although we have always been confident that renewal would be granted, it is certainly a cause of satisfaction to all the companies concerned that such a vital question should have been put beyond doubt and the actual renewals obtained well in advance of the conclusion of the existing leases, and the terms of renewal are, I think, reasonable.

COCKLE CREEK SMELTING WORKS—CEMENT.

With regard to our Cockle Creek smelting works, the past year has been one of great changes. In the past our smelting

works and the refinery connected with them have been of the utmost value to us. During the war they paid for themselves many times over, and we have nothing to regret with regard to our policy in having made them as complete and efficient as possible. Nor have we anything to complain of with regard to the way in which our operations have been conducted.

In our search for new industries that can be profitably established at Cockle Creek, it may be of interest to you to know that we are now closely investigating the possibility of cement making on a large scale for which the position of our works and the existence of shale upon our leases give advantages. I cannot at present say what decision will ultimately be arrived at as a result of these investigations, which are not yet fully completed, but I mention the matter to show you that we are fully alive to the importance of exploring all avenues for the profitable employment of our works and staff.

As regards our English zinc works at Seaton Carew, no work at all was possible during the first half of the past year owing to the coal strike, but in the second half-year we were able to run on a four furnace basis, which enabled us to produce about 1,000 tons of spelter from our distilling furnace. Naturally, therefore, the year was not a profitable one, although owing to a satisfactory sale of accumulated residues we were able to avoid loss and have something on the right side of the ledger. In the current year we have been gradually increasing our output, treating zinc concentrates sold to us on satisfactory terms by the Board of Trade, and I anticipate that with the assistance of the acid works, formerly the property of the Central Acid Company, which have now been merged in the zinc works, there is a prospect of our obtaining a satisfactory return.

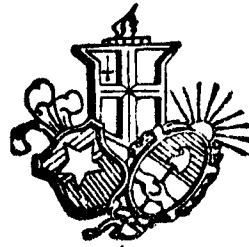
FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Chairman then dealt in detail with various items in the balance-sheet, and proceeding, said:—Our general financial position, as disclosed by this balance-sheet, is, I am sure you will agree, one of which any company might be proud. Under the category of what we may call cash assets, we have in the items of "Cash," "Investments," and "Products in Transit," a total of £594,116 this year as compared with £370,941 last year, and if we add to this the items of "Products in Hand," "Purchased Ore," and "Stores in Hand," all of which may be classed as liquid, we have a total this year of £950,039. If from this total we deduct £231,955, being the excess of "Sundry Creditors" over "Sundry Debtors," there remains a sum of £718,084, representing our balance-sheet surplus of liquid assets over all our liabilities on June 30 last. To-day our position is even stronger, our investments having been increased since June 30 by £25,000, and our cash at bankers and on deposit by £161,000. Our position, therefore, it is clear, is now one of very exceptional strength.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

With regard to the working account, which follows the balance-sheet, there is no need for me to take up your time by going into details, but you will notice that the total profit shown in the account this year is £103,245, as compared with only £2,479 in the previous year. In that year the mine left a considerable loss, as we had only seven months' work, and the expenses during the strike months, added to the cost of restarting after eighteen months' suspension, exceeded the earnings. In the past year we have been more fortunate, and in the year now current we have good reason to hope that we shall be able to show a very material further increase over the figures of the present account. The balance of £103,245 from this account is carried down, as usual, to the credit of profit and loss account, and the various debits and credits which appear in that account reduce it to the £82,832 which we show as

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.



Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000

Head Office:

62, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

our final net profit for the year. As to the prospects for the current year, it is perhaps rash for a chairman to leave the safe grounds of ascertained figures and to venture upon the perilous sphere of prophecy. We have, however, practically half of our current financial year already behind us, and we can confidently say that if the results of the second half-year are equally satisfactory we shall show next year considerably higher profits than we have been able to show this year, and you, I hope, will also receive substantially higher dividends. Of course, everything depends on the maintenance of satisfactory prices for lead and silver.

The report and accounts were adopted.

LONDON AND RHODESIAN MINING AND LAND COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED POSITION—FAVOURABLE PROSPECTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the London and Rhodesian Mining and Land Company, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr. Leonard E. B. Homan (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. R. Roy Meldrum) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the revenue showed a considerable improvement, being £24,285, as compared with £15,479. The mining revenue being an improvement, amounting to £526, as compared with £86. The total expenses amounted to £13,624, but he would take that opportunity of drawing attention to the fact that, as against an expenditure of this amount, they had brought into their coffers a revenue of £15,232. In other words, they were able, by their organisation, as now developed, not only to run the company without any expense to the shareholders, but to make a profit of very nearly £3,000 a year in doing so. This meant that every penny of profit resulting from dividends and interests received, share transactions, mining revenue, farms revenue, &c., was available as net profit. The result of the year's operations was that they made a profit of £9,251, as compared with a loss for the previous year of £7,933.

COMPANY'S SHARE INTERESTS.

Dealing with the company's share interests, the Chairman said that the meeting of Farm Lands of Rhodesia, Limited, was held on the 15th inst., and he would not reiterate the statements he then made, but he felt he must point out that this asset had potential values. In Town Properties of Bulawayo (South Africa), Limited, they held 74,608 shares, and they could look for dividends of 7½ per cent., and possibly 10 per cent.

In Cam and Motor Gold Mining Company they had over 150,000 shares, which they intended to hold for dividend. The Chairman, having read the cabled reports received, continued:

This brought the position up to December 15th, and it was extremely satisfactory. They must congratulate themselves on being interested in a property with such marvellous possibilities. The forecast of a dividend in July next, which he made at the Cam and Motor meeting, would be realised, and would be of the greatest importance to their current year's accounts, with great possibilities for the future.

Among other interests dealt with by the Chairman was the Sabiwa mine, which he said was the most attractive of their mining interests. They had now become sole owners of this mine, and were bringing it to a producing stage. It was being rapidly equipped with up-to-date machinery, and should start producing early in 1923.

They had a valuable tract of country known as the Glass Block ranch, which they acquired through the merger with Rhodesia, Limited. He inspected the property on his visit to Rhodesia, and formed a high opinion of its present value as also of its future prospects. The ranch consisted of 147,244 acres, and the Umsingwana River ran right through the estate.

Outside their ranching areas they had isolated farms which were suitable for settlers. To-day their advisers rated the value of Glass Block ranch even higher than the Transau-Clare estate, which was the most advanced ranching area of the Farm Lands of Rhodesia, Limited, in which they were so largely interested.

INTERESTS IN ALLIED COMPANIES.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that their shares in allied and other companies were valued at June 30th by a first-class firm of brokers at £235,000. This to-day represented the value of the Cam and Motor shares alone, and he must leave shareholders to put a value upon the rest, but it was interesting to note that at the previous night's closing prices their investments would stand at over £400,000, as compared with the £255,084 mentioned in the balance-sheet.

He would like to say a few words to the many shareholders who had come on their register through the merging of the Enterprise Gold Mining and Estates Company, Limited, the Giant Mines of

Rhodesia, Limited, and Rhodesia, Limited. He thought that whatever the latter thought they had lost had been fully made up to them by the acquisition of an interest in the Cam and Motor Company, and, further, their action in bringing about the mergers had been fully justified by a saving in the cost of management and the acquisition of a real live asset in the personnel of the staff. Without such action both the Giant and Enterprise companies would long ere this have been in liquidation, with a very small distribution to their shareholders. Unity had made for strength.

Their best thanks were due to Mr. Burnett, their general manager and consulting engineer in Rhodesia, to Mr. Meldrum, their indefatigable secretary on this side, and to every member of their staff in South Africa and at Palmerston House, who had all done their best to make a success of the company. The limits of their prosperity were by no means reached, and, having fairly turned the corner, they would show a greatly improved report and accounts for the current year.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

HARRODS (BUENOS AIRES), LIMITED. RESULTS OF DIFFICULT YEAR.

The ninth annual general meeting of Harrods (Buenos Aires), Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at Harrods, Limited, Brompton Road, London, Sir Woodman Burbidge, Bart., C.B.E., chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that when addressing the shareholders last year he expressed the hope that they had seen the worst in Argentina. The past year, however, had proved an exceedingly difficult one, and had resulted very unsatisfactorily, inasmuch as for the first time in the history of the company the board had to record a substantial reduction in their sales for the year. Notwithstanding all the efforts which had been made to maintain trade, and the very close and unremitting attention that had been paid throughout the year to every branch of the company's affairs—though a trading profit of £44,000 was shown—the net result was a loss of £52,000. They would have paid their way but for the loss on exchange of £21,000 made on remittances home, and the very large sum of £40,000, which had to be provided for income-tax and corporation profits tax. Unhappily, Argentina had been suffering from a period of severe commercial depression, which had not yet passed, and which might be attributed to the heavy fall in prices of all its products, and to the disturbed trading conditions throughout Europe. Owing to reduced spending power there had been a shrinkage in demand, particularly for articles that might be classified as luxuries. The past year had seen the completion of their premises in Buenos Aires adjoining their main block of buildings, and these now comprised a total of about 9½ acres of floor space, in which there were fifty-eight departments in all. The work was all finished in April, but because of the prevailing conditions they had not as yet derived any direct benefit from these additional premises. Their stocks had been reduced during the year by the very substantial figure of over £330,000 sterling. They now represented about a minimum working level below which it might be impossible to go. In spite of the increased area of the premises to be maintained and the new departments opened, the total working expenses for the year had been reduced, as compared with the previous year, by £56,000, but, on the other hand, the extra cost of insurance, local taxation, water, and lighting represented an additional £13,000, thus showing a saving of about £43,000. The conditions under which they had been trading and the difficulties with which they had had to contend were not peculiar to themselves, but were more or less prevalent throughout South America.

SOUTH AMERICAN STORES AND CHILIAN STORES.

In regard to their associated companies, the South American Stores (Gath and Chaves), Limited, for the first time in their history showed a loss amounting to £123,000. Though the trading profit was £153,406, which under last year's conditions was a fair result, from that sum had to be deducted £171,200 for the services of the debentures, and £101,000 for income-tax. They were greatly handicapped by the heavy burden of taxation, which was hindering the progress of British industry. For the previous year a profit of £264,854 was shown, which, after payment of all charges, left a distributable balance of profit for the year amounting to £44,226. An examination of their departmental sales showed that the same causes had operated as with Harrods (Buenos Aires), resulting in a reduction in the number of their individual transactions and in the amount of their sales.

The Chilean Stores (Gath and Chaves), Limited, operated in Santiago, where they possessed fine modern premises in the centre of the city. The Chilean Stores showed diminished sales, which rendered nugatory the great reduction in expenses which they had made, and the year showed a loss of £86,000, compared with a

loss of £101,000 for the previous year. This was entirely attributable to the accentuation during the year of the commercial depression which developed in the previous financial year, and to the heavy fall in exchange which followed upon the stagnation of the nitrate industry. Their results were also affected by the competition of wholesalers and importers who threw their stocks on the market almost regardless of cost. Another long-established business in which they were interested, the high-class furnishing house of Thompson Meubles, Limited, whose premises adjoined their own in Florida, Buenos Aires, did not pay a dividend for the year 1921, and for the current year their prospects did not warrant them in anticipating a dividend. Their position was due entirely to the general state of Argentine trade.

THE FUTURE.

In conclusion, the Chairman said he would like to speak with the same degree of confidence concerning the immediate future, as he felt regarding the ultimate position of Harrods (Buenos Aires). Their sales had commenced to improve slightly in the current year, and they were serving more customers than last year, but they had not recovered the lost ground. Though they had made some recovery, their progress was slow, but they should experience a quicker rate of progress because of the new departments. He felt they must wait until they could see more distinct signs of improvement in the general trade of the country, and that was not expected until about June or July of next year. He felt confident, however, that Argentina would be among the first countries to show a real recovery from the crisis.

Sir H. K. Newton, Bart., seconded the resolution, which was carried after some discussion.

NESTLE AND ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK COMPANY, CHAM AND VEVEY.

REDUCTION OF ORDINARY CAPITAL. ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL.

At the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above company, held at Cham, on December 16, 1922, the resolutions for the reduction of the ordinary capital from 160,000,000 of 80,000,000 of francs by reducing the nominal value of each ordinary share from 400f to 200f were duly passed, and the necessary alterations in the company's articles of association following thereon were agreed to.

The Chairman referred to the last ordinary general meeting and to the balance-sheet at December 31, 1921, which closed with a loss of 81,700,000f, made up as follows:—30,800,000f loss on exchange, and 50,900,000f debit balance of profit and loss account.

The Chairman then proceeded to point out that the directors had succeeded, since the commencement of the year, in reducing the stocks until they were down to a level which they considered sufficiently low, and that a decrease of stock from 100,800,000f to 69,700,000f, effected in the short space of nine months, represented a considerable effort, and could only be reached by means of certain sacrifices. The sale prices of condensed milk had followed a downward path, but though costs of manufacture have followed the same tendency, the effect had not been felt in full, as production had to be restrained in order not to interfere with the reduction of stock. The fact that the sales were comprised principally of products in stock prevented the company benefiting by the lower costs of fresh manufacture to the full extent, and this factor has unfavourably influenced the result for the year.

CURRENT YEAR.

While the board were not in a position to give any exact indication of the result expected for 1922, they were of opinion that the year will close with a small credit balance, and the sales figures, estimated at the commencement of the year, had been maintained, and though they showed a decrease of 22 per cent. on 1921, they were still 50 per cent. above the sales of the pre-war period.

After explaining the heavy reductions made in the amounts due to bankers and creditors, the Chairman referred to the fact that in all their undertakings the company had received from their Swiss and foreign bankers valuable support and evidence of their confidence.

The Chairman then referred to the steps taken in the direction of the internal reorganisation of the business and the economies which had been effected, and said that special attention had been devoted to the company's interests in Australia and North America, and that the American enterprise had been visited by Messrs. Dapples and Page with a view to carrying out reductions in expenses and reorganisation of production there.

ADVANTAGES OF THE REDUCTION.

The Chairman then referred to the proposals for the reduction of ordinary share capital from 160,000,000f to 80,000,000f as at the date of the opening balance-sheet for the year 1922 by the

reduction of the nominal value of the ordinary shares from 400f to 200f, and showed that by this sacrifice the company would be in a position to write off entirely the loss in exchange and to reduce the debit balance of profit and loss account to an amount of about 1,700,000f, which will fall to be disposed of in the year 1922. He pointed out that the preference shares would be in no way affected by this reorganisation, either as regards the nominal value or any of their rights, and that unpaid cumulative preference dividends constitute a charge against the profits.

The Chairman stated that from the results of 1923—when ascertained—there would, first, have to be set aside the amount of the preference dividends in arrear, before any distribution could be made to the ordinary shareholders, and after the declaration of these arrears of dividend the company would have to constitute afresh their reserves to a certain extent, and any balance would eventually become available for the ordinary shareholders as dividend.

COMPANY'S CREDITORS.

Reference was made to the position of the creditors of the company. It was stated that the bankers had agreed to the proposed method of procedure, and that the other creditors only consisted of a large number of small debts at short date, and that since the establishment of the balance-sheet of 1921 they had been reimbursed and replaced partly by others, and the company was paying each debt at its due date, and no difficulty was expected from this quarter. There remained then only the creditors by obligations, which figured at a total of 105,500,000f.

The Chairman dwelt on and explained the legal necessity for submitting the resolutions concerning the reduction of capital to a meeting of the company's obligation holders, which was, he said, to be held on December 18, 1922.

The Chairman, in conclusion, stated: I arrive at the conclusion of my report, in which I have to express the opinion of our council that the transitory period between the abnormal state of our business in consequence of the war on the one hand and a normal market for our undertaking on the other seems to be at an end. We shall commence the year 1923 with a moderate stock of manufactured goods, which will enable us to benefit by the normal profit from the production and sale of our products. We foresee considerable economies in interest, consequent upon the reduction of our bank loans, and in working expenses, which permit us to foresee for the year 1923 a satisfactory realisation of profit. For these reasons we are anxious to close the present year with a clear balance-sheet. We propose to you to substitute for paragraphs 1 and 2, Article 5, of the statutes the following:—"The issued capital of the company is 125,000,000f, viz. (a) 80 millions of francs, divided into 400,000 fully-paid ordinary shares of 200f to bearer"; and that in Article 16 of the statutes the words "of 400 francs" be deleted. We commend to you the adoption of this proposition in the interests of our company.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.)

REVIEW OF COMPANY'S INTERESTS.

GOLD MINES—REDUCTION IN WORKING COSTS.

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The annual meeting of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, was held in Johannesburg on November 21st.

The Chairman (Mr. John Munro), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Owing to the prolonged strike which commenced in January of this year, your company suffered a severe loss in its revenue from the mining companies, but in spite of this your directors were gratified to find they were able to declare a dividend of 7½ per cent., free of tax, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the company on June 30th last, and to leave a substantial balance to be carried forward to next account. I would first direct your attention briefly to the satisfactory financial position disclosed in the balance-sheet. The book value of your assets at the close of the financial year was £5,872,293. The total liabilities to the public amounted to £1,213,891, leaving a surplus of assets over liabilities of £4,658,402, after provision had been made for the payment of the dividend of 7½ per cent., which amounted to £296,250. He then reviewed in detail the assets and liabilities of the company, and referring to the investments in stocks and shares, £3,930,960, said: The book value of these is £15,311 greater than a year ago. This does not represent the full cost of purchases during the year, which amounted to a considerably larger sum, but is the difference between the purchases and the amount received from sales during the financial year, plus depreciation of your holdings based on their market value at June 30th. As in previous years, no account whatever is

taken in your books of the large appreciation in those shareholdings of which the book value at June 30th is below their market price.

ENEMY SHARES.

In May last the shares held by the Custodian of Enemy Property in the various companies of this group were purchased by your company. Our shares were never largely held in foreign countries, and consequently the numbers purchased were much smaller than in the case of some of the other groups.

After giving particulars of other items—mining properties, including advances to mining companies, £282,388, loans to South African companies, £342,869, &c., the Chairman, referring to the company's real estate and buildings, £407,150, said: These comprise Johannesburg properties, £267,600; Johannesburg suburban estates, £32,270; and other properties in South Africa and London, £107,280. There is a decrease of £13,881 as compared with the previous year, representing the book value of ground sold, and of one town property disposed of, together with the annual redemption of ground rents.

The Municipal Council valuation of your Johannesburg properties and suburban estates is £466,480, reflecting a surplus of £166,610 over their book value.

Loans on mortgage and real estate, £158,864.—The decrease of £2,162 shown in your loans on mortgage and real estate represents the difference between loans paid off or reduced and new loans granted during the year, and calls for no comment.

YEAR'S PROFITS.

Turning to the profit and loss account, he said the realised profit for the year amounted to £305,781, which must be regarded as satisfactory in view of the fact that for a considerable portion of the financial year the business machinery of the community was practically out of commission. Our working expenses, amounting to £31,790, were somewhat less than the previous year, leaving a balance of £273,991 to be carried to the appropriation account. This, with the amount brought forward from last year, gives an available total of £458,402, out of which a distribution of 7½ per cent. was made to shareholders, the balance of £162,152 being carried forward to the current year.

GOLD MINES.

I propose dealing now with some of the more important interests of your company, and shall begin with the gold-mining companies under its control. As already mentioned, the gold mines suffered very severely owing to the strike, which, commencing on January 10th, developed into a revolution, which was not finally suppressed until March 17th.

Although operations were resumed immediately after that date, it naturally took some time to get the mines going on a normal scale.

The actual total loss sustained by the mines of the group for the first quarter of this year amounted to £242,316, but to arrive at the loss of revenue we must add the profit our companies would have made under normal conditions. The profit for the corresponding quarter of 1921 amounted to £710,689. While it is true that the profit is only deferred to the end of the life of each mine, yet, as far as the year under review is concerned, the companies were in a worse financial position, by an amount approaching a million pounds sterling, than they would have been had there been no strike.

WORKING COSTS REDUCED.

On the other hand, owing to the fall in the price of gold, it was quite evident that the time had arrived when there must be some reduction in wages, and reorganisation of work on the mines. The mines are now being worked under conditions which will certainly add to the lives of many of them, and in the end will justify the insistence of the mining industry that changes had to be made.

Contrasting September, 1922, with the same month in last year, the average working costs on the mines under our control have been reduced from 24s to 19s, while the working costs for the whole of the mines of the Witwatersrand for the same period have fallen from 25s 2d to 20s 5d.

In September, 1914, before the effects of the Great War began to be felt, the working costs for the Rand averaged 16s 9d per ton. It will be seen, therefore, that the average working costs are still 3s 8d per ton above the pre-war level. While there has been a reduction in the cost of labour per ton, due to decrease in wages and increased efficiency, the decrease in the cost of stores per ton is small, owing to the fact that while there have been reductions in prices, there has been practically no decrease in the railway rates.

HIGH RAILWAY RATES.

In the report of the Government Gold Mining Areas for the last year attention was drawn to the very heavy burden the mines have to bear owing to the high railway rates charged on material necessary for carrying on our undertakings. I regret to say that these high rates are still in operation, and although some slight

reductions have been made in the rates charged for South African products—which operate on a sliding scale based on mileage—and a small reduction has been made on cartage rates from certain centres, yet the relief given is of such an infinitesimal nature as to be scarcely appreciable, and I would again emphasise the fact that an important factor in keeping working costs at the high level at which they exist to-day is the very heavy charge which we have to pay to the railway administration for the carriage of all our material. There seems to be something very far wrong when the first cost of material has been so greatly reduced and ocean freights have been brought down to a comparatively low figure that the costs of transport on land should be maintained at practically the highest level that they touched during all the abnormal conditions which prevailed during the war and after.

MINING INVESTMENTS.

I shall now deal with the more important individual mines in which we are interested.

Consolidated Langlaagte Mines, Limited.—For the year ended December 31, 1921, this company made a profit of £163,671, as compared with £166,585 for the year 1920, and declared dividends of 5 per cent. and 7½ per cent. in June and December respectively.

The operations of the first quarter of 1922 resulted in a loss of £32,419, and the second quarter in a profit of £12,025. For the quarter ended September 30th a profit of £34,175 was made, and normal profits are anticipated for the future.

Government G.M. Areas (M.) Consolidated, Limited.—The profit made by this mine for the year ended December 31, 1921, amounted to £1,772,202. Of this amount the Government received £896,181, and the shareholders two dividends of 25 per cent. and 30 per cent., declared in June and December respectively, totalling £770,000. During the first three months of this year, in spite of the interruption of operations during the strike, a profit of £52,911 was made, and for the period April, May and June the profit amounted to £433,547, enabling the directors to declare a dividend of 20 per cent. to shareholders registered at June 30, 1922. For the quarter ended September 30th a profit of £483,600 was made, and there is every reason to anticipate good profits in the future.

The ore reserves are maintained at over 10,000,000 tons.

LANGLAAGTE PROPRIETARY MINE.

Langlaate Estate and G.M. Company, Limited.—For the calendar year 1921 a profit of £138,462 was made at this mine, and dividends of 5 per cent. and 7½ per cent. were declared in June and December respectively.

A loss of £41,741 was sustained during the first quarter of this year, while in the second and third quarters profits of £38,900 and £58,174, respectively, were made. Given adequate labour, the prospects for the future are most encouraging.

Langlaagte Proprietary Mine.—The sinking of a shaft to exploit our area was commenced in May, and at the end of October it had reached an incline depth of 254 ft.

Good progress is being made with the equipment of this section, and the area should prove a valuable asset and materially prolong the life of the mine.

New Primrose G.M. Company, Limited.—A profit of £33,694 was made at this mine in the calendar year 1921, and two dividends of 5 per cent. and 7½ per cent. were declared in June and December respectively. The operation for the first three months of this year—the period of the strike—resulted in a loss of £19,774, while for the second and third quarters profits of £2,612 and £7,382 were made. The losses incurred during the strike will be made good by the end of the year.

NEW STATE AREAS.

New State Areas, Limited.—Preliminary operations began at this mine early in 1918, and the sinking of the two shafts was completed by the end of February, 1921. Development has been pushed forward steadily from that time, and values in the south shaft are highly satisfactory, while in the north shaft a considerable amount of payable reef has been exposed, although not of so high an average grade as in the southern section. It was decided at the beginning of 1922 to proceed with the erection of the reduction plant. Excellent progress has been made with the construction work, and it is hoped that the plant will commence running next April or May. The prospects of this mine are excellent, and there is every reason to hope that when we meet again next year it will be earning satisfactory profits.

New Unified Main Reef G.M. Company, Limited.—This mine made a profit of £21,141 in 1921, and declared two dividends of 5 per cent. each in June and December. The operations for the first three months of 1922 resulted in a loss of £10,859, but in the second quarter a profit of £3,060 was made, and the profit for the third quarter amounted to £4,549. These amounts, together with the monthly profits for October, November, and December, should be sufficient to cover the losses sustained in the earlier part of the year. It is gratifying to know that this mine is now entering upon what there is every reason to believe will prove to be a long period of prosperity.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES AND VAN RYN DEEP.

Randfontein Estates G.M. Company, Limited.—This company's interests are bound up with those of the central company, and now that the central company has begun to make better profits, the financial position of both companies is much more hopeful.

In connection with the case brought against Sir J. B. Robinson, a sum of £353,907 was received last year and a further sum is owing, the exact amount not having been yet determined by the Courts.

Van Ryn Deep, Limited.—A total profit of £778,677 was made at this mine during the last calendar year, and two dividends of 30 per cent. each were declared in June and December. The operations for the first three months of 1922 resulted in a profit of £1,019. This mine was one of the first to recover from the effects of the strike. The mine has always been popular with natives, and an ample supply of labour enabled the mine to make a profit of £159,553 for the second quarter of the year, and a dividend of 10 per cent. was declared in June last. The quarter ended September showed a further improvement, and the profit for this period amounted to £209,989.

Development is being pushed forward, and the results are highly satisfactory. The ore reserves stand at over 3,000,000 tons, and the company is in a strong financial position.

Witwatersrand G.M. Company, Limited.—A total profit of £102,014 was made at this mine during the last calendar year, and two dividends of 10 per cent. and 15 per cent. were declared in June and December respectively. A loss of £25,995 was sustained for the first quarter of the current year, but for the quarter ended June 30th a profit of £24,161 was made, and a dividend of 5 per cent. was declared to shareholders registered at that date. The profit for the third quarter amounted to £43,444, and it is expected that with a plentiful supply of labour normal monthly profits will be earned.

Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, Limited.—The liquidation of this company was completed during the year, and a final distribution of 1s 4d per share was paid, making a total distribution of 3s 4d per share.

DIAMONDS AND COAL INDUSTRIES.

It is gratifying to be able to report that a substantial improvement has occurred in the diamond industry. Sales commenced to improve early in the present calendar year, and have gone on steadily increasing.

The Premier mine never ceased working on a small scale, and it is now evident that it will not need to close down, which would have been necessary had the depression continued. Jagersfontein is again working, and the De Beers Company is making arrangements to recommence washing blue ground. It ought not to take long for these companies to re-establish their financial position and resume the payment of dividends.

There has been practically no improvement in the coal trade of this country. Our three Transvaal collieries are earning moderate profits, but the outputs are small. With a greater output reasonable profits could be earned by the companies. Negotiations are in progress to secure larger outputs for the collieries after June of next year, and this should make the position much more satisfactory.

Carlton Hotel.—The property has been purchased by the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, on behalf of a new company, for £235,000, and there is no reason to doubt that under local supervision and control, and with efficient management, the future running of the hotel will yield a fair profit.

Polana Hotel, Lourenço Marques.—The local conditions in Lourenço Marques have been abnormal; but an improvement may be confidently looked for as normal conditions again prevail.

I have now dealt with the company's leading features, which, I am sure you will agree with me, are highly gratifying, and I need only add that I consider the company's future outlook excellent.

The reports and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CARRERAS, LIMITED.

PUBLIC'S APPRECIATION OF COMPANY'S PRODUCTS.

The nineteenth annual general meeting of Carreras, Limited, was held, on the 10th instant, at the registered offices of the company, 238 City Road, London. Mr Louis B. Baron (joint managing director) presided in the absence of the chairman.

The Chairman said the accounts, which we have met to consider, show that our business is in a very healthy state, and the balance-sheet one that could only be received with satisfaction by the shareholders.

I do not think you will consider it necessary for me to go into the details of the accounts, as the printed figures before you speak for themselves without any comments from me. I will content myself with reminding you that our profit for the year, including a refund of excess profits duty of £17,791, amounts to over

£113,000, and with the amount brought forward from the previous year our available balance is £148,000. We are putting a further £10,000 to reserve, making that fund £205,000, which now more than covers our goodwill, trade marks and patents, and after paying our preference share dividends and 15 per cent., free of tax, for the year on our ordinary shares, we are able to carry forward to next year the very substantial sum of £62,632.

You will observe that at October 31st we had loans from the banks of £70,248, but I am pleased to tell you that these loans have now been reduced to less than half that figure.

During the past year it became evident from month to month that our productions were steadily growing in popularity, and I may say that during the two months of the current financial year this steady growth has continued. We shall continue to do our utmost to merit the appreciation by the smoking public of our cigarettes and tobaccos, and I hope that the coming year's business will result as favourably as the one just closed.

As my father said at one of our meetings some years ago—our business has only begun to touch the fringe of its possibilities, and as the years go by we hope to be able to realise the large expectations expressed in the past. The whole world is our field, and our goods are all over the world to-day. In some parts we have only entered in a small way, but I feel confident that with the high standard of value and quality which we always try to maintain there will be a steady increase in all territories as well as in this country, where we are doing very well.

In our manufacturing we are using nothing but the "1919 crop" tobacco, which, as you will have seen from the newspapers, is the finest crop produced in Virginia for many years past, and I am glad to say we have sufficient stock of "1919 crop" tobacco for the next two or three years, so that the public can be fully assured of the quality of our goods being maintained at their present high standard.

The report was unanimously adopted.

SHOWELL'S BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

INDUSTRY'S UNFAIR BURDEN OF TAXATION.

The annual meeting of Showell's Brewery Company was held at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on the 19th instant, Mr James Davenport (chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Our particular industry is suffering, I think, more from taxation than any other industry in the world. The beer duty still remains at 13 times its pre-war level, and with falling wages and the impossibility of reducing the price of beer until the duty is reduced, we get what is inevitable, a steady diminution in the sales.

Now turning to our own affairs, our profits show a falling off of some £3,700, and I may say quite frankly that they come out better than at one time I had anticipated. Taking the assets side first, our properties amount to a total of £832,600, and show a reduction of some £7,000, principally accounted for by depreciation allowances.

Investments stand at just over £129,000, of which £105,000 is in Government stocks. The item of trade investments at £24,000 consists to a very large extent of the company's own debenture stock, which, as I informed you a year or two ago, we picked up as opportunity offered at heavy discounts. Sundry debtors at £36,000 compare with £32,000 a year ago, and this, as you will gather, also arises from the increase in the number of our houses under tenancy as distinct from management. The only other item on this side of the balance-sheet is cash, which at £29,000 compares with £24,500 a year ago.

On the other side of the account our capital remains unchanged, while the item of sundry creditors and reserves at £142,900 shows a reduction of approximately £40,000. A very large proportion of this figure consists of internal reserves. There has been a very considerable reduction in our current liabilities, which are now very small indeed. The reserve account is £45,000, against £40,000 a year ago, and if you approve our recommendations to-day it will appear next year at the round figure of £50,000.

The balance of revenue account for the year was £43,777, to which we have to add the balance brought in of £12,442, and which we have to add the balance brought in of £12,442, and deduct the debenture interest, which absorbed £19,345. This leaves us with a sum available for distribution of £36,874. We have already paid the half-year's interest on the preference stock, absorbing £6,900, and we propose the payment of the balance of this dividend, absorbing a like amount. We propose a dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, as against 15 per cent. a year ago, and we again transfer £5,000 to reserve account, bringing this up to £50,000. We shall then have to carry forward to next year a balance of £8,074.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

HOTEL CECIL, LIMITED.

CLAIM AGAINST GOVERNMENT—AMOUNT AWARDED.

The annual general meeting of the Hotel Cecil, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, on the premises, Strand, London, Mr J. Douglas Broad (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, dealt first with the profit and loss accounts and balance-sheets for the years ending August 31, 1921, and August 31, 1922. The balance of profit and loss in the latter account was, he said, £75,105. Since the report and accounts had been issued the board had succeeded in arriving at a settlement of the company's claim for reinstatement and loss of goodwill. Recalling the course of the negotiations, the Chairman said that the Air Force had vacated the premises in the autumn of 1919, and the board had accepted the building for the purpose of redecoration on January 1, 1920. Although the hotel had not been completely reinstated at that time the banqueting portion of the company's business was restarted on October 4, 1920, but it was not until January 1, 1921, that it had been possible to reopen the hotel for the reception of guests. Even at that date the west block of the hotel had not been completed. During the period of reinstatement certain improvements had been carried out, which had enabled them to reopen to the best possible advantage with a view to the recovery of the goodwill of the hotel at the earliest possible moment. In October, 1921, after due consideration, the board had decided to open the Palm Court for dancing. The institution of dancing had been highly successful, and was quite an important part of the company's business. It was the policy of the board, as opportunity offered, to give its patrons the advantage of any further reduction compatible with a reduction in cost. He would not weary the meeting with a detailed history of the negotiations which had been carried on between H.M. Office of Works and the board during the past two years, but the board's opinion was that the taxpayers' pocket would have been much better served had H.M. Office of Works shown a reasonable attitude in dealing with the company's claim. Sir Henry Kimber, Bart. (vice-chairman), seconded the motion.

The Chairman, in reply to a question, explained that the final award in connection with the claim against the Government was made on December 13th last. The total amount awarded was £145,000, of which £32,000 was still owing.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the formal business of the meeting having been completed, a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1922, to Dec. 16, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Dec. 16, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Dec. 17, 1922.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1:—				
Bank of England....	9,963,424	2,591,051	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	1,210,106	483,455	..	..
REVENUE.				
Customs.....	112,250,000	90,510,000	1,825,000	1,545,000
Excise.....	180,750,000	112,600,000	2,790,000	9,805,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	10,600,000	3,222,000	176,000	..
Estate, &c., Duties.....	48,000,000	41,561,000	550,000	652,000
Stamps.....	18,250,000	13,702,000	980,000	1,120,000
Land Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	640,000	10,000	..
Property & Income Tax (Including Super-Tax), Excess Profits Duties, &c.	329,000,000	180,594,000	2,369,000	918,000
Corporation Profits Tax	27,800,000	954,000	320,000	270,000
Post Office.....	19,750,000	9,540,000	800,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands.....	54,625,000	37,400,000	520,000	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	7,887,226	7,631,172	..
Miscellaneous—				
Ordinary Receipts...	22,000,000	18,454,818	16,509,260	194,000
Special Receipts...	90,000,000	34,644,521	82,297,956	41,832
Revenue.....	910,775,000	555,743,565	638,237,388	9,986,832
Total, Inc. Balance ..		566,917,035	641,311,894	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion.....		800,000	6,730,000	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....		169,818	169,818	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....		2,910,000	520,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922.....		3,360,000	3,561,474	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....		27,000	27,500	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....		..	35,000	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922		950,000	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....		1,553,300	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....		2,510,000	5,355,000	..

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1922, to Dec. 16, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Dec. 16, 1922.	Receipts, Week Ended Dec. 17, 1922.
(c) For other Issues:—			
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	2,104,441,000	2,886,755,000	62,862,000
By National Savings Certificates By Exchequer and National War Bonds	46,668,000	29,380,000	800,000
By Treasury Bonds—			
5-15 year, 1925-35	20	5	..
5%	61,655,154	159,067,516	6,538,067
4½%	70,907,535	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	25,259	10,961,454	102,815
(d) Ways and Means Advances	606,264,000	939,307,000	11,600,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—			
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..
Repayments—			
In respect of Cunard Loan	130,000	130,000	..
Do Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919	..	7,250,000	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921	270,252	43,938	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920	6,827,960	8,785,637	1,691,250
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920	162,425	321,533	..
Total	3,476,791,830	4,699,712,769	85,248,832

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Dec. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Dec. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Dec. 17, 1922.
EXPENDITURE				
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	10,044,113	10,761,732	292,639
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	248,095,941	259,149,988	1,123,186
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	3,049,999	2,981,000	106,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	5,802,990	6,624,651	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	1,479,152	250,000	..
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	794,127	2,216,746	5,615
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,723,302	1,221,015	1,500
Supply Services	539,253,000	279,217,499	428,535,931	7,980,000
Expenditure	902,691,000	550,207,123	711,431,063	9,758,940
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion.....		..	6,700,000	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....		169,818	169,818	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....		4,130,000	7,035,000	190,000
Issues to the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922.....		4,660,000	4,761,474	630,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....		27,000	27,500	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....		..	50,000	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922		950,000	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904—				
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300.		1,553,300	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..		2,110,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply		2,253,549,000	2,922,036,000	64,000,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919		6,921,203	25,804,879	729,741
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds		7,276,211	..	250,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920		18,800,000	14,000,000	450,000
(b) Repaid otherwise		..	9,700,000	500,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off —				
5½% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.		19,612,208	18,962,820	108,330
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		44,484,182	..	100,000
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919		14,220,672	51,493,936	2,255,595
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		538,387,000	887,288,000	9,950,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917		1,198,075	21,280,179	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919		243,012	..	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt		130,000	130,000	..
Cunard Loan Repayments		5,000,000	14,165,000	2,650,000
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)		..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911		88,065	112,450	28,409
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England.....		3,473,716,869	4,695,208,119	85,327,349
Bank of Ireland.....		1,210,106	483,455	164,342
Total		3,074,961	4,504,650	78,517

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1922, to Dec. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Dec. 16, 1922.	Issues, Week Ended Dec. 17, 1922.
EXPENDITURE				
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	10,044,113	10,761,732	292,639
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	248,095,941	259,149,988	1,123,186
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	3,049,999	2,981,000	106,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	5,802,990	6,624,651	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,500,000	1,479,152	250,000	..
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	794,127	2,216,746	5,615
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,650,000	1,723,302	1,221,015	1,500
Supply Services	539,253,000	279,217,499	428,535,931	7,980,000
Expenditure	902,691,000	550,207,123	711,431,063	9,758,940
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion.....		..	6,700,000	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....		169,818	169,818	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....		4,130,000	7,035,000	190,000
Issues to the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1920 to 1922.....		4,660,000	4,761,474	630,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....		27,000	27,500	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....		..	50,000	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922		950,000	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904—				
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300.		1,553,300	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..		2,110,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills for Supply		2,253,549,000	2,922,036,000	64,000,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919		6,921,203	25,804,879	729,741
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds		7,276,211	..	250,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates—				
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920		18,800,000	14,000,000	450,000
(b) Repaid otherwise		..	9,700,000	500,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off —				
5½% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.		19,612,208	18,962,820	108,330
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		44,484,182	..	100,000
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919		14,220,672	51,493,936	2,255,595
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		538,387,000	887,288,000	9,950,000
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917		1,198,075	21,280,179	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919		243,012	..	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt		130,000	130,000	..
Cunard Loan Repayments		5,000,000	14,165,000	2,650,000
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4)		..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911		88,065	112,450	28,409
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England.....		3,473,716,869	4,695,208,119	85,327,349
Bank of Ireland.....		1,210,106	483,455	164,342
Total		3,074,961	4,504,650	78,517

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 77 of 1922. Treasury, December 13, 1922.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT. (000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Advances to		Redemption Account.					
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Coin Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.	
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 18,500	£ 481	£ 9,924	£ 11,423	£ 9,286		
Aug. 26.	38,478	169	600	..	..	..	..	..		
Dec. 30.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	276	54,621	20,536		
1915.	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	276	54,621	20,536		
Dec. 29.	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	190	118,102	6,868		
1916.	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	134	186,637	5,486		
Dec. 26.	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	89	305,133	4,566		
1918.	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	91	337,537	2,802		
Dec. 31.	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	130	336,504	134		
1919.	343,826	15,599	Silver Coin.		28,500	139	311,334	141		
Mar. 30.	323,884	14,965	3,000	28,500	148	287,750	143	161		
June 29.	314,382	14,830	3,000	28,500	147	289,131	161	177		
Sept. 28.	325,584	14,658	3,000	28,500	159	261,479	177	250		
Dec. 28.	300,351	14,255	6,000	28,500	163	254,312	169	199		
1922.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	166	246,456	171	146		
Mar. 29.	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	167	244,657	171	146		
June 28.	287,911	12,295	7,000	27,000	165	249,602	177	146		
Sept. 27.	290,578	12,502	7,000	27,000	159	255,782	177	146		
Nov. 29.	292,468	12,430	7,000	27,000	159	255,782	177	146		
Dec. 13.	298,630	12,479	7,000	27,000	159	255,782	177	146		
20.	299,782	12,479	7,000	27,000	159	255,782	177	146		

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £30,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,2

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.
Cash and bank balances.	487,881	441,824	419,981	447,719	509,629
Bank balances abroad.	104,892	114,894	111,045	126,760	69,886
Call and short loans.	300,833	279,021	276,778	271,369	277,375
Securities.	309,882	322,009	330,646	323,471	345,581
Loans in Canada.	1,217,578	1,211,825	1,192,614	1,196,524	1,345,531
Loans abroad.	153,088	145,610	145,120	144,072	156,518
Other assets.	106,444	104,262	99,412	97,315	102,365
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation.	178,633	176,919	158,087	161,887	193,546
Deposits—					
Government.	132,331	108,988	92,595	87,546	136,968
Public in Canada.	1,687,933	1,648,648	1,639,485	1,668,224	1,816,974
Foreign.	331,969	336,747	339,385	347,529	284,254
Bank balances—					
Canadian.	11,311	9,008	8,348	6,379	11,561
Foreign.	34,807	33,706	35,073	34,284	39,048
Bills payable, &c.	26,409	23,321	22,236	21,872	33,530
Other liabilities.	2,624	2,644	3,756	2,328	3,213
Capital and rest.	255,274	255,231	255,197	255,068	264,338

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.
Capital.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.	2	2	2	2	2
Notes in circulation.	5,366	8,685	8,712	8,707	8,390
Bankers' deposits.	5,366	5,100	5,119	5,288	5,126
LIABILITIES.					
Gold coin and bullion.	383	283	283	282	282
Gold certificates.	10,032	10,102	10,082	10,057	10,057
Subsidiary coin.	250	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic).	1,898	1,826	1,816	1,832	1,364
Do (foreign).	..	..	2	3	5
Loans and advances to the Government.	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,500
Other loans and advances.	1,314	1,024	1,299	1,320	1,104
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.	75.2 %	77.1 %	75.6 %	75.6 %	78.3 %

BANK OF SPAIN.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 16, 1922.	Dec. 9, 1922.	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Dec. 17, 1921.
Gold.	2,523,863	2,523,721	2,523,812	2,523,812	2,523,812
Silver.	646,396	643,798	648,154	648,208	628,881
Loans and discounts.	2,216,763	2,254,740	2,233,428	2,273,674	2,996,173
Spanish 4% stock.	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills.	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation.	4,095,714	4,104,983	4,083,492	4,089,793	4,208,707
Deposits.	1,053,324	1,056,760	1,054,071	1,080,537	1,003,988
	5,149,038	5,161,743	5,137,563	5,169,330	5,212,695

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Sept. 13, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1921.
Gold and balances abroad.	1,363,191	1,351,025	1,360,795	1,359,960	1,363,208
Government loans and securities.	2,740,668	2,742,279	2,741,845	2,737,764	2,172,576
Discounts and loans.	1,196,457	1,169,965	1,097,452	1,028,063	660,288
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	2,482,703	2,326,896	2,185,015	2,039,639	2,076,851
Government deposits.	336,539	385,470	340,512	371,922	198,686
Private sight deposits.	894,252	865,385	1,009,672	989,470	830,321
Private deposits at fixed dates.	1,012,124	1,012,654	1,013,934	1,013,671	910,127

BANK OF JAPAN.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 14, 1922.	Nov. 19, 1921.
Cash and bullion.	1,159,607	1,149,121	1,147,007	1,145,424	1,144,923
Discounts.	73,531	102,787	138,941	74,491	70,931
Advances.	185,441	213,272	211,854	176,021	176,670
LIABILITIES.					
Notes.	1,068,962	1,142,345	1,205,154	1,103,219	1,104,843
Govt. deposits.	806,794	792,365	785,945	790,598	773,994
Other deposits.	53,783	38,732	49,472	40,639	42,228

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 9, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold.	1,004,847	1,004,848	1,004,849	993,697	1,313,240
Of which deposited in Bank of England.	50,032	50,032	50,032	..	..
Silver.	65,057	64,782	68,294	12,063	321,920
Treasury notes.	139,298,090	77,786,910	81,226,942	3,521,209	943,460
Bills discounted.	100,786,030	919,170,793	801,471,152	109,803,798	60,780
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	846,894,285	754,086,109	643,749,739	102,789,634	2,013,860
Deposits.	257,328,787	244,969,459	201,378,931	17,325,757	842,340

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Aug. 1, 1922.	July 1, 1922.	June 1, 1922.	May 1, 1922.	April 1, 1922.
Cash.	2,353,799	..	..	850,329	..
Loans.	5,884,164	..	..	2,919,353	..
Special credits on merchandise.	765,063	..	..	458,973	..
Food credits.	2,050,310	..	..	857,623	..
Debitors.	294,242	..	..	233,416	..
Merchandise.	465,300	..	..	594,354	..
Discounts.	512,166	..	..	127,785	..
Advances on securities.	162,078	..	..	148,172	..
Foreign coin and bonds.	512,839	..	..	409,895	..
Precious metals.	478,194	..	..	311,517	..
LIABILITIES.					
Subscribed capital.	575,000	..	..	575,000	..
Loan account.	6,772,649	..	..	3,246,143	..
Deposits bearing interest.	2,376,766	..	..	1,377,471	..
Deposits in foreign currencies.	121,637	..	..	121,118	..
Public deposits.	7,400,995	..	..	2,680,677	..

BANK OF ITALY.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 20, 1922.	Oct. 10, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1921.
Total cash.	1,333,469	1,332,474	1,319,820	1,296,573	1,316,490
Inland bills.	4,521,749	4,489,149	4,365,254	4,366,557	3,164,005
Foreign bills.	9,529	9,529	9,529	9,588	19,496
Advances to the Treasury.	6,111,451	6,105,441	6,110,371	6,110,183	6,665,230
Other advances.	2,261,728	2,488,584	2,086,014	2,116,274	2,132,634
Securities.	395,067	395,664	478,445	482,557	419,794
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation.	14,228,437	14,231,328	13,874,499	14,106,642	14,250,976
Deposits & drafts.	1,636,202	1,701,527	1,874,436	1,686,805	1,597,451

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 11, 1922.	Dec. 4, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1922.	Nov. 20, 1922.	Dec. 12, 1921.
Gold.	581,789	581,789	581,789	581,789	605,969
Silver.	8,851	8,851	8,851	8,851	8,851
Depts. & advances.	336,162	405,450	383,033	410,477	442,912
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	976,289	990,726	965,113	978,010	1,021,236
Deposits.	28,989	25,947	25,639	41,063	33,376

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.	Nov. 26, 1921.
Gold.	533,053	533,053	533,053	533,053	533,053
Silver.	430	430	430	430	430
Government loan.	14,535,333	12,571,256	12,578,200	12,576,714	11,230,178
Other advances.	4,218,119	4,148,259	4,091,414	4,080,985	3,354,917
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	15,361,486	15,385,993	15,481,588	15,433,861	13,563,332
Deposits.	6,597,792	6,543,561	6,398,517	6,425,171	5,636,540

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1921.
Gold.	533,053	533,053	533,053	533,053	533,053
Silver.	430	430	430	430	430
Darlehens-Kassen.	11,712	11,688	11,668	11,846	11,920
Assets & advances.	369,789	367,304	357,629	332,822	304,842
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	916,618	955,079	987,585	916,123	917,077
Deposits.	153,024	110,651	79,117	125,984	124,536

The Monthly Statement of the Swiss Federal Loan Bank (Darlehenskasse) shows that up to November 30, 1922, total issues were Fr.19,364,013, of which Fr.11,667,675 was held by the Swiss National Bank.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 9, 1922.	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Dec. 10, 1921.
Gold.	273,978	274,037	274,037	274,037	274,856
Balance abn. and foreign bills.	90,213	77,029	70,282	69,412	106,504
Swedish and for. Gov. securities.	94,420	93,918	90,566	90,606	23,713
Discounts and loans.	464,634	401,307	347,735	358,363	531,390
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	521,776	582,404	534,615	541,405	576,366
Deposits at notice.	355,531	206,936	182,265	184,844	314,579

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 14, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1921.
Coin (gold & silver) and bullion.	340,691	338,620	337,816	338,560	326,001
Securities.	599,049	591,185	618,404	643,710	338,850
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	6,660,245	6,661,322	6,704,738	6,593,901	6,256,913
Current accounts.	487,715	509,508	517,989	679,911	665,932

AUSTRIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
Assets.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 16, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1921.
Gold coin and bullion, bills.	442	465	398	380	380
Silver coin and bills.	679,194,580	721,244,516	826,483,602	865,381,247	787,196
Bills discounted, warrants and drafts.	720,725	702,346	764,447	787,196	787,196
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.	3,478,444,060	3,417,786,498	3,133,276,346	3,161,625,773	3,640,417,336
Deposits.	242,436,806	207,846,951	342,136,922	364,041,736	..

HUNGARIAN BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 14, 1921.
Assets.	Krone.	Krona.	Krona.	Krona.	Krona.
Gold coin and bullion, bills	15,342	14,916	14,845	14,145	14,145
Silver coin, &c.	596	596	596	596	596
Bills, warrants, drafts, &c.	48,897,969	49,245,537	50,113,580	50,510,153	50,510,153
Loans	1,895,088	1,860,987	1,814,075	1,937,414	1,937,414
LIABILITIES					
Notes in circulation	72,007,176	72,016,112	70,371,391	70,210,720	70,210,720
Deposits	5,934,573	6,407,320	8,074,887	7,237,263	7,237,263

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

Present Rate.	Date Changed.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.
Discount	July 13, 1922	4 1/2	June 15, 1922.
Deposit	June 15, 1922	2	Feb. 15, 1922.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Amsterdam	July 18, 1922 .. 4
Athens	May 15, 1920 .. 6 1/2
Berlin	Nov. 13, 1922 .. 10
Brussels	June 8, 1922 .. 4 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 .. 6
Calcutta	Dec. 14, 1922 .. 5
Christiansia	Aug. 17, 1922 .. 5
Copenhagen	Apr. 25, 1922 .. 5
Helsingfors	Oct. 16, 1922 .. 8
Lisbon	Sept. 3, 1920 .. 7
New York Federal Reserve	June 21, 1922 .. 4
Paris	May 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Prague	Apr. 27, 1922 .. 5
Rome	July 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Sofia	June 14, 1919 .. 6 1/2
Stockholm	July 1, 1922 .. 4 1/2
Swiss Bank	Aug. 17, 1922 .. 3
Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Vienna	Sept. 2, 1922 .. 9
Warsaw	Sept. 1, 1921 .. 7

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Dec. 22, 1921.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 21, 1922.
Paris	France to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	52-93-98	63-58-63
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	760-765	33000-33500
Vienna	kronen to £1	T.T.	24-02	10500-11500	31000-33000
Prague	kronen to £1	T.T.	24-02	290-300	152 1/2-153 1/2
Warsaw	zlotys to £1	T.T.	20-43	11500-12500	80000-85000
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	nom	760-780
Budapest	forints to £1	T.T.	24-02	2500-2800	10000-11000
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	705-735	800-850
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	600-625	550-600
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	270-290	375-400
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12-10 1/2	11-41-44	11-63-64
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	55-20-25	67-98-68-03
Christiansia	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-15 1/2	26-70-80	24-40-45
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-15 1/2	16-80-85	17-27-29
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-15 1/2	22-22-27	22-45-50
Helsingfors	marks to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	215-220	185-186
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	101-104	380-390
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	93 1/2	91 1/2-91 3/4
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	21-52-57	24-47-50
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	28-33-38	29-51-54
Lisbon	escudos to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	57 1/2	28-29
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86 1/2	4-20-21	4-64 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86 1/2	4-49-51	4-67 1/2
Buenos Ayres	pesos to £1	T.T.	47-62 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pesos to £1	T.T.	47-62 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	T.T.	47-62 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2
Lima	soles to £1	T.T.	13-33	39-80	37-70
Calcutta	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Madras	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Hong Kong	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2
Shanghai	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2
Singapore	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2
Yokohama	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2
Manila	dollars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2
Mexico	pesos to £1	T.T.	24-06 1/2	25-22 1/2	25-22 1/2

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Nov. 15, 1921.	Nov. 16, 1921.	Nov. 23, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 7, 1921.	Dec. 14, 1921.
Call money	5	5	5	5	5	5
Time money (90 days mixed coll)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bank acceptances	5	5	5	5	5	5
Members' eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-members' eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

New York on—	Par Level	Dec. 15, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1922.
London—60 days	4-86 1/2	4-13	4-49	4-5425	4-625
Cable	4-86 1/2	4-13	4-49	4-5425	4-625
Oblique	4-86 1/2	4-13	4-49	4-5425	4-625
Paris	19-30	7-92-90	6-85	7-075	7-22
Brussels	19-30	7-61-50	6-35	6-51	6-65
Switzerland	19-30	19-40	18-64	18-86	18-98
Italy	19-30	4-53	4-745	4-995	5-017
Berlin	23-83	0-0125	0-0125	0-0131	0-0142
Vienna	20-26	0-014	0-014	0-014	0-014
Amsterdam	19-30	14-90	15-37	15-52	15-73
Copenhagen	40-195	36-40	39-57	39-94	40-07
Christiansia	26-80	19-33	20-42	20-64	20-85
Stockholm	24-63	26-97	27-00	26-94	27-00
Athens	19-30	4-25	4-15	4-15	4-15
Montreal	100	92-95	99-99	99-99	99-92
Yokohama	49-85	47-90	48-55	48-65	48-90
Hong Kong	54-60	53-35	53-625	53-625	53-625
Shanghai	75-60	71-00	71-625	71-125	71-125
Calcutta	103-65	132-90	119-20	117-00	116-5
Buenos Aires	32-42	12-60	12-35	12-35	12-35
Rio de Janeiro	20-60	11-00	12-25	12-20	12-00

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1922.	Rate.
Buenos Aires	100-00	Sight London	Dec. 12	17-25
Buenos Aires	25-35	"	Dec. 12	23-90
Colombia (Bogota)	100	"	Dec. 12	96
Colombia (Bogota)	4-86 1/2	"	Dec. 15	4-80
Costa Rica	90-23	"	Dec. 16	273
Costa Rica	10-45	"	Nov. 18	19-80
Bolivia	19-20	"	Nov. 4	16 1/2

CONTINENTAL RATES OF EXCHANGE ON GERMANY.

	Par Level	Dec. 22, 1921.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1922.	Dec. 20, 1922.
Amsterdam	Florins to 100 marks	59-26	1-63	0-0305	0-032
Switzerland	Francs to 100 marks	123-45	3-05	0-0645	0-068
Copenhagen	Kroner to 100 marks	88-88	2-34	0-060	0-061
Stockholm	"	"	"	0-045	0-047
Christiansia	"	"	"	0-0658	0-067

ESTHONIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Bank of Esthonia quote Reval exchange rates as below:—

Reval on	Nov. 29, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1922.	Dec. 4, 1922.	Dec. 6, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.
London (cheque)	£1	1,549	1,547	1,550	1,556
New York	£1	342-75	342-75	342-75	342-75
Berlin	100 Rmk	4-15	4-60	4-30	4-07
Helsingfors	100 Fmk	863	860	857	863
Stockholm	100 Kr	9,235	9,220	9,235	9,230
Copenhagen	100 Kr	6,990	6,985	6,990	7,000
Paris	100 Fr	2,380	2,400	2,390	2,430
Amsterdam	100 Hfl.	13,565	13,575	13,600	13,700
Riga	100 Lrbl	135	135	135	135-50
Prague	"	1,090	1,090	1,090	1,100
Rome	"	1,640	1,645	1,675	1,710

LATVIAN EXCHANGE RATES.

Riga on—	Lats for	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 29, 1922.	Dec. 6, 1922.	Dec. 13, 1922.
London	£1	23-29	23-42	23-54	23-59	23-92
New York	\$1	5-20	5-21	5-21	5-19	5-18
Paris	100 frs.	34-90	36-13	36-13	36-26	36-74
Brussels	100 frs.	32-47	33-24	33-15	33-46	33-86
Switzerland	100 frs.	95-57	97-6	96-83	97-86	98-13
Christiania	100 lire.	24-78	24-81	24-81	25-71	25-79
Stockholm	100 kr.	139-88	139-90	140-54	140-12	139-54
Christiania	100 kr.	95-75	95-11	95-98	96-78	97-92
Copenhagen	100 kr.	105-36	105-66	106-35	106-36	107-92
Prague	100 kr.	16-64	16-38	16-38	16-47	16-27
Amsterdam	100 fl.	204-30	205-04	206-04	206-53	207-19
Berlin	10,000 rmk.	7-76	8-22	8-04	8-25	8-21
Helsingfors	100 fmk.	13-01	13-16	13-15	13-11	13-04
Reval	100 emk.	1-52	1-52	1-52	1-52	1-52
Warsaw	10,000 pmk	4-00	4-00	3-5	4-00	3-5

Note.—The unit of Latvian money is the Lat, equal to one gold franc.

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From Dec. 9, 1922.	From Dec. 9, 1922.
London on South Africa.	Buying.	Selling.
South Africa on London.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	1 1/2 % prem.	3 % prem.
60 days	1 1/2 % " "	3 % " "
90 days	1 1/2 % " "	3 % " "
120 days	1 1/2 % " "	3 % " "

* No premium allowed on amounts under £100.
(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T. or demand drafts under £50.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.								
	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd.	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd.	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd.	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd.
T.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sight	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cable	..	..	101½	101½	98½	98½	100½	100½
On demand ..	98	98	100½	100½	98½	98½	99½	99½
30 days	97½	97½	..	..	98	97½	99½	99½
60 days	97	97	..	..	97½	97½	99½	99½
90 days	96½	96½	..	..	97½	97	98½	99
120 days	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

BULLION.

The gold movements to or from the Bank of England are no longer announced. For the week ended December 20, 1922, the stock of coin and bullion shows a decrease of £2,228 compared with the previous return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Gold Imported into the United Kingdom.		Gold Exported from the United Kingdom.	
Countries from which Consigned.	Week Ended Dec. 13, 1922.	Countries to which Exported.	Week Ended Dec. 13, 1922.
	£		£
Sweden	4,000	Norway	330
Belgium	150	Netherlands	12,790
Belgian Congo	25,198	France	1,446,230
British South Africa	617,370	Roumania	30,307
Other Countries	1,006	U.S.A.	1,197,466
		British India	305,905
		Straits Settlements	16,425
Total value of imports of gold	647,724	Total declared value of exports registered in the week	3,009,334

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on December 20th as follows:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold has been on offer, and with the exception of a few small purchases on Indian account, has been taken for New York. Gold valued at \$4,617,000 has arrived in New York, \$3,500,000 from London, and \$1,117,000 from Alexandria.

SILVER.

The market has continued to show a weak tendency, mainly on account of easier rates in China and the appreciation of sterling in the United States of America. The Indian bazaars have been buying for shipment, but to a large extent sales of silver have been made at the same time for two months' delivery. Bear covering has been carried out rather reluctantly, in view of the doubtful outlook ahead. The substantial discount at which the price for forward delivery stands indicates the little confidence which obtains as to the future. The tin has sold, and supplies are fairly free, notwithstanding the lower level of prices. The cash price quoted on the 15th inst.—30 1/2d—is the lowest fixed since July 29, 1916, whilst that inst.—30 1/2d—is the lowest since May 9, 1919; for forward delivery—30 1/2d—is the lowest since May 9, 1919; on that date quotations for two months' delivery were resumed for the first time since July 30, 1914. The coinage of silver for the first time since July 30, 1914. During the last three months the following numbers were coined:—September, 8,300,000; October, 11,660,000; November, 13,860,000—total, 33,820,000. It is probable that no subsidiary coins will be struck during the current year.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

	(In Lacs of Rupees.)	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1922.
Notes in circulation	17,730	17,647	17,557	17,557
Silver coin and bullion in India	8,972	8,889	8,799	8,799
Silver coin and bullion out of India	2,432	2,432	2,432	2,432
Gold coin and bullion in India	5,742	5,742	5,742	5,742
Gold coin and bullion out of India	584	584	584	584

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 16th inst. consisted of about 32,000,000 ounces in sycee, 35,000,000 dollars, and 370 silver bars, as compared with 34,000,000 ounces in sycee, 36,000,000 dollars, and 400 silver bars on the 9th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows:—

		Gold.	Silver.			Silver.
1922.		Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.	Date.	Cash, Per Ounce.
		s d	d	d		d
Dec.	16..	88 6	30 $\frac{7}{8}$	30 $\frac{1}{16}$	Dec. 29, 1916	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
	18..	88 6	30 $\frac{1}{8}$	30 $\frac{1}{16}$	28, 1917	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
	19..	88 9	30 $\frac{1}{8}$	30 $\frac{1}{16}$	28, 1918	48 $\frac{7}{16}$
	20..	89 4	30 $\frac{1}{8}$	30 $\frac{1}{16}$	26, 1919	..
	21..	89 1	30 $\frac{1}{8}$	30 $\frac{1}{16}$	24, 1920	..
	22..	..	..	..	23, 1921	..

Weather conditions generally have remained exceptionally mild for the time of year, consequently field work is well advanced, and has resulted in a larger acreage being laid under winter cereals than previously anticipated. Quiet trading was experienced during the week, the market being under holiday influences, but price ruled firm for both bread and feeding stuffs, with a hardening tendency. Native wheat is rather steadier at 41s. to 43s for suitable milling grades, and inferior 37s to 40s per 504 lbs free on rail. Imported descriptions more firmly held in sympathy with higher forward offers. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 52s 6d. No. 2 mixed Durum 49s 6d, and Rosafe 62½ lbs 53s 6d, all per 496 lbs ex ship to arrive. The cargo section displayed moderate activity, and rates were firm to dearer in face of higher American and Argentine advices. Steamers of choice white Karachi expected to load early January sold at 51s 1½d, Rosafe 62½ lbs January-February 48s 1½d, Baril 62 lbs afloat 50s 6d to Continental ditto 62½ lbs afloat 49s 3d, and No. 1 Northern Manitoba December-January 50s 3d per 480 lbs. North American visible supplies show a substantial increase, but floating supplies are on a much lighter scale. Crop prospects remain mostly favourable in the chief exporting countries. Flour ruled firm in sympathy with the wheat position, and prices were advanced by 1s per sack for home milled. Demand, however, does not improve. London standard straight run now quoted at 42s, patents 44s to 45s, two households 40s per sack delivered in London area. English country straight run 33s to 35s per sack delivered. Imported quietly steady. Manitoba patents range from 40s to 43s Minneapolis good patents 42s to 42s 6d, Australian practically on of supply on spot and nominally 41s all per 280 lbs ex store. Maize in better demand and rates hardened, with spot parcels sparingly offered. Plate ex ship quoted at 35s 0d ditto landed 37s 3d, and American mixed in latter position 38s. The cargo section ruled firmer on better Continental inquiries though same only resulted in a moderate amount of business. Steamers of La Plata on passage changed hands at 35s and 35s 6d as to position, and January-February at 35s 6d and 35s 4½d per 480 lbs. Barley generally dull and without material alteration. English ranges from 30s to 58s as to sample per 448 lbs, free on rail. Of imported, Californian ex ship 39s to 42s 6d, Australian as to 42s 6d per 480 lbs. both ex ship to arrive. Plate 30s 6d

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Miles Open.	Week Ended Dec. 17, 1922.			Aggregate 50 Weeks 1922.		
		Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	6783	42,100	150,400	192,500	2,447,500	6,615,200	9,062,700
Do Joint Lines	1613	10,000	34,100	44,100	341,000	1,100,000	1,441,000
Great Eastern (c)	1,207	97,400	104,100	201,500	5,812,000	4,656,900	10,468,900
Great Northern (c)	1,050	81,000	163,700	244,700	4,710,200	3,557,300	8,267,500
Great Western (d)	3,657	203,000	357,000	560,000	14,206,000	18,214,000	32,420,000
London & N. Western (d) ..	2,636	287,000	479,000	766,000	18,160,000	21,294,000	39,454,000
Lon. & South-Western (d) ..	968	112,400	54,400	166,800	6,473,000	2,830,400	9,303,400
Lon. Brighton & S. O. (c) ..	487	74,224	26,501	100,725	4,672,511	1,354,802	6,027,313
Maryport & Carlisle (c) ..	423	10,000	2,014	12,014	59,312	94,871	154,183
Metropolitan (c)	789	34,089	3,568	37,657	1,691,878	181,586	1,873,464
Midland (c)	1,589	133,000	313,000	446,000	8,788,000	15,786,000	24,574,000
Midland & S. W. Junc.	63	887	2,334	3,221	48,914	92,567	141,481
North-Eastern (c)	1,850	107,200	260,000	367,200	6,551,000	12,274,000	18,825,000
North London	16	4,490	9,936	14,426	237,813	484,527	722,340
South-E. & Chatham (c)	654	106,800	41,600	148,400	6,705,000	2,170,400	8,875,400
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	235,246	..	..	11,392,494
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	9,279	..	..	382,831
Caledonian	1,097	54,500	99,600	154,100	3,570,700	4,945,300	8,516,000
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	476	22,200	33,700	55,900	1,536,400	1,820,600	3,357,000
Gt. N. of Scotland (c)	3,344	7,040	9,950	16,990	462,740	446,840	909,580
Highland (c)	492 (a)	7,413	9,907	17,320	588,505	517,381	1,105,886
North British (c)	1,377	57,800	129,400	187,200	3,276,300	5,857,800	9,134,100
East and County	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Down (b)	40	4,556	1,474	6,030	266,205	66,076	332,281
Dublin and S. East. (b)	160	4,559	3,692	8,251	302,931	177,374	480,305
Dublin & Gt. West. (b)	538	9,247	18,545	27,792	490,687	793,552	1,284,239

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended December 15, 1922.
(c) Week ended December 16, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	33 weeks	Nov. 18	1,043	2,75,819	+ 2,75,819	27,16,570	+ 27,16,570
Bangal L. Ry.	33 weeks	Nov. 18	118	23,000	+ 23,000	3,32,300	+ 3,32,300
Bangal & N. Western	7 weeks	Nov. 18	67	5,84,220	+ 5,84,220	37,77,310	+ 37,77,310
Bangal Nagpur	32 weeks	Nov. 18	11,703	14,46,000	+ 14,46,000	4,44,77,865	+ 4,44,77,865
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	35 weeks	Dec. 9	2,994	21,85,000	+ 21,85,000	2,01,15,000	+ 2,01,15,000
Burma	34 weeks	Nov. 18	1,349	71,8,686	+ 71,8,686	2,20,08,673	+ 2,20,08,673
Delhi, Umbaila & Kaithi ..	10 weeks	Dec. 9	239	99,000	+ 99,000	1,55,500	+ 1,55,500
East Indian	10 weeks	Dec. 9	2,772	30,23,000	+ 30,23,000	3,03,48,000	+ 3,03,48,000
G. Indian Peninsula	36 weeks	Nov. 11	5,028	32,13,400	+ 32,13,400	1,87,60,935	+ 1,87,60,935
Madras & S. Mah.	32 weeks	Nov. 11	5,028	12,75,000	+ 12,75,000	1,63,491	+ 1,63,491
Rohilk. & Kumaon	7 weeks	Nov. 11	259	41,775	+ 41,775	2,160	+ 2,160
Do Lucknow-Breilly	7 weeks	Nov. 11	302	52,936	+ 52,936	7,494	+ 7,494
South Indian	32 weeks	Nov. 11	1,852	8,39,000	+ 8,39,000	3,01,20,315	+ 3,01,20,315
Shan. Punjab (monthly) ..	5 mths	Aug. 31	717	7,64,549	+ 7,64,549	41,53,474	+ 41,53,474
Argentine (a).							
Argentine N.E.	24 weeks	Dec. 16	752	9,200	+ 9,200	241,500	+ 241,500
Argentine Trans.	23 weeks	Dec. 16	111	4,310	+ 4,310	61,550	+ 61,550
B. A. and Pacific	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,342	166,000	+ 166,000	3,296,000	+ 3,296,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,342	202,000	+ 202,000	3,806,000	+ 3,806,000
B. Western	24 weeks	Dec. 16	16,182	106,000	+ 106,000	1,995,000	+ 1,995,000
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	46,000	+ 46,000	629,000	+ 629,000
Central Argentine	24 weeks	Dec. 16	3,305	41,145	+ 41,145	12,798	+ 12,798
Cordoba Central	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,205	193,000	+ 193,000	4,581,000	+ 4,581,000
Entre Rios	24 weeks	Dec. 16	811	60,300	+ 60,300	1,429,300	+ 1,429,300
Brazilian	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,110	17,700	+ 17,700	44,600	+ 44,600
Brazil Gt. Southern	10 mths	Oct. 31	31	77,250	+ 77,250	25,500	+ 25,500
Gt. West. of Brazil	50 weeks	Dec. 16	1,005	15,800	+ 15,800	200	+ 200
Leopoldina	50 weeks	Dec. 16	1,831	30,826	+ 30,826	3,565	+ 3,565
San Paulo	50 weeks	Dec. 16	1,534	32,089	+ 32,089	4,802	+ 4,802
State of Bahia, S.W.	7 mths	Nov. 30	52	15,000	+ 15,000	98,000	+ 98,000
Chile and Peru.							
Antofagasta	49 weeks	Dec. 10	838	35,160	+ 35,160	20,905	+ 20,905
Nitrato (3-monthly)	50 weeks	Dec. 15	366	23,944	+ 23,944	5,878	+ 5,878
Peruvian Corp.	5 mths	Nov. 30	1,059	1,327,100	+ 1,327,100	50,530	+ 50,530
Talca	5 mths	Nov. 30	172	13,755	+ 13,755	10,147	+ 10,147
Cuban	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,210	10,066	+ 10,066	1,619	+ 1,619
Havana Central	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,210	53,031	+ 53,031	5,701	+ 5,701
Uruguayan	24 weeks	Dec. 16	273	29,829	+ 29,829	3,236	+ 3,236
Central Uruguay	24 weeks	Dec. 16	311	5,693	+ 5,693	160	+ 160
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	24 weeks	Dec. 16	185	3,893	+ 3,893	595	+ 595
C. Urug. (North Ext.)	24 weeks	Dec. 16	211	2,897	+ 2,897	502	+ 502
C. Urug. (West Ext.)	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	14,681	+ 14,681	1,521	+ 1,521
Midland Uruguay	5 mths	Nov. 30	113	9,787	+ 9,787	296	+ 296
North-West Uruguay	5 mths	Nov. 30	73	3,830	+ 3,830	722	+ 722
Other Foreign.							
Alto and Gaudia	50 weeks	Dec. 16	33	30,000	+ 30,000	979,450	+ 979,450
Bilbao	11 mths	Nov. 30	15	2,282	+ 2,282	467	+ 467
Bolivar	4 mths	Oct. 31	136	7,700	+ 7,700	665	+ 665
Costa Rica	4 mths	Oct. 31	189	18,191	+ 18,191	1,481	+ 1,481
Dorado Extension	8 mths	Nov. 30	70	15,000	+ 15,000	7,500	+ 7,500
Dorado Ropewy. Ext.	8 mths	Nov. 30	45	4,750	+ 4,750	1,250	+ 1,250
Egyptian Delta	34 weeks	Nov. 30	659 (c)	11,981	+ 11,981	1,564	+ 1,564
Gt. Southern of Spain	49 weeks	Dec. 2	104	91,328	+ 91,328	25,864	+ 25,864
International of							
Central America	11 mths	Nov. 30	232	16,532	+ 16,532	7,527	+ 7,527
La Guaira & Caracas	18 mths	Oct. 31	403	9,010	+ 9,010	930	+ 930
Mexican Railway	22 weeks	Dec. 14	403	249,500	+ 249,500	96,700	+ 96,700
Do	4 mths	Oct. 31	403	116,800	+ 116,800	370,500	+ 370,500
Nasajo Oscarham.	9 mths	Sept. 30	193	12,760	+ 12,760	2,582	+ 2,582
Ottoman Railway	2 weeks	Aug. 31	35	3,750	+ 3,750	1,000	+ 1,000
Puerto Cabello, &c.	24 weeks	Dec. 16	100	3,048	+ 3,048	766	+ 766
Salvador	1 mth	Oct. 31	..	140,536	+ 140,536	16,943	+ 16,943
Santa Fe Province	1 mth	Nov. 30	..	4,430	+ 4,430	738	+ 738
Sama & Santiago	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	12,530	+ 12,530	2,978	+ 2,978
Zafra and Hueva	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	12,530	+ 12,530	2,978	+ 2,978

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
(c) 10 days return.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1921.	1922.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.	1922.	Increase or Decrease on 1921.
Jan.	235,335	235,335	393,892,529	+ 75,553,279	57,421,605	+ 29,089,649
Feb.	235,653	235,653	400,430,580	+ 77,777,834	76,706,840	+ 34,882,890
Mar.	234,202	234,202	473,433,886	+ 150,231,426	113,468,843	+ 54,637,199
Apr.	234,338	234,338	416,240,237	+ 15,866,410	80,514,943	+ 23,040,083
May	235,333	235,333	447,293,150	+ 4,069,751	92,531,565	+ 28,064,928
June	235,208	235,208	472,383,903	+ 12,766,822	109,445,113	+ 28,989,678
July	234,556	234,556	442,736,397	+ 19,960,589	102,258,414	+ 1,964,485
Aug.	235,815	235,815	472,242,561	+ 31,911,054	86,566,595	+ 36,787,070
Sept.	235,205	235,205	498,702,275	+ 1,723,772	91,381,593	+ 29,046,959

CANADIAN RAILWAYS WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Receipts for Week or Month.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate Receipts.	Inc. or Dec.
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross \$186,737	- 37,086	388,749	- 18,760
Canadian Ntn.	50 weeks	Dec. 14	Gross \$1,237,000	- 158,865	58,338,734	- 7,359,779
Canadian Ntn.	10 mths	Oct. 31	Gross \$7,881,100	+ 936,054	48,941,974	- 7,208,226
Canadian Pac.	50 weeks	Dec. 14	Gross \$4,113,000	+ 302,000	177,289,000	- 7,190,000
Canadian Pac.	10 mths	Oct. 31	Gross \$23,062,000	+ 972,000	147,889,000	- 10,588,000
Grand Trunk.	50 weeks	Dec. 14	Gross \$7,803,000	+ 109,000	27,111,000	- 1,601,000
Temiscouata	1 mth	Oct. 31	Gross \$4,887	- 73,503	20,659,926	+ 341,001

*Net earnings before deducting taxes. †Railway and Steamship receipts.

OTHER BRITISH OVERSEAS RAILWAYS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Beira and Mashona-land	1 mth	Sept. 30	810	110,723	+ 7,043	4,158	+ 11,412
Mid. of W. Aust.	4 mths	Oct. 31	277	14,660	+ 3,421	2,564	+ 263
New Cape Central	56 weeks	Nov. 25	205	2,564	+ 263	120,236	- 674
Rhodesia Railways	1 mth	Sept. 30	1,397	140,418	- 9,213	..	..

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1922.	+ or -	1922.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	50 weeks	Dec. 16	329	\$92.351 +	9,636	4,269,832 +	249,265
Burnley Corporation	1 week	16	12	£3,162	228	..	..
Calcutta Tramways...	49 weeks	16	354	Rs124,863 +	30,315	..	+16,99,43
Chatham & District...	49 weeks	7	15	£1,477 +	25	80,342	- 1,13
Egyptian Markets...	49 weeks	9	..	£2,612 +	224	88,212	1,26
Glasgow Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tramways	28 weeks	16	101	\$43,527 -	2,631	1,214,234	- 84,29
Isle of Thanet	11 weeks	13	..	\$504	33	6,460	- 92
Lancashire United	50 weeks	12	39	£2,898 -	374	151,121	20,48
Liverpool Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tramways	49 weeks	9	124	£28,201 -	1,833	1,431,013 +	5,52
L.C.C. Tramways	37 weeks	13	160	\$28,330 +	111	3,421,885 -	281,32
Madras Elect. (2 wks)	47 weeks	15	..	R46,689 +	432	1,022,661 +	1,40,93
Pernambuco Trams.	50 weeks	17	..	£1,095 +	872	185,337 -	8,26
Singapore Electric ..	50 weeks	July 29	..	\$1,095	6	..	..

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—In the South Wales coal trade this week current business has been practically restricted to the supply of parcels to complete cargoes for departure before the holidays. The docks have again been glutted with tonnage. Even at Barry, one of the most efficient coal exporting docks in the country, there has been a four days' stem, owing to the seriousness of the congestion. The shipments have been very heavy. For some weeks past they have approximated the record quantities of 1913-14, but the problem of coping satisfactorily with all the difficulties of the position has been too great for the Great Western Railway Company, and complaints of delays, detentions, demurrage charges, and loss of time at the collieries have been very general. It is inevitable that an enormous quantity of tonnage will be held over during the holidays. Contract business for deliveries over next year has been very active. During the week the British Admiralty has covered for its usual requirements, and other notable contractors have been the United States and the French State Railways. American importers are credited with having bought 100,000 tons of Admiralty large and small coals for shipment to Boston and other New England ports during the first three months of the year, and with another 50,000 tons for the following three months. Sir W. R. Smith and Sons, Cardiff, have contracted to supply shipping to carry 50,000 tons of the coal, to be delivered in the first three months at a freight rate of 7s. 6d. per ton, Cardiff to Boston. At relative current c.i.f. prices, South Wales steam coals are cheaper at Boston (Mass.) than the best grade United States steam coals, and in view of the possibilities of bulky homeward cargoes, business between Cardiff and the New England markets is likely to continue until American prices are brought down considerably below their present level, or the prices of South Wales coals and the rates of freight to the United States are raised considerably above their present level. For spot positions, colliery salesmen, but more especially middlemen holding floating supplies, have been ready to make concessions, in order to secure the release of wagons, but for after-holiday positions prices are firm at recent figures. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralty large, 20s to 20s 6d; second Admiralty, 28s to 28s 6d; best drys, 28s to 28s 6d; Black Veins, 27s 6d to 28s; Western Valleys, 27s 6d to 28s; Eastern Valleys, 27s to 27s 6d; best bunker smalls, 18s to 19s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 16s to 18s; anthracite big vein, 37s 6d to 40s; anthracite machine-made cobbles, 40s to 47s 6d; anthracite French nuts, 60s to 67s 6d; stove nuts, 60s to 67s 6d; rubbly culm, 14s 6d to 15s; coke for export, 37s 6d to 45s; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; patent fuel, 20s to 30s; pitwood ex ship, 32s 6d to 33s.

The improvement in the tin plate and iron and steel trades is firmly maintained. Foreign demand is active, and the prospects are discussed of a further advance in the minimum prices of bars and tin plates in the immediate future.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

(FROM OUR WORKINGTON CORRESPONDENT.)

The Continent is a heavy buyer of Cumberland hematite pig-iron, and there are still sales, though on a somewhat restricted scale, to America. Scotland and South Wales have also considerable requirements to be satisfied, and altogether the production of the 17 furnaces in blast between Workington and Carnforth is in no way in excess of demand. It is true that small stocks lie in some of the works yards, but these were sold long ago, and are only awaiting delivery. The improvement in trade which began at the beginning of October is well maintained. That developments will continue to be satisfactory, in view of the fact that some of the work in connection with the construction of the new battleships will come to this district, is regarded as certain, and it is confidently believed that the output of iron will be normal again before June next year. It is significant that even at the close of the year, when business in an ordinary way diminishes, there is a good deal of forward buying being done, consumers exhibiting anxiety to make sure of their supplies until the end of March. Prices, it is needless to say, are firm, Bessemer mixed numbers being quoted at £5 10s per ton, delivered at Glasgow and Sheffield, and for export at the same figure. There is a better demand also for low phosphorus iron by users in the Midlands, but ferro-manganese is a duller trade at £15 10s per ton, f.o.t., American needs having shrunk, and spiegel is a weak market at £7 per ton. The condition of the steel trade is unchanged, and there is nothing more to be said of it than that makers anticipate hopefully that their steel works will be more than partially engaged next April. The order books are not well filled, and if there be any rolling of railway material before the spring, it will be only for a few days at a time. The iron ore industry is much better employed, and most of the mines are now working again. The demand is almost entirely local, but small parcels of selected ores command a sale in Yorkshire and Derbyshire. The coal trade, in which, by the way, the deficiency of £26,000 in November of 1921 has been increased to £226,000, is exceedingly brisk. All the collieries are working full time, and the whole of the output is being absorbed. There is not, in fact, sufficient coal to go round, and when the coking plant at Siddick resumes operations next week, it will be necessary to buy small coal from other districts. Ireland is taking the greater part of the production, North of Ireland needs being especially large, and there is an increase in the shipments to the South and West. Best house coal for shipments is 27s 6d per ton, f.o.b., and for local consumption is 38s 2d per ton at pit. Local land-sale and industrial requirements are larger. All the local coke is going into consumption at the furnaces on ordinary iron in Cumberland and North Lancashire, and in addition supplies to the extent of

8,000 tons per week are coming from the East Coast. By-products are an active trade, and the chemical industry is busier than has been the case before this year.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Wednesday, says:—The market shows an improvement compared with a week ago, and considering the time of the year, conditions are healthy and sound. Most spinners and manufacturers had been waiting for a sensible reduction in prices, but after persistently holding off in the hope of forcing values to a lower level, many are now beginning to feel that prices are not going to fall. The result is seen in considerable sales of tops during the week, both in merinos and crossbreds, and the holidays are approaching with the majority in the trade in a fairly optimistic mood. Users everywhere have been waiting patiently in the hope that the big weight of wool thrown upon the market in London, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South America would break prices, but at the most the decline in merinos is no more than 10 per cent., while medium crossbreds have advanced 20 per cent. compared with two months ago. The entry of America has undoubtedly "queered the pitch" for users of medium and fine crossbreds, and Bradford topmakers have this week made some very good sales on home trade account, making the highest prices since the days of the slump. As a matter of fact, 48's carded tops have been sold this week at 19½d, 50's may be called 27½d at the least, some even wanting 1d more, while 56's tops are in the neighbourhood of 36d to 37d. There has also been a sharp run on coarse crossbreds, and these are the turn against the buyer. Spinners have purchased largely in anticipation of future requirements, and although the opposition to merino values is still keen and well sustained, yet the general impression prevails that these are safe. The chief source of complaint is at the piece end of the trade, and manufacturers report continued apathy on the part of wholesale fabric buyers for fine soft botany cloths, and a growing call for a lower quality. There is certainly an expanding demand for crossbred cloths in all markets.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The final sales of wool in London for the current year finished splendidly, and apparently everyone was well satisfied with the results. It is now possible to see the extent of the purchases of the different sections of the trade, not only during the past series, but throughout the whole year. The home trade purchased 124,000 bales last series, the Continent 64,000 bales, and America 20,000 bales, the quantity withdrawn and not offered being about 15,000 bales. It is significant that no less than 84,000 bales were taken for export, and as indicating the strength of the demand, no less than 98,500 bales catalogued were crossbreds. Considering that such a large quantity was offered, it is significant the way the market went. Even coarse crossbreds met a very good demand, prices improving fully 10 per cent., there being no mistaking the increased interest shown in this class of raw material.

The following figures, showing the sales in Coleman street during the past year, are most significant, the quantity actually sold being one of the largest during the past 25 years. Below are given details of each of the eight series, and the countries by which the offerings were taken:—

	Home.	Continent.	U.S.A.	Totals.
Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
First	111,000	70,000	2,000	183,000
Second	123,700	85,000	1,000	209,700
Third	102,100	50,000	3,000	155,100
Fourth	91,500	50,000	3,000	144,500
Fifth	70,000	62,000	1,000	133,000
Sixth	72,000	42,000	3,000	117,000
Seventh	76,000	50,000	8,000	134,000
Eighth	124,000	64,000	20,000	208,000
	770,300	473,000	41,000	1,284,300

Since last writing, the British Australian Wool Realisation Association have published their monthly statement, showing the stocks on hand at the end of last November, and the figures are most illuminating. When the year opened the association had on hand no less than 419,517 bales of merinos, and at the end of last November the stock had dwindled to 73,800 bales. Turning to crossbreds, the reduction in stocks is equally as satisfactory, the year opening with the stock of this description amounting to 1,390,219 bales, and the significant fact is that up to the end of last November they had fallen to 864,524 bales. At the same rate of absorption during 1923, the association's surplus stocks will be entirely wiped out by the end of that year. There is every reason to think that the trade can do this, although it has been evident during the past 12 months that stocks, which had been allowed to become greatly depleted during 1920-21, have been replenished. All users have been tempted by the reasonableness of wool values to put in further supplies, crossbreds being under pre-war prices. It is unmistakably evident that at the raw material end of the trade the year's record is an excellent one, and the final results of the closing series cannot be regarded otherwise than as very satisfactory.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—December 15, 1922.

Description.	Com.	Med.	Good Med.	Med. Fine.	Fine.	Extra Fine.	Same Period 1921.			Same Period 1920.		
							Med.	Good Med.	Fine.	Med.	Good Med.	Fine.
Sea Island.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	
Florida do.....	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
Georgia do.....	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	
American.....	Ord	G O L M	Mid	G M F	G O L M	G M	G O L M	G M	G O L M	G M	G M	
Brazilian.....	1341	1371	1431	1456	1466	1521	781	936	1131	638	833	
Pernam.....	Mid	M F	Fr. G F	Gd. Fne			M F	F Gd.	M F	Fr. Gd.		
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1331	1431	1551				851	1101		783	1183	
Maceio, &c.....	1331	1431	1551				851	1101		783	1183	
Mossoro, &c.....	1331	1431	1551				851	1101		783	1183	
Ceara.....	1331	1431	1551				851	1101		783	1183	
Maranhão, &c.....	1331	1431	1551				851	1101		783	1183	
São Paulo.....	1356	1431	1456									
Egyptian.....	Fr. G F	for	Gd. Fne									
Upper.....	1425	1525	1566	1615	1665		1425	1725		1300	1700	
Sakellaridis.....	1425	1525	1566	1615	1665							
Brown.....	1425	1525	1566	1615	1665		1450	1850		1500	2100	
Peruvian.....	M F	Fr. G F	Gd. Fne									
Rough.....			1600	1725	1800			1375			1700	
Moderately Rough.....			1500	1600	1650			1100		900	1100	
Smooth.....	1456	1581	1656	1811	1731	876	1201	1376	883	1383	1833	
Tanguis.....	1456	1581	1656	1811	1756							
Mitah.....			1300	1450	1550	1600						
West Indian, &c.....			1375	1475	1550			2600	3200	3500	4500	
Do Sea Island.....			2100	2400	2700	2800						
African, East, &c.....	1025	1125	1300	1400	1500	1600	925	1125	1125	1050	1350	
Do West.....	G F	for	Gd. F G	Fne S'n			for	Gd. Fne		for	Gd. Fne	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....			1310	1350	1390			1055		1111		
Machine Ginned Broach.....	905	1130	1170	1210	1250	1290	825	905	1005	865	915	
Machine Ginned Bhowmuggar.....	905	955	1005	1045	1085	1125	755	830	930	694	769	
Machine Ginned Oomra, No. 2.....	915	965	1015	1055	1095	1135	765	840	940	700	775	
Machine Ginned Khandalah.....		915	965	1005	1045	1085	690	765	865	500	575	
Machine Ginned Comphah.....	1115		1155					925		925		
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	730	770	810	850	890	930	675	725	825	600	650	
Machine Ginned Soinde.....	720	760	800	840	880	920	665	715	815	582	632	
Tinatively.....	1310	1350	1390	1430	1470	1510	1055	1105	1155	1050	1100	
Madras, Western.....	1055	1090	1130	1170			850	900		925	975	
Madras, Northern.....			1155									
M. G. Cocanada, Red.....	Fr. 1100						885			825		
China, Smyrna, &c.....												

GIRARD TRUST COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



Chartered 1836.

Capital and Surplus - \$10,000,000.

Member of Federal Reserve System.

Equipped to perform all kinds of fiduciary service—under appointment by courts, corporations and individuals.

Correspondence invited.

MANCHESTER, December 20.

Although trading in the market during the week has been a restricted character, the rather improved feeling has been maintained. Buyers have not been prepared to place orders of weight, but rather more small lines have been put through. For India there has been a considerable inquiry in piece-goods, and a fair business has been done, chiefly in bleaching and printing descriptions. Operations for China have been very limited, and there are no indications of a revival of demand for the Far East just at present. Useful orders have been booked for Egypt, South America, and the Continent, but, as is usual at this time of the year, home trade buying has been of small dimensions. Some manufacturers of cloth have decided to extend the usual Christmas holidays. American yarns have been firmer, and there has been a slight improvement in the turnover. An irregular business has been done in export bundles for India and China. Egyptian counts have been slow of sale.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Dec. 20, 1922.	Previous Weeks in 1922.				
		Dec. 14.	Dec. 7.	Nov. 30.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 16.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	d 15-08	d 14-60	d 14-22	d 14-79	d 14-77	d 15-39
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	17-80	17-65	17-50	18-25	18-50	19-25
— Egyptian .. per lb	21	20½	20½	21½	21½	22½
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	28	28	28	28½	28½	29
— 40's twist .. per lb	28	28	28	28½	28½	29
— 50's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	30 0	30 0	30 0	31 0	31 0	32 3
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	32 3	32 0	32 0	33 0	33 0	33 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	18 3	18 0	18 0	18 6	18 6	19 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs	16 9	16 6	16 6	17 0	17 0	17 6

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Dec. 20, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American .. per lb	d 15-08	d 11-30	d 11-26	d 11-24	d 11-22	d 11-24
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair .. per lb	17-80	20-75	25-00	49-00	27-30	31-40
— Egyptian .. per lb	21	18½	26	52½	41	36½
Yarns—32's twist .. per lb	28	17½	25	49½	41	36
— 40's twist .. per lb	28	17½	25	49½	41	36
— 50's twist (Egyptian) .. per lb	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d	s d s d s d s d
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	30 0	31 0	47 6	79 0	66 0	48 0
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	32 3	31 0	44 0	75 6	63 0	47 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	18 3	18 0	26 0	44 0	37 6	26 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs	16 9	18 0	21 0	38 0	32 0	23 6

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Good supplies of timber for building construction work and for the furniture and cabinet trades have been imported during the past six weeks. In all classes of wood, hewn and sawn, hard and soft, the imports this year have been considerably larger than the receipts of 1921, and unless the demand increases largely (of which there is little promise just yet) there are ample supplies to tide over the close season. Stocks of building woods are fairly large in London and on the East Coast, holdings not being so substantial in proportion on the West Coast. The stocks consist of fair to medium quality wood, supplies of good-class joinery wood not being heavy, and though the market for the inferior quality deals is fair with prices steady to firm, for good material prices are firm with better promise of a rise in value.

The demand generally has declined lately, but the prospects of betterment after the turn of the year are apparent, as merchants anticipate an improvement in the staple industries of the country. With reference to the paragraphs appearing from time to time in the Press regarding cheaper timber for housebuilding, it cannot be too plainly stated that if foreign sellers' ideas prevail, timber for this class of work and of shipbuilding and construction work generally will be higher in 1923 than they have ruled this year. It was stated in these columns some months ago that consumers were getting their building woods at the expense of the shippers, particularly of the Swedish shippers, who made very severe losses last year and the early months of the present year, and that this policy could not go on indefinitely. The Scandinavian shippers, however, have got their costs down to a level that should give them a fair profit for their timber, but they appear anxious to regain some of their losses by keeping f.o.w. prices up to what are considered to be too high a level for importers here to operate.

It is satisfactory to note that the Canadian spruce market has improved considerably; the stocks are now lighter (the old Government holdings having been cleared into consumption), the demand is steady, and the general position much more healthy. The imports from the Dominion this year have been on a much larger scale than in 1921. Then imports of spruce were a drag on the market; this autumn they have arrived on a responsive market. If shippers will be content not to try for too high figures business should greatly improve next year. Teak, which has been in such poor demand of late, has shown recovery both in demand and value. Other shipbuilding timbers also show a firmer market.

As regards furniture and decorative woods, the position is very steady. As has been intimated in these notes on a previous occa-

sion, mahogany has been comparatively one of the cheapest woods on the market, and merchants have acquired good stocks of logs for conversion and storage. Prices are firm, and it is expected that mahogany values will rise. Good supplies of American and Canadian hardwood lumber have come to hand, as well as European oak and other hard woods.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEED.

The linseed market, while remaining firm, and prices showing a tendency to advance, has been rather quiet. Crushers, having met their immediate requirements, are content to hold their hand for the present. Meanwhile, the scarcity of seed on spot and in near positions is very marked. The quantity of linseed to the United Kingdom having diminished to 10,500 tons, and to the Continent to 38,500 tons—against 58,000 tons against 78,000 tons a week ago. Considerable quantities of the new Plate crop should be moving off in January. Up to £16 10s has been paid for January-February shipment, but for December as much as 60s per ton premium has been paid, and is wanted. Reports of the Argentine crop continue to be variable, but generally shippers maintain a firm attitude. Some trade has been done in bold Bombay at £21 10s. December shipment to Hull. With regard to the oil product, the high value of seed has caused the market for raw linseed oil, on spot and for near delivery, to be very firm, about £30 being the ex-mill value of spot, and £37 10s January-February. Owing to speculators covering, forward positions have been firm, but are now somewhat easier, May-August quoting £32 5s ex Hull mill.

Egyptian cottonseed has again advanced about 10s per ton on the week, but crushers are not in the market at present figures. A fairly large quantity of this article is on passage, both to this country and to Germany. In sympathy with seed, oil prices have hardened, crude Egyptian quoting £37, and ordinary refined (soapmakers' grade) £37 for prompt delivery ex Hull mill.

Other vegetable oils maintain a steady tone. Supplies, however, are meagre. Crude soya bean oil has been a fair market, and rape oil, on scarcity on spot, is fully firm. Production of linseed cakes is small, but evidently more than sufficient to meet a modified demand, preference being given for cotton cakes and various meals.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market has again steadied itself, and the bulk of the sales made in the provinces have shown advances of 1d to 3d per lb. Supplies are not large enough to fill requirements, and instead of getting reductions, have to pay advances if they want them. Calf, kips, and horse hides are, however, a shade weaker, as the demand for upper leathers continues dull. Tanners are buying sparingly of South American hides, as prices have advanced again, sales being reported at 54¢ dollars at origin. The United States are still buyers, sales for the past week being cabled at 50,000. The American hide market is steady, with prices firmer.

Leather merchants seem rather dull this week; the dry weather affects the repairers' business, whilst the orders for new footwear are not abundant, so that shoe manufacturers are not ordering sole leather. Tanners who are holding fair-sized stocks are already offering concessions, although this does not seem to be the rule. Export of rough leather is quiet, although there seems a fair demand for cheap grain bellies and splits.

Sampling is going along freely in upper leathers, but no big contracts for chrome calf are reported. Complaints are frequent as to the low-priced German calf coming here, and there is still some talk of one of the trade federations seeking help under the Safeguarding of Industries Act. The shoe trade are, however, decidedly hostile to this, as they hold they have built up their export business on a free and open market for upper leathers.

Shoe manufacturers have been busy sending out small orders for the Christmas trade, but business has not come up to expectations. Optimism, however, is the keynote in the producing centres, as inquiries for spring goods are frequent both from home and overseas buyers.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Thursday, December 21.

Business in most articles of commerce proceeded quietly during the week, holiday influence making itself felt.

SUGAR.—Refined descriptions were kept at a steady level despite a quiet demand, as no weight of supplies is felt at the moment. Of British, Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 55s 3d to 56s 3d; crushed, 52s 3d; nibs, 54s 9d; granulated, fine and coarse, 50s 7½d; No. 1, 50s 4½d; No. 2, also London, 50s 1½d; yellow crystals, 44s 1½d; granulated, February-March, 50s 6d; April-May, 50s 9d; June-August, 51s. West India crystallised, 44s 6d to 46s, as to sample. Home-produced granulated, ex factory Cantley, sold, 48s 10½d. American granulated, spot, sold, 49s 6d; white Java from 47s 6d to 48s 3d, as to quality; ditto May-June, steamer, held for 21s 1½d; July, 20s 10½d, c.f. and i. terms, London. Belgian granulated, ready quoted 21s 6d; crystals, 21s 3d, f.o.b., Antwerp; W.S.R. and H.U.M. granulated, prompt, 23s; C.B.S., 21s 10½d; Dinteloord, 22s 1½d, f.o.b., Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Czechoslovakian granulated, December, 22s 1½d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Cuban basis, 96 per cent., February, quoted 17s 1½d.

Brazilian basis, 96 per cent., December-January, 17s 9d; 500 tons Brazilian basis, 80 per cent., December-January, sold, 11s, c.f. and i. terms, U.K. Terminal market quiet. White, December, sold, 21s 6d; March, 22s 1½d; May, 22s 7½d to 22s 3d. Cuban stocks stand at 25,350 tons, against 940,500 last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s 6d. Mr Guma estimates coming Cuban crop at 4,193,500 tons.

COFFEE.—The market ruled generally slow, with demand almost entirely confined to the home trade. Nairobi, bold sizes, sold, 101s to 113s; peas 95s to 125s; Uganda, bold, 80s to 83s 6d; Colombian, fair bold, 84s 6d; ditto, Costa Rica, 109s. Future delivery remained lifeless.

COCOA.—Only a small business was effected in spot parcels at about late rates. Accra irregular forward. F/F quality, December-February, and also January-March, sold, 34s to 34s 6d, and then 33s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—During the week 26,540 packages Indian were offered, and while good to fine qualities engaged attention at a full range of prices, common and medium were a shade easier in many instances. 14,000 packages Ceylon offered met with active competition at firm to occasionally dearer rates.

RICE.—Market steady, but, at the same time, slow. Two Stars, spot, 15s 6d to 16s; December, 13s 9d; and new crop, February-March, 13s 6d. Spanish, ready shipment, 20s 6d, c.f. and i. terms. Rangoon beans quiet, at 7s 10½d, on the spot. Japanese peas dull. Afloat, London, sold, 26s 9d; Liverpool, 26s; and December-January, London, 24s 9d.

SPICE.—A steady inquiry continued for pepper, and general firmness characterised the market. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 4½d; January-March, 4½d, sellers; Aleppo, spot, quoted, 4d to 4½d; Tellicherry, 4½d; white Singapore, spot, quoted 6d; Muntok, sold, 6½d; ditto, January-March, 6½d; February-April, 6½d; March-May, 6½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 8½d; October-December steamer, 7½d to 7¾d; January-March, 7d. Flake tapioca, fair quality, spot, 3d per lb; ditto, December-February, London, 26s 6d; Havre, 27s 3d; fair Penang seed, spot, 23s 6d; sago flour, January-March, 12s 3d paid. Desiccated coconut, spot, fine, 36s 6d; and medium cut, 37s 3d, sellers. Ginger quiet, unaltered.

FRUIT.—Dried.—The market presented quiet features all round, the Christmas trade having been completed.

JUTE.—After showing a firmer tone, the market became irregular, but a fair business was effected on balance. First grade, December-January, Continent, sold, £36; January-February, £36 10s to £37 and £36 10s; February-March, £38 to £37 10s and £37 15s. Lightning grade, December-January, £34 10s; January-February, £35 5s to £35 10s; Hessians quiet of sale. 10-oz, spot, 36s 6d; 8-oz, 27s 6d; A twills, 87s 6d; B, 72s; sugars, 81s; flour, 87s 6d.

HEMP.—Demand this week fell away, and prices eased slightly. G grade, December-February, quoted, £35; H, £34 10s; J, £33; K, £32; L, £31 10s; and M, £30 10s. New Zealand nominally unaltered. H.P.F., spot, £34; fair, £32. Italian firm, quiet. P.C., spot, £38 10s.

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD

PRIVATBANK,

Fredriksstad.

Paid-up Capital
and Reserves:
Kr. 21,000,000.

Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited;
London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Limited; London Joint
City & Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

SHELLAC.—Market dearer, on good buying orders and reserve of sellers. T.N., spot, 370s; December done 370s; March, 330s to 342s 6d; May, 320s to 332s 6d. T.N., December-January, steamer, sold, 325s to 332s 6d; January-February, 320s to 327s 6d, c.f. and i. terms.

COPRA firm, with sellers adopting a reserved attitude. F.M.S. Straits, December-February, Rotterdam, sold, £25 to £25 6s 3d; January-March, £25 5s to £25 10s. Ceylon quoted £26 15s; Java, £25 12s 6d; Dutch East Indies, £25 6s 3d; South Sea Islands, £24 7s 6d; Cebu, £25. Palm kernels firm, and December-February, Liverpool, sold, £17 6s 3d to £17 7s 6d.

RUBBER.—Market steady, but actual trading ruled quiet during the greater part of the week. Standard crepe and sheet, spot, also December delivery, sold, 1s 2d; January, 1s 2½d; January-March, 1s 2½d to 1s 3d; April-June, 1s 3d; July-September, 1s 3½d to 1s 3½d; and October-December, 1s 3½d. To New York, standard sheet, afloat, sold, 1s 2d; January-February, 1s 2½d, c.f. and i. terms. Fine hard Para, spot, quoted 1s 3½d; soft fine, 1½d; and Caucho ball, 1½d per lb.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market quietly steady. Prime liquid yolk, spot, 105s; March-April, buyers, 85s; sellers, 90s; dried yolk, spot, 9½d; albumen, spot, 3s; March-April, buyers, 2s 8½d per lb.

OILSEEDS.—Market remains firm, but demand quieter. Bold Bombay, afloat, sold, £21 15s. Small Bombay, December, £20 10s. Calcutta, afloat, £20 12s 6d; December, £20 7s 6d; January-February, £19 7s 6d. Plate, afloat, £19 12s 6d; November-December, sellers, £19 10s; December-January, sold, £17 10s to £17 12s 6d; January-February, new crop, sold, £16 10s to £16 7s 6d. Chinese, shipping or shipped, sold, £18 2s 6d. Rapeseed firm. Toria, afloat, £18 10s; January-February, £16 17s 6d; real bold Ferozepore, December-January, £17 12s 6d. Cottonseed firm. Egyptian black, December, £11 15s, and white, £11 7s 6d. Bombay, December-January, £9 2s 6d. Gingly steady. Chinese, new, December-January, quoted £21 5s. Continent: large Bombay, December-January, £21 5s. Castor, Bombay, November-December, £18, sellers, to Hull; February-March, £16 15s. Ground nuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, December-January, £20 15s; ordinary, £19 15s; East African, November-December, £20 5s; Nigerian, £20 10s; bold Bombay, December-January, £20. Chinese, December-January, £20 10s. Soya beans, Manchurian: new crop, December-January, £11 15s; January-February, £11 15s per ton.

OILS.—Linseed market steady. Spot, net, naked, 39s 3d; December, 38s 6d; January-April, 35s 3d; May-August, 32s 3d. Rape firm. Crude, spot, 42s 6d; refined, 45s 6d. Cotton firm. Crude Egyptian, spot, 36s 6d; common edible, 44s; deodorised (in barrels), 46s. China-wood steady. Hankow, spot (barrels), 72s; shipment, 66s. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 41s; December-January, 40s; Cochin, ditto, quoted 45s. Soya firm. Oriental, barrels, December-January, 37s. Japan fish steady. November-December, cases, 25s 9d. Cod inactive. English, spot,

29s 6d to 30s. Ground nuts steady. English crushed, naked, spot, 45s; deodorised, barrels, 55s. Turpentine easier. American, spot, 34s 3d; January-April, 96s. Rosin easier. American, grade B, 14s 6d; F, 14s 6d; G, 14s 6d; H to I, 14s 6d; W, 14s 6d; WW, 14s 6d. French, F/G, 13s 6d; WW, 16s per cwt. Petroleum steady. American standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

METALS.—Tin: The market opened with a firm tone, and prices moved in an upward direction in view of higher Eastern advices, combined with a good demand, especially for forward positions. A large business transpired, including cash at £180 5s; January, £191 5s; three months fluctuating between £182 5s to £181 10s. Sales in the East occurred on the basis of £181, c.i.f. Later values gave way on selling pressure, and by the middle of the week cash sold down to £178 15s, and three months £180 10s. At Thursday's session, with sellers showing some reserve, prices hardened. Cash sold at £180, and three months at £181, c.i.f. English ingots, £179 to £179 10s. Copper commenced firmly, due to a good demand for forward dates, together with stimulating advices from the United States. Prices showed an improvement of about 12s 6d from the final rates of last week. Sales were of liberal extent, including standard cash at £64 2s 6d, January £64 12s 6d, and three months £65 to £64 16s 3d. Subsequent movements ruled fully steady, with business on a large scale. At Wednesday's session cash sold at £64 5s, and three months at £65 5s to £65. At Thursday's session very little alteration in prices occurred on balance with business of fairly liberal dimensions. Cash sold at £64 3s 9d, and three months at £65 5s to £65 3s 9d. Electros, £71 12s 6d to £71 15s. Antimony, ordinary brands, £27 to £29 10s. Aluminium, home delivery, £100 to £92 10s. Lead firmer at £26 10s to £26 5s, as to position. Spelter steady, at £37 5s to £34 5s, according to position.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—DECEMBER 21.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	s d s d	Sheep—Downs	s d s d
Shortboms	7 4 7 6	Ewes	7 0 7 4
Devons	nominal	Crossbred	11 4 11 6
Northfoks	7 10	Scottish	12 0
Scottish	nominal	Lamb—Downs	12 4
Irish	nominal		
Fat Cows	5 0 to 5 6		

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—DECEMBER 21.

English British Queens	Per Cwt.	Majestic	Per Cwt.
Eclipse	3 0 to 3 3	King Edwards	3 0 to 3 6
	2 6 to 3 0		

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

DRUGS.	s	d	#	d	INDIA RUBBER—lb—	s	d	d	PROVISIONS—	s	d	d	SPICES—Pepper, per lb—	s	d	d
Algae, fine R.L., p. cwlt	10	150	0	0	Para, fine, hard spot	1	11	0	Butter—per cwt.	nom	nom	nom	Singapore, fair White	0	4	0
Algae, good to fine	20	23	0	0	Plantation crepe	1	2	8	Irish creamery	nom	nom	nom	Black Singapore	0	4	0
Balsam	1	0	8	0					Do factory	155	178	8	White Blam	0	4	0
Opaviv	1	6	0	0	INDIGO—per lb.				Australian	155	178	8	Pimento	0	4	0
Camphor					Bengal, good red vio-	8	0	8	Argentine	154	164	0	Onnampoon—lat sort.	0	11	0
Camphor, refined	3	9	4	0	let to fine	8	0	8	Dutch	284	210	0	Do ind	0	10	0
Cardamom, China	2	0	6	0	Mid. ord. rio to good	6	0	6	New Zealand	174	0	184	Do ind	0	10	0
Canth'rid's, Oeylon prh	4	4	3	0	Low to good ord.	5	6	0	Danish	212	0	184	Do ind	0	10	0
Castor-oil, fine	9	9	6	0	Madras, dry leaf, good	4	9	6	Bacon, engd.—Irish	106	134	8	Do ebb	0	8	7
Guzn Bann, dwt	6	0	9	0	Do low to ord.	1	0	3	Danish	130	130	0	Chips	0	8	2
Oilbannum, crows	10	10	0	0	Kurpah, d. mid to gd.	5	0	6	Canadian	85	109	0	Ossia Ligna	45	0	0
Do light to good	40	8	100	8	Low to mid.	3	6	8	American	80	115	8	Glowa	3	0	0
Eleonocacha	7	7	8	0	HEMP—per ton				Hams—Irish	nom	nom	nom	Penang	3	0	0
Flax	7	7	8	0	Russian Siret	44	0	0	Canadian	85	0	85	0	0	0	0
Musk pod, China	85	0	95	8	Manila "J" Grade,				American	75	0	100	0	0	0	0
Oil, Cassia	10	10	0	0	Dec./Feb.	33	0	0	Lard—Irish bladders	78	0	84	0	0	0	0
Peppermint, H.G.H.	22	6	25	9	N. Z. spot, high fair	33	10	0	American boxes, 50lb	6	69	0	Do washed	57	6	0
Rubbr, China, fr to in	5	6	5	8	JUTE				For per 1 lb	6	10	0	Japan	175	0	0
SE STUFFS, &c.					Native first marks	36/10/0	0	0	Beef—Frozen, per lb	2	7	4	Jamalee, small	40	0	22
Gum, Benzoin	45	70	8	0	Jan./Feb.	36/10/0	0	0	Scotch	0	8	8	Do do	40	0	0
Turmeric, Bengali	nom	nom	nom	nom	LEATHER—per lb—				Chesee-cwt-Canadian	120	128	0	Nutmegs, good to fine	2	1	7
Madras, finger	35	0	40	0	Sole Bonds 9/ lb.	1	3	2	New Zealand	120	124	8	Small to medium	0	10	4
Gambler, block	40	0	40	0	Do do 10/12	1	6	3	Eng, Cheddars	124	145	8	Chillies—per cwt	120	0	146
Cutted, 6 to fair	32	37	6	0	Do do 12/14	1	10	2	Chinese	78	116	8	TALLOW—per cwt	42	0	8
DEYEWOODS					Do do 14/16	1	10	2	Dutch	78	116	8	Good mutton	42	0	8
Brazil,	18	0	18	0	Do do 16/18	1	8	5	Kegs, pr 12—English	24	0	27	Beef	40	3	8
Pine, Jamaica	10	18	0	0	Best Tanned Sole	3	6	4	Irish	23	0	26	TAPIOCA—per lb	nom	nom	nom
China	16	8	8	0	Blidder in DB Hides	0	9	1	ENG	115	160	0	E. I. Flake, fair, spot	0	24	0
Lima Wood	20	8	8	0	Do Eng or W.B.	0	9	1	RICE—per cwt. c.11	3	0	37	Do do 24	0	24	0
Logwood, Campeachy	12	10	0	0	Bellies in DBS do	0	7	0	Bangoon No. 2	15	9	14	Do do 24, British	0	24	0
Jamaica	11	10	0	0	Do Eng or W.B.	0	8	1	Broken	13	0	14	TREA—foreign 8d per lb			
Red Sanders	12	9	8	0	Do Eng or W.B.	0	8	1	ROBIN—per ton	14/10	18/10	8	Andaman and Ceylon			
Bapang Ceylon	15	8	8	0	Do Eng, Calit, 30/30b	1	6	4	American	13/10	16/0	0	Pekoe	1	4	3
					Australian Sides	1	4	1	French	13/10	16/0	0	Orange Pekoe	1	5	1
					METALS—B. Copper	£ 5	18	8	Sago flour	18	0	27	Broken Orange	1	5	4
					Best selected	57	18	8	SHRELLAO—per cwt—	18	0	27	Pekoe Sonthong	1	5	4
					Standard (Sonthong)	64/60	64/60	0	Orange, first marks	475	0	500	TIMBER—Timber & Hawn Wood	15/0/0	40/0/0	40/0/0
					Lead—Eng. Fig. p. 107/121	10	7/0	0	Second, fair to fine	380	0	400	Do	0	6	14
					Soft Foreign	25/50	28/10/0	0	Third, fair to fine	300	0	375	Kauri Pine cubic ft	0	8	14
					Super G.O.B.	37/0	37/0	0	Garnet, Lac. Ag.	325	0	400	Saltnwood super	0	8	9
					Tin—English ingots/179	0	179	10	Button—Pure	375	0	400	Yamaguchi Oak sup.	0	8	10
					Do do bars	180	0	13	Blocky (TIN)	350	0	250	American Ash	0	8	9
					Standard, case	179/125	178/150	0	SILK—per lb.				TOBACCO—			
					OILS—Fish, per ton—				China—Blue	£ 8	8	8	Do			
					Sard. pale	40	8	42	Tuscan	15	0	32	Do			
					Best selected	45	10	0	Be-reeled	36	0	35	Virginia leaf			
					Rape, refined	45	10	0	Italy—Raw, fr. Milan	39	0	38	Common to fine			
					Crude	42	10	0	SHRELLS—M.-o.-P. per cwt—				Strips			
					Oilseed, good	36	10	0	Manilla, bold	10/10/0	13/15/0	0/0	Kentucky leaf—			
					Rubble refined	14	8	46	Sydney	9/10/0	10/18/0	0/0	Common to fine	1	6	1
					Oocoa-nut, crude	41	8	46	W. Australian	8/0/0	10/10/0	0/0	Strips	1	3	1
					Refined	38	0	41	Somany	8/0/0	10/10/0	0/0	China	1	0	7
					Palm	38	0	41	SUGAR—per cwt.	25	0	25	Beedle	1	6	6
					Lard, American	nom	nom	nom	per cent. polarisation	37/0	39/0/0	0/0	Havana	1	6	6
					Petroleum, Oil, per 1 lb	1	2	8	B. W. L. mucovado	37/0	39/0/0	0/0	Greek	0	8	1
					Water-White	1	2	8	Jawa c.i.f. white, Mar./June 21/14	46	0	0	Raw Ind	0	8	1
					Oil Cakes, Lond., Eng.	212	110	0	Yellind—London				Cigars, duty 15/6 per lb	2	8	0
					Oil Seeds—	213/50	212/10	0	Refined Ottoland	44	15	8	TURPETINE, p. cwt	94	3	0
					Do do—Mixed	217	18	0	Yellind Ottoland	44	15	8	WOOL—per lb—			
					Bombay p.t.a. Dec./Jan. 20	7	6	0	Crushed	52	0	56	English, Southdown, whd.			
					Calcutta p.t.a. Dec./Jan. 19	7	6	0	Granulated	50	15	5	" Lincoln hog			
					PORTLAND CEMENT—				Crushed	50	15	5	Quangland and c. embg.			
					Best English, per ton				Crushed	51	6	5	N.Z. W. grey, super			
					devel, London	53	0	68	Crushed	51	6	5	N.Z. grey, bit-bd. (50-55			
									Flower	38	0	45	Cross, (40-44-1)...			

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES, LIMITED.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

For the Twelve Months ended the 30th June, 1922.

To be submitted to Shareholders at the Thirty-Fourth Ordinary General Meeting to be held on the 29th December, 1922.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.—Gentlemen,—Your Directors beg to submit their Thirty-Fourth Annual Report, Balance-Sheet at 30th June, 1922, Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th June, 1922, and Appropriation Account, 30th June, 1922.

The balance undistributed at 30th June, 1921, was represented by:—
Suspense Profit Account:—Diamonds unsold at that date, £354,381 7s 2d; Balance unappropriated, £110,350 9s 9d ... £464,731 16 11
During the year the Diamond Account amounted to ... 401,816 6 5
Add to this the following:—Interest and Dividends on Investments £296,787 1s 4d; Revenue from other sources, £27,887 12s 6d ... 324,674 13 10
Amount transferred from General Fund ... 535,634 1 9
Amount released from Reserve for Stabiliment of the Diamond trade ... 21,823 4 2

Deduct Expenditure as follows:—Mining Expenditure, £798,552 12s 5d; Expenditure on Farms and Landed Property and Kimberley—Alexandersfontein Railway, £129,091 3s 4d; Donations, £41,395 12s 0d; Subsistence allowance to Employees, £24,657 18s 5d; Other Charges, £83,902 11s 6d; Interest on Debentures and on Capital of Leased Companies, £164,469 19s 7d; Sinking Fund towards Repayment of Debentures, £86,959 13s 0d ... 1,329,029 10 3

Leaving a Balance of ... £419,650 12 10
Out of which has been taken undercharges for Union of South Africa Income-Tax, in respect of the two years ended 30th June, 1921 ... 86,507 3 0

Leaving a Balance representing Suspense Profit Account—Diamonds unsold 30th June, 1922 ... £333,143 9 10

The stock of blue ground and lumps on the floors at 30th June, 1922, was as follows:—De Beers Mine, 48,395 loads; Wessels Mine, 2,683,871 loads; Bultfontein Mine, 3,022,659 loads; Dutoitspan Mine, 3,173,561 loads; 8,928,487 loads.
The General Reserve Fund now stands at £173,830 17s 5d. The Fund to redeem the De Beers Four and a Half per Cent. Exploration Debentures has been

increased to £833,984 15s 4d., both funds being represented by securities which have been taken into the Accounts at market prices on 30th June, 1922.

The Special Reserve Fund for the Stabiliment of the Diamond Trade has been reduced from £2,476,899 18s 3d to £2,455,076 14s 1d.

The severe depression in the Diamond market referred to in the last Annual Report continued through nearly the whole period under review. There has, however, been a distinct improvement during the last few months; business has broadened, and we feel confident that the worst is past, but the total recovery will necessarily depend upon the return to normal of trade conditions generally throughout the world.

Mining operations which were suspended during the previous year have not been resumed.

The Company has not paid any dividends to either Preference or Deferred Shareholders for the year ended 30th June, 1922.

Owing to the condition of the Diamond Trade, a conference of representatives of the four large Producers of diamonds and of the Diamond Syndicate was held in Cape Town in May last, when certain temporary modifications of the existing contracts between the Producers and the Syndicate were agreed upon.

The Cape Explosives Works, Limited, which is owned and controlled by your Company, has carried on its operations successfully during the year. The sales of explosives amounted to 279,215 cases, a decrease of 91,545 cases as compared with the sales of the previous year. This decrease is due largely to the unfortunate upheaval on the Witwatersrand early this year, which necessitated the complete suspension of mining operations on the gold mines for some months, in addition to the period under review.

A report by the General Manager will be submitted at the meeting.

In terms of clause 84 (Sub-section C) of the Company's Articles of Association, three Directors retire, namely:—Ludwig Breitmeyer, Percival Ross Frames, Solomon Barnato Joel, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Resolutions for amending the Articles of Association of the Company and for increasing the Capital of the Company will be submitted to you at an Extraordinary General Meeting to take place immediately after the Ordinary General Meeting on 29th December, 1922.

G. W. COMPTON, R. PHILIPSON-STOW,
P. ROSS FRAMES, W. PICKERING,
F. HIR-CHORN, } Directors.
Kimberley, 26th September, 1922.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1922.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Capital: 800,000 Preference Shares at £2 10s each	2,000,000	0	0	Property: De Beers and Kimberley Mining Claims held under Government Licences, Dutoitspan, Bultfontein and Wessels Mines, Wessels Estate, and other Mining Interests	3,162,490	5	0
1,000,000 Deferred Shares at £2 10s each	2,500,000	0	0	Estates purchased from the London and South African Exploration Company, Limited	1,635,495	0	0
				Farms and other Landed Property	154,221	4	4
De Beers 4½ per Cent. South African Exploration Debentures, secured by Mortgage of Assets purchased from the London and South African Exploration Company, Limited, redeemable by 1st January, 1930	1,635,495	0	0	Machinery, Permanent Works, Offices, Compounds and Stand Property	1	0	0
Reserves (per contra): General Fund, £173,830 17s 5d; Redemption Fund: South African Exploration Debentures, £833,984 15s 4d—£1,007,815 12s 9d; Blue Ground Stocks, 30th June, 1922, at cost, £1,719,185 13s 10d; Reserve for Stabiliment of the Diamond Trade, £2,455,076 14s 1d	5,182,078	0	8	Investments in Stocks and Shares	4,352,147	9	4
Liability on Stocks and Shares (per contra)	450,000	0	8	Reserve Investments and Investments for Stabiliment of the Diamond Trade (per contra):—Investments representing General and Debenture Redemption Funds, per contra, at Market Prices 30th June, 1922	1,007,815	12	9
	5,632,078	0	8	Blue Ground on Floors: 8,928,487 loads at cost deposited on Floors	1,719,185	13	10
Current Liabilities: Loans and Open Accounts, £218,708 4s; Unclaimed Dividends and Sundries, £34,498 9s 2d; Interest on Debentures accrued to date, £34,038 14s 10d; Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Great Britain, £173,491	480,736	8	0	Investments in other Diamond Mining Companies and Kindred Interests (see Liability £450,000 per contra)	2,905,076	14	1
Suspense Profit Account: Diamonds unsold at date (per contra)	333,143	9	10	Timber, Fuel and other Mining Stores	5,632,078	0	8
				Live Stock	380,532	19	3
Contingent Liability: The Company has guaranteed the repayment of, and interest on, £1,250,000 7½ per cent. 1st Mortgage Debenture Stock issued by the Cape Explosives Works, Limited, Somerset West, Cape Province.				Loan to South African Collieries, Limited, Natal	150,393	12	5
				Debtors, Special Investments and Cash: Open Accounts	113,966	17	0
				Short Loans	30,000	0	0
				Special Investments at Market Prices 30th June, 1922	523,329	4	7
				Cash at Bankers and in hand—Kimberley and London	81,997	2	6
				Diamonds on hand	749,293	4	1
					533,143	9	10
					£12,581,452	18	6

We certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with, and that we have examined the above Balance-Sheet with the Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, including the audited returns of the London Transfer Office, and find the same to be correct.

Kimberley, 26th September, 1922.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30th June, 1922.

Dr.	£	s	d	To Sinking Fund for Repayment of Debentures	£	s	d
To Mining Expenditure	798,552	12	5		86,959	13	0
Expenditure on Farms, Landed Property and Kimberley—Alexandersfontein Railway	129,091	3	4		£1,329,029	10	3
Charges: Salaries, &c., Head Office, £17,124 6s 10d; General Charges, £20,523 1s 11d; Legal Expenses, £1,220 2s 6d; Donations to Public Institutions and Relief, including amount distributed in accordance with resolution of General Meeting held 22nd October, 1924, £41,395 12s; Compensation, £22,918 13s 10d; Auditors' Fees, £1,500; Directors' Fees, £13,280 13s 2d; London Transfer Office—Net Expenses, £12,645 3s 5d; Subsistence Allowance to Employees, £24,657 18s 5d; Amounts paid to Employees during, and in lieu of Annual Leave, £14,685 7s 9d	149,956	1	11				
Interest on Capital of Leased Companies	96,392	10	0	Cr.			
Interest on Debentures	£73,597	5	6	By Diamond Account			
Less Union of South Africa Normal Tax, 1s 6d in the £	5,519	15	11	Interest and Dividends on Investments and adjustment of Reserve and Special Investments to Market Prices at 30th June, 1922	£401,816	6	5
	68,077	9	7	Sundry Receipts	296,787	1	4
				Transfer Fees	23,932	18	7
				Profits realised on Investments	367	18	0
				Balance carried to Appropriation Account	602,538	10	0
					£1,329,029	10	3

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XXV.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1922.

No. 4,140.

Andresens og Bergens Kreditbank A/S

(Foreningsbanken)

BERGEN & CHRISTIANIA

LONDON AGENTS:

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

MESSRS. COX & CO.

LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking business transacted

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

Capital (paid up):
Eso. 24,000,000



Reserve Funds:
Eso. 27,200,000

Branches as Under.

82 offices in Portugal.
28 " " East and West Africa.
7 " " Brazil.
5 " " India and China.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
New York Office—98, Liberty street.
Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—9, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up ... " 348,788,000
Reserve ... " 180,000,000
Deposits ... " 5,233,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.
Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

London Office - 30a, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. CONSOLO.

Deputy Manager: R. B. HANDLEY.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	1205	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		An Insurance Hand-book	1224
The Prospects of a Settlement in Europe	1207	Books Received	1224
Money in 1922	1208	Stock Exchange News—	
The Hitch at Lausanne	1209	The Stock Markets	1224
New Capital Issues in 1922	1209	New Issues	1225
Labour in 1922	1211	Active Securities	1225
De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited	1212	Company Meetings	1226
The Influence of a Falling Exchange on the Wealth of a Country.—II.	1213	Government Returns—	
Notes of the Week—		Currency Notes Account	1233
The Premier and Trade Revival	1214	Public Income and Expenditure	1233
The Approach to Irish Peace	1214	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	1233
Canadian Cattle	1215	Bankers' Gazette—	
The Transit of Home Rails	1215	Bank of England	1234
Security Values	1216	Clearing Returns	1234
Spain and Morocco	1216	Overseas Bank Returns	1234
Chinese Trade & Finance	1216	Loan and Discount Rates	1236
The Rand December Dividends	1217	Overseas Bank Rates	1236
Baldwins' Report	1217	Rates of Exchange	1237
British American Tobacco	1217	Bullion	1237
Cotton Trade Statistics	1217	Imports & Exports of Gold	1237
Conditions in Japan	1218	Gold and Silver Prices	1238
Overseas Correspondence—		Company News—	
United States	1218	Analysis of Balance-sheets	1238
France	1218	Dividend Announcements	1238
Germany—A Review of 1922	1220	Railway & Tramway Traffic	1239
Denmark	1221	Profit and Loss Accounts	1240
Greece	1222	Mining Output Statistics	1240
Letters to the Editor—		Reports and Notices	1240
German Reparations	1223	Commercial Reports—	
The Capital Levy	1223	Corn Trade	1240
Roads and Wheels	1223	Iron and Coal Trade	1241
		Wool Trade	1242
		Cotton Trade	1242
		Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds	1243
		Hide and Leather Trades	1243
		Overseas Produce Markets	1243
		Price Current	1244

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 0d; Yearly, £2 18s 0d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 0d per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the Proprietors of the "Economist."
Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at Messrs Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate; Leathwait and Simmons, 5 Birch Lane; Barker and Howard, 6 Fenchurch buildings; Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street; Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street; Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 53 Finsbury pavement.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera. New York: Economist Office, 20 Broad street (Room 1,709).

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY matters pursued the course normal at this season, involving a huge creation of credit, chiefly in order that a large number of firms and companies may display a becoming proportion of "cash in hand" in the balance-sheets showing their position as on the last working day of the year. The amount borrowed from the Bank of England, as shown in Thursday's return, was less than had been expected, but there was still time to complete the usual total. Pending the arrangement of the end-of-

the-year books, discount business was exceedingly quiet, but there was, perhaps, rather more demand for three months' bills at 2½ per cent. For delivery next week the rate for three months' bills was about 2½ per cent., and this quotation was roughly in accordance with the rate at which Treasury bills were allotted yesterday.

	Dec. 29, 1922.	Dec. 21, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Banks Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Discount (Call)	1	1	1	1	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Houses (Notice)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (Jly. 13, '22)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2¼	2½	2½	2½	2½

The Bank return showed a decrease of £12,000 in the note circulation, an increase of £1,000 in the stock of gold, and a consequent increase of £11,000 in the Reserve. Government securities had expanded by half-a-million and Other by 9½ millions, and with a decrease of 3½ millions in Public deposits, there was an aggregate increase of 13½ millions in Other deposits. Currency notes outstanding were increased by £2,797,100 to £301,336,700 this week, which includes £1,525,800 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £251,660,900, or £58,327,500 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

In spite of the short week, broken by an account day, and such disturbing influences as the new hitch at Lausanne and the new Reparations development, the investment markets have shown strength, and War Loan rose to over 100. Political events caused falls in German, French, and Turkish bonds. The home railway market is good in tone, but Argentine rails eased off under selling orders. Rubber shares hold their ground, and the oil market is better, with a sensational rise in Venezuela Oil Concessions as the outstanding feature. Among industrials, Courtaulds have again risen smartly, and other textiles are steady. Shipbuilding, iron, coal, and steel shares have moved within very narrow limits. Brunner Monds have scored an advance, and tobacco shares are again harder on the continuance of public support. Mining markets, as a whole, are uninteresting.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Trading in nearly all the commodity markets during the past week has been restricted, on account of the holidays. But a spirit of optimism appears to have taken possession of industry not unlike a modern faith-healing process. The better feeling in the Manchester trade noted in this column a week ago has been maintained, and considerable inquiry has been made in piece goods for India. Our Bradford correspondent reports that the year is closing with an exceptionally good tone throughout the wool trade; the demand for raw material is stated to be as strong as ever, and in some quarters higher values are confidently predicted. The iron and steel and coal trades have succumbed to holiday influence, a remark which also applies to most other industries. Further details of commodity markets from our special trade correspondents will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market the short Christmas week has been quiet with restricted business, the only excitement being that caused by the surprising action of the French Government in forcing an issue on the Reparation Commission with reference to Germany's default in deliveries of wood. As was to be expected, this clumsy piece of manoeuvring for position in view of next week's Conference had an immediate effect upon exchange rates, the Paris quotation moving up from 62.82 on the 23rd to 64.30 on the 27th. Since then there has been some recovery on the issue of assurances of rather more pacific intentions on the part of M. Poincaré; but the rate still stands at 63.90, and there is every expectation of a further rapid rise should the Allies fail next week to secure a united and reasonable plan of action. The Berlin rate, which was already showing signs of rising again before

Christmas, jumped on the 27th from 31,000 to 35,250, but has now recovered again to 32,500. The movements of the mark in the immediate future depend, of course, almost entirely upon the result of next week's Conference. The Brussels rate has moved in sympathy with Paris, but at 69.45 yesterday morning showed a still greater depreciation than before as compared with the French franc. Forward quotations remain unchanged at 4 centimes per month above spot for Paris, and 5 centimes per month below for Brussels. After rising to \$4.64½ on Saturday, the dollar rate has dropped quietly to \$4.63½ yesterday morning, and it is likely, too, that for the moment sterling will be affected by political conditions in Europe, although the movement in America towards co-operation in settling Europe's difficulties, which is progressing much more rapidly than was expected, may have favourable results on quotations. Forward quotations, while practically the same at 1½ cents per month above spot, show a slight tendency to widen. Among neutral exchanges, Amsterdam has moved steadily in our favour from 11.66 on the 22nd to 11.68½ yesterday. Madrid also has gone slightly in our favour, Switzerland at 24.50 very slightly against us. In Northern Europe there has been a sharp, and up to now unexplained, rise in Christiania from 24.38½ to 24.45½, while both Copenhagen and Stockholm are also rather higher at 22.46 and 17.24½ respectively. Helsingfors, for which there has been a good demand, is slightly lower at 185½. In Central Europe, Vienna remains unchanged at about 320,000, and confidence in Austrian currency appears to be increasing. Prague, after its recent rise, due largely to speculative manoeuvres, appears to be settling down again at about 148. Belgrade, however, in spite of attempts at a rational reform of existing exchange restrictions, is still higher than for some time past at 425, and Bucharest has also shown a sudden upward movement to about 815, a rise which, however, is only expected to be temporary. In the East the rupee has moved against us from 1s 4d to 1s 4½d, while the yen is some ½d cheaper at 2s 1½d. Prices for spot silver have been brought up slightly by a strongish demand from India, but the forward rates have actually fallen, so that the spread is greater than at any time during the year. Shanghai at 3s and Hong Kong at 2s 2½d are both ½d cheaper. In South America, Buenos Ayres has moved in our favour from 44½d on the 22nd to 44½d yesterday, while at 44½d Monte Video and Rio at 6 1-32d are unchanged. Valparaiso, on the other hand, has appreciated from 36.10 pesos to 35.20.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 23rd:—

RECEIPTS.	Min. £	EXPENDITURE.	Min. £
From Revenue	18,396	Interest on Debt	1,762
		Supply Services	10,425
		Sundries	350
		Reduction of Debt	5,474
		Added to Exchequer balances ..	385
	18,396		18,396

Revenue at £18,396,200 compares favourably with £23,611,900 for the corresponding period a year ago, for then £7,250,300 came into the accounts under special receipts, as against £1,647,300 last week. Excise brought in £7,916,000, as against £4,700,000, and Estate Duties £1,730,000, as against £1,631,000. But Customs were lower at £3,267,000, as compared with £3,993,000, while Property and Income-tax yielded £1,396,000, as against £2,086,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £5,474,354, and caused the following changes:—

	Min. £		Min. £
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 300	Bank of England Advances ..	- 4,250
Public Debt Advances	+ 1,150	Unemployment Insurance ..	- 190
Treasury Bills	+ 815	Telegraph Money	- 650
		Funding Loan, &c.	- 500
		War Loan Surrenders	- 544
		Other Debt	- 1,605
	+ 2,265		- 7,739

The floating debt was reduced by £2,285,000 to £945,893,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1922-23 (April 1 to December 23, 1922).

	£		£
Total spent	562,744,420	Raised by revenue ..	574,139,736
Dec. in balances	7,714,049	Net repayments	19,109,365
Total	555,030,371	Total	555,030,371

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1922-23.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	550,207,123	Ordinary Receipts ..	820,775,000
Special Expenditure	61,223,000	Special Receipts ..	90,000,000
Contingencies	25,000,000		
Total	910,069,000	Total	910,775,000
		Surplus	706,000

NATIONAL DEBT. (Million £.)

	AUG. 1, 1914.	MAR. 31, 1916.	MAR. 31, 1919.	DEC. 31, 1921.	MAR. 31, 1922.	DEC. 31, 1921.	MAR. 31, 1922.	DEC. 31, 1922.
Funded Debt	588	318	318	315	315	315	315	315
Term. Annuities	30	22	22	20	19	18	17	16
4½% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
4 & 5% War Stock	2,091	2,068	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,956	1,953	2,066
National War Bonds	649	1,636	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	1,201	957
4% Funding Loan	...	...	...	360	357	348	346	335
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	266	266	690
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	23	24	24
5½% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	273	381	166
5% Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40
Do by tender 5%	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	69
Do by tender 4½%	15	961	957	1,107	1,121	1,060	878	731
Treasury Bills	20	392	384	323	319	289	218	185
Exchequer Bonds	...	138	227	267	274	285	294	342
Natnl. Savings Certs.	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	367
War Expend. Certs.	...	944	1,241	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,097	1,071
Other Debt	...	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
American Loan	1	204	455	243	205	154	200	147
Temporary Advances	654	5,872	7,435	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,748	7,773
Other Capital Liabilities ..	57	49	46	46	47	49	51	66
Total Liabilities	711	5,921	7,481	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,799	7,721

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Out.	Dec. 24, '21.	Mar. 31, '22.	Dec. 23, '22.	Dec. 23, '22.
Temporary Advances	...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England ..	...	...	...	...	4,250,000
Advances by Public Deposits ..	186,454,000	147,301,500	212,078,500	212,078,500	1,150,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	1,088,256,000	882,219,000	733,815,000	733,815,000	815,000
Total Floating Debt	1,274,710,000	1,029,520,500	945,893,500	945,893,500	2,285,000

THE PROSPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT IN EUROPE.

THERE is no disguising the fact that the action of the Reparation Commission in declaring Germany in default in respect of its timber deliveries, though of no great importance in itself, is a bad omen, and that it has somewhat clouded the prospects of a successful issue to the Conference of Prime Ministers next week. It is clear that Germany has definitely defaulted in respect of these deliveries. The amount involved is quite trivial, and the fact that Germany has not troubled to be scrupulously correct in a matter which was well within her power is one of the reasons for the feeling of despondency which the incident has aroused. It is, however, of more importance that the action of the Reparation Commission should at this critical moment have thrown into relief the difference in the attitudes of Great Britain and France towards the situation, and have made it clear that the two nations have to fight their way to an understanding through every conceivable difficulty. Opinion in Great Britain would have understood, though it would not have sympathised with, the desire of France to manoeuvre for position before the Conference starts, and to put Germany into the position not merely of having to offer guarantees in return for the moratorium which she is about to request, but also of having incurred penalties through failure even to live up to the very greatly reduced requirements which the Allies have exacted in 1922. British opinion would not have sympathised with this attitude, because it regards such points as being of paltry significance compared with the inconceivably difficult task which the statesmen of Europe are about to tackle. This task is no less than the complete reconsideration, in the light of subsequent experience, of the settlement arrived at four years ago, having regard on the one hand to the just claims and financial necessities of the countries whose territory has been devastated, and on the other to the danger of complete political and financial collapse in Europe if a practicable settlement is not reached.

But, unfortunately, the incident does not end merely with the desire of France to put Germany into the position of a defaulting debtor. She also seems to have given some indication of her definite intentions in regard to this default. The Treaty of Versailles provides that in the

event of a default by Germany the Reparation Commission shall notify the default to the Powers with such recommendation for action as they may think necessary. Section 18, Annex 2, of the Reparation chapter then proceeds, "The measures which the Allied and Associated Powers shall have the right to take in case of voluntary default by Germany, and which Germany agrees not to regard as acts of war, may include economic and financial prohibitions and reprisals, and in general such other measures as the respective Governments may determine to be necessary in the circumstances." The French contention is, first, that this clause gives them a perfectly free hand to adopt any measure of constraint against Germany, as against the contention that the "other measures" contemplated are of the nature of economic and financial constraint; but the more important consideration is that France regards the clause as giving each Government the right to act as it sees fit. The actual wording is open to two interpretations, but it is evident that separate action would be contrary to the whole spirit of these chapters of the Treaty which provide throughout for co-operative action. The British view is that this is no time for arguing about small detailed points of rights and duties; but that we have to consider world-wide interests in the broadest way, and one of the principal of these interests is that Great Britain and France, if they can possibly contrive to do so, should act together. In a semi-official statement issued in Paris after the Reparation Commission had acted, it is observed that the French Government will fix the measures which it considers necessary in the circumstances. These will be communicated to the Conference next week, and the Allies invited to co-operate in enforcing them. "If this co-operation is not forthcoming, France will pursue them alone in virtue of the right conferred by paragraph 18 on the respective Governments." In other words, France has, in her view, put herself in the position of being entitled to take any measures she may think fit, and, secondly, has expressed her intention to do so, even if she acts alone.

We do not know what measures France may propose, but if they take the forms so much discussed recently in Paris—for example, a Customs barrier round the Rhineland, the control of production of the Ruhr mines by French officers, and other similar measures calculated, according to the British view, to reduce and not to increase the productivity of Germany, which is the foundation upon which any indemnity must be based—France will have destroyed any possibility of co-operation on the basis of the Versailles Treaty. We can readily conceive circumstances in which France might have to do this in her own interests; such, indeed, would have arisen if Great Britain had refused to support, or had thwarted, France, and had been the cause of her failure to get reparations. But to-day that complaint cannot possibly be levied against us, and Frenchmen realise that the British Government, supported by popular opinion, is prepared to go a very long way in sacrificing British claims upon Europe while paying British debt to America, for the sake of getting a settlement in Europe, in which France may gain the very utmost that economic conditions permit. We have endeavoured in and out of season to keep before our readers the case of France. But it is very difficult to maintain a good understanding so long as there is so serious a difference between the two countries as to the way in which to restore Germany's ability to pay. We can only say, and hope that it may be realised in France, that if the French Government takes separate action, and action which is regarded in this country as being calculated to drive Germany more deeply into the economic morass in which Russia is submerged, and from which we are trying to rescue Austria, there is no section of opinion in this country which would continue to support any remission of our claims against either Germany or France. We should, in that case, be driven, much against our will, into isolation, and to the adoption of a political policy which would have sole regard to the restoration of British trade.

Great Britain has no illusions as to the psychology of Germany, and the present Government is not in the least likely to err on the side of being unduly friendly to our late enemies or helping them to find a way out of meeting

their obligations. But they equally realise that a new military movement, or even economic penetration in the Ruhr, would be extremely dangerous politically, and would shatter Germany's remaining credit. If Paris is of opinion that the British Government is prepared to concur passively in French action, that misconception cannot be too rapidly dispelled. If France does take action, the Government will be faced with a most serious decision. But we are fairly confident that if they follow the balance of opinion at home, their reply would be to withdraw our remaining garrison in Cologne.

MONEY IN 1922.

DURING the year that is ending, for business purposes, to-day money came down in value during the first seven months, and then remained steady, with a slightly upward tendency, which was manifested in the last quarter by a stiffening in the rates at which the weekly parcels of Treasury bills were issued by tender. It was recorded in our article of July 1st on the preceding monetary half-year that Bank rate, which was 5 per cent. when the year opened, was lowered to 4½ per cent. on February 16th, 4 per cent. on April 13th, and 3½ per cent. on June 15th; on July 13th 3 per cent. became the official minimum, and has remained so from that date. It will be seen from the subjoined table that the course of history in the chief foreign centres has been harmonious with ours. Downward movements were recorded in the first three quarters of the year, and thereafter there was no change, except in India, Germany, and Finland. The Finnish rate marked a reduction in October, while Germany, where rises began at the end of July, continued them in August, September, and November, ending the year at 10 per cent.; and India also found advances necessary in the second half of the year. Our readers need hardly be reminded that comparative dearthness of money in the autumn was once a normal feature of financial history, when commercial demands were the chief influence on the market, which had not been complicated and confused, as it is to-day, by the activities of Governments in creating purchasing power for the covering of revenue deficits.

CHANGES IN FOREIGN BANK RATES DURING THE YEAR 1922.

1922.			%	%
January	25....Norwegian Bank Rate	reduced	½	to 6
February	16....Indian "	advanced	1	" 8
March	2....Swiss "	reduced	½	" 3½
March	10....Swedish "	"	½	" 5
March	11....French "	"	½	" 5
April	25....Danish "	"	½	" 5
April	27....Indian "	"	1	" 7
April	27....Prague "	"	½	" 5
May	11....Spanish "	"	½	" 5½
May	16....Norwegian "	"	½	" 5½
June	1....Indian "	"	1	" 6
June	8....Belgian "	"	½	" 4½
June	21....United States "	"	½	" 4
July	1....Swedish "	"	1	" 4½
July	5....Indian "	"	1	" 5½
July	11....Italian "	"	½	" 4
July	18....Netherlands "	"	½	" 4
July	28....German "	raised	1	" 6
August	17....Swiss "	reduced	½	" 3
August	17....Norwegian "	"	½	" 5
August	28....German "	raised	1	" 7
September	2....Austrian "	"	2	" 9
September	20....German "	"	1	" 8
October	16....Finnish "	reduced	1	" 5
October	26....Indian "	raised	1	" 8
November	13....German "	"	2	" 10
December	14....Indian "	"	1	" 6
December	28....Indian "	"	1	" 7

Returning to our own domestic affairs, the most important features of the money market's history during the past year have been the reductions in the deposits and securities held by the Bank of England, and in the volume of outstanding Treasury bills. The Bank return for the week ended December 20th last—before the figures began to be modified by the usual demands, chiefly for ornamental purposes and for credit at the end of the year—showed total deposits 123 millions, and total securities 120 millions, these figures being respectively 15 millions and 16 millions lower than at the corresponding period of 1921. On June 21st the figures were respectively 130 millions and 122 millions, so that the shrivelling of the two sides of the Bank's balance-sheet has been—apart from the bulges

usual at the ends of the half-years—a continuous process. Treasury bills were over 1,000 millions at the end of 1921, and had come down to 760 millions at the end of last June, while their latest available figure gives them as 734 millions on December 23rd last.

Both these movements—the diminutions in the Bank of England's deposits and in the outstanding Treasury bills—have had the effect of reducing the amount of purchasing power in the hands of the public, though in the case of each of them the deceptive half light thrown on monetary matters by banking and official figures makes it dangerous to draw very definite conclusions about the extent to which this reduction of purchasing power has proceeded. In the case of the Bank of England's deposits, on the date named a still larger decrease was shown in Other deposits, because it so happened that an unusually large amount had been transferred in the previous week to the Public deposits. Other deposits, as everyone knows, contain the balances at the Bank of the great outside banks, and so form part of the cash reserve that they hold against the current and deposit accounts of the general public. It has sometimes been suggested that, in the interest of light on the dark places of the money market, the bankers' balances should be stated separately from the other items that are included under Other deposits; but some years ago, when the question was discussed with some acerbity and the Bank of England was accused of being opposed to this separate publication, it intimated that it had no objection to giving it, if requested to do so by all the other banks and by an order from Parliament, but that if this were done, it might be necessary to withdraw or modify the facilities that it grants for the creation of emergency credit at the end of the half-years, and since then no more has been heard of the proposal. Thus we remain in the dark as to how far the reduction in Other deposits during the year has been carried out at the expense of the Bank of England's many private customers, and how far it has affected the cash holding of the other banks. All that we can say with certainty is that it is probable that a considerable part of the reduction has been taken off the "cash" of the other banks, and that in so far as this has happened, it has obliged the banks either to repair the gap, with legal tender cash held in their own hands, or to reduce considerably, by selling securities or calling in loans, the volume of their liabilities on deposit, or to carry on their business with a lower proportion of cash to liabilities. The monthly average figures of the London Clearing Banks for November, given in our issue of December 16th, showed, as compared with those of December, 1921, decreases of 150 millions in deposits (including undivided profits) and of 34 millions in cash.

As to the reduction in Treasury bills, the following table, showing the changes during the year in the items of the floating debt, is eloquent:—

FLOATING DEBT.			
	December 31, 1921.	June 30, 1922.	December 23, 1922.
Bank of England Advances..	£ 20,000,000	£ 40,000,000	£ ..
Public Department Advances	180,034,000	164,837,500	212,078,500
Treasury Bills	1,059,806,000	760,525,000	733,815,500
	1,259,840,000	965,362,500	945,893,500

The effect of this diminution by 326 millions of outstanding Treasury bills on the general monetary position is much more subtle and indirect than that of the shrivelling in Other deposits at the Bank of England. It was largely effected by sales of Treasury bonds, and in so far as this happened, its effect depended on the extent to which the Treasury bonds were subscribed for by the public, and the Treasury bills paid off were held by the banks; when this was so, the banks were paid off with money provided by their own depositors, and their deposits were to that extent reduced, and their investments or discounts—under whichever heading they put their Treasury bills—were diminished, while their cash was unaltered by the transaction. So the banks found themselves with a larger proportion of cash to deposits, and the general public had less money at its credit with its bankers, purchasing power having been transferred to the Government for the exchange of a

genuinely subscribed security for one that had been paid for with bank-made money. It might have been expected that the banks thus finding themselves with a larger proportion of cash to deposits would have made haste to correct the position by expanding their advances to industry, and so creating new deposits, but, in fact, bankers have complained throughout most of this year of the difficulty of finding new industrial borrowers, owing to the prevalent trade depression. Which seems to show that it is not as easy to expand or contract trade and prices merely by lowering and raising the price of money as is believed by some theorists, who look for a stabilised Paradise secured by control through Bank rates. The year has seen Bank rates brought down considerably, but in most countries expansion of trade is still largely an aspiration.

Appended are our usual tables of average money rates:—

DAILY AVERAGE OF MONEY RATES.

BANK RATE.		1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
First half.....	5 0 0	5 0 0	6 8 7	6 16 0	4 7 1	
Second half.....	5 0 0	5 6 0	7 0 0	5 8 9	3 0 7	
Whole year	5 0 0	5 3 0	6 14 4	6 2 4	3 13 10	

MARKET RATE—THREE MONTHS' BILLS.

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
First half.....	3 13 0	3 10 0	6 2 2	6 2 7	2 19 0
Second half.....	3 10 5	4 7 9	6 13 8	4 6 0	2 7 0
Whole year	3 11 9	3 18 10	6 7 11	5 4 3	2 13 0

DEPOSIT RATE—BANKS.

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
First half.....	3 2 0	3 0 0	4 8 7	4 16 0	2 7 1
Second half.....	3 0 0	3 7 9	5 0 0	3 8 9	1 0 7
Whole year	3 1 3	3 3 10	4 14 4	4 2 4	1 13 10

SHORT LOANS.

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
First half.....	3 6 2	3 4 7	4 16 0	5 7 2	2 18 0
Second half.....	3 4 11	3 14 7	5 11 2	3 18 2	1 13 10
Whole year	3 5 6	3 9 7	5 3 7	4 12 8	2 5 11

To the discount market the year has been fairly comfortable, for although the margin between it and poverty was narrow, it received a handsome bonus from the hands of the banks at the expense of their depositing customers, because when Bank rate came down to 3 the banks, nevertheless, still kept the wide margin of 2 per cent. between it and their published rate on deposits, which came down to 1 per cent., and consequently, according to the modern convention, made weekly advances to the bill brokers at 1½ per cent. often at times when they were paying the Bank of England ¾ per cent. for loans.

THE HITCH AT LAUSANNE.

THE situation at Lausanne has so many times been saved at the eleventh hour that we need not necessarily be alarmed at the present crisis. At the same time, it must be owned that a successful issue seems more remote than at any previous stage of the negotiations. The controversies that have been shelved have not been settled; the possibility of compromise over the territorial question of the Mosul Vilayet appears faint; and behind the conflict of interests and policies between the Allied Powers and Turkey lies the much more formidable conflict with Russia. The sudden recall of Husein Bey, reported by the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* at Lausanne, is also a disquieting symptom. Here was one Turkish delegate, at least, who knew that patriotism is not incompatible with moderation, and his country will suffer by the loss of his services. The general spirit of the Turkish delegation (whether spontaneous or prompted from Angora) is not

one of give and take, and on our side Lord Curzon's policy, while adroit and subtle in questions of detail, is marked by a rigid hostility to Russia. To drive a wedge between Russia and Turkey is a hazardous operation, and even if the *tour de force* were accomplished, it might prove a poor bargain for us. No doubt it was a serious drawback to the Russo-British Entente of 1907 that it lost us the friendship of the Muslim world. Wiser diplomacy at Constantinople during the crucial years following 1908 might have obviated the latter sacrifice. But it would be an even greater diplomatic failure to recover the goodwill of Islam at the price of renewing our old Asiatic rivalry with what, in this quarter, is still the Russian Empire. If the major conflict with Russia were removed it is hard to believe that the minor issues with Turkey would prove incapable of adjustment. Take the *non-possumus* attitude momentarily assumed by both parties in regard to the Vilayet of Mosul. There are several obvious lines along which an approximation of views might be sought for. If, as is suggested, the real motives on both sides are not connected with strategy or ethnology but with oil, why should not the question of the oil-fields be settled in advance of and apart from the territorial one? There would be much to be said for treating the oil as the property of all the countries included in the Ottoman Empire before the war—that is, the new Turkish National State and Syria and Palestine as well as Iraq—instead of assigning the oilfields, in exclusive possession, to the particular "succession State" within whose borders chance may place them. If the ownership were vested jointly in the "succession States" and the concessions for exploiting them were apportioned among the leading industrial countries of Europe, the territorial question could then be decided on its merits. In regard to these, the British plenipotentiaries are certainly on stronger ground than the Turkish. The disputed district can by no stretch of imagination be regarded as Turkish in nationality. Kirkuk is the only Turkish district, and this is a small and isolated enclave; Mosul is an Arab city, and most of the mountainous remainder is Kurdish.

In their present impolicy towards the Kurds the Turks show a remarkable inability to profit by the lessons of their own recent history. The Kurds—a Sunni Muslim nationality speaking an Iranian (i.e., Persian) language—used to be as loyal an outpost of the Ottoman Empire on its Eastern frontier as the Albanians were in Rumelia. The Committee of Union and Progress alienated the Albanians, and consequently lost Turkey in Europe; and now Angora is doing its best to alienate the Kurds, with the same inevitable consequences for Turkey in Asia. Having lost every other subject nationality through their mania for Ottomanisation, the Turks are evidently determined to try the same treatment upon the one non-Turkish people that now remains within their frontiers. Hence their eagerness to exclude "racial" minorities from the scope of any scheme for minorities' protection. The result is that the Kurds, who would undoubtedly have welcomed a partnership on fair terms with the Turks as an insurance against their other neighbours—the Armenians, Russians, and Arabs—will now be driven into the arms of one or other of Turkey's enemies. This, of course, is no concern of ours, except that it complicates the disposal of those parts of the Mosul and Baghdad Vilayets which cover Southern Kurdistan. There is no case for annexing Southern Kurdistan to the Iraq Arab State; but, on the other hand, we certainly cannot hand back this mandated area to Turkey so long as it remains her policy to denationalise its almost entirely non-Turkish inhabitants.

NEW CAPITAL ISSUES IN 1922.

THERE are several separate aspects from which the figures of new capital raised in the London market deserve careful study. They are some guide to the extent of the demand of British trade and industry for the financial means of expansion and enterprise. They illustrate Government financial policy. But they will be watched even more closely for evidence of the progress London is making in regaining its former position of lender to other countries. Our own statistics show that of the new capital raised in

London in 1913 over £160 millions was destined for foreign countries and British Possessions. During the war this stream of capital abroad was checked by the overwhelming need for concentrating the country's resources upon the financing of the war. But it is flowing again now, as will be seen from the following geographical classification of the destination of the new capital raised in 1912, 1913, 1920, 1921, and 1922 :—

DESTINATION OF NEW CAPITAL.

	Whole Year.				
	1912.	1913.	1920.	1921.	1922.
United Kingdom....	£ 45,335,300	£ 35,951,200	£ 328,021,400	£ 276,176,500	£ 443,518,300
British Possessions....	72,642,400	76,137,200	31,639,800	90,577,800	74,924,200
Foreign countries ..	92,872,300	84,448,600	7,888,400	22,223,900	55,253,100
Total	210,850,000	196,537,000	367,549,600	388,978,200	573,675,600

Judged by the criterion of purchasing power, London's lendings to the Empire and to foreign countries have a long way to go before they overtake pre-war figures; but their substantial increase is welcome and important. Our great stock of foreign investments stood us in very good stead during the war, in the course of which it was sadly depleted. The fact that the stock is now being steadily replaced is also welcome from the point of view of the trade balance, to which interest on holdings of foreign securities made in pre-war days a very substantial contribution.

The aggregate of London issues, quarter by quarter, for the past 13 years is shown below :—

Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total for Whole Year.
	£	£	£	£	£
1910.....	99,355,600	88,721,400	28,111,600	51,250,500	267,439,100
1911.....	61,245,000	56,238,800	14,914,500	59,361,100	191,759,400
1912.....	47,966,100	62,377,500	40,687,100	59,819,300	210,850,000
1913.....	50,344,700	70,014,900	29,961,800	46,216,000	196,537,000
1914.....	97,610,200	54,739,100	20,265,200	339,908,100	512,522,600
1915.....	46,313,500	25,693,200	586,772,500	26,462,500	685,241,700
1916.....	156,251,200	131,022,500	111,578,000	186,584,700	585,436,400
1917.....	825,925,200	221,254,300	57,054,400	214,362,100	1,318,596,000
1918.....	475,258,700	220,921,500	329,674,000	367,527,200	1,393,381,400
1919.....	291,901,400	93,879,000	536,502,200	113,776,800	1,036,059,400
1920.....	135,094,500	98,011,700	61,195,600	73,247,800	367,549,600
1921.....	63,382,100	65,281,900	57,890,600	202,423,600	388,978,200
1922.....	286,207,100	162,567,100	61,920,200	62,981,200	573,675,600

It will be seen that in the past year the first quarter produced half the complete total, that the June quarter was also prolific, while the last six months of 1922 contributed only a little more than one-fifth of the year's aggregate. The gross total of new capital applications in 1922 exceeds that for 1921 by nearly £185 millions; but most of this increase is accounted for by heavier British Government borrowings. Temporary borrowings in the form of Treasury Bills and Ways and Means advances are not included in our figures. Apart from these, the borrowings of the British Government in 1921 and 1922 compare as follows :—

		£			£
		Millions.			Millions.
1921.			1922.		
½ Treasury Bonds ..	173.9		5½ Treasury Bonds ..	115.1	
Savings certificates ...	11.1		5 Treasury Bonds ...	110.1	
½ Local Loans stock ..	17.9		4½ Treasury Bonds ..	68.9	
			Savings certificates...	58.4	
			3% Local Loans stock ..	17.1	
		202.9			369.6

* Net sales, i.e., excess of sales over encashments.

Taking full advantage of Lombard street conditions and of the strong demand for gilt-edged securities, the Treasury has replaced a large slice of the floating debt by bonds of 10 years' currency. This process began in 1921. In 1922 the Treasury has sold £294 millions' worth of Treasury Bonds carrying declining rates of interest, and has reduced the floating debt by £314 millions. The comparatively large total for Savings Certificates is due to a great rush of purchases towards the end of the first quarter, when the announcement had been made that as from April 1st the price of the Certificate would be raised from 15s 6d to 16s. The following table shows the pur-

poses to which the remainder of the new capital was devoted :—

	Whole Year 1921.	Year 1922.		
		Three Quarters to Sept. 30.	Fourth Quarter.	Total for Whole Year 1922.
	£	£	£	£
British Government Loans.....	202,896,300	346,752,200	22,875,900	369,628,100
Colonial Government Loans	73,650,000	41,582,300	17,000,000	58,582,300
Foreign Government Loans	5,905,000	13,066,600	1,187,500	14,254,100
Colonial Corporations, &c.....	19,003,700	5,555,300	nil	5,555,300
Foreign Corporations.....	4,882,000	5,839,100	1,184,500	7,023,600
British Railways	nil	6,107,500	3,680,900	7,087,500
Foreign Railways	630,000	14,687,500	34,700	14,722,200
Australasian Mines	18,600	16,500	nil	16,500
Other mines	387,500	409,200	50,000	459,200
Exploration, Financial, &c.....	185,900	1,263,500	nil	1,263,500
Breweries	1,926,300	5,385,300	2,296,500	7,681,800
Merchants, Importers, &c.....	4,407,400	784,000	191,000	784,000
Stores and Trading	23,761,500	6,252,500	306,300	6,558,800
Estate and Land	3,800,000	170,500	900,000	1,070,500
Rubber	818,900	612,500	1,086,700	1,699,200
Oil	134,900	125,700	135,200	269,900
Iron, Coal, Steel, and Engineering	15,821,700	16,765,200	400,000	17,165,000
Elect. Light, Power & Telegraph	4,773,800	11,323,300	2,723,500	14,046,800
Tramway and Omnibus.....	5,677,800	3,566,800	1,485,000	4,851,800
Motor Traction & Manufacturing	774,000	577,000	11,300	588,300
Gas and Water	905,000	nil	nil	nil
Hotels, Theatres, and Entertainments	2,447,600	1,687,300	406,000	2,633,300
Patents and Proprietary Articles	2,529,400	1,628,900	nil	1,628,900
Docks, Harbours, and Shipping ..	131,500	nil	nil	nil
Banks and Insurance.....	5,183,200	14,109,700	1,537,500	15,647,200
Miscellaneous	3,579,000	2,920,700	48,000	2,968,700
	3,447,200	6,733,500	4,461,700	11,195,200
	388,978,200	510,694,400	62,981,200	573,675,600

In aggregate, the demands of Dominion and Colonial Governments have been about £15 millions less than in 1921. India has made a large contribution to the total, having floated in June a loan of £12,500,000 5½ per cent. stock at 96, and in October a further huge issue of £17,000,000 4½ per cent. stock at 85. The Commonwealth of Australia was also in the market twice, issuing loans of £5 millions each in January and April. Other borrowers among Governments within the Empire were South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, New Zealand, New South Wales, Straits Settlements, and British Guiana. The five foreign Governments borrowing in London were those of Chile, Siam, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, and Peru. Local authorities at home borrowed much less than last year, only five entering the market, but foreign and colonial corporations were frequent visitors, notable issues in this class being made by the Associated Municipalities of Denmark, Prague, the Department of the Seine, Johannesburg, and Bergen.

The entry of over £6½ millions in the above table, under the heading of Home Rails, is entirely accounted for by London's underground railways. The great trunk lines, as in 1921, have made no demands on the capital market, though their amalgamations and capital rearrangements have, of course, been a feature of the past year in the investment world. On the other hand, foreign railways have borrowed in London to the tune of £14½ millions. Prominent in this group were the four French railways, the P.L.M., the Midi, the Orleans, and the Nord, who between them raised in March £15 millions (nominal) in 6 per cent. stock, at prices ranging from 86 to 90. The other notable borrower in this section was the Buenos Aires Western, which issued at the beginning of the year £2 millions 4 per cent. stock at 60.

Coming to industrial borrowers, we notice a big drop under the manufacturing class, where the year's outstanding feature was an issue in May of £4,000,000 5 per cent. debenture stock at 93½ by Lever Brothers. The shipping list, on the other hand, shows a large increase, eight large issues having been made by British shipping companies, including the P. and O., Royal Mail, Union Castle, and Lamport and Holt, and two by well-known French companies. Under the heading of Oil, the total is mainly composed by the following large flotations :—Shell Transport and Trading Company, 5,000,000 7 per cent. £1 7 per cent. £1 first preference shares at 20s 6d; and Anglo-Persian, 2,000,000 8 per cent. £1 first preference shares at 21s. Another feature among the industrial sections was the substantially larger demand for new capital by the iron, coal, steel and engineering group. Here there were fifteen prominent issues, among which may be noticed Powell Duffryn's issue of £1,500,000 7 per cent. debenture stock at par, that by Pease and Part-

ners of £1,000,000 5 per cent. debenture stock at 93, that by the Tata Iron and Steel Company of £2,000,000 7 per cent. debenture stock at 98, and that by Consett Iron of £1,500,000 6 per cent. debenture stock at 99; while Platt Brothers made a double issue in July of 534,000 ordinary £1 shares at 43s. Among other industrial issues of the year may be mentioned the following :—Marconi's Wireless Telegraph, £1,500,000 6½ per cent. debentures at 99; Crosses and Heaton's Associated Mills, £1,263,626 6 per cent. debenture stock at 98; and County of London Electric 500,000 £1 ordinary shares at £1 2s 6d and 500,000 6 per cent. preference shares at par.

Those whose business brings them into close touch with the new capital market will remember 1922 above all for the boom of the first five months, and the great campaign of tagging which took place in that period. For those five months underwriters had a very happy experience, and stags usually found that the public demand for any attractive new scrip was sufficient to allow them to unload at a good profit. But after the middle of the summer tagging died away, and underwriters (as in the case of the second Indian Loan) were frequently left with very large proportions of new stocks to take up. Another feature of the year, namely the fall in interest rates, we hope to discuss in a future issue.

LABOUR IN 1922.

(BY A LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE year 1922 will be regarded as one of the black periods in the annals of labour. Judged by the number of people receiving Poor Law relief, the situation to-day is worse than it has been for half-a-century. The proportion of the population in receipt of assistance from the Boards of Guardians has not been as high since 1873, and it is necessary to go back ten years earlier than this date, to the time of the great cotton famine, to find a period when as large a number of persons were "on the Guardians" as is the case at the present time.

It is true that the official statistics show, during the past year, a decline in the number of people on the live register of the Employment Exchanges, or the Unemployment Exchanges as the *Times* inadvertently, but accurately, described them a day or two ago. At the end of December, 1921, about 1,886,000 workpeople were registered as unemployed, and 315,000 registered as "working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act." The latest figures, relating to December 18th, show that there were over 1,359,000 workers registered as totally unemployed, and 54,700 registered as working short time in the sense used above. There has, that is to say, been a reduction of the unemployed army during the year of about half a million workers, and an even greater reduction since the end of June, 1921, when the unemployment curve reached its highest point, and over two million workpeople were registered as totally unemployed.

There has, therefore, been a fall in the unemployment curve, but it is to be remembered that during the second quarter of 1921 unemployment rose rapidly, because of the long coal stoppage. The monthly average percentage amongst the members of trade unions making returns to the Ministry of Labour was about 15½ last year, including the phenomenally high rate of unemployment directly resulting from the coal stoppage, and the monthly average for the past year is almost exactly the same figure. Moreover, though it is undeniable that there are less people unemployed now than was the case when the year opened, the number is still very large. Unfortunately, we have no complete figures showing the volume of unemployment. The official statistics relate to persons registered as unemployed at the Employment Exchanges. Insured workers, for the most part, register, though if they fall out of benefit they often enough cease to register. But insured workers only count for 12,000,000, or about two-thirds of the employed persons. The Ministry of Labour has very incomplete records of the number of unemployed juveniles, and of unemployed workers in uninsured trades, such as agriculture. The short-time figures

are also inadequate, and take no account of the number of workpeople employed on short time in such a time as to render them ineligible to receive unemployment benefit.

It is impossible to say exactly how big the burden of unemployment is to-day, but the total number of unemployed and under-employed workers is probably a million and three-quarters at the least, and may approach two millions. Whilst it must be admitted that the unemployment has fallen somewhat during the year, the lot of the unemployed has become much harder. During the past year the trade unions have paid out relatively little in out-of-work pay, as their funds were exhausted during the first year of the trade depression. In the meantime, unemployment insurance administration, most particularly as regards "uncovenanted benefit," has become much less sympathetic, and Boards of Guardians have, of necessity, revised their scales of relief. The work provided by public authorities has not absorbed a tithe of the unemployed labour available. It is not surprising, therefore, that organised Labour should find little comfort in the improving course of unemployment during the past 12 months.

In 1921 there were drastic reductions in wages. The changes in wages reported to the Ministry of Labour during that year resulted in a net reduction of about £6,000,000 per week in the rates of wages of over 7,000,000 workpeople. During the present year, up to the end of November, there was a net reduction of nearly £4,200,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 7,500,000 workers, against which may be set a net increase of nearly £11,500 in the weekly wages of about 74,000 workpeople. It will be seen, therefore, that the campaign of wages reductions has continued, though not with quite the same intensity. But from the Labour point of view the reductions which have taken place during the past year are more serious than those which were put into operation in 1921. According to the Ministry of Labour the average level of retail prices reached its maximum in November, 1920, when it stood at 176 per cent. above the pre-war level. At the end of 1920 it was 165 per cent., and at the end of 1921 it was 92 per cent. above the pre-war level. During 1921 there was therefore a substantial fall in the official index number of retail prices. At the present time the number appears to be stabilised at about 80 per cent. above the average of July, 1914. The fall during 1922 has been relatively small. Consequently, the fall in real wages has been much greater during 1922 than it was in the previous year. It is doubtful whether wages can be pushed much lower, and it is anticipated that during the forthcoming year the rate of decrease will slacken very considerably, until it reaches a temporary stabilisation point.

During 1919 there were considerable reductions in working hours. Before then the average weekly hours of labour in the chief organised industries varied from 48 to 60, but in 1919 the average working week established in industry was from 44 to 48 hours. The Ministry of Labour computed that 6,500,000 workers secured an average reduction of about six and a-half hours per week. In 1920 over half a million workpeople obtained an average reduction of about four hours per week. With the collapse of trade, however, there was a tendency towards lengthening hours of labour, though in neither 1921 nor 1922 has it proved to be very considerable. For example, during 1921, it is reported that 13,000 workers had their hours reduced by 34,000 per week, whilst 31,000 workers had their hours increased by 46,000 per week. During 1922, though there have been slight increases in working hours in some trades, there has not been the determined onslaught on the 48-hour week which was anticipated. No doubt the existence of a large mass of unemployment has saved the working week from extension, and it now appears likely that the only thing the workers will retain of the gains obtained during the post-war period will be the shorter working week.

The year 1922 has been marked by relatively few disputes. It will be remembered that during the year following the end of the war there were a large number of disputes. In 1920 there were even more. In 1921, however, the number declined very considerably, and there have been fewer still during the past year. In 1919 about 2,600,000 were involved in stoppages of work, which

amounted in the aggregate to over 34,000,000 working days. From the beginning of 1922 to the end of November trade disputes resulting in stoppages of work have involved about 550,000 workers, and the aggregate duration of the stoppages has been nearly 20,000,000 working days. During the two months, however, the number of disputes in progress has been the lowest for over five years. The number of working days lost during 1922 is swollen by the disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding industries. The engineering stoppage lasted fourteen weeks, and was fought on a question of principle—the undisputed right of employers to exercise “managerial functions.” The shipbuilding dispute was over a question of wage reductions. The only other dispute of importance during the year was that in the printing trades, which also arose on a request from the employers for a reduction in wages. During December the miners considered the present desperate circumstances in which they are now placed, and though a section wished to bring the existing agreement with the coal owners to an end, no action was taken, but the situation will be reviewed early in 1923.

Poor Law statistics indicate an increase in the volume of destitution during the past year. The total number of persons in receipt of Poor Law relief in England and Wales at the beginning of 1921 was about 829,000, and at the beginning of 1922 nearly a million and a half, or about 40 per 1,000 of the population. By the end of June over a million and three-quarter persons were receiving relief from the guardians. The latest figures show that in 31 selected areas in Great Britain there were on one day of November 572 per 10,000 of the population in receipt of poor relief, an increase of 50 per 10,000 on the figures a year ago. During the year the number of persons relieved has increased by between 9 and 10 per cent. How terribly some districts are suffering may be seen from the official figures, which show that in the Stockton and Tees district the number of persons receiving Poor Law relief was in November 1,319 per 10,000 of the estimated population, whilst in the Glasgow, Sheffield, Coatbridge and Airdrie, and West Ham districts the numbers were 1,288, 1,198, 1,050, and 991 respectively.

The past year will, as I have already suggested, be regarded as a black year for labour, and it closes with promises by the Prime Minister to take more adequate measures than he indicated during the recent Parliamentary session to deal with the unemployment situation. The Labour movement is not sanguine regarding the revival of trade in the absence of a drastic international financial and economic policy and a more wholehearted domestic policy.

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES, LIMITED.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

KIMBERLEY, December 5.

I WAS fortunate to arrive in Kimberley just when the production of diamonds at De Beers was restarted after having been stopped for 18 months. The stoppage was due to the diamond market having collapsed suddenly after a period of unusual activity. The market has now revived, and diamonds are saleable again. Hence the decision to restart production.

De Beers is a fascinating proposition. It is worth coming all the way from England to see and hear about, especially when one comes out to such a fine climate, and can make the journey so comfortably.

The selling price of diamonds varies very widely in different years. So in turn does the production of De Beers and the dividends on De Beers deferred shares. And again, in turn, so does the market value of the deferred shares. Some years diamonds have sold at four times the price of other years. Some years the production of De Beers has been very large—up to eight million loads—others, there has been no production at all. Some years the deferred shares have paid no dividend at all; in others they have distributed from 10s up to as much

as 60s per share. The preferred shares, which are cumulative, are already 20s in arrears, and will be 30s in arrears at the end of 1922 unless a dividend is declared. It is a foregone conclusion that such a dividend will be declared. The only topic of discussion is as to how much of the arrears will be wiped off on its declaration.

But in spite of the continuous variation in the output and value of the diamonds produced, and in the dividend paid on the deferred shares, it is clear that these shares have a certain real, as opposed to market, value. No one can say exactly what this actual real value may be, but I will endeavour to put forward some figures which may enable the reader to form an idea.

In the past 13 years, i.e., from 1909 to 1921 inclusive, 63 million loads of diamondiferous ground have been mined for a total expenditure of every kind, including all outgoings, of 30½ million pounds, and the sales of diamonds during the period have amounted to nearly 57 million pounds. During these 13 years the average dividend per year on the deferred shares has been 21s 6d. The total average dividend earned during the same period has been 25s 6d per year, but besides paying dividends the company has paid off during the period debentures to the tune of 1½ million pounds (the balance of the 4 millions created years earlier and paid off previous to 1909) and added considerably to the investments in its portfolio, besides writing off the entire value of its equipment or increasing its capital. In other words, these investments have been provided for, debentures paid, and equipment written off out of revenue which would otherwise have been available for dividends to the extent of an average of 4s per year on each deferred share.

But it must be borne in mind that the years 1920 and 1921 were boom years, in which diamonds fetched exceptionally high prices. Nevertheless, if the sales during these two years were divided by half, the company would still have earned a distributable profit of an average of 18s per year on each deferred share.

A share which can actually pay out £14 in 13 years and put by £2 10s per share as well for other purposes, must have a certain value if similar dividends can be continued; that is, if the stuff is there which ensures continuous production, and if the product can continue to be sold profitably. As regards the stuff being there, there are nine million loads lying above ground, the mining expenses of which have been already paid. This is nearly two years' average production. There are also “in sight” underground, that is, existing without doubt, 72 million loads, or over 14 years' average production at the rate of 5 million loads per year. In addition, there are not less than a further 200 million loads below the present workings, which, though not technically “in sight,” are considered certain to exist, and continue to be of more or less average value. There is probably no other mining organisation in the world in such a favourable position as regards its reserves, both actually “in sight” and

I anticipate that general conditions will be more favourable in the future. The expenditure at the mines, so long as the nine million loads above ground previously alluded to hold out, and mining is not resumed, should not be more than half the normal, since the mining and depositing expenses relative to these nine million loads have been already paid. The treatment of them should take nearly two years at the normal average rate of production. After that there will be a considerable reduction in total expenses, as compared with those of the period 1909-21, due to the change in the method of treatment which is to be used when actual mining restarts. There will be no more depositing “on the floors.” The ground will be crushed and diamonds recovered the same day. This will probably reduce the mining costs by as much as 15 per cent., and thus considerably increase the average

distributable profit. And the machinery for the new treatment will not involve any fresh expense. It is almost all paid for already. There are indications, too, that saving may be anticipated from the lessons of economy which have been learnt during the recent prolonged period of adversity. The De Beers Company has always been very generous in its dealings.

But the most favourable feature is the demand for diamonds that has now again commenced from America. This continent will probably be taking 80 per cent. of the world's production, and, as long as it continues on the feed, the reduced consumption of Europe does not matter so much. Owing to the United States' policy of restriction of immigration and high tariffs, wages and prices are rising out there. And this state of affairs will probably expand, as there is a vast accumulation of gold in the United States on which banking credits can be based and more currency issued. This means increased spending power for luxury goods like diamonds. And in America the masses buy diamonds as well as the classes.

There are, of course, unfavourable factors for De Beers, such as the continuous increase in the supply of diamonds from outside sources. But the population and wealth of the world are always increasing, too. There is also the gradual impoverishment and contraction of the diamond-bearing ground at depth to be considered. But this is so gradual that it hardly counts. On the whole, it seems that the favourable factors outbalance the unfavourable ones.

Viewing the situation as a whole, and taking into consideration the company's strong financial position, as disclosed by the balance-sheet, the economies to be effected in the future, to which I have already alluded, and the fact that De Beers possesses other unworked diamonds mines outside Kimberley, I should estimate that the deferred shares have an actual, as opposed to market, value of not less than £16 per share. This is below the average actual market price of the past 13 years, during which period the deferred shares have been down to 9 and up to over 32.

The preferred shares have varied in market value during the period 1909-21 between about nine and 18½. The average has been about 14½, and on this price they have given as good a return to the investor as the deferred. But it should be remembered that their yield is limited to 20s per year, whereas the deferred may pay a much higher average in the future than the 21s 6d paid up to date, and are unlikely to pay less.

There will be no difficulty whatever for De Beers to produce any quantity of diamonds which its clients will take for generations to come, and further, these diamonds can be produced at figures which are known. What is unknown is the amount which it will be possible to sell in the future and the future selling price. Everything, in fact, depends on capacity to sell. Capacity to produce will not be in question for years and years. At present the price of diamonds is low relatively. They are about 50 per cent. of the high prices of three years ago. But if De Beers could only sell enough of them they could earn very big profits even at their present price. As De Beers has the highest average value per load of any diamond mine, it is not in its interest to have too high a price for diamonds, since a high price encourages competition by the opening of mines which can only work at a profit when prices are high.

De Beers is about to issue 100,000 additional deferred shares. In pursuance of the policy of control, these will be issued for the purpose of acquiring all the deferred shares of the Premier mine which are not already in the De Beers portfolio. The possession of these shares will prolong by many years the already long life of De Beers. De Beers also works in sympathy with the Jagersfontein Mine. The principal competitors are the alluvial mines in the Congo and in what used to be German South-West Africa, though in the case of the latter their production is limited by agreement. The alluvial river diggings in British South Africa itself are also in free competition. But all alluvials give out in a limited period, whereas the deposits controlled by De Beers are of a more permanent nature.

THE INFLUENCE OF A FALLING EXCHANGE ON THE WEALTH OF A COUNTRY—II.

(BY A GERMAN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE efficiency of labour is affected in a similar way to the efficiency of capital. Owing to the strong organisation of labour, wages follow prices fairly quickly; but there is nevertheless a certain time lag which often causes considerable friction. A huge amount of energy and time is wasted by wage boards; but, in spite of all efforts to arrive at an amicable arrangement, strikes for a quicker and closer adjustment of wages to prices are frequent. The loss involved in this process is enormous, and victory does not bring contentment, inasmuch as the workmen always feel cheated whenever the purchasing power of wages is lagging behind. They have but little incentive to work overtime. Saving offers no attraction, and there is a premium on spending.

The springs of economic activity are paralysed everywhere, and there is a danger that they may become so permanently, for the social results of depreciation can scarcely be undone, even if the currency is ultimately stabilised. The existence of hundreds of thousands of families will have been destroyed beyond repair. A large part of the investing and professional classes will have been pauperised, and their sons and daughters will have to join the ranks of manual labour. The strata of society which were the foundation of the intellectual and scientific development of the nation will have been permanently reduced in numbers, with the result that future cultural progress may become seriously endangered. Moreover, the possibility of a permanent physical deterioration of a considerable part of the nation must not be lost sight of.

As a rule, the foreign assets of a country will have melted away before the downward course of its exchange sets in. What remains will increase in value (in terms of the depreciated currency), and as long as there is a big margin between prices abroad and prices at home, the owners of foreign securities will greatly benefit. That is the reason why the securing of investments having a constant money value is very profitable as long as depreciation continues, even though competition for them may drive up prices. When ultimately the exchange is stabilised heavy losses will result, unless stabilisation takes place at a point below the purchase price, as calculated in paper currency.

Foreign buyers of depreciated paper money, such as German marks, are like defrauded creditors. They gave goods for paper, when goods reckoned in paper were cheap, but they cannot buy the same amount of goods now that their paper holdings have depreciated in value. If stabilisation is not arranged at a level high enough to provide some compensation for them their losses may well be enormous, whilst the country which issued the paper will gain proportionately.

On the other hand, a country with a falling exchange can sell its goods cheaply abroad, for its manufacturers are easily deceived by receiving increased quantities of paper money without being obliged to pay out immediately proportionately increased sums in respect of wages and home-grown material. They can sell cheap in foreign currencies, and they often sell too cheap, for they do not allow enough for depreciation and replacement charges, which are, of course, greatly increased by these price changes. Foreign countries are the gainers by being allowed to buy below cost, though they may be hurt by the process of adapting their own industries to the new conditions. In a new country this premium on exports may act as a stimulus to production, and lead to an expansion of industry. In an old country like Germany, however, production does not increase, but a larger share of the national produce is sold abroad at a loss. The working of these forces is, however, transitory and easily readjusted.

The change of ownership which is brought about by foreign investment has permanent consequences. Foreign buyers of marks and Government and municipal investments may lose their money if they bought too early; but if they cling to their holdings they become the creditors

Notes of the Week.

of the country. While the goods they furnished have disappeared, the rent charge remains. The same applies even more in the case of purchasers of real estate and industrial securities. Investments of this kind can be bought extremely cheaply, in spite of the fact that the seller makes what he considers a good profit. The shares of the Deutsche Bank, for example, can now be obtained for £1 12s at present, Höchster Farbwerke for £3, and Deutsche Luxemburg for £5, while before the war their par value was £50. Of course, it must not be forgotten that dividends now amount to very little. Even if Deutsche Luxemburg were to increase its dividend from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. this year, that would only mean a sum of 500 marks a share, or about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the present purchase price, or, in other words, 25 gold pfennig on an investment for which the original investor would have had to pay 1,000 marks gold. In many cases the dividend is unduly low, because a large part of the earnings are set aside for permanent improvements, but this does not explain the low quotation of the shares, which is justifiable only on the assumption that there is but little chance of improved dividends in the course of the next few years.

These low prices have already attracted many buyers from abroad, and are sure to attract many more when the process of stabilisation begins. This, however, will bring about serious industrial dislocations, for prices will fall, orders will stop, paper profits will evaporate, quotations will break, and the judicious buyer will have a splendid chance of picking up bargains. The final result will be, not that carpets, pictures, and other goods, which are not used for production, will change hands, but that there will be a permanent participation of foreigners in the material wealth of the country.

In the long run the capital taken from the middle class will not remain in the hands of the lucky industrialists, for they will be obliged to part with it as soon as the shortage of capital begins to weigh upon them, as is at present the case. Whenever that happens on a large scale, stocks and shares will change hands quickly, and the country will drift into the position of a nation paying rents to absentee landlords. When the capital which they furnished has been eaten up, the rent charge will still remain. The land, mines, and factories of the country may remain intact, while their output after stabilisation may even be bigger than it ever was before, but ownership of them will have changed hands.

In conclusion, we may sum up the results of the depreciation of money on the permanent wealth of a country in the following way:—

1. The liquid wealth in the hands of the investing public is destroyed.
2. The purchasing power of the home market is greatly diminished.
3. Output is reduced, and cost of production thereby increased, while competition both at home and abroad becomes more difficult.
4. In many cases a physical deterioration of machinery and plant will take place.
5. Owing to the scarcity of capital, production must be reduced, for the time being at any rate.
6. The country which suffers from a shortage of capital of this kind must become strongly indebted to foreign countries, who are buying up its permanent wealth.
7. An increasing share of its exports has to be set aside in future to meet the interest charges on these loans.
8. Though the share of the State may not be seriously diminished by sums thus paid to foreigners in respect of dividend and interest charges, it is none the less true that a much smaller share of the total national income will be at the disposal of the inhabitants of the country. The net output of industry available for dividends may be the same, whether one-third of the capital is held abroad or not, but the total income of the country itself will be reduced by $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., while both the taxable capacity of the inhabitants and their purchasing power will be diminished *pro tanto*. If foreign capital had not come in, the industrial mechanism might have gone to pieces; its restoration, however, is none the less a very expensive process.
9. Ultimately the country's taxable capacity as far as its co-nationals are concerned is greatly impaired, and so is its capacity for making remittances abroad, for the new capital which comes in does not open up new avenues of production, but merely closes the gaps which depreciation has made.

The Premier and Trade Revival.—In the course of an interview last Saturday with a Glasgow deputation the Prime Minister referred to trade prospects, and his use of the words "real revival" in this connection have been widely interpreted as being a mark of optimism, which means much in the mouth of a Statesman with a reputation for caution. It is, therefore, important that the stray qualifications used by Mr Bonar Law should be realised and remembered. According to Press reports of the interview the Prime Minister said:—"I am convinced myself that, bad as things are at the present time, we have reached the bottom, and unless there is very serious trouble in Europe, and I am very much afraid of it—the position is very serious—unless there is very serious trouble in Europe we are going to have a real revival of trade. I mean a real revival. I see signs of it everywhere. When I say that I see signs I mean that I get them from talking with people who are in businesses." It will be seen that Mr Bonar Law laid emphatic stress upon the European position, and we should not be surprised to hear that he underlined the qualification "unless there is serious trouble in Europe" more powerfully even than the printed word suggests. We have ourselves pointed out recent signs of trade improvement, and, at the same time, insisted in season and out of season on the vital bearing that a European settlement must have on British trade prospects. When a few words are detached and placed in a headline, they make Mr Bonar Law appear very optimistic, but when the whole passage is carefully read, the impression of over-optimism vanishes. We do not think it is fair to read into his words anything more than the common belief that trade is showing some signs of improvement, and that this improvement would develop strongly if only we could get settlement in Europe instead of continued drift towards chaos.

The Approach to Irish Peace.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—During the Christmas season there has been peace talk *ad nauseam*—peace talk from Republican sympathisers, who post bills by night, "Why not a truce now?" in the hope of extricating their fighting friends from irreparable disaster by forcing a negotiation rather than negotiating a surrender. Peace talk, too, from popularity-hunters, and from men who once a peace resolution is proposed on a public board fear to incur, with the small militant minority, the potential odium of voting against it or even of failing to support it by speech and vote. Peace talk, again, from irresponsibles, busybodies, defeatists. Lastly, peace talk from well-intentioned and responsible people like members of the new Seanad—some of whom are merely expressing inchoate benevolence lacking somewhat in precision of aim and method, while others are definitely aiming at the only peace worth having—namely, a peace surely founded upon surrender of men, arms, and munitions, and a healing clemency towards all who have not sinned unforgivably against the laws of God and man. The opinion of experienced observers on the popular side is that the men—the leaders and fighters—have largely finished for one desisting from the torture and ruin of the country which they profess to love; and that the disorder which exists is largely due to the disintegration of their organisation into predatory gangs of adventurous spirits or seekers after private revenge. None custodians of the fortunes of the Irish Free State. If admitted in the eyes of all the world, their position is most deplorably weakened in regard to all negotiations as to deny that until the outstanding matters between Ireland and N.E. Ulster are settled upon a basis of mutual contentment there will be turmoil in Ireland—and that that longer the necessary negotiations are held up, the more

difficult probably the necessary adjustment. Readers of the *Economist* have been made familiar with the main factors of the negotiable problems, and with the way in which the accepted high policy of England, deliberately adopted and binding both in form and in honour under Statute and Treaty, urges forward both the problems and the parties to negotiation, compromise, re-union, and peace. Two points, however, warrant further mention and emphasis. The industrialism of N.E. Ulster is largely exotic; that is, it largely depends upon imported raw materials, imported machinery, and imported fuel. Its wealth, the product of earlier prosperity, has largely been turned into extended producing plant. If the cost of civil and quasi-military and police administration reaches and maintains a certain level, what are the advantages of N.E. Ulster over the industrialism of the Clyde, the Mersey, the Tyne, and a dozen other British centres? And how maintain its prosperity? The second point is for British statesmen. It is unquestionably the desire of Great Britain to stand by the Treaty between Ireland and Great Britain with punctilious and meticulous fidelity. The policy of Great Britain is fixed, embedded and crystallised, as has been said, in Statute and in Treaty. Let it remain so. Let British statesmen abstain from ambiguous statements which can be translated by sanguine politicians into "pledges" alleged to bind British statesmanship and British policy to views and courses inconsistent with and in derogation of plain obligations of law, treaty, and honour. Already the public in Ireland has been assured from the North that Mr Bonar Law has pledged himself to Sir James Craig—in a pledge the exact terms of which are not disclosed—to a position in regard to the Boundary Commission referred to in the Treaty which would be derogatory to the *prima facie* rights of the Irish Free State. The dangers likely to arise in this way to counsels of reconciliation are obvious. Suspicions and recriminations are the natural outcome.

Canadian Cattle.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—While the King Ministry is taking great credit for the treaty of peace over the cattle embargo question, and representatives of the farmers express gratification at the re-opening of the British market to Canadian store cattle, some shrewder authorities on the subject hazard the opinion that once the full implications of the new agreement are realised it will soon cease to command unanimous support from the farmers of Canada. In fact, they prophesy that it will meet with very stiff opposition when it comes before Parliament for ratification. A cardinal feature of the agreement is the provision for complete reciprocity between the contracting parties, which means that British cattle will enter Canada after the same brief quarantine which will confront Canadian cattle entering Britain. But at present there is in existence a very satisfactory arrangement between Canada and the United States whereby they maintain a common quarantine of 30 days against all foreign countries, but leave the long international boundary wide open without any restrictions. If any foreign country is infected with disease, they simultaneously impose a special quarantine against its cattle, which is maintained till 60 days have elapsed from the last report of disease. Owing to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, such a quarantine is still in force against the British Isles. Now it seems altogether probable that if Canada proceeds to allow the entry of British cattle on a three-day quarantine, the American authorities will lose no time in denouncing the present arrangement, and setting up a 30-day quarantine all along the international boundary. Such a step would cause serious inconvenience, firstly to the numerous Eastern Canadian breeders of pedigree stock who find a good market in the United States, and secondly to western ranchers, who raise store cattle and send them southward to be finished in Iowa or Nebraska. The Fordney tariff has adversely affected this formerly profitable trade, but a 30-day quarantine would complete its ruin. Under such circumstances public opinion in Canada would probably demand a parallel measure of reprisal, and its inauguration would soon check the movement of American immigrants northward, because most of them want to bring in their own stock. Accordingly, there will be many Canadians who will dis-

cern adverse effects for their own interests from the new agreement, and see no prospects of adequate compensation from the restoration of the British market. At present, the possibilities of the situation have not been widely realised, but they will emerge when the agreement is discussed in Parliament, and critics of the Government will not be slow to say that they have been deluded by the British negotiators.

The Transit of Home Rails.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—The compilers of the Stock Exchange Official List will be busy to-day in taking out the names of some 250 or more different stocks hitherto quoted in the Home Railway sections, which stocks will disappear automatically to-night through the operation of the grouping arrangements, and the absorption of the smaller companies into the larger. The Stock Exchange market is itself making fresh geographical arrangements. Hitherto there have been two distinct departments in which ordinary, including preferred and deferred stocks, have been negotiated; one part comprising the North-Western, Midland, South-Western, Great Western, and two or three other stocks; the other being termed the Brighton market, and including within its compass such stocks as North-Eastern, Caledonian, North British, Brighton, South-Eastern, Great Northern, Chatham, and a dozen others. The markets for Home Railway debenture, preference, rent-charge, and guaranteed stocks are separate altogether from that which is interested in the ordinary stocks, and the curious part about the Home Railway prior-charge market is that none of its jobbers stand within even arm's length. The firms engaged in this business are situated many yards away from one another; it is the only market in the House where dealers in the same stocks are not to be found cheek by jowl. These prior-charge Home Railway jobbers will find their ranks considerably augmented on Tuesday through the accession of a number of dealers, who hitherto have confined their energies to Home Railway ordinary; that is, preferred and deferred, as well as ordinary stocks, but who recognise that, as the grouping system curtails the number of the securities in which they can deal, it is as well to add the prior-charge securities to the few ordinary stocks that remain. How the public will take the new departure is something of a problem. There has been a certain amount of buying in advance, although the carry-over on Wednesday in this week demonstrated that, so far as North-Westerns are concerned, there is no bull account open. In fact, the probability is that, if tested, the market will be found short of stock. Nor did the contango rates give the impression that there is much of a bull account in other Home Rails, so that it may well be that, when dealing begins in the new groups on Tuesday morning, the prices will wear a sufficiently tempting appearance to cause a certain amount of speculative buying on the hope that this comparatively new market will attract public attention. January is, of course, about the best month which any market could choose for starting operations. Although the date comes about by mere accident, the greater readiness to embark upon financial adventures which invariably ushers in a New Year, should be borne in mind by holders of Home Railway stocks who know that they may have to sell, and who are looking out for an opportune moment in which to do so. Home Railway debenture stocks pay a trifle under 5 per cent. on the money, the preferences a little more, rent-charge and guaranteed stocks yield about $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The market complains that the heavy stamp duty of 1 per cent. on transfer deeds is enough to kill public interest, but in point of fact, a good deal of trade is going on, in spite of the handicap which the stamp-duty involves; the investors who prefer not to buy War Loan on account of the possibility of its being paid off, in one way or another in 1929, are content to buy these Home Railway debentures at prices which give a return of a few shillings less than that to be derived from the War stock itself. The debenture, preference and other pre-ordinary stocks, are, of course, subject to money influences for their movements. The prices are controlled by the bank rate, and by the movements in the Consol market. They have little to do with politics or traffics, though it may be recalled that the capital levy talk, just before the last General Election, caused something of a tremor in the lists of these issues.

They can be regarded, however, as outside the scope of any speculative consideration. The ordinary, on the other hand, hold a good deal of speculative possibility. Conceivably, the new arrangement and the market operations that will result therefrom, may make a lively appeal to the imagination of the public investor and speculator alike. It might be dangerous to forecast anything like activity in the market, inasmuch as the investor cannot shake off the fear of labour troubles, and the chance of there being a Labour Parliament. Leaving these two factors out of account, however, there is something to be said in favour of Home Railway stocks, and the investor who does not mind a dash of speculation is beginning to realise the opportunity which the rearrangement of the market stocks, on Tuesday next, will afford him.

Security Values.—The current issue of the *Bankers' Magazine* contains the usual monthly valuation of Stock Exchange securities, which shows a decline in the market value of 387 representative securities in December of 0.7 per cent. A review is also given of the past year, and it is pointed out that "there have been few years when the rise in public securities has been so remarkable as in 1922." Since December, 1921, there has been a net improvement of no less than £712 millions, or 13.2 per cent., in the market value of the 387 securities, 94 fixed stocks increasing by £395 millions, or 11 per cent., and 293 variable dividend securities by £317 millions, or 17.6 per cent. During the first half of the year interest centred almost entirely in British Funds and kindred stocks, and in those departments end-of-the-year prices are mostly well below the best. In the case of variable dividend securities interest has been quickened, more especially during the latter half of the year, and prices at the end of December are not much below the best. The only exception to the net gain in fixed interest securities is in the case of United States gold bonds, where there has been a sagging tendency later in the year. British Funds retain a net increase of 12 per cent., and in home railway debentures and preferences there is a rise of 15 and 25 per cent. respectively. Home railway ordinary stocks are up by 55 per cent., while foreign rails show an increase of 59.5 per cent. on the year. Oil shares show a decrease of 19.4 per cent., and copper mining shares a decrease of 3.6 per cent., but all other sections record a net gain, including one of 34.3 per cent. in the group of 38 commercial industrial shares.

Spain and Morocco.—The new Spanish Liberal Ministry has made an excellent beginning by carrying out the change contemplated by its predecessor in the administration of the Protectorate of the Spanish zone in Morocco. A Civil Commissioner, Don Miguel Villanueva, takes the place of the Military Commissioner, General Burguete, who succeeded General Berenguer after the disastrous reverses of July, 1921; the regular army is gradually to be withdrawn and replaced by a special corps recruited by voluntary enlistment; and the expenditure on the Protectorate, which was the chief element in the increasing Budget deficits, is to be reduced by 75 per cent. The military operations had imposed an intolerable strain on the Spanish nation. The cost of "action in Morocco" in 1919-20 was estimated at 143 million pesetas—at par, £5,720,000; for 1920-21 at 173 millions; for 1921-22 at 185 millions; for 1922-23 at 250 millions for military purposes, and 175,000 pesetas for all civil needs; and apart from this there had been increased expenditure on the army, navy, and air force, which was really caused by the operations against the Moors. Moreover, the resentment caused by the drain on the manhood of the nation constituted one of several serious and growing dangers to the stability of Spain. The change had been generally demanded since the disasters of last year, and was pressed for three weeks ago by a remarkable demonstration in Madrid, participated in by all classes and all parties, from Carlists to Communists; but total withdrawal is impossible. However, now that most of the territory lost last year has been recovered, the time has come for conciliation and "peaceful penetration," and the air force, as in Mesopotamia, will probably be relied on as the chief preserver of internal peace.

Chinese Trade and Finance.—China is still the land of paradox, and in spite of floods, local famines, and widespread and complicated civil strife, which has reduced the Central Government to virtual impotence and practical bankruptcy, the Customs revenue and the ostensible value of foreign trade in 1921 were ahead of the record year of 1920. This is brought out in the report just issued by the Overseas Trade Department from the British Commercial Councillor at Peking. The Central Government can now rely only on the maritime Customs and the Salt Gabelle; both are pledged several times over, but are amply sufficient to ensure the service of the foreign loans specially secured on them, though about one-seventh of the latter was intercepted in 1921 by various provincial governors and generals. The debts of the Government railways for supplies, owing to reckless orders for material, suspensions of traffic receipts, and interceptions of cash surpluses, exceed \$40,000,000; the unsecured debts of the Republic amount to \$400,000,000. The Consortium cannot offer a loan till there is internal concord, but its existence operates as a check on further Government borrowing abroad. But a number of minor and unsecured foreign loans have been defaulted on, including the Vickers and Marconi loans held in England and several others raised in the United States and Japan. The internal loans, however, under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Customs, are gradually being paid off. The projected establishment of central and provincial mints to issue a new national silver coinage has been checked by difficulties in payment for the machinery (ordered in the United States) and by the absence of the foreign supervision needed to prevent debasement of the new currency; indeed, the debasement of the copper coinage now going on is causing a rise in the cost of living for the masses and industrial unrest. In 1923, however, the increased Customs tariff will be in operation, and progress will have been made towards the substitution for the likin duty of a Customs surtax, as provided by the Treaty of Washington, so that the financial strain may be somewhat eased. Trade prospects are clouded by the possibility of strikes—which, though to some extent stimulated by political agitators, are largely due to the rise in the cost of living and to the custom of payment through middlemen—by the interruptions in railway and steamer traffic, and by the failure to keep up such metalled roads as exist. Yet, but for the prevalent unrest and the native jealousy of foreign technical and administrative aid, and of official encouragement (where given), there are great possibilities for native manufacture. At Shanghai, Tsingtao, Tientsin, and to some extent at Hankow, there is considerable development in nearly thirty industries, notably in textiles, tobacco, vegetable oils, hair-nets (in Shantung), electric light and power, and shipbuilding, and efforts are being made to stimulate the production of cotton and tobacco; but the textile manufacture is not likely to decrease the import of the finer goods which Lancashire sends. Mining prospects have been exaggerated, as have those of petroleum production. The sterling value of imports and exports has been reduced by the rise in exchange; but export figures of 1919, owing partly to the currency conditions in Europe. China tea has been diverted through teas in Continental countries, while green tea is finding a new and expanding market in Morocco. The Germans, through their customary methodical study and application, are regaining their commercial position; but imports will be stimulated by the Europeanisation of the upper classes, and the British position is probably stronger than ever. The network of the old firms who established it is now supplemented by younger firms, by the large distributing companies, and by important engineering combines; and its future is secured by the high reputation of British goods for quality, and of British traders for fair dealing. Advice is given on trade methods, and the report affords a striking testimony to the vitality of the Chinese people.

The Rand December Dividends.—Our Mining correspondent writes:—For shareholders in Witwatersrand mining companies the year 1922 has been an eventful one. The labour troubles of the early part of the year, with their disastrous culmination of revolution and bloodshed, need only be referred to now as explanatory of the poor showing which the dividends for the whole of the year make as compared with the total in respect of 1921. Consequent upon the stoppage of production for a period of something like two months, with expenses to a large extent going on just the same, about one-half the companies were unable to declare any distributions on account of the first session; while others, although more fortunate, could only pay on a considerably reduced scale. After the passing of the trouble a new era set in. The mine managers found themselves once again, to a large extent, masters in their own houses; and not only were wages reduced, but a substantial increase in efficiency followed on the part both of the white and of the native workers. In addition, the companies began to feel the benefit of reduced charges for stores and materials. The improved profits resulting from these changed conditions, in conjunction with the anticipation of better things still to come, occasioned an outbreak of speculative activity in the share market. Securities of a sound dividend-paying character appreciated; even the shares of dormant mines—little better than gambling counters—were eagerly rushed after on the possibility that in the new circumstances it might be possible to raise fresh funds and thus resume work. As so frequently happens in Stock Exchange experience, however, the unexpected happened. Each year since the gold premium came into existence the maximum level has been attained towards the end of the year in connection with the trade balance between this country and the United States. On the present occasion the price of gold has progressively fallen. It now stands at about 89s per fine ounce, as against 92s 6d in June. Naturally, this partially offsets the reduction in working costs, although we are approaching the stage where the question of the exchange between this country and South Africa tends largely to neutralise any further decline in the currency price of gold. The net outcome of these various influences is that for the past six months the majority of the companies have been able either to maintain or to improve upon their declarations for the second half of 1921. Below is presented a tabulation showing the totals for the past two complete years, with the three last half-yearly declarations:—

Company.	Total, 1921.	Total, 1922.	Dec., 1921.	June, 1922.	Dec., 1922.
Brakpan.....	30	20	15	..	20
City Deep.....	37½	27½	17½	7½	20
Consolidated Langlaagte	12½	5	7½	..	5
Consolidated Main Reef	8½	6½	5	..	6½
Crown Mines.....	32½	40	22½	5	35
Geduld Proprietary....	17½	16½	10	6½	10
Government G.M. Areas	55	50	30	20	30
Langlaagte Estate....	12½	7½	7½	..	7½
Meyer and Charlton....	100	100	50	50	50
Modderfontein "B" ..	95	85	55	30	55
Modderfontein Deep ..	150	120	85	50	70
New Kleinfontein....	5	..	5	..	..
New Modderfontein....	92½	70	50	20	50
New Primrose.....	12½	5	7½	..	5
New Unified.....	10	..	5	..	..
Nourse Mines.....	6½	7½	3½	2½	5
Robinson Deep "A" ..	..	4½	..	..	4½
Robinson Gold.....	2	..	1	..	..
Rose Deep.....	15	11½	7½	5	6½
Simmer and Jack....	2½	..	2½	..	..
Spring Mines.....	15	15	7½	..	15
Sub Nigel.....	8½	7½	5	3½	3½
Van Ryn Gold.....	12½	12½	5	5	7½
Van Ryn Deep.....	60	40	30	10	30
Village Deep.....	10	7½	6½	..	7½
Witwatersrand Deep ..	5	25	..	5	20
Witwatersrand Gold ..	25	20	15	5	15
Central Mining.....	7½	7½	3½	3½	3½
Johannesburg Consol.	10	7½	..	7½	..
New Era Consolidated.	10	12½	10	..	12½
Rand Mines.....	70	100	35	20	80
Rand Selection Corpn..	27½	22½	12½	..	22½

* Tax free.
This table does not include declarations made at dates other than June and December.

Baldwins' Report.—The accounts of Baldwins, Limited, for the year ended June 30th last show that, while there was a further substantial drop in profits, the issue of £2,250,000 7½ per cent. debenture stock made in the preceding financial year, now ranks for full interest, total debenture interest requiring £157,800, as against but £24,200 in the previous year. The balance available, after payment of preference dividend, is thus reduced from £244,700 to £5,700. From the table below it will be seen that payment of an ordinary dividend from the balance brought forward would have been possible, but the directors take the wiser course of keeping this balance in hand:—

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit	442,900	554,997	683,405	410,758	306,132
Net profit	359,043	471,139	567,023	325,167	86,993
Brought forward	156,969	255,139	285,799	291,325	303,479
	516,012	726,270	852,822	616,492	390,472
Reserve	75,000	75,000	75,000	25,000	..
Preference dividend....	13,750	13,750	45,667	80,476	81,394
Ordinary dividend.....	153,790	351,729	440,830	207,537	..
	(11½ %)	(12½ %)	(12½ %)	(5 %)	..
Carried forward.....	273,473	285,799	201,325	303,479	309,178

The net profit is shown after making an allowance of £50,000, the same as in the previous year, for depreciation, but the reserve fund receives no allocation. The balance-sheet, however, shows an improvement in the general position. From the detailed analysis, which appears on another page, it will be seen that both creditors and debtors have been substantially reduced, while cash and gilt-edged stocks have risen from £116,400 to £427,400. Shareholders will be asked, at the meeting on Thursday next, to re-elect the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Horne, who has recently joined the board, and been appointed vice-chairman of the company.

British American Tobacco.—The report of the British American Tobacco Company for the year ended September 30th last shows a recovery in profits after last year's setback, and with the exception of the year 1919-20 the total of £4,400,800 is the highest on record. As will be seen from the comparative table below, the dividend is raised from 24 to 25 per cent., free of British income-tax, and that the payment requires considerably more than the 30 per cent. distributed for five consecutive years, when the ordinary capital was much smaller:—

	Sept. 30.	1914.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Profits, &c.....	2,177,022	2,733,361	3,105,002	3,140,174	3,776,508	4,879,177	4,323,481	4,400,784	4,400,784
Prof. div'nd.....	188,297	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Ord. div'nd.....	1,532,308	1,913,354	1,876,296	1,876,296	2,155,774	3,745,492	3,842,483	4,010,709	4,010,709
	(24½ %)	(30 % & bs)	(30 %)	(30 %)	(30 %)	(30 %)	(24½ %)	(25 %)	(25 %)
To reserve.....	1,500,000	nil	257,228	nil	nil	nil	nil	Dr 122,200	..
Balance.....	Dr 104,358	595,007	746,478	1,038,878	1,394,734	908,685	255,788	1,387,075	1,387,075
B'ght for'd.....	1,973,902	1,148,157	1,780,222	1,966,700	3,005,578	727,778	1,634,200	1,889,877	1,889,877
Car'd for'd.....	930,319	1,743,164	2,526,700	3,005,578	4,400,312	1,636,463	1,890,188	3,276,952	3,276,952

The sum of £1,222,000 is withdrawn from the general reserve of £1,500,000 set up in 1914 to provide against possible losses arising from the war and not now required, the remaining £278,000 having been charged off. The directors do not disclose the reason for this transfer, and as will be seen the profits earned were more than sufficient to pay the dividend, and the carry forward is increased to the enormous total of £3,277,000. The balance-sheet shows a reduction of nearly a million in advances to associated companies, and stocks are down by over £2 millions, but cash has risen from £2½ to £4½ millions. A detailed analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in the usual column.

Cotton Trade Statistics.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—For some time the employers in the spinning section of the Lancashire cotton industry have discussed the desirability of obtaining weekly statistics as to the production, sales and deliveries of yarn made from American cotton. The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations decided to take a ballot of the members on this question, and it is now announced that

the majority were willing to give the details required. Forms are being sent to the members, and each firm will be known by number instead of by name. It is anticipated that the data, when obtained, will be of assistance to the general committee on occasions when the state of trade has to be considered. Owing to the trade depression, the spinning mills in Lancashire using American cotton have worked only 35 hours a week instead of 48 since the end of September. It has been decided to continue this organised short time until the end of January. Before that time expires a ballot of the members will be taken to decide whether the organised curtailment of production should be continued.

Conditions in Japan.—According to recent cable advices from Japan, money has continued to flow to the Osaka market, while its return from the provinces was very slow where credits for purchasing rice were demanded. Meanwhile, the suspension of payment by several small banks has caused some uneasiness in the market. In these circumstances, the banks have naturally been very cautious in giving credit. Little business has been done in the short-loan market. Day-to-day money was quoted at 8½ per cent, and time credit over the end of the year was steady at about 9½ per cent, while the discount rate remained firm. The general tension of the market, however, has been quietened. Though the undertone of the stock market was inactive, there were signs of a rally. The cotton yarn market continues comfortable. The silk market was idle after much business had been done during the early part of the month. The price of rice fell as a result of increased arrivals in the market. Foreign trade has continued dull in the last two weeks, the great improvement in the rate of the sterling exchange having had no real influence.

The council of the Royal Statistical Society will in November, 1923, award the Frances Wood Memorial Prize, value £30. The prize will be awarded for the best investigation of any problem dealing with the economic or social conditions of the wage-earning classes, the subject to be chosen by the competitor and to be treated on statistical lines. Theses submitted or intended to be submitted as university exercises, and also published papers, are admissible. Essays (which must be either printed or typed, and accompanied by copies of all statistical tabulations), must be sent to the honorary secretaries of the Royal Statistical Society, 9 Adelphi terrace, W.C. 2, not later than July 1, 1923.

The executive committee of the National Reform Union have elected Mr Richard D. Holt, of Liverpool, to succeed the late Mr A. Gordon C. Harvey as president. Mr Holt has for many years been a vice-president of the Union.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—FINAL COTTON CROP REPORT—INCREASED COTTON CONSUMPTION—ANOTHER RAILROAD MERGER PLAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 15.

THE Government's final cotton crop report, estimating this year's production at 9,964,000 bales, caused no commotion in the market for the staple or in cotton goods circles, because the figures were very close to expert expectations. If the Government's estimate, published this week, proves to be correct, the crop will be the smallest in 20 years, barring last season's exceptionally small yield. Its value, however, based on December 1st farm prices, is figured at more than \$1,134,000,000, making it the fourth most valuable cotton crop ever grown in this country. On the first of this month the farm price averaged 23.8 cents per lb, a level exceeded only in 1917, 1918, and 1919. Although the acreage planted to cotton this year was large, the boll weevil caused extensive damage, and drought in many

sections was an additional factor. South Carolina and Georgia suffered more than did other cotton-growing States, their production having been only about 40 per cent. of the average for the five years 1916 to 1920. This year's crop compares with 8,340,000 bales last year and 12,987,000 in 1920. Since the publication of the Government's report, prices of the staple advanced rather sharply for a while, and then reacted, leaving spot cotton about 1 cent a lb below the year's highest point—namely, 26.80 cents, which was reached early in November. In the cotton goods trade and industry, the consensus of opinion seemed to be that the final estimate removed whatever hopes may have been entertained of any sustained lower prices for raw cotton. Accordingly, demand for print cloths and grey goods has quickened considerably in the past few days, and the market for unfinished cloths has stiffened materially. It is calculated that the world's requirements of American cotton for the season ending with next July will amount to about 12,500,000 bales, or approximately 2,500,000 bales more than the yield now predicted by the Government. In this connection it may be noted that, according to the latest report of the Census Bureau, cotton consumption for November was larger than in any month since January, 1920, reflecting the heavy business transacted in cotton goods a few months ago. Most of the leading mills were operating close to capacity last month, and the greater consumption was due in a measure to the resumption of activity by New England mills, following the termination of the prolonged strike in that section. Cotton on hand at November 30th in public storage and at compresses totalled 4,198,095 bales of lint and 21,654 bales of linters, as compared with 4,329,902 of lint and 18,612 of linters on October 31st, and with 5,292,941 and 177,378 respectively on November 30th of last year. Active spindles in November numbered 34,664,630, as against 33,859,076 in October of this year and 34,428,339 in November of 1921. If consumption continues at the present rate, an actual scarcity of cotton seems likely to develop later on. Naturally, a great deal depends upon the extent to which high prices may check by spinners.

Following the completion of negotiations whereby the Toledo, St Louis and Western, the New York, Chicago and St. Louis, and the Lake Erie and Western are to be consolidated and operated as one system, comes the report that the same interests which control those railroads have secured an option on a majority of the Chesapeake and Ohio stock, with a view to adding the latter to the group mentioned. The acquisition of the Chesapeake and Ohio would mean that the interests referred to would control approximately 4,280 miles of railway, which would constitute one of the largest systems in the East, reaching tidewater at Fort Monroe, Vancouver, and rich coalfields in the East. The Chesapeake and Ohio operates more than 2,500 miles of track; it has outstanding \$12,558,500 6½ per cent. cumulative preferred stock and \$62,792,600 common stock. In its tentative plans for the consolidation of the railroads of the country into different groups the Interstate Commerce Commission placed the first three roads mentioned in the same group, but put the Chesapeake and Ohio in another way. Whether or not the proposed acquisition of the Chesapeake and Ohio will be sanctioned by the Commerce Commission is uncertain.

FRANCE.—GERMANY'S DEFAULT—BUDGET DEBATE—FOREIGN TRADE—THE PROPERTY OF FOREIGNERS—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 27.

THE decision of the Reparation Commission, on Tuesday, formally to notify the Allied Governments that Germany has been guilty of "deliberate failure" to deliver to France the timber called for by the Commission on March 30th last, was the last formal step necessary before M. Poincaré could call on the other Allied Governments to bring into operation coercive measures against the common debtor. Juridically, if the French interpretation

of the Treaty of Versailles is correct, there is now nothing to prevent M. Poincaré, at the resumption of the Inter-Allied Conference on January 2nd, from demanding that the Four Powers shall take common coercive action against their debtor, and nothing, in the event of any of them refusing to co-operate, to prevent the French from occupying the Ruhr, or taking such other independent action as they may think fit. M. Poincaré has repeatedly, during the past few weeks, asserted that France intends to take action—"with her Allies, if possible, but if not with them, then alone." The Premier and his colleagues spent Christmas week in perfecting the programme that is to be adopted, and it is generally understood—although the details will be kept strictly secret until they are made known at next week's conference—that one of the principal means of pressure to be exercised will be the seizure of the mines and other economic assets in the Ruhr.

The real obstacle between France and her Reparation payments, it has long been realised, is the German industrial class, led by Herr Stinnes. The Ruhr is the nerve centre of German industrialism, and it is argued that, once the coal supply and the means of transport out of the Ruhr are under French control, it will not be long before Herr Stinnes and his colleagues will be ready to come to terms. At the worst, by seizing the coal mines, the railways, the Customs, &c., the French will assure themselves of ample coal for their metallurgical and other vital industries. The argument that British and American capital has been largely invested in the Ruhr since the armistice, and that this may lead to complications, is now completely disregarded here, or, if referred to at all, is regarded merely as one more reason why the Poincaré policy should be put into operation. Self-interest, it is felt, may induce Great Britain and America to try and induce Germany to carry out her obligations, although the moral and material claims of France have fallen on deaf ears. M. Clemenceau is reported to have said that he fears any kind of occupation of the Ruhr might lead to strikes, but it may be taken for granted that the French plans have not been laid without taking this possibility into consideration. It has been suggested that such a difficulty might be got over by arranging for the German miner to be paid in francs. This method has long been in force in the Saar area, with astonishingly good results, and probably accounts largely for the remarkably tranquil condition of that district.

The Chambers will adjourn at the end of this week for the customary New Year recess, which will last, as provided by the Constitution, until the second Tuesday in January. As was expected, it has been found impossible to complete the Budget discussion by the end of the year, even in the Chamber, and the universally condemned system of Votes on Account has again had to be resorted to. The Government decided to ask for two *douzièmes provisoires*, to provide money till the end of February, and these, amounting to over 4,000,000,000f, were to-day voted by the Chamber. So far as the Budget of Recoverable Expenditure is concerned, the Chamber decided that the Crédit National shall be authorised to issue a further 3,000,000,000f of bonds to meet the expenditure for the devastated regions for the next six months, and that the amount to be paid to *sinistrés* during January and February shall be limited to 1,000,000,000f, instead of to 600,000,000f as originally recommended.

The Finance Commission of the Chamber having decided that M. de Lasteyrie's proposals for the control of income-tax declarations "by external signs" (by which he estimated to secure an additional 550,000,000f during 1923) were unworkable, other means have had to be found for reducing the estimated deficit for 1923. The Finance Minister now proposes to reduce the amount which it was agreed in 1920 should be repaid annually to the Bank of France in respect of advances made by it to the State. These advances now stand at 23,400,000,000f, and it was agreed in 1920 that they should be reduced by two milliards at the end of each year, accompanied, of course, by a corresponding reduction in the note issue. Unfortunately, it has not yet been found possible to carry out this agreement. As M. Bokanowski explains in his report to the Finance Commission, the agreement was first made with the bank at a period when it was expected that



**LONDON COUNTY
WESTMINSTER
& PARR'S BANK LTD**

Established in 1836

AFFILIATED ABROAD

London County Westminster & Parr's Foreign Bank Ltd
Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes,
Brussels, Antwerp, Madrid

Affiliated in Ireland: Ulster Bank Limited

THE BANK is represented by Branches or Agents
in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United
Kingdom, & has Correspondents throughout the World

Head Office
41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

Germany, on May 1, 1921, would make a payment of 20,000,000,000 gold marks to the Allies, and when she was pledged to make complete reparation. As Germany did not pay, the amount repaid to the bank was last year reduced by one-half, and for the same reason the Commission recommends that a similar course should be taken this year. "Nothing could be more dangerous," M. Bokanowski insists, "than a policy of deflation under present conditions." That there was a sharp division of opinion in the Commission is evident from the fact that the Finance Minister's proposal was approved only by six members, the remaining nine abstaining, in spite of the fact that the recommendation sets forth that the reduction shall be regarded as "exceptional." The advocates of deflation in the Chamber are likely to offer strong opposition when the proposal finally comes up for decision, but it is difficult to see from what other source the money needed to reduce the estimated deficit to reasonable proportions is to be derived.

The French foreign trade returns are now growing increasingly unsatisfactory, and showing a greater excess of imports month by month. The comparative returns for the first 11 months of 1921 and 1922 are as follows:—

	IMPORTS.			
	(In Thousands of Francs.)			
	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.	
Foodstuffs	5,071,000 ..	5,171,297 ..	+ 100,297	
Raw materials	9,977,899 ..	12,144,165 ..	+ 2,166,266	
Manufactured goods..	4,441,585 ..	3,661,843 ..	- 779,742	
Total	19,490,484 ..	20,977,305 ..	+ 1,486,821	
	EXPORTS.			
	1921.	1922.		
Foodstuffs	1,900,472 ..	1,671,720 ..	- 228,752	
Raw materials	3,808,213 ..	4,258,281 ..	+ 450,068	
Manufactured goods ..	11,296,603 ..	10,740,211 ..	- 556,392	
Postal parcels	1,073,109 ..	1,992,832 ..	+ 119,723	
Total	18,078,397 ..	17,863,044 ..	- 215,353	

During the last 11 months imports have exceeded exports by 3,114,216,000f, as compared with only 1,412,087,000f during the corresponding period of 1921. The adverse balance for November was 642,000,000f, as against 171,000,000f in October and 152,000,000f in September.

The whole status of foreign residents in France, so far as the ownership of real estate is concerned, is threatened with profound modification by a Bill which provides that foreigners and foreign companies who desire to acquire property in this country or to conclude leases of more than nine years' duration must first obtain Government authorisation. Applications for authorisation must be made within two months of the period when the applicant becomes entitled to the property or the lease, and it is laid down that decisions on each application shall be given, on the report of the Minister of the Interior, within two months after application. The most objectionable feature of the Bill, perhaps, is that it is retroactive, it being en-

acted that all foreign property owners, life tenants, or leaseholders who have more than nine years to run must comply with the new law within six months of its promulgation. Leases still having more than nine years' life are *ipso facto* reduced to this period. If authorisation is refused, notice will be given to the applicant to alienate his property forthwith. It may seem incredible, but this astonishing Bill was actually voted by the Chamber of Deputies, without discussion, on November 6th (although it has yet to come before the Senate), and it was not until the publication of the text recently, in the *Journal Officiel*, that attention was called to it. A storm of adverse criticism has arisen, both from French and foreign sources, against the narrow nationalism that has dictated such a measure, which, it is claimed, aims at placing foreigners in the position they occupied before the law of 1819, since when they have been entitled to acquire, hold, transmit and dispose of real estate without restriction. A good deal of mystery exists as to the means by which the measure passed unnoticed through the Chamber.

The Bourse last week was firm, though there have not been any sensational developments, and in the opinion of experts there is reason to look forward to a continuance of high prices owing in the main to the abundance of money, which will become a more marked factor within the next few weeks owing to the payment of dividends. French funds have risen, the 1914 Three and a-half per cents. moving from 77.05 to 78.75, and the other State securities showing a similar improvement. Banks have been in demand, the Banque de France hardening from 5,950 to 5,980, and the Banque de l'Union Parisienne from 744 to 750. Railways have registered a further sharp advance, Est rising from 802 to 844, Metropolitan from 461 to 488, Midi from 813 to 822, Nord from 1,245 to 1,314, and Orléans from 915 to 928. Shipping has moved similarly, Messageries moving from 212 to 220 and Chargeurs Français from 668 to 678. Chargeurs Réunis lost a point at 480.

GERMANY.—A REVIEW OF 1922.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 26.

THE year now closing brought to Germany very much worse currency depreciation, with all the inevitable inconveniences for the State and for large classes of citizens than any of the three preceding post-war years; and at the same time brought a distinct improvement in general economic conditions, in particular in industry and trade. Industry and trade, it is true, were also not spared inconveniences arising from the currency deterioration; but, in spite of the bad currency, in part (for certain interests) because of it, and sometimes independently of it, progress towards restoration of production and distribution continued. Although there is no clear proof that even worse currency depreciation must be accompanied by a general economic crisis, the particular fear of business is that a restoration of sound money, which is admittedly in the wider national and European interest, will cause at least a temporary set-back to the productive activity which has now continued without a break since the autumn of 1920. The noteworthy, but in no way surprising, fact at the end of 1922 is that the producing and trading classes, which would certainly be ruined by the general economic crash supposed to be involved by bad money, show, less than any other class, zeal for the restoration of good money, while the State, the middle classes, and the pure-capitalistic interest agree, somewhat helplessly, that good money, by which is meant a currency stabilised in gold value, at however low a rate, is an immediate, overwhelming need.

The mark exchange, which, after relative stability in 1920, fell badly in 1921, fell much worse in the past year. In both years (though this was a coincidence) the mark collapse began in the early summer and ended in early November. But whereas in all 1921 the dollar rose only from a low point of 55 to 310, in 1922 it rose from 182 to 9,172, or about eight times as much. The relative price-rise was still greater. In early 1921, gold prices in the

world markets fell, and the German price-rise in the whole year (*Frankfurter Zeitung's* Index), was from 2,130 to 4,217. On December 1, 1922, the index figure was 166,495; but as single commodities, and also unofficial weekly price indexes for December show price falls, the index figure for January 1 will probably show a moderate drop. As in the first 11 months, the dollar exchange rose 51-fold, and commodities nearly 40-fold, there is a fairly close correspondence; but prices, having begun the year behind world-market prices, ended the year behind, with the possible exception of textiles, certain kinds of heavy iron and steel, and, of course, imported goods. The greatest price-rise was in the textiles and leather groups, which, on December 1st, was 266,322, or 2,663-fold, pre-war rates, while manufactured articles rose only to 118,385, or 1,184-fold.

The currency inflation of 1922 was much the greatest recorded. It represented (1) the State demand for credit, due to the fact that the price-rise sent up expenditure much more rapidly than revenue (although revenue also rose rapidly), and this credit was obtained by discounting Treasury bills, most of which, owing to the money market stringency, remained on the Reichsbank's hands; and (2) the private demand for credit, due to the insufficiency of monetary resources of ever-smaller buying power, to finance production and trade, this being expressed mainly in a revival of the commercial bill, which almost disappeared during the war. While the Reichsbank's holding of discounted commercial bills increased up to December 15th about 350-fold, the holding of Treasury bills increased little over six-fold, but here also, measured by 1921, when this entry only doubled, the increase was very great. Further, there was a great increase in Darlehnskasse advances on bonds, stocks and goods, the total of outstanding advances on December 15th being over 191 milliards. The note circulation, by end of the year, will have considerably exceeded one billion, and will have increased more than ten-fold, as against an increase of five-fold in all three preceding post-war years. The bank's position (in millions of marks) was:—

	Circulation.	Deposits.	Commercial Bills.	Treasury Bills.
Average 1913	1,958	793	1,490	
End 1918	22,188	13,280	27,415	
" 1920	68,805	22,327	60,634	
" 1921	104,567	32,905	1,061	132,330
Dec. 15, 1922	970,202	334,981	351,887	828,742

The movement of Federal finances has been described weekly in these columns. Summarised, the finances may be said to have improved materially in the first months of the year, the determining factors being the stable mark, which until late in June stood higher than in November, 1921, the moderate price rise, with its moderating effect on current expenditure, and the rapid increase in revenue, due to the all-round rise in values in late 1921. The ratio of deficit to expenditure fell from month to month; railways actually showed a small surplus; and the view of the Finance Minister that 1922-23 would have produced a considerable surplus had only the mark remained stable and the resulting violent price-rise upset these calculations; and there is an estimated deficit of 844,300 million undertakings, and fulfilment of the Peace Treaty—in the whole financial year. No funded loan was raised; and as the current deficits, with the exception of a small yield from the forced loan, were covered entirely by floating debt operations, the total debt increased greatly:—

	(Millions of Marks.)	Funded.	Floating.	Total.
March 31, 1914	4,918	..	..	4,918
January 1, 1922	78,505	..	260,303	338,808
November 30, 1922 ..	64,423	..	1,166,046	1,230,469

How far this is a real debt depends upon the ultimate treatment of the currency. In gold, at present exchange, the whole capital liability is a mere fraction of the interest paid annually on debt by other great European countries; and if the example of Austria, which has decided to repay the whole war debt in paper crowns of present gold value, is taken, the German State will, at the cost of its home

and foreign loan and Treasury bill creditors, be easily freed from debt.

The condition of industry and trade has been good. The last three months have seen a certain set-back, which, if judged by employment figures, is less marked than the set-back of late 1921. The number of unemployed, which was 429,000 in March, 1921, fell in 1922 without a break to under 12,000; and in the late summer the percentage of unemployed in trade unions fell to 0.6, or a quarter of the pre-war average. The last report shows 1.4 per cent., which is about a third of the pre-war average of winter months. At present business is distinctly slackening. Former currency collapses stimulated home buying. The latest currency collapse at first had the same effect; but the money in the hands of the people increased so very much less rapidly than prices increased that inability to buy has been for some time observed; and the remedy, inflation, could not be applied fast enough. Whereas the buying power of the Reichsbank's note circulation on January 1, 1922, was equal to that of 2,500,000,000 gold marks before the war, the buying power of the circulation on December 1st was equal to only 580,000,000 gold marks. Here was experienced the same state of affairs as in Russia, where industry was lately pressing the Finance Commissariat to accelerate inflation. In October and November the supply of cash was hopelessly inadequate; and the banks had to ration their clients. Industry was further hampered by shortage of working capital; and the first reductions of output reported in the autumn were ascribed to this factor, and not to inability to sell. The buying power of new industrial capital in 1922 was very much less than that of 1921, although there was a large nominal increase. In 1921, existing companies raised 19,229 million marks and new companies 6,526 millions; in January-November, 1922, existing companies raised 34,352 millions and new companies 10,644 millions.

Other difficulties were labour and fuel. In the summer the heavy industries could have employed 50,000 more hands. Housing shortage and restrictions upon freedom of settlement imposed by this shortage prevented the movement of unemployed to districts short of labour. Although a great deal of industrial construction was done, particularly in the early part of the year, few dwelling houses, other than villas, are built; and the housing famine is acuter than ever. Against the fuel shortage were employed better technical methods, and inferior fuels are consumed with ever-greater success, but the factors of labour and housing, and also the difficulty of capitalising new mines, prevented any considerable increase in the coal output. The output of Ruhr coal, which in 1913 was 114,550,000 tons, 88,256,000 tons in 1920, and 94,115,000 tons in 1921, was 47,000,000 tons in the first six months of 1922. In later months the per diem output increased materially. Other industries report a very considerable increase in individual output, due to improving technical methods and plant and to better work, as a result, it seems, of the disappearance of the revolutionary ferment, of smoother working by the Factory Councils, of better social conditions, and of the progressive recovery of workers from the bad effects of war-life upon their technical skill. Many individual concerns report higher per capita output than before the war, but upon this point the data are fragmentary.

Money was increasingly tight during the year, with a slight relaxation in the last weeks. The Reichsbank's rate was raised, without effect, to 10 per cent. Both by commercial practice and by judicial decisions the paper mark lost its unqualified validity as currency; and was ever more replaced by more stable currencies in foreign and home trade; and although the home use was in the end prohibited the dollar exchange continues to determine home mark prices. Owing to stringency of money, stocks did not, as in former years, rise in proportion to the currency depreciation; and to-day's quotations average about 15 times as high as those of early January, although the gold value of the currency has fallen more than twice as much. The latest stock index shows 469,593, against 30,071 at the beginning of the year, and 5,424 on September 1, 1919. The chief stock rise took place late in the year. Federal, and in less measure State loans, which changed little in nominal quotation during the earlier years of currency depreciation, this year had

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
With Branches in Ceylon, F.M.S., India, Dutch East Indies, Canada, Japan, and elsewhere.
Agents and Secretaries of
TEA, RUBBER, AND OTHER PRODUCE ESTATES.

great rises; but municipal bonds did not participate. Movements of the year were:—

	Dec. 30, 1921.	Dec. 15, 1922.
War Loan	77.50	80.75
Federal 4 per Cents.	87.75	430
" 3½ per Cents.	72.75	258
" 3 per Cents.	103.25	1,050
Colonial 4 per Cents.	106	5,000
Savings and Premium	84	150
Prussian 3 per Cents.	56.50	363
Bavarian 4 per Cents.	64	195
Berlin 4 per Cents.	95	105

Prospects for 1923 are uncertain. Although temporary recoveries of the mark exchange may occur at any time, a lasting recovery, or relative stability, seems possible only in case of a settlement of the Reparations question; and if such a settlement comes, a formal mark stabilisation at around the lowest attained level seems practicable. This must be accompanied by the buying up of the large mark currency interests outside Germany; because as long as these interests remain, every event shaking confidence in Germany's future is likely to produce a new mark fall. Whether, if Reparations payments are postponed, a foreign payment can be established is a doubtful point. The present considerable excess of import values seems to have been made possible by the decrease in current gold liabilities abroad, which results from the fall in mark exchange; and in fact the mark exchange depreciation works as an encouragement of unnecessary imports. If no reform of the currency takes place, private business will probably continue to adapt itself to unstable values; and while it is not safe to predict that still more extreme currency depreciation than the present may not cause a general collapse, it seems, from past experience, unsafe to predict the contrary.

DENMARK.—PRICES—AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS—BANKING IMPROVEMENT—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, December 15.

In this country opinions have varied with regard to the future movement of prices. At present the prices are comparatively firm, and the tendency is rather an upward than a downward one. The wholesale price index of the *Finanstidende* shows a rise during November from 180 to 182, and wholesale prices in Denmark are now 82 per cent. above the pre-war level, but 55 per cent. below the level in September, 1920, which was the highest point touched. The increase during November is distributed fairly evenly over the groups of commodities. Only a few articles—for instance, butter and superphosphates—show a decline.

The question of butter prices has been the subject of special interest lately, as depression in the English market is fairly well balanced by an increase in the demand from the U.S.A. *Andelsbladet* stated a few days ago that the immediate demand for Danish butter might apparently obviate a disastrous decline in price like the panic last year at the same time. The local exporters state that the American demand is due to a sudden shortage of the milk supply. In these circumstances, the greatly increased butter duty is no longer a hindrance to imports, and during the week ending December 2nd 170,000 kilos of butter were shipped from here to America.

In this connection it should be stated that the general export of agricultural produce is maintained at a fairly substantial total. The average weekly export of agricultural produce amounts to:—

	1920.	1921.	Nov., 1922.
Butter tons	1,454	1,725	1,906
Eggs 100 scores	533	620	800
Bacon tons	809	1,630	2,365
Meat "	340	141	409

The weekly exports during November, 1922, thus considerably exceeded the weekly average for 1920 and 1921 as far as the quantity is concerned. Otherwise the trade situation is still largely affected by world depression. As regards the shipping trade, however, it should be mentioned that laying-up of ships had practically ceased by the end of August, and, according to the statistics of the Steamship Owners' Association of November 15th, all steamers were then in use, while some sailing vessels were still without freight.

As far as the banks are concerned, a not inconsiderable improvement can be traced, and has, for instance, found expression on the Stock Exchange, the quotations for bank shares having recovered after the depression in September and October. The balance-sheet of the Landmandsbank at November 30th shows, for instance, that the call deposits are continually increasing, and that the decrease in the savings deposits has now ceased, which is rightly taken as a proof of greater confidence on the part of the public as regards the position of the bank. Generally speaking, it may be taken for granted that the bank has overcome the most serious of its difficulties, and that it is gradually settling down to sound and steady working conditions.

On November 25th the note circulation of the National bank had been reduced to the low figure of Kr.414,000,000, but afterwards an increase took place owing to the usual demand at the end of the month and the approaching interest settling day. On December 2nd the figure was Kr.465,000,000, in proportion to which the percentage of cover was 50, while, according to the charter, only one-third of the circulation is required to be covered by the bullion reserve.

The Minister of Finance has again put before the "Rigsdag" the Customs Bill, which was not finished at the last session. The Bill appeared in a practically unchanged form. As to the effects of the Bill, the Minister stated that an annual revenue of Kr.75,000,000 might be estimated on the basis of the imports for the first six months of 1922, while last year the estimated revenue was Kr.66,500,000. The Customs Act now in force has yielded Kr.50,000,000 annually, apart from the new luxury duty which is included in the above Customs Bill. As the imports during the first half of 1922 have been above the normal, the figure of Kr.75,000,000 can presumably hardly be maintained in the long run. The Minister, however, considered that in any case the revenue would not fall below Kr.66,500,000.

The last published returns of Denmark's foreign trade are those for October. During this month the value of imports was Kr.148,000,000, and of exports was Kr.112,000,000, of which Kr.7,000,000 represented the re-exports of foreign goods. During the first ten months of the year total imports amounted to Kr.1,234,000,000, and total exports to Kr.1,000,000,000, of which Kr.52,000,000 represented re-exports. The visible merchandise balance was accordingly Kr.234,000,000 against Denmark. It may be taken for granted, however, that part of this deficit has been covered by the invisible exports—for instance, the freight earnings of the shipping trade, which were somewhat sparse during the first half of the year, but have improved of late.

GREECE.—THE RISE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGES—EXCHANGE CONTROL MEASURES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, December 15.

THE abolition of the Consortium in October last, followed by the partial removal of exchange restrictions, found the rate of exchange on London at around 170 drachmæ to the pound sterling, and the exchange on the other countries at corresponding levels. Since then the rates have, with but small intervals of reaction, steadily increased, that for the London exchange standing now around 400 drachmæ to the

pound sterling, after having touched 422 drachmæ. The continuous increase of the cost of living (calculated now at 1,000 per cent. of that of 1914), ascribed to the great depreciation of the drachmæ, has led the Government to take drastic restrictive measures regarding exchange operations, with the purpose of suppressing speculation, of diminishing imports from abroad, and of controlling the exchange imported in payment of Greek exports to foreign countries. To that effect, a decree has been just published, maintaining and increasing the restrictions already in force since the abolition of the Consortium (see the *Economist* of October 21st). According to the main provisions of that decree, permission to deal in foreign exchange is only accorded to (a) Greek banks which are limited companies; (b) foreign banks established in Greece; and (c) bankers obtaining special licence from the Ministry of National Economy. The exchange imported in payment for exports will be handed to the State, wholly in the case of agricultural products, and partly in the case of industrial and mineral products, through the National Bank of Greece, either directly or by the medium of the other authorised banks. However, for certain articles exported to bordering States payment in kind may be permitted. Moreover, to foster production and the advancement of domestic industry, the obligatory cession to the State of the exchange received in payment for certain exportable articles may be removed, wholly or in part. The exchange thus surrendered to the State will be paid as follows:—For certain articles, at a basic rate for each foreign currency (to be fixed from time to time by the Ministerial Council in consultation with an *ad hoc* Committee, and to remain in force for at least six months); for others, at the basic rates, plus a variable increase (according to the article) of so much per cent. of the difference between the basic rates and those of the free market. That part of exchange representing the value of exports, whose cession to the State is not obligatory, must be sold to the authorised banks within a period to be subsequently fixed, unless it be used for the purchase abroad of raw materials and coal for the needs of the exporter's business. The exchange surrendered to the State will be utilised for the service of the public debt, for other needs of the State, and for the purchase of some articles of prime necessity. The exchange bought by the authorised banks will be sold to the trade and to private individuals for their needs. Forward dealings in exchange are prohibited as a rule, except for such operations as are concluded through the authorised banks and are concerned with genuine commercial transactions. Advances on pledge of foreign currencies, the opening of credits in drachmæ with the guarantee of foreign banks, and the payment of foreign drawings in drachmæ, so far as the corresponding cover in exchange has not been previously received by the drawee, are prohibited. Bank deposits in foreign exchange effected after October 30th are repayable in foreign exchange. Those made before that date are repayable in drachmæ at the free market rates, and may be converted into foreign exchange and exported, only on justified grounds and after permission of the Minister of National Economy. It is further provided that, by decision of the Ministerial Council, the import of certain articles from abroad may be prohibited, wholly or in part. Also, the Ministry of Foodstuffs may undertake the sale of certain articles, either in the form of a monopoly or otherwise. Lastly, an Exchange Control Office is instituted at the Ministry of National Economy.

In connection with these measures, it must be observed that industrial and mineral products are treated favourably as compared with agricultural products, whereas, if any distinction between them was to be made, it should have been in favour of agriculture, which is the principal wealth-producing agent of the country. Also, that shipping earnings, which, with the emigrants' remittances, are in normal times the most important items of invisible exchange imports, are entirely ignored.

Letters to the Editor.

GERMAN REPARATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—There is a universal demand from leaders of commerce all over the world for the final fixing of the amount of German Reparations and the manner of their payment, because these men recognise that until those are determined a return to normal international trading is impossible, and, should the prevailing unstable conditions continue, ruin is inevitable. The situation bristles with thorns, chief among them being the just claims of France for the restoration of devastated areas, destroyed factories, requisitioned machinery, &c. What France needs is francs, or the equivalent. Her claims for material damage should have priority.

Germany, if properly handled, without political agility, will be able to pay for the material damage done. The world-wide purchase of marks by speculators has already made it possible for her to restore and develop her industries, pay for foreign purchases, and invest capital abroad. The inflation of her currency has enabled her to cheat her creditors out of their just dues. In order to stop this inflation it will be necessary to give her a moratorium with a time-limit and credits which shall include a cash payment to France. Investors could only be induced to come forward with the necessary capital for these credits on the strength of German guarantees of good faith, such as receipts of a percentage of Customs Duties, to cover annual interest and sinking fund for these credits. This percentage would be distributed amongst the countries giving the credits. This would necessitate the acquiescence by Germany in a League of Nations receivership for the collection of this percentage from the Government, and for the supervision of the carrying out of the agreement. This percentage would be in addition to that required for the amount fixed for Reparations, and would rank *pari passu* with the charge for Reparations. The latter percentage would be handed back to the German Government during the moratorium. The Governments of creditor countries should offer an investment to their people for these credits in the form most suitable to the respective countries on the basis of internal reforms and "gages productifs." It is essential that this investment should be backed by the guarantee of each individual creditor Government for its own investors.

The common-sense of such a settlement would make a two-fold appeal which would coincide with two natural instincts of humanity, patriotism and self-interest. It would open up foreign markets, check speculations in currency, with their concomitant waste of legal tender money, and open wide the door for a business settlement of inter-Allied Government debts between the creditor and debtor countries concerned. The war has left America the greatest creditor nation in the world. She has emerged from her trade depression with prosperity revived and unemployment cured. But she very badly lacks markets abroad for the export of her raw materials. It is to her interest, therefore, to come in with her invaluable help to Europe, after a workable plan has been arrived at for the settlement of the Reparations question. England, with her tradition for investment of capital abroad, and for generous handling of debtor countries, will now (with this eminently sound Government) play a great part in the European reconstruction. And there is no doubt that America, with her young, clear vision and broad business ability will follow a luminous lead from the Mother Country.—Yours very truly,

D. DRUMMOND FRASER.

Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, December 24, 1922.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have talked with numbers of our publicists about the German reparations and the inter-Allied debts. They cannot be quoted, but with few exceptions they understand that these debts can be paid only in goods and services, and that such payment is precluded by the trade

barriers the nations, ourselves included, have set up. Yet few of them feel inclined to come out and say this baldly and boldly in public.

It would seem indeed true that a man takes his business life in his hands when in this land of the free he says anything that suggests commercial freedom, and few except those who feel they have nothing to lose attempt it.

The American people mean well. Their hearts are well disposed, but their heads are full of economic nonsense. I feel that were Britain, which seems to understand international trade better than we do, to boldly cancel the Allied debts due her it would wake us up. There would be a stormy session, but we really could not afford to see Britain more generous than ourselves in this matter. It would help, too, if in cancelling these debts Britain would plainly state that it was because of the utter uncollectibility of such vast debts, the mere existence of which were paralysing trade, that she took that course.

I have been hoping the United States would take the lead in this, for we alone of the belligerents have no huge external debts to hang over us, but the peculiar economic ideas of our dominant party—and the other one, too, for that matter—have quite discouraged me.

AN AMERICAN FREE TRADER.

New York, December 14th, 1922.

THE CAPITAL LEVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The whole matter at issue appears to be unnecessarily complicated by a mass of phraseology indulged in by both sides, which clears up no single point, and does not serve to enlighten an "ignorant electorate." The issue is nearly always discussed from the industrialist point of view, entirely ignoring the fact that agriculture employs more people than any one other industry in this country.

How is the farmer—in the event of the imposition of a capital levy—to transfer the necessary proportion of his wealth to the State? Usually he owns little capital other than his land (leased or freehold) and his stock and farm implements. There would be no market for these if forced for sale. There is little enough as it is. They cannot be handed over by transfer to the State and put away in safes at the banks, as can investment securities. Any reduction of whatever cash capital the average farmer has will make agriculture less able than ever to feed the present small proportion of the population of this country which it does now feed.

Nationalise the land and parcel it out to farm labourers rent free, to farm as immediate tenants of the State on some novel basis, and the State will be involved in an undertaking the difficulty of which will make the wartime Government control of industries appear as child's play.

The remission of £1 per acre rent will still fail to make corn growing unproductive at the present price of corn. Is it not possible for some of the text-book Socialists and professors ever to think of wealth otherwise than in the terms in which it is translated by the dweller in cities?—I am, &c.,

C. HEWITT.

5 Lothbury, London, E.C. 2,
December 21st, 1922.

ROADS AND WHEELS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Lord Montagu of Beaulieu in a recent issue of *The Times* suggests an expenditure of £50,000,000 now on road improvement. This sum could be so applied, even in our present straitened financial circumstances, as to prove a wise act of statesmanship, providing much-needed employment, if the chaotic conditions into which our roads have been permitted to sink from long neglect are at the same time soundly remedied. Increasingly futile road repairs have already reached the prohibitive cost of 4d per ton per mile, as recently disclosed by Sir William Acworth (other authorities have put it as high even as 6d per mile). Such costly experience has rendered it most obvious that if the dominant cause of road destruction is not first overcome, then the expendi-

ture of fresh capital must become as futile and disappointing in future as our efforts have been in the past. The root cause of this evil is reactionary road shock. As an example, the wheels and axles of the usual commercial lorry consists of one to two tons of unsprung rigid weight. Those wheels act as mechanically driven power hammers, with at usual velocity, when loaded, the equivalent of hundreds of tons of added weight pounding to destruction any road the wit of man has devised. The more solidly the road bed is built the greater the damage to roads and vehicles, simply because "action and reaction are equal and opposite."

When in pre-war times practically every public service motor company had literally and financially shaken itself to pieces, not less than a quarter of a million pounds sterling was expended before it was discovered that in the wheels themselves this reactionary shock could be simply diverted alike from vehicles and roads with "every satisfaction," and with most economical results. This fact was established by some three years' road experience on motor buses—the most crucial of tests. At that time, however, confidence in the future of the industry had sunk to zero. Experience had cost so much there was nothing left then for sound progress. It was alleged that Scotland Yard opposed. Scotland Yard denied the allegation, and offered every facility, but without reciprocal result.

The continued "irritatingly unjust treatment," however, of the ratepayers in causing them to pay for avoidable road damage was denounced in Parliament, and "the sanity of action" urged, until legislation for their protection was promised just before the declaration of war. As from some adequate, but for more inadequate, reasons procrastination was again resorted to, the well-known facts as above were brought under review of the High Court of Justice, and sifted there with clarity of judgment.

Expert evidence of protracted road tests by the old Road Board was confirmed by that from the London General Omnibus Company and by eminent scientific witnesses, also by practical road users on varied types of vehicles.

With the cordial consent of the Crown an unusually emphatic judgment was pronounced, especially because of the national advantage available as evidenced in reducing cost of road construction and road maintenance. As it is now realised that we cannot build roads to suit the vehicles, we advantageously can construct the wheels of the vehicles to suit the roads. As efficient and economic transport is a vital national necessity with a Parliament elected "to put the country right," we may reasonably hope for sound progress now.—Remaining at your service, I am, yours obediently,

Mains House, Beith, Scotland.

JOHN MUIR.

Books and Publications.

AN INSURANCE HAND-BOOK.

THIS well-known hand-book, now in its sixth edition and thoroughly revised, really does fulfil the requirements of that much-abused word indispensable. With these volumes by one's side, and with the current compilations of Messrs Stone and Cox and of the Insurance Publishing Company, no insurance official or student of insurance need fail to get from works of reference just what he happens to want. We have not in this country the prolific insurance literature which America pours out, but what we have is good and trustworthy. Volume I. of the Insurance Guide and Hand-book deals with life assurance, and is under the capable editorship of Mr Reginald Simmonds, Fellow and Tutor of the Institute of Actuaries. The various sections, which deal with technical aspects of life assurance practice, are all by official experts. Some of them dealing with the determination of premiums and the calculation of reserves are inevitably technical—they would be little use if they were not—but there are many sections which any intelligent person can fully understand.

* "The Insurance Guide and Hand-book." Sixth edition, in two volumes. 15s net. Charles and Edwin Layton.

Volume II., edited by Mr Joseph H. Matthews, Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute, cover fire, marine, accident, and miscellaneous insurance. As with Volume I., all the sections are treated by insurance men. Principles, practice, law, history are all described and explained. Although the volumes are not big and many subjects are dealt with, there is very little omitted. Space has been carefully studied, and regard paid to essentials. Insurance is so vast in its range that no man knows from his own experience more than a corner of it. The present writer thought that he knew a little about one or two branches, especially life and fire, but after reading these volumes he has become more modest. One fancies that most insurance men, however confident in their experience of individual specialities, will upon turning to these volumes also become oppressed by a sudden discovery of their ignorance. We specially recommend a study of these volumes to ambitious young insurance officials and to general managers—to the first in order that they may qualify by learning to become general managers, to the second in order that they may wonder how, if all this ought to have been known, they succeeded in reaching their present eminence.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Making of Index Numbers. By Irving Fisher. (Boston, U.S.A.) Houghton Mifflin Company. \$7.50.
Report of the Indian Fiscal Commission, 1921-22. (London) His Majesty's Stationery Office. 6s net.
Tableau Annuel du Commerce de la Belgique Avec les Pays Etrangers Année 1921. (Bruxelles) Ministère des Finances.
Business and Investment Forecasting. By Ray Vance. (New York) The Brookmire Economic Service.
Limantour Por Carlos Diaz Dufou. Segunda Edición. (Mexico) Imprenta Victoria S.A., 4A Victoria 92.
Union of South Africa. Report of the Mining Industry Board. (Cape Town) Cape Times, Limited.
Le Centenaire de la Société Générale de Belgique, 1822-1922.
The Observer, 1791-1921. A Short Record of One Hundred and Thirty Years. (London) Observer House, 22 Tudor street, E.C.
The National Review. January, 1923. (London) 43 Duke street, St James's, S.W. 1. 3s net.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL - £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND - £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1922) - £321,167,218

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:
168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET. January 10. ACCOUNT. January 11.

THE Stock Exchange concluded the calendar year with a Pay-day, and, in spite of the incidence of the Christmas holiday, the settlement just finished has turned out to be fairly heavy. Moreover, markets returned from their festive celebrations with invigorated strength, several departments marking out upward lines of their own, which caused the House to close the year with an appearance of buoyancy, accepted as a good omen for better business in 1923. The War Loan rose to 100, and the fresh deadlock that seems likely to arise in connection with the Turkish pourparlers has failed to exercise any influence over purely investment stocks. The mission to America, which set sail on Wednesday, is expected to accomplish a good deal in the way of easing the situation in regard to the manner of repayment of the British debt due to the United States. If great things are not anticipated from the Paris Conference that begins next Tuesday, the optimism of the Prime Minister in

regard to the trade outlook is taken to be a bull point for industrialists of all kinds, and though Mr Bonar Law tempered his hopes with a warning about international politics, these latter are not affecting the markets as a whole.

German bonds have fallen, on the statement that Germany is already in default in connection with her timber deliveries. French issues are leaning to the lower side. Turkish bonds have dropped, in consequence of the truculent attitude adopted by the Turks. Chinese hold their steadiness, and in the South American group Argentine and Brazilian bonds keep hard.

The Home Railway market is good throughout. When the Stock Exchange reassembles next week, there will be a comparative handful of securities in which to deal, and it is thought that the public may be attracted to this market now that the grouping system is fairly in force. Grand Trunk Pacific debenture has gone back. Mexican Rails are motionless. Argentine railway stocks suffered a little from the usual end-of-the-year selling, but new-time purchases soon put a firmer face upon the market.

Rubber shares maintain their prices, and most of the changes are upward. Tamboras have spurred sharply. In the oil group, a sensational rise in Venezuelan Oil Concessions followed the announcement that the company had discovered two new gushers on the property. The oil market generally, however, looks harder, and although the report of the Mexican Eagle Company caused the shares to lag behind the rest in the improvement, Shells led an advance that was fairly well distributed over the list. Courtaulds enjoyed another pyrotechnical rise, by reason of the hope that there will be a substantial cash bonus in the near future. Other textiles are steady. Shipbuilding and allied shares—iron, coal, steel, engineering, and armament—have been moving narrowly, the changes day by day being mostly confined to a few pence one way or the other. Shipping stocks show a fair number of rises. The electricity supply market is good, while in gas there is not much doing, though lively interest awaits the next batch of dividends. Trust companies' stocks continue to forge ahead.

In the banking market, London and Brazilians have further recovered the ground lost some weeks ago. The London banking list is steady, and insurance shares show but little movement, though buyers readily take whatever comes on offer. Amongst the chemical shares, Brunner, Mond stand out with a rise, and in the stores group, although there is not much change on the week, the recent advances are well held. Dunlops are dullish, in company with motor shares, but the public demand for tobacco investments is as keen as ever, and prices are again harder on the week.

The South African market suffers for want of business; its prices are firm, and, with any public support to back the list, it is likely that Kaffirs will go ahead. At present, what little animation pervades the market is confined to specialities, of which Chartered and Cam and Motor, amongst Rhodesians, stand out as the principal examples. The diamond group is neglected again. Rio Tintos, after being decidedly strong, reacted from the top, by reason of the threatened international complications. Russian mining shares are easier for the same reason. Broken Hills show a fair number of rises, the Colony being once more the buyer. In Mexican and other miscellaneous mining shares, business has been reduced to a minimum. The Stock Exchange is closed to-day (Saturday), as usual. Members are speculating upon what may be the chances of the House reopening on Saturdays during the New Year.

We are informed that Mr Charles Wilton McShane has ceased to be a member of the Stock Exchange.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year and date of opening of the lists have been as follows:—

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
Amount previously recorded	573,573,650	..	..	..
4½% Treasury Bonds (by Tender December 22, 1922)	Nil	..	..	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 23, 1922.				
April 1 to Dec. 23, 1922, £28,168,000	300,000	..	300,000	..
Total offered for subscription for whole year—				
1922	573,573,650			
1921	388,978,203			
1920	367,549,656			
1919	1,036,059,951			
1918	1,393,381,441			
1917	1,318,596,010			
1916	585,436,853			

Sylvanite Gold Mines, Limited.—Incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act. Nominal capital, \$3,000,000, in shares of \$1 each, of which 2,000,000 shares have been issued. The company was formed in June, 1913, to work five gold claims in Ontario. In order to comply with the requirements of the Committee of the Stock Exchange, a detailed account of the company's financial activities in connection with its share capital is advertised in the public Press, but nothing can be gleaned as to the progress made in developing the company's five claims since 1913, when the company was formed.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

The following tables show the movements of the week in the more active securities of the various markets:—

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 4½%, 1925-28	95½	95½	+	Aust. 6%, 1931-41	106	106	..
Loans 4½%, 1925-48	95	95	+	Canada 4½%, 1920-25	100	100	..
4½%, 1929-42	102½	102½	+	India 3½%, Stock	63	63	..
Funding Loan 4½%	85½	85½	+	Do 5½%, 1926-31	110½	110½	..
Victory Bonds 4½%	88½	88½	+	Do 5½%, 1932	99	99	..
Conversion Loan 3½%	74½	74½	+	N.S.W. 5½%, 1922-32	101	101	..
Consols 2½%	55½	55½	+	Nigeria 6%, 1949-79	111	111	..
Irish Land Stock 2½%	57½	57½	+	U. of S.A. 6%, 1930-40	106	106	..
Local Loans 3½%	65½	65½	+	Victoria 5½%, 1924-34	102	102	..
				W. Aust. 6%, 1930-40	103	103	..

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1 lpd.)	2½	2½	..	Nat. Bank of Egypt	21½	21½	..
Chartered Bk of India	138	138	..	Do 4½% 1910	..	..	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 pd.)	28½	28½	..	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	9½	9½	..
London Joint City & Midland (£12 with £2 paid)	83	83	..	Nat. Prov. & Union of England (£20, with £4 paid)	10½	10½	..
London County Westminster and Parry's (£20 with £5 paid)	17½	17½	..	Standard of S. Africa (£20, with £5 paid)	12	12	..

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons.	73½	73½	..	Leopoldina	36½	36	..
B.A. and Pacific	82½	82	..	Mexican Railway	12½	12½	..
B.A. Gt. Southern	83½	84½	..	Do 1st Pref.	37	39	..
Buenos Ayres West.	80	80½	..	Do 2nd Pref.	23	22	..
Canadian Pacific	154	155	..	San Paulo	120½	119½	..
Central Argentine	74½	75½	..	United Havana	70½	71	..

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7	100	100	..	Japanese 4½%	102	102	..
Belgian 3%	68	68	..	Do 4½% 1910	70	70	..
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914	81	81	..	Mexican Cons. 1899	56½	56	..
Chile 4½%, 1895	81	81	..	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	29½	29	..
Do 7½%, 1895	107½	107½	..	P.L.M. 6%	83½	85	..
Chinese 5%, 1912	73	73	..	Portuguese (New)	28	28	..
Egyptian 4%	69	69	..	Russian 5%, 1906	84	84	..
French 5%	31½	31½	..	Spanish 4%	77	77	..
Do 4%	25½	25½	..	Seine (Dept.) 7%	99½	99	..
Greek 4%, 1884	24	26½	..	Siamese 7%	108	108	..

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A"	23½	24½	..	Marconi Canada	1½	1½	..
Marconi Wireless	2½	2½	..	Marconi Marine	1½	1½	..

British Railways.

Great Central Pref.	24½	25	..	Metropolitan District	45	46½	..
Great Eastern	38½	40	..	Midland Deferred	70½	72½	..
Great Northern Def.	45	46½	..	North British Def.	18½	20½	..
Great Western	107	108½	..	North-Eastern	122	124½	..
Great Western "A"	65½	66½	..	South-Eastern "A"	33	34	..
London, Chatham & Dover	71	71	..	Underground Electric	2½	2½	..
L. and N.W. (New)	105	106½	..	Do "A" (1)	43	43	..
L. & S. Western, Def.	34½	35½	..	Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	86½	87½	..
Metropolitan	59½	60	..				

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio	75	76½	..	Southern	25	26	..
Erie	11	11	..	Do Non-cum Pref.	70	70	..
Do 4½ 1st Pref.	16	15	..				

Mines.

Brakpan (£1)	24½	3	..	Knights	43	43	..
Broken Hill Prop. (8)	148	148	..	Modderfontein (10)	41	41	..
Chartered (1)	48	48	..	Modderfont. "B" (5)	24	24	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	14	14	..	Modderfont. Deep (5)	24	24	..
Crown Mines (10)	3	3	..	Premier Def. (2½)	6	6	..
De Beers Def. (£2½)	138	138	..	Rand Mines (5)	33	33	..
East Rand Prop. (£1)	3	3	..	Rio Tinto (£5)	33	33	..
Geduld (£1)	3	3	..	Spring Mines (£1)	28	28	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1)	5	5	..				

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1)	148	148	..	Hudson's Bay (£1)	7½	7½	..
Amal. Cottons (£1)	48	48	..	Imperial Tobacco (£1)	38	38	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	48	48	..	Linggi Plantns. (£1)	148	148	..
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)	1	1	..	Lipton (£1)	18	18	..
and Co. (£1)	1	1	..	Lever Bros 7% Cm Pf (£1)	1	1	..
Ass. Plind. Cement (£1)	148	148	..	Do 8% Cm A Pf (£1)	1	1	..
Barker, John (£1)	248	248	..	Do 8% Cm Pf Ord (5)	1	1	..
B'ham Small Arms (£1)	48	48	..	Lister (£1)	148	148	..
Brazil Tracoin (£100)	48	48	..	Lobitos Oilfields (£1)	51½	51½	..
British-American Tobacco (£1)	48	48	..	Lyons (J. & Co. (£1)	48	48	..
Burnmah Oil (£1)	58	58	..	Magadi Soda (£1 Ord.)	28	28	..
Coats (J. & P.) (£1)	38	38	..	Mexican Eagle (£10)	28	28	..
Courtaulds (£1)	3	3	..	Pekin (2)	32	32	..
Cusack (£1)	18	18	..	Rubber Plantations	14	14	..
Dormar, Long (£1)	148	148	..	Shell Transport (£1)	48	48	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	18	18	..	Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1)	78	78	..
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1)	248	248	..	United Serdang (2)	78	78	..
Forestal Land (£1)	188	188	..	United Tobacco (£1)	24	24	..
Formosa Whisky (£1)	188	188	..	Vallambrosa (2)	18	18	..
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1)	18	18	..	Vickers (£1)	129½	130½	..
				Watney Def. Stk.	129½	130½	..

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports at Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of the ECONOMIST, 3 Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

BANK'S STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION MAINTAINED.

CANADA'S IMPROVED FOREIGN TRADE.

PRESIDENT'S AND GENERAL MANAGER'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The one-hundred and fifth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held, on December 4th, in the board room at the bank's headquarters, Montreal.

On the motion of Lord Shaughnessy, Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., was requested to take the chair.

The Chairman then called upon the general manager (Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor) to read the annual report of the directors to the shareholders.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Sir Vincent Meredith, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—

The recent death of our greatly-esteemed director, Mr R. B. Angus, must cast a shadow over our meeting to-day.

As a director of the bank for thirty-one years, and its president for three years, he rarely, if ever, was absent from a meeting of the board, except on occasions when he was abroad. His wise counsel and mature judgment were at all times at the bank's service.

He will be greatly missed, not only by his confrères in the bank and other large corporations with which he was closely identified, but by the public in general, by whom he was held in high esteem.

The banking year just closed has required constant vigilance, and I am glad to be in a position to inform you that, while our profits on the basis of capital employed have not been as large as those of the immediately preceding years, as was to be expected with lessened activity in business generally, coupled with increased taxation, we have been fortunate in escaping serious losses, and the liquid position and great strength of the bank remain unimpaired.

Since your last annual meeting the Merchants Bank has been absorbed by the Bank of Montreal. In my judgment, the prompt action of your directors, subsequently ratified by you, averted a situation that might otherwise have proved serious to the country at large, and secured the shareholders of that institution from losses greater than were suffered.

It will interest you to know that the work of co-ordinating the staffs with a view to economies is proceeding with all possible celerity, and that the acquisition of the Merchants Bank is reasonably realising the expectation of your board. Under our own organisation, and with the economies that have been effected, the future gives promise of increased earnings.

CANADA'S TRADE.

The foreign trade of Canada is again expanding, having reached a value of \$921,700,000 in the seven months ended October 31st, being an increase of \$67,748,000 over the corresponding period last year.

A satisfactory feature of the figures is the large export of agricultural produce, amounting in the seven months to \$270,084,000, an increase of \$27,000,000 over the seven months of last year—a substantial addition to the income of our farmers.

The balance of trade has turned in favour of Canada, having been the considerable sum of \$60,000,000 in the April-October period, as compared with an adverse balance of \$22,700,000 in 1921, and of \$140,600,000 in 1920. Within two years, therefore, there has been a betterment of no less than \$200,000,000 in our foreign trade, a factor contributing in a considerable degree towards the restoration of the Canadian dollar to par. Taken altogether, the foreign trade figures afford encouragement.

The net debt of Canada on October 31st amounted to \$2,369,000,000, an increase of \$40,000,000 during the year. The deficit of the National Railways during the same period will probably amount to upwards of \$50,000,000.

CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

From what one can learn, fundamental conditions in the United States underlying the forward movement of business which began some months ago are sound, as evidenced by the prompt resumption of progress in various industries as soon as the retarding influences of the strike situation were removed.

The United States can for a time remain self-contained, but a year or two of business activity will doubtless convince the most sceptical that that country cannot remain aloof and live unto itself. For a time the home market can absorb a very large proportion of the country's production, but after the saturation point has been reached economic conditions demand that an outlet must be found for the surplus products, including both wheat and

cotton, failing which depression in business generally, with lower prices, will be the natural result. In the meantime the present business activity is expected to continue for a year or two longer.

The least satisfactory phase of the country's business is in the foreign trade field. With continued unsettlement of many of the foreign exchanges the volume of exports has shown restricted demand, monthly figures running uniformly below those of the previous year. The recent tariff enactment does not tend to stimulate imports, so that mutual foreign trade is just now at a low ebb.

The growing scarcity of labour shows unemployment has decreased 40 per cent. since October, 1921, and the new immigration laws, as is also the case in Canada, bar a remedy.

IMMIGRATION.

As you are aware, the tide of immigration into Canada has not flowed freely in recent years, and while reasons more or less convincing are given for the failure to attract larger population, the fact remains that the situation in this respect is unsatisfactory.

It seems to me there are two ways only to check and reduce the mounting debt with which this country is now burdened—one is by the creation of fresh wealth through having more people on the land, and the other by strict economies in Government expenditures.

It is gratifying, therefore, to learn that the Dominion Government, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments and private organisations, is to embark upon an energetic immigration policy, of which the first-fruits, we may hope, will appear next year.

FARMERS' BUSINESS.

Statements have been made in the public Press by uninformed people that debtors, especially in the West, are being subjected to undue pressure by the banks, loan companies, and other creditors. So far as this bank is concerned every consideration and great latitude have been given to debtors, who, through bad harvests or other mischance, have been unable to meet their obligations. This is and at all times has been the policy of this bank, and never has that policy been more forcibly impressed upon our managers than during recent critical years.

REVISION OF THE BANK ACT.

The Bank Charters expire on July 1, 1923, and unless the Government deems proper to extend them for another year, a revision of the Bank Act will occur at the approaching session of Parliament.

The subject is already engaging attention in the Press and elsewhere. Some suggested changes are so radical that alarm might well be caused but for the conviction that caution, the lessons of the past and the sound sense of Parliament will interpose against their acceptance.

The banking system of Canada is the product of long experience, and it has operated to the advantage of the people, despite an occasional failure, from which, however, no country and no plan has been free.

LABOUR AND COSTS.

The labour problem and its near relation, the cost of living, are still with us. Certain classes of labour have accepted a lower wage, but there has not been a pronounced general movement in this direction, nor has the tendency been wholly downward. It may be, indeed, that for a time diminished production cost will have to be sought in improved machinery and equipment, in efficiency and in a larger output per man and machine, rather than in cheaper labour.

CONDITIONS MORE SATISFACTORY.

The condition of business in Canada is, upon the whole, more satisfactory than a year ago. The opinion I then ventured to express, that trade would not yet enter a period of pronounced expansion, although a spurt might be made in some departments, has been borne out by events. Price recessions seem to have been checked somewhat generally, the cost of living indices compiled by many statisticians not having been materially reduced within the year, while some important commodities move more freely at higher prices.

For several months past the army of the unemployed has been

diminishing until it can almost be said that unemployment is not greatly in excess of the normal. On the other hand, farmers have had to contend with a further fall in prices, which have practically receded to pre-war figures.

Fortunately, farmers have reaped a bountiful harvest, more bountiful as a whole than in any year since the phenomenal crop of 1915, so that the excess in quantity will in some measure compensate for the drop in prices.

The live-stock trade has been hard hit by the high tariff of the United States, particularly in the case of cattle breeders in the West. Whether the removal of the British embargo will realise all the expectations of Canadian breeders may be a moot question, but it is very satisfactory to learn that this long-imposed embargo is at last to be lifted, and the hope may be indulged that an impetus to Canadian exports of cattle to Great Britain will be given thereby.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In conclusion, the crisis of 1920-21 has passed into history. The fact that the depression was world-wide makes it highly improbable that the return to normal will be other than slow.

We have experienced a more sudden and acute depression of trade than our generation has ever known, and though conditions, including the agricultural results, are undoubtedly more favourable, prudent business men will not build up an unduly speculative position after the lessons of 1920.

The outlook, as I see it, is for reasonably profitable operations in most lines of business, though there can be no great trade boom without a further important expansion of foreign commerce, and this, unfortunately, is not yet in sight.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—The one hundred and fifth annual balance-sheet of the bank, which I have pleasure in presenting for your approval, shows many changes as compared with a year ago.

These changes are the result in part of incidental variations in what might be termed our natural position, and, in a larger measure, of the absorption of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, which, I am gratified to say, has been effected with scarcely a ripple on the surface of our affairs.

Speaking in general terms, the increase in our liabilities to our shareholders and depositors is balanced by a corresponding increase in our assets, while our liquid position remains as strong

as ever, and the status of the bank is enhanced through the acquisition of many branches, as well as in other ways, from all of which we shall presently derive the benefit in increased earning power.

It is trite, yet undeniable, to remark that in Canada, as elsewhere, trade generally has not been good. Bankers, more distinctly than others, perceive the detailed results of this condition, which in large measure is brought home to them through losses and diminished profits.

In the case of our own bank, if losses are moderate, as they have been, it must of necessity be the result of prudence in granting credits and of accurate perception of the inexorable working of economic laws, for there is little that can be ascribed to luck in such matters.

Before going into a detailed explanation of the various items in our balance-sheet and the factors that affect our well-being, it is customary for your general manager to touch upon the general trade and financial situation and outlook.

Canada's economic position is not satisfactory. How could it be satisfactory with the whole financial world out of joint? As everyone is aware, our troubles are partly the result of this universal condition; partly the result of the war. It is well, however, to bear in mind that our problems are largely of our own creation.

Readjustment will come in time, for this is a country of virility and manifold resources; yet one thing stands out signally, in my opinion—namely, that Canada cannot go ahead again as she should while taxation and the cost of living are higher in this country than they are in the United States of America.

To revert to our balance-sheet, you will note that our bank premises account has been nearly doubled, but I am able to inform you that important sales have already been made and further realisations are in prospect, so that we look forward to a steady reduction in this none too satisfactory form of asset.

As you know, an ample volume of deposits is essential to the prosperity of any bank, and I feel sure you share our gratification that this department of our business has been well maintained during the deflation period. Our total deposits are \$605,600,000, divided as follows:—

Current in Canada	\$189,000,000
Time deposits in Canada	276,700,000
Deposits outside	139,900,000

I should add that both in Canada and outside we had at

THE

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK,

LIMITED.

Capital and Reserves
exceed £13,000,000.

UNITED STATES

SAN FRANCISCO NEW YORK

MEXICO

CENTRAL AMERICA

GUATEMALA
SALVADOR
MANAGUA
SANTA MARTA
BARRANQUILLA
PUERTO CABELLO
CARACAS
MEDELLIN
BOGOTÁ
MANTA
GUAYAQUIL
QUITO

SOUTH AMERICA

LIMA
IQUIQUE
ANTOFAGASTA
COPIAPO
COQUIMBO
VALPARAISO
SANTIAGO
CHILLAN
TALCAHUANO
CONCEPCION

ARGENTINE

ROSARIO
MONTE VIDEO
BUENOS AIRES
MENDOZA
SAN RAFAEL
BAHIA BLANCA
TRELEW
COMODORO RIVADAVIA
PUERTO DESEADO
SAN JULIAN
SANTA CRUZ
RIO GALLEGOS
PUNTA ARENAS

BRAZIL

PERNAMBUCO
BAHIA
RIO DE JANEIRO
SAO PAULO
SANTOS
PORTO ALEGRE
PELOTAS
RIOGRANDE DO SUL
MERCEDES
ROSARIO
MONTE VIDEO
BUENOS AIRES
PERGAMINO

GREAT BRITAIN

BRADFORD
MANCHESTER
LONDON
PARIS

FRANCE

VIGO
BILBAO
MADRID
SEVILLE
VALENCIA

HEAD OFFICE:
62, OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE:
69, Market St., Bradford.

LANCASHIRE BRANCH:
39, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Affiliated Institutions:
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.,
AND
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

● BRANCHES OF THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.
 + BRANCHES OF THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.
 * BRANCHES OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

October 31st special large sums on temporary deposit, which have since been in part withdrawn.

Our total loans are now \$409,000,000. Of this amount \$244,000,000 represent commercial loans in Canada, which are less, after taking Merchants' Bank figures into account, by \$27,000,000 than a year ago, and therein, and in the lower rates of interest at our other reserve centres, London and New York, lies the explanation of our somewhat smaller percentage of earnings to capital.

Current loans in Canada for all the banks, including advances to provincial Governments, municipalities, &c., are \$130,000,000 less than a year ago, reflecting a period of deflation in trade and lessened demand upon the banks.

Our call and short loans in this country and elsewhere at nearly \$135,000,000, and balances due us by banks outside Canada at \$54,000,000, reflect to some degree the disposition of certain large temporary deposits to which I have already referred.

We now have \$41,550,000 notes in circulation, the highest point in our history. Notes of all the banks and of the Dominion Government in public circulation at October 31st totalled \$375,800,000.

The free movement of gold into this country enabled the bank to strengthen its metallic reserves in Canada, as indicated in our balance-sheet.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS — INCREASED PROFITS.

IMPROVED POSITION IN PERSIA.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held, on the 28th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The manager and secretary (Mr Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, we have been able to present to you for the past financial year a report and balance-sheet which I think you will regard as very satisfactory. Though the improvement shown in the figures of the accounts is not very great, the report is in some respects the best we have been able to submit to you since the outbreak of the war, and you will no doubt agree that it is a matter for mutual congratulation that we have been able to see our way to give the shareholders a pleasant New Year gift in the shape of an additional shilling in the final dividend.

The history of Persia during the past twelve months has been comparatively uneventful, in great contrast to the exciting experiences which I have had to relate to you from time to time since 1915. You will remember that a few days before I addressed you a year ago the Ghavan us Sultaneh had been succeeded as Prime Minister by Mushir ud Dowleh. The latter's administration did not last very long; he resigned in June of this year, and the Ghavan us Sultaneh, to whose courage and ability as an administrator I ventured to pay a tribute last year, was again entrusted with the duty of forming a Government, and is still in power.

SITUATION IN PERSIA.

Throughout the year, even during the change of Prime Ministers, the Cossack leader, Reza Kfian, has continued to hold the post of War Minister, and it is impossible not to admire the determination and efficiency which this able officer has exhibited in the control of his department. He appears to have so reorganised the various armed units existing in the country that he has succeeded in providing Persia with quite a fairly strong and well-disciplined military force, and the success of his efforts is reflected in the increased tranquillity which has prevailed throughout the country. For example, to quote only our own experience, for the first time for seven years we are able to record that not one of our branches has been closed during the year on account of disturbances, and you will notice that for the second year since the war we are able to hold our annual meeting in December—a result of the general improvement of communications which has followed the establishment of better order and security in the provinces.

In the matter of trade the same cause has had its salutary effect, and for the year ended in March last we are told that the total imports amounted in value to £12,250,000, of which the British Empire supplied £9,200,000. The corresponding figures of imports for the previous year were 9½ and 7½ millions, so that there has been a decided improvement during the year under review. The balance of trade is still against Persia, and, as I pointed out last year, it is important that every effort should be made to increase the country's exports. With this object in view, I am inclined to think that Persia could embark on no more remunerative form of expenditure than the improvement of inland transport and the adequate protection of the roads leading to the ports.

It may be of interest at this point to state that Canada's debt abroad, according to a close analysis, is now about \$3,600,000,000, divisible as follows:—

Dominion Government	\$546,000,000
Provincial and Municipal Governments	720,000,000
Railways	1,600,000,000
Public utilities, industrials, &c., accounting for the balance.	
Canada's obligation in interest on this great sum is estimated at about \$500,000 per day.	

In conclusion, I think we can claim that the manner in which our banks generally have come through the agitating times since 1914 is evidence of the fundamental soundness of our Canadian banking system. We must be thankful that no great commercial breakdown has occurred.

The general manager then gave in detail the reports on the conditions of trade, &c., in the various provinces, as supplied by the superintendents.

The report having been adopted, votes of thanks to the president, vice-president, directors, and staff were passed.

The votes of thanks having been responded to by the President and General Manager, the ballot for the appointment of auditors and the election of directors was duly proceeded with, and the meeting terminated.

DESERT RAILWAY.

In this connection I may mention that there appears to have been a considerable expansion of the trade with India via the railway, which, in 1917 and 1918, was, you will remember, pushed across the desert from Nushki, in Baluchistan, to Duzdap, on the border of Seistan. I am informed that with each extension of this line, first to Dalbandin, in the middle of the desert, then to Mirjawa, and finally to Duzdap, the value of the trade with Persia has doubled, until it reached the total of 141 lakhs of rupees in 1920 and of 200 lakhs in 1921. There was an alarming rumour lately that the Government of India were thinking of dismantling this line, on the ground that it does not pay its expenses, but I sincerely hope it is not true that such a retrograde measure is in contemplation.

We recently opened a branch of the bank at Duzdap for the convenience of the merchants engaged in this trade, and as there is a motor road from Duzdap to Bam, it has been suggested to the latter place, because of the increased trade anticipated from the existence of the road and the railway. This shows the interest remembered that it is only by this route that India can hope to compete with Russian trade in Meshed and Khorassan. Russia for the present being out of the market, Indian trade is extending to these places, and will probably hold its own so long as the railway exists, but, if the railway goes, the trade will, of course, cease also, to the serious loss not only of India, but also of the Persian nation, whose prosperity depends largely on its customs revenue. In 1920 the Customs receipts in Seistan amounted to no less than 3,112,775 kranas.

In October last our manager at Duzdap reported that there had been a great rush of goods from India in September, and that such large consignments of wool had arrived from Meshed and for export that several special trains had to be run to carry it off, a thing which had not been known before in the history of the line. Also, owing to the railway, Seistan is able to export to Quetta and Baluchistan grain and other raw produce, for which it is difficult to find so accessible a market elsewhere. The tendency, therefore, will be to encourage the extension of cultivation in the Seistan Oasis. Of the strategic importance of the line it is not for me, perhaps, to speak, but obviously it was invaluable to us in assisting Persia during the war, and, in the event of trouble on this part of the border, it is likely to be equally useful again. For these reasons I think it may be safely concluded that, with a little patience, this railway will yet prove taking.

APPOINTMENT OF DR MILLSPAUGH.

Last year I alluded to the reported desire of the Persian Government to obtain once again the services of Mr Morgan Shuster as their financial adviser. Mr Shuster, I understand, was unable to return to Persia, but another American gentleman, Dr Millspaugh, was selected for this difficult post, and he arrived at Teheran with his staff a few weeks ago. This is an event of

good augury for the country if the Persian Government will invest him with the authority necessary for the successful exercise of strong financial control. Persia, like many other countries since the war, has found it difficult to balance its Budget, but she has an industrious and thrifty population, her currency is in no way depreciated, and both the former financial advisers, Mr Morgan Shuster and Mr Armitage-Smith, formed the opinion that if the system of taxation and the methods of collection were reformed and brought up to date Persia should have no difficulty in paying her way. Neither of these gentlemen was able to stay long enough to carry out their plans. We very sincerely hope that a more kindly fortune may attend the efforts of Dr Millspaugh to put the financial administration on a sound footing. We cordially welcome his appointment, and it will be the duty and the privilege of our officers in Persia to afford him all the assistance in their power.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

We now come to the figures of the balance-sheet, which need very little comment, and disclose, I think, quite a satisfactory state of affairs. They show even a more liquid condition of the bank's resources than was the case a year ago, upon which we may, I think, congratulate ourselves in these days of restricted credit and difficult trading.

Notes, you will see, are slightly higher at £815,822 in comparison with the figure of £733,327 of a year ago. Deposits show an increase to £3,996,064, as against £2,805,374 last year, while bills payable are lower at £1,431,079 compared with £2,616,712, but these items, you will understand, are always of a fluctuating character.

On the other side of the account our cash in hand, &c., is about a quarter of a million lower than last year, but the difference is more than covered by the larger amount shown under the head of investments, which, you will notice, stand in the balance-sheet at, or under, prices ruling on September 20th last. These investments, being almost exclusively gilt-edged, will, we hope, cause us little anxiety in the future, and the funds they represent can be made available at short notice for employment in our ordinary business when favourable opportunities occur.

If you turn to the profit and loss account you will see that the payments out of profit are much the same as in previous years. The sum due to the Persian Government on account of royalty is slightly larger, we are glad to say, the net profits having increased from £88,195 to £92,303. The interim dividend was the same as last year—3s—and we are able again to allocate £30,000 to the reserve fund, which now stands at £340,000, instead of £310,000. Bank premises are further written down by £10,000; we pay a final dividend of 6s a share, and we carry forward £33,720 16s 3d, as against £31,955 8s 1d last year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

COMPANY INTERESTS—CAPITAL INCREASED.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the African and European Investment Company, Limited, was held, on the 29th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr C. F. Rowsell presiding.

Mr A. D. Owen (manager and secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Coming to your assets, as I have always insisted in previous years, the most important one, and the one on which the future of this company is really to a large extent based, is its important holding of land—namely, an area equivalent to 1,460,966 acres. It is unnecessary for me to go into details as to the progress which is being made in South Africa; everyone who studies the newspaper must be fully aware of the immense developments which are taking place. I feel confident that under the progressive policy which is being adopted by the Government of South Africa, we shall see the country making immense strides during the next few years, and it is, of course, only by the development of South Africa generally that our land will reach the high values which it is, we believe, bound ultimately to attain.

In the meantime, however, our land department, under the direction of Mr Jooste, has been thoroughly examining its possibilities, and we are gradually laying the foundation of a new policy of development and of sales.

LAND SALES.

The last year or two, however, have not been favourable to the sale of land at satisfactory prices, because, in common with the rest of the world, South Africa has suffered from the tremendous fall in the price of agricultural products and the general depression of the world's markets. I think, however, we may be confident that this period is now coming to an end, and unless some



HEAD OFFICE:
1 Dale Street,
LIVERPOOL.

LONDON:
Chief Office,
1 Cornhill, E.C.3

TOTAL ASSETS exceed - - £20,000,000
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID over - - £107,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. ANNUITIES.

Marine, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee, Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, &c.

OFFICES IN ALL THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL CENTRES
General Manager and Secretary:—HUGH LEWIS.

important dislocation of business is caused by European politics we may see a very definite improvement in trade conditions and in prices throughout the world. We are now ready to take advantage of this improvement, and it is part of our definite policy to do so.

While I think our land should be looked upon as one of the main factors, it has been the policy of your directors to interest this company in the industrial development of South Africa, and we have already very important interests in this direction. For instance, we have the Vereeniging Estates, which, although a land-owning company, is also an important industrial from the point of view of the production of coal; we have our large interests in the South African Breweries, and we have a very important interest in the Union Steel Corporation of South Africa, which, under the arrangements to which I am about to refer, has been very largely extended. We have also very considerable interest in the Vereeniging Milling Company, which handles on an important scale the maize products of South Africa.

INTERESTS ACQUIRED.

Now, gentlemen, I perhaps at this stage might inform you more in detail with reference to the new assets which we have acquired; they have been purchased from Lewis and Marks, Limited, a company which as you know has always been associated with this company. To a considerable extent they consist of assets of the same character as those which you already hold, but the purchase of these assets will largely extend our interests, especially in the direction of the industrial development of South Africa.

We acquire by this purchase first of all a very large shareholding in the Vereeniging Estates, Limited, the East Rand Mining Estates, Limited, the Union Steel Corporation of S.A., Limited, and by the acquisition of the whole of the share capital of the Schoongezicht Coal Mining Company we acquire an important and fully-equipped colliery in the Witbank coalfield.

The interest which we have in the Union Steel Corporation of South Africa, Limited, is a very valuable one; that company has been most successful in the past, having paid substantial dividends, and it has recently obtained important contracts which will keep its works fully employed.

I will now turn to the mining interests which this company holds and which will again be extended by the further assets which we have acquired. We have, as you know, a substantial interest in the East Rand Mining Estates—this will be greatly increased.

I am glad to say that all the evidence which the development of the surrounding properties has produced still goes to confirm the value of this interest.

In connection with the purchase of these assets it is proposed to create a debenture issue of one and a-half million, of which sum £500,000 to £600,000 will be issued for the purchase of the assets; the balance will remain at the disposal of the company. The increase of capital you will be asked to approve is to enable the debentures to be created, but it is not proposed to issue any further shares at the present time. In addition to the issue of debentures your company will take over certain liabilities, and will also release Lewis and Marks, Limited, from repayment of the amount which your company had on June 30th last on deposit with that company.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, the formal business was transacted, and at a subsequent special general meeting a resolution was passed increasing the capital to £2,000,000 by the creation of 725,000 new shares.

STOLL PICTURE THEATRE (KINGSWAY), LIMITED.**FOREIGN FILMS—EXTORTIONATE CHARGES.****PROFITS IN BRITISH FILMS.**

Presiding at the third ordinary general meeting of the Stoll Picture Theatre (Kingsway), Limited, held, on the 28th instant, at the Stoll Picture Theatre, Kingsway, London, Sir Oswald Stoll (chairman and managing director) said: For the majority of theatres the past year has been an extremely bad one. That fact enables us to plead for contentment with the results for the year obtained by this company, although they fall below the results of the two preceding years. We have not been able to proceed with the erection of the Bijou Theatre at the northern end of our premises because costs have not yet come down to the amount we propose to spend. Our limit is £60,000, but the lowest estimates have so far been £85,000, although in pre-war days the work could have been done for less than £40,000. For a similar reason we have not yet been able to make any progress with the property at Baker street. There has been only one criticism of the accounts. It is stated that we had written off no depreciation. The answer is that the amount of £5,000 set aside for the redemption of debentures is equivalent to depreciation. We are doing satisfactory business at the present time, and no doubt this will continue seeing that theatres in the centre of London are not as seriously affected by bad trade as theatres elsewhere. If a general boom in trade should come we shall nevertheless benefit considerably by it. Schemes of emergency expenditure for the temporary benefit of trade and unemployment which the Government are carrying out, or helping, will circulate funds and so improve the means to pay for a few hours of rest and recreation in a picture theatre. But if the Government is not to use the respite for more permanent schemes whereby the people will be enabled to keep themselves in funds, the relief from anxiety will be short-lived.

BRITISH FILM WEEK.

There is in contemplation a British film week. The British picture theatres are to show in prescribed districts during one week next year only British pictures. In so far as such exhibitions are practicable, it is to be hoped that they will take place. British pictures are more remunerative to the exhibitor than some of the exhibitors appear to believe. Exhibitors doing badly in bad times fare even worse through disbelief in British pictures. In the business of this company during the past year a comparison was made between the average weekly profit for the number of weeks in which British pictures were shown and the average profit for the whole year. The average profit for the weeks in which British pictures were shown was the higher of the two by a substantial amount. It would be folly, of course, as a fixed policy, to show only British pictures, even if the supply were adequate. During the weeks for which the average I have mentioned was taken other pictures besides British were shown. The public likes varied programmes, varied both in subjects, points of view and technique, and the wise exhibitor respects the public's wishes. Some exhibitors, however, deliberately pay for and shelve, rather than show, British pictures. These exhibitors are not considerate towards the public to whom they appeal, and they cannot succeed much better than a provincial theatrical manager would who insisted on his entertainments being given always in a foreign language.

FOREIGN FILMS.

The exhibition of good foreign films, of course, adds to the interest of the cinema, and spurs British producers in efforts to excel themselves. Who, however, now gets the good foreign films to exhibit? These films are not being permitted to reach the orthodox exhibitor except at extortionate prices. They are mostly being used in opposition to the orthodox exhibitor, who is absolutely unable to pay the prices being asked for them. The mediocre foreign films he is allowed to have at so-called reasonable prices, because the exploiters of them know that these films are not sufficiently worth exhibiting to justify the monetary risk of showing them in opposition to the general exhibitor. Most of these pictures are not worthy of being shown by the general exhibitor at any price. Nevertheless, the majority of the exhibitors book the films, and times being as bad as they are, suffer to an extent which, when times were good, they would have thought impossible. If foreign films are to be shown in this country the good films as well as the bad should be at the disposal of the general exhibitor at prices which will enable him to make a profit. If foreign producers and their financial backers do not recognise this they will kill the picture industry. John D. Rockefeller grew rich beyond his dreams by always selling oil at a low enough price to enable it to make good profits for hundreds of thousands of

other businesses. The vast economic power to which his riches largely gave rise is now being terribly misused. He himself, in active service, would have been far too wise to use it so, and the efforts to gain possession of those hundreds of thousands of businesses for themselves, which are being made by his successors, will pull down the whole wonderful edifice that he built. Numerous picture theatres must pay if a considerable picture industry is to live. That is the A B C of the picture business. For foreign film jobbers to be allowed to swallow up the profits of the good pictures and to leave the exhibitors to bear the losses of the bad pictures is picture theatre suicide. Exhibitors must be permitted to make profits when they book such films by getting the good American and Continental films at prices at which only inferior ones are now supplied.

HINT TO SCREEN STARS.

People who have made great fortunes in the industry, people like Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, and Douglas Fairbanks, owe it to the industry that made them, and which they helped to make and cannot wish to destroy, to see that exhibitors get their films at the lowest reasonable price, not the highest possible price. Their help is needed by the industry in these hard times. The lowest profit on which exhibitors can live must be more than sufficient to compensate the occasional losses to which every exhibitor in hard times is exposed. These stars of the screen who draw the public have it in their power to ensure this profit by limiting the price that an exhibitor can be charged, and by insisting on the exhibition of their pictures at orthodox picture theatres only. If this were done, the jobbers in pictures who exploit them unfairly to the detriment of the whole industry would have to change their methods. It may seem to you that this company as an exhibitor has very little to complain of, and that, therefore, remarks about what is being done by others are superfluous. That is too narrow a view. An adequate supply of really good pictures for any particular theatre can never be maintained unless there exists a picture market composed of numerous successful theatres. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account now submitted for the year ended November 3, 1922, be approved and adopted, and that the balance of £34,364 2s 10d at the credit of profit and loss account be dealt with as follows:—(1) That the sum of £5,000 be set aside for the redemption of debenture stock; (2) that a final dividend be paid on the ordinary shares for the second half of the year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum (less income-tax), absorbing £8,433, which, with the interim dividend, makes 12½ per cent. for the year (less tax); and (3) that the balance of £20,931 2s 10d be carried forward to the next year, subject to excess profits duty, corporation profits tax and managing director's remuneration."

Sir James McCraith seconded the resolution, and paid a high tribute to the brilliant business ability of Sir Oswald Stoll.

The report and accounts were adopted, and on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Dr Broad, Mr H. J. Thomas was re-elected a director of the company, the auditors (Messrs Allan Charlesworth and Co.) being also re-elected.

STOLL FILM COMPANY, LIMITED.**AMERICAN METHODS IN FILM INDUSTRY.**

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Stoll Film Company, Limited, was held, on the 28th instant, at the Stoll Picture Theatre, Kingsway, London, Sir Oswald Stoll (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said: The results are not so good as those shown in last year's accounts; they are nevertheless satisfactory. Generally speaking, business in the cinema industry has been bad, and no other company like ours has published better results. The state of our finances may be considered good. The assets accord with the nature of the business. We have a large cash balance. That helps us to acquire emergency films in accordance with the demands of the market. Our investments assist us in obtaining a regular supply of films in accordance with any regular demand. The other assets of moneys due and expended in advance represent incomings and outgoings in the stream of activities of which our business consists. In the course of that business we have a margin of incomings over and above the amount necessary to keep the stream well up to the level of safety. It is a tribute to the soundness of this company's methods that the percentage of bad debts incurred is remarkably small.

With one, or perhaps two, exceptions, no large amounts have ever been in doubt. In these doubtful cases the uncertainty of the by the debtors in regard to their business. They appear to disregard their own natural good sense and to succumb by fits and starts to the methods of a few astute American speculators whose

whole activities are, as it were, a huge gamble performed to a loud and continuous advertising scream. Such managements should note the effect of those American methods in America.

AMERICAN METHODS.

There is to be litigation between two large companies there, which will bring many interesting facts to light if it should not increase the misgivings of the American people with regard to the picture methods of those who carry on the trade in their midst. Although there are 14,000 theatres in the United States, it is stated with authority that only about one-third of those theatres are open continuously for six days in each week. It would be interesting to know if British exhibitors wish to reach the same predicament. This position is not due to excessive competition. Over 7,000 theatres have no opposition from any other theatre in close proximity to them. The cause is said to be that exhibitors are being deliberately deprived of the use of films that would enable them to keep their theatres open and that this is a part of a plot to close down all theatres outside the requirements of a limited producing ring.

Exhibitors in this country who are doped with stories of pictures that they do not get into booking pictures which have nothing in common with these masterpieces, and who consequently pour their money into American pockets, spending little of it on British features for their programmes, are inviting the safe fate as that which is rapidly overtaking two-thirds of the American exhibitors. The policy which is going to be challenged in the American Law Courts is rotten to the core. No producing ring can corner the general public. Pictures are not a necessary of life. They are one of the conveniences, and should be so recognised—a convenience for those who might otherwise be wandering about aimlessly as well as an agreeable form of amusement.

GENUINE MERIT ONLY SOUND POLICY.

The general public cannot be cornered into a few theatres by a comparatively few pictures which are the outcome of a very few sources of American production established by strategy into a monopoly. Genuine merit and legitimate value must alone dictate the supply, and exhibitors who cater for British people with British ideas and tastes must not be cajoled into purely American notions of merit and value. They must not encourage attempts to corner the British public by American manoeuvres. Otherwise they will wake up sooner or later to find the bulk of the picture industry destroyed. The policy of this country is to offer films which contain reasons why the British public will like them.

We offer pictures that are British and others that are not British, but always for the same reason—namely, because they contain reasons why the British public will like them. There may be foreigners or people with private axes to grind among the spectators who will criticise those pictures, but if an exhibitor in this country is catering only for that class, then he has a very small chance of success. The British industry has critics enough of its own. Among the difficulties of the industry there are signs of more and more interference by certain public authorities. There is a tendency to restrict audiences in respect of particular films. Different local authorities have different ideas, and the confusion tends to embarrass both renters and exhibitors. As these encroachments develop, the difficulties may become insurmountable.

FILM CENSORSHIP.

It is a pity that the question of the censorship of films is not left to the uniformity of the trade censorship, with offences against that censorship left to the police. It is certain that both public and semi-public offences in the exhibition of undesirable films are more a matter for summary action by the police than by licensing authorities.

Whatever action is taken if interference is necessary should be such as can be uniformly applied throughout the country. In that way only can the industry as a whole know where it stands. Different Acts of different authorities which affect the same industry in different ways at different places cannot be too strongly protested against. I beg formally to move: "That the directors' report, balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended October 31, 1922, now submitted, be approved and adopted, and that the balance of £34,388 10s 7d at credit of profit and loss account be disposed of as follows:—(1) In increasing the reserve account to £51,000 by transferring £20,000 thereto; (2) in paying a dividend of 15 per cent. (less tax) on the ordinary shares for the past year and the proportion payable on the founders' shares, as provided in the articles of association of the company, together absorbing £4,435 19s 5d gross; and (3) in carrying forward to the current year's accounts the balance of £9,952 11s 2d." Mr Jeffrey Berner, our worthy managing director, will second the motion.

Mr Jeffrey Berner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr H. J. Thomas was re-elected a director, and the auditors (Messrs Allan Charlesworth and Co.) were reappointed.

ARGENTINE IRON AND STEEL COMPANY (PEDRO YASENA E HIJOS), LIMITED.**AMALGAMATION WITH ENGLISH FIRMS FORESHADOWED.**

The tenth ordinary general meeting of this company was held on the 29th instant, at Winchester House, London, Baron Emile B. d'Erlanger (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said that the balance-sheet showed a loss of £250,900, but, considering that this figure was arrived at after the absorption of £70,000 reserve, there was really a loss for the year of £320,900. This non-recurring loss was attributable to the heavy legacy of stock which the company had on hand when the world's crisis came. The London board had cautioned the local management time after time not to carry stocks in excess of more or less their immediate requirements—say, supplies for three or four months. The local management, however, placed large forward orders, which were not communicated to the board in London until long afterwards, by contracts which had had to be fulfilled subsequently, in spite of the heavy fall in prices. Coupled with the heavy fall in the world markets for iron and steel was the severe depression obtaining in Argentina, in common with all other countries, for the last two years, and the turnover of the company had fallen not only proportionately to the fall in prices, but also in actual tonnage.

The management was now in the hands of Mr Pierre Gregoire, who, according to all reports which had reached the directors from both inside and outside sources, had shown himself equal to his difficult task. The directors chosen to visit Argentina and instal Mr Gregoire were Mr Kerr and Mr Frederick.

At the end of 1921 it was evident that, with the heavy losses which had to be faced, and the weighty commitments which had been incurred with the banks and the suppliers, the financial situation of the company was one of great delicacy. It was no less evident that a reorganisation of the company's finance in some form or another, in order to wipe off losses and to procure fresh working capital, would have to be carried out. A scheme was prepared having for its basis an amalgamation of the company with the Talleres Metalurgicos, but the offer was eventually withdrawn. For several years past—and with the knowledge and assistance of the Board of Trade—the directors had endeavoured to interest one or more of the leading iron and steel firms of this country in the company, and to take charge of the technical management, and although their efforts so far had been in vain, he was glad to say that Mr Frederick had now succeeded in bringing this about. On his own initiative Mr Frederick approached Messrs Baldwins, Limited, and Sir Wm. Arrol and Co., Limited, probably the two largest steel groups in the United Kingdom. They had expressed themselves in principle as very desirous of acquiring a foothold in Argentina through this company, and had agreed to send out experts at their own expense to report upon the works, being prepared, subject to these reports being satisfactory, to find, on terms to be mutually agreed, all the necessary capital which the company might require. He was satisfied that no time would be lost by these firms in acquainting themselves with the position. An alliance with such British firms as Messrs Baldwins and Messrs Arrol, if it could be made, was one which would inspire the greatest confidence in the future welfare of this undertaking.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1899.

Head Office: **HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.**

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 247,000,000.00
Deposits and Cheque Accounts (30/6/22) - Fmk. 1,255,200,000.00

124 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED. SATISFACTORY YEAR—INCREASED PROFITS.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the British Burmah Petroleum Company, Limited, was held on the 26th instant, at Cannon-street Hotel, London, the Hon. Lionel Holland, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman said the accounts for the year to July 31st last recorded improvement in sales and trading profit. They were still up against abnormally high working costs, but substantial savings attached to new plant and electrification. The total profit was £228,826, or a few thousand pounds more than in 1920-21, and the proposed final dividend of 4½d per share would make a total for the year of a fraction over 7½ per cent., free of income-tax.

It was imperative that they should be guaranteed, for several years in advance, a sufficient crude oil output to keep the refinery continuously supplied. Hitherto the bulk of their crude supply had come from the two Yenangyang fields—Twingone and Benie, which for over twenty years had been vigorously drilled. About 1914, the upper sands became pumped out; and the crude return, even from the deepest known oil sands, had now fallen off until it almost ceased to compensate for the cost of drilling, but its future as a stand-by in coming years depended upon whether or not there existed a yet deeper oil sand of commercial value.

Further north was the recently discovered Singu oil territory, where the company owned a good tract of two square miles, always regarded as their first resource against a falling output at Yenangyang. Last year Singu supplied nearly half their total production—over 122,000 barrels more than in 1920-21. The lateral limits of their area of production at Singu was still undetermined, and there might be productive sands deeper than those they were now exploiting. At Yenangyat, the oldest producing oilfield in Burmah, they owned some eight square miles. No deep test had yet been made on their areas there, which formed a reserve of considerable speculative interest, and development would recommence at a suitable time. They owned also 1½ square miles of oil lands and other drilling rights in the Minbu district, where from a number of shallow wells a fair quantity of crude had been secured. They had drilled no well there for over 1,000 feet, and their geologists advised a test in due course for another oil sand at depth. Another district in Burmah which they regarded as of good promise was Ngahlandwin, where they held some three square miles—the pick of the probable oil lands. Serious development work had been commenced. Of their work outside the already proved areas this was the most encouraging. Beyond the fields of Yenangyang and Singu no oil territory of real commercial importance had yet been proved in Burmah.

The search for oil lands in India had had little positive result. Elsewhere exploratory work in Sinai had proved a complete disappointment. On the Comodoro Rivadavia field in the Argentine they had six blocks, each favourably placed, and this field was in active development.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SAMUEL ALLSOPP AND SONS, LIMITED. BEER TAXATION AND ITS EFFECT.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at Cannon street Hotel, London, Sir Wm. B. Peat, C.V.O., the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the past year in the brewing trade had been, on the whole, a trying one. In September, 1921, stocks of hops and brewing materials had been of a very high value, and the company had, unfortunately, had what some critics might describe as an over-stock, consequent on their having budgeted for a consumption of beer approximating the normal demand of the public, which, on account of bad trade and excessive Government taxation of beer, had not been realised. Fortunately, however, they had realised that the high prices for those materials could not continue, and they had on their books a stock reserve more than adequate to bring their stocks and purchases down to present-day values. The present excessive taxation of beer had compelled brewers to charge for a glass of beer a much higher figure than their customers could afford to pay, with the net result that all over the kingdom the barrelage sold had diminished and there was a loss of taxation to the State of £18,047,505 in the 12 months to September 30, 1922.

Allsopps had a well-spread trade, mainly in manufacturing districts where unemployment reached its maximum proportions, and their experience was that the diminution in consumption had affected the company in equal measure to other brewers. In the current financial year there had been no improvement in their sales. He had often wondered why wage-earners had not agitated insistently and effectively for a reduction of the beer duty. He suggested that they should follow the example of the temperance reformers, who were ever active and persistent in publishing from

the housetops their demand and who would not object to kill the beer trade by taxing it out of existence. Any step in the direction of prohibition would, he thought, very speedily bring to the knowledge of our legislators the possible disasters which would follow.

They had an object lesson in what had happened in the United States of America, where liquor in an almost unrestricted stream was pouring across its frontiers, and illicit traders were accumulating wealth at the citizens' expense. Prohibition there was making for dishonesty, and was converting a law-abiding people into law-breakers. Adding to that, the loss of revenue to the State and the enormous cost of the attempt to enforce the law, to say nothing of the drug habit, which was gaining ground every day, especially among young men and women, and they had a picture which he believed no civilised country would care to imitate.

If he were asked whether he had any policy to suggest to improve the position of the trade, he answered that he would sweep away the hop control, the last relic of war-time Government interference, and he would strongly recommend that the beer duty be reduced substantially.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and the formal business was duly transacted.

COLOMBIAN OILFIELDS, LIMITED. CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF COMPANY'S PROPERTY.

The adjourned annual and second annual ordinary general meetings of Colombian Oilfields, Limited, were held, on the 29th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London.

Mr Shirley H. Jenks presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said that they did not disclose a too satisfactory position, and up to the present time the difficulties which they had been struggling against had not been overcome. The history of the company was, briefly, that in 1920 they took over a property fully staffed and equipped for successful development. It was considered one of the best of the Colombian properties. The experts considered it would prove the first large Colombian oil-exporting property, and there was still some chance of this being the case. Their hopes and estimates were upset by the illness of Mr J. W. Kelly, who was then in charge of the property and one of the greatest drilling experts. Had he retained his health they would some time ago have been in a position to report similar successes to those recently announced in Venezuela. For some time no success attended their efforts, but Mr Kelly had now regained his health, and they had every confidence that with the new staff and new plant they would be able to prove the value of the property. Active operations would be commenced next month, and actual drilling early in February.

If the shareholders decided to accept the directors' proposal they would be interested also in the Sinu district. They would be well advised to come into this combination, which would have ample cash resources and technical skill.

As to the Shell agreement, this was entered into when the oil boom was at its height, and during the time taken for checking the company's titles and geological information, the position was reversed, and apparently no European company wished to take on further commitments. If his reading of the present oil position was correct, and his strong belief in their property was justified, they would profit by being independent of the Shell agreement.

With regard to the financial position, they had in hand or at call approximately £40,000, and after a careful study of the position he thought they were quite safe in reckoning that they would have sufficient funds available to carry them through the next twelve months. He must point out, however, that while they thought they had taken every precaution to get over their drilling difficulties, getting a well drilled did not necessarily mean that they would be located in the right spot, and it was quite possible that they would have a dry hole, or even a series of dry holes, in which case they would not be in a happy position. For this, and the reasons previously mentioned, he thought they would do well to share their risks and spread their interests. The recent great Venezuelan successes confirmed the geologists' opinion of this part of the world, and there was every reason to anticipate from the evidences upon their own property, such as the great gas pressure, width of oil sands, and seepages, that their property would prove equally prolific.

The reports and accounts for the two years 1921 and 1922 ending June 30th were unanimously adopted.

OIL OUTPUTS.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, December 20, 1922 amounted to 833 tons.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Accounts.	Advances to		Redemption Account.						
			Bankers.	Savings Banks.	Gold and Coin Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance after Bank of England.		
1914.	£ 21,535	£ 6,302	£ 3,810	£ 600	£ 18,500	£ ..	48.1	9,924	£ 11,423		
Aug. 26.....	38,478	169	600	249	28,500	..	27.6	54,621	20,536		
Dec. 30.....	103,125	729	159	249	28,500	..	19.0	118,102	6,868		
Dec. 29.....	150,144	2,430	64	40	28,500	..	13.4	186,637	5,486		
Dec. 27.....	212,782	8,554	39	675	28,500	..	8.9	305,133	4,566		
Dec. 26.....	323,241	15,529	..	570	28,500	..	9.1	337,537	2,802		
Dec. 31.....	356,152	17,182	250	245	28,500	19,450	13.0	336,504	134		
Dec. 29.....	367,626	16,962	..	..	28,500	19,450	13.9	311,334	143		
Dec. 28.....	343,826	15,599	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.8	287,750	150		
Mar. 30.....	323,884	14,965	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.2	278,119	143		
June 29.....	314,382	14,830	..	..	28,500	19,450	14.7	289,131	161		
Sept. 28.....	325,584	14,658	..	..	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177		
Dec. 28.....	300,351	14,255	..	..	28,500	19,450	16.3	254,312	250		
Mar. 29.....	295,374	13,338	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.6	246,456	169		
June 28.....	289,127	12,648	..	..	27,000	21,150	16.5	247,759	171		
Sept. 27.....	290,578	12,502	..	..	27,000	21,150	15.9	249,602	146		
Dec. 27.....	292,468	12,430	..	..	27,000	21,150	15.9	255,782	177		
13.....	298,630	12,479	..	..	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922	137		
20.....	301,337	12,872	..	..	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922	137		
27.....	301,337	12,872	..	..	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922	137		

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000 for 1921 at £317,555,200, and for 1922 at £309,988,400.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		RECEIPTS.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Dec. 23, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Dec. 24, 1921.	Week Ended Dec. 23, 1922.	Week Ended Dec. 24, 1921.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	£ ..	£ 9,963,424	£ 2,591,051	£ ..	£ ..
Bank of England.....	..	1,210,106	483,465	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	..	11,173,530	3,074,506	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	112,250,000	93,777,000	96,933,000	3,267,000	3,993,000
Excise.....	160,750,000	126,516,000	148,800,000	7,916,000	4,700,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	10,600,000	3,599,000	3,222,000	..	..
State, &c., Duties.....	48,000,000	43,291,000	36,337,000	1,730,000	1,631,000
Stamps.....	18,250,000	14,252,000	11,559,000	555,000	250,000
And Tax, House Duty, & Mineral Rights Duty	3,000,000	640,000	470,000	..	10,000
Property & Income Tax (including Super-Tax),	329,000,000	181,990,000	170,754,000	1,396,000	2,086,000
Excise Profits Duties, &c.	27,800,000	25,000,000	29,714,000	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	19,750,000	13,097,000	10,020,000	530,000	480,000
Post Office.....	54,625,000	38,600,000	1,200,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Post Office Savings	750,000	710,000	570,000	80,000	50,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	14,000,000	7,926,479	8,463,219	39,253	832,047
Fluctuations—	22,000,000	18,435,439	17,338,785	40,621	829,525
Ordinary Receipts...	90,000,000	36,291,818	89,548,270	1,647,297	7,230,314
Special Receipts...	910,775,000	574,139,736	661,849,274	18,396,171	23,611,886
Revenue.....	910,775,000	585,313,266	664,923,780	..	..
Total, inc. Balance	..	..	..	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	800,000	6,980,000	..	250,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	169,818	169,818	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	2,910,000	520,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922.....	3,360,000	3,561,474	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....	27,000	27,500	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	950,000	..	..	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922	1,553,300	..	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	2,510,000	5,355,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	2,159,476,000	2,938,097,000	55,035,000	51,342,000	50,000
(c) For other issues:—					
By Treasury Bills for Supply ..	47,418,000	30,230,000	750,000	..	..
By National Savings Certificates	20	5	..	..	..
By Exchequer and National War Bonds.....	61,655,154	169,532,516	..	10,465,000	..
By Treasury Bonds—					
5-15 year, 1925-35.....	70,907,535	..	..	..	..
5% 1927.....	..	..	..	..	..
4% 1932.....	..	..	..	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....	25,259	10,961,454	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	723,475,500	1,055,746,000	117,211,500	116,439,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired	243,012	..	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Cunard Loan.....	130,000	130,000	..	..	..
Do Issues under Civil Contingencies Fund Act, 1919 ..	..	7,250,000	..	..	..
Do Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	270,252	43,938	..	..	..
Do Issues under Section 59 (4) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	6,827,960	12,225,325	..	3,439,688	..
Interest received under Section 59 (5) of the Finance Act, 1920.....	162,425	321,533	..	..	..
Total.....	3,668,184,501	4,906,110,343	191,392,671	206,397,574	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1922-23, including Supple- mentary Grants.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1922, to Dec. 23, 1922.	Apr. 1, 1921, to Dec. 24, 1921.	Week Ended Dec. 23, 1922.	Week Ended Dec. 24, 1921.
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt.....	16,000,000	10,458,464	12,003,224	414,351	1,241,492
Interest, &c., on War Debt.....	319,000,000	249,443,617	260,451,624	1,347,676	1,301,636
Road Fund.....	10,000,000	3,049,999	2,981,000	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	9,788,000	6,002,990	6,834,711	200,000	210,060
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	2,500,000	1,548,995	100,000	69,843	100,000
Land Settlement.....	3,500,000	820,804	2,318,454	26,677	101,708
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,650,000	1,777,052	1,274,765	53,750	53,750
Supply Services.....	538,253,000	289,642,499	444,273,931	10,425,000	15,738,000
Expenditure.....	902,691,000	562,744,420	730,237,709	12,537,297	18,746,646
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....		..	7,000,000	..	300,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....		169,818	169,818	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....		4,320,000	7,475,000	190,000	440,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1920 to 1922.....		5,310,000	5,561,474	650,000	800,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913.....		27,000	27,500	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....		950,000	50,000	..	..
Under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Act, 1922		1,553,300	..	..	..
Under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904—		2,110,000	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds paid off £3,087,600; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,534,300.....		2,307,769,000	2,969,266,000	54,220,000	47,230,000
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed.....		7,465,703	26,530,413	544,500	725,534
Redemption of Debt—		7,776,211	..	500,000	..
Treasury Bills for Supply.....		19,250,000	14,650,000	450,000	650,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917, and Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919.....		..	9,700,000	..	..
Funding Loan, Victory Bonds and Conversion Loan Sinking Funds		18,962,820	..	..	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates—					
(a) Repaid by Issues under Section 59 (6) of the Finance Act, 1920.....		44,484,182	..	..	..
(b) Repaid otherwise.....		15,825,526	51,494,036	1,604,854	100,000
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off 50% 1922, £20,612,208; less paid off by the National Debt Commissioners, £1,000,000.....		658,698,500	1,023,781,000	120,311,500	136,493,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off					
Other Debts under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....		88,065	112,450	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		3,664,725,020	4,901,593,393	191,008,151	206,385,280
Depreciation Fund, under the Finance Act, 1917.....		1,198,075	22,280,179	..	1,000,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Amendment Act, 1919.....		243,012	..	..	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—		130,000	130,000	..	..
Canard Loan Repayments		5,000,000	14,165,000	..	..
Proceeds of National Savings Certificates, issued under the Finance Act, 1920, Section 59 (4).....					
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....		88,065	112,450	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....		2,344,722	2,275,260	+ 383,363	+ 101,354
Bank of Ireland.....		1,114,759	2,241,684	+ 1,157	89,066
Total.....		3,459,481	4,516,944	+ 384,520	+ 12,294

Tenders will be received on Friday, January 5, 1923, for Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £50,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £5,000,000, but subject to that limit the total amount issued will be divided between Bills and Bonds in such proportions as The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may determine.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, December 27, 1922.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	144,073,200
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	7,434,900
Gold coin and bullion	125,623,200
144,073,200	144,073,200

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Capital	14,553,000
Reserve	3,345,073
Public deposits*	13,323,799
Other deposits	119,903,432
Seven-day & other bills	16,064
151,141,368	151,141,368

* Including Exchequer Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WEEK AND A YEAR AGO.

	Amount, Dec. 27, 1922.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,345,073	—	14,119
Public deposits	119,903,432	+ 3,689,949	+ 2,733,536
Other deposits	51,967,900	+ 445,809	+ 15,005,913
Government securities	78,158,131	+ 9,360,606	+ 5,006,778
Other securities	21,615,377	+ 11,518	+ 651,223
Note circulation	124,877,670	+ 12,730	+ 1,912
Coin and bullion	127,443,007	—	—
% of reserve to liabilities	154%	—	24%

THREE MONTHS' RECORD.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Reserve.	% of Reserve to Liabilities.
1922.					
Oct. 4	127,422,231	123,199,775	138,862,852	133,856,507	22,672,456
11	127,426,688	122,569,890	121,596,282	121,596,282	23,306,798
18	127,435,454	121,689,530	121,385,106	114,894,104	24,195,924
25	127,432,534	121,886,450	125,381,614	119,089,011	23,996,064
Nov. 1	127,435,322	123,158,840	123,879,002	118,854,444	22,726,482
8	127,437,711	122,519,305	122,617,564	116,974,245	23,368,406
15	127,441,016	121,901,960	122,360,827	116,110,795	23,989,066
22	127,445,261	121,407,130	123,414,918	116,705,543	24,488,131
29	127,440,458	122,884,525	121,463,985	116,240,853	23,006,530
Dec. 6	127,446,768	123,063,855	127,698,826	132,722,338	22,832,913
13	127,446,447	123,161,310	124,885,243	120,050,341	22,735,137
20	127,444,219	124,890,400	123,395,554	120,319,616	21,003,819
27	127,443,007	124,877,670	123,227,231	130,126,031	21,015,337

TEN YEARS' RECORD.

At corresponding date with the present week.	Dec. 25, 1912.	May 27, 1914.	Dec. 29, 1920.	Dec. 28, 1921.	Dec. 27, 1922.
Circulation (excluding Bank post bills)	29,272,565	28,933,380	132,851,150	126,520,245	124,877,670
Public deposits	12,435,572	19,014,809	14,304,767	16,057,335	13,323,799
Other deposits	41,248,964	17,554,567	106,532,000	119,903,432	51,967,900
Government securities	13,034,568	11,046,570	107,864,798	36,961,987	78,158,131
Other securities	36,781,501	41,461,280	85,028,242	83,164,909	21,615,377
Reserve of notes and coin	19,506,002	25,463,980	13,866,520	20,364,114	127,443,007
Coin and bullion	30,328,557	35,947,360	128,267,670	128,434,359	127,443,007
Proportion of reserve to liabilities	38%	42%	74%	16%	15%
Bank rate of discount	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%
Market rate, 3 months' bills	4%	3%	6%	3%	2%
Price of Consols	75	74	44	49	56
Price of silver per oz.	28 1/2	26 1/2	43	35 1/2	30 1/2
Average price of wheat	30s 7d	33s 0d	86s 9d	45s 2d	40s 10d
Exchanges on					
Paris	25/20-22 1/2	25/17-20	60/00-52	51/30-52-25	63/00-65-00
New York	44 1/2	44 1/2	83/50-52	84/19-20 1/2	84/64-64 1/2
London	12 1/4	12 1/4	11/22-26	11/43-46	11/68
Clearing house return	250,923,000	199,913,000	523,711,000	483,115,000	459,566,000

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

Week Ending—	Town Clearing.	Country Clearing.	Total.
1922.			
January 1—December 20	33,553,987,000	2,744,770,000	36,298,757,000
December 27	424,663,000	34,903,000	459,566,000
Total to date 1922	33,978,650,000	2,779,673,000	36,758,323,000
Do 1921	31,550,530,000	2,976,566,000	34,526,096,000
Increase or decrease in 1922	+ 2,428,120,000	+ 195,893,000	+ 2,624,013,000
	7.6%	6.6%	7.6%
Total for 1921	31,928,380,000	3,002,179,000	34,930,559,000
Do 1920	34,946,683,000	4,072,220,000	39,018,903,000
Increase or decrease in 1921	- 3,018,303,000	- 1,070,041,000	- 4,088,344,000
	- 8.6%	- 26.2%	- 10.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or Dec.
Aggregate Totals to December 23.			
BIRMINGHAM	120,598,100	111,199,500	- 9,398,600
BRISTOL	75,436,000	67,618,000	- 7,818,000
DUBLIN	358,279,800	316,286,100	- 41,993,700
LIVERPOOL	56,144,000	55,333,400	- 810,600
LEICESTER	38,672,500	39,998,500	+ 1,326,000
LIVERPOOL	449,158,300	426,640,100	- 22,518,200
MANCHESTER	730,937,600	763,173,500	+ 32,235,900
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	35,194,900	33,148,700	- 2,046,200
NOTTINGHAM	55,156,700	47,700,300	- 7,456,400
SHEFFIELD	110,800	123,660	+ 12,860
Bills discounted for member banks	110,800	123,660	+ 12,860
Bills bought in open market	251,730	262,570	+ 10,840
Government obligations owned	431,240	307,240	- 124,000
All other resources	64,650	64,650	—
LIABILITIES	64,650	64,650	—
Government deposits	6,720	23,140	+ 16,420
Other deposits	1,876,240	1,837,970	- 38,270
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,456,710	2,379,190	- 77,520
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	2,456,710	2,379,190	- 77,520
All other liabilities	12,500	19,260	+ 6,760
Capital and surplus	28,470	28,330	- 140
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits	322,660	322,660	—
Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	72.8%	75.1%	+ 2.3%

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.

	Dec. 22, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 8, 1922.	Dec. 23, 1921.
Resources.				
Total gold reserve	3,045,910	3,061,220	3,045,790	2,870,990
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	110,800	123,660	127,190	122,070
Bills discounted for member banks	615,560	759,760	704,950	1,224,700
Bills bought in open market	251,730	262,570	266,830	126,530
Government obligations owned	431,240	307,240	311,850	211,710
All other resources	64,650	64,650	64,650	62,580
LIABILITIES	64,650	64,650	64,650	62,580
Government deposits	6,720	23,140	46,980	54,880
Other deposits	1,876,240	1,837,970	1,863,130	1,729,880
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	2,456,710	2,379,190	2,361,220	2,447,560
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	2,456,710	2,379,190	2,361,220	2,447,560
All other liabilities	12,500	19,260	19,260	12,500
Capital and surplus	28,470	28,330	27,770	25,950
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits	322,660	322,660	322,660	316,990
Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	72.8%	75.1%	74.3%	70.7%

BANK OF FRANCE.

	Dec. 28, 1922.	Dec. 21, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1922.	Dec. 29, 1921.	Position May 28, 1914.
Assets.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,534,829	5,534,663	5,534,531	5,534,228	5,534,228
Of which held abroad	1,864,345	1,864,367	1,864,367	1,864,367	1,864,367
Silver coin and bullion	889,464	889,464	889,464	889,464	889,464
Discount and advances	4,499,133	4,499,133	4,499,133	4,499,133	4,499,133
Advances to the State	23,600,000	23,600,000	23,600,000	23,600,000	23,600,000
LIABILITIES	36,599,286	36,599,286	36,599,286	36,599,286	36,599,286
Government deposits	20,482	15,216	17,355	26,014	183,700
Private deposits	2,388,985	2,130,149	2,124,288	2,717,132	845,960

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.

	Oct. 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.
Assets.					
Cash and bank balances	487,881	441,824	413,981	447,719	509,629
Bank balances abroad	104,892	114,894	111,015	126,760	69,886
Call and short loans	300,833	272,021	276,778	271,989	277,375
Securities	309,882	322,009	322,009	322,009	322,009
Loans in Canada	1,217,578	1,211,825	1,192,614	1,211,825	1,211,825
Loans abroad	145,610	145,610	145,610	145,610	145,610
Other assets	106,444	104,262	99,412	97,315	102,365
LIABILITIES	178,533	176,919	158,087	161,887	193,546
Deposits	139,331	139,331	139,331	139,331	139,331
Government	1,687,933	1,648,648	1,639,485	1,639,485	1,639,485
Public in Canada	331,969	336,747	339,985	347,529	347,529
Bank balances—Canadian	11,311	9,008	8,348	6,379	11,561
Bills payable, &c.	33,807	33,706	35,073	34,284	39,048
Other liabilities	26,409	23,321	22,236	21,872	33,530
Capital and rest	255,274	255,231	255,197	255,068	264,338

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.

	Dec. 2, 1922.	Nov. 25, 1922.	Nov. 18, 1922.	Nov. 11, 1922.	Nov. 4, 1922.
LIABILITIES.					
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	9,151	8,811	8,811	8,712	8,707
Notes in circulation	5,309	5,366	5,100	5,319	5,283
Bankers' deposits	383	383	383	383	383
Gold certificates	10,052	10,032	10,032	10,082	10,057
Subsidiary coin	250	250	250	250	250
Bills discounted (domestic)	2,091	1,898	1,826	1,816	1,832
Do (foreign)	47	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances to the Government	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Other loans and advances	1,348	1,314	1,024	1,299	1,320
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	73.8%	75.2%	77.1%	75.6%	75.6%

BANK OF SPAIN.

	Dec. 23, 1922.	Dec. 16, 1922.	Dec. 9, 1922.	Dec. 2, 1922.	Dec. 24, 1921.	Position May 30, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	2,524,173	2,523,863	2,523,812	2,523,812	2,511,563	821,775
Silver	647,449	646,596	643,798	648,154	626,946	728,700
Loans and discounts	2,184,739	2,161,763	2,254,740	2,233,428	2,975,009	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES	4,095,087	4,095,714	4,104,983	4,083,492	4,216,311	901,550
Circulation	1,045,537	1,053,324	1,056,760	1,054,071	1,004,198	477,500
Deposits	—	—	—	—	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

	Oct. 28, 1922.	Oct. 13, 1922.	Sept. 28, 1922.	Sept. 13, 1922.	Oct. 28, 1921.
	Drachms.	Drachms.	Drachms.	Drachms.	Drachms.
ASSETS.					
Gold and balances abroad	1,363,191	1,351,025	1,360,795	1,359,960	1,363,208
Government loans and securities	2,740,668	2,742,279	2,741,845	2,737,764	2,172,576
Discounts and loans	1,196,457	1,169,965	1,097,452	1,028,065	660,288
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	2,482,703	2,326,896	2,185,015	2,039,639	2,076,851
Government deposits.	336,539	385,470	340,512	371,922	129,686
Private sight deposits.	894,252	865,385	1,009,672	989,470	830,321
Private deposits at fixed rates	1,012,124	1,012,654	1,013,934	1,013,671	910,127

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(000's omitted.)					
	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Sept. 30, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.					
Gold	3,358	3,359	3,360	3,371	1,571
Government securities	36,058	34,375	36,801	36,476	2,084
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	27,615	25,360	26,631	34,722	2,400
Government deposits	4,218	4,106	4,636	2,150	2,315
Other deposits	11,064	12,346	12,528	13,334	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

BANK OF FINLAND.

(000's omitted.)					
	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 15, 1921.	Position May 31, 1914.
Assets.					
Gold	43,373	43,373	43,373	42,625	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	887,200	921,479	939,431	291,350	90,379
Financial and Foreign Government securities	609,955	612,424	613,897	889,840	21,826
Discounts and loans	530,775	508,838	478,060	485,990	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,355,872	1,358,882	1,343,333	1,333,563	123,941
Deposits at notice	501,158	513,958	516,860	133,091	21,225

BANK OF PORTUGAL.

(000's omitted.)					
	Oct. 25, 1922.	Oct. 18, 1922.	Oct. 11, 1922.	Oct. 4, 1922.	Oct. 26, 1921.
Assets.					
Coin and bullion	26,843	26,829	26,791	26,800	27,858
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	34,977	37,734	22,463	17,574	4,269
Discounts	165,654	166,327	166,795	167,730	110,595
Government loans	860,097	820,097	800,097	780,096	620,109
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	971,143	965,700	945,745	947,458	675,276
Deposits	45,764	44,134	42,785	30,087	52,974

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

(000's omitted.)					
	June 30, 1922.	May 31, 1922.	April 30, 1922.	Feb. 28, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Assets.					
Gold	38,164	37,998	38,163	38,138	38,101
Silver	19,563	19,563	19,563	19,563	19,563
Notes in circulation	3,800,625	3,758,717	3,727,974	3,734,308	3,587,627
Deposits	1,432,754	1,195,415	1,229,033	1,282,762	1,442,811

BANK OF LATVIA.

(000's omitted.)				
	Dec. 6, 1922.	Nov. 29, 1922.	Nov. 22, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.
Assets.				
Total cash	3,981	3,101	3,084	3,084
Gold coin and bullion	13,007	12,998	12,993	12,993
Foreign banks	25,165	23,334	22,466	22,466
Discounts and loans	10,176	9,995	9,540	9,540
Other assets	1,505	2,736	1,359	1,359
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	6,740	5,000	4,005	4,005
Capital paid up	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Government deposits	15,949	15,466	16,696	16,696
Other deposits	19,060	17,911	16,994	16,994
Other liabilities	4,085	5,837	3,757	3,757

Note.—On November 1, 1922, the Bank of Latvia, under the title "The Bank of Latvia," began its activities. The former "State Savings and Credit Bank" has been liquidated, and its operations have been turned over to the "Bank of Latvia." The unit of Latvian money is the Lat, equal to one gold franc.

BANK OF LITHUANIA.

(000's omitted.)			
	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1922.
Assets.			
Cover for the emitted bank notes—			
Gold	12,347	15,169	15,180
Silver	3,487	2,972	2,751
Dollars, £ sterling and other stable currency	2,213	9,724	11,747
Stable foreign currency with our correspondents	772	237	233
Other foreign currency	3,715	2,073	5,073
Discounted documents and drafts and credits for col-			
lateral securities	1,736	217	185
With our correspondents	1,736	300	186
At our exchange departments	605		1,753
Organisation, printing of banknotes, current expenses, inventory, and other assets	6,000	6,000	6,000
First instalment for shares	4,321	4,321	4,321
Second instalment for shares	14,094	18,052	24,630
Banknotes in circulation	315	1,049	1,526
Due to the Government Treasury			
Other liabilities			

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC.

(000's omitted.)					
	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 23, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1922.
Assets.					
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715	10,096,715
Discounts & advances	2,064,606	2,061,595	2,404,404	1,988,917	4,236,488
Gold & silver held	817,361	816,577	820,200	819,232	817,821
Foreign bills and balances abroad	1,029,220	1,347,422	1,540,670	1,648,027	1,648,980
Other assets	312,515	332,095	534,168	493,686	617,871
LIABILITIES.					
State notes in circ'ltn	410,961	9,785,675	9,996,550	9,531,450	9,708,291
Deposits	3,389,934	3,527,803	3,570,501	3,429,760	3,288,412
Other liabilities	10,519,522	1,340,926	1,465,106	2,067,866	2,083,601
* Resulting from bank notes, current accounts, Exchange bills issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank and taken over by the Banking Office.					

POLISH NATIONAL BANK.

(000's omitted.)					
	Dec. 10, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Nov. 10, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1922.	Oct. 31, 1921.
Assets.					
Gold	33,885	33,810	33,737	33,668	33,519
Silver	44,196	44,193	44,188	44,182	44,175
Foreign coin	185,124	232,476	269,109	280,385	266,034
Foreign banks	2,624,686	2,999,416	810,593	832,989	908,853
Advances to the Govt.	545,500,000	519,500,000	493,000,000	480,500,000	453,500,000
Private loans and discounts	159,127,884	148,598,225	133,938,910	115,820,624	108,358,332
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	690,087,269	661,092,353	619,149,692	602,808,955	579,972,769
Deposits	124,164,267	116,320,193	114,012,299	97,949,405	83,156,808

BANK OF ESTHONIA.

(000's omitted.)					
	Sept. 30, 1922.	Aug. 31, 1922.	July 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1920.
Assets.					
Gold, for coin, and notes	89,635	102,056	102,120	81,944	81,944
Total cash	454,296	352,941	206,858	158,657	158,657
Discounts and loans	2,639,097	2,639,097	2,552,533	1,399,774	1,399,774
Foreign banks	1,412,441	1,435,846	1,229,764	207,555	207,555
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Reserve	37,771	37,771	37,771	106,674	106,674
Notes in circulation	1,000,000	850,000	700,000	350,000	350,000
Deposits	2,940,355	3,328,511	2,544,837	1,103,823	1,103,823

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, CROATES, AND SLOVENESE.

(000's omitted.)					
	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 15, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Nov. 22, 1921.	Dec. 14, 1921.
Assets.					
Gold	64,002	63,996	63,996	63,996	63,996
Other coin and notes	17,262	17,190	17,170	16,992	16,992
Foreign credits	262,987	270,334	290,179	291,888	291,888
Bills	1,405,597	1,391,168	1,418,000	1,445,009	1,445,009
Govt. advances	4,454,747	4,593,958	4,615,816	4,565,317	4,438,946
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	4,883,360	4,955,110	4,998,356	4,958,574	4,620,502
State credits	315,711	325,711	347,568	332,903	370,100
Deposits	1,024,450	1,069,030	1,080,744	1,121,815	311,326

LONDON RATES.

	Dec. 27, 1922.	Dec. 20, 1922.	Dec. 13, 1922.	Dec. 6, 1922.	Dec. 29, 1921.	Dec. 22, 1921.
Bank rate (reduced from 3½% July 13, 1922)	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Market rates of discount—						
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
3 months' do.	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
4 months' do.	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
6 months' do.	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Discount (Treasury Bills):—						
3 months'	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Loans:—Day to day	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Short	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Deposits:—Banks	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%	2½%
Discount houses at call	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%
At notice	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%	1½%

Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week.
Comparison with the previous weeks:—

	Short Loans	Bank Bills.				Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Oct. 13, 1922.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Oct. 20.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Oct. 27.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Nov. 3.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Nov. 10.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Nov. 17.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Nov. 24.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Dec. 1.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Dec. 8.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Dec. 15.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Dec. 21.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	
Dec. 28.	2 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	

IRISH BANKS' RATE.

	Present Rate.	Date Changed.	Previous Rate.	Date Changed.
Discount	5%	July 13, 1922	4½%	June 15, 1922.
Deposit	1½%	June 15, 1922	2%	Feb. 15, 1922.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank Rate			Bank Rate		
Changed.			Changed.		
Amsterdam	July 18, 1922	%	Madrid	May 11, 1922	%
Athens	May 15, 1920	4	Paris	Mar. 11, 1922	5
Berlin	Nov. 13, 1922	10	Prague	Apr. 27, 1922	5
Brussels	June 8, 1922	4½	Rome	July 11, 1922	5
Buenos Aires	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Sofia	June 1913	6
Calcutta	Dec. 28, 1922	7	Stockholm	July 1, 1922	4
Canton	Aug. 17, 1922	5	Swiss Bank		
Cebu	Apr. 25, 1922	5	places	Aug. 17, 1922	3
Copenhagen	Oct. 16, 1922	5	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919	9
Helsingfors	Sept. 3, 1920	7	Vienna	Sept. 2, 1922	9
London	June 21, 1922	4	Warsaw	Sept. 1, 1922	7
New York Federal Reserve					

The Irving National Bank of New York cable the following

	Dec. 29, 1922.	Nov. 30, 1922.	Dec. 7, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1922.	Dec. 21, 1922.	Dec. 28, 1922.
Call money	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank acceptances	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Members—eligible, 90 days	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%
Ineligible, 90 days	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%	4½%
Commercial accept., 90 days	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Dec. 29, 1921.	Dec. 21, 1922.	Dec. 29, 1922.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	52 35-40	62 30-35	63 90-95
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	776-781	29000-30000	34000-35000
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	10500-11500	30000-35000	31000-37000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	285-295	1150-1250	147-150
Warsaw	P. marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	11500-12500	8000-8500	2200-2700
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	24-02	2400-2700	760-780	810-820
Sofia	levas to £1	T.T.	24-02	2400-2700	10500-11500	10500-11500
Belgrade	dinas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	750-735	770-810	790-830
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12-107	590-6	550-600	630-680
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	18-155	270-275	375-380	420-440
Christiania	krone to £1	T.T.	18-155	219-223	61-68 64	11-68 69½
Copenhagen	krone to £1	T.T.	18-155	20-92 97	22-45-50	22-48-53
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-22½	38-100	146-186	185-186
Greece	drachmeto £1	T.T.	25-22½	971	904-91	913-92
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22½	21-47 52	24-49 52	24-47 51
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	28-10 15	29-46 49	29-49 52
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	53½	44-4	28-24	28-24
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	53½	97½-8	97½-8	97½-8
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	4-68½-8	4-68½-8	4-69½-8
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-98½	4-67½-8	4-67½-8	4-67½-8
Muenster	dollars to £1	Cable	4-98½	4-67½-8	4-67½-8	4-67½-8
Buenos Ayres	pesos to mil.	30 days	13 33	39-90	36-20	36-20
Rio de Janeiro	pesos to mil.	T.T.	51	41½-42	44-44½	44-44½
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	13 33	39-90	36-20	36-20
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	T.T.	10 to	16½ prem	16½ prem	16½ prem
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	30 days	Gold	13 33½-4½	14 44-4½	14 44-4½
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Govn.	13 33½-4½	14 44-4½	14 44-4½
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	T.T.	2s 7d-2s 8½d	2s 2½d-3d	2s 2½d-3d
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	T.T.	3s 6d-3s 7½d	3s 0d-1½d	3s 0d-1½d
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	T.T.	2s 7½d-3s 6d	2s 1½d-3d	2s 1½d-3d
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	T.T.	2s 7½d-3s 6d	2s 1½d-3d	2s 1½d-3d
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	T.T.	2s 7½d-3s 6d	2s 1½d-3d	2s 1½d-3d
Manila	ster. to dollar	T.T.	T.T.	2s 7½d-3s 6d	2s 1½d-3d	2s 1½d-3d
Mexico	pence to mols.	T.T.	T.T.	2s 7½d-3s 6d	2s 1½d-3d	2s 1½d-3d

(+) denotes balance in favour of India and (—) adverse balance.

	Year 1920-21.	Year 1921-22.	Year 1922-23.
April	13.87	— 6.85	+ 4.17
May	5.74	— 2.00	+ 3.48
June	82	— 1.67	+ 1.11
July	3.14	+ 1.35	+ 32
August	9.36	+ 2.34	+ 2.96
September	4.69	+ 93	+ 10
October	10.32	— 8.65	— 3.86
November	11.07	— 9.22	+ 5.96
December	9.02	— 2.55	—
January	8.97	— 7.12	—
February	7.03	— 59	—
March	4.86	+ 1.42	—

SILVER.

The market has naturally suffered from the proximity of the holidays, though that can hardly be held responsible for the price for forward delivery creating a fresh low record for the year, namely, 29½d, on the 22nd inst. This quotation is the lowest since May 9, 1919. On that date quotations for two months' delivery were resumed for the first time since July 30, 1914. During the month of November exports of silver from San Francisco to China amounted to 4,154,096 ounces. In our bullion letter of October 26th last we referred to a statement by the American Mining Congress of a discovery of silver near Fitzgerald, Alberta. The Canadian authorities, however, inform us that this discovery is of small importance. No fresh Indian currency returns have come to hand. The stock in Shanghai on the 23rd inst. consisted of about 28,300,000 ounces in sycee, 26,000,000 dollars, and 10 silver bars, as compared with about 32,000,000 ounces in sycee, 35,000,000 dollars, and 370 silver bars on the 16th inst. The Shanghai exchange is quoted at 3s the tael.

Quotations.	BAR SILVER.		BAR GOLD.
	Per Ounce Standard.	Per Ounce Fine.	
December 21	30½	30½	89 1
22	30½	29½	88 9
27	30½	30½	88 8
Average of the above 3 days	30.770	30.041	Average 88 10

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

The price of gold and cash and forward prices of bar silver during this week and in previous years are as follows:—

1922.		Gold.	Silver.		Date.	Silver.
		Per Ounce.	Cash, Per Ounce.	Forward, Per Ounce.		Cash, Per Ounce.
Dec.	23..	s d 88 9	d 30½	d 29½	Jan. 6, 1916	d 26½
	25..	Christ	mas	Day	5, 1917	29½
	26..	Box	ing	Day	4, 1918	44½
	27..	88 8	30½	30½	4, 1919	48½
	28..	88 11	31½	30½	Dec. 31, 1920	40½
	29..	88 11	31½	30½	30, 1921	34½

NOTICES.

A branch of the British and North European Bank, Limited, will be opened in January, 1923, at No. 88 Aldgate High street, E. 1, under the management of Mr M. V. Salomon.

A branch of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, has been opened at Loxton (South Australia). It is notified that Mr G. W. Wallace, who has been connected with the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, since it opened in London in 1882, is retiring from the position of manager of the London office on December 31st, and that Mr P. H. Gardner has been appointed acting manager.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

BALDWIN'S, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with June 30, 1921.	ASSETS.		Compared with June 30, 1921.
5% pref. shares	250,000	..	Properties	3,624,974	.. + 187,519
Ord. shares	4,152,930	.. + 15,548	Stock	1,153,323	.. + 265,092
5% cum. "B" pref.	1,343,020	.. + 8,514	Investments	4,123,260	.. + 810,122
4% deb. stock	500,000	..	Interest, &c.	—	.. — 59,430
7% deb. stock	2,250,000	..	Loans to sub-	—	..
Overdrafts at bankers	—	.. — 297,010	diaries	427,370	.. + 427,370
Sundry creditors	703,273	.. — 406,218	Sundry debtors	811,349	.. — 979,637
on t'ing acc'ts.	—	..	Cash, War Bonds, and bills	452,412	.. + 336,043
Sundry creditors on capital expenditure	263,847	.. — 332,050	Premium	188,352	.. + 11,357
Deb. int. accrued	95,769	.. + 83,305	B. & T. and B. & T. (Birm'gham)	—	..
Prof. dividend	40,478	.. + 240	on purchase of (deb. stock 7½%)	—	.. — 2,013,750
Outstanding deb. warrants	739	.. — 597	Expenses of issue of deb. stock	—	.. — 236,250
Sinking funds	188,352	.. + 11,358			
Reserve	389,835	..			
Premiums on ord. shares	293,613	.. — 236,250			
Profit and loss	309,178	.. — 98,040			
Total	10,781,040	.. — 1,251,564	Total	10,781,040	.. — 1,251,564

BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.		Inc. or Dec. Compared with Sept. 30, 1921.	
Ord. shares, £1. 16,046,070	.. + 30,425	Real estate and b'ldgs at cost	490,558	.. — 60,391	
5% cum. pref. £1. 4,500,000	.. — 52,247	Plant, &c.	200,000	.. + 53,315	
Creditors	5,161,822	Goodwill, &c.	—	..	
Reserves for building, &c.	500,000	Loans to & current accounts with associated companies	4,695,582	.. — 852,304	
Premium on ord. shares	417,314	Investments in associated com-	—	..	
Provision for redemption of coupons	48,446	panies	15,266,302	.. — 74,281	
Special reserve	1,256,399	Other investm'ts	—	.. 4,958	
General reserve	—	Brit. Gov'tment securities	464,853	.. + 464,853	
Profit and loss	4,721,105	Stocks	4,849,513	.. + 2,023,552	
		Sundry debtors	1,659,489	.. — 448,652	
		Cash	4,495,612	.. + 1,974,632	
Total	32,651,156	Total	32,651,156	.. + 28,662	

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim div.	Final div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'at. Prev. Years.
Railways.						
Bengal and N. Western	6½%	Feb. 5	Less tax 2/9 in £	11	11	
Delhi Umballa	7½%	Jan. 29	Less tax 2/9 in £	11	11	
London and Greenwich	28½%	Jan. 12	Less tax	11	11	
Rohilkund and Kumaon	6½%	Jan. 29	Less tax 2/9 in £	11	11	
Banks.						
Bank of France	4½%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	18½	18½	
Bank of Nova Scotia	4%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	18½	18½	
Equitable Trust of N.Y.	4%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	18½	18½	
National City Bank of N.Y.	4%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	18½	18½	
National City Co.	4%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	18½	18½	
Insurance.						
National Insurance of New Zealand	2½ p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Mining.						
Amalgamated Zinc (De Bays)	1½ p.s.	Jan. 31	Less tax	18½	18½	
Ken Lake	2½ p.s.	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
New Era Cons.	12½%	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
Tea and Rubber.						
Assam Frontier Tea	5½%	Dec. 29	Less tax	18½	18½	
Punjab Tea	7½%	Dec. 30	Less tax	18½	18½	
Sendayan (F.M.S.) Rubber	10½%	Dec. 30	Less tax	18½	18½	
Wanarajah Tea	10½%	Dec. 30	Less tax	18½	18½	
Other Companies.						
Allen-Liversidge, Limited	9½%	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
American Cyanamid Co., Pref.	14%	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
Baldwins, Limited	10½%	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
Belize Motors	10½%	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
Bilston Gas Light & Coke, "A"	5½ p.s.	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
Do "B"	4½ p.s.	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
Britain Steamship	5½%	Dec. 22	Less tax	18½	18½	
Bull's Metal and Meloid.	5½%	Dec. 22	Tax free	18½	18½	
Burns and High Peak Enter-	5½%	Dec. 22	Tax free	18½	18½	
tainsments	5½%	Dec. 22	Tax free	18½	18½	
Central Canada Loan, &c.	2½ p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Cork Electric Trams, Pref.	7½%	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Crompton and Co., Pref.	7½%	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Dominion Steel Corp., Pref.	14%	Feb. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Eastern Telegraph	10½%	Jan. 15	Tax free	18½	18½	
Eastman Kodak of New Jersey	10½%	Jan. 15	Tax free	18½	18½	
Edward Wood and Co.	8½ p.s.	Mar. 1	Tax free	18½	18½	
English China Clays, Pref.	24%	Mar. 1	Tax free	18½	18½	
Falkirk Iron	24%	Dec. 21	Less tax	18½	18½	
Forestal Land, Timber, Pref.	5½%	Dec. 19	Less tax	18½	18½	
Glasgow Corn Exchange	10½%	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Glasgow Albion	10½%	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Goodwin, Foster, Brown, Pref.	4½ p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Hall and Co.	5½%	Jan. 1	Less tax	18½	18½	
Hamilton Provident and Loan	1½ p.s.	Jan. 2	Less tax 5/ in £	18½	18½	
Heywood and Roe Aore Mills	5½%	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
Hitchman and Co.	13 p.s.	Jan. 2	Less tax	18½	18½	
International Paper Mills	—	Jan. 2	Tax free	18½	18½	
Do Scrip	12½%	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
John Crossley and Sons	2½ p.s.	Jan. 25	Less tax	18½	18½	
Key's Atlas Brewery	3½ p.s.	Jan. 25	Less tax	18½	18½	
Lipton, Limited	6%	Jan. 25	Less tax	18½	18½	
Montreal Cotton	8½%	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
N.Z. and River Plate Land	3½ p.s.	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
Ontario Land and Debuture	24½%	Jan. 15	Subject to tax	18½	18½	
Reid Estancias	24½%	Jan. 15	Subject to tax	18½	18½	
Scottish Motor Traction	3½ p.s.	Jan. 15	Subject to tax	18½	18½	
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron	16 p.s.	Jan. 15	Tax free	18½	18½	
St Neots Paper Mills	5½%	Jan. 15	Tax free	18½	18½	
Sun Paper Mill	5½%	Jan. 15	Tax free	18½	18½	
Sutherland Steamship	2½ p.s.	Jan. 15	Tax free	18½	18½	
Thomas Wethered	9 p.s.	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
Van den Burghs, 5 Shares	5½%	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	
W. and T. Avery	5½%	Jan. 15	Less tax	18½	18½	

CARTHAGEN AND HARRIS STEAM TRAMWAYS.—Directors regret they will not have sanctioned postponement of time for further period of three years.

HENRY ROSSSELL AND CO.—The directors have decided to postpone payment of half yearly dividend on the 5½ per cent. cumulative preference shares due December 31st.

OPHAM PRESS, LIMITED.—In the usual course, a half-year's dividend on the 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of the company would be paid on the 31st inst. but the directors consider it prudent to postpone the payment of dividends until the audited accounts for the current year are available.

FERK BROS. AND WING.—Dividend on "A" preference shares for three half-years is being paid to date, and full year's dividend on "B" preference shares, leaving £1,625 to be carried forward.

PROVINCIAL CINEMATOGRAF THEATRES.—It is announced that the payment of ordinary shares has been postponed. No dividend has been paid on these shares since that for the first half of 1921.

ROBINSON GOLD MINING.—As the net profit earned for the year 1922 amounted to only 1½ per cent. of the company's issued capital, and as it is improbable that the further dividend declarations, but to distribute any accumulated profits and any money accruing from sale of assets as a liquidation dividend after it has been decided to place the company in voluntary liquidation.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Miles Open.	Week Ended Dec. 24, 1922.				Aggregate 51 Weeks 1922.			
	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Total Receipts.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Total Receipts.
Great Central (c)	6769	52,600	143,100	195,700	2,500,100	6,758,300	9,258,400	12,757,300
Do Joint Lines	1614	11,300	95,100	236,400	5,926,300	4,752,000	10,678,300	11,552,700
Great Eastern (c)	12073	114,300	95,100	236,400	5,926,300	4,752,000	10,678,300	11,552,700
Great Northern (c)	1050	142,000	142,600	284,600	4,852,000	18,542,000	33,392,000	40,244,000
Great Western (d)	2657	314,000	328,000	642,000	14,920,000	18,542,000	33,392,000	40,244,000
London & N. Western (d)	2656	422,000	419,000	841,000	18,582,000	21,713,000	40,295,000	48,008,000
Lon. & South Western	968	176,300	47,300	233,600	6,649,300	2,877,700	9,527,000	11,406,700
Lon. Brighton & S.C. (c)	487	105,468	26,588	131,056	4,777,979	1,380,390	6,158,369	7,538,359
Maryport & Carlisle (c)	423	1,300	1,855	3,157	60,612	96,722	157,334	247,956
Metropolitan (c)	794	38,611	3,403	42,014	1,730,489	184,989	1,915,478	2,100,468
Midland (c)	1,5853	178,000	288,000	466,000	8,966,000	16,074,000	25,040,000	31,014,000
Midland & S. W. Jnc.	63	1,877	1,089	2,965	75,267	69,180	144,447	183,627
North Eastern (c)	1,850	146,000	9,706	375,000	6,697,000	12,503,700	19,200,700	23,704,400
North London	16	4,613	9,706	14,319	242,426	494,233	736,659	907,590
South-E. & Chatham (c)	654	159,860	40,700	204,475	6,864,800	2,211,100	9,075,900	11,635,969
Underground E.R. (c)	—	—	—	47,084	—	—	—	372,478
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	—	—	—	164,900	3,634,000	5,046,900	8,680,900	10,317,800
Oleandian	1,097	63,300	101,600	52,200	1,559,000	1,850,200	3,409,200	4,269,400
Glasgow and S.W. (c)	478	8,740	8,890	17,630	471,480	455,730	927,210	927,210
G. N. of Scotland (c)	492 (a)	10,282	9,204	19,486	598,787	526,585	1,125,372	1,125,372
Highland (c)	1,3773	61,300	127,300	188,600	3,337,600	5,985,100	9,322,700	11,660,400
North British (c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast and County Down (b)	80	4,925	1,453	6,378	271,130	67,529	338,659	338,659
Dublin and S. East. (b)	158	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Midland Gt. West. (b)	530	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(a) Including 10 miles temporarily closed. (b) Week ended December 22, 1922. (c) Week ended December 23, 1922. (d) Including receipts from Amalgamated Lines.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week or Month.		Total Gross Receipts.		
				1922.	+ or —	1922.	+ or —	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
INDIAN.								
Assam Bengal	33 weeks	Nov. 18	1,043	2,75,819	+ 52,393	79,98,564	+ 27,163	
Baril Lt. Ry.	34 weeks	Dec. 2	118	35,540	+ 8,100	11,55,000	+ 3,539	
Bengal & N. Western	8 weeks	Nov. 25	57	1,84,240	+ 36,496	43,60,550	+ 48	
Bengal Nagpur	25 weeks	Dec. 25	2,703	9,82,400	+ 1,58,000	4,68,40,781	+ 59,099	
Bombay, Bar. & C.O.	36 weeks	Dec. 9	2,994	21,85,000	+ 79,000	2,01,15,000	+ 17,235	
Bombay, Bar. & C.O.	34 weeks	Nov. 18	1,342	17,68,886	+ 1,72,703	2,20,08,673	+ 32,361	
Delh. Umballa & Kalka	11 weeks	Dec. 16	239	95,000	+ 17,718	11,88,000	+ 14,131	
East Indian	12 weeks	Dec. 23	2,772	29,79,000	+ 3,81,000	3,63,07,000	+ 7,475	
G. Indian Peninsula	37 weeks	Dec. 16	31,321	33,67,600	+ 3,11,300	9,63,61,558	+ 43,433	
Madras & S. Mahr.	32 weeks	Nov. 11	3,028	12,75,000	+ 1,63,491	4,48,81,266	+ 46,696	
Robt'rd & Kumaon	8 weeks	Dec. 25	25	46,890	+ 653	1,01,471	+ 26	
Do. L. & W. Breilly	34 weeks	Dec. 25	30	58,455	+ 8,608	41,37,703	+ 81	
South Indian	32 weeks	Nov. 11	1,852	39,032	+ 25,292	3,01,20,315	+ 30,199	
Sindh, Punjab (month)	5 mths	Aug. 31	717	7,64,549	+ 23,119	41,53,474	+ 81	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Argentine (a).				9,500	+ 1,100	251,000	+ 28	
Argentine N.E.	25 weeks	Dec. 23	111	3,580	+ 1,380	69,240	+ 23	
Argentine Trans.	25 weeks	Dec. 23	111	168,000	+ 31,000	3,464,000	+ 418	
B. A. & Pacific.	25 weeks	Dec. 23	3,428	221,000	+ 53,000	4,027,000	+ 391	
B. A. & Gt. Southern	25 weeks	Dec. 23	3,947	114,000	+ 60,000	1,208,000	+ 692	
B. Western	25 weeks	Dec. 23	1,882	106,000	+ 46,000	2,742,000	+ 446	
Buenos Ayres Cent.	2 mths	Aug. 31	190	41,145	+ 12,798	78,379	+ 25	
Central Argentine	2 mths	Aug. 31	3,306	191,000	+ 24,000	4,772,000	+ 465	
Central Central	25 weeks	Dec. 23	1,206	57,300	+ 11,400	1,486,800	+ 157	
Entre Rios	25 weeks	Dec. 23	811	20,200	+ 800	434,800	+ 38	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Brazilian (b).				Ms	54,250	554,000	+ 25	
Brazil Gt. Southern	11 mths	Nov. 30	1,005	15,900	+ 1,800	666,500	+ 166	
Gt. West. of Brazil.	51 weeks	Dec. 23	1,831	29,958	+ 457	1,518,849	+ 533	
Leopoldina	51 weeks	Dec. 23	153	34,375	+ 12,187	1,468,259	+ 35	
San Paulo	51 weeks	Dec. 23	52	Ms	150,000	774,000	+ 350	
State of Bahia, S.W.	7 mths	Nov. 30	50	Ms	150,000	774,000	+ 350	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Chile and Peru.				32,140	+ 17,250	1,254,965	+ 239	
Antofagasta	51 weeks	Dec. 24	838	32,944	+ 5,878	120,378	+ 5	
Nitrate (3-monthly)	50 weeks	Nov. 30	1,059	1,327,100	+ 50,530	6,467,260	+ 293	
Peruvian Corp.	5 mths	Nov. 30	172	(19) 79,576	+ 10,147	76,029	+ 27	
Talca	5 mths	Nov. 30	172	(19) 79,576	+ 10,147	76,029	+ 27	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Havana Central	24 weeks	Dec. 16	1,210	10,066	+ 1,619	233,870	+ 18	
United of Havana.	25 weeks	Dec. 16	1,210	57,858	+ 2,716	1,193,663	+ 161	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Uruguayan.				30,387	+ 3,626	621,307	+ 15	
Central Uruguay.	25 weeks	Dec. 23	873	6,051	+ 947	120,378	+ 5	
C. Urug. (East Exh.)	25 weeks	Dec. 23	111	3,434	+ 76	65,747	+ 6	
C. Urug. North Exh.	25 weeks	Dec. 23	185	3,434	+ 76	60,205	+ 5	
C. Urug. (West Exh.)	25 weeks	Dec. 23	111	3,434	+ 76	60,205	+ 5	
Midland Uruguay	4 mths	Oct. 31	319	9,787	+ 296	33,442	+ 24	
North-West Uruguay	5 mths	Nov. 30	113	7,830	+ 722	12,578	+ 3	
Uruguay North	5 mths	Nov. 30	73	7,830	+ 722	12,578	+ 3	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Other Foreign.				Pa	30,000	+ 3,000	1,009,450	+ 159
Atlix and Yucatan	51 weeks	Dec. 23	35	7,282	+ 665	13,612	+ 4	
Bilbao	11 mths	Nov. 30	13	18,191	+ 1,481	75,083	+ 3	
Soñar	11 mths	Nov. 30	136	18,191	+ 1,481	75,083	+ 3	
Osaka Rios.	4 mths	Oct. 31	189	15,000	+ 7,500	118,710	+ 73	
Dorado Extension	8 mths	Oct. 31	45	4,750	+ 1,250	52,000	+ 9	
Dorado Ropery, Ext.	34 weeks	Nov. 30	559	(c) 11,981	+ 1,664	4,170,288	+ 1,279	
Maripian Delta	4 mths	Oct. 31	104	Pa	94,531	+ 8,865	774,955	+ 19
Gt. Southern of Spain	50 weeks	Dec. 16	104	16,532	+ 7,527	265,045	+ 73	
International of	11 mths	Nov. 30	43	9,010	+ 930	99,850	+ 10	
Central America.	18 mths	Nov. 30	23	225,400	+ 64,500	3,677,600	+ 1,133	
La Guaira & Caracas	23 weeks	Dec. 21	403	116,530	+ 370,700	4,58,700	+ 1,779	
Mexican Railway	4 mths	Oct. 31	103	254,639	+ 152,400	870,800	+ 320	
Do	4 mths	Oct. 31	103	254,639	+ 152,400	870,800	+ 320	
Nasajo Ocaranhamm	10 mths	Oct. 31	31	13,437	+ 781	111,503	+ 21	
Woman Railway	2 weeks	Sept. 2	193	12,750	+ 1,000	35,000	+ 2	
Paerto Cabello, do.	8 mths	Dec. 23	100	3,394	+ 512	66,554	+ 10	
Salvador.	1 mth	Nov. 30	30	194,520	+ 5,312	87,930	+ 16	
Sanchez	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	(a) 12,550	+ 2,978	120,006	+ 22	
Samana & Santiago	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	(a) 12,550	+ 2,978	120,006	+ 22	
Zafra and Huevra	10 mths	Oct. 31	112	(a) 12,550	+ 2,978	120,006	+ 22	

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—December 21, 1922.

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Dec. 28, 1922.	Corresponding dates in				
		1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	15'34	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	11'81	10'27	30'75	23'52	10'88	
Egyptian per lb	17'90	21'50	23'00	54'00	31'40	19'95
Yarns—32's twist per lb	21'21	18'4	24'4	55'38	38'1	17'4
— 40's twist per lb	20'4	18	23'4	52	38	17'4
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	28	32	35	97	47'3	38'3
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	6	d	d	d	d	d
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	32	31	42	6	51	24
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	18	3	6	80	50	22
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs.	16	9	21	0	28	13

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The year is closing with an exceptionally good tone throughout the wool trade. Demand for raw material appears to be as strong as ever, and in some quarters higher values are confidently expected early next year. Topmakers and spinners are busy, and most firms have some very useful orders on their books to carry them well into the first quarter of 1923; indeed, spinners can probably run to the end of March without any difficulty. New business has been somewhat restricted during the week on account of the holiday break, but some fair weights have changed hands, and the prices are decidedly against the buyer. Most topmakers now want at least 5s 1d for average 64's tops, while, as regards cross-breeds, medium qualities are all quoted higher than they were a week ago. Average 56's have been advanced about ½d to 3s per lb.; 50's are up to 27d, and 48's, carded at 21d, show an advance of 1½d. The market generally has a healthy appearance, and it is expected that a considerable amount of new business will be brought out during the first few weeks of the New Year. Spinners and good orders have been booked both in botanies and cross-breeds. Yarn quotations are nominally unchanged on the week, but practically all counts and qualities are firm. Manufacturers and merchants are hoping for better times next year. During the last twelve months they have had to contend with serious diffi-

Write for particulars to the
National Provident Institution,
 48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

The year end finds the wool trade in a very healthy and comfortable position. During the past week there has been a further accession of business in consequence of a considerable turnover in tops of practically all qualities. It appears as if the entire trade is at last recognising the strength of the raw material, and reasonable optimism is felt regarding the future. It may be that there is more doing at the raw material end of the trade than in the fully manufactured article, but this has ever been so, and unless spinners as well as manufacturers took practical steps to be ready when trade came, spindles and looms would be badly run to-day. Many firms say that they have always had to anticipate, and when there was a buy, being in the position to offer yarns and pieces at something under the last rise, has enabled them to do considerable business. Practically all users have been waiting to see merino wool come below a 5s basis for 64's in the top, but neither colonial auctions nor Coleman street have furnished wool to warrant anyone accepting under 5s 1d for an average 64's, and up to 5s 3d for warp 64's. We think it is largely the fact that the first half of the selling season is over in Australia without a break in prices that is the chief factor in inducing users to recognise the strength of merinos, and although there is plenty of crossbred wool available, far more than the trade can lift during 1923, still there certainly is an expanding consumption, and it will need little impetus to drive merinos to a still higher basis. We are not altogether satisfied that that would be a good thing in the interests of the entire industry, nor to the good of those buying the fully manufactured fabric. The impoverishment of the world's purchasing power makes it imperative that reasonable prices obtain for all classes of clothing, and not until the reparations question is finally settled, and the Continent of Europe put upon a sounder financial basis, are any higher prices justified for even merinos. All the same, business is very healthy and sound.

Quite a number of mills are standing all the week, although several have only stood Monday and Tuesday. It still remains a fact that the woollen end of the trade is far worse off for work than those engaged in spinning and weaving worsteds, and, unlike the United States, worsteds still hold sway. We can see no sound reason why woollens should be a more popular article across the Atlantic than here in England, except it be on the question of prices, and, although it seem impossible, many retailers are determined upon offering their customers a suit at prices current before the new duties became operative, which we think is compelling manufacturers to use a lower quality of raw material. Then the woollen trade of the West Riding cannot get on to its feet until trade is resumed in large volume with Central and Eastern Europe, and those Huddersfield firms who have combined with a view of opening business with Czechoslovakia have lost money. It almost looks as if Germany will have to be the first to attempt serious business with her nearest neighbours, for, after all, German methods appeal to the average eastern Continental firm better than those of exporters in this country, the long credit now demanded being a serious hindrance from the British traders' point of view. However, a very hopeful feeling obtains regarding the future, and everything indicates a developing business.

Markets are affected by holiday conditions, and little actual trading has been done this week. Small dealings in new Plate line-seed are reported round £16 7s 6d for January-February shipment, but as a rule crushers are still lookers-on and show no great disposition to cover more than their immediate prospective requirements. Meanwhile there is a pronounced scarcity of line-seed in hand and in near positions. Spot seed scarcely offers at all, and is at a very high premium, while £19 1s 3d has been paid for December, and £18 15s for 2,000 tons (to load before January 10th) to Hull, a price which has also been paid for 1,000 tons on passage to Hull. The quantity of line-seed (Plate and Indian) afloat is very small, that to the United Kingdom being 10,000 tons, and that to the Continent 20,100 tons. The new Plate seed appears to be moving off very slowly, and, unless the rate improves quickly, supplies on this side must continue short. With regard to the oil product, raw oil on spot is firmly held for £39 10s ex Hull mill, while £35 15s is quoted for January-April and £32 12s 6d for May-August. Quantities of line-seed oil crushed on the Continent are again offering.

The new crop of Egyptian cottonseed is shipping freely, and quite a number of cargoes are now on passage to the United Kingdom and to Germany, which, after some years, is again a buyer from Alexandria. Values, in the absence of demand, are slightly easier, Sakellaris quoting £11 10s spot. Some business has transpired in Bombay at £9 2s 6d, December-January. Oil quotations are maintained round £37 for crude Egyptian and soap-makers' grade of refined.

The Continent is the chief buyer of soya beans and rapeseed. Hamburg concluding purchases of the former at £11 10s and £11 12s 6d, November-December loading, and of Toria rapeseed at £16 12s 6d, February-March.

The final official figures of the United States line-seed crop show

This week has almost been a blank as far as business is concerned; few sales of hides and skins have been made either in London or the provinces, and values remain as last quoted. Bermondsey hide sales recommence on Thursday next. What few sales have been made appear to have shown a slight weakness, but tanners are hoping for much further declines in their raw material before they can turn out sole leather at a profit. Little has been done in imported hides, prices at source of origin still being above tanners' ideas. Cables from the U.S.A. report the Chicago position as steady, with no change in prices, best 60 lb. packers still being listed at 20 cents and native cows at 16 cents.

Very little sole leather has gone out either from tanneries or warehouses this week, as most of the shoe factories have been closed for the Christmas holidays. The spell of wet weather is, however, bound to help the demand for bends, as repairers are short of leather, and are already coming into the market. Stocks of sole leather are, however, ample for requirements, and tanners are not at all firm on prices if a big parcel of leather can be cleared.

The turnover in upper leather has been again small, and a disappointing feature is that there are still "bargain parcels" of stock being offered at a very low price—in one case box kip, full chrome, at 5 or so per foot. Several big parcels of chrome calf, kip and glaccé are also to be sold by auction during the forthcoming week. The talk of protecting calf leather tanners is still to be heard, but shoe trade buyers may little attention to it.

Most shoe factories have been closed for the week, and the few who have opened up found little in the way of orders after the holiday. Retailers do not appear to have done as well as they expected with the Christmas trade, as less money has been spent on boots and slippers than is usual at this season.

Mincing Lane, Friday, December 29.

Business proceeded quietly in most commodities while partaking of a holiday character.

SUGAR.—Prices for refined descriptions remained without material change, but actual dealings were quite retail in extent. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 55s 3d to 56s 3d; granulated, fine and coarse, 50s 7½d; No. 1, 50s 4½d; No. 2, also London quality, 50s 1½d; yellow crystals, 44s 1½d. Granulated, February-March, 50s 6d; April-May, 50s 9d; June-August, 51s. Crystallised West Indian steady, quiet at 44s 6d to 46s, as to quality. American granulated, spot, sold, 49s 4½d; white Java, 47s 6d to 48s 3d, as to sample; ditto, May-June, sellers, 21s 3d; June-July, 21s, c.f. and i. terms, London. White Mauritius, spot, 47s to 47s 9d; ditto Brazilian, 46s to 46s 3d. Belgian granulated, prompt, 21s 6d to 21s 9d, f.o.b., Antwerp, as to quality. Dutch and also Czecho-Slovakian sugars nominally unaltered for shipment. Cuban, basis 96 per cent., February, quoted 17s 1½d, and Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., January, 11s 3d, c.f. and i., U.K. Cuban stocks stand at 39,150 tons, against 925,200 at corresponding period last year. Liquid glucose, spot, 28s 6d.

COFFEE.—Spot market quiet in absence of auctions, with quotations unchanged. Future delivery market remains very quiet.

COCOA.—Only retail sales occurred in spot parcels on former terms. Accra, December-February shipment, quoted, 34s, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Private contract market unaltered, with business quite of a holiday nature.

RICE steady, but trade moved very slowly. Two stars, spot, 15s 6d to 16s; new crop, January-February, 13s 6d. Broken kinds quietly steady. Rangoon beans, spot, 8s. Japanese peas, afloat, 27s; December-January, 25s.

OFFICE. Fair inquiry ensued for pepper, and general stability governed the market. Fair black Singapore, spot, sold, 44d; January-March, 44d; Aleppo, spot, 4d; Tellicherry, 44d; white Singapore, spot, 44d; and 6d; Muntok, 53d; ditto January-March, 64d paid; February-April, 64d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 84d; October-December, 78d; January-March, 7d. Flake tapioca, spot, fair quality, sold, 3d per lb.; fair Penang seed tapioca, spot, 23s 6d. Sago flour, January-March, 12s 24d; desiccated coconut, spot, halves, 37s cwt.

FRUIT (dried).—A quiet and rather featureless condition of affairs pervaded this market, with price changes not of much importance.

24. LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.

Telephones: 1839 & 225 Avenue. Telegrams: "Alexanders, Thread-London."

CAPITAL AUTHORISED	£1,250,000	CAPITAL PAID UP	£800,000
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED	£1,100,000	RESERVE FUND -	£320,000

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates; for longer periods on specially agreed terms. The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY.				DRUGS.				INDIA RUBBER.—lb.				PROVISIONS.				SPICES.—Pepper, per lb.			
COCOA—Dutch, British crown	s	d		Aloes, fine E.I., p. cwt	120	8	150	Para, fine, red spot	1	11	8	Butter—per cwt.				SPOICES.—Pepper, per lb.	s	d	
23s.4d. foreign 28s. cwt.	8	66	0	Cape, good to fine	20	0	26	Plantation crest	1	28	0	Butter—cream				Singapore, fair white	0	6	0
Trinidad, per cwt.	50	0	53	Balsam, E. I., per lb	0	0	0					Do factory				Black Singapore	0	4	0
Gambier, do.	47	0	53	Capivi	1	6	0	INDIGO.—per lb.				Australian	156	0	186	White Siam	0	64	0
Ceylon, plantation	79	0	0	Camphor				Bengal, good red vio-	0	0	0	Argentine	156	0	170	Pimento	0	64	0
Guaquayul	55	0	65					let to fine.	0	0	0	Danish	178	0	220	Onnamm—1st sort.	0	31	1
Brass, finest	50	0	62	China, refined	3	4	0	Mid. ord. vio. to good	0	6	0	New Zealand	214	0	261	Do 2nd	0	10	0
COFFEE.—Brazil, crown	50	0	62	Catch'd r's, Ceylon	2	0	5	Low to ord. good	0	6	0	Bacon, smd.—Irish	136	0	134	Do 4th	0	0	0
23s.4d. foreign 28s. cwt.	83	103	8	Canth' r's, China prib	4	0	5	Madras, dry leaf, good	4	0	6	Canadian	85	0	100	Chips	0	7	0
Do good to fine	105	0	125	Castor oil, S. cwt.	85	0	8	Do low to ord.	1	0	3	American	80	0	115	Onion Lignes	45	0	0
Do good to fine	105	0	125	Gum Bujum, S. cwt.	6/0	10/0		Kurpah, gd. mid. to gd.	5	0	6	Hams—Irian	80	0	115	Penang	0	64	0
Do good to fine	105	0	125	Oilbunum, drops,				Low to mid.	3	6	0	American	85	0	100	Ginger—per cwt.	5	0	0
Central American, gd.	80	0	85	fair to good.	60	0	100	HEMP—per ton—				Lard—Irish bladders	78	0	84	Cochin, cent	109	0	130
ord. to mid.	78	0	80	Ipecacuanha	7	0	0	Russian	4	0	0	American boxes, 60lb	65	0	66	Do washed	55	0	0
Columbian, ordinary	64	0	68	Jalap.	8	0	0	Manila, 'J' Grade,				Port, per 21bs	65	0	68	Japan	0	0	0
Do gd. ord. to low	68	0	80	Musn. seed, China	05	0	95	Do Feb.	33	0		Beef—Frozen, per lb	8	0	8	Jamaica, small	170	0	220
Do mid. to fine	72	0	81	Oil, Cassia	05	0	63	N. Z., spot, high fair	34	0		Scotch	7	4	8	Nutmeg	17	0	2
Do mid. to fine	72	0	81	Aniseed	2	2	2	JUTE—				Obeshes-cwt—Canadian	124	0	130	Small to medium	6	104	0
Acid, citric	1	1	1	Peppermint, H.G.	2	2	2	Native first marks,				Irish	72	0	116	Obilles—per cwt.	120	0	145
Nitric	0	24	0	Rhub. China, to fine	4	0	25	Jan. Feb.	36/10/0			Per 12½—English	26	0	29	TALLOW—per cwt.	42	0	0
Oxalic, net	0	24	0	DYE STUFFS, &c.								Scotch	26	0	27	Good mutton	42	0	0
Sulphuric, English	1	14	1	Galls, China, per cwt	62	6	67	LEATHER.—per lb.				FLOUR—28lb	0	27	0	TAPIOC—per lb.	40	3	0
Foreign	1	14	1	Turmeric	nom			Sole Bends 6½ lb.	0	0		Eng. straight-cut ex mill	41	6	0	E. I. Flake, rain spot	24	0	0
Alum lump, per ton	14/0	14/0	14/0	Gambier, finger	35	0	40	Do do 10½ lb.	1	6	2	Rangoon	13	6	13	Pearl	24	0	0
Do ground	15/0	15/0	15/0	Outch, ord. to fair	32	57	6	Do do 12½ lb.	1	13	2	Broken la	11	6	0	TEA—duty 6d. British,			
Ammonia, cast	1	0	4	DYEWOODS				Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	ROBIN—per ton—	14/10/0	19/10/0		foreign 8d per lb—			
White, ton	30	0	35	Do Brazil	18	0	18	Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	American	13/10/0	16/0/0		Fekien and Ceylon	1	34	1
Sulphate	217	0	18	Do Brazil	18	0	18	Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	SAGO—Pearl, per cwt	84	0	27	Broken Pekoe	1	48	0
Arsenic, lump, per ton	65	0	65	Do Cuba	15	0	15	Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	SAGO four.	84	0	27	Orange Pekoe	1	48	0
Powder, per cwt	60	0	60	Do Logwood, Campechy	12	0	12	Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	SHELLAC—per cwt—	0	0	0	Broken Orange	1	54	2
Antid. pot.	0	80	0	Honduras	11	10	0	Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Orange, first marks	475	0	500	Broken Souchong	1	54	1
Pearl do	nom			Jamaica	10	18	0	Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Second, fair to fine	380	0	400	TIMBER—Timber & Hewn Wood			
Bleaching pwr. p. tin	13/0	14/0	14/0	Sapang Ceylon	15	0		Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Third, fair to fine	370	0	375	Do (load)	15/0	0	40/0
Borax, 28 lb	28	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Tin Orange	370	0	375	Kauri Pine cut	6	0	14
Do downy	28	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Garnet Red	370	0	375	Satinwood	6	0	14
Cream Tartar	98	0	95					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Black Pine	370	0	375	Cedar cubic	6	0	14
98% powder	98	0	95					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Blocky (TUN)	350	0	360	Japanese Oak sup.	0	0	1
Colomel	1	1	1					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	SILK—per lb.				American Ash	0	3	0
Do per cwt	1	1	1					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Onion	25	0	26				
Nitrate of Soda, p. tin	13/10	14/0	14/0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Tussah	31	0	32	TOBACCO—			
Potash	0	44	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Re-reeled	0	0	0	Duty 82—10/44 per lb.			
Chlorate, net	1	6	1					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Italian—Haw, r. Milan	36	0	38	Common to fine	1	3	2
Perchlorate	1	6	1					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	SHELLS—M. F. per cwt—				Strips	2	0	2
Do Foreign	1	6	1					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Manilla, bold	15/0/0	15/0/0		Kentucky leaf—			
Sulphate	217	0	18					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Macassar	15/0/0	15/0/0		Common to fine	1	3	1
Sul. arsenic, W. cwt.	60	0	65					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	Bombay	8/0/0	10/10/0		Strips	1	3	1
Soda Bicarb., per ton	48/0	0	48					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	W. Australian	8/0/0	10/10/0		Lincoln h.	0	8	7
Sulphate, per ton	48/0	0	48					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	SUGAR—per cwt duty	5/10/0	6/10/0		Borneo and Sumatra	0	8	7
Crystals, per ton	48/0	0	48					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Seedling	1	6	4
Alkali.	19/0	21/0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Havana	1	6	4
Canada.	19/0	21/0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java	1	6	4
Star of old white ton	0	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Cry. washed	37/0	0	37
Foreign white	44	0	42					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Sulphate Quinine								Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
English Brandy	2	2	2					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Foreign do	2	2	2					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Sulphate Copper, p. tin	27/0	0	28					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Sulphate Zinc, cut	11/0	0	12					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Sulphur Flour	11/0	0	12					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Do Refined	10/0	0	11					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Vermillion, Chinese, p. lb	1	4	4					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
English	2	6	2					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22								Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22								Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Malabar, Dec. Feb.,	nom							Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Ceylon	27	0	5					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
FMS Singapore	25	15	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/10/0	6/10/0		Java c. l. white	37/0	0	37
Oil Pepperm' H. G. H. 22	25	0	0					Do do 17½ lb.	1	10	2	per cent. polarisation	5/						

America :—
 Allied war debts, 849
 And Europe, 1018
 Anglo-American debt, 658, 795, 883
 Anthracite coal dispute, 466
 Armour and Co., 1029
 Automobile production, 241
 Bank Merger, 62
 Bethlehem Steel Co., 1076
 Bond offering, 62, 193, 241, 799
 British debt, 147
 Capital issues, 545
 Car shortage, 981
 Central Pacific Railroad, 849
 Chilean loan, 890
 Coal and railroad strikes, 356
 Coal outlook, 241
 Commodity prices, 193, 356, 503, 981
 1711
 Cotton consumption, 1218
 Cotton crop, 58, 151, 239, 426, 466, 579
 979, 1218
 Cotton ginning, 1076
 Cotton season, 355

America (continued):—
Crop prospects, 104, 151, 193, 356, 503.
799
Debt refunding, 284
Elections, 890, 981
Exports in May, 104
Export trade for fiscal year, 322
Farm statistics, 391
Federal budget, 1171
Federal reserve rates, 62
Foreign commerce for July, 545
Foreign commerce for August, 582
Gary (E. H.), 893
Gold and silver production, 284
Government bonds, 849
Government cotton report, 322
Government finance, 104, 582, 1171
Government refunding, 623
Harvest, 464
High protection in, 572
Hoover on Allied war debts, 849
Industrial revival, 623, 893
International debts, 893
Investment demand active, 284
Irish linen and the tariff, 192
Irving National Bank, 893
Jugo-Slavian loan, 15
Mexican debt agreement, 15
Midvale Steel Merger, 1076
Mixed Claims Commission, 934
Money easier, 15, 503
Money farmer, 623
Morris and Co., 1029

- New banking laws, 393
- Oil Producers' Mexican negotiations, 62
- Outlook for legislation, 392
- Packing-House Merger, 1029
- Railroad car scarcity, 623
- Railroad earnings, 104, 151, 356, 503
- 934, 1171
- Railroad legislation, 1029
- Railroad Merger, 1118, 1218
- Railways and road transport, 282
- Railway wages, 15
- Senate Tariff Bill, 392, 572
- Ship subsidy legislation, 1118
- Soldier bonus legislation, 582
- Southern Pacific Railroad, 849
- Steel companies increase wages, 428
- Steel Corporation figures, 284, 934, 1171
- Steel Merger, 623, 1076
- Stock dividends, 799, 1076
- Stocks and bonds, 1118
- Strikes, 151, 241, 356, 392, 428, 466, 582
- Tariff outlook, 193, 356, 392, 503, 545
- 572, 582
- Tariff rates on woollen goods, 322

America (continued) :—
Taxation proposals, 171
Telephone stock, 62
Trade and industry, 118
Trade balance and foreign loans, 11
Trade conditions, 104, 981
Trade in September, 849
Trade recovery, 545, 790, 799, 893
Treasury finances, 151
Unemployment, 151
American telephone and telegraph, 409
America's claim—our counter claim,
473 (I.)
Anchor Line results, 321
Anglo-American debt, 658, 795, 883
Anglo-Continental Guano Works, 1127
Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, 60, 265
Anglo-Persian Oil, 1066
Anglo-Polish Bank, 60
Anglo-Polish trade, 428
Anglo-Russian trade, 1027
Anglo-Siam Corporation, 525
Anglo-South American Bank, 642
Ansells Brewery, 957
Appollinaris and Johannis, 171
Argentina :—
Agreement with Germany, 197
Banco de la Nacion, 805
Banking position, 395, 470
Business conditions, 197
Cattle industry, 197
Crops, 805
Economic relations with Britain, 395
Foreign loan, 470
Gold exports, 197
Government and foreign capital, 805
Government finance, 1177
Land companies, 1020, 1124 (I.)
Meat exports, 1124 (I.)
Monetary conditions, 805
National Mortgage Bank, 1035
New president, 1035
President De Alvar's visit, 191
Provincial borrowings, 1177
Public finance, 395
Railway rates, 11
Railways, 660, 792, 1035
Trade outlook, 395, 470, 1177
U.S. loan rejected, 805
Argentina Great Western, 831
Argentina Iron and Steel Company, 1197
Argentina Land and Investment, 775
Argentina Navigation Company, 1149
Argentina North-Eastern, 1098
Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., 622
Arauné, Aug., 327 (R)
Ashley Wireless Telephone Co., 293
Assam Railways and Trading, 561

Auckland City Council loan, 1040
Auckland Electric Power Board, 202
Australia:—
And the gold standard, 185, 233, 290
(L), 312, 362 (L)
Banking figures, 588
Bank returns, 20
British Australian wool realisation,
149, 798, 1122
Budget, 588
Crop prospects, 507
Foreign trade, 1122
Labour trouble, 543
Melbourne Electric Supply, 293
Public finance, 354
Queensland "Repudiation" Act, 149
Tariff agreement with N.Z., 507
Taxation methods, 20, 588
Trade, 507
Victoria Government loan, 511
Wheat exports, 20
Australian Bank of Commerce, 488
Australian Mercantile Land, &c., 913
Austria:—
Balance of trade, 1121
Budget deficit, 155
Currency scarcity, 626
Economic conditions, 897
Exchange, 326
Financial position, 326, 626, 897, 1121
Forced loan, 326
Foreign credits, 626
German, 187
Inflation, 1121
Internal loan, 155
Issue Bank, 326, 626
League's plan, 496, 580, 845, 897
Note circulation, 155
Politics, 580, 845, 897, 1121
Prices, 326, 626
Progress, 425
Reconstruction, 1121
Threat of financial ruin, 155
Trade in 1921, 155
Wages, 626
Austria and the League, 496
Austrian Bank of Issue, 499
Austrian Government loan, 1167
Baker (Charles) and Co., 70
Balance-sheets and window-dressing,
1108
Baldwins' report, 1217
Balfour note, 231, 275, 311
Baltic States. Our trade with, 316
Bankers' Almanac, 1125 (R)
Bankers and free trade, 889
Banking half-year, 148
Banking number, 671
Bank rate, 93
Bankruptcy of bureaucracy, 201 (R)
Banks:—
Alliance of Simla, 447
Anglo-Egyptian, 1007
Anglo-Polish, 60
Anglo-South American, 642
Australian of Commerce, 488
Banco Nacional Ultramarino, 87
Bank of England rebuilding, 191
Bank of Liverpool and Martins, 127
Bank of New South Wales, 127
Bank of New Zealand, 525
Bank of Taiwan, 873
Bank of Victoria, 488
Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, 957
Barclays, 303, 913, 1099
British Overseas, 1073
Canadian of Commerce, 1240
Commercial Banking of Sydney, 446
Commercial of Australia, 445
Commercial of Scotland, 1149
Commercial of Spanish America, 873
Continental and Commercial National,
Chicago, 603
Dividends, 103
English, Scottish, and Australian, 913
Failures in Japan, 1170
Farmers' Loan and Trust Co., 221,
831, 1149
Figures and policy, 674
Guarantee Trust of N.Y., 265

Banks (continued):—

Imperial of India, 128, 375, 447
Imperial of Persia, 1197
Imperial Ottoman, 221
Italo-Belgian, 1147
London and River Plate, 1149
London Joint City and Midland, 170,
265, 603, 873
McGrigor suspension, 661
National, 171, 447
National of Scotland, 1149
National of S. Africa, 40, 239
P. and O. Banking Corporation, 40
Royal of Scotland, 1054
Shares, 676
Standard of South Africa, 170, 192
Stillwell and Sons, 1054
Sumitomo, 1007
Svenska Handelsbanken, 985
Tata Industrial, 1007
Ulster, 1197
Union of South Africa, 192
Western Australian, 1197
Yokohama Specie, 957
Banks and the Stock Exchange, 926, 973
Barclays Bank, 303, 913, 1099
Base metal producing companies, 192,
1116
Bassett, Herbert H., 327 (R)
Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton, 283
Beardmore (William) and Co., 465
Beating about the bush, 275
Becker and Co., 1041
Belgian exchange, 973, 1029
Bell (John) and Croyden, Ltd., 249
Bengal Doars, 873
Bengal Iron Co., 603
Bengal-Nagpur Railway, 303, 831, 873
Bengal Telephone Corporation, 159
Bergen City Loan, 1085
Bessarabia. Problem of, 1028
Bevan case, 1071
Bingo Gold Mines, 365
Birch, Dr L. V., 247 (R)
Birmingham's blue book, 398 (R)
Birnbaum, D., 989 (L)
Blackett, Sir Basil, 796
Blaenavon Co., 1099
Bleaching for India, 621
Bohemia, 941 (R)
Bolckow, Vaughan, 1026
Bolivia, 100
Bombay (Port of) sterling loan, 70
Bonnett, Clarence E., 111 (R)
Boots Pure Drug Co., 87
Borneo Co., 293
Bottomley and his methods, 57
Boucke, O. Fred, 327 (R)
Bovril, Limited, 24
Bradbury scheme for reparations, 658,
662, 800
Bradleys (Chester), 72
Branch shop companies, 189
Brazil, 103, 281, 1072
Brazilian bonds fall, 847
Brazilian Traction, Light and Power, 128
Breathing space, A, 383
Brewery shares and results, 538
Britain's decline, 990 (R)
Britain's oilseed and oil industry, 615
British-American mining, 893
British-American Tobacco, 1217
British and Continental labour policy,
590 (R)
British Australian Wool Realisation Asso-
ciation, 149, 798, 1122
British Automatic Co., 913
British Cellulose, 475
British coal for Germany, 148
British Empire Steel Corporation, 128
British Gas Light Co., 525
British gas mantle industry, 708
British Glass Industries, 1116
British Glues and Chemicals, 561
British India Steam Navigation, 775
British Malaya, 362 (L)
British merchant shipping, 857 (R)
British North Borneo Co., 831
British oil securities, 1127
British Orion Oil Co., 1127
British Overseas Bank, 1073
British South Africa (Chartered) Co., 148,
892
British trade in India, 978
Broken Hill Proprietary, 322

Broodbank, Sir J., 363 (R)
Bryant and May, 632
Bryce, Lord, 807 (R)
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, 1005
Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway,
1005
Bulgaria. Claims against, 61
Bulgarian reparations, 931
Burberries, Limited, 957
Burgon's Extensions and Investment, 668
Burma Corporation, 932
Burmah Oil Company, 59
Burton (James) and Sons, Limited, 24
Cable companies' shares and results, 1164
Calcutta Improvement Trust, 668
Calico Printers' Association, 375, 464
Cam and Motor, 848
Camp Bird group, 1117
Canada:—
American tariff, 469
Bank robberies in the West, 848
British Empire Exhibition, 868
Business conditions, 65, 359, 803, 984,
1176
Cattle embargo, 140, 190, 200 (L), 359,
984, 1215
Commercial prospects, 506
Commercial treaties with France and
U.S., 627, 1034
Conversion scheme, 627
Crop prospects, 65, 154, 359, 469, 506,
984, 1034
Crop yields, 1176
Dairy produce grading, 154
Domestic loan, 154
Exchange, 506, 803
Export grain trade, 469
Federal budget, 65
Federal revenues, 460, 627, 984, 1034,
1176
Finance, 469
Fiscal question, 65
Fordney tariff, 627
Freight rate reductions, 154
Fuel problem, 359
Grand Trunk Railway, 359, 1005
Harvests, 627, 803
Hydro-Electric Mission, 803
Immigration schemes, 898, 1034
Imperial Economic Conference, 984,
1176
Industry, 469, 627, 803, 898
Loan conversion, 469
Markets, 469, 627, 803
Merchants' Bank, 627, 1034
National Railways, 154
Negotiations with France and Aus-
tralia, 1176
New immigration policy, 506
Price levels, 803
Protectionist legislation, 154
Pulp and paper industry, 898
Quebec, 1034
Railway problem, 359, 469, 1176
Reparations, 469
Saskatchewan moratorium, 627, 803
Shipments of American gold, 1034
St Lawrence waterway, 1037 (L)
Stock markets, 506, 803
Thornton, Sir H., 803
Trade conditions, 154, 469, 898
Trade negotiations with Australia, 803
Trade returns, 506, 898, 1176
Transport difficulties, 803, 985
War financial legislation, 898
Wheat board, 65, 359, 469
Wheat crop, 984, 1176
Canada and British goods, 474 (R)
Canadian Bank of Commerce, 1240
Canadian Gold Mines Corporation, 992
Canadian National Railways, 775, 831
Capital:—
Half-year's, 8
Issues in 1922, 1209
Levy, 887, 939 (L), 1037 (L), 1082 (L),
1115, 1124 (L), 1178 (L), 1223 (L)
Quarter's new issues, 540
Swiss capital levy, 1071

Cardinal and Harford, 1181
Carlton Hotel, Limited, 775
Cassell, Prof. Gustav, 536
Castner-Kellner Alkali, 1074
Cattle embargo, 140, 190, 200 (L), 359,
984, 1215
Central American affairs, 391, 847
Central Electric Supply, 603
Central London Railway, 668
Chaotic exchanges, 885
Chartered and the provisional agreement,
148, 894
Chelonia, Limited, 810
Chile, 100
Chilean earthquake, 932
Chilean loan to the United States, 890
Chilian Transandine Railway, 265
China:—
Finance, 1216
Market for British capital, 109
New loan, 463
Potentialities of trade, 497
Shanghai piece-goods market, 109
Tariff revision, 109
Trade, 109, 1216
Chocolate Express Omnibus Company, 669
Cisar, J. and F., Porkorny, 363 (R)
City and S. London Railway, 24, 668
City Life Assurance, 1099
Civil Service cost, 238
Clare (George) and Co., Limited, 933
Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co., Limited, 338
Clearing the air, 1107
Clerical and Medical Life Office, 580
Coal:—
British coal for Germany, 148
Industry, 1110
Miners' conference, 147
Output, 104, 281, 620, 932
Outward coal and freights, 1168
Position, 573
Resources of Europe, 1072
South African resources, 1022
South Wales since strike, 277
Wages and profits, 496
Coal in international trade, 201 (R)
Coalition. Passing of, 651
Coats, J. and P., 1073
Coletti, Francesco, 1179 (R)
Colombia, 352, 1081
Colonial tariff policies, 398 (R)
Coltess Iron Company, 603
Commercial Banking of Sydney, 447
Commercial Bank of Australia, 445
Commercial Bank of Scotland, 1149
Commercial Bank of Spanish America, 873
Common Sense of Economic Science,
1179 (R)
Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 603
Consolidated Coffee Estates, 25
Consolidated Gold Fields, 980
Continental and Commercial National
Bank—Chicago, 603
Control of currency and credit, 455
Cook, Son, and Co. (St Paul's), 1149
Co-operative societies, 1168
Co-operative Wholesale Society, 543
Copper position and outlook, 1111
Cordoba Central Railway, 913
Cordova Land Company, 914
Cornish tin mines, 799
Costa Rica, 460
Cost of living, 147, 354, 501, 659, 977, 1166
Cotton trade:—
American crop, 58, 151, 239, 426, 979,
979
American season, 355
Bleaching for India, 621
Finishing charges, 847, 933
Finishing costs, 1025
Freights, 579
Indian duties, 890
International statistics, 509 (R)
Lancashire trade, 142, 656
Organisation, 426, 798
Prices, 891
Short time, 464, 501, 979, 1076
Statistics, 7217
Wages, 848
County of London Electric Supply, 202
Creditors and debtors, 3
Critical conference, 1063
Crops, 281, 463, 620, 891

Crosses and Heaton's, 436
Cuba, 352, 576
Currencies of Dominions, 185, 233,
290 (L), 312
Currency, 362 (L), 551 (L), 1071, 1123 (L)
Currency and credit control, 455
Currency and gold values, 1038 (L),
1081 (L)
Curzon (Lord) and the Near East, 1114
Customs and excise duties, 1116
Czecho-Slovakia:—
Agrarian reform, 314, 350
Budget, 855, 1033
Coal, 855
Conditions in, 234, 422
Dr Bene's views, 234
Dr Rasin's policy, 855
Economic position, 320
Exchange, 288, 550
Finance, 891
Foreign trade, 397
Industrial crisis, 660, 1033
Industry, 288
Public finance, 397
State enterprises, 397
Trade, 550, 891
Trade balance, 1921, 288
Unemployment, 550
Czecho-Slovak Republic, 363 (R)
Daily Mail Trust, 592
Dalgety and Co., 892
Dane, E., 1179 (R)
Dardanelles and Downing street, 495
Darling, J. F., 290 (L), 362 (L), 1071,
1123 (L)
Dartford Brewery Co., 914
Dean, W. H., 68 (R)
De Beers Consolidated Mines, 1170, 1212
Debenhams, Ltd., 561
Debt cancellation, 67 (L), 199 (L), 200 (L),
419
Debt conversion, 1076
Debtors and creditors, 3
Debts, Inter-Allied, 242, 291 (L), 419,
849
Debt to America, 147, 473 (L), 883
Deep Sea Fisheries, 193
De la Rue (Thomas) and Co., 409
De Montgomery, B. G., 590 (R)
Delemer, Adolphe, 201 (R)
Denmark:—
Agricultural exports, 1221
Bank figures, 109
Banking affairs, 289, 664, 986, 1221
Business conditions, 109
Commodity prices, 986
Deviation and balance of trade, 986
Economic development, 22 (R)
Exchanges, 664
Exhibitions, 109
External trade, 289
Foreign trade, 1221
Great Northern Telegraph Co., 109
Industrial position, 289
Landmandsbank, 664
Note circulation, 664
Prices, 109, 550, 1221
Trade conditions, 550
Despax, Albert, 940 (R)
Development Commission, 1026
Development of economics, 1750-1900,
327 (R)
Devon General Omnibus, 400
Devonport (N.Z.) Council Loan, 1181
Diamond revival, 622
Disarmament and international finance,
51
Disarmament. League on, 462
Disposal and Liquidation Commission, 11
Distillers' Company, 59
Dobb, Maurice H., 807 (L)
Dominions and the gold standard, 185,
233, 290 (L), 312, 362 (L), 551 (L)
Dorman, Long, and Co., 1073

Dorman (W. H.) and Co., 914
Douglas, W. B., 1082 (L)
Downing Street and the Dardanelles, 495
Dublin and Ulster, 110 (L)
Dunlop Rubber Company, 1113
Dutch banker on free trade, 388
Dutch East Indies, 428
Dutch rubber restrictions, 192, 390
Eastern Europe, agrarian reform, 314
Eastern Extension, Australasia, and
China Telegraph, 643
Eastern Telegraph Company, 643
Ebbw Vale, 356, 542, 797
Economic aspect of Europe, 989 (L)
Economic conditions in Venezuela, 793
Economic literature—a month's survey,
68 (R), 246 (R), 434 (R), 630 (R),
900 (R), 1124 (R)
Economics of land drainage, 579
Ecuador, 1081
Edge, S. F., Pig Farms, 1181
Educating industrial administrators, 327
"Egypt" inquiry, 426
Election lessons, 968
Election programmes, 611, 651, 787, 839,
883, 887, 923, 975
Electors' apathy, 900 (L)
Electricity shares, 460
Elements of actuarial science, 291 (R)
Ellis Barker, J., 939 (L), 1082 (L)
Empire currency scheme, 1071, 1123 (L)
Empire Paper Mills, 203
Employers' associations in the United
States, 111 (R)
Employment abroad, 932
Employment in June, 147; in July, 354;
in August, 501; in September, 659;
in October, 976; in November, 1166
English local government, 1038 (R)
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank,
913
English Sewing Cotton, 128, 149
English wool clip, 12
Entre Rios Railway, 1098
Estonia:—
Commercial treaties, 988
Conditions, 390
Exchange regulations, 988
Oil, 988
Evans, Samuel, 551 (L)
Exchange and wealth of a country, 1165,
1213
Exchange chaos, 885
Ex-Enemy Debt Clearing Office, 1029
Experts' stabilisation scheme, 924
Export credits, 1168
Export trade and import duties, 95
Fabric glove decision, 58, 95, 184, 238
Facts of unemployment, 841
Fareham Tanneries, Limited, 1085
Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, 221,
831, 1149
Fascists, 432, 840, 853
Finance:—
Accounts, 1921-22, 500
Allied debts, 3, 242, 291 (L), 849
Allied supervision of German finances,
311
Anglo-American debt, 658, 795, 883
Balfour note, 231, 275, 311, 419
Bradbury scheme for reparations, 658,
662, 800
Capital issues in 1921, 1209
Chaotic exchanges, 885
Civil Service cost, 238
Control of currency and credit, 455

Finance (continued):—

Cost of living, 147, 354, 501, 659, 977, 1166
 Creditors and debtors, 3
 Currency, 185, 233, 290 (L), 312, 362 (L), 455, 551 (L), 1038 (L), 1071, 1081 (L), 1123 (L)
 Customs and excise duties, 1116
 Debt conversion, 1076
 Downing Street Conference, 311
 Export credits, 1168
 Finance Bill and super-tax evasion, 10
 Influence of falling exchange on the wealth of a country, 1165, 1213
 Inter-Allied debt cancellation, 67 (L), 199 (L), 200 (L), 419
 Inter-Allied debts, 242, 291 (L), 419, 571
 International and disarmament, 51
 Levy on capital, 887, 939 (L), 1037 (L), 1082 (L), 1115, 1124 (L), 1178 (L)
 Mark and inflation, 551 (L), 807 (L), 857 (L)
 Monetary half-year, 4
 Monetary puzzle, 347
 Money in 1922, 1208
 National savings certificates, 661, 976
 Our debt to America, 147
 Plea for greater publicity, 183
 Public accounts, 280
 Reparations, 3, 16, 102, 106, 152, 153, 195, 231, 242, 243, 275, 285, 286, 323, 324, 358, 383, 393, 429, 430, 571, 583, 616, 658, 662, 800, 850, 852, 896, 970, 1023, 1063, 1107, 1120, 1160, 1207, 1218, 1223 (L)
 Stabilisation, 536, 589 (L), 630 (L), 924
 Finance and history, 940 (R)
 Finland, trade and industry, 990 (R)
 First principles of political economy, 111 (R)
 Fiscal and diplomatic freedom of the British overseas dominions, 22 (R)
 Fisheries, deep sea, 193
 Fisk, Harvey E., 473 (R)
 Flax developments, 391
 Foreign interests in Turkey, 856 (L)
 Foreign taxation of shipping profits, 188
 For next summer, 474 (R)
 Foundations of social reform, 551 (R)
 Founders of political economy, 157 (R)

France:—

Bakers and millers, 1077
 Balfour note, 285, 419
 Bank of England and German bonds, 546
 Bearer bonds, 1030
 Bérenger's statement, 894
 Bond issues, 1030
 Bourse, 16, 63, 106, 152, 194, 242, 285, 323, 358, 393, 429, 467, 546, 583, 624, 662, 800, 850, 894, 1030, 1077, 1119, 1218
 Bradbury proposals, 658, 662, 800
 Bread prices and profiteering, 1172
 Budget, 16, 467, 895, 935, 982, 1030, 1218
 Cheque payments, 194
 Committee of Guarantees, 194
 Co-operative movement, 1172
 Cost of living, 467
 Customs duties and deliveries in kind, 285
 Debts problem, 63, 152, 242
 Devastated areas, 546
 Economic rapprochement with Germany, 358
 End of the session, 106
 Exchange, 194, 841, 1110
 Foreign trade, 935, 1218
 France and foreign goods, 935
 Franc fall, 982
 Franco-German economic understanding, 323
 Future loans, 624
 German trade agreements, 467
 Germany and a moratorium, 106
 Germany's default, 1218
 Germany's payment, 662
 Harvest and German fertilisers, 800
 Income-tax, 583, 894, 981, 1030
 Lausanne and European problems, 982

France (continued):—

London conference, 323
 Military expenditure reduction, 624
 National debt, 624
 National finances, 583
 National insurance, 291 (R)
 Opinion and policy, 242
 Payments in kind, 1030, 1077
 Premiers' meeting, 1077
 Prices, 106, 467, 662, 982, 1119
 Promoting banks, 390
 Property of foreigners, 1218
 Public finance, 473 (R)
 Public works and German labour, 16, 63
 Railway electrification, 850
 Railways, 152
 Reparation payment in kind, 16, 393
 Reparations, 3, 16, 102, 106, 152, 153, 195, 231, 242, 243, 275, 285, 286, 323, 324, 358, 383, 393, 429, 430, 571, 583, 616, 658, 662, 800, 850, 852, 896, 970, 1023, 1063, 1107, 1120, 1160, 1207, 1218, 1223 (L)
 Revenue, 624
 Revenue and taxation, 351
 Shipping slump, 1119
 Stinnes' contract, 429, 467, 546, 800
 State finance, 467
 Tariff agreement with Canada, 1172
 Taxation and budget, 935
 Taxation returns, 106, 323
 Tobacco and matches, 467
 Trade figures, 393
 Trade improvement, 850
 Turkey, 856 (L)
 Wheat supplies, 393
 Wholesale prices index number, 323
 Wiesbaden agreement, 429
 Fraser, Sir D. Drummond, 1223 (L)
 Frece, Sir Walter de, 21 (L)
 Fredericks Hotels, Ltd., 643
 Free-trade and bankers, 880
 Free-trade. A Dutch banker on, 388
 Free-trade. International, 659
 Freights and ocean fares, 1025
 French public finance, 473 (R)
 Fuller's United Electric Works, 375
 Fundamentals in the analysis of investment securities, 666 (R)
 Furness (Lord) on iron and steel trade trust, 1024
 Furness, Withy and Co., 356
 Future of Bawra, 798

Gaika Gold, 582

Garden City finance, 1117
 Gas mantle industry, 798
 General election, 611, 651, 787, 830, 883, 887, 923, 975
 General Electric Co., 104
 General Mining and Finance Corp., 321
 General Real Estates Investment, 475
 George, Mr Lloyd: Some glimpses of his career, 788
 German Austria, 187
 German treatment of foreigners, 589 (L)

Germany:—

Allied supervision of finances, 311
 Argentine agreement, 197
 Bank rate, 232
 Barthou plan, 802
 Bourse, 17, 64, 107, 153, 195, 243, 286, 324, 358, 430, 468, 663, 802, 852, 896, 983, 1032, 1078, 1120, 1173
 British and Ally citizens, 936
 Bureaucracy, 584
 Business, 896, 1032
 Cabinet, 983, 1032, 1078
 Company transactions, 548
 Conditions in, 629 (L)
 Contracts, 280, 324, 358
 Credit, 153, 548
 Crops, 286, 1032, 1078
 Currency depreciation and contracts, 324

Germany (continued):—

Currency problems, 430, 468, 504, 584, 625, 896
 Currency vicissitudes and economic substance, 394
 Debt clearing office, 1029
 Eight hours' day, 324
 Exchange, 17, 64, 107, 153, 195, 243, 286, 324, 358, 430, 502, 852, 896, 983, 1032, 1078, 1120, 1173
 Exchange decree, 663, 852
 Finances, 17, 107, 243, 286, 311, 468, 504, 625, 663, 802, 852, 983, 1032, 1078, 1120
 Foreigner taxes, 936
 Foreign trade, 153, 1173
 Gold bills, 852
 Government policy, 663
 Industry, 468, 548, 852
 Inflation, 551 (L), 625, 807 (L), 857 (L), 896
 International finance and disarmament, 51
 Iron prices, 64, 243
 League of Nations, 890
 Legislation, 153
 Local finances, 1173
 Mark and foreigners, 195
 Mark and imports, 504
 Mark and inflation, 551 (L), 625, 807 (L), 857 (L)
 Political crisis, 107
 Politics, 17, 64, 195, 243, 324, 548, 802
 Prices, 17, 107, 286, 324, 358, 468, 1078
 Property rights, 936
 Railways, 852
 Reichsbank, 64, 286, 548, 1173
 Reparations, 3, 16, 102, 106, 152, 153, 195, 231, 242, 243, 275, 285, 286, 323, 324, 358, 383, 393, 429, 430, 571, 583, 616, 658, 662, 800, 850, 852, 896, 970, 1023, 1063, 1107, 1120, 1160, 1207, 1218, 1223
 Review of 1922, 1220
 Shipping prices, 1173
 Social justice, 584
 Stabilisation, 924, 977, 983
 State measures, 195, 359
 Trade, 243, 504, 625, 983, 1032, 1078, 1120
 Wages, 1032
 What Germany owes and has paid, 616
 Gibb, D. E. W., 291 (L)
 Gide, Professor Charles, 111 (R)
 Gold Fields, Rhodesian, 893
 Gold Mines Investment, 1028
 Gold standard and Dominions, 185, 233, 290 (L), 312, 362 (L), 551 (L)
 Gold value and currency, 1038 (L), 1081 (L)
 Goode, Durrant, and Co., 903
 Gordon Hotels, 150
 Government and industry, 1166
 Government trading, 578
 Gramophone Company, 831
 Grand Trunk Railway, 359, 1005
 Great opportunity, 139

Greece:—

Ambitions and finance, 238
 Bankers' consortium, 156
 Cost of living, 156
 Exchange control measures, 1222
 Foreign exchanges, 665, 1222
 Foreign trade, 156
 Greco-Turkish problem, 389, 420, 462, 495, 500, 541, 577, 611, 665, 790, 844, 856 (L), 886, 930, 969, 982, 1064, 1114, 1161
 Service of the debt, 156
 Tariff revision and increases, 156
 Gresham House Estate Company, 249
 Grey (Viscount), 275
 Grimstedt, Abr., 21 (L)
 Gravesend Steel and Tinplate, 1085
 Guarantee Trust Co. of N.Y., 265
 Guatemala, 930
 Guayaquil and Quito Railway, 303
 Guinness (Arthur), Son and Co., 240

Haiti, 352

Half-year's new capital, 8
 Half-year's overseas trade, 99
 Harrisons and Crosfield's year, 621
 Harrods (Buenos Aires), Limited, 1149
 Harthorn, Dr M. G., 1038 (L)
 Harwich Gas and Coke Co., 553
 Haslemere and District Gas, 669
 Hatfield Gas Company, 632
 Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., 265
 Henderson, H. D., 589 (L)
 Hewitt, C., 1223 (L)
 Highland Distilleries, 775
 Hinckes, R. T., 200 (L)
 Hingurugama Tea and Rubber, 1181
 Hirst, F. W., 1083 (R)
 History of the Port of London, 363 (R)
 Holes in the public purse, 280

Holland:—

Balance of trade, 854
 Bankruptcy, 854
 Bank shares, 1080
 Dutch free trade in rubber, 390
 Dutch rubber restrictions, 192
 Foreigners on Stock Exchange, 1080
 General situation, 287, 854
 German insurance policies, 1080
 Loan to Germany, 854
 Navigation, 1080
 Railway results, 287
 Trade balance, 287
 Home Petroleum Company, 1085
 Honduras, 460
 Honduras loans, 979
 Honours. Traffic in, 10, 146
 Hook, A., 1037 (L), 1124 (L)
 Hoover (Mr), 847
 Hosiery trade, 423
 House building. Pre-war, 193
 House of Lords reform, 102
 Hovis, Limited, 40
 Hoyle (Joshua) and Sons, 981
 Hudson's Bay Co., 87, 603
 Huebner, S. S., 1179 (R)
 Hulett (Sir J. L.) and Sons, Ltd., 903

Imperial Bank of India, 128, 375, 447
 Imperial Bank of Persia, 1197
 Imperial Ottoman Bank, 221
 Import duties and export trades, 95
 "Importing Wheat as Flour," 1169
 Ind, Coope, and Co., 1074
 Index number, 54, 235, 421, 574, 843, 1017

India:—

Agricultural population, 1124 (L)
 Bengal-Nagpur Railway, 303, 831
 Bengal Telephone Corporation, 159
 Bleaching contract, 621
 Bombay 6 per Cent. Loan, 70
 British trade prospects, 978
 Cotton duties, 890
 Exchange, 53
 Fiscal Commission, 544
 Gold mine dividends, 465
 Government Rupee Loan, 70, 293, 375, 797, 810
 Imperial Bank, 128, 375, 447
 Nationalism and protection in India, 652, 1124 (L)
 New Government loan, 797, 810
 Rupee securities, 265
 Trade, 96
 Two books on India, 508 (R)
 India Rubber, Gutta Percha, &c., 981
 Industrial and Commercial South America, 808 (R)
 Industrial negotiation, 794
 Industrial profits, 97, 614
 Industry and government, 1166
 Shipbuilding, 586
 Industry and railway rates, 619
 Influence of a falling exchange on the wealth of a country, 1165, 1213
 Innes, A. Mitchell, 551 (L)
 Instone (S.) and Co., 1127

Insurance:—

Aldridge (L), charged, 978
 City Life, 1099
 Clerical and Medical Life, 580
 Elements of actuarial science, 291 (R)
 Life Association of Scotland, 87
 Life assurance liquidations, 1075
 Newspaper, 654
 Public policy, 141
 Sun Life of Canada, 40
 Unemployment, 279, 1023
 Insurance Handbook, 1224 (R)
 Inter-Allied debt cancellation, 67 (L), 199 (L), 200 (L), 419
 Inter-Allied debts, 3, 242, 291 (L), 419, 571
 Interest of the consumer, 990 (R)
 International cotton statistics, 509 (R)
 International finance and disarmament, 51
 International Free-trade, 659
 International maritime problems, 537
 International relations, 807 (R)
 Inter-oceanic Railway of Mexico, 1005
 Introduction to the principles of industrial administration, 327 (R)
 Inveresk Paper Co. (1922), 436
 Investment analysis, 666 (R)
 Iraq. The burden of, 389
 Iraq. Treaty with, 618

Ireland:—

And the Treaty, 843, 931, 1024, 1037 (L)
 Approach to peace, 1214
 Collins, M., death, 353
 Collins, M., sees it through, 10
 Conditions, 146, 461, 541, 618
 Constitution of Irish Free State, 1015
 Critical issue for Ireland, 976
 Finances, 424, 653
 Fiscal consequences of treaty, 843, 931, 1037 (L), 1123 (L)
 Free State, 1067, 1117
 Griffiths, A., death, 319
 Imported cattle, 1117
 Labour's attitude, 61
 New Government, 795
 Opening of Parliament, 1117
 Outlook, 319
 Provisional Government, 61
 Southern Ireland, 239
 Suppression of rebellion, 61
 Tragedies, 353
 Ulster and Dublin, 110 (L)
 Irish linen and the U.S. tariff, 192
 Iron and steel in France, 157 (R)
 Iron and steel output, 104, 320, 464, 542, 620, 932, 1115
 Iron and steel statistics, 1084 (R)
 Iron and steel trade trust, 1024
 Irving National Bank, 893
 Isis Chemicals and Dyes, 437
 Italo-Belgian Bank, 1147

Italy:—

Absolute government, 1032
 Cabinet crisis, 325, 432
 Census of population, 586
 Commodity and share prices, 325
 Economic conditions, 853
 Exchanges, 853
 Fascisti, and their programme, 853
 Fascisti in Genoa, 432
 Fascisti in power, 840
 Financial conditions, 853
 Giolitti and Nitti, 853
 National wealth and taxes, 432
 New excise, 1032
 Optimist on population, 1179 (R)
 Prices rising, 853
 Public revenue, 108
 Rise in saving deposits, 108
 Security index number, 108
 Shipbuilding, 586
 Socialists and Government, 325
 Succession tax, 1032
 Sulphur, 586
 Taxes to be simplified, 1032

Japan:—

Bank failures, 1170
 Budget estimates, 932
 Conditions, 503, 1218
 Finance, 151, 284, 356, 582, 662, 981, 1076
 Financial conditions, 60, 428
 Gold holdings, 361, 628
 Note issues, 628
 Public debt, 628
 Trade, 151, 284, 356, 361, 582, 662, 981, 1076
 Trade balance, 628
 Johannesburg Consolidated, 503
 Johannesburg municipality loan, 113
 Joshi, R. M., 508 (R)

Jugoslavia:—

American loan, 937
 Foreign exchanges, 937
 Loan in America, 15
 Trade restrictions, 621
 Kaffir market, 352
 Kaffir mines, 150, 283, 544
 Kaye's Rubber Latex Process, 511
 Kern River Oilfields, 776
 Keynes, J. M., 232
 Kuala Lumpur Rubber, 1008

Labour:—

And social credit scheme, 98
 And unemployment insurance, 279
 Employment abroad, 932
 Employment in June, 147; in July, 354; in August, 501; in September, 659; in October, 976; in November, 1166
 In 1922, 1211
 Machinery of industrial negotiation, 794
 Occupational diseases, 501
 Statistics and publicity, 315
 Trades Union Congress, 385
 Trade Union membership, 539
 Unemployment, 21 (L), 201 (R), 841, 975, 1022, 1023, 1026, 1082 (L), 1178 (L)
 Wages and profits in coal trade, 496
 Wages fall, 236
 Wages in July, 354; in August, 501
 Wages reduction, 791
 Labour Policy at home and abroad, 590 (R)
 Labour Policy—false and true, 940 (R)
 Labour view of the labour programme, 887, 939 (L)
 Lagerquist, W. E., 666 (R)
 Lampart and Holt, 248
 Land drainage, 502, 579
 Lastenia Nitrate Company, 903
 Latin-American notes, 100, 352, 460, 576, 929, 1081
 Latvia, 389
 Lausanne Conference, 844, 969, 982, 1064, 1161, 1209
 Lawrence, F. W. Pethick, 201 (R)
 Leach's Argentine Estates, 603
 Leaf, Dr Walter, 1063
 League of Nations and Austria, 496, 580, 845, 897
 League of Nations and Great Britain and Germany, 890
 League of Nations Council, 139
 League of Nations third assembly, 535
 League on disarmament, 462
 Lea, John W., 990 (R)
 Lea, Joshua, 591 (R)
 Leake, P. D., 1081 (L)
 Leckhampton Quarries Company, 113
 Leopoldina Railway, 337
 Lessons of the Election, 968
 Levanville, J., 157 (R)
 Levy on capital, 887, 939 (L), 1037 (L), 1082 (L), 1115, 1124 (L), 1178 (L)
 Lewinski, Jan St., 157 (R)
 Life Association of Scotland, 87

Life assurance liquidations, 1075
Lithuania, 901
Liverpool Corporation bills, 159
Liverpool Nitrate, 957
Lloyd, W. J., 1124 (L.)
Lloyd's Register, 797
London and Midland Oil Company, 24
London and River Plate Bank, 1149
London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, 12
London Electric Railway, 24, 668
London Joint City and Midland Bank, 170, 265, 603, 873
London money market, 1125 (R)
Long, R. C., 589 (L)
Loria, A., 551 (R)
Loss to the Treasury, 790
Lost opportunity, 231
Lung-Tsing-u-Hai Railway, 592
Lunt (George), Sons, and Co., 992
Lupton, Arnold, 508 (R)
Luxembourg iron industry, 1075

Macassey, Sir Lynden, 940 (R)
Machinery of industrial negotiation, 794
Malaya, 362 (L)
Malayalam Rubber Company, 1072
Manchester and safeguarding of industries, 1115
Manchester Corporation accounts, 1039 (R)
Manchester Corporation bills, 436
Manchester Liners, 561
Manila Electric Corporation, 128
Marconi International Marine, 150
Marconi Wireless Telegraph, 282, 643, 856
Marginal theory of value, 247 (R)
Marine insurance for the shipper, 591 (R)
Maritime Conference, 619
Maritime trade and the Near East, 541
Mark and inflation, 551 (L.), 807 (L.), 857 (L)
Market rights, 387, 498
Martin, Percy F., 1124 (L)
Marvin, F. S., 157 (R)
Maurice, C. E., 941 (R)
Maypole Dairy Company, 1099
McArthur (W. and A.), Limited, 1127
McConechy, 807 (L.), 857 (L)
McGrigor suspension, 661
McKee, Henry, 1125 (R)
McKenna, R. on inter-governmental debts, 571
Mediterranean Asbestos Quarries, 810
Melbourne Electric Supply Company, 293
Mesopotamia, 389, 618
Mesopotamia oil question, 1025
Mexican Eagle Oil Company, 13
Mexican Railway, 1116

Mexico :—
Debt agreement, 15, 425
Foreign debt, 281
Michael Nairn and Greenwich, Ltd., 329

Mining :—
African colliery results, 1029
Amalgamated Zinc, 798
Base metal producing companies, 192, 1116
Bingo Gold, 365
British-American, 893
British-Canadian, 580
Broken Hill Proprietary, 322
Burma Corporation, 932
Cam and Motor, 848
Camp Bird, 1117
Chartered and the provisional agreement, 148, 892
Consolidated Gold Fields, 980
Copper position and outlook, 1111
Cornish tin, 798
De Beers Consolidated, 1170, 1212
Diamond revival, 622
Gaika Gold, 582
General Mining and Finance, 321
Gold Mines Investment, 1028
Indian gold mine dividends, 465
Johnnies report, 503
Kaffir market, 352
Kaffirs, 150, 283, 544
Miners' conference, 147
Modder East, 427
Monguna Tin, 1181
Mount Lyell, 980

Mining (continued) :—

New Guinea Copper, 24
New Rand treatment method, 848
Niger Co., 148
North Broken Hill, 580
Pahang Consolidated, 1029
Rand December dividends, 1217
Rand dividends and costs, 56
Randfontein Gold, 525
Rayfield Tin, 392
Rio Tinto, 622
Robinson Deep, 1074
Shamva, 61
Simmer and Jack, 933
St John del Rey, 13
Sylvanite Gold Mines, 1225
Taquah and Abosso, 1170
Tin and tin shares, 655
Tin outlook, 427
Transvaal output in June, 104; July, 322; August, 465; September, 622; October, 933; November, 1117
Van Ryn, 1074
Wages fall, 236
West African gold industry, 150
Witwatersrand, 525
Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway, 127
Mitchells and Butlers, 303
Modder East, 427
Modern newspaper. The, 313
Mond Nickel Co., 171
Monetary half-year, 4
Monetary puzzle, 347
Money and foreign exchange after 1914, 536
Money and how to lose it, 101
Money in 1922, 1208
Money and the mechanism of exchange, 327 (R)
Monguna Tin, 1181
Montevideo Telephone, 832
Moody's Analyses of Investments and Security Rating Books, 991 (R)
Moor Park, Limited, 1041
Mortgage Company of Jamaica, 903, 903
Moss Empires, Limited, 24
Moulsford (Berks) Pig Factories, 72
Mount Lyell Mining, 980
Mudania Conference, 577
Mudania to Manchester, 611
Muir, J., 1223 (L)
Municipal elections, 845

National Bank, 171, 447
National Bank of Scotland, 1149
National Bank of South Africa, 40, 239
National Insurance in France, 291 (R)
Nationalism and protection in India, 652
National Railways of Mexico, 445
National Saving Certificates, 661, 978
Near East, 389, 420, 462, 495, 500, 541, 577, 611, 663, 790, 844, 856 (L.), 886, 930, 969, 982, 1064, 1114, 1161
Negative and positive, 839
New Government and Reparations, 970
New Guinea Copper Mines, 24
New issues of capital, 540
New Parliament, 923, 1015
Newspaper insurance, 654

New Zealand :—

Auckland City Council loan, 1040
Auckland Electric Power Board, 202
Bank of New Zealand, 245
Brighter trade outlook, 1036
Devonport Council loan, 1181
Land values, 245
Money rates, 245
Outlook, 355
Public retrenchment, 1036
Reduced taxation, 1036
Return to normal, 1036
Taxation and Budget, 575
New Zealand and Australian Land, 957
Niger Co., 148
Nitrate position and results, 143
Nobel Industries, 457, 502
North Broken Hill, 580
Northcliffe, Lord, 313

North London Railway, 86
North-Western, Midland, and West Scottish group, 1196

Norway :—

Agreement with Spain, 472
Bank clearings, 67
Bank figures, 666
Banking position, 987
Bank rate reduction, 472
Bergen City loan, 1085
Commercial negotiations with Spain, 245
Cost of living, 472
Crops, 67, 245, 666
Employment, 472
Exchanges, 67, 245, 1175
Labour trouble, 1175
Money, 1175
Money market, 67
Municipal elections, 987
New issues, 245
Prices, 666, 987
Public securities, 666
Railways, 67
Stocks, 1175
Taxpayers' Union, 1175
Trade, 245, 987
Wine question, 245

Occupational diseases, 501

Oil :—

British Oil Securities, 1127
British Orion Oil Company, 1127
Burmah Oil, 59
London and Midland Oil Company, 24
Mesopotamia oil question, 1025
Mexican Eagle, 13
Oilseed and oil industry, 615
Omnium Development Company, 436
Petrol and the oil market, 544
Search in Great Britain, 927
"Shell" Transport and Trading, 6
Tankers, Limited, 465
Old Silstone Collieries, 1085
Omnium Oil Development, 436
Optimist on population, 1179 (R)
Options question, 237
Orient Steam Navigation, 1073
Ottoman Railway, 933
Our index number, 54, 235, 421, 574, 843, 1017
Our trade with Russia, Poland, and the Baltic States, 316
Overseas trade (see also Trade) :—
Direction of, 348, 971
Half-year's, 99
In July, 319; in August, 457; in September, 613; in October, 925; in November, 1109
Nine months', 613

P. and O. Banking Corporation, 40
P. and O. Steam Navigation, 617
Pahang Consolidated, 1029
Palestine mandate, 52, 139, 184, 320
Pallis, A. A., 856 (L)
Palm kernels and protection, 58
Panama Canal, 144
Paper moneys of Europe, 1083 (R)
Paper trade, 21 (L), 979
Paraguay, 191, 929
Parliament opened, 975
Passing of the Coalition, 651
Pawle, G. S., 939 (L)
Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron, 525
Pease and Partners, 858
Peck, Annie S., 808 (R)
Perks, R. W., 1037 (L)
Pernambuco Tramways, 265
Persia. The position in, 9
Peru, 352, 460
Peruvian Corporation, 1068
Peruvian Government loan, 1127
Petrol and the oil market, 544
Pink (E. T.) and Plaistowe, 375
Platt Brothers and Co., 70
Plea for greater publicity, 183

Poland :—

Aerial communication, 506
Budget deficit, 198
Cabinet crisis, 19
Capital levy, 198
Coal, 988
Commercial negotiations with Japan and Russia, 506
Commercial treaties, 988
Cost of living, 899
Crop outlook, 361, 988
Depreciation of the mark, 198
Exchanges, 899
Financial situation, 19, 361
Inflation, 899
Interior loan, 899
Market rate 60 per cent., 19
Monetary crisis in Upper Silesia, 506
Monetary stringency, 19
National Bank, 19
New Cabinet, 198
New capital, 361, 988
Our trade with, 316
Parliamentary elections, 988
Politics, 361
Railway finance, 198
Sugar production, 506
Policies and interpretations, 883
Polikoff, Alfred (Boots), 1922, 203
Politics, 611, 651, 787, 839, 883, 887, 923, 975, 1015
Porritt, Edward, 22 (R)
Porte and foreign bondholders, 500
Porte and its creditors, 353
Port of Karachi, 436
Port of London Authority, 502
Port of Para bonds, 427
Position in Central Europe, 187
Power Securities Corporation, 859
Premier and the unemployed, 975
Premier and trade revival, 1214
Pre-war house building, 193

Prices :—

Index number, 54, 235, 421, 574, 843, 1017
Prime Minister's conference, 1063
Property insurance, 1179 (R)
Prospects of a settlement in Europe, 1207
Protection, 238, 280
Protection and palm kernels, 58
Public accounts, 280
Public authorities and co-operation, 241
Publicity and labour statistics, 315
Publicity. Plea for greater, 183

Quarter's new issues, 540
Quarter's shipbuilding, 103, 620
Queensland "Repudiation" Act, 149
Question of options, 237

Railway commodity statistics, 6
Railways Act, 1921, 456, 508 (L)

Railways :—

Accounts and charges, 612
Algoma Central, 775
Algoma Eastern, 561
American and road transport, 282
Argentine Great Western, 831
Argentine North-Eastern, 1098
Argentine rates, 11
Argentine, 660, 792
Assam, 561
Bengal Doonars, 873
Bengal-Nagpur, 303, 831, 873
Buenos Ayres and Pacific, 1005
Buenos Ayres Gt. Southern, 1005
Canadian National, 775, 831
Central London, 668
Chilian Transandine, 265
City and South London, 24, 668
Cordoba Central, 913
Eastern grouping scheme, 241
Entre Rios, 1098
Grand Trunk, 359, 1005
Group systems, 928
Guayaquil and Quito, 303
Home dividends, 191
Interoceanic of Mexico, 1005
Leopoldina, 337

Railways (continued) :—

London, Chatham, and Dover, 12
London Electric, 24, 668
Lung-Tsing-u-Hai, 592
Mexican, 1116
Missouri, Kansas and Texas, 127
National of Mexico, 445
New companies, 928
North London, 36
North-Western, Midland, and West Scottish, 1196
Ottoman, 933
Rates and industry, 619
Reduction of fares, 660
Reduction of rates, 102, 277
Salvador, 265, 577, 1074
South-Eastern, 12
Southern group, 797
South Indian, 40, 873
Transit of home rails, 1215
United of Havana, 892
Uruguayan, 660
Wages, 277
Railway and unemployment, 1023
Rand December dividends, 1217
Randfontein gold mining, 525
Rand midsummer dividends and costs, 56
Rand—new treatment method, 848
Rayfield Tin Fields, 392
Sargent, A. J., 201 (R)
Redeemable Securities Trust, 859
Reduction in wages, 791
Reeves and Sons, Ltd., 992
Regent's Canal and Dock Company, 293
Reparations, 3, 16, 102, 106, 152, 153, 195, 231, 242, 243, 275, 285, 286, 323, 324, 358, 383, 393, 429, 430, 571, 583, 616, 658, 662, 800, 850, 852, 896, 970, 1023, 1063, 1107, 1120, 1160, 1207, 1218, 1223
Restitution under article 238, 545
Retail trade and co-operative results, 1168
Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills, 171, 265
Rio Tinto Mines, 622
Roads and wheels, 1223 (L)
Robinson Deep, 1074
Romford Gas and Coke Company, 992
Rouble exchange, 1076

Roumania :—

Affairs in, 657
Agrarian reform, 433
Devaluation, 587
Electrification scheme, 433
Exchange fluctuation, 433
Exchange rates, 246
External debts, 246, 1080
Foreign capital, 587
Government loan, 364
Inland prices, 246
Introduction of foreign capital, 246
Losses on the mark, 1080
Near-East crisis, 587
Oil policy, 433
Prices and export taxes, 433
Prospects for British exporters, 246
Scarcity of money, 246, 1080
Timber trade, 587, 1080
Trade and exchange, 433
Transport system, 433
Royal Bank of Scotland, 1054
Royal Mail Steam Packet, 113

Rubber :—

Anglo-Dutch, 60, 265
Dutch restrictions, 192
Hingurugama, 1181
Hopes for, 11
Kuala Lumpur, 1008
Malayalam, 1072
Revival, 659
Shares and restriction, 621
Tambora, 1041
Tanjong Malim, 913
Rubber-producing companies in 1921, 318

Russia :—

Agricultural collapse, 1016, 1114
Anglo-Russian trade, 1027
At The Hague, 190
Crop outlook, 587
Famine and revival of agriculture, 384
Finances, 587
Financial policy in Soviet Russia—old and new, 276, 587

Russia (continued) :—

Foreign capital, 938
Foreign trade, 938
Harvest, 1174
Imports and exports, 1174
Increased production, 938
Index numbers, 938
Industrial situation, 1174
Our trade with, 316
Petroleum, 587
Report on economic conditions, 1016
Rouble exchange, 1076
Situation in, 61
Soviet Russia, 276, 587, 938
State Bank, 1174
State of industry, 974
Through German eyes, 435 (R)
Russian outlook—a banker's view, 590 (R)
Russo-Asiatic Agreement, 462, 618

Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1065, 1115
Salvador, 577
Salvador Railway, 265, 577, 1074
Santa Catalina Nitrate, 914
Sargent, A. J., 201 (R)
Scammell Lorries, Ltd., 203
Schotthofer, Fritz, 435 (R)
Science and the Nation, 112 (R)
Scotch whisky trade, 1169
Scott (Walter), Ltd., 338
Scuttled steamers, 59
Search for oil in Great Britain, 927
Securities and unemployment, 1026
Security values, 1216
Select Committee on Public Accounts, 280
Sells, A., 630 (L)
Selwyn and Blount, 474 (R)
Sena Sugar Estates, 70
Shamva Mines, 61
Shareholders' Manual, 327 (R)
Shareholders' rights in new issues, 1072
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron, 525
"Shell" Transport and Trading, 6
Shepherd (Philip), and Co, 859
Shipley Collieries, 1040

Shipping :—

Anchor Line, 321
British Merchant Shipping, 857 (R)
"Egypt" Inquiry, 426
Foreign taxation of profits, 188
Freights and ocean fares, 1025
Furness, Withy, and Co., 356
Improvement, 977
International maritime problems, 537
Lloyd's Register, 797
Manchester Liners, 561
Maritime Conference, 619
Orient Steam Navigation, 1073
Outlook, 7, 578
P. and O. Steam Navigation, 617
Quarter's shipbuilding, 103, 620
Royal Mail Steam Packet, 113
Scuttled steamers, 59
Union Castle Mail Steamship, 1127
Shop companies, 189
Short session, 975
Simelius, J., 990 (R)
Simmer and Jack, 933
Sino-British Trade Association, 363 (L)
Slaters, Limited, 1027
Slavonic Review, 68 (R)
Smithfield and Argentine Meat, 832
Smyrna, 500
Socialism Revised and Rejected, 1083 (R)

South Africa :—

And protection, 1069
And the gold standard, 185, 233, 299 (L), 312, 362 (L), 551 (L)
Banking and development, 192
Coal resources, 1022
Conditions, 543
Cost of living, 244
Johannesburg budget, 244
Mining and taxation, 888
Mining costs, 244
Money and markets, 244
Official mining statistics, 549
Subsidising iron and steel mfrs., 289
Supply of capital, 289
Union finance, 289

South America. A book on, 808 (R)
 South Eastern Railway, 12
 South India Railway Group, 797
 South Indian Railway, 40, 873
 South Staffordshire Waterworks, 810
 South Wales coal since strike, 277
 Soviet Russia, 276, 587, 938

Spain:—

And Morocco, 1216
 Bank accounts, 805
 Commercial treaty with England, 629
 Commodity prices, 433
 Exchange, 433, 805
 Government issue, 629, 805
 King's Speech, 20
 Madrid Motor-bus Co., 805
 Madrid Underground Railway, 629
 New capital, 20
 Postal strike, 433, 629
 Public finance, 20
 Stock markets, 20, 805
 Trade, 433
 Year Book, 1179 (R)
 Spalding, W. F., 1125 (R)
 Spelter, 240
 Spicers, Limited, 1041
 Spiers and Pond, 13
 Spring-Rice, O., 1037 (L)
 Stabilisation, 536, 589 (L), 630 (L), 924, 977, 983
 Standard Bank of South Africa, 170
 Star Tea Co., 1041
 State control in peace and war, 1161
 Statistical Review of the Wool and Wool Textile Trades, 68 (R)
 Staveley Coal and Iron Co., 525
 Steel and iron output, 104, 320, 464, 542, 620, 932, 1115
 Stillwell and Sons, 1054
 St John del Rey, 13
 St Lawrence Waterway, 1037 (L)

Stock Exchange:—

And Christmas, 1167
 And its commission, 926, 973
 And its functions, 575
 And the banks, 926, 973
 Committee's war work, 424
 Lists, 1113
 London and New York, 278, 575
 Markets and the election, 846
 Money and how to lose it, 101
 Pre-war settlement, 388
 Questions of options, 237
 Securities and unemployment, 1026
 Transit of home rails, 1215
 Values, 543
 Stoll Film Co., 1197
 Stoll Picture Theatre, 1197
 Strand Hotel, Limited, 1008
 Strat, G. E., 990 (R)
 Sumitomo Bank, 1007
 Sun Life Assurance of Canada, 40
 Super-tax evasion, 10

Sweden:—

Bond issue, 199
 Book about, 474 (R)
 Business conditions, 804
 Cassel, Prof., 804
 Eight hours day, 199
 Foreign trade, 985
 Gothenburg Harbour, 472
 Iron trade, 848
 Labour, 804, 985
 Match issue, 985, 992
 New railway, 199

Sweden (continued):—

Prices, 804
 Railway strike, 472
 Russian agreement, 472, 804
 Svenska Handelsbanken, 985
 Trade balance, 804
 Trade conditions and figures, 472
 Weather and crops, 199
 Swedish Match Co., 985, 992

Switzerland:—

Banking problems, 66
 Capital levy, 396, 854, 1071
 Dyestuff industry, 199
 Eight hours day, 396
 External loans, 66
 Government loan, 396
 Import control, 66
 Industrial reports, 66
 Life assurance with German companies, 199
 Rhine navigation, 396
 Stock market panic, 854
 Sylvanite Gold Mines, 1225

Taf Fechan Water Supply Board, 72

Tambira Rubber Estates, 1041
 Tanganyika Territory, 240
 Tanjong Malim Rubber, 913
 Tankers, Limited, 465
 Taquah and Abosso, 1170
 Tariffs in the New House, 967
 Tata Industrial Bank, 1007
 Tata Iron and Steel Co., 70, 447

Taxation:—

Capital levy, 887, 930 (L), 1037 (L), 1082 (L), 1115, 1124 (L), 1178 (L)
 Customs and excise duties, 1116
 Evasion in Europe, 1115
 Shipping profits, 188

Teachers' pensions, 58

Tea plantation companies in 1921, 386
 Tekka (Argentina) Land Co., 914
 Thomas, Gater, Bradfield, and Co., 24
 Thomas (Richard) and Co., 1197
 Thornton (G. W.) and Co., Limited, 113
 Through Christmas spectacles, 1159
 Tin and tin shares, 655
 Tin outlook, 427
 Tobacco trade, 458
 Tootal Broadhurst Lee Co., 375

Trade (see also Overseas Trade):—

Anglo-Russian, 1027
 Dutch Banker on Free-trade, 388
 International Free-trade, 650
 Retail and co-operative results, 1168
 Revival and Premier, 1214
 State control, 1161
 With Russia, Poland and the Baltic States, 316

Trade barometer. New, 21 (L)
 Trade Boards Acts, 102
 Trade Facilities Act, 103, 846, 1070
 Trade union membership, 539
 Trades Union Congress, 385
 Traffic in honours, 10
 Trafford Park Estates, 604
 Transvaal output in June, 104; July, 322; August, 465; September, 622; October, 933; November, 1117

Tuck (Raphael) and Sons, 525
 Turkey, 389, 420, 462, 495, 500, 541, 577, 611, 665, 790, 844, 856 (L), 886, 930, 969, 982, 1064, 1114, 1161
 Turkey and its bondholders, 1025
 Tyre Investment Trust, 553

Ulster and Dublin, 110 (L)
 Ulster Bank, 1197
 Underwood, R. E., 291 (R)
 Unemployment, 21 (L), 201 (R), 841, 975, 1022, 1023, 1026, 1082 (L), 1178 (L)
 Unemployment insurance, 1023
 Union-Castle Mail Steamship, 1127
 Union Cold Storage, 848
 United Dairies, 661
 United Fruit Co., 190
 United Premier Oil and Cake Co., 776
 United Railways of Havana, 892
 United States (see America)
 United States and General Trust Corporation, 553
 United Steel Companies, 580
 Uruguay, 100, 460
 Uruguayan railways, 660
 U.S.A. Tariff Commission, 398 (R)

Van den Berghs, 544
 Van Ryn, 1074
 Venezuela, 100, 793, 1168
 Vickers, Limited, 55
 Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power, 603
 Victoria Government loan, 511

Wages and profits in coal trade, 496
 Wages fall, 236
 Wages in July, 354
 Wages in August, 501
 Wages reduction, 791
 War after the War. The, 420
 Waring and Gillow, 375
 Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., 240
 Webb, Beatrice and Sidney, 1038 (R)
 Welwyn and Knebworth Gas Co., 859
 West African gold industry, 150
 Westergaard, Harald, 22 (R)
 Western Australian Bank, 1197
 Western races and the world, 157 (R)
 Western Telegraph Co., 1008
 West Hampshire Water Co., 113
 West Indian problems, 190
 What Germany owes and has paid, 616
 Wheat imported as flour, 1169
 Whisky trade, 1169
 Witwatersrand, Limited, 525
 Wool, 149, 798, 1122, 1162
 Wool clip, English, 12
 Wool position, 68 (R)
 Wool stocks and disposals, 355
 World's production of cereals, 1019

Yokohama Specie Bank, 957

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

(A) = INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT.

(B) = INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Aerated Bread, 1090
 African and Eastern Trade Corporation, 438
 African and European Investment, 1229
 Allsopp (Samuel) and Sons, 1232
 Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust, 1140
 Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.) (A), 401
 Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, 74
 Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates, 161
 Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 1044
 Anglo-Persian Oil, 1134
 Anglo-Siam Corporation, 514
 Anglo-South American Bank (A), 811
 Ansell's Brewery, 999
 Argentine Great Western Railway, 862
 Argentine Iron and Steel (Pedro Vasena E. Hijos), 1231
 Assam Railways and Trading, 594
 Australian Bank of Commerce, 477
 Australian Estates and Mortgage, 119
 Australian Mercantile Land and Finance, 999

Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway, 820
 Bank of Adelaide, 27
 Bank of British West Africa, 118
 Bank of Montreal, 1226
 Bank of New South Wales, 119
 Bank of New Zealand, 512
 Bank of Roumania, 212
 Barcelona Traction, Light, and Power, 76
 Bengal Nagpur Railway, 861
 Bisichi Tin (Nigeria), 1141
 Brakpan Mines, 258
 British Burmah Petroleum, 1232
 British Empire Trust, 74
 British North Borneo, 949
 British Overseas Bank, 1129
 Brown (John) and Co., 30
 Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, 764
 Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway, 821
 Buenos Ayres Western Railway, 820
 Burmah Oil, 115

Calcutta Tramways, 78
 Cam and Motor Gold Mining, 905
 Cargo Fleet Iron, 1045
 Carreras, 1189
 Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate, 1087
 Central Argentine Railway, 821
 Channel Tunnel, 77
 Chinese Engineering and Mining, 1137
 City Deep, 32
 City Life Assurance, 863
 City of San Paulo Improvements and Freehold Land, 594
 Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society, 593
 Colombian Corporation, 948

Colombian Oilfields, 1232
 Coltness Iron, 764
 Commercial Bank of Spanish America, 862
 Compagnie Aramayo de Mines en Bolivie, 213
 Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, 1046
 Consolidated London Properties, 29
 Consolidated Mines Selection, 864
 Crown Mines, 31

Dalgety and Co., 997
 De La Rue, Thomas, 367
 De Trey and Co., 120
 Dinnington Main Coal, 29
 Distillers Co., 162
 Dorado Extension Railway, 948
 Dorman, Long and Co., 1132

Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph, 765
 Eastern Telegraph, 765
 Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal, 403
 Edward Lloyd, 768
 English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, 943
 Erinoid, 860
 E. Robins and Son, 160
 Estates Control, 78

Frederick Hotels, 768
 Furness, Withy, and Co., 402

Geduld Proprietary Mines, 33
 General Electric, 161
 Goode, Durrant, and Co., 633
 Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, 30

Harrisons and Crosfield, 767
 Harrods (Buenos Aires), 1186
 Hotel Cecil, 1190
 Hovis, 79
 Howard and Bullough, 77
 Hoyle (Joshua) and Sons, 1047
 Hudson's Bay Company, 27

Illingworth, Morris, and Co., 163
 Imperial Bank of Persia, 1228

Imperial Ottoman Bank, 211
 International Tea Company's Stores, 121

Java Para Rubber Estates, 906
 J. Lyons and Co., 478
 Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, 1187
 John Brown and Co., 30
 John I. Thornycroft, 1140
 Joshua Hoyle and Sons, 1047

Kern River Oilfields of California, 768

Lloyd, Edward, 768
 London and North-Western Railway, 994
 London and Rhodesian Mining and Land, 1186
 London and River Plate Bank, 1183
 London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, 948, 1139
 London Maritime Investment, 998
 London Nitrate, 1086
 Lyons (J.) and Co., 478

Maltby Main Colliery, 28
 Marconi's Wireless Telegraph, 766
 Mexican Railway, 26, 1182
 Midland Railway, 995
 Minerals Separation, 214
 Mitchells and Butlers, 330
 Modderfontein Deep Levels, 34
 Molassine Company, 121
 Mond Nickel, 215
 Mozambique Oil and Mineral Concessions, 1088

National Bank of New Zealand, 73
 National Bank of Scotland, 1184
 National Bank of South Africa, 250
 Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk, 1187
 New Modderfontein Gold Mining, 1089
 Niger Co., 215
 Nobel Industries, 515
 North Anantapur Gold Mines, 865
 North British Railway, 996

Ohlsson's Cape Breweries, 162
 Orient Steam Navigation, 1139

P. and O. Banking Corporation, 73
 Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation, 763

Piccadilly Hotel, 823
 Platt Brothers and Co., 76

Raphael Tuck and Sons, 517
 Richardson, Westgarth, 28
 Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries, 258
 Robins, E. and Son, 160
 Royal Bank of Australia, 1131
 Royal Bank of Scotland, 1043
 Rubber Securities, 864
 Russo-Asiatic Consolidated, 822

Samuel Allsopp and Sons, 1232
 Scarab Oil Burning, 295
 Schill Brothers, 555

Showell's Brewery, 1189
 South Durham Steel and Iron, 1046
 South-Eastern Railway, 257, 947, 1138
 South-West Africa, 1087
 Spiers and Pond, 78
 Springs Mines, 258
 Standard Bank of South Africa, 204
 Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, 864

Stoll Film, 1230
 Stoll Picture Theatre (Kingsway), 1230
 Strand Hotel, 1089
 Sulphide Corporation, 1184

Thomas De La Rue, 367
 Thornycroft, John L., 1140
 Threlfall's Brewery, 259
 Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, 215
 Tuck (Raphael) and Sons, 517

Union Bank of Australia, 212
 Union Cold Storage, 906
 United Dairies, 823
 United Premier Oil and Cake, 821
 United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, 905

Van Den Berghs, 595
 Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, 1141
 Vereeniging Estates, 517
 Vickers, 160

Waring and Gillow, 366
 Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., 294
 Western Australian Bank, 27, 1184
 Western Telegraph, 1044



5L
 X M 561 N 22
 N 22.95